

SUN STAR PROPERTIES

RENTALS

2x2 Bedroom A frame houses (stand-alone), 2 Bathrooms, Carport, Kitchen and lounge in Tubungu Estate @ **E6,380.00**

2 Bedroom houses with Kitchen, Lounge, Bathroom and Carports in Tubungu estates @ **E5,500.00** Avail 1st Jan

1 Bedroom houses, with fully fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Air-con, Electric gate and Carport in Tubungu Estates @ **E3,700.00** (garden service incl) Avail 1st Jan

SIMPLIFYING REAL ESTATE!

TUBUNGU ESTATES, OFFICE 51, P.O. BOX 100, 1001 STREET, MATSAPHA, TEL: +268 2518 0122

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT AGENTS ON: +268 722 4355 +268 722 1817

Swazi OBSERVER

www.observer.org.sz

STIHL FS 450
Professional 2.1kW Clearing saw

- General
- Technical data
- Features
- Accessories

CARSON WHEELS (PTY) LTD
P.O. BOX 1015 Manzini
ricky@carson.co.sz
Ricky Wilson - 76337651

MBABANE Tel: 2404 5928 Fax: 2404 5381
MOMONI Tel: 2505 2881 Fax: 2505 3683

Stockists of

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2017

REVIVED, RELIABLE AND READ

PRICE: E5.00 (VAT INCLUSIVE)

TEACHERS LOST IN THE MUSIC DURING END OF YEAR PARTY

YES WE CAN DANCE: Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) Mbabane branch members having fun during their end of year party at Mhlambanyatsi Golf Club on Friday. **MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 12 (Pic: Lucky Simelane)**



DUPS, PSPF IN E74M STINKY LAND SALE

SEE PAGE 2

SWAZI CHOIRS SHINE IN SA, WIN E165 000

SEE PAGE 27

IT IS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN...

STANDARD V RESULTS OUT AFTER XMAS

...Form III in first week of January Story on Page 3

SUPER SPECIALS!!

ITE CEMENT 42.5N 32.5 50kg E79.90	ITE CEMENT 32.5R 32.5 50kg E65.90	NUTEC CEILING BOARD 1.2m x 3.6m E139.90
HARVEY ROOF TILES 12456mm x 1511mm E84.90	ND4F F7 STEEL WINDOW FRAME 12456mm x 1511mm E449.90	ROLL UP GARAGE DOOR 2450mm x 2100mm x 0.5mm Buffalo brown, series 2450, Woodgrain E1499.90

Build it! Matsapha & Manzini only!

Manzini Build It
Tel: 25057155 / 25052533
Fax: 2505 6430

Matsapha Build It
Tel: 2518 5224
Fax: 2518 5218



e-GOVERNMENT SWSWATI NAME AND SLOGAN COMPETITION



The Private and Cabinet Office (e-Government Unit) in collaboration with Swaziland Post and Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC) invites members of the public to submit entries for the e-Government SiSwati Name and slogan competition. The e-Government programme is aimed at improving public administration through the use of Information and Communication Technologies and transforming the country to an information society and knowledge economy. Please insert appropriately below either one or both;

1. e- Government SiSwati name? 2. e- Government Slogan?

Name and Surname.....

Contact Number.....

ID Number.....

WINNERS: 1. e-Government SiSwati Name - E 20 000.00

2. Slogan - E 30 000.00

Entries should be submitted on or before 21st December, 2017 at any Post Office. Newspaper cut outs and downloadable entry forms from www.gov.sz will be acceptable.

For more information on e-Government please see (www.gov.sz) or call 111



Stamps can be purchased at a Post Office near you.

2 NATIONAL NEWS

DUPS AND PSPF CITED IN STINKY E74M LAND SALE

Stories by Sandile Nkambule
High Court

IN one of the landmark estate battles the High Court has ever dealt with, a father to three beneficiaries in the Estate of the late Solveig Crabtree has filed an application at the High Court seeking an order removing the Executor from the Estate as he has levelled damning accusations against him.

Robert Crabtree who is the applicant in the matter has accused the Executor, South African based Attorney and renowned business mogul Alan Alexander McGregor of corruption and now wants him removed as the Executor Testamentary in the Estate of the late Solveig who is ordinarily a resident of Cape Town but has properties in the Kingdom.

According to his application filed before High Court Judge Mumcy Dlamini, he is the natural father to Katie Jane Crabtree, Emily Anne Crabtree and Christopher Ashworth Crabtree who are beneficiaries in terms of the Will as they were bequeathed approximately 0.857 per cent each of the entire net Estate of whatever nature and situate, whether movable or not.

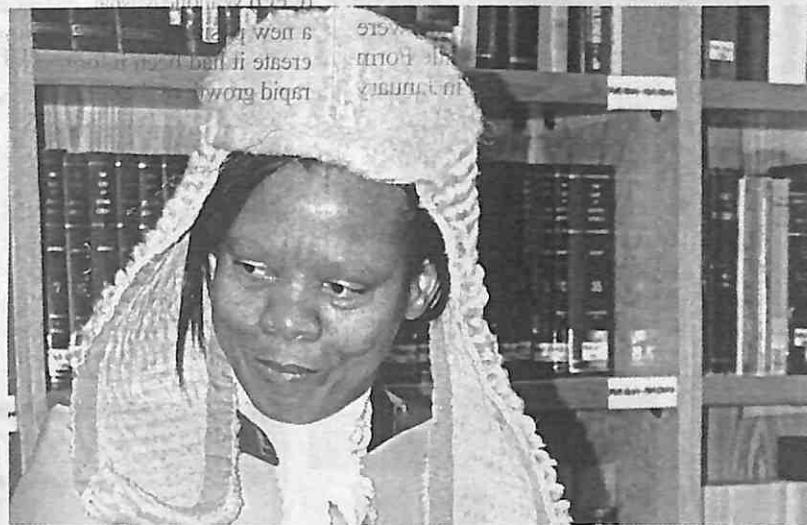
His application is founded on Section 84 of the Administration of Estates Act Number 28 of 1902 which provides that, "an Executor must be removed from office by the order of High Court if Court is satisfied on motion that by reason of absence from Swaziland, other avocations, failing health or other sufficient cause, the interest of the Estate under his care would be furthered by such removal."

Robert argues in his papers that following the death of Solveig, the Executor allegedly did by wrongful means sold a property to Dups Holdings a portion of the land namely portion four of Farm Number 73 situate in the Hhohho Region and measuring 614. 5031 hectares and portion two of Farm 73 measuring 375.1211 hectares directly owned by the Estate.

In terms of the transaction for the sale of the shares, portions four and two were allegedly sold at E28 million to Dups Holdings.

It has also been sated that the very property in question was further sold to the Public Service Pension fund (PSPF)

... In terms of the transaction for the sale of the shares, portions four and two were allegedly sold at E28 million to Dups Holdings. It has also been sated that the very property in question was further sold to the Public Service Pension fund (PSPF) at approximately E74 million. Robert submitted in his affidavit that the Executor colluded or engaged in corrupt practices with the intention of defrauding the Estate and benefiting himself and his (Executor) family to the prejudice of the Estate



MY LADY: High Court Judge Mumcy Dlamini.

at approximately E74 million.

Robert submitted in his affidavit that the Executor colluded or engaged in corrupt practices with the intention of defrauding the Estate and benefiting himself and his (Executor) family to the prejudice of the Estate.

Accusations

Judge Dlamini yesterday heard that there are now serious accusations against the Executor and insults have also been hurled at him. Alan has been cited as the first respondent in the matter and amongst the damning allegations is that he is being accused of corruption in as far as the entire Estate is concerned.

However, these are allegations whose facts are yet to be tested in court as the matter is to be argued after submissions were made to the effect that two other

matters involving the same Estate be consolidated and other attorneys for the other respondents be given time to appear in court.

Judge Dlamini adjourned the matter in order to allow the other parties to make their appearance in court since the matters are to be consolidated.

Cited as the second respondent is Sonia Lyndall McGregor, Rosemarie Karin McEwen as the third respondent, Rina Dupont (fourth), Inez Katherine McGregor (fifth), Alexander Lyndall McGregor (sixth), Robert William Ashworth McGregor (seventh), Alasdair Alaric Ashworth McGregor (eighth) Walter Bennett (ninth), Nedbank Swaziland (tenth), Master of the High Court (eleventh) and the Attorney General as the 12th respondent.

'Master of the High Court approved sale of property'

IN respect to the transaction of the property sale which the applicant complained of the respondent (Alan) submitted that he exercised his powers as granted by the Will and acted in what he considered to be in the best interest of the beneficiaries.

He stated in his answering affidavit that 96 per cent of the beneficiaries approved of his actions as he consulted widely with them and made decisions to sell the companies owning the land in question based on the consultations and what was considered suitable by an overwhelming majority of the beneficiaries.

More importantly, Alan submitted that the transaction was approved by the

Master of the High Court after she had considered objections and satisfied herself that it was in the best interest of the Estate and the beneficiaries to sell the companies owning the land and distribute the amount realised from the sale in accordance with the proportions stipulated in the Will.

Transaction

In terms of the transaction for the sale of the shares, portions four and two were to be transferred by the Estate. Property and the shares would then be sold to the second respondent Sonia for a sum of E28 million.

In 2015 Alan submitted that he received an offer for the purchase of the entire property for the sum of E28 million

from Dups Holdings (Pty) LTD who requested that the transaction be simplified.

Affidavit

The applicant's affidavit according to the respondent is littered with incendiary, spurious and baseless allegations that he (respondent) acted improperly and deliberately caused financial prejudice to the Estate stating that the applicant offers no proof in support of these defamatory allegations.

He categorically rejected the insinuations that he somewhat colluded or engaged in corrupt practices with the intention of defrauding the Estate and benefiting himself and his family to the prejudice of the Estate.

Robert trying to muscle his way into taking charge of Estate - Executor

IN his answering affidavit filed before court, the Executor Alan McGregor has vehemently denied the allegation made by the applicant in the matter and submitted that the applicant (Robert Crabtree) is actually trying to muscle his way into taking charge of the Estate of the late Solveig Crabtree.

Represented by senior lawyer Mangaliso Magagula from Magagula/Hlophe Attorneys, Alan in his affidavit submitted that the applicant brings the application in a representative capacity not on his own accord as he is not a beneficiary under the will, but only his children are.

Alan who is the first respondent in the matter, submitted that the application should be viewed from the backdrop of the applicant trying to muscle his way into the affairs of the Estate either directly or by appointing an Executor who will support his agenda.

He submitted that the application and the call for his (Alan's) removal is nothing but a dry run for the applicant (Robert) to step in as Executor of the Estate.

"The application is clearly unwarranted and without any legal or factual basis, furthermore the application is an attempt by the applicant to totally subvert the wishes of the deceased as expressed in the Will," he submitted.

He stated that there are no grounds of his removal and the interest of the Estate would not be furthered

by his removal, instead it would be prejudiced by his removal as a majority of more than 90 per cent of the beneficiaries support an expeditious winding up of the Estate which is not achievable if he were to be removed.

He further submitted that the beneficiaries themselves do not support his removal as this would not further the interest of the Estate.

The application according to Alan is littered with bald and unsubstantiated allegations of alleged wrong doing as well as gratuitous insults but these wild allegations of wrong doing are not supported by facts.

"The accusations made against me by the applicant are false and a smear campaign perpetuated to impugn my good name with the ultimate aim of having me walk away from being Executor of the Estate so that applicant or his nominee takes over," he submitted.

He stated that he has no intention of walking away as Executor of the Estate as doing so would be a betrayal of the late Solveig Crabtree with whom he had an excellent relationship and whom he assisted financially in her business during her lifetime, adding that she trusted him well enough to appoint him Executor of her Estate, hence he is vested by the Will with the powers to lease, sell any immovable property of which she was the registered owner including property owned by any company she was the sole shareholder.

Robert received fair share in Estate while late Solveig Crabtree was alive - Executor

IT has also been alleged that the late Solveig Crabtree gave the applicant Robert Crabtree a fair share of her Estate while she was still alive.

Alan McGregor submitted that it is clear that the late Solveig's intention in the Will was to give her two daughters their share of her Estate having given the applicant his share already.

The applicant according to Alan is now being greedy and trying to deprive his sisters their benefit as they both supported the action taken by him (Alan) as Executor of the Estate further submitting that the applicant's actions in trying to prevent his sisters from receiving their benefit is callous to say the least.

The applicant according to the first respondent makes serious allegations against them which are baseless and without factual basis in an attempt to take over the Estate and bring himself as

a factor in acquiring a benefit in the Estate.

The applicant as a person according to Alan in his affidavit, is extremely abrasive which explains his readiness to hurl insults at him (Alan) without any basis and is extremely aggrieved that he was removed by his parents from the family business.

“

The application according to Alan is nothing more than a perpetuation of the applicant's long standing grievance for being excluded from the Wills of both his parents

After the applicant was removed from the family business in 2001 his parents the late Solveig and her husband David Crabtree allegedly asked that the second respondent assists

them in managing their business as the applicant was constantly trying to damage the business.

The application according to Alan is nothing more than a perpetuation of the applicant's long standing grievance for being excluded from the Wills of both his parents hence submitting that the application is frivolous and should be dismissed with costs.

Siteki records highest rainfall

By Nozipho Sibiyi
Mbabane

THE tiny Siteki town continues to be one of the places receiving good rains this summer season.

It recorded 21.2 mm from the week-

end rains and this was the highest when compared to the rest of the country.

The recordings were extracted from the rainfall which started on Sunday night, ending yesterday morning.

Siteki was followed by Pigg's Peak with a rain reading of 13.4 mm while Musi in Mankayane came third with a

recording of 12.0mm.

Vuvulane in the Lubombo region received the lowest recording at 1.8mm. According to information from the



THE RAINFALL READINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Place	mm	Mayiwane	5.8
Siteki	21.2	Mavula	4.0
Pigg's Peak	13.4	Nyonyane	3.2
Musi	12.0	Sikhuphe	1.2
Matsapha	9.6	Vuvulane	1.8
Mbabane	6.0	Sikhuphe	1.2

Swaziland Meteorological Services, Matsapha, Mbabane, Nhlangano and Mayiwane also received bet-

ter rainfall.

They recorded 9.6mm, 6.0 mm, 7.3mm and 5.8 mm, respectively.

STANDARD V RESULTS OUT AFTER CHRISTMAS

COVER STORY

By Nozipho Sibiyi
Mbabane

STANDARD Five results will be released after Christmas, the Examinations Council of Swaziland confirmed.

Christmas is two Mondays away.

Examinations Council Registrar Dr Edmund Mazibuko confirmed in a telephonic interview yesterday that the Standard Five results would be released after Christmas, although he gave no specific date.

He said it follows that Form Three results would be released thereafter, possibly in the first or second week of January. Form Five results would likely follow late in January or early February.

Dr Mazibuko said marking was almost done save for compulsory papers like

...It follows that Form Three results would be released thereafter, possibly in the first or second week of January. Form Five results would likely follow late in January or early February



AFTER XMAS: Exams Council Registrar Dr Edmund Mazibuko.

English that were being finalised by the markers. He said in most instances what caused delays in releasing results are

cases of malpractice.

Last year, Standard Five results were released on December 30 while Form Three results were released in January (2017).

Swazi Observer Managing Editor Mbongeni Mbingo assured parents and pupils that their favourite newspaper will definitely publish both the Standard Five and Form Three results in a bigger font as usual.

"Mine is to assure parents and pupils that their favourite newspaper, the Swazi Observer, will definitely carry the results of both Standard Five and Form Three in a bigger font as usual. We will also keep all interested people informed of latest developments regarding the release of the results," said Mbingo.

Driver loads 37 passengers in 15-seater kombi

Stories by Phesheya Kunene
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

AN irresponsible kombi driver was fined E5 000 for loading 37 passengers in his kombi.

Menzi Gama was initially slapped with four counts of overloading, using a forged permit, driving an unroadworthy car and not being in possession of a valid driver's licence.

Gama pleaded guilty to the offences and told the court he was not the rightful driver of the kombi. He said he was asked to drive it because the initial driver was away.

Gama was nabbed by the police while

at or near the Cabinet offices. The offender was arrested on Sunday afternoon and it is believed they were from watching the Ingwenyama Cup soccer games.

In his defence, the offender told the court he was carrying 24 people and denied they were 37.

"I apologise to the court for committing the crimes. I did not know about the problems the kombi had since I was asked to help urgently," he said.

The charge sheet highlighted that the kombi had a faulty handbrake and smooth tyres.

He was fined E1 000 or three months in jail for the first count, E1 000 or three months in jail for the second count, E2 000 or one year in jail for the third count

and E1 000 or one year in jail for the fourth count. The sentences were made to run concurrently.

Gama failed to explain why he overloaded with this high number and Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi made it clear to him she was not impressed by the offences he committed.

"You kombi drivers love doing this thing yet you are risking with so many lives. You overload and forget that when you lose control of the motor vehicle you will not be able to avoid an accident due to the heavy weight. You are putting the public in danger because you think this is a game; this is not a joke," she said.

She advised him to desist from his conduct.

Dizzy father allows 12-year-old to drive

A 57-year-old man allowed his 12-year-old son to drive his car on the highway after he felt dizzy.

Ryan told the court that his health condition forced him to make his son drive because he usually gets dizzy attacks while driving and he did not want to cause road accidents.

The offender was charged with contravening the Road Traffic Act by allowing a minor child to drive his motor vehicle. He was nabbed while at Manzana on Sunday.

He pleaded guilty and told the court he was invited by people who are close to him to celebrate his birthday with them after turning 57. He said they had prepared his favourite meal which prompted him to go.

"I was driving myself and when we reached Sidvashini, my dizzy spells attacked me and since my child is now a good driver as I have taught him in our private and gravel roads, I decided to let him drive. We were going to Checkers so I believed it was a short distance," he said.

The principal magistrate ordered that his driver's licence be confiscated from him since he was no longer a fit driver. She said he was now a danger to himself and other motorists.

The offender said he saw it fit to teach his son so that he helps him when the sickness kicks in.

"He is brilliant just like me since I also did not attend driving school but I tested and passed and I have been driving for



YOUR WORSHIP: Mbabane Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi.

28 years and I have never caused a road accident," he said.

He was fined E800 or six months imprisonment.

Fisiwe Vilane joins Swazi Mobile

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

INDUSTRIOUS Fisiwe Vilane has joined Swazi Mobile nine months after leaving communication giants MTN.

The former MTN brand and sponsorship manager officially joined the company yesterday as Brand, Events and Sponsorship Manager. Swazi Mobile Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Wandile Mtshali said this was a new position and the decision to create it had been informed by the rapid growth of the company.

"Fisiwe Vilane has joined us as our Brand, Events and Sponsorship Manager and our former Brand and Communications Manager Macford Sibandze is now Corporate Communications Manager. As an organisation we are growing hence we need more hands on the deck for

the organisation to be a success," he said. Mtshali added that they were also involved in many programmes and events as sponsors hence the decision to put together a department that would concentrate on events and sponsorship.

"All along we had the brand and communications department dealing with everything from sponsorship to events, brand communication so now we will have one department looking at the branding, events and sponsorships and another specifically for communications," he said.

Sibandze joined the company in September and has been a revelation.

Vilane is not new in the telecommunications industry.

She worked for MTN for nine years before leaving in March this year. Mtshali also pointed out that Vilane boasted vast knowledge, hence she was the perfect candidate for the position.

2 Swazis arrested for dagga in Botswana

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

BOTSWANA has become a dagga hub for Swazis who ply their trade by selling the illegal herb.

Hardly a month passes by without a Swazi being reported to be arrested in Botswana for the possession of dagga.

It has been gathered that two more Swazi nationals, including a well known businessman who owns a fleet of public service vehicles, were arrested for dagga in Botswana last week.

The duo managed to evade local and South African police and made it to Botswana with the bags of dagga in their vehicle, however, the vigilant Botswana Police Service (BPS) intercepted the two before they could reach their destination with the dagga.

They were arrested and later released on bail although it could not be ascertained how many kilograms of dagga was carried by the accused persons.

The local police were only informed that there were two Swazis who were arrested for dagga.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the arrest of the two.

He said they have already appeared before court in Botswana where they were released on bail.

He said they received information from their counterparts that the Swazis were nabbed with dagga while in Botswana. Mamba stated that the police were not keen on releasing

names of the culprits. Worth noting is that recent reports have indicated that Swazis were becoming a menace to the Botswana Police Service for dealing in dagga as the numbers of Swazis nabbed with dagga keep rising in that country.

According to MeggiOnline, a daily publication in Botswana, Botswana Police Service (BPS)'s Director of Crime Intelligence, Nunu Lesetedi raised a concern of the country being targeted by international drug barons, especially from Southern Africa with countries like Swaziland and Mozambique targeting the place to push their drug trade. The publication stated that it has since been established that the demand for drugs in Botswana is currently very high looking at their frequent distribution into the country.

Lesetedi said Southern African countries drug barons are currently controlling the country's drug market because they have established that they are the ones who illegally cross the border into the country with the drugs.

Lesedi is said to have cautioned Botswana over the high use of drugs, which he pointed to be currently spiraling out of control.

He said some Botswana have found business in selling drugs because they have been arresting them in high numbers ever since they started their raids.

He said the most common drugs smuggled into the country are marijuana, crack, methcathinone, popularly known as cat, madaena, and cocaine, to mention but a few.

4 NATIONAL NEWS

PM ACCUSED OF POWER-GRABBING

Stories by Mbono Mdluli
Lobamba

PRIME Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini is allegedly usurping powers for himself by setting Parliament against the authorities and the nation.

This was said by Members of Parliament (MPs) yesterday when a statement on the new elderly people was delivered by Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Paul Dlamini. The statement was to the effect that the new elderly people would be paid in the next financial year (2018/2019), due to cash flow challenges experienced by government.

The MPs did not accept this because the statement, according to them, was contradictory to what was said by the prime minister on Friday at Sigwe. The PM is said to have told the people at Sigwe not to listen to MPs, but should know that their grants would be paid.

All they needed to do was to submit their particulars to secretaries of their respective constituencies.

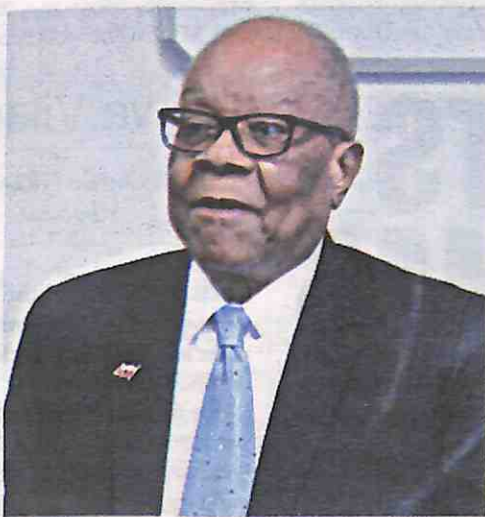
Manzini North MP Jan Sithole said the matter should not be taken lightly because Parliament was now set against the authorities and the people. Sithole said a few months ago, Parliament was accused of disturbing peace and stability of the country yet they had not so. What was unfortunate was that MPs were punished for disturbing the peace and now they were set against the electorate.

Nkwene MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini said what was done by the PM in Sigwe was unfortunate.

The problem was that the PM used the King's name to send his message across. By so doing, he dragged the name of the King through the mud.

The Nkwene MP said back in 2002, the prime

...Mbabane West MP Johane Shongwe said it was a pity if the country would have someone who would think they could stand against the King, who declared that Swazis would get grants from 60 years of age



POWER-GRABBING: Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini.

minister issued a statement to the effect that government would not listen to the courts' judgments and the world was shocked.

On Friday, the very same PM told the electorate at Sigwe not to listen to the MPs on the new elderly matter. The MP said this happened despite that the very same electorate was the one that voted the current MPs into the present Parliament.

The MP wondered if that was not usurping powers by the PM because in 2002, he took the powers of

the courts and did so on Friday when he usurped the powers of Parliament.

He also complained that some people were hunted down for voicing out their concerns over the inefficiencies of the Cabinet, which was led by the current PM.

He also said police should stop guarding the premier because they failed to practise objectivity.

Security companies should be used to guard the prime minister, he said. On Friday, police should have done something to the prime minister when he violated the constitution by telling people not to listen to what the MPs were saying concerning the new elderly people.

He said Cabinet was inducing fear to the Swazi nation and that could induce Swazis not to stand for elections next year.

Mbabane West MP Johane Shongwe said it was a pity if the country would have someone who would think they could stand against the King, who declared that Swazis would get grants from 60 years of age. He wondered why people were told that MPs were disturbing peace when they asked Cabinet when new elderly people were getting paid. Mangongco MP Patrick 'Pha' Motsa said people who had not stood for elections in their lives should not say anything about people who stood for elections. In 2013, the King asked the nation to elect *BoMangololo* (strong candidates) who would help the King in building the nation. It was a pity that a person would then go to Sigwe to tell people that "Bomangololokute (there were no strong candidates)."

PM refuses to deliver statement

PRIME Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini refused to deliver the statements on elderly people and the state of Phalala Fund.

This was said by Speaker of the House of Assembly Themba Msibi yesterday when addressing MPs. He mentioned the PM told him that he had not said he would deliver the statement yesterday, but the matters had their own ministries that would deliver the statements.

The premier did this despite the fact that MPs directed him to deliver the statement because they involved two ministries.

Case

They felt if that was the case, the PM was the one who had to deliver the statements.

This could not happen as the statements were delivered by DPM Paul Dlamini and Minister for Health Sibongile Simelane.

Speaker blasts PM for Sigwe statement

HOUSE of Assembly Speaker Themba Msibi said it should not happen that an MP takes a matter in Parliament and speaks about it in other forums.

Msibi said this in reference to the statement said to have been made by the PM at Sigwe on Friday. The PM is said to have told new elderly people not to listen to MPs who were out to cause confusion because they would be paid their grants.

He said it was against Parliament procedure to take matters that were still in

Parliament to talk about them in other forums.

Respect

He said he hoped that they would see him during Parliament opening, where maybe they would tell him that what he did at Sigwe was not good.

The speaker said a in SiSwati, person who had no respect should be made to respect because all MPs had the ability to talk about Parliament matters in other forums, but could not because they respected Parliament.

4 000 new elderly people

THERE are 4 000 new elderly people that are supposed to be paid this present financial year.

This is according to the statement delivered by DPM Paul Dlamini in the House of Assembly yesterday.

The 4 000 was not the exact number given by the DPM to the MPs. He thought the number would reach 4 000 by the end of March 2018, if the registration trends were anything to go by. The DPM said his office

had been registering elderly people from April 2017 and in May this year, they were 1 600.

At the end of October, the number of the new elderly people had increased to 2 872.



Tel: (+268) 2518 4615 | Cell: (+268) 7907 8654 or 7657 1505 | Email: mavelas@simavsheq.com or marketing@simavsheq.com
Physical Address: Plot 784, 1st Street Matsapha Industrial Site, Office number 11.

PUBLIC TRAINING SCHEDULE - January to June 2018

COURSE	DURATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
SHEQ Management Systems Awareness	1 day	19		13	3	7	8
ISO 9001: 2015 Awareness Training	1 days	16		27	4	8	7
Transition Course (ISO 9001: 2008 to ISO 9001: 2015)	2 days	17 - 18	6-7	14-15	5-6	9-10	5-6
Construction Industry's Health and Safety Awareness Training	1 day	23	27	20	10	11	12
Municipalities and Town Council's Health and Safety Awareness Training	1 day	24		21	11	13	13
Forestry and Timber Industry Health and Safety Awareness Training	1 day	25		22		16	14
Public Transport Staff Health & Safety Awareness Training	1 day	26		23	12	17	15
SHEQ Officer's Refresher Training	3 days		13-15		10-12		20-22
SHEQ Officer's Diploma Training (Correspondence with Scheduled study schools) 10 th January 2018 (Intake final registration)	3 Years	13,20,27	3,10,17, 24	3,10,17, 24,31	7,14,21, 28	5,12,19, 26	2,9,16,23, 30
SHEQ Representative Course	2 days	10-11	2,9,16,23	22-23	17-18	19-20	26-27
Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment	2 days		8-9			21-22	28-29
SHEQ Internal Auditing Course (ISO 9001, OHSAS 18001, ISO 14001 Internal Auditing based on ISO 19011 standard)	5 days		5-9	27-28		29-30	11-15

NB: All courses can be presented at the client's premises provided a minimum of ten (10) participants is registered for the course. Training Venue shall be Alcon Business Center and SIMAV SHEQ Conference room.

SIMAV SHEQ CONSULTANCY & TRAINING IS ISO 9001 Certified Consultancy Firm with offices in Matsapha (GMP), Boksburg (SA), Gaborone (Botswana)

Minister says Cabinet *ishaywe tibalo*

CABINET could not budget for new elderly to allow government to pay grants for the new elderly people.

This was said by Minister for Economic Planning and Development Prince Hlangusemphi yesterday in the House of Assembly.

The minister said this as he was urging the MPs to accept the statement given by the DPM.

The prince further urged the MPs to help Cabinet in formulating regulation that would guide on how the elderly grants would be disbursed. The MPs thanked the minister for coming out and say they made a mistake by not budgeting for the new elderly people.

Mhlangatane MP Mbalekelwa Ndwandwe said Parliament and Cabinet should work together to come up with a solution to this

problem. He suggested that the money should be taken from other items that were budgeted for in the current financial year and come up with a supplementary budget to pay for the new elderly grants.

Other MPs were also of the view that a supplementary budget should be tabled before the House in order for the elderly people to get paid, maybe before Christmas.

The DPM, in response, said he would take the matter to Minister for Finance Martin Dlamini and see if it could be possible to do what the MPs wanted the Cabinet to do.

'ISHAYWE TIBALO': Minister for Economic Planning and Development Prince Hlangusemphi.



State media captured

PRIME Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini is accused of capturing the state media.

The accusations were levelled against him, in absentia by Members of Parliament (MPs).

The legislators said it was unfortunate for them to be victims in a situation whereby the state media would be used to accuse them yet they would not be allowed to use the very same state media to state their side of the story.

Matsanjeni North MP Phila Buthelezi urged MPs and the nation at large to pray for the authorities of the country to live a longer life because it looked like Cabinet and Parliament were at loggerheads.

He wondered why Minister for Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Dumisani Ndlangamandla wanted one MP to speak in SiSwati. Ndlangamandla wanted one MP, who had been speaking in English, to interpret his statement in SiSwati so that it could be heard properly.

Director

Buthelezi wondered who was going to be heard by the MP, who was directed to speak in SiSwati because his voice would not be heard on state media. Parliament programme was not played anywhere and MPs were not allowed to voice their concerns on behalf of the people on state media.

Buthelezi said it was an embarrassment for the country to fail to provide E20 million to cater for the elderly people. He said he was concerned that Cabinet was out to sort the King, who announced that the elderly, from this financial year, would get E400 per month.

Manzini North MP Jan Sithole said the PM used the media to discredit them yet MPs did not have access to the state media. He said it was a pity because this was a state tool that was funded by taxpayers' money.

Hhukwini MP Saladin Magagula concurred with the Manzini North legislator. He stated that the state media was captured. He said this was dangerous for the country to experience this. People could be fooled sometimes, but people could not be fooled at all times.

Mangongco MP Patrick 'Pha' Motsa said Cabinet had a motive of going to the state media to lie to the people.

What was unfortunate was that MPs could not be afforded an opportunity to state what was happening in the constituencies.

Nkwene MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini said if it were not for newspapers, which were not captured, no one would know what was happening in Parliament.

SWAZI CHOIRS SHINE AT 40TH OLD MUTUAL FESTIVAL



NOTICE

COLLECTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

We would like to notify the owners of the vehicles listed below, currently kept at our depot in Matsapha, to come collect their property within 14 days of this notice.

Owner	Make	Registration number
Dlamini Mkhululi	Ford Bantam	DSD 208 BH
Usutu Strike Force	Toyota Hilux	VSD 078 AH
Nhleko Zachariah	Nissan Hardbody	VSD 529 AH
Zikalala Vusi	Mercedes Benz Sprinter	ISD 181 BH
Eddie	Nissan 1400	GP Registration Number

Failure to adhere to this notice will result in the disposal of the vehicles.

Contact Person:
Teboho Mohapeloa
Claims Manager
2404 3231 ext 2140
Cell: 7636 1750
Email: Tebo@srhc.sz



Head Office: 10th Floor, Swazi House, Swazi Road, Mbabane, Swaziland. Tel: +268 2404 3231
Main Office: SRIC House, 10th Floor, The Hub, Mbabane, Swaziland. Tel: +268 2500 5000

FOUR ARMED ROBBERS SNATCH E100 000 AT MATHENDELE

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlanguano

FOUR armed men robbed an Asian owned supermarket close to E100 000 on Sunday.

The supermarket, situated at the crime infested Mathendele Township in Nhlanguano, was already closed for business when just somewhere at around 9pm, four armed men entered at the back and terrorised one of the directors and another colleague.

Mathendele Supermarket started operating early this year and its opening came as a relief to the residents who no longer have to travel over a kilometre to town for items not sold in some of the existing grocery shops in the densely populated and notorious township.

Faces

It's said when the shop had closed for the day's business, two Asians who were preparing to go to bed were terrorised by the four men armed with knives and firearms.

The Asians stay at the back of the supermarket within the same premises. The robbers are said to have jumped over the wall fence separating the supermarket and bottle store.

One of the directors Faru Kkhan said it was while they were busy with other errands at the back of the shop, four men pounced, advising them to cooperate if they still valued their lives. He said two of the men had their faces covered with balaclavas while the other two did not cover their faces. He said the four had jumped over the wall fence after having cut the razor wire.

"They pushed and shoved us around pointing a gun at us while others were wielding deadly knives.

They ordered us to heed to all the orders they issued and we obliged. They demanded the key to the safe and straight they reached for the safe and took almost all the cash kept there," said Faru, who was still shaken when interviewed yesterday at the shop.

Blankets

Faru said despite fully cooperating with the robbers as per their order, they



CONFIRMED: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba.

assaulted them heavily. "They hit us with something like an iron object all over the body and at the same time shouting and telling us we are at their mercy.

My colleague, Kamrul (Chowdhury) had cuts on the side of his face as the robbers were demonstrating how we were going to lose our lives if we fail to cooperate," said Faru.

Faru said they had their hands tied at the back and also covered with blankets. He said the robbers, having found the money in the safe, also helped themselves to some items from the shelves, including cigarettes.

Suspect

He said it was a terrifying experience and what he was suspecting was that the attack was well planned, adding that it could be people who knew all corners of the premises.

"They took our cellphones as well as other items. We were left tied and bundled inside our rooms at the back of the shop. We are still feeling some pains because of the assault," said Faru.

Faru said because it was raining, they could not even hear the robbers when they sneaked into the premises.

"We only realised that we were under attack when all four were inside and issuing orders with guns pointed at us," said Faru.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the robbery and stated that police were doing everything within their powers to apprehend those suspected to be behind the act.

He said Nhlanguano was of late tormented by robberies as last Friday, a robbery was reported at another bar where gunmen made away with over E6 000.

"It's frightening and what is also worrying is that we are towards the festive holidays. It's like these robbers are well planned for this period.

We are not going to allow criminals do as they please though and let me assure the nation that we are doing everything to get all those involved. We are hot on their heels as we cannot allow Nhlanguano town or any other part of the kingdom to be taken over by criminals and make us appear in the eyes of the world like a lawlessness country," said Supt Mamba.

Supt Mamba also said bars and many other businesses should stick to their stipulated operating hours as some of the robbers; could be people who while time in some of these businesses and plan how to attack. "Bars, especially, should not close late as we feel it's another contributing factor for these robberies," said Supt Mamba.

SNAT Burial Scheme spat costs E400 000 in legal fees

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

SWAZILAND National Association of Teachers (SNAT) Burial Scheme has incurred legal costs amounting to E400 000.

The scheme is at loggerheads with some of its members who have taken the leadership to court over corrupt practices applied to candidates who wanted to join the 2017 elections of the burial scheme.

