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BISHOP ENGENAS LEKGANYANE DECLARES **SUPPORT** FOR KING



EXCHANGE OF FIRE ENDS FATALLY AS... **STORY ON PAGE 3**

COPS, RANGERS SHOOT, KILL 3

Alleged poachers were at Hlane Game park

VICTORY FOR NURSING ASSISTANTS **PAGE 12**



MP BUTHELEZI GOING BACK TO CLASS IF... **PAGE 3**

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SWAZIPOST

BISHOP LEKGANYANE FULLY SUPPORTS HIS MAJESTY

● He said the King must understand that monarchies are not new as they date back to biblical times, where there were many kingdoms. He encouraged the King and the nation to pray for the kingdom so that it stays strong

Stories by Gugu Simelane
Mbabane

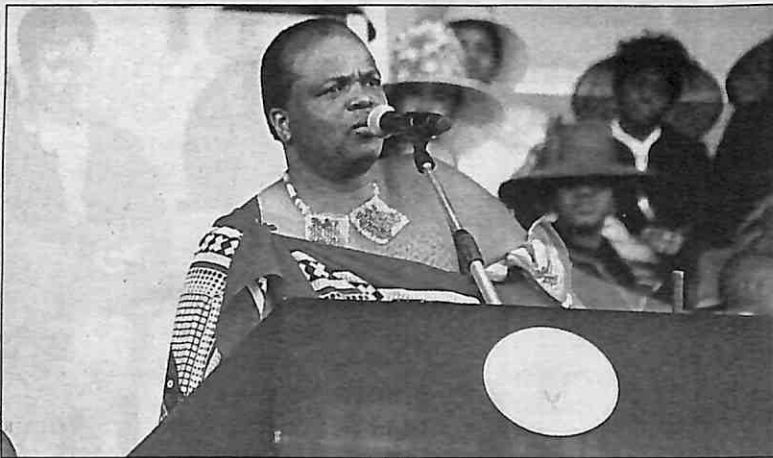
His Majesty King Mswati III has full support from St. Engenas Zion Christian Church leader Bishop Lekganyane in the way the country is governed.

Bishop Lekganyane advised His Majesty the King to stay strong and not be discouraged by people who do not understand the monarchical system.

Bishop Lekganyane was speaking during the St Engenas Zion Christian Church (ZCC) service that was attended by amongst others, His Majesty King Mswati III, Her Majesty the Indlovukazi and the royal family at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The bishop's visit to the country is the fourth, with the last one in October 2012.

The church service attracted thousands of people from around the coun-



BAYETHE: His Majesty King Mswati III preaching during the service at Somhlolo National Stadium during the St Engenas Christian service yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

try and outside our borders.

Encouraged

During the service, Bishop Lekganyane advised the King not to be discour-

aged by nations and people who do not understand the monarchical system of rule. He said the King must understand that monarchies are not new as

BISHOP LEKGANYANE'S MARCH WOWS CONGREGANTS

CONGREGANTS who had attended the St. Engenas Zion Christian Church service at Somhlolo Stadium were yesterday left in awe after their leader and spiritual father His Grace Dr Bishop Lekganyane marched around the stadium with the church band.

Members of the church were seen ululating when their leader passed their stands while showing off his immaculate marching skills.

Bishop Lekganyane was later joined by Her Majesty the Indlovukazi in dancing at the pitch while the St. Engenas Zion Christian Church brass band was playing.

The throngs of people marvelled at the Indlovukazi's dancing skills and they joined in on the dancing.



GRAND MARCH: St Engenas Lekganyane doing his famous march around the pitch which wowed the congregants.

Other choirs that kept the congregation dancing were the Limpopo

University Choir and the Johannesburg's choir with the marvellous renditions.

People came in numbers

THE St Engenas Zion Christian Church (ZCC) members came in their numbers from within and outside the country.

This was evident by the fleet of buses, mini-buses and private cars that were found outside the Somhlolo Stadium.

Some members of the church arrived in the country on Friday in preparation for yesterday's massive church service.

Outside the stadium, there were pitched tents next to the buses and the cars which indicated that some of the members camped outside the stadium in order to make it to the church service.

Somhlolo Stadium, whose full occupancy is 12 000, was filled to capacity, as some people were sitting at the no man's land while some were sitting on the pitch.

Women were required to put on head



IN NUMBERS: A section of the many St Engenas ZCC members who were at the stadium.

scarfs as they said it was part of their religion.

Men and women were also not allowed

to sit on the same side as they said it was also part of their religion. The area where the women were seated was recognised

Don't disrespect other churches, Bishop Lekganyane warns

ST. Engenas Zion Christian Church Bishop Lekganyane yesterday warned against disrespecting other churches.

He further advised the people of Swaziland to read and understand the Bible as most people in the country are educated.

He said reading the Bible daily will help them understand the laws of the Bible and that it will help them stick to the laws.

"If you invite God in everything that you do every day, God is faithful to protect you from disease, crime, hunger and starvation," he said. Bishop

Lekganyane further encouraged the congregation to make sure that HIV/AIDS does not continue and affect the next generation. He said now that people are educated and have wisdom about the HIV/AIDS, they should thrive not to be affected but stay AIDS free.

"If one is not affected yet, they should not get infected," he appealed to his congregants.

Bishop Lekganyane promised to keep the culture that was passed onto him by his late grandfather, that of occasionally visiting the kingdom.

they date back to biblical times, where there were many kingdoms. He encouraged the King and the nation to pray for the kingdom so that it stays strong.

He further promised His Majesty King Mswati III that together with his church, they will pray for the Swazi Kingdom to triumph over earthly problems it may be facing.

Bishop Lekganyane further encouraged the Swazi nation to be respectful to their leaders and

love the monarchy so that it may thrive in the midst of all adversities. He further said he prays that Swaziland and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) may have peace, stability and prosperity. He said the nation must be rooted in *Ubuntu*.

"When people have *Ubuntu*, it means they have humanity and they have love. As the Bible states in the book of John, God loved us and we ought to love one another," he said.



AMEN: Bishop Lekganyane praying for the Swazi nation.

Bishop's visit is a blessing - King

HIS Majesty King Mswati III said St. Engenas Zion Christian Church Bishop Lekganyane's visit to the country is a blessing.

The King said he was very impressed that Bishop Lekganyane did not forsake the culture that was started by his predecessors of occasionally visiting the country.

He said it is quite blessing that the bishop still finds time to visit the kingdom with the intention of praying for the country together with his members.

"I am very pleased to see so many people who have gathered here with the intention of praying and seeking the face of God. People who are seeking the face of God are on the right track as they will find good things in God," said the King.

His Majesty further encouraged the congregation to live an upright life and shy away from sin.

He said people who are without God suffer in the spirit. "If you have not made him your Lord and Saviour, you will be faced by a lot of difficulties," he said.

Unite

The King likened a person without God as an individual who is blind as they are not sure of what is happening around them. He further encouraged members of the St Engenas Zion Christian Church to unite with the Swazi people in praying for the nation. "We must also pray for the bishop so that he may continue to be strong and that the church may grow in numbers," he said.

by the yellow and dark green colours while the side where men were sitting was recognised by khaki.

The thousands of Christians who were in attendance were treated to a special late lunch by Their Majesties.

THREE ALLEGED RHINO POACHERS SHOT DEAD

● It was a joint operation between the Royal Swaziland Police and Big Game Parks after we responded to a tip-off about a possible poaching scare at the national park and they were found deep inside the park when the fire exchange began

COVER STORY

Stories by Samukelisiwe
Ginindza
Mbabane

THREE men suspected to be rhino poachers were shot and killed on Saturday at Hlane Royal National Park.

The men are said to have before their death exchanged fierce fire with the Royal Swaziland Police (Lukhozi Unit) and Big Game Parks rangers deep within the park.

Two of the killed alleged poachers are



believed to be from South Africa.

Police Chief Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba confirmed the death of the three suspected poachers after an exchange of gunfire.