The bone of contention was that some members did not have their names on the list as nominees, hence they ran to court in order to stop the elections.

Elections

The four applicants; namely, Sthembile Dlamini, Sdumo Dlamini Ntombi Dlamini and Welcome Ngwenya were successful in halting the elections which were supposed to take place early this year.

During a

recent

SNAT

Burial

Scheme

annual general

meeting held at

Metropolitan Evangelical Church,

the burial scheme committee apolo-

gised for the sudden stoppage of

elections on the eve of elections

day by a court interdict.

The committee said it tried to

inform members about the court

interdict through the different media

houses, however, due to time con-

straints members couldn't get the

message and as a result they spent

their money and time only to be



turned back at the voting centres.

The committee blamed all this on the aggrieved members, saying it was something that they had planned as their prayers were to stop the elections. The bone of contention according to information gathered is that the member's names were not in the candidature list as nominees. A report of the meeting in possession to this publication states that the court based the judgement on the oaths taken by Manzini Chairperson Mbongwa Dlamini, who posed himself as the National Executive Committee Chairperson of SNAT union and told the burial scheme to stop the elections and his orders were defied.

This, according to the committee, gave the judge the impression that Dlamini was the president of SNAT which is something that shocked the committee. However, a reliable source stated that the attorney representing the applicants dur-

ing the hearing of the case in court indicated that it was a typo as they wanted to write branch president. It is said the issue was

sorted in court that day. After the presentation of oral evidence was completed, the arbitrator stated that he was more than ready to conclude the matter if both parties were comfortable with suggestions. However, there was disagreement on how to proceed with judgement on the matter, the report given to the members states that the scheme paid over E400 000 in expenses for the arbitration process.

Thieves break into SMILE Supermarket, steal E37 000

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

CASH amounting to E37 000 was stolen at SMILE Supermarket after robbers broke into the shop on Sunday night.

Owners of the supermarket, situated along the busy Betsile Street in town, were left shocked when they were met by a broken door gate and smashed door yesterday morning.

The shop owners, who are of Asian origin, had come to open their shop as per norm when they realised they had been robbed.

Narrating what had happened, Store Manager Zakir Patel said when they arrived in the morning to find the front door smashed and the door gate broken, they knew that what any businessman feared the most had happened.

"We knew as soon as we saw the smashed door that we had been robbed hence we quickly called the police even before entering the place," he said.

Patel narrated that inside the shop

they had left the weekend's takings and they knew upon realisation of the robbery that they had lost those collections.

"We had our weekend collections in here which were close to E40 000. They took those collections as well as cigarettes," he said.

Patel said they were still going to look at what else was stolen but what was glaringly missing were the cigarettes and money. He also lamented that the shop wasn't insured so they were not going to get their money back. "We are not insured so this is a huge loss for us, we will never recover this money if it is not found," he said.

Patel also said the thieves who broke into the shop were quite good as they had been able to break into the shop without being noticed by security guards from nearby companies. Chief Police Information and Communications Officer (PICO) Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the incident. "We are still investigating, no suspects have been found yet. The robbers were able to steal E37 000 plus stock," he said.

Manzini Municipality to auction 15 cattle

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

MEMBERS of the public who are looking forward to purchasing cattle to slaughter this festive season must attend the Manzini Municipal Council auction tomorrow morning at the municipality pound.

This is because the municipality will be auctioning about 15 cattle on the day. This is live-

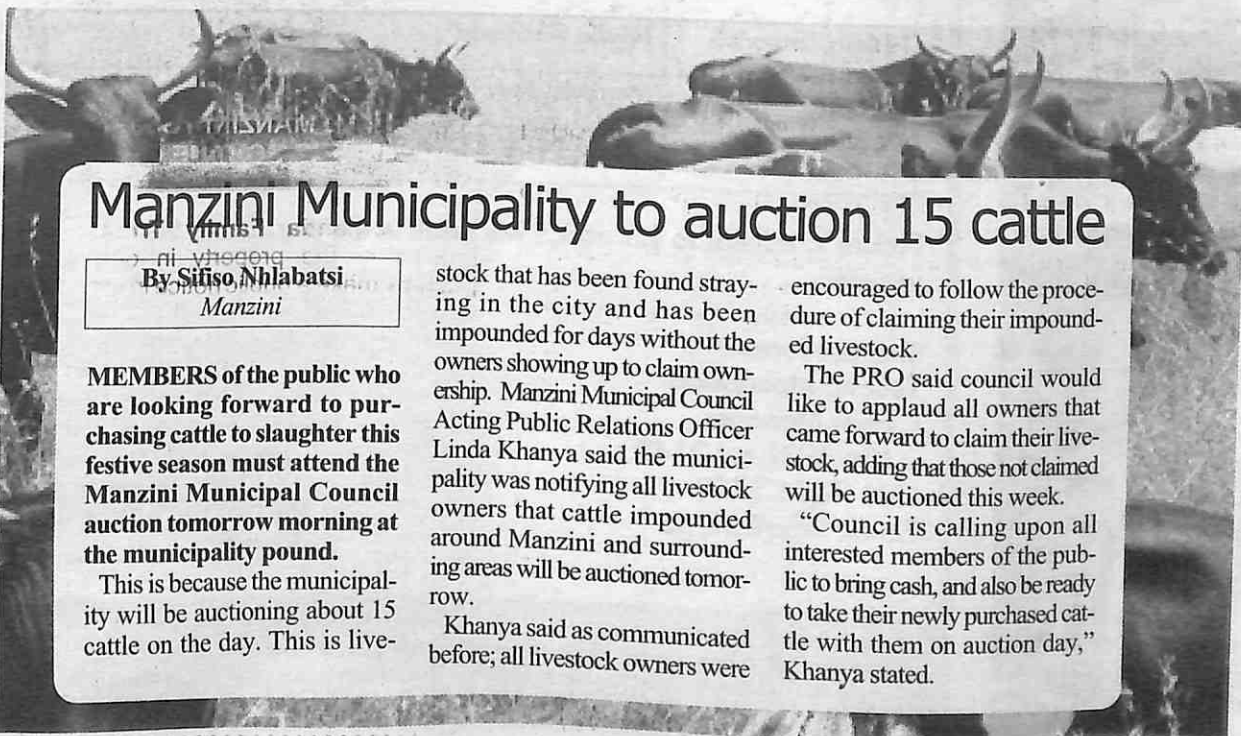
stock that has been found straying in the city and has been impounded for days without the owners showing up to claim ownership. Manzini Municipal Council Acting Public Relations Officer Linda Khanya said the municipality was notifying all livestock owners that cattle impounded around Manzini and surrounding areas will be auctioned tomorrow.

Khanya said as communicated before; all livestock owners were

encouraged to follow the procedure of claiming their impounded livestock.

The PRO said council would like to applaud all owners that came forward to claim their livestock, adding that those not claimed will be auctioned this week.

"Council is calling upon all interested members of the public to bring cash, and also be ready to take their newly purchased cattle with them on auction day," Khanya stated.



SPINTEX TO DISCIPLINE WORKERS FOR ENGAGING ON 'ILLEGAL' STRIKE

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

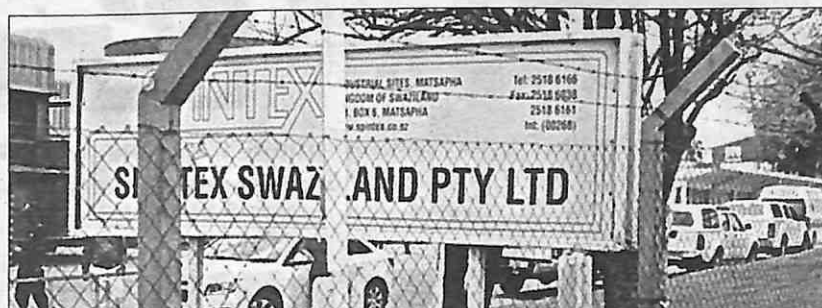
WHILE Spintex workers are still trying to come to terms with losing their jobs, they might also have to deal with another predicament of having to defend themselves in court.

This comes after reports that the company is contemplating taking disciplinary action against some of its employees, who had engaged on an illegal strike action.

According to a report from the Amalgamated Trade Union of Swaziland (ATUSWA), the union had learnt with shock that Spintex was planning to take disciplinary action against workers on allegations that they engaged in an illegal strike action on December 4, 2017.

ATUSWA stated that as a union it is committed to serve and protect the rights of Spintex workers. According to the statement released over the weekend, the union states that despite the unfortunate incidence at Spintex Swaziland, workers should be treated fairly.

"The mere fact that the company has not communicated anything to this day is worrying. The company is well aware that we are approaching Christmas holidays and workers expect to be paid their hard earned annual leave in order to provide for their families and chil-



dren," part of the statement reads.

It is also alleged that the manner with which Spintex is handling the matter exhibits vengeance, which is not warranted. ATUSWA Secretary General Wander Mkhonza said even if Spintex suspicions of arson attack by a worker or workers were to be proven later on, it would not mean that all the workers must be made to pay. Mkhonza said the strike was imaginary and self-created.

Expected

"How could have workers engaged on a strike action when they were on duty and only went out when the fire started around 0530hrs. We wonder if Spintex expected the Monday morning shift to go into the burning factory when they reported for duty," he said.

Mkhonza added that as a union they were quite aware that the company would employ every trick in the book in order to evade accountability.

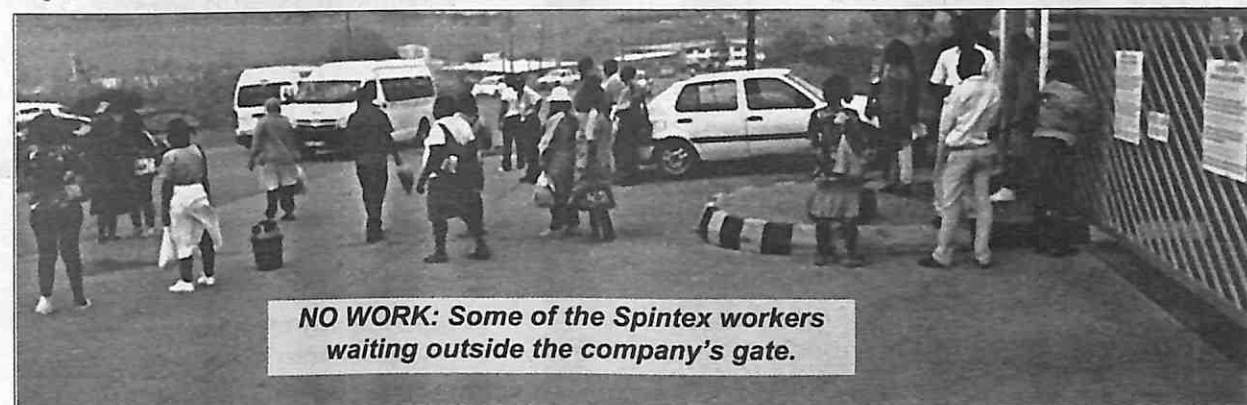
The union said the company has two

options which include retrenching or to liquidate. The report from the union also point out that however due to the way the company has been handling its finances from 2012, the company will not want to be subjected to such options because these two options come with responsibilities, the report states that the easy way out for the company now is to dismiss the workers on imaginary misconduct.

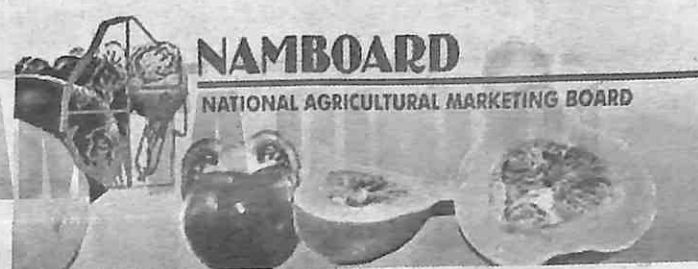
"As much as it pains us that the company got burned down our pain will not overwhelm our duty to protect our members who remain powerless victims," part of the statement reads.

Worth noting is that the company has since opted to close shop leaving workers in the dark about benefits or what will happen next.

This follows the fire incident which burnt down the factory last week, resulting in the company announcing that it was closing operations.



NO WORK: Some of the Spintex workers waiting outside the company's gate.



NMC, NAMBoard smoke peace pipe

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

THE National Maize Corporation (NMC) and National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBoard) have smoked a peace pipe.

The two organisations have now agreed to work harmoniously together for the benefit of Swazi farmers following a meeting held last Friday at the ministry of agriculture in Mbabane. NMC and NAMBoard are parastatals under the ministry of agriculture.

The public enterprises were no longer working in a cooperative relationship, following NMC's complaint in the manner in which NAMBoard was operating.

NMC had accused NAMBoard of allowing farmers and millers to buy maize straight from South Africa, instead of buying the maize from NMC.

This put NMC at a disadvantage because the money that was supposed to go to them was exported to South Africa. The ministry of agriculture convened the meeting last Friday to try and sort out the feud between the two public enterprises.

Ministry of Agriculture Principal Secretary (PS) Bongani Masuku confirmed that they had a fruitful meeting with the two organisations.

"There has been a negative perception generated in the public domain that NMC and NAMBoard are in conflict. The ministry wishes to point out that the



perceived conflict has been amicably resolved between the two entities through a meeting held by the parties in the presence of the ministry's senior officials," Masuku said.

Masuku said the smoking of a peace pipe by the two organisations meant NAMBoard would continue to play its role of making sure that farmers and/or millers continued to buy maize from NMC, instead of going straight to South Africa to buy the maize.

NAMBoard was established to regulate Swaziland's import, export and transit of scheduled agricultural products. The parastatal also has a duty to help small farmers to develop their businesses and to provide an outlet for the produce of Swaziland's farmers.

NMC was established in 1985 with the objectives of guaranteeing a market to local maize farmers at competitive prices and providing good quality maize meal at reasonable prices to the Swazi people. These objectives have now changed.

With the return of the Ngwane Mills to the SWAKI Group in 1995, NMC is no longer involved in maize milling, but only in its purchase, storage and marketing.

12 graves to be removed for high school

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

A total of 12 graves are set to be removed at Lubhuku to make way for the construction of a high school.

Lubhuku is a place situated under Dvokodvweni Inkhundla, which has for many years has had a challenge of not having a high school.

The area has a primary school (Enjabulweni Primary) that has existed for more than 20 years, producing a pass rate of 100 per cent in some years.

Currently, the nearby high school (Dvokodvweni High) is situated at a distance of about five kilometres from Lubhuku. This is said to be challenging to the children from Lubhuku as they get to be exposed to situations where they become victims of crimes such as rape and murder.

Such a situation compelled the Enjabulweni

Primary committee to approach Dvokodvweni MP Musa Sitezi Dlamini for help in the situation.

The construction of the high school should have been done by now, but the problem that is said to be hindering the progress is the removal of the graves from the site where the high school is to be situated.

Effects

MP Musa Sitezi Dlamini said the absence of a high school in the area had negative effects on the children produced by Enjabulweni Primary. Dlamini confirmed that the construction of the high school would soon start, after the removal of the graves.

"The families and relatives were contacted and they amicably accepted the removal of their loved ones to a site given to them by the local authorities," Dlamini said.

However, the MP said the affected families had financial challenges because they were poor and they could not run the exhumation

and re-burial of their departed loved ones. Many individuals and organisations were approached for financial assistance.

However, such was not fruitful, according to Dlamini, because no company came forward to assist. At the end, the MP wrote a letter to a certain donor, who provided 12 coffins to be used to implement the project of the removal of the graves.

Proposed

The proposed high school in Lubhuku can serve children from different areas like Lubhuku, Manyveni, Mampempeni, Nzuleni, Dvokodvweni, and Mpolonjeni.

The MP said this was one of the dire situations that called for the construction of the high school in the area.

He said other problems included situations where children would be exposed to road accidents where the children would be knocked down by vehicles. The children also risk drowning in rivers they cross during rainy seasons.

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL
CONSENT IN TERMS OF
THE MANZINI TOWN
PLANNING SCHEME OF 2013

I/We **Siganda Family Trust**, the owner of the property in question, hereby make a public notice in terms of clause 1.5 of the 2013 Manzini Town Planning Scheme that I/We wish to apply for a SPECIAL CONSENT to establish (description of development) **Duet Houses on plot 639 Township Wilmer Park Extension No7.**

Anyone having an objection to this application may lodge their objections, in writing, with the Municipal Council of Manzini at P.O. Box 418, MANZINI M200, SWAZILAND not later than the **09 Jan 2018** which is **21 days** from the last publication of the notice namely **19 December 2017.**

8 NATIONAL NEWS



1. RED IS THE COLOUR: The Swazi Mobile stand was a hive of activity during the Pigg's Peak roadshow staged by Swazi Mobile and its partners. **2. ALSO THERE:** PSI Swaziland was also frequented by members of the public. **3. ENTERTAINERS:** Entertainment artists provided by Big Five Entertainment stable. (Pics: Sizwe Dlamini)

SWAZI MOBILE, PARTNERS PAINT PIGG'S PEAK RED

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

SWAZI Mobile, in partnership with PSI Swaziland and Big Five Entertainment, brought the red Saturday roadshow to the small town of Pigg's Peak.

The Pigg's Peak leg of the roadshow took place at the Boxer Supermarket car park.

Speaking to this publication, Swazi Mobile corporate Communications Manager Macford Sibandze said the red Saturday campaign was their way of saying thank you to current customers, as well as trying to bring another demographic into the ever expanding Swazi Mobile universe.

"We launched the red Saturday campaign in Nhlanguano on December 2, we then came up to Pigg's Peak town today.

"We plan to go to Siteki on December 23, and then climax in Manzini on December 30.

The reason why we combined with Big Five Entertainment is that we as the ever inclusive Swazi Mobile team are promoting our data centric packages, as we all know data services are usually used by members of the youth who are often familiar with such technologies, so we enlisted Big Five to help us reach this very exciting and futuristic demographic. Swazi Mobile is committed to servicing all types of customers and audience," he said.

Stakeholders

He added that Swazi Mobile with its stakeholders would be making selected appearances at various Shisha Nyama outlets and would have artists under Big Five stable speaking to the youth.

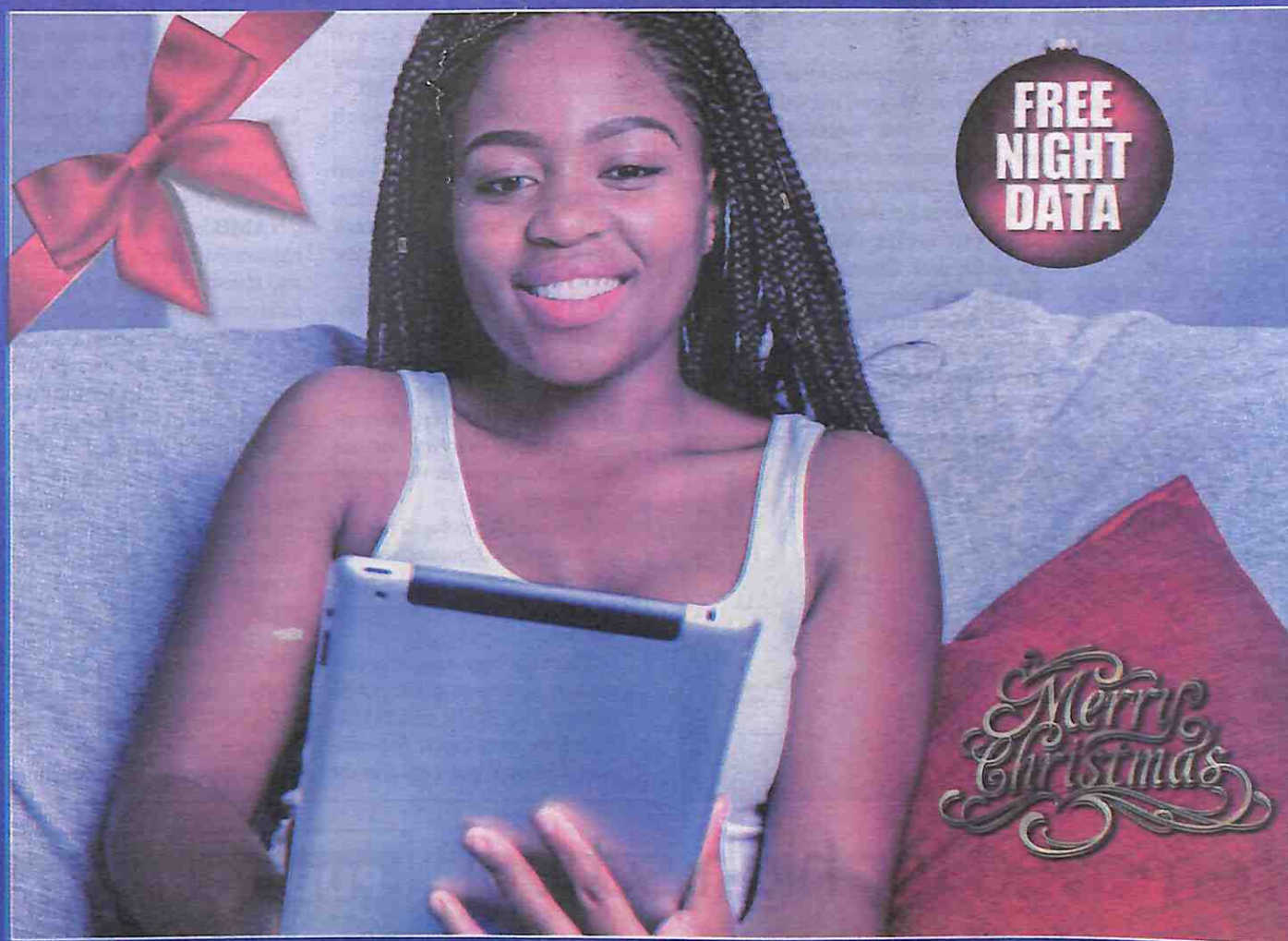
Sibandze said during these roadshows, the company's sales team would be marketing their products.

Meanwhile, Big Five Entertainment Media Liaison Officer Steven Mtsetfwa urged the public to attend the roadshows so as to win various prizes.

"At the roadshows, the public will be familiarised with Swazi Mobile products and win prizes. Also PSI Swaziland under the 'Got it Get it' campaign will be giving out fabulous prizes.

"Members of the public who attend the roadshows stand a chance to win tickets to a crossover party, so we are inviting as many people as possible to come out and enjoy themselves with us," he said.

ADSL BROADBAND



DOUBLE DATA, DOUBLE CHRISTMAS FUN!

Get **FREE NIGHT DATA** throughout the festive season and celebrate with our **DOUBLED** Post-paid Packages until New Years Eve!

Description	RESIDENTIAL	BUSINESS	
	Classic	Lite	Standard
Speed	Up to 1024 kbps	Up to 2048 kbps	Up to 2048 kbps
Capping	20 GB	35 GB	50 GB
Free Night Data (20h00 - 05h00)	20 GB	35 GB	50 GB
Total Package this Christmas	40 GB	70 GB	100 GB
Package Price	E310.00	E629.85	E920.55

*All packages will be doubled from 11th December 2017

Our Christmas gift to you!

T&Cs Apply.

For more info visit your nearest Telecentre or call 800 2000. www.sptc.co.sz

in touch...

Swazi Telecom



'TEACHERS MUST SPEAK OUT ON GBV'

Stories by Nozipho Sibiya
Mhlambanyatsi

SWAZILAND National Association of Teachers (SNAT) has joined hands with government in the fight against gender based violence amongst teachers.

This was said by Gender Officer Audrey Dlamini-Mhlongo when addressing the Mbabane branch of teachers during their end of year party held at Mhlambanyatsi Golf Club last Friday. Dlamini-Mhlongo said teachers should come out and report any type of violence they come across in their work and domestic environment.

She said gender based violence was more prevalent among partners and educating teachers about healthy relationships was essential.

She urged the Trade Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA), which is the mother body federation, to strengthen its fight against gender

based violence through awareness and education at all levels of society.

Stressing the need for change, she said; "despite the progressive laws and policies that government has enacted to deal with gender based violence, many people, including teachers, die of different type of violence."

The gender officer said many different forms of violence against males and females were prevalent throughout the country, including the discrimination of gays and lesbians or gender related killing of women; domestic violence; and gang rapes, which led to deadly consequences.

Major issue

"We do know that gender based violence is a major issue. Even though many victims of violence do not report their ordeal because of the stigma that it carries, amongst teachers there are those who told us that they had been abused one way or the other but never report-



MAJOR ISSUE: SNAT Mbabane branch Gender Officer Audrey Dlamini-Mhlongo at the event.

ed the matter with the right structures as they were protecting their partners," she said, while encouraging her fellow colleagues to come out and report the perpetrators of violence.

She said if the survivors do not stand up for their right they may die of violence. She mentioned that everyday women are killed, raped and brutalised, not by monsters, but by the men with whom they share beds, homes, workplaces, churches and streets.

"We are, therefore, raising our voices as teachers, saying this has to come to an end.

"Right now we have a real shot to take our collective outrage and call for everyone to commit to end violence," she said.

Furthermore, she mentioned that every human being has a right to life, thus no one deserves to have his or her rights to life violated.

"Teachers should not fall victim of abuse, especially because we teach them on how to handle the issues and they know where they can report such issues," she added.

She said the Mbabane branch of SNAT condemns any kind of abuse amongst their colleagues and all other Swazis in the country.

Buy Swazi Mobile shares, teachers encouraged

SWAZI Mobile Corporate and Communications Manager Macford Sibandze has urged teachers to be amongst the 100 000 Swazis that would have qualified for the company's shares by the end of this month.

Speaking during the SNAT Mbabane branch end of year party, where he was the guest speaker, Sibandze encouraged teachers to utilise the opportunity since the deadline to acquire the shares was extended to December 31.

"Do not let this opportunity pass by as it here to help about 100 000 Swazis change their lives," said Sibandze, a former teacher.

In essence, to qualify for the shares, a customer will have to spend E600 on airtime and receive at least 30 calls.

He said the good news is that the expected calls will be welcome from any other mobile company besides Swazi Mobile.

Sibandze encouraged those who have not qualified to push hard before the opportunity closes month end and congratulated those who have already qualified.

"Those who have qualified for our shares offer will be awarded their share certificates soon," he said, further mentioning that an official announcement will be communicated.



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE: SNAT members clapping hands in appreciation of the chairman's speech.

Spend Xmas with your families - 'Mavikana'

CHAIRMAN of Mbabane branch of SNAT Victor 'Mavikana' Dlamini has advised teachers to go home and spend Christmas with their families.

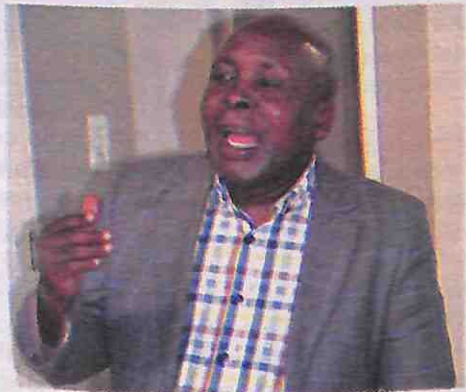
Addressing the over 50 teachers who attended their end of year function, Dlamini said teachers should not spend Christmas in Mbabane but go home.

"I have noted that most people do not go home on holidays but stay in town and spend Christmas at the teachers' quarters or their rented houses," he said.

He added that Christmas is a special time that brings families closer and thus it was important that teachers spent such quality with those close to them.

Dlamini thanked the teachers for attending the event in their numbers.

"The attendance is very pleasing and I want to congratulate every teacher who attended the



EKHAYA: SNAT Mbabane branch Chairman Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini encouraging the teachers to go home during the festive holidays.

event because it shows that the Mbabane branch is stylish and united," he said.

TENDER

Letter of Invitation

Invitation for submission of Bids (IFB)

Tender number SWSC 16 OF 17/18

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT DEVELOPMENT

The Swaziland Water Services Corporation hereby invites sealed bids from eligible engineering service providers for the Feasibility Study, Detailed design, Services Procurement, Contract Administration, Project Management and Supervision Administration of a maximum 10MW Solar Power Plant and ancillary works.

Bidding documents are available and downloadable online on the Swaziland Water Services Corporation's Website, www.swsc.co.sz. A non re-fundable submission fee of E500.00 (Five Hundred Emalangeni Only) shall be payable at any SWSC Revenue.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security of E 50 000.00 and delivered to:

The Managing Director
Swaziland Water Services Corporation Headquarters,
Emtfonjeni Building,
MR3 Between Gables Shopping Complex and Usushwana Bridge
Ezulwini

on or before 12.00 noon, 12 January 2018 at which time they will be opened in the presence of bidders who elect to attend.

A non-compulsory site inspection will be conducted on Thursday 14 December 2017.

Prospective Bidders must meet the Corporation's Engineer or representative at the SWSC New Matsapha Waste Water Treatment Plant at 10.30am.

Late, telegraphic, Emailed and faxed tenders shall not be accepted. The Corporation does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Enquiries may be emailed to: procurement@swsc.co.sz

P.N. BHEMBE
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Emtfonjeni Building, Corner MR 103
and Cultural Village Drive, Ezulwini.
Tel: 2416 9000, Fax: 2416 3616
Visit: www.swsc.co.sz

MP's BUS RAMS INTO SIGWE POLICE POST

By Starsky Mkhonta
Sigwe

A bus believed to be owned by a Member of Parliament (MP) rammed onto a police post, bringing down parts of its walls.

The Sigwe Police Post building that also serves as accommodation for police officers, is now in shambles after the bus crashed on it.

It is said the driver had left the engine running so as to warm it as it was preparing start its morning route.

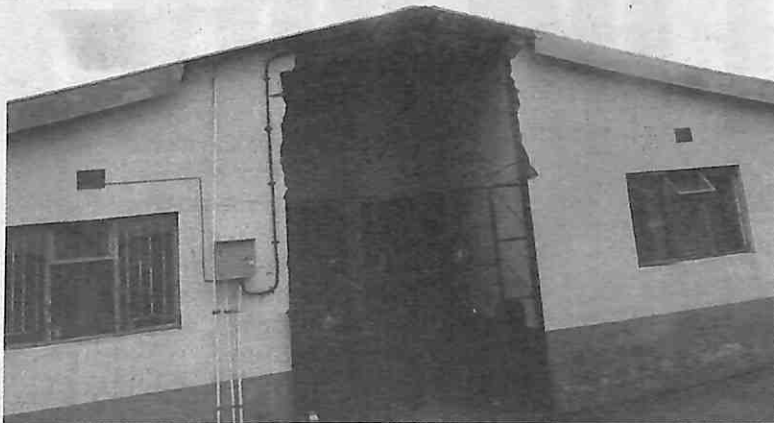
Reports are that for security reasons, at times the bus is parked at the police post premises. On the day in question, between 0400 hours to 0500 hours the driver started the engine so as to warm it.

However, things almost turned nasty as the unidentified driver learned that the bus he left with the engine running had 'moved' itself and reversed to the police post building and smashing it.

It's unclear whether the driver had left the handbrake in the right position or the bus moved because of it idling as its engine was on.

As the building is also used as accommodation, it is said some police officers were still sleeping and were awoken by the noise of the crash.

According to reports, there were



BANG: The side of the Sigwe Police Post building destroyed by a bus. (Pic: Starsky Mkhonta)

three officers who were inside their rooms when the building shook and were forced to jump off their beds half naked as they were not sure what was happening.

Ripped

"Three officers stationed at the police post found that the other side of the entrance, the top of the building was ripped off and part of the wall demolished.

The police officers were trembling as they thought they were under attack only to learn that it was the bus which had reversed into the building," said a source.

The damage caused to the building, took time to be attended as there are still talks between the owner of the

bus and other parties. The building itself is too old.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed that the Sigwe Police Post building was recently 'demolished' by a bus which incidentally reversed on it leading to it (building) slightly damaged.

When asked if the owner of the bus was known, Mamba said he was informed it belonged to one of the lawmakers who he however did not identify.

"It's a bus owned by one of the MPs, that's what I have been told. We are still having talks with him regarding the damage caused to the building," he said.

Women in fisticuffs after lover's WhatsApp messages

By Pshesheya Kunene
National Court

A war of words between two women led to physical assault when one of them discovered that her boyfriend was receiving messages from another woman.

Tandzile Mayisela took law into her own hands when a night with her boyfriend turned sour as she went through her boyfriend's mobile phone and discovered messages.

Masiyela was woken up by beeping sounds of the messages and anxiety got the better of her. Upon seeing the messages, the defendant started texting back the complainant, Thando Shongwe.

According to the charge sheet, the two women exchanged insults. Mayisela then took the complainant's number and started calling her using her own mobile phone.

On Sunday, Mayisela met the woman in town and did not waste time as she assaulted her with open hands and kicks. She also used a stick to assault Shongwe.

According to Shongwe, Mayisela planned the attack as she was attacked while she was going to her house at Msunduzi. She said the attack occurred at around 6pm while she was walking with a friend.

Mayisela was charged with assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. She pleaded guilty to the offence and said what triggered her anger was the reception the complainant gave her.



"I was angry and when I confronted her she started insulting me. I wanted to deal with her for what she said to me," she said, while trying to defend herself before Court President Chief Lembelele Dlamini.

She added she saved the complainant's pictures which she uploaded on the social networking platform WhatsApp and further got information from people who knew the complainant. However, she said her intention was not to assault her but to talk to her and warn her about insulting her.

On the other hand, Shongwe denied she insulted Mayisela and said she is the one who insulted her and further threatened to deal with her for having an affair with her boyfriend. The offender apologised to the court and said she would not commit the crime again.

She was fined E500 or seven months imprisonment.

The court lashed out at her for taking the law unto her own hands by assaulting the complainant yet she was not even a legal wife to the man in question.

MATSETSA MAN GETS SUSPENDED SENTENCE FOR HACKING ASSAILANT

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

A man from Matsetsa who was arrested for hacking another with a bush-knife walked free after explaining before the court that the incident was actually an act of self-defence as he was the one being attacked.

Ndumiso Simelane appeared before Principal Magistrate Dumsani Magagula, where he faced a charge of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

He was alleged to have wrongfully and intentionally assaulted one Nhlanhla Magagula by hacking him with a bush-knife on the head, causing him serious injuries.

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused pleaded guilty to charge while conducting his own defence. His plea was also accepted by the crown without leading

evidence to prove commission of the crime. The complainant was reported to have fully recovered from his injuries after being treated at a health facility.

During mitigation, the accused told the court that he was actually the one being attacked by the complainant after they had a misunderstanding.

Defend

He stated that the complainant was also the one who came with the bush-knife with the intention of hacking him. He said however, he was able to disarm the complainant and used it to hack him as he tried to defend himself.

The accused explanation was also not challenged by the prosecution, hence it was recorded as truthful. He was accordingly found guilty of the charge and was sentenced to six months in a correctional facility. The sentence was however wholly suspended for a period of three years.



RESCUED: The suspect (circled) being taken to the police station after conductors had beaten him.

KOMBI CONDUCTORS ASSAULT DAGGA SMOKING LAD

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

THERE was drama at the Manzini bus rank when conductors assaulted a man who was being pursued by police officers.

The incident which occurred on Friday saw the busy town coming to a standstill as kombi conductors assaulted the man who was fleeing from the police.

Not knowing why the man was being chased by the police, the conductors simply shouted 'juba' and in no time the suspect was pinned to the ground and assaulted with fists, kicks and stones.

Police had a hard time trying to save the suspect from the conductors, seeing that they (conductors) were taking the law into their own hands, the



UPHI: Some conductors and the public outside the Manzini Bus Rank Police Post.

police called for backup and were able to save the suspect from the angry mob.

As if assaulting the suspect was not enough, the conductors followed the police and suspect to the Manzini bus rank police post where they demanded that the suspect be released so that they could deal with him.

The conductors kept asking what the suspect had done as they had no clue why he was being chased by the

police. An officer came out and informed the angry conductors that they had found the accused smoking dagga in town and when they confronted him he fled the scene thus they pursued him.

Upon hearing the explanation, the conductors left the police officers and the suspect but before leaving they warned the suspect that he must not just run anyhow in town as that could lead to him being hurt for nothing.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER INSENSITIVE - MALINDZA FARMERS

Stories by Wonderboy Dlamini
Malindza

DISGRUNTLED farmers of Malindza are of the view that Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati is being insensitive of their plight which has seen them unable to sell their cattle due to fears of foot and mouth disease.

The minister has been accused of playing 'hide and seek' following his latest assertions which was to the effect that he was not aware that the farmers wanted to meet him.

The ministry of agriculture was reported to have quarantined cattle under Dvokodweni Constituency after the arrival of buffaloes which were suspected to be infected with the deadly foot and mouth disease.

The temporal quarantine of the cattle which lasted over three months means that the farmers are barred from selling their livestock to butcheries or any other buyer until the situation is certified as back to normal.

Hundreds of farmers from different communities which have been affected by the quarantining of cattle on Friday gathered at Sicusha Veterinary Offices where they expected to meet with the minister.



INSENSITIVE: Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati

The farmers were hopeful to have the matter discussed with Vilakati and, possibly have it resolved amicably.

A committee of farmers which has been elected to oversee and convey messages between the farmers and the ministry, said the minister had been invited to the meeting. MP Musa 'Stezi' Dlamini, however, reported that the minister was not available as he was said to be on sick leave. But our sister publication, the Sunday Observer reported that the min-

ister claimed to have not been aware of the meeting, as he was never invited to it.

Following this alleged assertion by the minister, one of the farmers' committee members Joseph Ziyane said the minister was being insensitive and showing total disregard for the office he was occupying.

Attempts

Ziyane pointed out that they have made several attempts to request the minister to attend one of their meetings but in vain. The minister allegedly kept on making different excuses of failing to attend the meetings. During their last meeting on Friday, some of the farmers even suggested that a protest march to the ministry's offices be staged as a way to show their frustration on the matter. The suggestion was disapproved by elderly members who suggested that a much dignified way of protest should be used. The farmers resolved to write a letter which is expected to be delivered to the minister before the end of this week. According to Chairman of the farmers' committee, Joseph Thwala, the letter is meant to inform the minister that they (farmers) will now be reporting their plight to higher authorities.

What the farmers want from agriculture minister...

FARMERS of Malindza who have been affected by the quarantining of their cattle only want a peaceful discussion with Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati.

Already, the farmers have invited the minister to a meeting after they were recently barred from selling their cattle while the ministry of agriculture assesses the possibility of the animals being infected by the deadly foot and mouth disease.

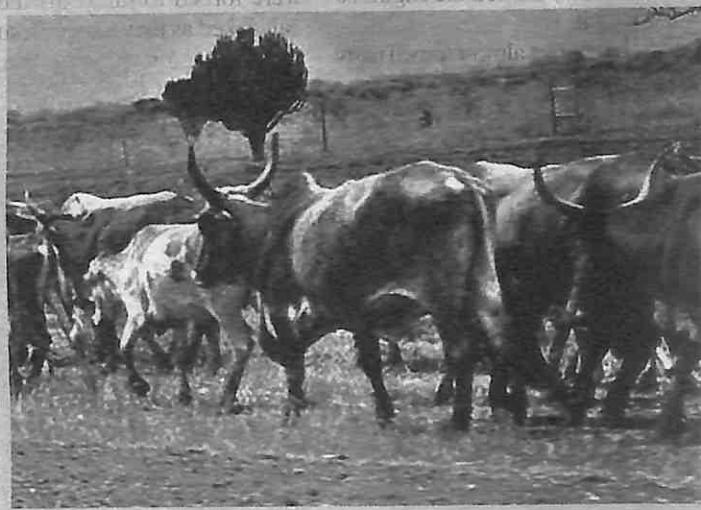
It is worth noting that, however, the ministry has not yet conducted a conclusive test on either the buffaloes which are suspected to have been infected when they were brought into the country or the cattle which have been quarantined.

Speaking to this publication yesterday, a committee member of the Malindza farmers, Joseph Ziyane said all they wanted from the min-

ister is his attention and active cooperation in the matter.

Ziyane said as farmers, they were aware that the quarantining of their cattle was for a good course, hence they were willing to cooperate. In this regard, Ziyane said the farmers had suggestions which they wanted to share with the minister so that the matter could be amicably resolved.

Ziyane said, for instance, they were of the view that a fund for cattle farmers needed to be established, so that they could be assisted during such situations. "We are not fighting with the minister; all we want is for him to come forward and lead the way in finding an urgent solution in this matter," he said. Ziyane's assertion was shared by many other farmers during the meeting which was held on Friday.



SA man nabbed for DD wants to go back home

By Phesheya Kunene
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A South African man wants to go back home after his partying mood was cut short by his arrest for driving his sleek wheels whilst intoxicated.

Mduduzi Mlambo was arrested over the weekend for driving whilst under the influence of alcohol.

He told the court that he was holidaying in the country with his friends when the police gave him what could be likened to a wake-up call.

Mlambo was nabbed at Ezulwini in the early hours of Sunday morn-

ing while driving his Mercedes Benz.

The South African offender was arrested at around 0330 hours.

The traffic police discovered 0.83mg/l of alcohol content in his blood system following a breathalyser test.

While making his appearance in court on Sunday, he asked the magistrate to allow him to leave for South Africa on the same day as he said it was important for him

to head back home.

"I visited my friends and we were having fun, I was here to enjoy myself and I did not know about the traffic laws. I apologise to the court for my conduct. I also plead with the court to allow me to leave for South Africa today," he said.

After his mitigation, Mlambo was found guilty and convicted as per his own plea. The first offender was fined E2 000 or one year imprisonment.

The court also handed out similar sentences of E2 000 or one year imprisonment and Mduduzi Dlamini was amongst the drink-drivers who got punished. He was also nabbed for drink-driving on Saturday while at or near Mbabane Central High School. He was driving a Toyota Hilux.

Dlamini had the highest alcohol reading in court of 1.14mg/l. He pleaded with the court to be lenient with him as he was a breadwinner and has learnt his lesson. He begged for a minimum fine.



Zionist woman admits to drinking, driving

THE police made an interesting discovery in the early hours of Sunday morning when a woman dressed in a Zion outfit was nabbed for drink-driving.

Bongiwe Noge (35) was arrested by the Lobamba traffic police while at Elangeni.

The Honda Fit she was driving was filled with other Zionists when the police arrested her.

The alcohol content found in her blood system stood at 0.72mg/l and she pleaded guilty to the offence and apologised.

She was also charged for not being in possession of her valid driver's licence.

"I admit Your Worship, I was drunk. I was at home when I received a call from people who wanted to go to a church service at Lobamba, they asked me to transport them. I agreed even though I was already drunk," she said.

She pleaded with the court to be lenient with her as she was a first offender. The regretful offender said she had forgotten her driver's licence at home.



DRINK-DRIVERS LIST

Mduduzi Mlambo	E2 000 fine or one year imprisonment
Zwelakhe Mashwama	E800 fine or four months imprisonment
Sakhile Simelane	E2 000 fine or one year imprisonment
Futhi Khumalo	E2 000 fine or one year imprisonment
Vukani Mbetse	E2 000 fine or one year imprisonment
Bongiwe Noge	E2 000 fine or one year imprisonment
Sibusiso Shongwe	E2 000 fine or one year imprisonment
Mduduzi Dlamini	E2 000 fine or one year imprisonment

The court found her guilty and convicted her on the drink-driving offence and cautioned and discharged her on the second count. She was fined E2 000 or one year imprisonment.

My wife will punish me - drink-driver

A male drunk driver begged the court to hand him a minimum sentence as he was already in trouble with his wife back home.

Sibusiso Shongwe left the court in stitches as he said he was sure a punishment was waiting for him at home, therefore, asked the court to consider that when sentencing him.

He admitted his mistake of drinking then driving. The alcohol content detected in his blood system stood at 0.86mg/l.

Shongwe was nabbed while at Ngwenya traffic circle on Saturday night. He apologised for his actions and pleaded for leniency.

Fined

He was fined E2 000 or one year imprisonment.

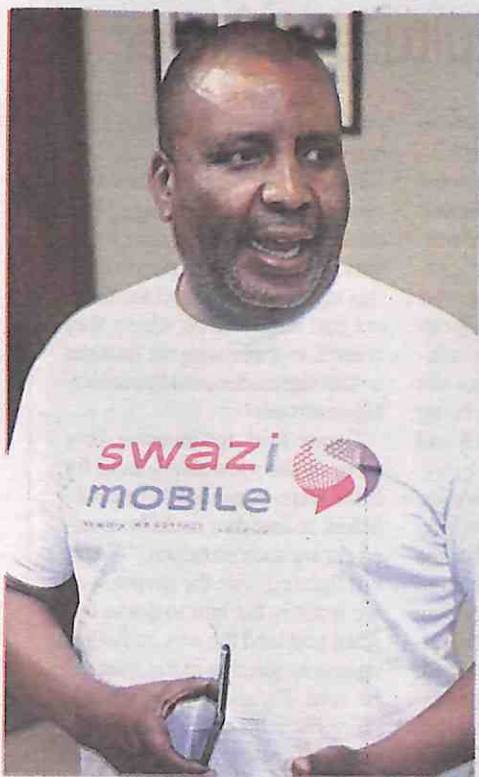
That said, Vukani Mbetse was slapped with three traffic counts after being nabbed at Ezulwini.

He pleaded guilty to all the counts of drink-driving, negligent driving and not being in possession of a valid driver's licence.

While intoxicated, he is said to have driven towards oncoming traffic and failed to comply with the traffic law by not stopping at a compulsory stop sign. He was thus charged with negligent driving. "I was intoxicated. I was from the house, I went to fill up my car with fuel at Midway Filling Station. I think my wallet which had my valid driver's licence fell off at home," he said.

12 PICTURES

SNAT MBABANE BRANCH HOSTS END-OF-YEAR PARTY



WE CONNECT: Swazi Mobile Corporate Communications Manager Macford Sibandze educating the SNAT members on how to become a shareholder of the company. He was a guest during the Swaziland National Association of Teachers Mbabane branch end of year party at Mhlambanyatsi Golf Club on Friday. **CENTRE - STOMACH - POLITICS:** Teachers dishing up. **RIGHT - IT'S PARTY TIME:** Thabsile Simelane-Vilakati (r) and a colleague enjoying their meal. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



FAREWELL: Mbabane branch Chairman Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini posing with Phindile Mkhalihi, Sikhulu Fakudze and Celumusa Mncina who have been transferred to other schools.



ALL EARS: SNAT members listening to speeches.



LET'S ALL DANCE: SNAT Mbabane branch members on the dance floor during their end of year party.



IT'S OUR DAY: Mbabane branch SNAT members posing during their end of year celebration.

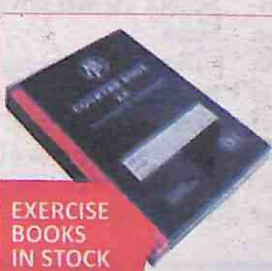
SCHOOL WEAR!!



BOYS SCHOOL SHIRTS
long sleeves from **E60.00**
short sleeves **E50.00**



SOCKS
E18.95



EXERCISE BOOKS
IN STOCK



BOYS SCHOOL TROUSERS
from **E80.00**



JERSEY
All **E120.00**



SCHOOL SKIRTS
from **E50.00-E60.00**

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
70 Nkoseluhlaza Street, Manzini
P.O. Box 69, Manzini, Swaziland

Payless
WHY PAY MORE... WHEN YOU CAN PAYLESS

CONTACT DETAILS
Tel: 00268 2505 4370
Fax: 00268 2505 4250



PROFESSOR JOUBERT SAYS IDM IS BUILDING THE WORLD



Professor Patricia sharing a light moment

Institute of Development Management (IDM) Board Member, also Professor at the University of Swaziland, Patricia Joubert has commended parents for playing a pivotal role in raising up future leaders of Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and the world.

Speaking at a stakeholder Luncheon after the 11th Joint Graduation Ceremony of the Institute last week Friday, Joubert said education is key to molding future generations. She was speaking at stakeholder luncheon immediately after the awarding ceremony. Eight Hundred and Seventy (870) graduands from Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland were awarded with Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates at a prestigious event held in Gaborone, Botswana which was attended by multitudes from the three markets.

When officiating under the theme Growing Great Minds through Innovative and Relevant Education, the Minister of Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration in Botswana, Mr Eric Molale said the theme was appropriate as most nations are striving to take the direction of building innovation-led economies.

He emphasized the importance of an education system that responds to the concerns of the market,

adding that on top of technical skills offered, graduands must also be equipped with the often overlooked yet necessary life skills, such as communication, presentation skills, emotional intelligence, innovation, team work, courtesy, personal discipline, timekeeping, hard work, and problem solving.

"We will not be able compete with the best in the world, or even our peers, if we do not embrace these attitudinal changes," he said.

For his part, IDM Regional Director and Chief Executive, Richard Malikongwa said the event offered a graduands a moment of celebration, achievement, reflection on the past and hope for the future.

"I am particularly gratified to be able to welcome all students whose success we are celebrating today. These are the IDM Class of 2017. IDM emphasizes on partnerships to develop world class programmes, partnerships that also strengthen our collaboration on consultancy and research initiatives. Through collaboration, IDM continuously deepening relationships with several internationally recognized institutions to bolster our product offering," he stated. Malikongwa said IDM has also crafted a bullish strategy to penetrate the market and continuously

search for more collaborative partners both in the SADC region and beyond.

"Markets that remain in our radar are Kenya, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Sudan, Ghana among others. In addition, IDM partners with professional bodies such as Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT), Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) AND National Computing Centre (NCC) to solidify our product offering for learners such as the ones we are celebrating today," said he.

He called on graduands to be game changers and part of the success stories of their countries. "Anything you aspire, work hard to get it. When you get it, reach back, pull someone else up: translate your learnings at IDM into action; do not give up in the face of adversity; investment is self-driven, if no one invests in you, invest in yourself. If no one believes in you believe in yourself. Never be discouraged, give everything you've got. Pursue a game changing life-behavior and think like a game changer, populate your head with best ideas, books, conversations and on what is working not what is not working" he concluded.

Dr. Thabiso Lebeso, who is the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education & Training of the Kingdom of

Lesotho and IDM Deputy Board Chairperson, urged graduands to appreciate their families for the support they gave them during their studies. Speaking at the Institute of Development Management 11th Joint Graduation Ceremony, Dr Lebeso also commended graduands for the great academic accomplishment and a humongous personal achievement that they will forever cherish with their families.

"They have been your pillars of strength to this end. Today is a defining moment for all of you to appreciate the real meaning of family and how this simple, yet complex structure can do to earn you success. Simple because family provides basic human needs that include love, support, care and general life upkeep. But also complex because family can be self-defined in the context one wants it to work for them. For purposes of today, as we celebrate our hard-earned stripes, let us choose to go with the simpler version of family" he the audience.

Dr Lebeso said the 44 years that IDM has been in existence in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland is affirmation to the Institute's commitment to the socio-economic development of the region and beyond, adding "It is also testimony to the fact that IDM is part of the social fabric of BLS, indeed we are truly proud."



Hon Eric Molale, Minister of Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration giving the keynote address



Jazelle Kebakile co-directing the proceedings



Richard Malikongwa, IDM Regional Director welcoming guests



Ruth Maphorisa, IDM Local Board Chairperson introducing the guest speaker



Valedictorian Speech by Bernadette Fourie, Bed Management graduate from Swaziland campus



Marcelle DuRand from NCC UK



IDM staff from Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland



IDM staff from Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland



870 Total graduands



Country Director Swaziland with a Diploma graduand



Matchidiso Judah co-directing the proceedings



Dr Onalemo Sello-Kgekwe, IDM Botswana Country Director handing a token of appreciation



Vusi Tsabedza, Business Development Manager - IDM Swaziland with a Diploma graduand



Father Pako Rantutu from Broadhurst Cathedral opening with prayer



Director of Finance Ms Ntsebo Mothelesi on the academic procession



The Pulse accapella group dishing out opera notes



Mac Project Management graduate Kago Manele with Prof Julius Coleman from University of Bolton - UK



Dr Sello-Kgekwe with Tlotlo Borekgwe, Bachelor of Public Health graduate



The Pulse accapella group dishing out opera notes



Botswana Prisons Band entertainment guests



IDM Botswana - www.instituteofdevelopmentmanagement.com

LUBOMBO NEWS

Siteki Office

Siteki Market Offices, 2343 5779
Office No: 15Cell: 7643 6549
Email: observersiteki@realnet.co.sz

...With

Wonderboy Dlamini



HOMESTEADS SITUATED NEAR DUMPSITE ARE ON THEIR OWN

HOMESTEADS situated at an area known as KaMdodi near Kang-Fa factory face eviction in the event development comes to the area.

This transpired during the Siteki Town Council's budget planning meeting which was held last week. The council has since given clarity about the ownership of the piece of land which is known as KaMdodi. Apparently, this is the area where a dumpsite of the council is situated. A few metres away from the dumpsite, about 80 homesteads have been established there. Some of the homesteads have been there for over two decades while others are still mushrooming.

Residents of the said area have been complaining about the bad odour and smoke which would

ADDRESS: Siteki Town Clerk Sithembile Simelane presenting her report while councillors Mzobanzi Dlamini and Mvila Dlamini look on.



come from the dumpsite. They have been of the view that the town council must relocate the dumpsite as it was a health hazard. A similar concern was raised by Elijah Ntshangase, a ratepayer during the budget meeting. Ntshangase pointed out that the dumpsite was situated in the middle of homesteads and mak-

ing the area to be a serious health hazard. He, therefore, asked the council on what it was doing to address the situation as residents have raised numerous concerns about it.

When responding to the concerns, Town Clerk Sithembile Simelane first clarified that the piece of land known as KaMdodi

did not belong to the council. Simelane explained that the piece of land was actually a farm which belonged to the ministry of natural resources and energy, and that the council was only allocated a small portion of the land for the dumpsite. She said the council could, therefore, not be held responsible for anything that happens to the people who established homesteads there as they are not known to the council.

In fact, Simelane said people who resided there were informal settlers, and could be removed by the ministry at any time. However, Simelane reported that the council was working on improving the dump site to ensure that it remains safe for anyone who could happen to be close to it.

Needy children request for Xmas gifts, food at Maphungwane

ABOUT 200 children under Maphungwane community will not enjoy the Christmas holidays like other peers who are already looking forward to December 25.

These are orphaned and vulnerable children who normally depend on a neighbourhood care point (NCP) at Mtholweni for food.

The children normally visit the NCP at least three times a week to have food which is provided by donors. Manager of the NCP, Theminkosi Langa said they presently have nothing to give the children on Christmas Day.

Facility

This means the children would have a gloomy Christmas, especially those who are also heading families.

Langa appealed to the business community and individuals to assist the facility with food. He stated that they would also like to present the children with gifts such as toys so that they may also enjoy the day.

"We would like to make this day a special one for the children by providing them with the basic things which children like for Christmas," said Langa.

Welcome malaria team to your homes; public urged

A team of health practitioners is said to be currently making visits to homesteads at Maphungwane and surrounding areas to test the residents for malaria.

On Saturday, the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) held an awareness event at Maphungwane to educate members of the public about symptoms of malaria and the precautions which could be taken to prevent the disease.

Speaking during an interview, Matsenjwa North Constituency Headman Boy Matsenjwa said the area has been one of many others which have seen an upsurge in malaria cases in the past two months.

He said the constituency then invited the NMCP to educate the people on how they can prevent malaria. A paramount precaution

which the residents were advised to observe was keeping their homesteads clean at all times. This is to ensure that malaria transmitting mosquito finds no conducive environment to live.

Matsenjwa reported that residents were also urged to welcome health practitioners who will be visiting their homesteads for check-ups. The residents are also urged to cooperate with the officials and accordingly take instructions. Meanwhile, Matsenjwa also urged residents to allow the NMCP workers to conduct the spraying exercise in their houses as it is another effective way of preventing malaria.

"Residents are also warned to swiftly go to the nearest clinic whenever they experience symptoms which could be linked to malaria," said Matsenjwa.



KEEP STRAY CATTLE IN LOCAL QUARANTINE- MALINDZA RESIDENTS

RESIDENTS of Malindza have called upon the ministry of agriculture to consider establishing a quarantine site at Sikhuphe where stray cattle would be kept.

Apparently, authorities of the area are said to have approved a piece of land near Sikhuphe for the purposes of establishing a quarantine.

This transpired during a farmers' meeting which was held at Sicusha Veterinary Offices on Friday. The meeting was meant to discuss the plight

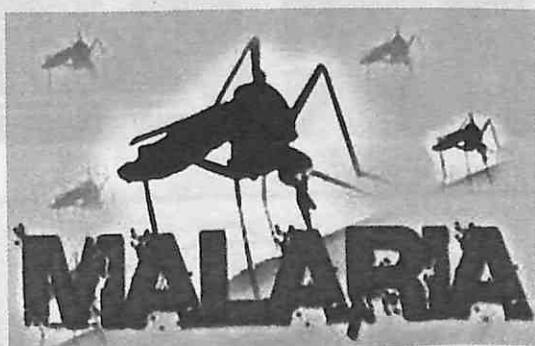
faced by farmers who are currently unable to sell their cattle due to fears of a foot and mouth disease.

One of the farmers, Sabelo Dlamini raised the concern of stray cattle as another issue which needs to be addressed. It was reported that currently, cattle found straying along the road would be taken to a quarantine at Manzini.

Farmers had raised concerns to the effect that they normally face challenges in transporting the cattle back home after paying fines for allowing

them to stray into the road.

For this reason, the farmers requested for a piece of land from the *umphakatsi* for the establishment of a quarantine, and they were accordingly allocated same. Dlamini alleged that the land, however, remains unused and farmers continued to face the same problem. "We request the ministry to utilise that piece of land as it was approved by the authorities," said Dlamini as he directed this to the farmers' committee.



GLOBAL THEME:

16

DAYS

"Let us all UNITE to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Yinyandzaleyo"

"MY RIGHTS WERE VIOLATED"

by: Hlengiwe*

I was at the age of 12 year when my stepmother started abusing me. I grew up without my mother, she passed away while I was still an infant. My father married another woman (Dudu*) and we all lived together in a rented flat. She was not employed. My father was the only person working in the family. She was a hawker, she used to sell clothes at the bus terminal. She never liked me at all because she felt that my father loved me. She used to remind me every time that I was not her child.

Unfortunately for me I did not pass my grade seven so I had to repeat. She complained to my father that I was wasting money for her children besides, why does he send me to school because I will end up getting married and taking care of my own family?. My father insisted and sent me back to school. It was January and I was preparing to go to secondary school. I had secretly secured the place with the help of my father. Unfortunately for us she found out before I went to the boarding school and stopped us from pursuing that. She confronted my father and threatened to lie that we were sleeping together if he defied her. My father then decided I go and stay with my grandmother. I packed my stuff and went to stay with my grandmother who was residing not far from where we stayed.

One day my stepmother came to insult me saying I was having sex with my father. I was so upset and cried all day. I told my grandmother and she told me to ignore her because she was just jealous. So I fell pregnant while I was doing form 3. I delivered the baby and my father asked me if I was interested in furthering my studies. I was so excited of going back to school because it was not my aim to drop out of school and have a baby. I agreed to my father's plea that I go back to school and asked my grandmother to look after my baby.

She agreed and I went back to school again. My stepmother heard that I was schooling again and hell broke loose. She fought with my father and she made it clear to him that I was not her blood and she cared less if I was educated or not. She stopped him from paying my school fees.

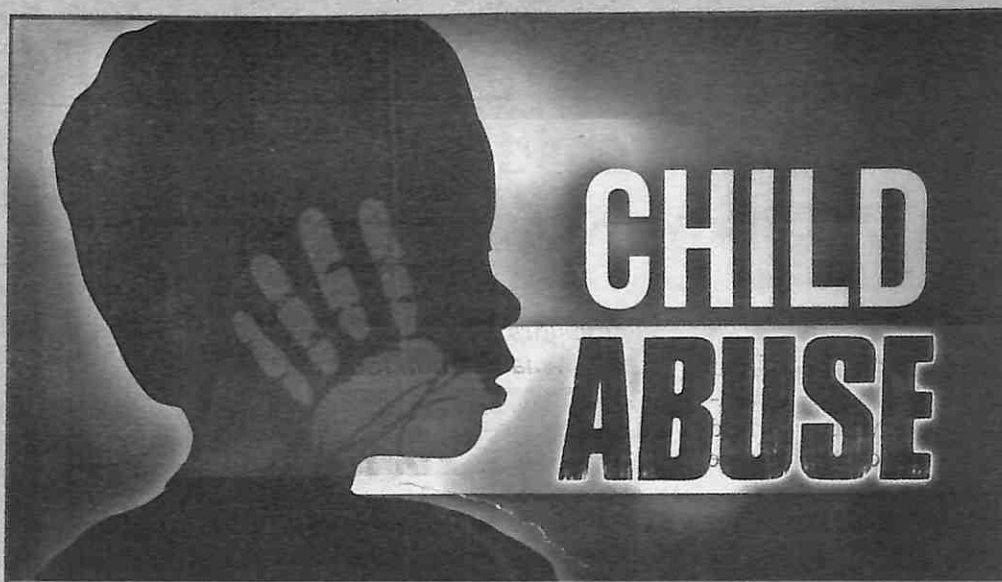
After realizing that I was not schooling, the father of my child then decided to marry me. We got married in the traditional way and I stayed at his parental homestead. My husband (Sabelo*) used to drink a lot then. He would come back late and shout at me demanding food.

He would at times insult me and hit me with a knobkerrie.

I reported him to my father who decided to take me back home. My stepmother found me at home and kicked me out of her house. I went back to my matrimonial home and my so called husband picked up where he left off. He began beating me again. He would some time lock me outside the house the whole night with the baby.

He came with a bush knife one night and threatened to kill me because I was not giving him another baby. I escaped his grasp and went to hide at one neighbor's house and he followed me there. Luckily for me, my neighbor locked the door after seeing him and he went back home. The following morning I returned to his place and he threatened to chop me into pieces unless I returned to my family. I took my clothes and grabbed my baby, we headed home to my grandmother. I related the whole story to her and she was dazed. She advised me to wait for my father so that they discuss the matter with him. He eventually came to check us and I told him my side of the story.

He arranged a meeting with my in-laws which occurred and they gave both of us the forum to state our side of the story. I related my story but as I was in



the middle of it he interrupted me saying if I surely loved him I would not tell them everything he did to me. His father stopped him from interrupting me and I finished my story. It was then established that he was on the wrong and he apologized to me in front of everyone. I forgave him for my baby's sake.

We went back to live together and it was good for a couple of weeks. After a month he reverted to his habits. I then decided that it was enough, I went to live with my mother's family. That is where I live with my baby right now. I found love and peace living with them.

WHERE TO GET SERVICES IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED ANY KIND OF ABUSE:

Service provider	Location	Contact Details
Royal Swaziland Police:	All nearest Police Stations, DCS Units	999 (toll-free no money needed for the call)
SWAGAA,	Simunye Clinic Mbabane government hospital Manzini Main office, Esser street opposite Council of Churches	951 (toll-free no money needed for the call)
The Nhlanguano AIDS Training Information and Counseling Center (NATICC)	Nhlanguano	22079797
Mbabane Magistrate Courts One Stop Centre	Mbabane	2404 9880/6046
Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA)	142 Esser street Mandlenkosi building, Manzini (legal services only and referral)	2505 6343
Ministry of Education	Nearest Regional Education Offices (for school based cases)	9664 (toll-free no money needed for the call)



16 NATIONAL NEWS

BUSINESSMAN GETS SURPRISE PARTY FROM CHILDREN



LOOK HERE: Nqobile lighting candles for her father to make a wish.

Friends thank children, 'birthday boy'

FRIENDS of Nhlango businessman Christopher Mavava Vilane who attended the surprise birthday said he was blessed to have children who honoured and loved him.

umisani Sibandze, speaking on behalf of friends, said it was a good thing to see Vilane's children honour him.

Sibandze said Vilane was a changed person spiritually as he happened to survive a horror crash a few years ago where he rolled in one of his trucks and had to be hospitalised for weeks.

"He escaped from the jaws of death and he has been giving praise to God.

"Today's gathering which also took some of us by surprise, is another way his children are hon-

ouring God. This is what a father deserves from his children and it's supported in the scripture. To all of you (children) continue supporting him," said Sibandze.

Sibandze said Vilane remained an example to many people including other businesspeople.

He said what was good with Vilane was that he was willing to assist where possible and despite being a successful businessman, this has not changed him as he mingled with anyone rich or poor.

"To some of us, he is our encyclopedia and he is our fountain in whatever we need and our book of reference. Even on general issues which have nothing to do with business, Vilane is willing to assist or give advice," said Sibandze.



Stories by Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlango

TOP Nhlango businessman Christopher Mavava Vilane was overwhelmed by emotions after his children organised a surprise 60th birthday celebration in his honour.

The businessman, who owns a fleet of properties including residential areas as well as commercial businesses like the Vilane Complex behind the Nhlango Magistrate's Court, got emotional on Saturday when he arrived home only to find the premises decorated.

As he jumped out of his car, he was 'mobbed' by his excited children and grandchildren all who started singing the happy birthday song.

The businessman's home is at Thunzini outside Nhlango.

Vilane who is also into truck business and owning a block-yard seemed taken aback by what was happening as he had no slightest clue despite that some of his children, others who are living with their in-laws were home.

He was from attending another gathering in town and just when he returned home towards 1500 hours, he was welcomed with excitement.

The children, it was explained that they decided to organise their father's big day 'secretly' in January this year.

The businessman fathers 12 children from his wife Eunice (LaSikhosana).

Vilane's first born child Nqobile when addressing the gathering said their plan was to surprise their father.

She said they organised the party as a way of saying thank you to their father.

"Way back in January as his children, we met to plan how we could show him the love we have for him. We advised each other not to say a word until now. We were honest enough as he only got to know about the party today. It's a way of thanking God for giving us a father like him. A father who gave us everything, fatherly love and catered for our needs from the onset," she said.

She said their father wanted nothing but the best for them as he made sure

... "I am really proud of my children and they have shown me how much they love me"



TEARS OF JOY: Nhlango top businessman Chris Mavava Vilane was emotional during his surprise birthday party organised by his children.



APPRECIATIVE: Vilane seen thanking everyone while his wife Eunice looks on.

they all get an education. She said they never struggled to get anything as their father provided them with anything they needed.

"He wanted us to be educated and made sure we all attended school at the best learning institutions in the region if not in the country, Evelyn Baring High School," said Nqobile.

Nqobile said her father never acquired

much education as he went as far as Grade Four, but never wanted any of his children not to finish school and also wanted them to further their studies.

"He was a simple taxi driver and struggled in life.

"He started his business empire after experiencing hardship and he never gave up," said Nqobile.

Mother of all parties slated for Easter holidays

RESPECTED businessman Christopher Mavava Vilane is appreciative to his children for the surprise birthday.

Vilane said he was planning to stage a bigger party next year during the Easter Holidays.

The businessman said he would not want to be confronted by people asking him what the event was all about as there were vehicles seen parked at his home on Saturday.

"Indeed it was a surprise and I only learned about this event when coming home as I found cars that were not here when I left in the morning. Bayentile lentfo yabo labantfwana impela," said Vilane.

He said he had planned to undertake a business trip outside Nhlango on Saturday, but his children some of whom arrived a day earlier approached him requesting him to be home.

Vilane said he respected them by remaining local and only went to town where he attended a social event at another local church.

"Even after requesting me to shift the business trip to another day, it never made sense to me that they were plan-



HAPPY FAMILY: Vilane with four of his daughters and son. He is carrying one of his grandchildren.

ning something like this. I am really proud of my children and they have shown me how much they love me. What is fascinating is that since they started planning this in January, no one amongst them hinted anything even when we saw each other occasionally.

The businessman also thanked his wife Eunice (LaSikhosana) saying she has

been with him through thick and thin. He said all his children received both fatherly and motherly love.

"May I thank my beautiful wife who has mothered these angels. I love my children so much. As a family we will be meeting so that during next year's Easter holidays, we all have a blast," said Vilane.

IMPORTED DIRECTLY FROM THE UK

Bring the
print shop
into your
office

EXTREME MEDIA PRINTING
UP TO 50 PAGES / MINUTE
COLOUR TOUCH SCREEN
BANNER PRINTING
A4 / A3+ SIZE

E199 Tablet



with every purchase



E78 900.00



CITY OFFICE MACHINES

Mbabane. Supply Centre. Tel: 2404 6474
Manzini. Riverstone Mall. Tel: 2505 4329
Nhlango. New Shoprite. Tel: 2207 9625



FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

info@observer.org.sz

TIVE
LEADERSHIP
CENTER



... With

Kholwaphi
Mdziniso

Guest Writer

LEADERS develop through a series of sequential stages that are universal and invariant. To ignore this reality is to endanger our efforts to transform organisations and develop effective leaders. No organisation can organise at a higher stage of development than the consciousness of its leadership.

Deep systemic change occurs only if we can be the change we want to see. System design and effectiveness is interdependent with the Stage of Leadership. In a business transformation, as a critical mass of leaders within the organisation develops to a new stage, a tipping point is reached, enabling the system to make and sustain a leap from one level to a higher-order of the five levels of leadership and system performance: which are: Egocentric, Reactive, Creative, Integral and Unitive.

Anderson and Adams (2015) highlight the different stages that all leaders go through;

1. EGOCENTRIC.

The identity at the Egocentric level is "I am my needs." We are identified with our ability to meet our needs. This identity does not notice other's often-competing needs. At this stage our needs are primary. We are islands onto ourselves, and we relate to others primarily to get our needs met. Growth at this phase is taking others' needs and expectations into account. It requires defining ourselves co-rationally, such that our primary loyalty is no longer to ourselves, but to the relationship which could be friend, parent, family, organisation and or community.

Management literature cites that five per cent of leaders do not fully make this transition from of the egocentric leader, they continue to operate with an Egocentric Mind which is autocratic and controlling, dictatorial and oppressive. The norm gets to be "my way or the highway." Egocentric Mind in adolescence is normal but in adulthood, it is pathology. In leadership, it is destructive. Egocentric leadership is responsible for oppressive dictatorships, Nazism, terrorist extremism.

2. REACTIVE

The ability to hold both our needs and the needs and feelings of others simultaneously is the hallmark of the Reactive level. We learn societal rules

and play by them in order to meet expectations. We dive into our chosen professions and work hard on honing our outer game. We gain the domain knowledge required to succeed in a chosen field. We create businesses, build careers, climb ladders, get married, have families, and establish the homestead.

Leaders at the Reactive Level often care deeply about their employees and manage and function as caring parents or patriarchs. The organisation is ordered and efficient. It is competency driven and mechanistic. It uses all of the scientific management tools. Employee input is solicited, but decision-making and creative expression are still vested with top leaders. Leadership is often humane, but lacks the capability of broadly sharing power. People are informed but not involved in decision-making. People feel supported financially and treated fairly, but most are not expected to be involved in important decisions. The institutional style that emerges with Reactive leadership is a large, efficient hierarchy, an ordered and layered bureaucracy. Its political climate requires loyalty and obedience.

3. CREATIVE

Most change efforts are attempts to create a cre-

ative culture that is flatter, leaner, more agile, and requires higher ownership and creative involvement at lower levels. Such change efforts can only succeed if the leadership is functioning with the Creative Mind. At the Creative level, we shed some old assumptions that have been running us all our lives; and we initiate a more authentic version of ourselves. By shedding well-patterned assumptions, we start to see the habitual ways of thinking that form the core of the Reactive Mind.

Creative leadership is required to create lean, innovative, visionary, creative, agile, high-involvement, high-fulfillment organisations, and to evolve adaptive designs and cultures. The focus is on high performance through teamwork and self-development. Leadership is shared.