"It was a joint operation between the Royal Swaziland Police and Big Game Parks after we responded to a tip-off

about a possible poaching scare at the national park and they were found deep inside the park when the fire exchange began," Mamba said.

He added, however, that the identities of the deceased persons have not yet been confirmed.

Confirm

"We can confirm however that no rhino was harmed during the process, the Royal Swaziland Police and Big Game Parks managed to save the rhinos as they acted on the tip off earlier, so we outsmarted them," he added.

The bodies of the deceased are currently kept at an unknown mortuary.

"A high powered hunting rifle, axes,

Country concerned - Liz Reilly

THE Big Game Parks' Liz Reilly stated that the country is concerned with the looming of rhino poaching in the country.

She was responding to the matter of three suspected poachers who were shot and killed while at Hlane Royal National Park on Saturday.

"With the escalating levels of rhino poaching occurring mainly in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga Provinces in South

Africa, as well as seizures of rhino horn consignments internationally, Swaziland is extremely concerned that such practice may take root," she said.

Effort

Reilly added that the country is doing every effort to ensure that rhino poaching remains curbed. "The country must keep the rhino poaching levels to a minimum to avoid Swaziland's small rhino population from being poached out," she added.

a saw, and other items known to be used in poaching rhinos were recovered on the scene," explained Mamba.

Mamba applauded the operation for going smoothly, without any of the 'good guys' being harmed.

Mamba confirmed that even though there was an exchange of fire between the police, game rangers and the three alleged rhino horn poachers, they are lucky that none of them was hurt, as it could have been

worse.

"Since they were also shooting at us, the situation could have been worse, so we applaud a swift way of fighting crime, without either of those rebuking rhino poaching hurt in any way," he said.

He added that the gun found in the three alleged poachers' possession is a 303, which also had a disclosed number of live rounds

MAID INSISTS SHE WAS TRAFFICKED TO LONDON

Stories by Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

FORMER United Kingdom Commissioner Dumsile Sukati's one time maid Zanele Shongwe stands by her stance that she was trafficked to London.

In an eight-page letter written by the maid in response to the former UK High Commissioner's submissions to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) where she had to answer why government had paid Shongwe over E90 000 long after she had stopped working, Shongwe said it is not true that government overpaid her and that the former minister wasn't aware that she was being paid for doing nothing. Shongwe explains why she has been quoted saying Sukati trafficked her and she maintains her stance on that issue. Shongwe states that she realised she was trafficked

when she allegedly asked Sukati about copies of a visa application she had stumbled upon. Narrating in her letter, Shongwe alleges that the visa application, it seemed, was made on her behalf and it had a signature which was supposedly hers but she had never seen or signed these papers. She said she realised then that her signature had been forged.

Contract

"I stumbled across copies of the visa application/contract, which was made on my behalf stating that I am being paid £12 000 per annum with a bonus of £300 rising to £15 000 per annum with a bonus of £300. That then occurred to me that the signature on the application form which was submitted to the home affairs office by the High Commissioner didn't bear my signature. It dawned on me that the application form was completed and signed by someone, so that I may not be aware

of the money I was supposed to have been paid since the first visa was renewed in 2012 as the application form is attached with a new contract to be filled up with a pen. I consider that this was exploitation of labour and a fraudulent activity by the embassy," she narrates. The former maid alleges that when she approached Sukati seeking an explanation on the papers she had stumbled upon, she told her that she should speak to her employer about this as she was only her line manager.

She alleges that she then approached the then minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation who said she was not a civil servant but Sukati's relative who was also her domestic worker.

"Who really was my employer? Hence I call it human trafficking," she said.

She substantiates her stance by narrating how Sukati allegedly convinced her parents that moving to the UK with her

...SUPPORTS PAC'S IDEA OF LETTER TO LONDON

ZANELE Shongwe, the ex-maid of former United Kingdom High Commissioner Dumsile Sukati, says she is fully behind Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairperson Thuli Dladla's idea that a letter must be written to the UK government to set the record straight.