The leader now takes responsibility for authoring the vision, enrolling others in the vision, and helping them discover how the vision enables them to fulfill their personal purposes collectively.

4. INTEGRAL

This level of leadership is capable of leading amid complexity.

The vision of the Creative leader expands to include systemic Welfare-Systems Thinking and

Design. The Integral leader holds a larger vision of the welfare of the whole system and becomes the architect of its future.

Integral leaders focus on a vision not only for their organisation, but also for the welfare of the larger system in which their organisation is embedded and interdependent.

At this stage, Servant Leadership fully emerges. The leader becomes the servant of the whole. Integral level leaders become systemically and community oriented. The workplace becomes a self-renewing organisation where members are true participating partners. The legacy of the leader is connected to developing the organisation into a vehicle for service to a larger constituency.

5. UNITIVE

This is the highest stage of awareness of who we are, a sacred union with all that is. Spiritual practices, such as meditation and contemplative prayer, accelerate our development through the stages.

In fact, the Unitive Self seldom, if ever, develops without a long-term spiritual practice. Initially, at the Unitive level, **the self realises**, "I am not the body, nor the mind, but a soul, an essential self in communion with the Divine."



LEADERS DEVELOP THROUGH A SERIES OF STAGES

HOW TO FIND US:

MANAGING EDITOR:

Mbongeni Mbingo
e-mail: mbingo@observer.org.sz
Cell: 7602 9564
P.O. Box A385, Swazi Plaza,
Mbabane, Bettfusile Street
Tel: 2404 4437, 2404 4436, 2404 9600,
2404 9797, 2404 0706
Email: info@observer.org.sz
Website: www.observer.org.sz

NHLANGANO OFFICE

Tobacco Company Complex, Cnr King George, Masengule Streets
Opposite SEDCO Premises, Tel: 2207 5159
Starksky Mkhonta Cell: 7621 5081 (starksky@realnet.co.sz)

EDITORIAL CONTACTS

EDITOR: Thulani Thwala - 7605 0985 editor@observer.org.sz
NEWS EDITOR: Kenneth Dlamini - 7607 0035 newseditor@observer.org.sz
SPORTS EDITOR: Mphikeleli Msibi - 7605 8044 sports@observer.org.sz
BUSINESS SENIOR REPORTER: business@observer.org.sz
ENTERTAINMENT SNR REPORTER: Nomfundo Sifundza - 7901 4289 entertainment@observer.org.sz
SENIOR SUB EDITOR: Paradise Mamba - 7603 5639 subeditor@observer.org.sz

PIGG'S PEAK OFFICE

Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite, Office No. 3
Tel: 2437 1083 Sizwe Dlamini Cell: 7670 0678
Email: observersipiki@realnet.co.sz



Swazi Observer

MARKETING MANAGER

Siphelele Mkhonta (7605 2296)
2404 8671/ 2404 8699
smm@observer.org.sz

CIRCULATION OFFICER

Bongani Simelane (7605 3707)
circulation@observer.org.sz

MANZINI OFFICE

Makhaya Convenient Centre, Office No.25
Siso Nhlabatsi Cell: 7674 6378
Tel: 2505 2320, Fax: 2505 7220

SITEKI OFFICE

Siteki market offices, Office No:15
Wonderboy Dlamini
Cell: 7643 6549

OUR CODE OF CONDUCT

The Swazi Observer commits itself to reporting news truthfully and accurately, and to publish comment that is fair, in accordance with our mission and vision of being the definitive news media, as well as abiding by the journalism code of ethics.

If we breach our code, please lodge your complaint with our ombudsman:

Email: mbingo@observer.org.sz
Cell: 7602 9564
Fax: 24045503 or 24046463
Landline: 2404 9600/1/2

ON THIS DAY

...DECEMBER 12

1787 - Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the US Constitution.

1791 - The Bank of the United States, also known as the First Bank, opened for business in Philadelphia, PA.

1792 - In Vienna, 22-year-old Ludwig van Beethoven received one of his first lessons in music composition from Franz Joseph Haydn.

1800 - Washington, DC, was established as the capital of the United States.

1870 - Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first black lawmaker to be sworn into the US House of Representatives.

1896 - Guglielmo Marconi gave the first public demonstration of radio at Toynbee Hall, London.

1897 - The comic strip "The Katzenjammer Kids" (Hans and Fritz), by Rudolph Dirks, appeared in the New York Journal for the first time.

1899 - George Grant patented the wooden golf tee.

1900 - Charles M. Schwab formed the United States Steel Corporation.

1901 - The first radio signal to cross the Atlantic was picked up near St. John's Newfoundland, by inventor Guglielmo Marconi.

1912 - The Mother's Day International Association was incorporated with the purpose of furthering meaningful observations of Mother's Day.

1915 - The first all-metal aircraft, the German Junkers J1, made its first flight.

1917 - Father Edward Flanagan opened Boys Town in Nebraska. The farm village was for wayward boys. In 1979 it was opened to girls.

1925 - The "Motel Inn," the first motel in the world, opened in San Luis Obispo, CA.

1937 - Japanese aircraft sank the US gunboat "Panay" on China's Yangtze River. Japan apologized for the attack, and paid \$2.2 million in reparations.

1946 - A United Nations committee voted to accept a six-block tract of Manhattan real estate to be the site of the UN's headquarters. The land was offered as a gift by John D. Rockefeller Jr.

1947 - The United Mine Workers union withdrew from the American Federation of Labor.

1951 - The US Navy Department announced that the world's first nuclear powered submarine would become the sixth ship to bear the name Nautilus.

1955 - It was announced that the Ford Foundation gave \$500 000 000 to private hospitals, colleges and medical schools.

1955 - British engineer Christopher Cockerell patented the first hovercraft.

1963 - Kenya gained its independence from Britain.

1975 - Sara Jane Moore pled guilty to a charge of trying to kill US President Ford in San Francisco the previous September.

1982 - 20 000 women encircled Greenham Common air base in Britain in protest against proposed cote of US Cruise missiles there.

1983 - Car bombs were set off in front of the French and US embassies in Kuwait City. Shiite extremists were responsible for the five deaths and 86 wounded. Total of five bombs went off in different locations.

1984 - In a telephone conversation with U.S. President Reagan, William J. Schroeder complained of a delay in his Social Security benefits. Schroeder received a check the following day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



REGINA HALL (TV ACTRESS) - December 12, 1970 (47 years old)



LINCOLN MELCHER (TV ACTOR) - December 12, 2003 (14 years old)



BISHOP KEITH HARRINGTON'S CORNER

AS we continue looking at the grace of God in the life of Noah, we stopped last week at point number five.

Here I pointed out that those that are last will be first. If a group of people are walking one behind the other going in a certain direction, the one in front will obviously reach the destination first.

However, if they are requested to change direction and face the opposite direction that they were coming from, that would automatically make the one that was last to be first. When grace changes the rules for any person, it causes them to be the accepted. The tail becomes the head and those below are elevated to be above.

This week we continue with the subject and look at the following noteworthy points:

6. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting. When Jesus was with His disciples on the boat, He went to the hinder part to take a nap. Jesus Christ being God in the flesh is Omniscient, meaning He knows all things. But even though He knew that the storm is coming,

He went to sleep coz He knew that the storm was not going to kill Him. The Prophecies about His death all pointed to an execution on a cruel cross. He went to sleep to show us that storms are a part of life. The lesson shows that staying up all night waiting for the storm to come is a waste of time. All one needs to do is to hold on to God during the storm knowing that He bring us through the storms.

In **Psalms 23** David says "though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me." The secret of the text is in the walking through, because if you stop walking, then you will die in the valley. However, if you keep on walking you'll find yourself on the other side of any storm.

7. Noah taken into the ark with all sorts of dangerous animals. One of

GRACE CHANGES EVERYTHING

thedeliberatemom.com

WHEN GRACE CHANGES THE RULES - PART 3

the animals that were taken into the ark, were dogs. We live in a world where it's the survival of the fittest. People are often likened to different animals based on their character.

Dogs are known for barking and biting. When a person is referred to as a dog it's probably because they are known for gossiping which is literally backbiting other people. Unfortunately we cannot run away from gossip.

I have a solution for those who wish to escape being gossiped about. All you need to do is die and be buried. In the graveyard is the only place where no one talks about the next person. Some people are like snakes. They tell you things just to poison you.

We run from one church to the other thinking that we'll find a church that has no issues. We find it hard to mind our own business.

8. God closed the door. Sometimes God closes doors Himself because He knows that we'll try to keep them open so if things don't go well we

can return. When God closes a door, don't try to open it, because He says in the book of Revelation, "If I open a door, no man can shut it. If I shut a door no man can open it". If God has closed a door, instead of trying to open it, just look around because somewhere He has opened another door. Different doors are opened by different keys. But then there is what we call a Master key that opens all doors. However, there are doors that automatically open just because of your presence.

9. The dove left him permanently the third time. Noah sent out a dove to check if the waters of the flood had subsided or not. The dove returned twice as an indication that the waters hadn't settled. However, on the third occasion it went out and never returned again. When someone dies or your marriage dies etc. There are people who when you are going through storms, they will leave you. Because when days are dark, friends are few.

You have the gift of speaking in tongues, the gift of Prophecy, gift of

faith etc, but you need one more gift: "The gift of GOODBYE." When people leave your life, let them go.

Go through your phone book and check all the people who are no longer calling you, sending you text messages etc. Go to options, scroll down to delete and press OK. There are some people that need be deleted from your life forever.

10. Noah's name means Comfort and rest. After the flood Noah built an altar and sacrificed making a good smelling to the Lord.

If your name is causing generational curses to follow you, you need to change your name.

GENESIS 8:1, EIGHT IS THE NUMBER OF NEW BEGINNINGS. And God remembered Noah. And all the animals that were with him in the Ark. When grace changes the rules for you, it will cause your name to be remembered in places that you never imagined. Don't miss next week's edition as I will be elaborating on that.

Peter Rule,
Stellenbosch University

South Africa has a reading crisis: why,

THE teacher stands in front of her Grade Four class. The 45 nine and ten-year olds are crammed together at desks, huddled over shared books. Some are sitting on the floor. "Now, class, read from the top of the page," the teacher says. They comply in a slow sing-song drawl. "Stop," says the teacher. "It is not 'Wed-nes-day', you say it 'Wensday'. It is what?" "Wensday," the class responds. "Again." "Wensday." The reading resumes, the teacher fre-

quently stopping to correct her pupils' pronunciation.

Sometimes the children read aloud in groups. At other times, she calls a child to come to the front and read aloud. Not once does she ask a question about what the story means. Nor do the children discuss or write about what they have read.

This is the typical approach to how teaching is read in most South African primary schools. Reading is largely understood as an oral performance.

In our research, my colleague Sandra Land and I describe this as "oratorical reading". The emphasis is on reading aloud, fluency, accuracy and correct pronunciation. There is very little emphasis on reading comprehension and actually making sense of the written word. If you were to stop the children and ask them what the story is about, many would look at you blankly.

Pronunciation, accuracy and fluency are important in reading. But

they have no value without comprehension. Countries around the world are paying increasing attention to reading comprehension, as indicated by improving results in international literacy tests.

The problem with the oratorical reading approach is evident in the results of the recent Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2016 tests. PIRLS' purpose is to assess reading comprehension and to monitor trends in literacy at

WHY TALK OF UNITY IN ANC IS DISINGENUOUS, DANGEROUS

SOUTH Africa is gripped by anxiety laced with anticipation as the much anticipated African National Congress (ANC) 54th elective conference draws closer.

All the country's nine provinces have consolidated their leadership preferences for the ANC's presidential race from the branches. But the question about who will emerge victorious remains difficult to answer as a neck and neck scenario emerges.

The conference has very important implications for the country's future: the president of the ANC becomes the president of South Africa. Whoever leads the ANC determines the kind of leader the country will get, and what policy trajectory will be taken.

President Jacob Zuma has been the president of the ANC and the country for almost a decade now. His tenure has been marked by successive controversies, some of which led to attempts to oust him. All were foiled. He's presided over the ANC's declining electoral prospects, South Africa's downgrading by international rating agencies, and allegations that he manoeuvred his allies into positions that allowed them to manipulate state tenders and even government appointments.

In a few days, he will not be the president of the ANC any more. So, who is likely to succeed him? The frontrunners are Cyril Ramaphosa and Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

The Premier of Mpumalanga, David Mabuza has thrown a spanner in the works. He has called for a vote for "unity", suggesting that no particular candidate should be backed unless they agree on a unity ticket.

Mabuza's call makes predictions about the conference impossible because the province he leads commands the party's second biggest membership after KwaZulu-Natal.

I believe that the "unity" narrative feigns a solution to what is not a problem, but a manifestation of it. "Consensus leadership" – which the "unity" narrative wants to be the outcome of the elective conference – fudges internal organisational democracy. The absurdity is that if it was allowed, it could mutate into a political system where peo-



UNITY: SA MP Nkosazane Dlamini - Zuma with SA Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.

ple's choice doesn't matter, while leadership is simply imposed. This is where and how dictatorship starts.

More about power elites sharing the spoils

Branches in Mpumalanga have already voted. The tally shows that 223 supported the "unity" approach which under the ANC's electoral process these will be considered abstentions.

But Mabuza's stunt to cajole for a non-contest doesn't make him a kingmaker, or show that he's mastered the art of brinkmanship. If anything, the ploy has weakened his position in the presidential race because the province he leads isn't unanimously behind this particular manoeuvre.

In any case, what exactly is the "unity" that Mabuza says he's vehemently pursuing? Is it really about uniting the ANC? Why doesn't it rhyme with Zweli Mkhize's campaign – he's one of the other presidential hopefuls – framed around the same concept? How does it relate

to the ANC's Through the Eye of the Needle report, where the attributes of the leadership of the party are defined?

Why does it appeal largely to those who perfected the politics of the slate which determines their positions in the party and state, those with a cloud hanging over their heads? How is it to, anyway, play itself out in the presidential race? Is it to take the form of horse-trading? If so, how does it differ from Zuma's remarks at the end of the ANC's 5th policy conference, that whoever loses the race for the presidency of the party should automatically become the deputy president?

Aren't these all inventions of the same logic, essentially seeking power-sharing deals, which are about the political elites trying to accommodate each other in the leadership positions? The unity narra-

tive is a facade. If anything, it institutionalises the very phenomenon it seeks to expunge from the ANC: slate politics.

Contest for the leadership positions is part of the democratic process. It only becomes a problem when sullied by slates, which are the function of factionalism.

Unity issue misses the point. Talk about "unity" and "consensus leadership" misses the point. It's deflecting attention from the fact that the ANC is atrophying. The contest for the leadership of the ANC is in fact about proximity to state resources, not restoring its foundational value. As Senator William Marcy put it

To the victor belong the spoils.

Ramaphosa talks tough against this. He doesn't mince words. During his campaign, he has consistently critiqued the status quo and unambiguously taken a stand against corruption. This is a good start for the ANC's redemption. He insists that a commission of inquiry into state capture should be established, as recommended in the public protector's report. This implicates Zuma and the coterie that makes up his oligarchy. It's a move that's ruffled feathers and unsettled those who have been shielded from being pursued for allegedly bagging ill-gotten gains from the state.

What's disturbing is that the "unity" narrative could easily be a ploy to preempt Ramaphosa's presidency, contriving to ensure that if he succeeds he will be entrapped in the consensus leadership arrangements. This would emasculate his vigour in pursuing those alleged to have looted the state.

Another possibility is that it's being used to co-opt those with a sense of ethics into the company of those who are ethically compromised so that they could all look the same.

However, the questions around the call for "unity" are answered, it's important to remember that when the ethical edifice collapses, society becomes the victim of the leadership of scoundrels.

Mashupye Herbert Maserumule, Professor of Public Affairs, Tshwane University of Technology
The Conversation.

what can be done about it

five-year intervals. Countries participate voluntarily. Learners write the test in the language of learning and teaching used in Grades 1 to 3 in their school. The tests revealed that 78 per cent of grade 4 pupils in South Africa fell below the lowest level on the PIRLS scale: meaning, in effect, that they cannot understand what they're reading. There was some improvement from learners writing in Sesotho, isiNdebele, Xitsonga, Tshivenda and Sepedi from a very low base in 2011, but

no overall improvement in South Africa's performance. South Africa was last out of 50 countries surveyed. It came in just behind Egypt and Morocco. The Russian Federation came first followed by Singapore, Hong Kong and Ireland. South Africa also performs poorly in the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality surveys. These show that in reading and numeracy South Africa is lagging behind much poorer African countries such as Tanzania and Zimbabwe.



READING CRISIS: Pronunciation, accuracy and fluency are important in reading. But they have no value without comprehension.

Wit and Wisdom

● "Both were military. That was clear. Reacher could tell by their haircuts. No civilian barber would be as pragmatic or as brutal." – **Lee Child, Never Go Back**

● "They are fond of fun and therefore witty, wit being well-bred insolence." – **Aristotle, The Rhetoric & The Poetics of Aristotle**

● "I am not gamesome: I do lack some part of that quick spirit that is in Antony." – **William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar**

● "Have you ever noticed how good things go to those who hate?" **Sol Luckman, Beginner's Luke**

● "Jimmy Murray, you are an ass," said Aunt Ruth, angrily.

● "Well, we're cousins," agreed Cousin Jimmy pleasantly." – **L.M. Montgomery, Emily Climbs**

● "Spanish—how shall I say this?—is like Portuguese spoken with a speech impediment." – **Sol Luckman, Snooze: A Story of Awakening**

● "Well, enough of this introspection. It's depressing, quite frankly." – **Sol Luckman, Snooze: A Story of Awakening**

● "True, beneath the human façade, I was an interloper, an alien whose ship had crashed beyond hope of repair in the backwoods of Southern Appalachia—but at least I'd learned to walk and talk enough like the locals to be rejected as one of their own." – **Sol Luckman, Beginner's Luke**

● "Nobody ever goes to that store to shop because it's too crowded." – **Sol Luckman, Beginner's Luke**

● "I wish for you the wisdom to mind your own business." – **Steve Maraboli**

● "Worry wasn't an emotion to which he was particularly accustomed—and it worried him." – **Sol Luckman, Snooze: A Story of Awakening**

● "Some call their mistake a discovery; to others, their mistake is a misfortune and to most people a mistake is a deviation from the acceptable. A mistake is a mistake depending on what we think it is." – **Ernest Agyemang Yeboah, Distinctive Footprints of Life: Where Are You Heading Towards?**

● "I should think a dead language would be rather boring, socially speaking." – **Sol Luckman, Snooze: A Story of Awakening**

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

CONTACTS

business@observer.org.sz

Majaha Nkonyane
(7844 8668/79460388)
Tel: 2404 9600/1
Fax: 2404 5503
2404 6463

VITALS

Prime Rate	10.75%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	5.4%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.25%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E12.80 per litre
Replacement	E12.85 per litre
Diesel	E12.00 per litre
Paraffin	E 8.95 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 08 DEC 2017

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	13.7198	13.7698
British Pound/SZL	18.5245	18.5920
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.2369	8.2647
Swiss France/SZL	13.7749	13.8196
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3253	1.3329
Australian Dollar/SZL	10.3049	10.3453
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.6719	10.7100
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	16.1331	16.1919
Gold	1,249.2200	
Oil	62.8300	

For more information contact:
Standard Bank Global Markets Department
Direct Lines: +263 2404 1543 / 1544
Email: gmswaziland@standardbank.co.uk



Standard Bank

PRIZE MONEY FOR BUSINESS NOT PERSONAL USE - MATIWANE

By Majaha Nkonyane

SMALL Enterprise Development Company (SEDCO) Managing Director Dorrington Matiwane has strongly advised against using prize money for personal reasons.

He said the money should be invested in the business.

This was during the cash prize presentation for the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards (EYA) winners that was held at SEDCO head office.

"I know that this is happening during the time of the year where we are all in the festive mood. I don't want to spoil the party, but please remember that it is not you that has won the cash but your business. I strongly advise that such monies be invested back into your business," he said.

EYA this year introduced the regional awards for the first time in an attempt to encourage more businesses to participate.

The exercise was successfully rolled out and it drew more businesses. Matiwane said the initiative did indeed yield the desired results as there was an increase of 45 per cent in the number of applicants for the EYA competition this year.

Matiwane encouraged the winners to make continual improvement their mantra and to never let their guard down.

The winners were further encouraged to make continuous improvements on their businesses which will help in keeping up with competition.

The competition is said to have been established to award business excellence in the small and medium sector of the country.

The competition, that was held at



WINNER: Acerro Steel Frame's Thamsanqa Mdluli holding his cheque at SEDCO offices. This was during the cash prize presentation of the EYA winners. (Courtesy pics)

RIGHT- UMSEBENTI WETANDLA: Mxolisi Shabangu showing his cheque which he won for Handicraft business of the year, whilst SEDCO MD Dorrington Matiwane and other staff members flank him.



The different winners in the different categories included:

EYA WINNER - 2017

Waterman Swaziland

People living with disability

1. Maphindi's Investment - Phindile Myeni

Techno savvy

1. Datamatics - Sibusiso Baartjies

Handicraft

1. Interactive - Mxolisi Shabangu

Street vendor

1. Reginah Mlilo - Siphofaneni

Green award

1. Waterman Swaziland - Thabiso Kunene

Youth

1. MJC Grocery - Mpendulo Zwane - Jericho

Most innovative

1. Pragmatic - Nkululeko Simelane

Most indigenous

1. Feedlot Operations - Phumzile Shongwe

Agribusiness

1. Ms Investments - Mirt Fort Dlamini

Judges Excellence Awards

1. The Gare Investment - Bhekithemba Zwane

Regional Winners

Shiselweni - Ras Investments- Gcina Shabangu

Lubombo - Mangwe Investment- Mavis Zwane

Hhohho - Waterman Swaziland- Thabiso Kunene

Manzini - Acerro Steel Frame- Thamsanqa Mdluli

the Mavuso Trade Centre had winners in different categories, where Waterman Swaziland was crowned

Entrepreneur of the Year. Patron of the awards, His Majesty King Mswati III announced that the company

received total prize monies worth over E550 000, which includes an Isuzu van worth E250 000.

UNISWA-SWACAA MoU still benefitting stakeholders

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE University of Swaziland (UNISWA) is still reaping the benefits of their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that they signed with the Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority (SWACAA).

This was voiced out by Professor Mgidi Dlamini, who was speaking during the opening of the Airline business seminar, yesterday held at the University's new wing.

"Today marks another milestone in terms of the existing MoU with SWACAA.

"The hosting of the seminar here at UNISWA is of mutual benefit in that it brings stakeholders to appreciate their university and also that MoUs

are one way of reaching to the national community as well as the global village," he said.

The two-day seminar will provide a high level overview of the aviation industry, with specific focus on setting an airline and the relevant issues that need to be taken into consideration.

Dlamini said the seminar came at the right time as the country was in its early stages of growth in the industry.

The private sector was encouraged to participate as the sector can only thrive through private sector participation.

The seminar will, amongst other things, discuss the regulation of the industry, give an overview of the aviation industry with its background, main players and benefits of aviation,

airline economics, financing and competition.

The seminar is facilitated by Dr Elijah Chingosho who will be addressing different topics, such as the Convention on International Civil Aviation, which is also known as the Chicago Convention. The Convention establishes rules of airspace, aircraft registration, and safety, and details the rights of the signatories in relation to air travel.

"The Convention provides for the sovereignty of airspace above the territory of each state, together with five freedoms (later expanded to nine by the addition of four freedoms) which govern the freedom of states to operate air transport flights (including the carriage of passengers, cargo and mail) across, into and within the airspace of other states," he said.

Climate change affecting price volatility

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG) says climate change is a reality for farmers, which is greatly affecting their yields and price volatility.

This comes from a meeting that was held on November 27 in London (United Kingdom). The meeting encompassed different member countries from parts of the world; the association has 36 growers associations in 32 countries. "Climate change is a reality for farmers, which is increasing the uncertainty of yields, by calling for new practices which often need investment and

know-how, by accentuating price volatility; farming is one of the sectors in the world most impacted by climate change," Swaziland Cane Growers Association Chief Executive Officer Siphon Nkambule said.

WABCG conducted a study to highlight the importance of technical support to growers.

The focus was put on mitigating risk by optimising crop management. Sharing ideas and techniques are part of the solution, as seen from Brazil to Kenya. "This emphasised on the importance of international meetings for farmers; dialogue is indispensable to take up challenges in a world where this virtue seems to be disappearing". Nkambule



said farmers know that they are the most affected but are also aware that they are the ones who can act to mitigate the

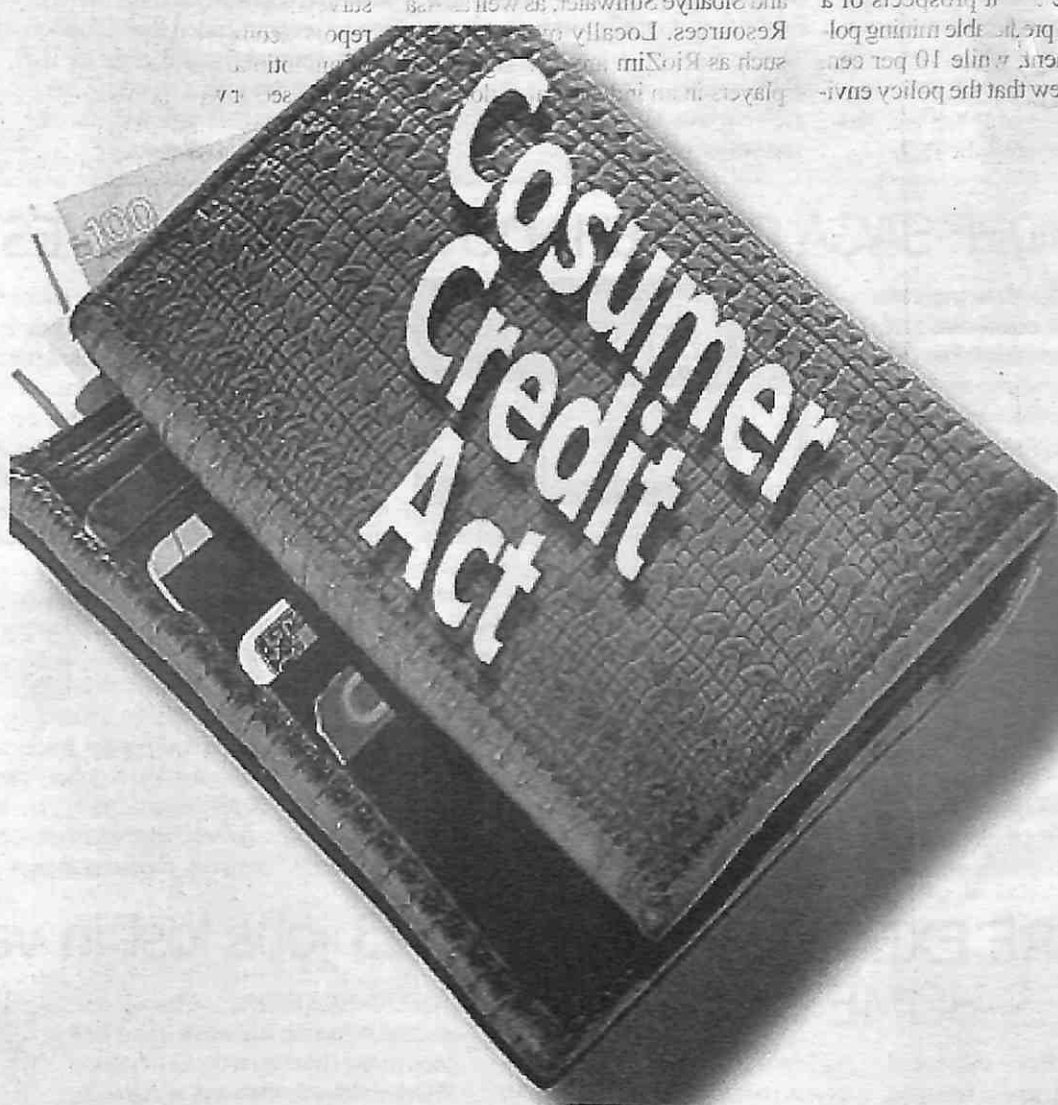
effect of climate change. This is why the meeting was dedicated to the topic of risk mitigation and management.

Various tools developed in different countries were benchmarked: from a collective tool to face climate risk, as in Mauritius, to combined action between growers and insurance companies, as in Austria.

Adding, he said the world sugar price has lost 40 per cent of its value this year, countries, therefore, need to ask questions like how can they build a sustainable sugar sector without strong management risk tools.

"Although this can be encouraged by growers, it cannot happen without the support of public authorities and sugar factories, because farmers are merely the first link in the chain, before factories and consumer," he said.

Understanding the In duplum Rule



THE coming into force of the Consumer Credit Act, 2016 places into perspective certain rules which were previously uncoded into full force and with a legal backing. One such rule is the in duplum rule.

What is the in duplum rule?

The in duplum rule, as it is generally known, provides that the accrual of interest stops running when unpaid interest equals the outstanding capital amount.

If the total amount of unpaid interest (both contractual and default interest) has accrued to an amount equal to the outstanding capital sum, the defaulting debtor (ie, the borrower of the money) must first start making payments on his loan again (and so decrease the interest amount), after which interest may once again accrue to an amount equal to the outstanding capital sum.

The rule thus effectively prevents unpaid interest from accruing further once it reaches the unpaid capital sum.

The in duplum rule, therefore, implies that the total amount of unpaid interest on a loan or credit transaction may accrue only to an amount equal to the outstanding capital sum, and that all arrear interest ceases to run when that interest has reached the outstanding capital amount.

Purpose of the in duplum rule

The rule protects a debtor who is in financial difficulty and is unable to service his or her debts from an ever-increasing accumulation of interest.

The rule prevents the over-extension of a debtor's limited financial resources.

The in duplum rule is not limited to interest on money-lending transactions, it can also apply with equal force to most types of contract in terms of which a capital sum is due by the debtor to the creditor and on which amount a specific rate of interest is payable.

In duplum rule in the Consumer Credit Act, 2016.

Section 41 (6) of the Consumer Credit Act, 2016 provides that; notwithstanding any provision of the com-

mon law or a credit agreement to the contrary, the amounts contemplated in Section 39 (1) (b) to (g) that accrue during the time that a consumer is in default under the credit agreement may not, in aggregate, exceed the unpaid balance of the principal debt under that credit agreement as at the time that the default occurs.

Simplified, the in duplum rule provides that when a consumer of credit is in default, all the combined amounts or the cost of credit set out in the Consumer Credit Act, 2016 Section 39 (1) (b) to (g) cease to run when they reach the outstanding balance of the consumer's principal debt at the time of the default.

To fully comprehend this, let's discuss what exactly the combined amounts are or the cost of credit referred to in the above cited section.

They are;

- An initiation fee, which- (i) may not exceed the prescribed relative to the principal debt; and (ii) shall not be applied unless the application results in the establishment of a credit agreement with a consumer;

- A service fee, which- (i) in the case of a credit facility, may be payable monthly, annually, on a per transaction basis or on a combination of periodic and transaction basis; or (ii) in any other case, may be payable monthly or annually; and (iii) shall not exceed the prescribed amount relative to the principal debt;

- Interest, which- (i) shall be expressed in percentage terms as an annual rate calculated in the prescribed manner; and (ii) shall not exceed the applicable maximum prescribed rate determined in terms of section 41;

- Cost of any credit insurance provided in accordance with Section 44;

- Default administration charges, which- (i) may not exceed the prescribed maximum for the category of the credit agreement concerned; and

(ii) may be imposed if the consumer has defaulted on a payment obligation under a credit agreement; and

- Collection costs, which may not exceed the prescribed maximum costs.

The cost of credit referred to what Section 39 entails to have been concisely described. Conversely, a description of the exact amounts that form part of the costs of credit insurance, as contemplated in Section 39 (1) (e) is still required.

To understand precisely the term "costs of any credit insurance" we will refer to the Consumer Credit Act, 2016 Section 1 which states that credit insurance means: an agreement between an insurer, on one hand, and a credit provider or a consumer or both, on the other hand, in terms of which the insurer agrees to pay a ben-

efit upon the occurrence of a specified contingency, primarily for the purpose of satisfying all or part of the consumer's liability to the credit provider under a credit agreement as at the time that the specified contingency occurs, and includes - (a) a credit life insurance agreement; (b) an agreement covering loss of or damage to property; or (c) an agreement covering - (i) loss or theft of an access card, personal information number or similar device; or (ii) any loss or theft of credit consequential to a loss or theft contemplated in subparagraph (i) In a nutshell, where the credit agreement involved is a hire purchase agreement, a mortgage agreement, the constitutional in duplum rule will be applied as follows:

the combined amounts set out in Section 39(1) (b)-(g) namely initia-

tion fees service fees; interest (contractual and default); costs of any credit insurance (excluding the credit insurance premiums payable as they form part of the principal debt: will cease to run when they reach the outstanding balance of the consumer's principal debt at the time of the default.

The combined amounts or total cost of credit excludes default and collection costs because these two are contingent to an event.

That is, in the event the consumer does not honour his obligation to pay.

For any question or enquiries, please contact the FSRA at 2406 8000 or email stakeholder@fsra.co.sz. The FSRA would like to wish you safe and happy holidays until we meet again through this column next year. Remember to save and spend wisely.

ALL GOING 'ZIMMINGLY'

...As miners express optimism in post-Mugabe era

HARARE - Anglo Platinum is to commission a new platinum matte smelter next year as mining sector investors anticipate predictable mining policies after the Robert Mugabe era, but operators are still worried about the country's mineral royalty regime and a cost base exacerbated by electricity and other utility costs.

These are the key findings of a survey of Zimbabwean mining investors and executives, commissioned by the country's chamber of mines, which says investors and executives "are optimistic that the new government will implement consistent and predictable mining policies" in 2018.

"Around 50 per cent of respondents are optimistic about prospects of a consistent and predictable mining policy environment, while 10 per cent were of the view that the policy environment will remain uncertain and unpredictable," says the report.



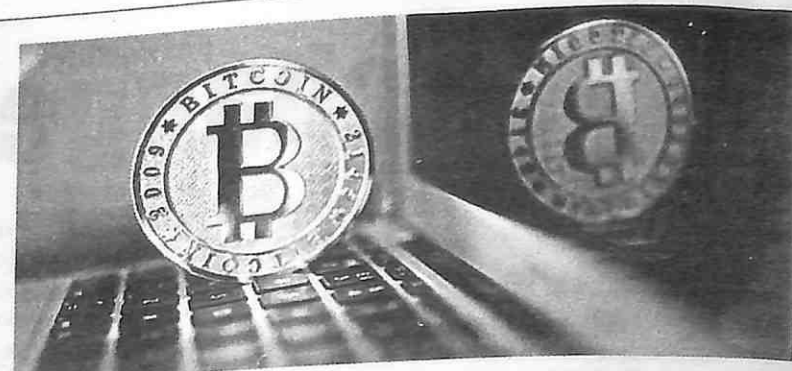
IMPLEMENTING: Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Apart from Anglo Platinum, other foreign resource firms with operations in Zimbabwe include Metallion Corporation, Toronto-listed Caledonia Mining Corporation, Impala Platinum and Sibanye Stillwater, as well as Asa Resources. Locally owned miners such as RioZim are also significant players in an industry also dominated by artisanal miners in gold and chrome mining.

Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa said last week in his 2018 budget statement that Unki mine, which is run by Anglo Platinum, was "to commission a smelter in August 2018". Mimosa, which exports a concentrate, is also way behind as its board still has to approve a feasibility study for a smelter. Zimplats is working on refurbishing its Selous Metallurgical Complex.

"The government, however, notes with concern the slow pace in implementing agreed targets, particularly stage three (base metal refinery to recover base metals), due for completion by January 1, 2017," Chinamasa said in his 2018 budget and fiscal policy statement.

Zimbabwean mining sector investors surveyed under the chamber of mines report recommended the "adoption of an optimal fiscal regime for the mining sector with a view to guaranteeing investment inflows" into the country. *Business Report*



BITCOIN LANDED ON WALL STREET WITH A BANG

NEW YORK - Futures on the world's most popular cryptocurrency surged as much as 25 per cent during their debut session on Cboe Global Markets Inc.'s exchange, triggering two temporary trading halts meant to cool volatility.

Dealers said initial volumes exceeded expectations, while traffic on Cboe's website was so strong that it caused delays and outages. The exchange said all its trading systems were normal.

"It was pretty easy to trade," Joe Van Hecke, Managing Partner at Chicago-based Grace Hall Trading LLC, said in a telephone interview from Charlotte, North Carolina. "I think you'll see a robust market as time plays out."

The launch of futures traded on

a regulated exchange is a watershed for bitcoin testing infrastructure that will make it easier for legions of professional traders and mainstream investors to bet on the cryptocurrency's rise or fall, potentially helping to steer its price.

Unregulated

Until now, trading in bitcoin was driven mainly by individual investors who were willing to risk buying on mostly unregulated markets. Some users of those little-policed venues have been targeted by hackers who've stolen digital tokens.

Bitcoin futures expiring in January were priced at US\$17 780 as of 12:57p.m. Hong Kong time, up from an opening level of US\$15 000. About 2 500 contracts changed hands.

Bloomberg

STEINHOFF SAGA OVERSHADOWS ALL POSITIVES

JOHANNESBURG - In a week where good news on the economic growth rate of South Africa should have been so positive for domestic and foreign investment in the country, the Steinhoff saga spoiled everything.

Not only did the share price tumble by around R49.80 from R55.80 a week ago to R6 at the close last Friday (a loss of 89 per cent), it contributed to a big sell-off of shares in general on the JSE. This on the back of the big sell-off in Naspers the previous week, caused share indices to tumble once again significantly last week.

Observers are now generally worried that high levels of corruption in government and state-owned enterprises, are now manifesting themselves in the private sector given the revelations



around KPMG, Naspers and now Steinhoff.

The all share index lost 1 437 points, or 2.4 per cent, last week. Industrials traded down by 2.5 per cent and resources ended the week 3.1 per cent lower due to a stronger rand and lower commodity prices.

Property shares also had decreased by 1.3 per cent. News that the South African economy recorded a better than expected economic growth rate of two per cent

during the third quarter, on the back of the revised 2.8 per cent growth rate in the second quarter, was encouraging. Although the growth came predominantly from the massive 44.2 per cent growth in agriculture output, that contributed almost to half (0.9 per cent) of the increase in the gross domestic product number, growth in other sectors of the economy were also welcomed.

Mining and quarrying grew by 6.6 per cent and manufacturing by 4.3 per cent. These tendencies may have a far more than expected positive contribution to the growth rate during the fourth quarter and also the annual figures. It seems it's now possible that the economy can grow by one per cent in 2017. This is much higher than the anticipated growth rate of 0.7 per cent. *Business Report*

Eskom urged to appoint new boss

JOHANNESBURG - Public Enterprises Minister Lynne Brown last Friday said the newly appointed board of Eskom should prioritise the appointment of a permanent chief executive and finalise disciplinary action against a number of its executives.

The search for a new chief executive comes as former Eskom boss Brian Molefe is fighting to get his job back.

The DA and trade union Solidarity want the Northern

Gauteng High Court to declare Eskom's decision earlier this year to reappoint Molefe, null and void. But Molefe has argued for his reinstatement.

Judgment was reserved last month. Public Enterprises spokesperson Colin Cruywagen yesterday said Brown was cognisant of the pending judgment. "After the court ruling, the board will be seized to deal with matter. But regardless of the outcome, the board still has to deal with the matter." *Business Report*

NETCARE EXECUTIVE TEAM TAKES HOME LESS PAY

JOHANNESBURG - JSE-listed Netcare's annual report released last Friday showed a slight drop in remuneration for its executive team.

Netcare's Chief Executive, Richard Friedland, took home R8.94 million annual salary and was paid R5.5m in a bonus to take his annual earnings to R14.44m in 2017. This is slightly up from the annual package of R14.29m he received last year.

The total package paid to its executives and prescribed officers was R34.72m in 2017, against R35.47m in 2016. The drop in earnings for executives might be linked to lower profits reported for the year to end in September.

In the results, Netcare reported 9.6 per cent decline in revenue to R34.13 billion, while normalised earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation declined 22.7 per cent to R4.27bn, excluding exceptional items, while normalised operating

profit fell 28.1 per cent to R2.97bn, down from R4.13bn last year. Normalised profit after taxation was down by 38.7 per cent to R1.78 billion. The group said the executive compensation was, therefore, measured in terms of financial and strategic delivery as well as non-financial objectives.

"Incentive programmes reward individual, team and group performance when the effort and output aligns to the group's strategic priorities," the group said.

However, it said macroeconomic factors affecting the industry and the country are considered when awarding annual salary increases and incentive payments. The board and the remuneration committee said they were satisfied that the financial targets did not encourage an inappropriate level of risk-taking and that they supported sustainable value creation in the medium to long term.

Business Report

823 jobs lost in vehicle industry in third quarter

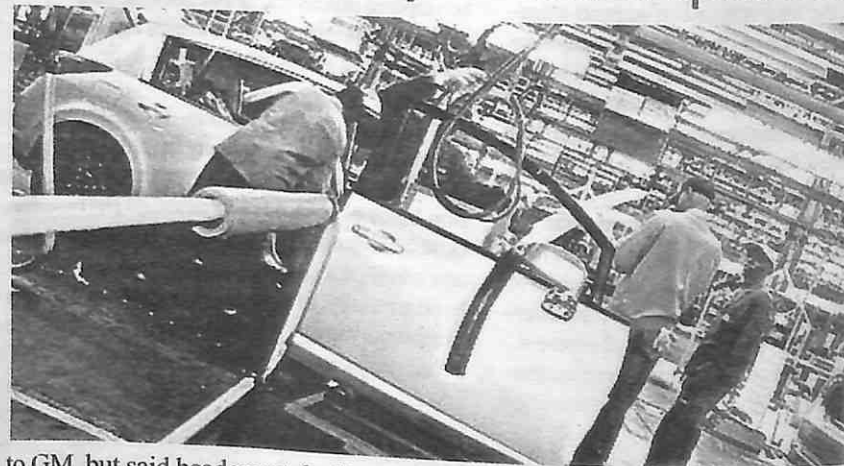
JOHANNESBURG - The vehicle manufacturing industry shed 823 jobs in the third quarter of this year, which was partly the result of retrenchments caused by the decision by General Motors (GM) to disinvest from South Africa.

This resulted in total employment levels in the new vehicle manufacturing industry declining by 2.7 per cent to 29 533 at the end of September, from a 30 356 headcount at the end of June, according to the latest quarterly review of the business conditions in the new vehicle manufacturing industry, released by the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAA-MSA) last Friday.

It said with the exception of the fourth quarter of last year and the third quarter of this year, industry employment had remained relatively stable over the past four years.

A monthly average of 30 953 people were employed by the vehicle manufacturing industry last year, compared with 31 260 in 2015.

The report did not specifically refer



to GM, but said headcount declines in the third quarter were partly the result of retrenchments at a major Eastern Cape assembly plant.

GM South Africa in May this year confirmed that about 589 of its total workforce of about 1 500 were expected to be affected by its decision to disinvest from South Africa.

The vehicle manufacturer said its decision to disinvest was based strictly on where it believed it could get the best return on investment.

In terms of the disinvestment plan, GM will stop the sale and manufacture of Chevrolet in South Africa by the end of this year.

Japan-based Isuzu Motors, through newly established company Isuzu Motors South Africa, plans to acquire GM's light commercial vehicle manufacturing operations in Struandale in Port Elizabeth and continue manufacturing the Isuzu KB and medium commercial vehicles and heavy duty trucks in Port Elizabeth. *Business Report*



MUGABE 'WAS LEASING OUT LAND TO WHITES'



DOUBLE STANDARDS: Former Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe.

HARARE - Former Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe has been leasing out some of his family's farm land to white businessmen - even though he threatened others for doing that while he was in office, a private newspaper reported at the weekend.

As recently as late October, Mugabe said black owners who invited whites back to rent and work seized fields would lose their farms.

But the Zimbabwe Independent reports that the former first family was doing

exactly that: leasing out part of Mazowe Citrus Estate to a company in which some of the main shareholders were white. The Mugabes seized a large portion of Mazowe Citrus Estate several years back. It is in a rich farming district north of Harare.

A top shareholder at CFI Holdings, Hamish Rudland, told the paper that Mugabe had approached them through intermediaries when he was still president. Mugabe said he was impressed with the way the company ran another farm near Harare.

Mugabe's double standards Rudland "confirmed entering into a deal with the Mugabe family at a time they were discouraging and even threatening mostly new land owners from working with white farmers", the Zimbabwe Independent said. Under the deal Mugabe was to get five per cent of turnover.

The revelation has exposed Mugabe's double standards: he was outspoken in his criticism of party members, including some traditional chiefs, who entered into partnerships with whites. *News24*

Mnangagwa's ministers 'cancel festive season travel to meet set targets'

HARARE - Zimbabwe's newly sworn-in Cabinet ministers are reportedly "putting in extra hours every day to meet targets" set by President Emmerson Mnangagwa "as a new work ethic takes root in government".

According to the state-owned Sunday Mail newspaper, Mnangagwa had tasked every minister to come up with at least three target-driven economic projects with a 100-day turnaround period.

The project proposals were due this week.

It would be remembered that in his first speech as the president of Zimbabwe on November 24, Mnangagwa sent a stern warning to public officials who did not display commitment to their jobs. "To our civil servants, it cannot be business as usual. You have to roll up your sleeves in readiness to deliver. We have an economy to recover, a people to serve," Mnangagwa said during his inauguration speech at the National Sports Stadium in Harare.

"A new culture must now inform and animate our daily conduct," he said.

The Sunday Mail said that most ministers had since cancelled their 2017 festive season travel to focus on the projects.

President Mnangagwa himself was also spending much time at work, the report said.

Mnangagwa last week swore in a new Cabinet that included ruling party loyalists as well as figures in the military, whose takeover helped oust former leader Robert Mugabe.

Mnangagwa said after the ceremony that the priority was to revive Zimbabwe's battered economy. Among the new Cabinet members were Major General Sibusiso Moyo, the foreign minister, and Air Marshal Perrance Shiri, the agriculture minister. *News24*



CLOSE CALL WITH DEATH: An elderly man was dramatically pulled alive from the rubble by rescuers, while the bedroom of a house next door was said to have been ripped away by the blast. Neighbours reported hearing an 'almighty bang' at around 7.30am when the semi-detached property in Leicester exploded. Two people were airlifted to hospital, one of whom was taken to a major trauma centre in a serious condition, while almost 100 homes have been left without power and several forced to be evacuated. Pictures from the site, in the Birstall area of the city, reveal debris strewn across the street, windows blown out and door frames hanging off their hinges.

Kenya opposition postpones 'swearing-in' of alternative president

NAIROBI - Kenya's opposition said on Sunday it had postponed plans to swear in its leader Raila Odinga as an alternative president, easing political tensions and opening a window for possible talks with the government of President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Opposition coalition NASA had planned to publicly "inaugurate" Odinga at a rally today, Kenyan independence day, in what the attorney general said this week would be an act of treason. Kenyatta was re-elected as Kenya's president with 98 per cent of the vote in a repeat election held on October 26 which Odinga boycotted. He had beaten Odinga in the original poll,

held in August, which was nullified by the Supreme Court on procedural grounds following opposition allegations of vote-rigging and other malpractices.

NASA said in a statement it would postpone the swearing-in after "consultations and engagement with a wide range of national and international interlocutors". It did not specifically name any mediators involved in the talks. The coalition said it would be announcing a new date for the swearing in ceremony and the launch of its People's Assembly "as well as a more vigorous and prolonged resistance".

The plan to install Odinga as an alternative president had threatened to exacerbate rifts opened



LATER: Leader Raila Odinga.

by an acrimonious election season that left more than 70 people dead in political violence.

The United States had also urged opposition leaders to work within the law and avoid actions like the proposed "inauguration ceremony." *Reuters*

BRIEFS

Peacekeepers killed in DRC to be repatriated

NAIROBI - The bodies of 15 Tanzanian UN peacekeepers killed in the Democratic Republic of Congo will be repatriated in the coming days, the Tanzanian army said. The soldiers were all members of the Tanzania People's Defence Forces participating in a UN peacekeeping operation in the conflict-torn eastern region of the country. Their base in North Kivu province came under attack by suspected Ugandan rebels last Thursday. "We are working with the United Nations on this. The bodies will be repatriated between today and tomorrow," Lieutenant General James Mwakibolwa, Deputy Head of the Tanzanian army, told reporters. The UN has put the death toll from the attack at 15, with 53 wounded.

'6 000 IS jihadists could return to Africa'

ALGIERS - Up to 6 000 Africans who fought for the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Iraq and Syria could return home, the African Union's top security official warned, calling on countries to prepare for the threat. Smail Chergui, the AU's commissioner for peace and security, said African nations would need to work closely with each other and share intelligence to counter returning militants. "There are reports of 6 000 African fighters among the 30 000 foreign elements who joined this terrorist group in the Middle East," Chergui told a meeting in Algiers, according to the Algeria Press Service news agency.

AFP

Museveni Enters Fight Over \$20bn Oil Deals

KAMPALA - Oil companies - Total E&P, Tullow Oil and CNOOC - are locked in a bitter fight for control of Uganda's oil sector. The coveted prizes are deals worth about \$20 billion. The three entered a partnership in 2012 when Tullow Oil, which was the sole exploration company farmed down 66 per cent of its stake, in equal 33 per cent portions each, to the Chinese and French biggies. The Irish minnow bagged \$2.9 billion in the farm-down and still retained a 33.3 per cent stake in the deal. Up to that point, it looked like a great deal. *The Independent*

Girl with Albinism Shines as top Student

NAIROBI - People with albinism, estimated at one in 15 000 sub-Saharan Africans, are frequently shunned, attacked and even killed. Harrison Tanga knew that something was wrong as he walked into the labour ward in western Kenya to meet his newborn child. "I could see nurses whisper amongst themselves as I passed by," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone. "No one wanted to tell me how my family was doing." When Tanga saw his wife, Matilda, holding a pale-skinned baby with blondish hair, he realised she had albinism - a lack of pigmentation in the skin, hair and eyes. *Reuters*

Charamba an Idiot - Prof Moyo

HARARE - Acerbic former higher education minister Jonathan Moyo has dismissed claims that mooted Robert Mugabe University was the brainchild of President Emmerson Mnangagwa as "bootlicking idiocy". The claim was made by presidential spokesperson and Information Ministry Permanent Secretary George Charamba. According to Moyo however, the university, which would be in honour of the former president was mooted by former First Lady Grace Mugabe. Moyo is now in exile after the military intervention that brought Mugabe's 37-year rule to an abrupt end last month. Commenting on Twitter Saturday, the ex-minister said: "The claim that the RGM University is a Mnangagwa idea is bootlicking idiocy."

New Zimbabwe

Focus on SA scene

ANC proposes two deputy presidents



PROPOSAL: Fikile Mbalula.

JOHANNESBURG - In an apparent move to accommodate the losing hopefuls at its upcoming national conference, the African National Congress is proposing two deputy president positions.

There could also be two deputy secretaries-general, expanding the top brass.

This is seen as a move by the party to avert the winner-takes-all scenario and to ensure the losers have a place in the expanded national executive committee. The approach would also see the conference adopting the suggestion of two posts of deputy secretary-general, which could be filled by members from both camps.

Head of ANC sub-committee on organisational development Fikile Mbalula said the organisation was proposing to expand the NEC top six to include two deputy presidents and two deputy secretaries-general. Should this be adopted at the conference, the top brass of the party would comprise at least eight officials.

The move is seen as strategy to avoid one of the two camps of the leading presidential hopefuls -

Cyril Ramaphosa and Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma - taking all the positions at the party elections.

There is a likelihood that a consensus could be reached in which the two proposed positions were reserved to accommodate members of the losing camp. Mbalula also revealed that among other proposals was for the NEC to be reduced from 80 members to between 40 and 60 members. The party also proposed the appointment for the electoral revolutionary council that would interview potential candidates for leadership suitability using the criteria as contained in the organisation's Through the Eye of the Needle document that strictly required leaders to have been party members for a specific number of years and to have acceptable conduct as a member.

Mbalula said the electoral council would not replace the democratic process of branch nomination but those nominated would be scrutinised by the council. The aim was to undermine the slate politics that had beset the ANC since Polokwane 2008.

Citizen

Metrorail suspends all train services on Cape Town central line

CAPE TOWN - Metrorail Western Cape on yesterday suspended all trains running on the central line, which services areas such as Khayelitsha, Philippi, Mitchells Plain, Bishop Lavis and Langa, until further notice.

"Stations will be closed and no tickets will be on sale until further notice," Metrorail said in a statement. It advised commuters to use their own means to find alternative transport.

The route runs along the Chris Hani - Kapteinsklop and Bishop Lavis lines, and covers a wide swathe of commuters, who rely heavily on the train service and who may not have easy access to alternative transport.

The drastic decision was reached after months of sustained vandalism, cable theft and destruction of critical infrastructure in the Bonteheuwel - Netreg - Nyanga area, Metrorail stated.

"Vandals targeted several mini sub-stations, cables and back-up batteries over the weekend, leaving us no option but to suspend services," said Metrorail Regional Manager Richard Walker.

"The rate of vandalism simply outstrips the rate of repairs," Walker said teams would be sent in with armed escorts so that they can assess the damage before any attempt to recover the service would be possible. According to Walker, law enforcement officials are losing the battle against criminals in the area, which is in the grip of a crime wave. Our teams are no longer able to stem the tide of vandalism unaided," he said.

News24

Ditch corrupt ANC leaders, - COSATU's Losi

DURBAN - COSATU leader Zingiswa Losi has called on ANC supporters to "offload" corrupt leaders as they were crippling the governing party.

Losi was speaking at an ANC Women's League eThekweni send-off prayer for Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa supporters attending the party's 54th elective conference starting from Saturday.

"When you tune into the news, the first thing you hear about is ANC corruption; you hear about money being taken to Dubai.

"The problem with these skeletons is that they are dangerous, chasing away investors, causing the country to be downgraded and services to not reach the people," she said.

Losi said "incorruptible" Ramaphosa and Senzo Mchunu, tipped to be secretary-general on the same slate, were leaders who should emerge victorious at the conference in order to carry the party to the 2019 general elections and beyond.

"Those are leaders who will open cupboards because we hear there are 'smallanyana' skeletons in the cupboard; we want leaders who will open that cupboard, expose the skeleton and its owners," she explained.

Exposing corruption, according to Losi, would grow investment and bring stability to the South African economy, bringing hope to millions of unemployed. *The Mercury*



OFFLOAD THEM: COSATU leader Zingiswa Losi.

Dlamini-Zuma lambastes whites opposing RET

DURBAN - ANC presidential hopeful Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma has lashed out at white business people who are opposing radical economic transformation.

Addressing traditional and religious leaders in Bulwer, her rural hometown outside Pietermaritzburg on Sunday, Dlamini-Zuma said that if her presidential campaign succeeded, she would implement radical economic transformation despite opposition from some white business people.

"Whites talk too much against RET (radical economic transformation), saying that we want to use it to loot.

"Who are they to talk about looting? They have been stealing ever since their arrival in this country. They stole our land," she said, speaking in isiZulu.

She said she had adopted RET after seeing the pain suffered by families living in informal settlements. "If everything goes accordingly (meaning that if



'WE DON'T LOOT': Phindile, right, wife of inkosi Thulabezwe Dlamini, gives Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma gifts. (Political Bureau)

she is elected ANC president), I will take these white people on a bus to show them the suffering of shack dwellers.

"I will show these white people that there are people who live worse than their dogs," she said. Dlamini-Zuma said she would build factories in rural areas so that rural people won't

have to go to the cities. "If we implement RET it is going to restore dignity among our people. "When we talk about RET we don't intend to steal, but we want to create factories," she said. Dlamini-Zuma was accompanied by Public Works Minister Nathi Nhleko.

Political Bureau

15 years for woman who burned niece

JOHANNESBURG - An elderly Mamelodi woman who poured paraffin on her 13-year-old niece and set her alight because the girl refused to admit that she had stolen money has been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

Judge Bert Bam on Friday sentenced Anna Mahlangu to the maximum term for the October 2014 murder of her niece, Nelly Maswanganyi, at their home in Mamelodi. Mahlangu, who raised Nelly along with another sister's

daughter, said in a statement she had confronted her niece several days before the incident when money went missing from their house, but Nelly denied taking it.

She took the child to the police, hoping she would be scared and tell the truth, but Nelly still denied taking the money. The police referred them to a social worker.

According to Mahlangu, she had impulsively decided to scare the child by pouring paraffin over

her and pretending that she wanted to burn her.

She said she was convinced that the child would not burn, because she was going to put out the fire by removing her clothing, but Nelly "slipped out of her hands" and started running away.

The flames became worse when the child ran, and Mahlangu and other tenants poured water over her, but Mahlangu also caught fire. The judge refused Mahlangu leave to appeal against her sentence. *Citizen*

Don't be afraid of white people making noise - Magashule

BLOEMFONTEIN - Attacks on the media and white monopoly capital formed part of the political report delivered by ANC Free State Chairperson Ace Magashule at the weekend.

He gave his address before delegates during the Free State's controversial provincial congress, which has been postponed at least four times throughout the year.

Recently, it was pushed back due to a court order which said it could not sit until the provincial executive committee had re-run branch general meetings for 29 branches of the party whose processes were marred by irregularities.

The Free State conference, which continued yesterday, will seek to elect new leadership for the province with Magashule expected to be appointed chairperson of the province again.

The man, dubbed 'lifetime chair' by some, has been in charge since 1992 and is likely to give up the position should he be elected by branches of the ANC to become its next national secretary general when it goes to its 54th national elective conference in just a few days.

Magashule's deputy Thabo Manyoni, however, was not in attendance. He was expected to contest for the higher position but sources close to him said he had boycotted the conference.

This is the second provincial event he has snubbed. Last week he refused to participate in what many dubbed a "surprise provincial general council" but Magashule told delegates Manyoni was at a PEC yesterday and agreed that it was time for the ANC to go to the conference. *News24*

JAWS OF STEEL!

- Amazing footage shows a man lifting the table up before a young boy gets on
- Clip was filmed by a tourist on Labadi beach, near the Ghanaian capital of Accra
- Tourist was so amazed by stunt that he said he should go on Britain's Got Talent

...Beach performer uses nothing but his **TEETH** to hold up a heavy wooden table and a young boy



IRON TEETH: The footage was filmed by an amazed tourist on Labadi beach, near the Ghanaian capital of Accra.

ACCRA - This is the astonishing moment a man was able to lift up a table with his teeth — before a small boy clambers up on top too.

The footage was filmed by an amazed tourist on Labadi beach, near the Ghanaian capital of Accra.

Staggeringly, it shows the performer lifting the table up to head level and his younger co-star clambers on top himself.

"I was impressed because I tried to pick up the table myself and it was quite heavy - never mind with the added weight of a young lad standing on it!" the tourist said.

"He must have very strong jaws indeed. I've never seen anything like it - not before or since. "To be honest, I thought this act was worthy of Britain's Got Talent - I was just really surprised and can't imagine how much practice they put in, or how they even came up with the idea in the first place."

Following his jaw-dropping lift, the man proceeds to perform a series of other tricks using fire.

Daily mail



AMAZING: The man makes the jaw-dropping stunt look easy as his younger co-star balanced on top of the table.



TALENTED: Using nothing more than the strength of his jaw, the beach performer is able to lift the table to head-level.



JAW-DROPPING: Staggeringly, his younger co-performer then clamber on top of the table and stands there for several seconds.

Chinese 'rooftopper' unwittingly films his own

CHINA - This is the moment an internet star known as 'China's first rooftopper' fell to his death from the top of a 62-storey skyscraper.

Wu Yongning, 26, was doing pull-ups at the top of the Huayuan International Centre in Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province, when he lost his grip and fell.

Harrowing footage captured the moment he let go, plunging 45ft on to a terrace below where his body was later found by a window cleaner.

Wu Yongning's girlfriend, who refers to herself as Jin Jin, told the Beijing News that he was due to ask her parents' permission to marry her two days after the stunt.

Jin Jin told the newspaper that he planned to offer her family a bridal gift of 80,000 yuan (£9,000), roughly the same amount he was due to earn from the video. Wu died on November 8 but his death was only confirmed by family members on December 8 after fans became concerned that no videos had been posted to his



YouTube channel for a month. Local authorities investigating the case described it as an 'accident' and have already ruled out foul play.

On live-streaming video site 'Volcano' Wu had one million followers and 300 videos. He held 217 live-streaming sessions and was paid around £6,000 for doing so.

Fans have now flooded social media with tributes to Wu. Jin

Jin, said Huayuan International Centre is only open to the public until the 44th floor, after which key cards are required to access the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

As security personnel were also present on the hotel's top floor, she said she believes her boyfriend took a lift to 'over 40 floors' and then free-climbed 'nearly 20 more floors' to reach the position where he filmed.

Daily Mail



LONLA INVESTMENTS

Tyres & Rims Specialist
FESTIVE WARMERS SPECIAL

KOMBI TYRES NOW AVAILABLE

**RIM COMBOS
FROM
E2,800**



TYRES

175/65 R14
from **E250.00**

4 @ **E1,000**

195/65 R15
from **E350.00**

4 @ **E1,400**

FRESH NEW STOCK ARRIVED!!!
NOW OPEN 6AM - 6PM MONDAY TO SUNDAY

**Manzini: Opposite Satellite Bus Rank
Below Hub, Cell: 7639 8839 / 2505 8455**

BRIEFS

US stance 'move the ball forward'

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump's administration insisted on Sunday that its recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital will help the cause of peace, with UN Ambassador Nikki Haley saying it will "move the ball forward". The new US stance, fiercely criticised by Palestinians, Arab leaders and others as gravely damaging any prospects for Middle East peace, has given rise to swelling protests across the region in recent days. But Haley suggested that the fears are overblown. She told CNN that Trump was the first US president to have the "courage" to make a move that she said many Americans and others around the world supported. **AFP**

Muslim woman honours pioneering scientist

DETROIT - When it came to pursuing a scientific career, Tasneem Essader encountered forces pulling her in and pushing her away. She drew inspiration from her mother's work in chemistry, but initial discouragement from her engineer father, who thought she should do something else. She was inspired by women engineers she met, but found few girls around her in advanced high school science classes. Essader, who feels strongly connected to her Muslim faith, also struggled to find the right fit among an array of identity-based scholarships as she looked to help ease the financial burden of college. Then, an uncle informed her about the Adawia Alousi Scholars programme, and the obstacles started to fall away. **AP**

Fire in California threatening another city

OJA - A fierce wildfire raged on north of Los Angeles Sunday, threatening other towns after already charring vast swaths of land, but other blazes were largely contained after burning for days. The so-called Thomas fire is only 15 per cent contained, now threatening the city of Santa Barbara and the nearby coastal town of Carpinteria, making it one of the worst wildfires in California history. It has already destroyed 600 structures and scorched 173 000 acres, the authorities say, with the state's governor saying the fires had already caused unprecedented damage in the most populous US state. "Praying for my town. Fires closing in. Firefighters making brave stands." **AFP**

US man on the run after escaping Bali prison

DENPASAR - A US man convicted on drugs charges escaped Bali's notorious Kerobokan jail early yesterday morning jailbreak with another American prisoner who was caught almost immediately, an official said. The pair made a break from the Indonesian resort island's main prison by cutting a hole in the roof with a hacksaw, authorities said. It was not clear how they obtained the tool. Police are now scouring the palm-fringed island and handing out pictures of escapee Christian Beasley, a 32-year-old arrested in August for carrying five grams of hashish. **AFP**

Hiccup for new German high-speed line

BERLIN - German rail operator Deutsche Bahn opened a new high-speed rail line on Sunday, 10 December, connecting Berlin and Munich hopes with it will compete with air travel between the two cities. The new line will shave up to two hours off the current trip between north-eastern Germany and Bavaria with high-speed trains able to travel up to 300 kph and complete the journey in just under 4 hours - as compared to the six hours it took previously - and compares to about an hour of in-air flight time. **AP**



Where snow is sparking havoc across UK

LONDON - A snowbomb was dropped on the UK on Sunday as towns and cities were blanketed in up to 20cm of the white stuff in the worst storm for four years.

Now Brits are facing a nightmare start to the week as freezing temperatures turn the swathes of snow into lethal black ice as an Arctic air flow strengthens its grip. And more snow is now fore-

cast for large parts of England already battered by the storm, posing a potentially deadly situation as accumulations cover up ice.

The south, south-west, central England and south-east Wales will see a fresh layer of snow through this morning and afternoon as a band of flurries push west.

Badly-hit Worcestershire,

Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, where thousands of schools have closed, will fall in the firing line, as well as the likes of Bournemouth, Plymouth and Bristol.

The band of snow will start to clear mid-afternoon and by 6pm the east of England will be next in line for a fresh layer of snow fall.

Dailystar



PROTECTION: Addressing the House of Commons for the first time since last week's breakthrough, the prime minister will promise to ensure that a sovereign UK 'takes control of its borders, money and laws once again'. Striking an upbeat note about the next phase of talks with Brussels on trade and other issues, she will call for 'bold new economic and security relationships' with the EU after we leave. May likely faced a rousing reception from backbench Tory MPs yesterday after dramatically regaining the political momentum. Last week - after a frenetic 24 hours of diplomacy - May (President of the EU Commission, Jean Claude Juncker) concluded her agreement with European Commission negotiators on the rights of EU nationals, the divorce settlement and Northern Ireland. (Daily Mail)

Fears mount as N Korea gains biotech expertise

PYONGYANG - Five months before North Korea's first nuclear test in 2006, US intelligence officials sent a report to Congress warning that secret work also was underway on a biological weapon.

The communist regime, which had long ago acquired the pathogens that cause smallpox and anthrax, had assembled teams

of scientists but seemed to be lacking in certain technical skills, the report said.

Biotechnology

"Pyongyang's resources presently include a rudimentary biotechnology infrastructure," the report by the director of national intelligence explained.

A decade later, the technical hurdles appear to be falling away.

North Korea is moving steadily to acquire the essential machinery that could potentially be used for an advanced bioweapons program, from factories that can produce microbes by the ton, to laboratories specialising in genetic modification, according to US and Asian intelligence officials and weapons experts.

The Washington Post

Venezuelan opposition banned from 2018 presidential race

CARACAS - Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro announced Sunday that leading opposition parties will be barred from taking part in next year's presidential vote after they boycotted mayoral polls, in a move set to further consolidate his grip on power.

That includes the groups of key figures who have led street protests against his rule such as Henrique Capriles, Leopoldo Lopez and others, Maduro told reporters after casting his vote in the municipal polls. "That's what the National Constituent Assembly set out," he said, referring to a controversial Maduro-allied special powers legislature whose legitimacy has been questioned by many in the international community.

"If they don't want elections, what are they doing? What's the alternative? (Civil) war?" the president asked, visibly angry. While municipal elections were under way across the country, Maduro clearly had his mind on the 2018 presidential race, in which he plans to seek reelection despite an approval rating of around 30 per cent.

AFP

Netanyahu sees Europeans following Trump on Jerusalem

BRUSSELS - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, visiting the European Union, praised US President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as his country's capital yesterday and said he expected Europeans to follow suit.

"It makes peace possible because recognising reality is the substance of peace, the foundation of peace," Netanyahu told reporters as he was greeted by EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini before a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels.

"There is now an effort to bring forward a new peace proposal by the American administration. I think we should give peace a chance. I think we should see what is presented and see if we can advance this peace."

Netanyahu said Trump's move, condemned by the Palestinians and by European governments, should be emulated by them.

"It's time that the Palestinians recognise the Jewish state and also recognise the fact that it has a capital. It's called Jerusalem," he said.

"I believe that, even though we don't have an agreement yet, this is what will happen in the future. **Reuters**



BRIEFING: Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and European Union foreign policy Chief Federica Mogherini brief the media at the European Council in Brussels. (Reuters)



- NEWS
- REVIEWS
- STAR SIGNS
- CELEBRITY WATCH
- CARTOONS

LOCAL CHOIRS WIN OLD MUTUAL COMPETITION

Stories by Simon Shabangu

LOCAL choral music ensembles did the most at the Old Mutual 40th National Choir Festival in Johannesburg over the weekend.

The adage by PJ O'Rourke which says 'Popular culture has become engorged, broadening and thickening until it's the only culture anyone notices' resonates well with the Swazi culture which continues to shine as Royal Swaziland Police Choir were crowned champions of the indigenous category of the Old Mutual 40th National Choir Festival in Johannesburg over the weekend. The choir composed an indigenous piece dedicated to the 40-year anniversary Old Mutual Choir Festival titled 'Emashumi Lamane Eminyaka, Halala NCF.'

Glory

The well choreographed piece merging ingadla, sibhaca and kut-samba by Lutsango left the adjudicators with no choice but to award the first spot to the local choir for the rendition which beat 10 other choirs, including that item rendered by his His Majesty's Correctional Service- which depicted a chief's appointment.

The police ensemble led by the young and energetic conductor Bandile 'Mzambiya' Maphalala, was competing for the very first time at the finals but managed to bring glory to the Swazi nation.

They were able to beat seasoned choirs who have graced the finals stage several times in the 40 years of the competition's existence. They also fared well in the prescribed African and Western pieces where they were averaged at 77 and 82 points for the African and Western, respectively. Their performance on Saturday was an indication that the choir had a clear objective for the competition and indeed it was a mission accomplished for the police

COMMISSIONER General of His Majesty's Correctional Services Mzuthini Ntshangase, who was at the finals, was over the moon after his side managed to scoop second position overall.

He said they have made him proud, noting that getting placed in the top



YOURS: HMCS Choir conductor Melisizwe Zwane receiving the E90 000 replica cheque on Sunday evening at the Old Mutual National Choir Festival held in Johannesburg. (Pic: Simon Shabangu, Sponsored by Old Mutual.)

ensemble.

The delegation from the police was led by Police Academy Commandant Vusi Masuku.

Although the choir was not placed overall, they managed to leave a mark at the finals. Masuku was equally excited about the win.

Stages

He said the choir did well despite that they were competing for the first time at this stage.

Mzambiya said he was overjoyed by the choir's performance at the finals given that they were first timers there.

"I am very emotional about this win because it has been beyond my programme for the year because the plan was that this year I focus on developing the choir. It was my dream to represent Swaziland in the

finals as it happened but winning this prestigious award became a huge boost and great achievement for the choir. The exciting part is that we were underdogs and were able to surprise many people and impress the judges. I am happy that we represented the kingdom well, especially by winning in the indigenous category which defines us as a Swazi nation," he said. The police ensemble managed to beat seasoned choirs in the likes of Sounds of Joy, Zwelitsha Adult Choir, NWU Serenaders, Kopano and NWUC, among nine others competing in this section.

On the other hand, His Majesty's Correctional Services Choir made the country proud when they scooped second place overall in the large category, beating seven of their

competitors to the crown, which came with E90 000 prize money and a trophy. They were beaten to the first spot by Kopano Chorus, who amassed 92.8 per cent, which was a 2.7 points difference between the two choirs. On third spot was Zwelitsha Adult Choir, which got 89 per cent. This was not the first time for HMCS choir to represent the country at the NCF finals. They were also once winners of the indigenous category a few years back in the same competition. This was their first time to be placed in the top three overall. The pronouncement of the choir for the second position was received with mixed emotions by the audience as the general feeling was that they deserved the first spot judging by their best rendition of the Western piece on Saturday.

might have seen but our choir managed to be placed in the top three.

This is an indication that next year we will win the championship because the choir is working hard and I am proud of them," he said.