Shongwe, in her letter, said this move would expose the truth. She said this would prove that her former boss' submissions to both

PAC and the ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation were nothing but fabrications.

Happy

"I'm happy with the idea of PAC Chairperson Thuli Dladla that the ministry should write a letter and set the record straight to England, as that letter will be proof that all the supporting documents and evidences the embassy were sending to the home office were not true," she said.

would benefit Shongwe as she wouldn't be limited to just being her domestic worker but would help her look for something on the side. She further alleges that Sukati told her parents that government had already paid

E40 000 for her travelling expenses and if Shongwe were to refuse, the family would have to pay government back this amount and this left her with no choice but to leave with her.

King retains Peter Mamba as CSC boss

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

HIS Majesty King Mswati III has retained Peter Mamba as the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Chairperson.

Mamba, who has been chairman of the CSC for over a decade now, had his contract renewed for another four years by His Majesty. The appointment is effective from today.

Assurance

The Civil Service Commission regulates recruitment to the Civil Service, providing assurance that appointments are on merit after fair and open competition. It also helps promote the civil service values of honesty, integrity, objectivity and impartiality, and hears complaints under the civil service code. The commission is independent of government and the civil service.

MP will go back to school if he loses elections

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Tikhuba

AS the countdown to the end of the 2013-2018 parliamentary term begins, some Members of Parliament are already weighing their options.

Matsanjeni North Member of Parliament Phila Buthelezi disclosed his anticipated next move, saying he will be going back to his teaching profession if he is not voted back to Parliament for the next term. Buthelezi is also the Chairperson of the ministry of natural resources and energy portfolio committee.

He was amongst the guests who witnessed the launching of the wind and solar hybrid system of generating electricity. Buthelezi said he was happy with the efforts made by the ministry in mitigating the current situation which has seen the country importing over 90 per cent of electricity. He noted that, however, many areas, especially the southern part of the Lubombo region, would constantly experience power cuts.

Nonetheless, Buthelezi said the ministry always considered recommenda-



BACK TO SCHOOL:
Matsanjeni North MP Phila Buthelezi.

tions made by the portfolio committee, hence the evident progress.

Buthelezi said having had a healthy working relationship with the minister and her entire delegation, he would gladly assist even when he is out of Parliament and back to his teaching profession. "I am happy that the minister's representative is here at my former school today as this will make it easy for the ministry to locate me after the term ends as I will be coming back here to resume my duties as a teacher," said Buthelezi.

Buthelezi is a former teacher of Tikhuba High School.

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MTN delights its valued customers by extending wholesale savings



Ambrose Dlamini - CEO

The country's leading telecommunications company, Swazi MTN, is excited about the changes currently taking place in the industry. The comparatively high cost of telecommunications has been the major pain points for our customers for a while now.

I will quickly indicate that by law, Swazi MTN is not expected to create its own technology infrastructure which could, in our view, help drastically reduce prices.

Much as wholesale pricing is determined outside of Swazi MTN, it inevitably, affects retail pricing experienced by our valued customers

Facts about MTN Price Drop

The MTN Price Transformation is a journey that began about four years ago with the introduction of headline price drops, per second billing, voice and data bundles among others. PTC).

The current objectives are:

To review MTN prices in response to the recent wholesale price reduction negotiation between the Swaziland Communication Commission, and Swaziland Post and Telecommunication

Corporation (SoTo appropriately position, and align MTN pricing against industry benchmark.

To continue to improve the rates reduction journey which carried on last year with the introduction of MTNWow Data bundles.

The MTN Mission to make our customers' lives a whole lot brighter, is a charge that Swazi MTN takes seriously.

What Value are our Customers Getting?

The new MTN Value Offers are designed to meet every customers' telecommunications needs. Last year, MTN dropped its Data effective rate and increased the data bundle volumes by over 60%. MTN price changes are in two parts; a reduction in price as well as increase in volume for bundles. These are the benefits that the customer enjoys with the price changes;

Rate Drops:

- Voice Out of Bundle Tariff, drops by 33%
- SMS Out of Bundle Tariff, drops by 63%
- Data Out of Bundle Tariff, drops by 21%
- SMS Bundles effective rates, drops by 48%

Volume Increase:

- Voice Bundles volumes increased by 100%
- Social Bundle volume increase by 100%

Why Is MTN Dropping its Prices now?