Asked about the prize money received by the choir, he said the

department is not taking anything but leaving all the cash earnings to the choristers because they have many needs which they might want to attend to.

He said there are chances that his department could host a celebration for this achievement.

Locals rake in over E200 000 plus trophies

THE two winning local choirs did not only make the country proud in South Africa but they also raked in over E200 000 in prize monies.

The indigenous category champions in the large section won E75 000 prize money, which was accompanied by a E20 000 participation fee for all competing choirs as well as a trophy. His Majesty's Correctional Services, on the other hand, won E90 000 in prize money as part of the second spot overall they attained. It was also accompanied by E20 000 participation fee, making the total earnings to E205 000 combined. Despite not winning, the standard category participants, Manzini Cathedral Choir, under the baton of Skhumbuzo Ndzinisa aka Skhuze, were also entitled to the E20 000 participation fee due to all choirs.

THE FULL RESULTS

Large Category:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Kopano Chorus | 92.8 marks (E100 000) |
| 2. Correctional Services | 90.1 marks (E90 000) |
| 3. Zwelitsha Adult Choir | 89 marks (E80 000) |
| Best African song | Kopano Chorus (E30 000) |
| Best Western song | Kopano Chorus (E25 000) |

LARGE INDIGENOUS SECTION

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Royal Swaziland Police | 83 marks (E75 000) |
| 2. Sounds of Joy | 79.6 marks (E50 000) |
| 3. North West University | 78 marks (E40 000) |

Champ of Champs category

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. SA Singers | 91.1 marks (E200 000) |
|---------------|-----------------------|

STANDARD SECTION:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Prince Mshiyeni | 91 marks (E74 000) |
| 2. Western Classical Voices | 86.8 marks (E64 000) |
| 3. Chitungwiza Harmony Singers | 83.6 marks (E54 000) |
| Best African song | Prince Mshiyeni (E20 000) |
| Best Western song | Prince Mshiyeni (E20 000) |

Heavy rain washes away celebration...

THE heavy downpour, just moments after the announcement of the results at around 9pm, washed away celebrations by the winning choirs.

The rain was so heavy that choristers and all present had to take cover of either their vehicles or shelters from the buildings as reaching the cars was a mission almost impossible. However, the joyful winners tried to make do in those little corners and spaces and had brief moments of celebrations. As for the locals, the conductors and choristers had a frantic search for the other as they were at different hiding spaces due to the heavy rains.

Sikelela Msibi, Mathokoza Sibiya on the top 40

LOCAL conductors and composers of note Sam Sikelela Msibi and Mathokoza Sibiya were among the 40 people recognised by the National Choir Festival for their positive contribution in the development and growth of the Old Mutual Choir Competition in the past 40 years.

They were announced by former chairperson Thokozani Mkhize-Ndlovu, who mentioned that the committee decided to dedicate the Dr Khabi Mngoma Award to the 40 people who have contributed positively to the NCF. She said the recognition of the 40 choral music stalwarts was in line with the 40th celebration for the NCF.

Mzuthini over the moon, gives choir prize money

COMMISSIONER General of His Majesty's Correctional Services Mzuthini Ntshangase, who was at the finals, was over the moon after his side managed to scoop second position overall.

He said they have made him proud, noting that getting placed in the top

three in a competition of this magnitude was a great achievement. He said the choir worked hard to earn this position and made the department proud.

"I am grateful to the Almighty for making our plans a success, the competition was very stiff as you

40TH OLD MUTUAL NATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL



RICHER: Bandile 'Mzambiya' Maphalala all smiles upon receiving a R75 000 cheque for the Royal Swaziland Police Choir. This was at the Old Mutual National Choir Festival in Johannesburg. (Pics: Simon Shabangu, sponsored by Old Mutual)



IMMERSED: The adjudicators in deep thought as they follow proceedings.



IN SONG: HM Correctional Services Choir perform in Swazi regalia.



JOVIAL: RSP in a jovial mood after their win.



ON THE WALL: HM Correctional Services choir brought glamour and class in their traditional regalia look.



PROUD SWAZI: Ummiso team in full swing.



IN SUPPORT: Fans cheering on their favourite choirs.



BIG: SA Singers conductor receiving a total of R200 000.



HELLO: ComGen Mzuthini Ntshangase shaking hands with SNCAC Board Chair Busi Simelane whilst Nkhanyeti Ngwenya looks on.



THIS ONE: Mzambiya leading RSP through to winning the indigenous category.



FULL SWING: HM Correctional Services Choir conductor Melisizwe Zwane in full swing.

WIN DOUBLE TOTAL GOLD SERIES TICKETS!



**TOTAL
GOLD SERIES**
2nd Edition

ft
**THANDO
THABETHE
DILOXCLUSIV
SPEECH UMLANGENI**



Win double tickets to Total Gold Series 2nd edition at House On Fire happening on the 15th of December 2017.

To win yourself double tickets (general), simply SMS 'FUN' to '6464'. Remember to bring your ID when collecting your tickets.

GOODLUCK!

**FRIDAY
15 DEC / 8PM**

**Swazi
OBSERVER**



COMPUTRONICS SYSTEMS PTY LTD
HAPPY VALLEY HOTEL
KILIMBARI

LUNGelo MATSE RECORDS UPLIFTING DEBUT ALBUM

By Ayanda Dlamini

MUSIC runs in the family.

After being in the gospel music scene for 11 years, backing up his brother Nduduzo Matse and singing in church, Lungelo Matse finally recorded his debut album; 'Revival and Strength' on Friday night at Zakhele FEA in Manzini.

The live CD and DVD recording saw a number of gospel fanatics and brethren singing and worshipping the lord through Lungelo's songs which were composed by him and some from the public domain.

Lungelo ascended to the stage at 8:30pm after he had been introduced by the MC of the night Gciniwe Fakudze, who also briefly preached about reviving your soul when she mounted the stage.

The man of the moment started off his recording with a praise song 'Nguwe Wedwa usihlanu sami'.

He thrilled the brethren when he performed a song titled 'Ndiyo Oag Ndiyo' a shona song.

Between the recordings, Lungelo thanked the attendees for making it possible to achieve his dream.

"I never thought this day would come. I'm so grateful," he said on stage when he was about render duet with former Redemption Story member Londiwe D. They did a beautiful cover on 'Izibongo'.

'Khethiwe' was one of the praise



MUSIC RUNS IN THE FAMILY: Lungelo and his brother Nduduzo Matse on stage during Lungelo Matse's debut album; 'Revival and Strength' recording on Friday night at Zakhele FEA in Manzini. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)

songs that had everyone on their feet dancing to lord. Gospel praise singer Banele Dlamini was amongst the crowd that was dancing by the front row.

After the first set, the Programme Director of the night Gciniwe Fakudze ushered the gospel fanatics and brethren to freewill offering as she lead a public domain song 'Eyethu indaba ayiphelile la'.

Fakudze proved that she was raised from church as she nailed the song and gospel fanatics sang along and danced to the hymn.

Welcoming the second set was beautiful rendition of 'Siphila ngokukholwa' by the man of the moment Lungelo Matse.

He made a beautiful cover on this song as it was rendered four times and attendees couldn't get enough and still wanted more of the praise song.

The second set was basically more about duets, as he featured Muzi M from Katlehong, Johannesburg South Africa, Sifiso Simelane from Midrand and Tsepho Price. They all did a song each with the man of moment.



SHE CAN SING: MC of the night Gciniwe Fakudze rendering a song titled 'Eyethu indaba ayiphelile la' during the freewill offering session at Lungelo Matse live CD and DVD recording.



RIGHT - TURN UP: Lungelo Matse's back up singers in full swing.



PRAISE THE LORD: Gospel fanatics and brethren rejoicing to the Lord during Lungelo's recording.

All thanks to my brother – Lungelo

THE man of the moment Lungelo made an emotional and very touching token of appreciation to his brother Nduduzo Matse.

"I would like to sincerely thank my brother Nduduzo. I wouldn't be here today but all because of faith and believing in me, he made this night possible because he believe in my dreams," said

Lungelo on stage when he was about to call his brother and award winning artists Nduduzo Matse. They made a beautiful cover on 'I'm the favoured'.

Amazing

After that amazing cover the brothers did, Lungelo mentioned that singing chose them and he was supported by Nduduzo and Lungelo left the stage

WORSHIPING: Tsepho Price from South Africa rendering a worship song with Lungelo.

for the older brother to closed the show with his performance. It wouldn't be Nduduzo's performance without a rendition of 'On your marks' and 'Usiphephelo sami'.

It is worth noting that it was Nduduzo's first performance in the country after winning the best Africa award at Crown Gospel Awards in South Africa.

Dr Rebecca Malope set for Swazi Mobile Umlilo Gospel Crossover

By Ayanda Dlamini

"RAIN or sunshine come all."

These were the words said by South African and international acclaimed gospel queen Dr Rebecca Malope during a brief meeting with Umlilo Music Productions founder Mduduzi Simelane and Swazi Mobile Brand and Marketing Manager Macford Sibandze held at Down Town studios in Johannesburg, South Africa on Wednesday. The gospel queen confirmed that she will be in the country on December 31 ushering gospel fanatics and worshipers into 2018.

"Hello to everyone at home, this is Dr Rebecca Malope. Let us all meet at Mavuso Trade Centre on December 31. Remember, if it rains we will be inside the hall and if it doesn't rain we will be dancing outside at the stadium.

"Let's meet there. Rain or sunshine. Don't hesitate just come," said the gospel queen on audio clip which was submitted to the Entertainment Desk.

Malope will be ushering gospel fanatics at the massive crossover alongside with Tswane Gospel Choir, Sphumelele Mbambo, Lusanda, Malibongwe Qwabe, Babo Ngcobo, PD and Family Gospel, Lizwi Myeni, Sqomqom Nebuhle

Bejericho, Qiniso Mabas, Mack Thembaletu, Mduduzi Nezinceku Zamagawugawu, Ncandweni Christ Ambassadors, Frans T. Dlamini, Apostle Maculuve, Police Gospel Messengers, Come to Jesus, Bishop Gcina Masuku, Police Male Voice, Linda Dlamini, All Nations Christian Church In Zion, Mzamo Dlamini, Mayibongwe Mthimkhulu, Make Maculuve, Ndawonye Christ Worshipers, Prophet Nkosingphile Dlamini, Pastor T. Myeni, Friday Sotho, Scara Maziya, Scelimphele Zwane and Ukuthokoza Kwamadodana, all in one stage.

The crossover which attracts scores of gospel lovers from all walks of life in the country will be on the 31st of December at Mavuso Trade Centre. For six consecutive years the crossover has been Swaziland's premier event that separates the old and new years.

Last year's event drew about 20 000 diehard gospel fans. The partnership with Swazi Mobile is anticipated to make it soar to new heights.

The event is not just praise and worship but also a great opportunity for preaching the word as different Pastors share the word. In the spirit of giving, in between the music and preaching, there will be give away's of Swazi Mobile products for revellers.



PARTNERS: Swazi Mobile's Brand and Communications Manager Macford Sibandze shaking hands with Dr Rebecca Malope whilst Mduduzi Simelane gestures. (Courtesy pic)

The Soil promises fireworks at Unplugged Session

By Nomfundo Sifundza

SOUTH Africa's acapella trio The Soil have promised nothing but the best for their fans.

The trio is expected to perform in the country on Sunday at the exclusive event made possible by Castle Milk Stout.

The chilled and exclusive event is called 'Castle Milk Stout Unplugged' and will be staged at the House on Fire, Malkerns.

Other acts of note that will be performing on the day include afro soul sensation Sands, SA's Shekinah and the king of old school music DJ Mixmash.

Entry to the show is also exclusive as tickets are not sold but given away through a competition.

The three members of The Soil,

Buhle Mda and siblings Ntsika and Luthindo Ngxanga said they could not wait to be back in Swaziland, mentioning that Swazi people are the most welcoming and accommodative.

Ntsika urged music lovers to purchase copies of their albums so they are able to sing along during their performance.

He was echoed by the two members of the group who each said "we cannot wait to see you and we love you."

The Soil will be coming to the country for the second time whilst new music sensation Shekinah will be making her debut performance in the country.

The programme director of the day will be SABC2's Afro Cafe presenter Stoan Seate.

International
Celebrity News

Ronaldo's girlfriend 'happier than ever'

MADRID - Georgina Rodriguez revealed she and Cristiano Ronaldo are now 'happier than ever' following the birth of their daughter Alana Martina.

They welcomed their first child together at the start of November, after almost two years of dating. In a shoot with Hello!, the 22-year-old proudly introduced her newborn to the world - and confessed the baby girl had only brought her closer to her footballer beau, 32. Georgina proved to be every inch the glowing, doting mother as she posed beside her tot - clad in an adorable leopard print baby gro. Discussing motherhood with the



HAPPY: Georgina Rodriguez and daughter Alana Martina.

magazine, the model gushed it was a 'very special time' for her and Ronaldo, and that Alana has only connected them more as a couple. She said: "It has definitely brought us closer. We're happier together than ever." *DailyMail*

Ellen DeGeneres, wife evacuate pets from home

CALIFORNIA - Ellen DeGeneres says she and wife Portia De Rossi had to evacuate their pets from their California home due to the threat of a raging wildfire that has destroyed and damaged hundreds of properties over the past week.

The two have several cats and dogs. This past October, the couple bought an \$18.6 million beachfront home in Carpinteria, located near Santa Barbara. The Thomas Fire, one of a few wildfires raging in California, has prompted thousands of evacuations, road closures and unhealthy air quality warnings in Santa Barbara County and as well as neighbouring Ventura County. "Our house is under threat of being burned. We



LOVE BIRDS: Ellen DeGeneres and wife Portia De Rossi.

just had to evacuate our pets," DeGeneres tweeted on Sunday. "I'm praying for everyone in our community and thankful to all the incredible firefighters." *Eonline*

Wrestler Rich Swann busted for battering, wife

HOLLYWOOD - WWE champ Rich Swann was arrested this weekend for allegedly battering and falsely imprisoning his wife -- who's also a pro wrestler -- and now he's suspended.

According to cops, Swann was driving his newlywed wife, Vannarah Riggs, back home after a match of hers in Florida when they got into an argument in the car, which got heated.

She reportedly exited the vehicle and Swann stopped the car in the middle of traffic to go get her, allegedly grabbing her by the arm and then



WOMEN BASHER: Rich Swann.

putting her in a headlock to drag her back as she screamed for help. *TMZ*

Simon Cowell flaunts results of his revitalised lifestyle

BARBADOS - It's been just over a month since he said he was changing up his lifestyle for the sake of his precious three-year-old son, Eric. And music mogul Simon Cowell was in high spirits as he enjoyed an enviable beach day with his adorable son in sunny Barbados on Sunday. The 58-year-old appeared in tiptop condition as he showcased his taut physique, following his strict health and fitness plan. The smiling judge sported a vibrant pink life jacket as he held onto his child by the hand. Matching his aqua blue swimming trunks, Simon teamed his beachwear with trendy ocean blue-tint-



LIVING THE LIFE: Simon Cowell with son Eric.

ed aviators - protecting his eyes from the beaming Barbados sunlight. *DailyMail*

SA Celebrity News

Teko Modise's father tried to take him to Khumbul'ekhaya

JOHANNESBURG - Teko Modise has opened up about how his father tried to reconcile with him through SABC 1 reality show, Khumbul'ekhaya years after Teko was kicked out at eight years old for his love of soccer. The soccer star, who held nothing back in his memoir *The Curse of Teko Modise*, revealed that he became a street kid after being abandoned by his father. However at the height of Teko's soccer career, his father came searching for him but Teko was having none of it.



OPENS UP: Teko Modise.

"My dad knows where my family stays. If he wants to see me he must organise a meeting with the family. He can't just get hold of me on television now that I am Teko Modise. These were issues that we could have solved privately." *Tshisalive*

Sophie scores hubby number 3

JOHANNESBURG - Veteran actress and businesswoman Sophie Ndaba has married for the third time. Ndaba eloped with Joburg businessman Max Lichaba and went to Italy where they put a ring on it last month. The pair then flew to France to enjoy their honeymoon. Their clandestine union occurred a few months after Lichaba's uncle and grandmother met with Ndaba's relatives in Joburg where they paid lobola. Ndaba admitted, after we cornered her, that she'd secretly married Lichaba. "Yes, I'm wearing my ring but



NEW BAE: Sophie Ndaba and Max Lichaba

I'm not ready to confirm what you are asking me. All I can say is that we are responsible people and we have done things in a responsible way and will continue to do things in a responsible way," she said. *Sowetan*

Cassper blocked DJ Maphorisa after Twitter 'beef'

JOHANNESBURG - DJ Maphorisa apparently found himself on Cassper's blocked list this past weekend after the Particula musician took to social media to question Cassper's claim to have sold 10 million records. Cassper had earlier taken to Instagram Stories to announce the milestone with a snap of him holding a plaque of his albums.

Maphorisa, like much of Twitter, had seen the post and responded by calling Cassper a liar. While Cassper's fans flooded the comments section to lambast the DJ and defend their idol, Maphorisa revealed that he had been blocked



NOT HERE: DJ Maphorisa.

by the rapper. He claimed that he was not trying to be negative and was only stating facts. The DJ then found himself having to defend his music credentials and fight off suggestions he was looking for attention. *Drum*

Somizi gives us a first glimpse of bae

JOHANNESBURG - Although Somizi has admitted that he's in a relationship, he has been very careful not to reveal who the mystery man in his life is. But over the weekend, he gave fans a glimpse of bae, posting a picture of the two of them standing in the road with the sun setting behind them. Somizi has previously said that he would like someone to look after him for a change and that he would like more children. The comments section on the picture was filled with congratulatory messages and more speculation over who has man-



LOVE IS IN THE AIR: Somizi and his bae.

aged to capture Somizi's heart. *Timeslive*

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY

Shadrack arrives back in Protea with Lerato. S'khaleni's driving lessons with Jacob go horribly wrong. Mehlemamba pays Thandeka a visit.



PAYS A VISIT: Mehlemamba.

ISIDINGO

TODAY



DEPERMINED: Nina.

While Nikiwe continues her anti-violence campaign, Nina is determined to get her Rec shares. To what lengths will she go? Lerato is mortified when she works out the budget to reopening her salon and Wendy is baffled by a penniless and unemployed Morongwa.

Muvhango

TODAY



WAKES UP: Sthembis.

Dee decides to spice thing up in her relationship, will Tendamudzimu fall for it? Vusi realises he is part of the statistics. Sthembis wakes up from dream-land.

RHYTHM CITY

TODAY

Andiswa tries to stop her scheme with Storm - but it's too late. David and Toolkit plan to take out the 66ers.



PLANNING: David.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Are you determined to win the affections of a special person? Have you devoted a great deal of energy to that goal lately? Are you interested in reenergising your marriage? Today is extremely auspicious for love. Now is the time to flirt madly, write love letters, and take that walk down lovers' lane!



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

Take advantage of today to spend quality time in the cozy little nest you and your family enjoy so much. It's a happy, home-sweet-home kind of day. A healthy, peaceful atmosphere reigns and dispels domestic tensions. Seize the opportunity to recharge your batteries. Tomorrow you'll need plenty of energy.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

The day is good for people with curiosity and imagination - including you! Since you're not exactly in tip-top emotional shape, you'll be especially grateful for the gifts today brings. If you're eager to meet other people or explore new activities with friends, do so. The aspect is conducive to fun.



Aries March 21 – April 19

You may have been gloomy lately, but today should restore your good spirits. You can embark on your journey with full confidence in its astrological aspects. You'll be even more attractive than usual, and people will find your charm irresistible. There's the promise of many rewarding experiences in your career and love life!



Taurus April 20 – May 20

Your radiance and brilliance upstage everyone else today. You're a star! Your wish is anyone's command. The people around you may be counting on you to be their leader. Although you enjoy this role, you shouldn't forget to indulge in more private pleasures. A little gift for yourself, an adventure for fun, or perhaps some time alone may be what you need.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

This is a positive day. You feel calm and balanced and more tolerant than usual of the mercurial moods and passions of others. If you can manage it, take a break from your busy schedule and devote a few minutes to you. You're not used to such self-indulgence, but today it would do you a world of good.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

You're going to feel deeply connected with your life today. The atmosphere is clear, letting you see all the progress you've made toward your goals. You'll feel great satisfaction, as you always do when you can clearly see the meaning in your life. Take today to rest on your laurels. Also realise that some things still need to be done.



Leo July 23 – August 22

You'll be very charming today. Your seductive powers will be at their maximum, and be most intense in your professional life. If you have wishes or dreams or want a raise, this is the time to express those desires. You need only give voice to what you want and let your charm do the rest.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

You're in the process of learning how to dream again. These last few months have been hard because your possibilities have felt limited. You've done a lot of work recently to try to align your fantasy life with reality. The result of this effort is that your desire to realise your dreams has increased! Go after them, but gently.



Libra September 23 – October 23

Today you're likely to get a nice surprise in a relationship, especially in your private life. Your companions may show their appreciation through some surprising act. In any case, you have a very good chance of finding yourself at the centre of things, basking under the spotlight, and dressed to the nines. Accept the applause that comes your way.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

This is the kind of day that makes luck come your way, especially where relationships are concerned. Perhaps a friend will introduce you to an exceptional person who helps fulfill your professional fantasies. Or maybe your partner will surprise you with a thoughtful gift. However your luck manifests, trust that this is going to be one great day.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

If the atmosphere has been tense for the last few days, you may notice that things are significantly improved today. You may even succeed in exchanging pleasantries with people you've always had a hard time talking to before. This is going to be a peaceful day, so go with the flow of the calming astral energy and enjoy it.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



HOME WORDSEARCH PUZZLE CHOICE

WATER
Can you find the hidden words?
They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.



ARCHERY, ATHLETICS, BAD-MINTON, BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, BOXING, CRICKET, CURLING, CYCLING, DIVING, FENCING, FOOTBALL, GOLF, GYMNASTICS, HANDBALL, HOCKEY, HORSE RACING, JUDO,

LACROSSE, MOTOR RACING, NETBALL, POLO, ROUNDERS, ROWING, RUGBY, SAILING, SKATING, SKIING, SOCCER, SQUASH, SWIMMING, TENNIS, VOLLEYBALL, WRESTLING.

Season pass

On the first day of college, the Dean addressed the students, pointing out some of the rules:

"The female dormitory will be out-of-bounds for all male students, and the male dormitory to the female students. Anybody caught breaking this rule will be fined \$20 the



first time." He continued, "Anybody caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined \$60. Being caught a third time will cost you a fine of \$180. Are there any questions?" At this point, a male student in the crowd inquired: "How much for a season pass?"

USELESS FACTS

1. A blind chameleon still changes colours to match his environment.
2. The Portuguese jellyfish tentacles have been known to grow a mile in length, catching anything in it's path by stinging it's prey.
3. Icelanders consume more Coca-Cola per Capita than any other nation.
4. A hedgehog's heart beats 300 times a minute on average.
5. Dueling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.

BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's brainteasers

1. What does December have that other months don't have?

Answer: The letter D

2. I am the beginning of the end, and the end of time and space. I am essential to creation, and I surround every place. Who am I?

Answer: The letter E.

Today's brainteasers

1. Yellow I look and massive I weigh. In the morning I come to brighten your day. What am I?

2. This word I know? Six letters it contains. Take away the last and only twelve remains. What is the word?

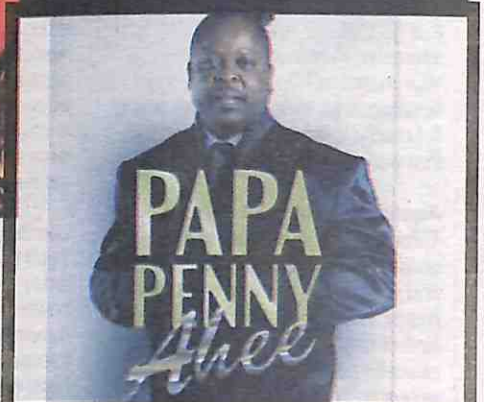


DStv
Feel every moment

NEWS



FUN FACTS ABOUT THE HUNGER GAMES



Shangaan disco king, Papa Penny Penny, takes us on a colourful journey with his reality show, as we are introduced to the legend's family, life and music. Ahee, indeed!

TUNE in to M-Net Movies Action for The Hunger Games franchise.

Book your seat for Friday nights in December, when M-Net Movies Action present the Jennifer Lawrence blockbuster films, The Hunger Games.

STREAM: The Hunger Games on M-Net Movies Action.

Every Friday this month, tune in to DStv channel 110, or stream the channel on DStv Now, and follow the action at 20:00.

The movies have an all-star cast, have given us one liners we love to say (May the odds ever

be in your favour), and also showed us how scary reality TV can be.

Based on the best-selling books by Suzanne Collins, The Hunger Games takes place in Panem, a dystopian society, where teenagers go on TV, where they're fighting for their lives – literally. But things soon change, when the people of Panem stage a revolution.

Before tuning in to see one of the world's most successful franchise come to life, here are a few fun facts about The Hunger Games movies.

Nigerian born Dayo Okeniyi plays Thresh, in

the first The Hunger Games movie. He read all three books in the days before auditioning for the role.

Gary Ross directed the first movie in the franchise. The remaining three movies of The Hunger Games franchise was directed by Francis Lawrence. Gary Ross also directed Ocean's Eight, which boasted an all-star cast including Sandra Bullock and Rihanna.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire was the highest grossing movie in America in 2013.

Two Game of Thrones actresses can be seen

in The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1. Natalie Dormer (Margaery Tyrell) and Gwendoline Christie (Brienne of Tarth).

There are four Academy Award winners in The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1 and The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2. Philip Seymour Hoffman won Best Actor for Capote, Mahershala Ali won Best Supporting Actor for Moonlight, Jennifer Lawrence won Best Actress for Silver Linings Playbook and Julianne Moore won Best Actress for Still Alice.

Take the animania world tour

Animania is back bigger and better on M-Net Movies Smile

THERE are plenty of reasons why children of all ages love the lazy December holidays, but what would this time of the year be without the M-Net Movies Smile Animania festival?

This year's feast of Animania films on DStv's channel 105 promises to be even bigger and better – and much more fun! For six weeks, M-Net Movies Smile will take DStv Premium viewers on an imaginary Animania World Tour. During this 42-day trip you will be accompanied by all your favourite animation characters – from the adventurous Moana to the adorable Minions and the big ocean's cutest forgetful fish, Dory.

Animation

The animation films on the M-Net Movies Animania World Tour will be scheduled according to weekly themes:

- Week one belongs to the "A Graders". In this week see all the films that received several accolades and made big bucks at the box office daily at 19:00. Tune in

for films such as Finding Dory, Sing, Moana, Monsters vs. Aliens and Minions.

- In Week two M-Net Movies Smile takes a walk on the wild side with all your furry and fuzzy animal favourites. Every day at 19:00, catch films like Animals United, The Nut Job Over The Hedge, Tarzan Open Season: Scared Silly, Madagascar and Madagascar 2.

- In Week three at 11:00, glamorous Barbie is strolling into the limelight. From princesses, to fairies, dog lovers to space explorers, Barbie is your companion on all magical adventures imaginable.

- Week four is all about big hearts, big emotion, good vibes and good waves. Every day at 19:00 The Animania World Tour dives into the ocean to join the sea creatures of Shark Tale, Sammy 2, The Turtle's Tale, The Reef 2, Spongebob Squarepants The Movie and Surf's Up 2: Wave Mania.

- Adventure and Pokemon will fill Week five at 19:00. Enter the fighting

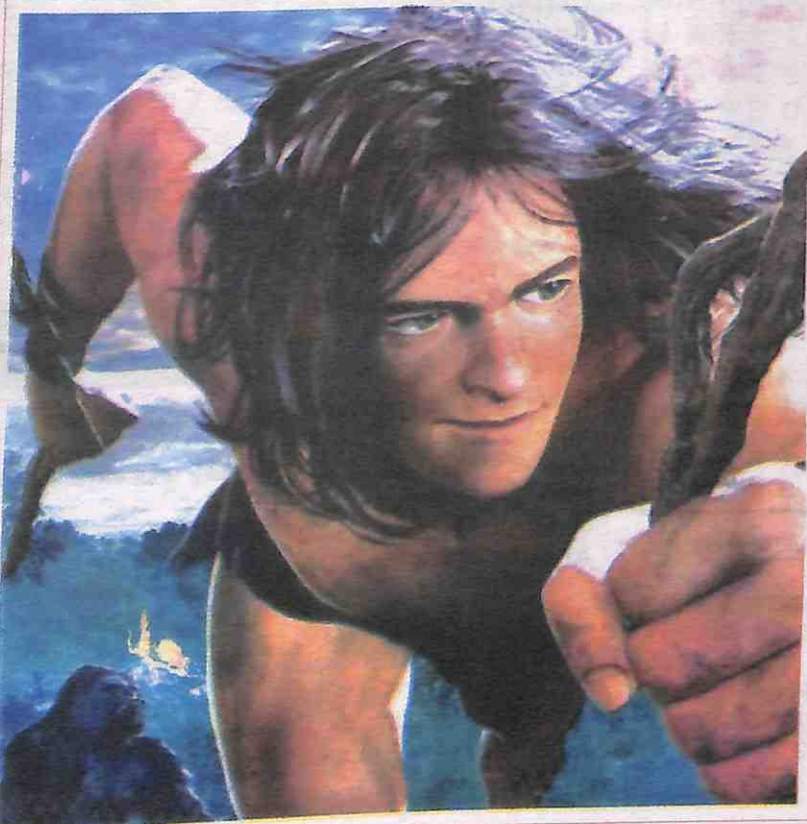
Kung-Fu Pandas and aliens trying to Escape From Planet Earth. Also showing is Maya The Bee, Flushed Away, The Good Dinosaur, Ice Age: Collision Course, Kung Fu Panda and Kung Fu Panda 3.

- To round it all off, daily at 19:00, Week six takes to the skies with "Birds". In this week, you can fly away with all the fantastic winged creatures from airborne films like Zambezia, Angry Birds, Rio, Free Birds and Yellowbird.

Access

If you don't have access to M-Net Movies Smile on DStv Premium, you can also enjoy some animated fun on M-Net Movies Zone with the channel's very first movie festival for children. "Kids Club" will show delightful films for the young ones.

The channel has lined up five hours of rib-tickling, side-splitting movies seven days a week: on weekdays between 10:00 and 15:00 and on weekends between 9:00 and 14:00.



Choose Affordable Advertising

THE SWAZI OBSERVER

lassified

email: advertising@observer.org.sz
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS 11.00AM

ADVERTS
2404 8699 or 2505 2330

index

1. FOR SALE
2. SERVICES
3. JOBS/VACANCIES
4. TUITION
5. ACCOMODATION
6. NATURAL HEALING
7. PROPERTY
8. HEALTH & BEAUTY
9. NOTICES / PETS
10. CHANGE OF SURNAME
11. DEATHS
12. MEMORIAM/CLEANSING
13. CATERING

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Clients are advised to please check their adverts on the first publication day, for we will not be held responsible for any errors after the first day of publication. If it happens that you note any errors, please call 2404 3807 / 8671 immediately and it will be corrected as soon as possible. Failure to adhere to these terms, we assume no financial responsibility.

Thanking you in advance for we assure satisfactory services.

BODY PARTS CENTRE & SPARES

MANZINI BRANCH: Former Indali Furniture Building, Opp. Liphaga Flats
Contact BONGANI: 7612 5651, THANDO: 7652 7264/7664 7776, or Toll-Free: 2505 9454/2505 3002

WINDSCREEN SPECIALS

HIACE LOCAL.....	799.00
TOYOTA QUANTAM 2005 / 2017.....	799.00
TOYOTA COROLLA 1988-2001.....	599.00
TOYOTA HILUX 2000-2004.....	699.00
TOYOTA HILUX 1988-1998.....	499.00
ISUZU 1990-2003.....	599.00
CORSA GAMMA 2004-2012.....	759.00
HONDA FIT/JAZZ.....	1200.00
POLO 2003-2012.....	1100.00
MAZDA 3.....	1299.00
RUN X / COROLLA 2002-2007.....	999.00



DOC:15579 Dx 17 DEC

Swazi Observer e-edition

Read the
Swazi Observer
online

log on to www.observer.org.sz and follow link



MANZINI "BOREHOLES"

Expert Services, Competitive prices
"Groundwater is our business"

A Cut Above the Rest

Tel: 2505 3880 / 2505 9402
Fax: 2505 9408, Cell: 7622 5300
www.purelldrilling.co.sz
E-mail: info@purelldrilling.co.sz



Dx 31 DEC

WATER FOR LIFE DOC:1264

Special Special Special Special Special Special Special Special Special Special Special Special Special Special Special

DO YOU WANT TO TRAVEL TO MAPUTO?
DO YOU WANNA PARTY, UNTIL DAWN?
COME & EXPERIENCE THE BEST NIGHT
WITH PEOPLE WHO KNOW & YOU CAN

TRUST



GROOVIE NIGHT

PLACES OF INTEREST

See the longest suspension bridge in Africa
Boat ride (30 minutes)
Train ride (60 minutes)
Tjopela ride
Sagres
Mafalala tour
The art and craft market
Flea market (Baxia, Strelia)
Malls (Polana, Maputo & Mare's)
Swim at clean beach at Macaneta
Night Clubs (coconut, Gil-vincente, Xima,
Big brother, Dolce vita and 1908)

(TRANSPORT to & fro), 2 NIGHTS BED AND BREAKFAST
PLUS SEEING THE MANY PLACES OF INTEREST

E1800-00 p/p

1 PEOPLE OR MORE

READY TO PACK YOUR BAGS? lets talk 76232363 whatsapp 76148011

DOC:15322 Dx 30 DEC

HAJA FITTINGS

SERVICES

- Cutting - Edging
- Kitchen & bedroom fittings
- Granite, Ceaserstone, Marble

Fittings Workshop in Matsapha
Between Matsapha Trading and Swazi Auto
Truck

Services offered includes:

- Cutting
- Edging

Material used includes:

- Granite, Ceasor Stone, Marble

WE ALSO OFFER SUBSIDIZED TRANSPORT
Carpenters welcome with their work
CELL: 76673983/76882764
Email: hajacommodities@gmail.com

EARLY XMAS



Yamaha PSR E453 @
E6500
IMIX 3 Pack + Cables @
E750

Phonic Combo Deal
Phonic Speaker Pair
Phonic Powered Mixer
Speaker Stands
Speaker on Jack
@E14500

Visit our Mbabane and
Manzini Branches for
more details.

We have excellent festive deals in store.

MBABANE
Shop No.2 HEC Building
Gwamile street, Mbabane
Tel: 2404 1604



MANZINI
Shop No.4 Centre Building
Mancishane street, Manzini
Tel: 2505 7919

DOC:15273

FOR SALE



MINI COPPER FOR
SALE E45 000.00
CALL: 76074882

R/N186450 Dx 19 dec

NATURAL HEALING



Trouble finding a
job, you are sick,
problems in
Marriage,
Business, Soccer
Teams, come to
me. I can pray for
you. I have been
doing this since
1984.

Prophet Henry
Ndwandwe

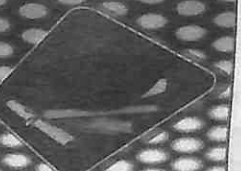
Mbabane PTS
Ethageni

Contact: 7614 2654

R/N 186347 DX 11 JAN 2018.

Classified Section

Book
Your
Classified
Advert Now!



CALL OUR OFFICES @
2404 3807 /
2404 8699



FUTURE PRE PRIMARY & HIGH SCHOOL

Registration for 2018 **NOW OPEN**,
places are available from, Pre School, Grade 1 to 6,
Form 1 to Form 3, **NOW** accepting Form 5 upgraders

100% pass rate on Grade 7 results Yearly

Our School Offers the best of the following:

- Inclusive environment & slow learners are welcomed
- Maintain quality education
- Boarding facility for boys and girls

Wipe your tears, **FUTURE SCHOOL** is there for you.
we are waiting for you.

*** Places are Limited * Places are Limited ***

Find us in Mankayane. Along Ngcoseni Road, next to Zimeleni
Call. 7663 2608 / 76253391

R/N 186442 Dx 17 JAN

IF YOU'VE GOT THE
GOODS.. WE'VE
GOT AFFORDABLE
RATES



ESTATE LATE: CHRISTOPHER MLONDOLOZI MASUKU ESTATE NO. EH 56/2015

Notice is hereby given in terms of
Section 51 (2) of the Administration
of Estates Act No. 28/1902 that the
First and Final Liquidation and
Distribution Account will lie open for
inspection at the office of the Master of
the High Court of Swaziland, Mbabane
branch First Floor Miller's Mansion for a
period of **Twenty One (21)** days from
the date of publication of this notice.

Any person objecting to the account
may lodge his or her objection in writing
with the executor and with the Master of
the High Court at any time before expiry
of the said period.

GLADY'S JABULILE MASUKU
P.O. BOX 6388
MBABANE

R/N186448

ESTATE LATE: ALICE LOMCASHO SHONGWE/MATSABA ESTATE NO. EP 53/2017

Notice is hereby given in terms of
Section 51 (2) of the Administration
of Estates Act No. 28/1902 that the
First and Final Liquidation and
Distribution Account will lie open for
inspection at the office of the Master of
the High Court of Swaziland, Mbabane
branch First Floor Miller's Mansion for a
period of **Twenty One (21)** days from
the date of publication of this notice.

Any person objecting to the account
may lodge his or her objection in writing
with the executor and with the Master of
the High Court at any time before expiry
of the said period.

ZANELE SHONGWE
P.O. BOX 25
MAYIWANE

R/N186451

ESTATE LATE: MUSA JOHN SIMELANE ESTATE NO. EN 79/2017

Debtors and Creditors in the
above mentioned estate are
asked to lodge their claims and
pay their debts with the under-
signed within **thirty (30)** days
after the date of publication of
this notice.

MSESI LUCY MSIBI
P.O. BOX 3
MAHAMBIA

R/N 186446

ESTATE LATE: RAYMOND LESLEY SHAW ESTATE NO. EH 78/2017

Notice is hereby given in terms of
Section 51 (2) of the Administration
of Estates Act No. 28/1902 that the
First and Final Liquidation and
Distribution Account will lie open for
inspection at the office of the Master of
the High Court of Swaziland, Mbabane
branch First Floor Miller's Mansion for a
period of **Twenty One (21)** days from
the date of publication of this notice.

Any person objecting to the account
may lodge his or her objection in writing
with the executor and with the Master of
the High Court at any time before expiry
of the said period.

LILLY BONITA SHAW
P.O. BOX 4704
MBABANE

R/N186449

Swazi Observer e-edition

Read the
Swazi Observer
online

log on to www.observer.sz and follow link

www.observer.org.sz

Swazi Observer Classifieds

CALL OUR OFFICES @ 2404 1555 / 2404 8699



CLASSIFIED ADS

WHAT YOU CAN ADVERTISE

- CARS FORSALE
- SERVICES OFFERED
- VACANCIES/JOBS
- ACCOMODATION
- PROPERTY
- DEATH NOTICES ETC.

COME TO YOUR NEAREST OBSERVER OFFICES
FOR ALL YOUR SERVICES OR CALL 76549032

Swazi
OBSERVER
ON SATURDAY



Suarez, Messi maintain Barcelona's La Liga lead

MADRID - Barcelona restored their lead at the top of La Liga to five points as Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi struck in the final 20 minutes to edge out 10-man Villarreal 2-0 on Sunday.

Daniel Raba's red card on the hour mark for a wild lunge on Sergio Busquets handed Barca the initiative.

And their pressure told when Suarez rounded off a fine team move before Messi blasted home a second to get the Catalans back to winning ways after successive draws with Valencia and Celta Vigo in La Liga.

Valencia remain Barca's closest challengers five points back, but Atletico Madrid also maintained their title charge with a 1-0 win at Real Betis to stay six points off the top.

Real Madrid are eight points back in fourth and Barca will have the chance to go into El Clasico away at Real in two weeks' time with an 11-point lead over their rivals.



Barca host Deportivo la Coruna next weekend, whilst Madrid are in action at the Club World Cup in Abu Dhabi.

Gerard Pique nearly gave Barca the perfect start at the Ceramic Stadium, where they have struggled in recent seasons, as his header came back off the crossbar from

Messi's corner just four minutes in.

However, Barca dominance of possession was largely stale before the break as Villarreal posed the greater threat on the counter-attack.

Nicola Sansone had the hosts' best effort that forced Marc-Andre ter Stegen into a stunning one-

handed stop high to his left.

Messi orchestrated the visitors' attacking threat after the break as he constantly freed Jordi Alba down Barca's left.

Paco Alcacer was denied by Sergio Asenjo from Alba's low cross before the left-back teed up Messi for a cushioned effort that drifted inches wide.

Villarreal had to survive the final half hour a man light when Raba was dismissed for connecting with his studs on Busquets' ankle as the Spanish international cleared.

Another Alba cross was turned onto the post by Suarez on the stretch.

However, the Uruguayan finally broke Villarreal's resistance after exchanging a neat one-two with Alcacer to round Asenjo and net his seventh goal of the season.

And Messi secured all three points seven minutes from time as he was played in by Busquets to smash past the helpless Asenjo.

AFP

India's Sharma coasts to victory at Joburg Open

JOBURG - Shubhankar Sharma produced a brilliant, nerveless performance in the final round to win his first European Tour title at the weather-delayed Joburg Open yesterday.

The Indian entered the final round with a five-shot lead but had seen that cut to four when play was halted due to storms at 1pm local time on Sunday with his ball on the eighth green.

The 21-year-old showed no ill-effects from the overnight delay, birdieing the ninth and then paring his way home for a 69 that moved him to 23-under and gave him a three-shot victory over South Africa's Erik van Rooyen.

A place at the Open Championship was on offer for the top three players in the field not already exempt and South African Shaun Norris joined Sharma and Van Rooyen in booking his place at Carnoustie Golf Links as he finished at 17-under alongside Finn Tapio Pulkkanen.

England's Marcus Armitage was then at 13-under, two shots clear of countryman James Morrison and Dane Joachim B Hansen.

Sharma has five wins on the Professional Golf Tour of India and can now add a European Tour victory to his CV in just his tenth event, having achieved eight top tens on the Asian Tour including the co-sanctioned UBS Hong Kong Open two weeks ago.

Van Rooyen had made birdies on the third, fourth, fifth and seventh, and was left with a tap-in on the ninth overnight, which he made to get to 19-under. *African News Agency*

Aussie media slam English as 'tourists masquerading as cricketers'

SYDNEY - England were dismissed as "tourists masquerading as cricketers" by Australia's media which turned the screw yesterday after Ben Duckett was fined for pouring beer over teammate Jimmy Anderson.

Duckett was slapped with a reported £1 500 (R27 000) fine and will play no further part in the remaining England Lions matches following the late-night bar prank in Perth on Thursday.

It plunged their already difficult tour into another crisis after wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow headbutted Australian Test opener Cameron Bancroft in a Perth bar during the tourists' first night in Australia.

That followed star all-rounder Ben Stokes being suspended from the Ashes campaign after an incident outside a Bristol nightclub in September that led to police investigations.

England have so far lost the opening two Tests and have their work cut out in the third this week at Perth's

WACA Ground, where they have not beaten Australia since 1978.

"These English Contiki tourists masquerading as cricketers are about to seal their places in Ashes infamy," Sydney Daily Telegraph said on its back page.

Contiki is a tour company that caters for younger travellers and has earned a reputation for attracting the booze-filled party crowd.

Whitewash

The Telegraph stuck the knife in further with a blazing headline "Perthetic", adding: "Tour degenerates into farce as rudderless Poms face whitewash."

The Sydney Morning Herald also jumped on the bandwagon, screaming "Teetering on the drink" on its back page in a story that said their Ashes campaign was "again in disarray".

"It is the third time in four months that England's preparations have been derailed by an alcohol-fuelled inci-

dent," it wrote.

Earlier in the tour, England cricket chief Andrew Strauss insisted there was no drinking culture in the team, but he still slapped a midnight curfew on the Ashes tour.

The Duckett incident happened on the first night that the curfew had been relaxed.

The Australian newspaper spared England some of the more strident criticism dished out by other media, and instead ran a story highlighting the drinking on England's 1986-87 tour to Australia.

AFP

Ronaldo unlucky to have played in Messi era - Rakitic

MADRID - Ivan Rakitic believes Lionel Messi is 'the best player in history' despite Cristiano Ronaldo tying the Barcelona star on five Ballon d'Or awards last week.

Ronaldo was unveiled as the 2017 Ballon d'Or winner ahead of Messi, clinching the award for a record-equalling fifth time at the glitzy ceremony in Paris.

Messi and Ronaldo are now tied on five Ballon d'Ors each, having shared the last 10 awards between them since 2008.

But despite Ronaldo's latest gong, Barcelona midfielder Rakitic believes the Real Madrid star is 'unlucky' to have played in the shadow of

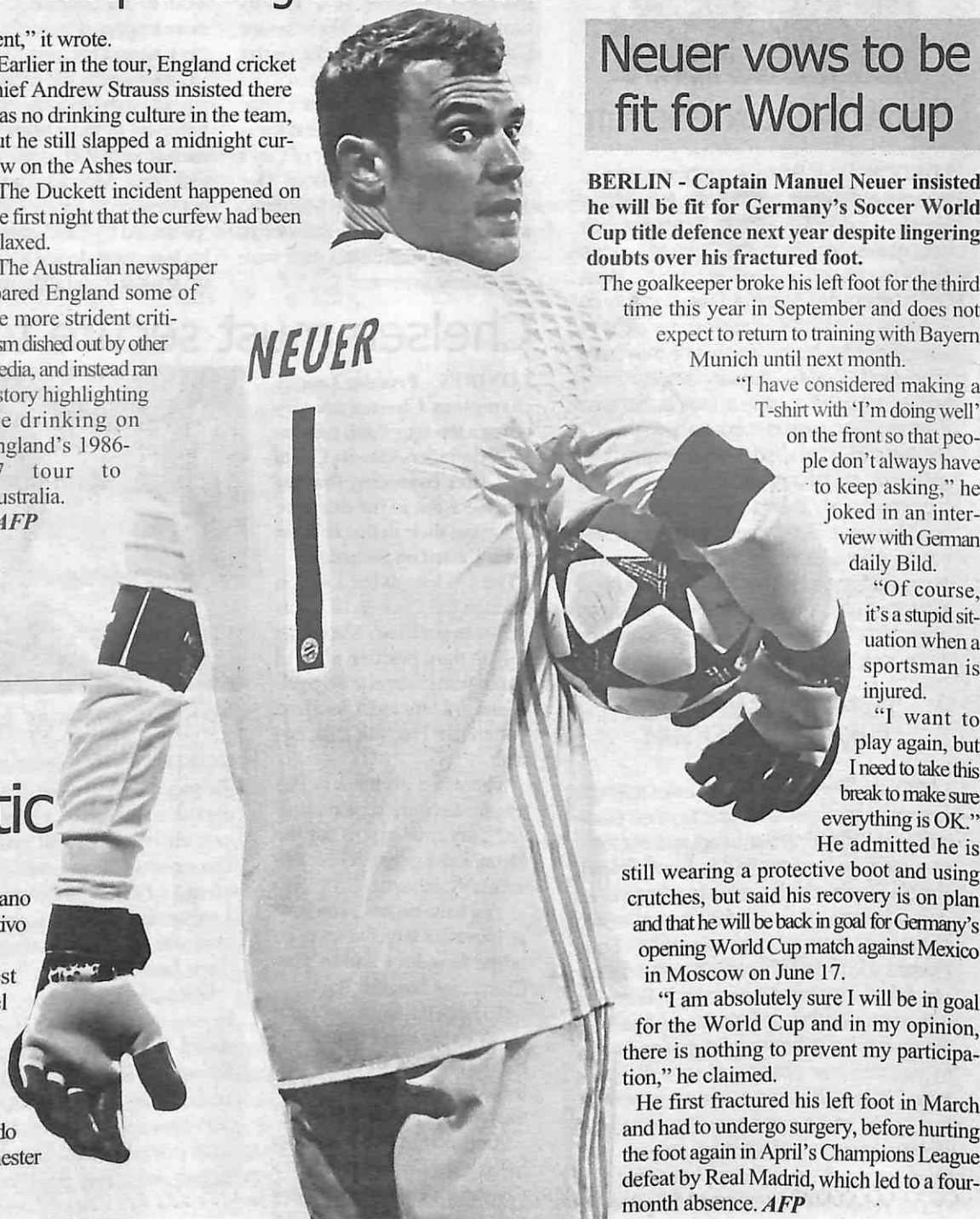
Messi.

"I have a lot of respect for Cristiano Ronaldo," Rakitic told Mundo Deportivo via FourFourTwo.

"But he has played with the best player in history, which is Lionel Messi. Those who come behind are unlucky enough to have coincided with him."

The pair have won every Ballon d'Or award since 2008, when Ronaldo first received the honour as a Manchester United player.

Daily Mail



Neuer vows to be fit for World cup

BERLIN - Captain Manuel Neuer insisted he will be fit for Germany's Soccer World Cup title defence next year despite lingering doubts over his fractured foot.

The goalkeeper broke his left foot for the third time this year in September and does not expect to return to training with Bayern Munich until next month.

"I have considered making a T-shirt with 'I'm doing well' on the front so that people don't always have to keep asking," he joked in an interview with German daily Bild.

"Of course, it's a stupid situation when a sportsman is injured."

"I want to play again, but I need to take this break to make sure everything is OK." He admitted he is

still wearing a protective boot and using crutches, but said his recovery is on plan and that he will be back in goal for Germany's opening World Cup match against Mexico in Moscow on June 17.

"I am absolutely sure I will be in goal for the World Cup and in my opinion, there is nothing to prevent my participation," he claimed.

He first fractured his left foot in March and had to undergo surgery, before hurting the foot again in April's Champions League defeat by Real Madrid, which led to a four-month absence. *AFP*



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



BRIEFS

ROONEY BELIEVES EVERTON DESERVED 'CLEAR PENALTY'

LONDON - Everton forward Wayne Rooney believes, to nobody's surprise, that they deserved the penalty awarded in Sunday's 1-1 draw with Liverpool at Anfield. The Toffees were trailing by a single goal from Mohamed Salah until Rooney's searching ball forward picked out Dominic Calvert-Lewin, who went down under a push from Reds defender Dejan Lovren. "It is a fantastic point for us," Rooney told Sky Sports. "Liverpool are a fantastic team with good individual players. We knew it would be difficult and we would need to be patient. We defended brilliantly. We had two or three moments on the break that we had to take and we did that. It is great to play the derby. It is great for the city and there are bragging rights. The Evertonians will be more pleased." I had to keep myself composed. Lovren kicked the ball away and that gave me time. It is always nice to score against Liverpool, no matter who you play for. "I knew where I was going. I practiced yesterday and thankfully I caught it right. It looked a clear penalty. He pushed him over and the ref has made the right decision." *Sport 24*



PARDEW WILL LOOK TO RECRUIT

LONDON - West Bromwich Albion will need to recruit some attacking players in the January transfer window if they cannot improve their poor goal-scoring form, the Premier League club's manager Alan Pardew has said. West Brom fell to a 1-0 defeat at Swansea City on Saturday to extend their winless streak to 14 league games, during which time they have scored just 12 goals. "January is not far away and we are going to have to look at that area if we can't increase our goal-scoring ratio," Pardew said. "I've used every offensive player I've got pretty much, and I still haven't found a moment... My teams have always managed to score. Sometimes you could question my defensive record, but my teams have always got goals." It's not great and we need to improve on it. We have a difficult Christmas programme but if we can get a couple of wins it may look different." *Reuters*

'TEAM EFFORT VITAL FOR BURNLEY MOMENTUM'

LONDON - Burnley have the team strength to overcome injuries and continue their excellent start to the Premier League campaign, according to their midfielder Scott Arfield. Robbie Brady picked up a serious knee injury during the defeat at Leicester City this month and is the sixth player to be sidelined for Sean Dyche's side ahead of a packed festive schedule. Arfield, 29, scored the winner in Burnley's 1-0 win over Watford on Saturday and believes the Clarets have the squad depth and talent to maintain their position at seventh in the table. "It was important to keep the momentum going and a good day for everybody. Obviously on a personal level, but also on a team level and we just want to keep things going," Arfield told the club's website. *Reuters*



MANCHESTER - Jose Mourinho was involved in a furious tunnel bust-up with Manchester City rival Ederson as the derby ended in chaos.

Reports claim Manchester United boss Mourinho had milk and water thrown on him in the wake of City's crushing 2-1 at Old Trafford.

Starsport understands Mourinho took exception to the manner in which Pep Guardiola's men were celebrating their win.

He walked to the City dressing room to ask their players to show more respect as music blared from the visiting changing room.

But a war of words ended up breaking out - with Mourinho and Ederson believed to have been yelling at each other in Portuguese as a melee took place. Mourinho walked away but went on to accuse City of being 'protected by luck' after claiming his team were denied a 'clear penalty' against their bitter rivals for the

second successive season at Old Trafford. Ander Herrera was booked for diving by referee Michael Oliver after a challenge by Nicolas Otamendi with 10 minutes remaining.

Mourinho was convinced it was a spot kick and claimed afterwards that City were benefiting from divine intervention. He said: "Manchester City are a very good team and they are protected by the luck, and the gods of football are behind them.

"My first reaction is I feel sorry

for referee Michael Oliver because he had a very good match but unfortunately he made an important mistake.

"It is like last season, exactly the same. You can speak about anything you want, you can bring any football theory, you can bring the stats, the ball possession, you can bring everything you want but, like last season, it is a huge penalty in a crucial moment of the game."

Daily Star

Chelsea must secure top-four finish

LONDON - Premier League champions Chelsea are targeting a top-four finish this season, Manager Antonio Conte said after conceding that his side were out of the title race following their defeat at West Ham United on Saturday.

The 1-0 loss at the London Stadium left Chelsea 14 points adrift of league leaders Manchester City in third position after 16 games, with Liverpool two points behind in fourth and Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur fifth and sixth.

"There is a problem in this league: there are six top teams and only four places for the Champions League," Conte told the club's website.

"You have targets... you have an important target to try to go in the first four and to play Champions League.

"To reach this target is not simple. It's very important for me, the players, for all of us. This league is not simple to reach the top four positions."

Manchester United and Chelsea failed to qualify for last season's Champions League and Arsenal now are in the Europa League



'Blues wary of Huddersfield ferocity'

LONDON - Huddersfield Town's ability to close down opposition players and smother their creativity will make champions Chelsea cautious ahead of today's Premier League clash at John Smith's stadium, the hosts' winger Tom Ince has said.

Third-placed Chelsea will be eager to bounce back from their 1-0 defeat by relegation-threatened West Ham United on Saturday but face a tough test against a Huddersfield side that have won four and drawn two of their eight home

after a fifth-placed league finish.

league games this season.

"I don't think Chelsea or anyone fancies coming here," Ince told reporters. "The way we get in people's faces, we stop people playing. We win our tackles, we win our battles, we make it difficult for teams.

"Chelsea have got talent in abundance. But we feel we can cause any team problems here. We beat Man United here - we deserved to beat Man United - and we ran Man City close."

Reuters

Reuters

Red-hot City eye historic win

MANCHESTER - Manchester City will have history in their sights when the Premier League title favourites face Swansea City tomorrow, while their rivals despair of ever catching the runaway leaders.

Pep Guardiola's side surged 11 points clear at the top thanks to a season-defining 2-1 win at second-placed Manchester United on Sunday.

Nicolas Otamendi's second-half strike clinched City's record-equalling 14th successive league victory, forcing United Manager Jose Mourinho to concede the title race is probably over.

City can hit a new high by beating Swansea at the Liberty Stadium to break the record they currently share with Arsenal for consecutive Premier League wins. But Guardiola won't let his side get carried away with 22 games still to play, especially with second-bottom Swansea fighting for their own survival.

"It means a lot in terms of the way we played for our confidence, but in three days we go to Swansea in the winter time. We are going to face a lot of difficulties," he said.

"In December it is impossible to be champions, but that gap is very good for us."

United will look to bounce back from their first home defeat in 41 matches when they host Bournemouth. If United can barely see City sprinting off into the distance, the view for champions Chelsea and the rest of the chasing pack is even more dispiriting. *AFP*

South African SOCCER

PSL MONTHLY HONOURS FOR KEKANA, MOLOI

JOHANNESBURG - Chippa United coach, Tebogo Moloi, and Hlompo Kekana, the Mamelodi Sundowns captain have been named as the Absa Premiership Coach and Player of the Month for November 2017.

The Soweto-born Moloi made his debut on the podium at the Premier Soccer League offices yesterday afternoon to receive his recognition prize in the Absa Premiership monthly recognition awards.

In reaching the decision to award the former Orlando Pirates player Moloi, the judges said they were impressed with how he turned Chippa United around without making a radical change in their style of play. He was particularly commended in the manner he has taken a team with high possession and added an offensive dimension.

During the block of fixtures played from 01 November to 30 November, Moloi's outfit picked up five points in the club's three games. Moloi guided his side to an impressive away win at champions Bidvest Wits followed by two draws with Free States Stars and Sundowns, only conceding once in those games last month.

Kekana, no stranger to the awards, won the individual player's award for the first time in the 2017/18 Absa Premiership season. He emerged the winner in the Player of the Month category



HONOURED: Hlompo Kekana and Tebogo Moloi.

as he was seen to have been the key man in stabilising a Sundowns side that has been going through some challenges since the start of the campaign.

Hlompo also continued to score crucial goals (two in November), while he also stood out for

his impressive defensive work rate, leadership qualities and fighting spirit.

The Players and Coach of the Month awards were selected by a panel of judges made up of members of the broadcast media and football analysts. **SUPERSPORT**

Celtic earn bragging rights in Free State derby

JOHANNESBURG - Bloemfontein Celtic eased to a 3-0 win over rivals Free State Stars in their Absa Premiership clash at the Dr Petrus Molemela Stadium on Sunday.

Only one team pitched on the day and it was the hosts,

who produced an utterly dominating performance from the first whistle.

Veselin Jelusic's side looked the fresher of the two teams after having six days' break from their previous encounter and with that, his players passed the ball with conviction,

showed incredible fluidity and took their chances with great precision.

Victor Letsoalo, an off-season signing for Celtic who scored seven goals last season for Baroka FC, opened his account for Siwelele with two composed finishes.

The first arrived on the half-hour mark after the forward played a neat one-two with Ndimiso Mabena on the edge of the area, which saw him clean through on goal to smash the ball with his left foot into the top corner of the net.

SPORT24

BRIEFS

THEMBA ZWANE'S AGENT COOLS KAIZER CHIEFS TALK

JOHANNESBURG - Themba Zwane's agent Jazzman Mahlagane says the only club they are talking to about the player's future is Mamelodi Sundowns, as he quashed rumours of discussions with Kaizer Chiefs. Zwane, whose contract with the 2016 CAF Champions League winners is set to expire at the end of the season, has been linked with Amakhosi who are looking to boost their attacking options. 'Mshishi' is free to sign a pre-contract with the club of his choice in January, but Mahlagane says his client is only talking to Sundowns. 'There's nothing like that [discussions with Chiefs]. The real story is that we are talking to Sundowns only, full stop,' Mahlagane tells KickOff.com. 'The people who are spreading those rumours must not try to make us busy with something that is not there.' **Kickoff**

SUNDOWNS HAVE THE LOOK OF CHAMPIONS

PRETORIA - In a season highlighted by an assortment of strange, bizarre and unpredictable events, smooth-sailing Mamelodi Sundowns, in contrast, already have the look of Absa Premiership champions about them. And it is not simply because The Brazilians forged their way to the top of the log table following Sunday's 1-0 victory over Golden Arrows that the league's most successful club since the inception of the Absa Premiership in 1996 appear a good bet to add to their record seven championship titles. A somewhat misleading log table shows Sundowns with 22 points heading second-placed Orlando Pirates by a mere two points and third-placed Kaizer Chiefs by three points. But with three games in hand over both the renowned, but currently wavering Soweto giants, Sundowns theoretically could increase these leads to double figures - and most likely beyond the reach of The Buccaneers and Amakhosi. **SPORT24**

TINKLER UNIMPRESSED WITH HIS PLAYERS AFTER CPT STALEMATE

JOHANNESBURG - SuperSport United's players bore the brunt of coach Eric Tinkler's wrath after they drew 1-1 with Cape Town City at Mbombela Stadium. Matsantsa needed a stoppage-time equaliser from big Nigerian defender Azubuike Ekwueke, who bagged his first goal for the club to cancel out Aubrey Ngoma's first-half strike. It was a lacklustre display from Tinkler's men and the former Bafana Bafana midfielder did not mince his words after the match as he lashed out at the players for "underperforming". "Not very good, those are my thoughts. We did not come [to the party]. We had one or two good chances in the first 10 minutes, but after that it was all Cape Town City. They looked like scoring in the first half, which is what they ended up doing," said the two-time CAF Confederation Cup finalist after the game. **Kickoff**

Komphela full of praise for Chiefs veterans



JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs head coach Steve Komphela was left pleased with the influence of Bernard Parker and Siphwe Tshabalala in the 1-0 win over Platinum Stars on Saturday.

Parker, 31, and the 33-year-old Tshabalala came off the bench to give Amakhosi an extra dimension in attack, which resulted in the latter netting a header of Siyabonga Zulu's cross in the 72nd minute.

It proved to be a relief for the Soweto giants as the goal against Dikwena was only their second goal in six league outings.

Komphela feels the experience of the attacking duo was key as every domestic rival up their performance levels when they face the men from Naturena. "I thought the energy brought on by [Bernard] Parker and

Shabba [Siphwe Tshabalala] was clear," he said after the game.

"Everyone should learn that when you're at Chiefs, everyone [the opposition] brings their own A-plus game.

"Before I was coaching Chiefs and when I was coaching elsewhere, even as a player when we were facing Chiefs, I was high on concentration levels.

"If you face an enemy that is well prepared, you're going to suffer. So sometimes we tend not to realise that we're at Chiefs, challenges are immense.

"You need to rise above and deal with it, I think that's what we are missing. But we will get there."

The victory moved Chiefs into third place, a single point behind leaders Orlando Pirates.

SPORT24

Pitso confident Billiat will renew contract

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns head coach Pitso Mosimane is hopeful of keeping his best players at the club, including Khama Billiat.

The 2016 African champions have a host of players whose contracts come to an end in June next year, including Billiat, Themba Zwane, Tiyani Mabunda, Tebogo Langerman, Siyanda Zwane, Leonardo Castro and Kennedy Mweene. But Mosimane

believes that unless an overseas move materialises for any of these players, they are likely to renew their contracts with the Tshwane giants. "Mabunda will sign. Zwane will sign," Mosimane told IOL website. "Kennedy has signed. Langerman will sign. When I say they will sign, I mean they will sign. Siyanda Zwane has signed. "Do they want to play the kind of football they are playing at Sundowns? Is it the question of money here at

Sundowns? So, where are you going? "If Themba Zwane goes, where is he going? If you are going overseas, it is okay." Speaking specifically on Zimbabwean international Billiat, Mosimane was more hopeful than certain that the star striker will extend his relationship with the club. "I think Khama will renew in my belief, because he knows that we need him and he knows that we love him. He knows that if he is not going to get that biggest contract somewhere else, he must stay here. **SPORT24**

REAL V PSG, BARCA V CHELSEA IN CL LAST 16

LONDON - Cristiano Ronaldo's Real Madrid will continue their bid for a first European Cup treble in 40 years against Neymar's Paris Saint-Germain after the big-spending duo were yesterday drawn together in a mouth-watering Champions League last 16 clash.

No club has won the European title three years running since Bayern Munich in the mid-1970s, underlining how big an achievement it would be if Madrid -- 12 times winners overall -- won the trophy again in the final in Kiev in May.

They know exactly what it takes to be European champions, and in Ronaldo have the most prolific goalscorer in the competition's history.

Emilio Butragueno, a Real director and former striker, regretted that one of the favourites would be eliminated so soon in the competition. "For the potential of



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE					
JUVENTUS	V	TOTTENHAM			
BASEL	V	MAN. CITY			
PORTO	V	LIVERPOOL			
SEVILLA	V	MAN. UNITED			
REAL MADRID	V	PARIS			
SHAKHTAR DONETSK	V	ROMA			
CHELSEA	V	BARCELONA			
BAYERN	V	BESIKTAS			

the two teams, luck has worked out this way and one of the two teams will be out at the last 16 stage, which we think is a bit soon taking into account they are two of the contenders for the title," Butragueno told BeIN Sports Spain.

PSG made waves in the transfer market in the close season when they signed Brazilian

star Neymar for a world-record 222 million euros (\$261.5 million), followed closely by great French hope Kylian Mbappe, who will cost 180m euros when his loan deal becomes permanent next summer. "Every summer they have signed great players, they

get stronger all the time and they have had a nearly impeccable group stage," acknowledged Butragueno.

"With Neymar and Mbappe they have improved a lot up front, they are a very dangerous team who will demand the best of us. We need to face both games like finals and for the fans it will be a thrilling tie.

"Mbappe and Neymar are very dangerous. We need to play at our best, but we can't forget this team has won the Champions League twice, we hope to have

all the injured players back and the key is who has the luck over two games."

'BIG TIE OF THE ROUND'

Butragueno added: "Of course it is the big tie of the round.

Chelsea-Barca is important too, but I think for the players that will be on show, it is the most attractive of all the ties." AFP



Lessons to be learned - Rodgers

LONDON - Celtic Manager Brendan Rodgers says his side must learn from their mistakes after letting a two-goal lead slip in a 2-2 draw with Hibernian at Easter Road.

The Hoops appeared to be cruising to victory on Sunday after Scott Sinclair's quick-fire second-half double had them 2-0 ahead with 15 minutes remaining.

However, former Celtic player Efe Ambrose's deflected shot gave Hibs hope in the 76th minute before Oli Shaw sent the home fans wild with an equaliser three minutes later.

And Rodgers, while pleased with his side's performance just four days after their Champions League exertions against Anderlecht - said the Hoops should have won the game from such a commanding position. "I thought we were outstanding in the game for the first 75 minutes and controlled the game," the Celtic boss said.

"We were 2-0 up and it should have been four or five with the chances we had, but then we presented them with two goals.

"It was nothing really that Hibs done in the game, it was more that we stopped playing, passing, and went a bit longer on it.

AFP



Wanyama thanks his Kenyan supporters

LONDON - Tottenham star Victor Wanyama has been given some fresh inspiration as he eyes a return from injury.

Fans in his home nation of Kenya took to the streets in order to wish their national captain a speedy recovery.

The midfielder has not played for his club since injuring his knee in the second game of the season but has since returned to outdoor training.

The 26-year-old posted pictures on his Instagram of the Kenyan Tottenham Supporters' Club on their the bizarre 'peaceful march'.

The group held up 'Get Well Soon' banners and donned t-shirts emblazoned with Wanyama's face as they followed a black car through the streets of Machakos, a small town near Nairobi.

Others wore the Tottenham colours with 'Team #BigVic' on the back.

Wanyama thanked the group of fans for their support, writing: "Thanks for the support Tottenham fan club in Kenya, I promise to come back better and stronger very soon."

The midfielder has been missing for the majority of Tottenham's campaign this season after failing to shake off a knee injury first sustained in pre-season.

He has now returned to individual training as he eyes a return in the new year.

Daily Mail

Arsenal draw Ostersund in Europa League last 32

NYON - Arsenal will face Swedish minnows Ostersund whilst Celtic drew Russians Zenit St Petersburg in the draw for the Europa League last 32 yesterday.

The Gunners will need to get past a Swedish side coached by Englishman Graham Potter, a former journeyman footballer now 42 and who led Ostersund to the Swedish Cup last season.

Potter, the only English manager in European competition, has taken the side from the Swedish fourth division to the top flight in six seasons and will now lead them out at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium in a dream match-up for the Swedes.

Back to the grim realities, Brendan Rodgers' Celtic face the 2008 UEFA

Cup champions in the form of Roberto Mancini's ambitious Zenit, third in Russia last term and third in the standings now.

Of the eight clubs to join the draw having placed third in their Champions League groups, Italian high flyers Napoli drew RB Leipzig of Germany in what appears to be the toughest draw of the round.

But also on the menu are former Eastern giants Red Star Belgrade and CSKA Moscow, the once mighty AC Milan are pitted against Ludogorets of Bulgaria and Lazio against Steaua Bucharest. First-leg will be played on February 15 with the second-leg February 22. The seeded teams, listed second here, are at home in the second leg.

EUROPA LEAGUE LAST 32 DRAW:

Borussia Dortmund	vs	Atalanta
Nice	vs	Lokomotiv Moscow
København	vs	Atletico Madrid
Spartak Moscow	vs	Athletic Bilbao
AEK Athens	vs	Dynamo Kiev
Celtic	vs	Zenit St Petersburg
Napoli	vs	RB Leipzig
Crvena zvezda	vs	CSKA Moskva
Lyon	vs	Villarreal
Real Sociedad	vs	Salzburg
Partizan	vs	Plzen
FCSB	vs	Lazio
Ludogorets	vs	Milan
Astana	vs	Sporting CP
Ostersund	vs	Arsenal
Marseille	vs	Braga

AFP

Arteta covers face after being struck by bottle 'thrown by Romelu Lukaku'

MANCHESTER - Mikel Arteta was today pictured covering his cut face after being left with blood streaming from a cut suffered in the Manchester derby tunnel brawl.

Manchester City's coach suffered a cut head on Sunday after having a bottle thrown at him by a Manchester United player, believed to be Romelu Lukaku. Arteta was back at the Manchester City training ground yesterday morning with the rest of Pep Guardiola's players, including

goalkeeper Ederson who was at the centre of a row with United boss Jose Mourinho that sparked a 20-man bust-up. Arteta was sitting in the driver's seat of a Chevrolet alongside fellow coach Lorenzo Buenaventura, with the Spaniard clearly determined to cover his face. He lifted a hand above his eyes where the bottle struck him after the bad blood between the fierce rivals became real.

Daily Mail



Weekend Sports Results

Compiled By Sibongiseni Zondi

SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup round of 32 results

Buffaloes	2	Boyane	1
Malani	1	H. Tycoons	3
Vovovo	4	Mahlalini	1
Green Mamba	1	Sea Birds	0
Bad Boys	0	Royal Leopard	2
Hub Sundowns	0	Manzini Sundowns	2
Billy Ocean	2	Madlenya	3
Milling Hotspurs	1	Matsapha United	1
(Milling won 3-2 on penalties)			
Tinyosi	2	Midas City	0
Young Movers	0	Mbabane Citizens	5
Amalanda	2	Tambuti	2
(Tambuti won 3-2 on penalties)			
Tabankulu Callies	0	Red Lions	0
(Red Lions won 3-2 on penalties)			
Rail United	1	Moneni Pirates	2
Highlanders	5	City Warriors	0
Wanderers	2	Sikhalo se-Africa	1
Swallows	2	Stumbo XI	0

Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League

Southern Zone			
Swazi Sun	8	Vusweni Killers 2	
PMT	1	Imbumbi	1
Sibuyini	1	Sibuyeni	2
Emajukukulu	1	Kupheleni	0
Northern Zone			
Mvuma	0	Black Swallow	2
Khanjane Rovers	2	Ndeva Galaxy	0
Kappa Kappa	1	Manchester	2
N Swallows	0	19 Celtics	0
M Arsenal	1	Horo Spinners	1
Vultures	3	Phachanga	0

Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League

Promotion			
White City	0	Vall Stars	0
M Celtics	1	Real Tec	0
InterStars	5	Gordon Stars	1
Sidwashini United	2	Double Action	0
M Arsenal	0	Pot O Gold	0
SuperSport	1	Pine Valley	0
Sandia	1	Coporation	2
Veni	1	Amaweile	3
B. Division			
Classic	8	Wailers	0
Mbabane	2	Thembelile	2
Lusoli	1	Junction Stars	0
Mpolonjeni	5	Movers	0
Free Style	1	Magwaneni	1
Mphalati	5	Matsholo UTD	1
Royal Dynamos	2	National rangers 3	

Bakhanyisele Mabulala & MP Menzi Dlamini Maphalaleni League

Eastern			
Lubuyane	1	Early Sunset	6
Top Classic	0	Love & Peace	2
Sunrise	0	Happy Fighters 2	
Happy Tigers	1	L Highlanders	3
Jubukweni	1	M Birds	1
Academy	1	Rollers	2
Hill Stars	0	Siphambanweni 0	
Western			
Manchester	3	Khulangwane	1
Hotspurs	3	Umkhokha	2
Y Lovers	1	Thuluzobona	1
Young Stars	1	Luvunjelo	0
Junior Stars	8	Liselesele	0
Professionals	2	Rangers	0
Pots Construction Sigangeni League			
Sigangeni	1	Chiefs	0
Nisatse	2	Kangaroo	0
Real United	1	L Nationals	2
Man Unlimited	0	Total XI	1
Real Touch	1	Young Heroes	5
Futis Nkhaba League			
Nkoyoyo	0	Bafana	0
Bacerlona	0	Shooting	2
Majotini	6	D Stars	0
M Celtics	3	B United	2
Super Stars	3	Real Rovers	1
Manyisa	3	Crocodiles	0
Sikhumbuto Timpisini League			
Young Bombers	2	Njakeni United	3
Juventus	0	Young Sevilla	0
Mbasherini Swallows	3	Kundwaleni	1
Soccer Rose	0	Msahweni	1
Besutwini	0	Golden Arrows	0

Super Strikers	3	Young Tigers	0
Njakeni City	2	AK 47	1
Matsamo	2	N Choppers	0
Stone Breakers	4	Blue Birds	2
Gunner's	2	Mv Sundown's	1
Young Stars	2	Sikheleni	2
MB Young Swallows	4	All Stars	0
JB Arsenal	2	Mv All United 4	
Combustion	1	Elegance	1
Red Lions	4	Zamalek	2

South Star Mzimba League

Promotion			
Bush Bucks	2	Rhinos	1
Monaco	3	Top Centre	1
Rebels	1	Timbungulu	1
Chiefs	0	Swallows	2
Black Mashuba	2	Amacabane	2
Barcelona	0	Green Sea	0
Rhumba Stars	2	Kasiko	2
Sundown's	2	Arsenal	1
Cosmos	3	Rangers	1

Sharks Mhlangatane League

Eastern stream			
Manjanganeni	5	H Defenders 3	
Rovers	8	Mighty Bombers 1	
Swallows	4	Real Aces	1
Makhweya	0	New Castle	0
XI Men	3	Liverpool	4
Tigers	3	Tigorini Wizards 1	
Western			
Silver City	0	Chelsea	2
Democracy	1	Movers	2
Thuluzobona	0	Zinyane	1
Arsenal	1	Werna	0
Aces	0	Manchester	6
City Stars	4	Fighters	0
Lonhlalane	1	Celtics	1

Shebes Ntabanezimpi League

Fontotje United	0	Golden Arrows	1
Seven Stars	3	Manchester	0
Hungry Lions	1	M Sundowns	0
Special Killers	2	Buhleni Aces	1
M Arsenal	7	City Stars	1
Skom Boyz	3	City Cosmos	0
Sigodlo	3	Super Stars	2
Russian Bombers	4	Y Professionals 2	

Sompisi Ntongeni League

Ntintinyane	2	Liverpool	2
Chelsea	2	Nkonjaneni	1
Seven Up	0	Trounge	5
H Pirates	0	Zibonele	1
Foster United	0	Express	1
FC Casino	0	Barcelona	4
Sun City	3	Tennegers	0

Bhulane Resort Ndzingeni League

East			
Young Stars	1	Winners Park	2
Young Chiefs	1	Sweet Banana	2
Rebels	1	Liverpool	1
West			
Super Aces	1	M Celtics	11
Tsunami	1	Mphondla	2
Valcona	2	Academy	4
Gebhulus	2	KK Ajax	3
Happiness	2	Red Sea	3
Blue Birds	3	Lozaza	0

Buy Cash Pigg's Peak League

Supersport	3	Maguga	1
Mhlalane	1	Thuluzobona	0
Phophonyane	2	Hotspurs	0
Rise & Shine	9	Mangwaneni	2
Mpolonjeni	3	Bush Bucks	0
Darkies	1	W Killers	0

Sigcaweni E50 000 Football League

Y.Bombers	1	Tec-Spurs	1
Lubhuku	2	Classic	4
T.K Zee	4	Y.Aces	0
P.Heroes	3	D.XI	1
P.G Rangers	0	K. Warriors	0
Emashekeshe	0	Thuluzobona	3
Mdumezulu	0	XI Experience	1
K.Wizard	1	Y.Lovers	0
E.Choppers	0	Sisonkhe	1

Malindza Zonal Football League

Promising stars	5	Gabi Gabi	0
Dvokodweni	2	Umsheshi	1
Bhelebane	2	Home Sweepers	1
Mshana Stone B	2	Seven Stars	1
Siweni United	1	Malindza Utd	0

Zamelek	1	Black Mamba	1
Juventus	1	Young Aces	1

Manzini Regional Football Association**FA Rainbow Stationery Manzini Super League**

Mhlaleni United	0	Nsuka United	1
Manzini Promotion League			
Kholwane Flying Birds	2	FC North	1
African Chiefs	1	The Bones	4
SibonisoSelwandle	4	Home Sparrows	1
New Generations	0	Combine Stars	1
Two sticks Comrades	2	Superstars	2
Young Tigers	2	Lwandle Classic	1
Big XI	2	Wonderful Touch	3
Villa Stars	3	Fairview Chiefs	0

Manzini First Division League

Mvulane United	2	God's Property	1
Hot Beans	0	Chaos LTD	0
Green Way	3	City Eagles	1

OK Foods Kwaluseni Promotion League

Swazi Wire	1	Fashion International	0
Kwaluseni United	3	Mhlane United	2
Nhlambeni Real Heroes	1	Nsenga Comrades	4
Royal Swallows	1	Zombodze United	1
Sacrament	2	Ntunja Arsenal	0
Zama United	2	FC Logoba	0
GowweniTrompies	3	SihhohweniAmajita	3
Real Professionals	2	Dark City	1
Fashion International	2	FC Logoba	2
Royal Swallows	2	Sacrament	2
Nhlambeni Real H	0	Zombodze United	6

OK Foods Kwaluseni First Division League

Ludizidi	1	Ludzeludze Celtics	1
Lozitha Spurs	1	Gum valley	0
Ngonini United	3	MhlaleniSuperstars	0
Manila Stars	2	Nkamazi AK47	5
Supersport	3	NsengaShagari XI	1
Ludizidi	0	Lozitha Spurs	1
Shali United	0	Ludzeludze Kicks	1
Umtfuti	3	Mahashulane	0

S&S Malkerns Promotion League

Power Sparks	0	Ngodini	1
Dynamite Hotspurs	2	Makhungutsha	5
NdindaVolcanoe	1	Swazi Can United	1
Troublemakers	0	Phondo	2
Vickery Nomads	2	Current Toasters	2

Malkerns First Division League

FC Navara	0	United Brothers	1
Thunderbolt	1	Nlondzi	3
Red Swallows	2	Vuka Aces	5
Mdonjane Arsenal	2	Golden Arrows	3
Usuthu Rangers	1	Skom Boys	1

Kukhanyeni Inkhundla Promotion League

Nyakeni Cosmos	0	Nyakeni United	2
Dortmund	1	Nyakeni Heroes	2
NyakeniTrompies	3	Estate Classic	1
Lion Heart	1	Louis XIV	2
Bhekinkhosi	1	Submarine	1
Ngwazini	2	Mdayane	1
Brave Lion	1	Young Killers	0
Kukhanyeni	3	Mphola Celtics	0

Corban Hardware Mafutseni Promotion League

Nkonga Pirates	3	Classic XI	0
Bhudla Celtics	1	Timbutini	3
Supersport	3	Timbutini Combine S	0
Sicamelosa-Chief	1	Madubula Rovers	3
All Stars	0	Khamatfo	3
Dynamos	1	Vultures	1
Mafutseni United	2	Ma-G-Man	1
Mkhuzweni United	4	Young Killers	1

Mkhiweni Promotion League

Luvu Stars	1	All Nations	1
Thuluzobona	5	Manchester United	1
LuvuSuncity	3	Sangcofto	1
Liverpool	2	Home Defenders	0
Step Ahead	0	Ngonini Young Aces	2
White Killers	0	Executive	1
Zama United	1	Colani United	2
Moyeni	2	Mbasherini Brothers	3
All Stars	1	Maritshonga	0
Luvu Classic	3	All Stars	2
Ngonini Young Aces	0	Thuluzobona	0
Toronto	1	Bantu City	0
Manchester	1	Luvu Stars	3
All Nations	0	Colani United	1
Sangcofto	0	Liverpool	1

Nsingweni Promotion League

Red Lion	2	Taliban	2
Young Madrid	1	Bhudweni	0

AC Milan	1	All Stars	4
Nsuka Fighters	3	Malsantsantsa	1
MoengeniSundowns	2	Black Aces	1

Ka-Phunga Promotion League

Hotspurs	1	Volcanoes	2
Dynamos	1	Dumsani Swallows	4
Fighters	2	Youngstars	2
Young Movers	0	Celtics	0
Cyclone	4	Mpumalanga	0
Arsenal	7	Royal Santos	2
Amakhosi	3	Zamalek	1
Shepherd	2	Rangers	2

MP Jele Usuthu Promotion League

Commandos	1	Black Aces	2
Africa 2010	0	Commandos	3
Mhlambanyatsi Rovers	5	Luhleko Classic	1
Black Aces	2	Zondwako Killers	1
Peacemakers	2	Komadi superstars	1
Black Rhinos	0	Luhleko Revengers	1
Zamalek	1	Javas	3
Internationals	3	NgongodiaYoungstars	1

MP Mankayane Zonal League

Total	1	Pro-Touch	0
Boca Juniors	0	SiyendleYoungstars	2
Ngoseni Bulls	1	Brazilians	1

Swazi Trac Lubombo Super League

Illovo	0	Mkhweli United	0
Liverpool	1	Malaheni United	1
CK Survivors	2	Dangerous Darkies	1
CPL	3	Hot Chillies	0
Juventus	0	Kukhanyeni United	2
Mkhweli United	0	Illovo	0
Magwanyane	3	Professionals	2
Flyers	2	Manyovu	0
Illovo	2	Kukhanyeni	0

RSSC Siyakhla 1800 Northern Zone

North West			
Tongaat	1	Mhlume Highlanders	1
Peacemakers	4	Revelations	1
Equator	1	Tsambokhulu Rovers	1
Young Killers	1	Eastern Pirates	2
Skyline	1	Born gain	2
Celtics	3	Tabankulu FC	1
Professionals	2	Brave Lions	1
North East			
Arsenal	4	Cosmos	0
Juventus	1	Bacambi	0
XI Stars	1	Free at Last	2
Zamalek	2	Rhinos	0
Summerise	0	Zwelabantu	3

SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2017/18



NKOMISHI DRAMA



WHAT?: Mbabane Swallows reserve goalkeeper Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza being cautioned by referee.



JUST GO BACK: Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati also warned Ginindza.



WHY?: 'Nkomishi' Ginindza protesting from the bench.



CAPTAIN VS CAPTAIN: Stumbo's XI FC's Sifiso Sibandze challenging Mbabane Swallows' Tony 'TT' Tsabedze during the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup grand opening on Sunday. Swallows won 2-0.



MY BALL: Mbabane Highlanders' Michael Msonda controls the ball while City Warriors' Mancoba Groening tries to mark him. Highlanders won 5-0.



I CAN FLY: Kola Aledeon jumping for a high ball while Sifiso Shabangu moves closer.



PUSHING: Stumbo's Mphushana Manyatsi attempts to go past Swallows' Joseph Ndaba.



50/50: City Warriors Mavela Nsimbini while Highlanders' Mfanufikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze closes in.



ASAMBE: Manzini Wanderers' Junior Simelane winning the ball from Sikhalo se-Africa's Simphiwe Dlamini. **DLALA WESELI:** Wanderers defender Mthobisi Mazibuko dancing up a storm after the game. Wanderers won 2-1.



STOP FIGHTING: Police officers having a tough time in separating soccer fans who were fighting. A gun shot was fired and two soccer fans were arrested. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

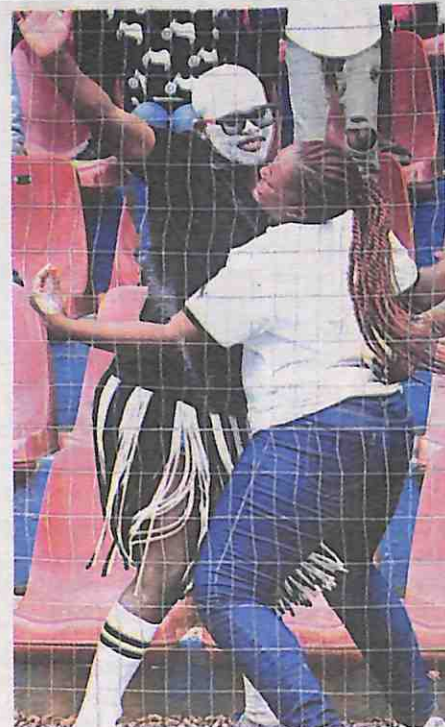
SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2017/18



GWAZA NKUNZI: Mbabane Highlanders supporters blowing their vuvuzelas. This was during SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup grand opening at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



OVER THE MOON: Other 'Landers followers celebrating a goal.



MNIKE MNIKE: Highlanders supporters celebrating one of their five goals in style.



YES: The Black Bull' followers on cloud nine after Mfanufikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze scored their opening goal against City Warriors.



MAHHALA HHAI: Manzini Wanderers supporters celebrating their 2-1 victory against Sikhalo se-Africa.



IN DANCE: A Highlanders fan in a jovial mood.

BLOW BY BLOW MOMENTS



RESTORING ORDER: An OSSU officer in pursuit of one of the soccer fans who were involved in the skirmish.



UNDER ARREST: One of the two soccer fans who were involved in a fight being arrested by police officers outside Somhlolo National Stadium.



ANGRY FANS: Soccer fans showing their displeasure in front of the police.



GO INSIDE: A soccer fan being pushed into a police van.



FLEEING: One of the arrested fans in full sprint.



SWALLOWS FOR LIFE: Ngeti Dlamini with Mbabane Swallows Matshapha branch supporters Secretary Fikile Fakudze.



● Manchester United defender Luke Shaw wants a £5m pay-off to leave the club in January. Newcastle were interested in the 22-year-old but did not want to pay the £20m fee United were asking for. (Sun)



● United have also held talks with midfielder Marouane Fellaini in an attempt to get the 30-year-old to sign a new contract. Fellaini's current deal expires in the summer. (Sun)

● Gareth Bale has agreed terms with Real Madrid to leave the club next summer, with Manchester United and Tottenham keen to sign the 28-year-old attacker. (Diario Gol - in Spanish)

● Arsenal Manager Arsene Wenger has said that striker Olivier Giroud, 31, will stay at the club and start in more games. Giroud had been looking for a loan move away from the club. (Daily Mirror)



● West Ham Manager David Moyes has told Joe Hart that the club's Premier League survival is more important than the 30-year-old goalkeeper's international ambitions. (Daily Mirror)

● Burnley have enquired about the availability of QPR defender and club captain Nedum Onuoha. The 31-year-old is out of contract in the summer. (Daily Mail)

● Juventus are considering a bid for Arsenal defender Hector Bellerin, 22. (Sun via Tuttosport)

● Manchester United midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan wants to sit down with Manager Jose Mourinho and discuss his future with the club. The 28-year-old has not started a game for the club since early November. (Daily Star)



● Arsenal are the favourites to sign Manchester United goalkeeper Sergio Romero, 30. (Daily Star)

● Serie A club Torino want to sign Stoke midfielder Giannelli Imbula. The 25-year-old is currently on loan at Toulouse. (Stoke Sentinel)

● Swansea midfielder Ki Sung-yueng has put contract talks with the club on hold to focus on improving the club's form. The 28-year-old's contract expires at the end of the season. (Sky Sports)



● Aston Villa want to sign Manchester United goalkeeper Sam Johnstone on a permanent deal. The 24-year-old is on a season-long loan at the Championship club. (Daily Express)

THE PUNCH POW!

...with Mphikeleli Msibi [STRIKING, STRAIGHT AND STRENGTHENED]

HAT-TRICK INGWENYAMA CUP STARTS ON A HIGH

THE third edition of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup's last 32 got off to a good start.

After three days of exhilaration action 16, teams have bitten the dust and 16 are through to the next stage of the lucrative tournament.

We have witnessed upsets and the country's big three teams had a perfect start.

Action started last Friday where we saw two double headers at Somhlolo National Stadium and Mavuso Sports Centre. Malanti Chiefs were knocked out by Hlatikulu Tycoons in what was the first major upset of the tournament. Vovovo, Green Mamba and Young Buffaloes won their games.

The beautiful game continued to be a feast for the passionate football loving people, especially those from Nhlanguano and Big Bend, who were treated to top shelf football which is something they do not usually get to see despite having two facilities in the King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium and Mayaluka Stadium. The Saturday games saw Matsapha United and Midas City getting the boot as they failed to make it to the last 16. The grand opening games did not produce any



upsets.

The difference between the Premier League and regional teams was evident as the minnows eventually lost against the heavy weights despite displaying promising performances against the so called 'big guns'.

The defending champions, Mbabane Swallows, started their defence campaign on a low note, beating Stumbo XI 2-0 in a somehow tough encounter at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Failed

Swallows failed to play their normal game, and had to dig deep into the reserve of courage to finally break the deadlock in the second half. One must say that Stumbo XI

displayed a spirited performance.

Another capital city giant Mbabane Highlanders went on a rampage, beating another NFD side City Warriors with a 5-0 drubbing.

We also saw hub giants Manzini Wanderers narrowly beat Sikhalo se-Africa 2-1 in another tough match. Sikhalo se-Africa also displayed a great performance but only to concede a penalty that killed their spirit after scoring first in the first half. Teams that won with a big margin are Mbabane Highlanders, who beat City Warriors 5-0 and Mbabane Citizen, who also scored five goals past Young Movers.

Other PLS clubs which won their

last 32 matches unconvincingly include Young Buffaloes, who beat Boyane 2-1 with Green Mamba and Moneni Pirates narrowly beating Sea Birds and Rail United 1-0 and 2-1, respectively. It was encouraging to see regional teams displaying a gallant performance before bowing out of the competition with dignity. I would also commend the throngs of fans, who came out to watch the games throughout the weekend. They were well behaved and we hope the spirit of fair play will prevail until the end of the tournament. However, one needs to condemn the late drama at Somhlolo National Stadium where two fans were arrested.

This is not what we want to see during games and should come to a stop. This is not good for the sport and the sponsor and also that people's lives are always at risk when such happens.

We are now looking forward to an exciting last 16 draw where we are anticipating some intriguing ties matches as the race for the E1.2 millions first prize money continues. The draw is this morning at MVA offices in Mbabane. Buckle up, its game on.

Matsapha needs to go back to the drawing board

WHAT is really happening at the 'Deep Blue Ocean'? Seriously something is not right and needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

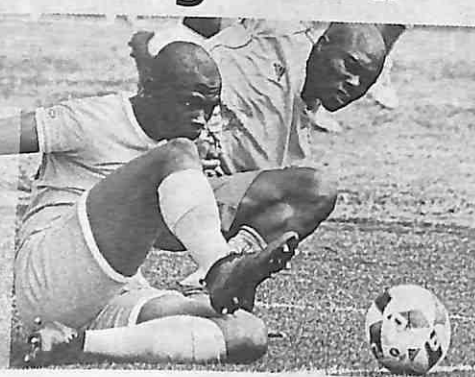
Honestly, Matsapha United are no longer the same team, or should I say what one expects them to be.

Results have not been forthcoming for the MTN Premier League rookies. They are just not the same team and this has been witnessed by the early exit in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup at the hands of National First Division side Milling Hotspurs in the round of 32 over the past weekend. One would have expected them to do better in this tournament.

But again maybe the early exit will give the team an opportunity to re-strategise and formulate ideas that will take them forward.

The club has been showing cracks off late as we have seen head coach Saul Chaminuka going on strike after he spent three weeks at his native coun-

FIGHT ON:
Vusumuzi Zungu and Fanose Ncongwane fighting for the ball.



try, Zimbabwe as he was said to be demanding a new contract from the club.

The syndrome did not end there as the team also recently fired their assistant coach Zwelibandzi 'Botsotso' Khoza for unknown reasons. They also sacked Musa Sikhondze while suspending Papi Sikhondze. All this happened in less than two weeks.

This goes to show that all is not well at the promising brand that was expected by many to take local football by storm. They secured a silver medal during last season's Swazi Bank Cup and further gained pro-

motion to the Premier League. These were signs that the team is here to stay, but I am starting to have doubts. Personally, I was happy when the team gained a promotion to the elite league because it meant more organised teams in the Premier League. I also liked the razzmatazz they were bringing. The 'Deep blue Ocean' seems to be losing its spark and we hope the board of directors comprising of Siphoshe Shongwe and Victor Malambe will sit down and look at ways to take the team forward because right now it looks like they have hit the iceberg.

Is the Sea Robbers ship sinking?

ONE would have expected the return of Managing Director December Mavimbela at Moneni Pirates to bring stability in the team.

Mavimbela has returned to the Sea Robbers, something that could be viewed as a positive step for the team. However, this is not the case following the massive official exodus in the team. This exodus started last Friday when Chief Executive Officer Thami Dlamini relinquished his position after four seasons and then the unceremonious walking out of team Manager Brian Magagula. Even though Dlamini's intention of resignation is still not clear, this tells me that egoism seems to be ruling Moneni Pirates administration. It is time for Mavimbela and the elders to call a reconciliation meeting where the officials can iron out their differences for the betterment of the team. It looks like the officials are in for self gains at the expense of the team and it is totally bad for one of the respected brands in the country. The infightings can have a negative effect on the team which is currently not safe from relegation in the league. Having a meeting would bring harmony in the team because losing top officials such as Thami and Brian can only be a huge blow for the team. Mr Mavimbela; kindly take a firm stand as a leader and save the team as soon as possible because it cannot survive under the hands of two officials but instead needs collective effort from all those associated with the 'Buccaneers'. Every football supporter would not love to see Moneni Pirates go down to the second tier division like it happened during the end of the 2015/16 season. I hope sanity will prevail at the end of the day.

PIRATES MANAGER WALKS OUT!

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCKER – THE ongoing leadership transition at Moneni Pirates seems to be yielding officials exodus in the team.

This comes after team Manager Brian Magagula walked out of the Sea Robbers hardly a month after assuming the position.

His exit comes after the resignation of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Thami Dlamini, who stepped down last Friday.

Of note is that Magagula was missing during the 'Buccaneers' Ingwenyama Cup round of 32 match against Rail United at the Mayaluka Stadium on Saturday.

Sources within the 'Buccaneers' camp said Magagula was last spotted with the team early last week.

"We don't know what is happening but the manager stopped coming to training before the

Ingwenyama Cup match. No one is sure of what might have forced Magagula to leave the team unceremoniously," the source said.

Magagula rejoined the team early last month after replacing Twoman Masuku, who stepped down from the managerial position.

Pirates Interim Chairman Mbuso Maseko said he was yet to get updates from the outgoing Chairman Osborne Nzima when quizzed about the matter yesterday.

"I cannot say much on the matter until we conclude the proper transition exercise with Nzima. I will be in a better position to comment on issues concerning the Management Committee after this meeting," he said.

Pirates are now under the helm of Managing Director December Mavimbela, who returned to the club last Thursday following his initial stepping down at the end of last season.



GAME ON: Moneni Pirates playing against Rail United during the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup on Saturday at Mayaluka Stadium.

Netball team gets E5 000 gift from Minister

Stories by Sabelo Majola

NETBALL – AFTER what was a historic achievement by the national netball team in Singapore; Minister of Sports David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala has showered the team with E5 000 as an appreciation gift.

Swaziland attained a silver medal in the Mission Foods Six Nations Cup tournament hosted by Singapore from December 3 to 9 after a sterling performance that saw them losing only two of their six games. They finished second ahead of Cook Islands, who handed them their first defeat in the fourth game before completing a double over the locals in the finals on Saturday.

Ngcamphalala credited the team for representing not just the country but the Region V and the African continent well. He then pledged to give them the money (E5 000), so they would host a braai before the festive holidays.

"Sports have a pulling factor in attracting tourists into our country and your per-



PROUD MOMENT: Minister of Sports David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala in a group photo with the senior national netball team players. He is flanked by SOCGA President Peter Shongwe, NNAS President Mandisa Sigudla (R) and SNSRC board member Thembi Mavimbela. (Pics: Sabelo Majola)

formance in Singapore marketed us globally. It will only be fair for the government to reward you for your accomplishments and I will put in a good word for you. Sports associations have the task to contribute fairly to women empowerment so that we see more of these achieve-

ments," he said.

The minister concluded by acknowledging both the Swaziland Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association and the Swaziland National Sport and Recreational Council for their contributions to the team ahead of their trip to Singapore.

SEBENZILE IS MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

NETBALL – TEAM Swaziland's goal shooter Sebenzile Nxumalo was voted the Most Valuable Player of the tournament in Singapore.

The 33-year-old Correctional player was handed a flashy MVP award after inspiring Swaziland to five victories in the competition with her scoring ability.

Nxumalo said stage fright got the better of her and her teammates particularly in the first game but they quickly regrouped and gained confidence.

"This is the biggest achievement in my career as a netballer so far and honestly we were not expecting to achieve this greatly as a team, but we were highly motivated, and everything turned out beautifully for us," she said.

Team captain Philile Khathwane concurred with Nxumalo, citing that they were not expecting to conquer in Singapore, but they surprised themselves.



MOST VALUABLE: Sebenzile Nxumalo being presented her award.

Team gets 3 sets of playing kits

NETBALL – TEAM Swaziland was given three sets of playing kits in Singapore as part of their reward package for their roller-coaster performance in the Mission Foods Cup tournament.

The playing kits come in different colours which are yellow, red and blue complemented by corresponding tints and were presented to the minister together with the silver medals and a souvenir.

Team Manager Clifford Ngomane said they left a mark

in Singapore not just on their performance but for maintaining a high level of respect throughout the tournament.

"The players put all their energy into the games and played with determination.

"We came close to winning the tournament, but we lost with a solitary goal to Cook Islands in the finals. We are matching the international standard and I'm expecting the country to elevate to a respectable position in the next world netball rankings," he said.



WELL EARNED: The three playing kits won by the netball team in Singapore being displayed.

We want to win it for the third time – 'Koki'

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCKER – MBABANE Swallows head coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati says they want to win their third SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup crown.

Vilakati said it was important to keep their good record going in the tournament soon after beating Stumbo XI 2-0 at the Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.

"Our mandate is clear and it is to win this tournament. We cannot break the chain now and we want to focus on the remaining four games in order to reach the finals. We will keep working hard until the end and I am happy with today's (Sunday) win."

He said it was a tough match but they managed to pull through.

"We played well throughout the match where we only needed a goal to 'kill' their spirit and I am happy with the performance of the day especially Richard Mccreesh, who stabilised our



CAPTAIN VS CAPTAIN: Stumbo's XI FC's Sifiso Sibandze challenging Mbabane Swallows' Tony 'TT' Tsabedze during the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup on Sunday, where Swallows won 2-0.

midfield. I am happy with his progress and contribution to the team," he said.

Brave

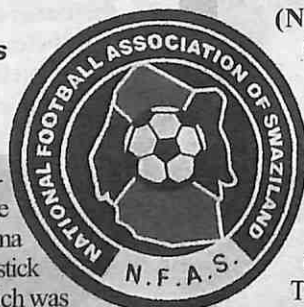
When asked about the last 16 draw, Vilakati said they were ready to face any team in the competition.

Meanwhile, his Stumbo counterpart Rodney Charles commended his charges for their brave showing on the day.

"The boys did well on the day. We were able to show the country that we

have potential especially in a bigger stage such as the Ingwenyama Cup. We managed to stick to our game plan which was to cut their wing play and catch them on the counter until we conceded the first goal where we lost shape."

He said they would now shift their focus to the league where they are having four pending games.



...'BIRDS' TO APPEAR BEFORE DC THIS WEEK

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCKER – MBABANE Swallows will this week appear before the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) Disciplinary Committee.

The red and white glamour side has been charged on two counts after their officials are said to have threatened to assault assistant referee Celumusa Malinga. This was during their last league match against Matsapha United two weeks ago at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

The team's supporters also threw a missile into the pitch which was directed to Malinga.

They have been charged according to Article 7(b) and 7(e) of the MTN Premier League rules and regulations.

The League defending champions face a possible fine of E40 000 if found guilty by the DC.

Premier League of Swaziland Chief Operations Officer Pat Vilakati could only confirm that they were cases to be heard by the DC when contacted yesterday. "There will be cases to be heard before the DC this week but I cannot reveal the names of the teams," he said.

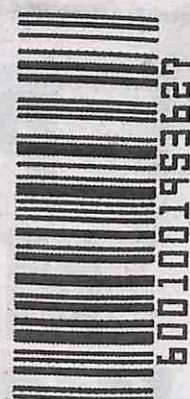
Also set to appear before the DC are two other Premier League sides Mbabane Highlanders and Moneni Pirates, who will be both reprimanded for their separate cases that were postponed last week.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE DRAW			
JUVENTUS	V	TOTTENHAM	
BASEL	V	MAN. CITY	
PORTO	V	LIVERPOOL	
SEVILLA	V	MAN. UNITED	
REAL MADRID	V	PARIS	
SHAKHTAR DONETSK	V	ROMA	
CHELSEA	V	BARCELONA	
BAYERN	V	BESIKTAS	

SPORT

IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2017



BUCKLE UP! INGWENYAMA CUP LAST 16 DRAW TODAY

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - THE remaining teams in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup will know their fate today when the draw for the tournament's last 16 is held at the sponsor's headquarters in Mbabane.

The draw will be conducted at 10.30am with the last 16 matches set to take place this coming weekend. Eleven of the current 14 Premier League sides made it to the last 16 of the tournament after winning their respective last 32 encounters this past weekend with Malanti Chiefs, Matsapha United and Midas City headlining the list of eliminated teams. The tournament's PRO Lenhle Masuku confirmed the details of the draw. "Yes, the draw is tomorrow (today) at 10.30am at SMVAF in Mbabane," he said.

While all 14 Premier League sides and the top two teams in the National First Division were seeded for the last 32 draw a week ago, there will be no seeds in today's draw which means all teams can draw each other. Among the remaining 16 sides are the country's big three clubs of Mbabane Highlanders, Manzini Wanderers and defending champions Mbabane Swallows. The three clubs won their last 32 encounters against City Warriors, Sikhalo Se-Africa and Stumbo XI respectively in the tournament's grand opening on Sunday at the Somhlolo National Stadium. SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup last 16 teams:

- Young Buffaloes
- Hlatikhulu Tycoons
- Vovovo
- Green Mamba
- Royal Leopard
- Manzini Sundowns
- Madlenya
- Milling Hotspurs
- Tinyosi
- Mbabane Citizens
- Tambuti
- Red Lions
- Moneni Pirates
- Mbabane Highlanders
- Manzini Wanderers
- Mbabane Swallows

RED LIONS MD NGUDZE MAMBA ON STAY-AWAY

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - THERE is more trouble at struggling Premier League side Red Lions with Managing Director (MD) Ngudze Mamba on a stay-away from the club's activities.

The MD hasn't been at the club since the club's 2-0 loss to Mbabane Swallows about two weeks ago. Red Lions have been involved in a series of controversies this season, the last of which saw the club's board of Directors write to the Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) about three weeks ago, informing the organisation that they were removing Mamba as a PLS Governor.

According to sources inside the club, Mamba has not been seen at the first team's training sessions or matches since that defeat to Swallows on 29 November. Subsequently, Mamba has missed the team's last two matches, a 1-all draw with

- MD demands soccer boots from players
- COO Elvis Dube says Mamba's whereabouts unknown
- Mamba admits power struggle, says only Dlamini family can fire him

Moneni Pirates in the MTN Premier League and the win over Tabankulu Callies in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup on Saturday.

Even more appallingly, Mamba has also requested that the players

return soccer boots he bought them according to club insiders.

Training

"Yes the MD has not been seen since our game against Swallows. He also sent his brother Sicelo Dlamini (the team's reserve goalkeeper) to collect soccer boots he bought for the players," one official said.

When reached for comment, newly appointed Chief Operations Officer (COO) Elvis Dube confirmed Mamba's absence. "I last saw the MD during our match against Mbabane Swallows. He hasn't been at our matches or training sessions since then. I don't know anything about his whereabouts; I have asked the directors for clarity on the matter but they haven't

told me anything yet," he said.

Mamba, when reached for comment, said he was still the club's Director but admitted that there were problems between him and the club's other leaders. "I am still the director at Amabhubesi but the power struggle is affecting me because some of the officials have their own interests. So I decided not to pump my money (into the team)," he said.

The MD then added that only the family of the club's late director Busi Dlamini had the powers to fire him while also disputing that he had taken back the soccer boots he bought for the players. "I need peace in my life, I will hear from them (other Directors). No one can fire me at Red Lions besides the Dlamini family. The issue about the soccer boots is not true. I don't have any boots; those boots are the property of the team. It's all lies, I even have debts incurred for the team."



ON STAY-AWAY: Red Lions Managing Director (MD) Ngudze Mamba.

PLS HAS CAUGHT UP WITH SA PSL - 'CHACKLAS'

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - FORMER Kaizer Chiefs and Mbabane Highlanders midfielder Abel 'Chacklas' Shongwe says the Premier League of Swaziland has caught up with South Africa's ABSA Premiership.

The retired midfielder started out his career at Highlanders locally before moving on to giants Chiefs where he shone in the 1980's. Shongwe, now a head of an academy and a player representative, told South African publication The Citizen that the local game had caught up with the super-rich South

African league.

"The Swazi MTN Premier League has caught up with the ABSA Premiership and local teams should look to sign players from Swaziland to strengthen their squads," read part of the report carried on the Citizen's website.

Quote

Shongwe went on to bemoan the dropping standards in South Africa's top flight. "I don't want to be political about this, but we used to play football for little money. Today's players forget about watching other players or European football to see where they are lacking personally, they are not taking this game seriously," he is quoted as having said by the Citizen.

The midfielder who also turned out for Wits and Moroka Swallows amongst other South African sides, then elaborated on the strict measures clubs had in place during his playing days. "We used to get fined for missing training and you knew that was part of being disci-

plined. Now you know you will get your money come month-end. I used to look up to Scara Thindwa, I listened to Ace Ntsoelengoe and playing with them was an honour," he said.

Sponsors

There has been outcry of late in neighbouring South Africa on the lack of goals in the top division. Currently, the country's two big sides, Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs sit second and third on the log standings with 20 and 19 points, respectively despite having played 14 matches apiece already.

Meanwhile, current MTN Premier League log leaders Mbabane Swallows reached the group stages of the CAF Confederations Cup this year while they also beat South Africa's Platinum Stars 4-2 at home and drew 2-2 with them away in Moruleng.

South Africa's League champions receive E10 million from sponsors ABSA while Swaziland's champions receive E750 000 from sponsors Swazi MTN.

LEGEND: Former Kaizer Chiefs and Mbabane Highlanders midfielder Abel 'Chacklas' Shongwe.