Life and time evolves which sometimes causes changes to be made. The fact that customers had to pay high prices for telecommunications services was not entirely within Swazi MTN's control. In fact we are very happy, and grateful to our Regulator, Swaziland Communication Commission, for intervening to regulate wholesale prices in the industry.

MTN out of good will, has passed on all the savings to our esteemed customers.

This has also afforded us the opportunity to align our prices with industry best practice.

We are confident that our customers have seen the value Swazi MTN offers, and will use the savings to respond to other personal needs.

In the competitive environment we'll be entering very soon, it is very important that customers can measure the value they are getting for the services they are receiving.

Although price is fundamental in every purchase decision, it is not the only variable. The quality of the service, convenience of use, access to goods and services, and the total customer experience becomes critical in that decision.

MTN's strategy going forward is to continue transforming our prices something that would make telecommunications affordable, and make our customers' lives a whole lot brighter. Like we have done in the delivery of superfast internet network, we will continue to launch innovative products and services, increase the payments that can be made through Mobile Money thus offer convenience, safety, and reliability to our valued customers.

Seeing that we have reviewed our price offering, we have set ourselves a high target of providing distinct customer experience, which will set us apart as a telecommunications service provider of choice.

What should MTN Customers Expect?

Our valued customers should expect MTN to continue to create offers that gives them absolute control of their budgets whilst enjoying world class service in telecommunications services. At the close of this month we shall be rolling out new and exciting offers for our post-paid customers as well.

We encourage our customers to be on the look-out for recently launched services like MTN Family and Friends, which allows each customer to form a close user group with 4 MTN numbers and pay only 65c per minute for all calls.

Customers are advised to dial *686# to select the array of Value deals which include the MTN Wow Bundles, the new Voice, SMS and Social Media bundles. Customers can save even much more with the MTN Saver Combos and the recently launched Pulse Combos. Discounted Calls to international destinations are also available with the MTN International bundles.

Clearly, Swazi MTN customers are now spoiled for choice. There is a package for every one so talk more, browse more, text more, chat more and Do More with MTN Value deals, which are all available on the code *686#.

We're confident about the future, and we thank all our esteemed customers for being on this journey with us. *Siyabongakakhulu!*



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 Customers can purchase MTN Saver Combos by dialing *686#. MTN Saver Combos will auto renew, until customer opts out. MTN Saver Combo minutes can be used to make un-rat calls only (MTN to MTN). If a customer depletes any service within a combo, they can purchase airtime and conveniently access that service. MTN Saver Combos can be used at any time of the day and week until depleted. MTN Saver Combos are valid for 30 days from purchase. E650.



6 PICTURES



ST ENGENAS ZION CHRISTIAN CHURCH MEMBERS IN THEIR SUNDAY SERVICE



BAYETHE: His Majesty King Mswati III meeting St Engenas Bishop Engenas Lekganyane on arrival for the service at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Thousands of members of the church crammed the stadium to join the service and see their bishop. (R) **REMARKS:** His Majesty, Her Majesty and the bishop joined by the high table during the singing of the national anthem. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



SIGODLO: Her Majesty Indlovukazi joined by the Bishop's wife, Emakhosikati LaMahlangu and LaDube and Emazinyane Sikhanyiso and Sibahle.



ROYAL WAVE: His Majesty greeting the packed stadium on his arrival as the bishop joyfully looks on.



WOMEN OF DIGNITY: Her Majesty Indlovukazi meeting the bishop's wife.



CONVOY: The Bishop's entourage on arrival at the stadium.



HAPPY: Bishop Engenas Lekganyane greeting the throngs of his followers present on the day.



GUESTS: Emazinyane, Cabinet ministers, the bishop's guests and members of Emabandla who were at the service.

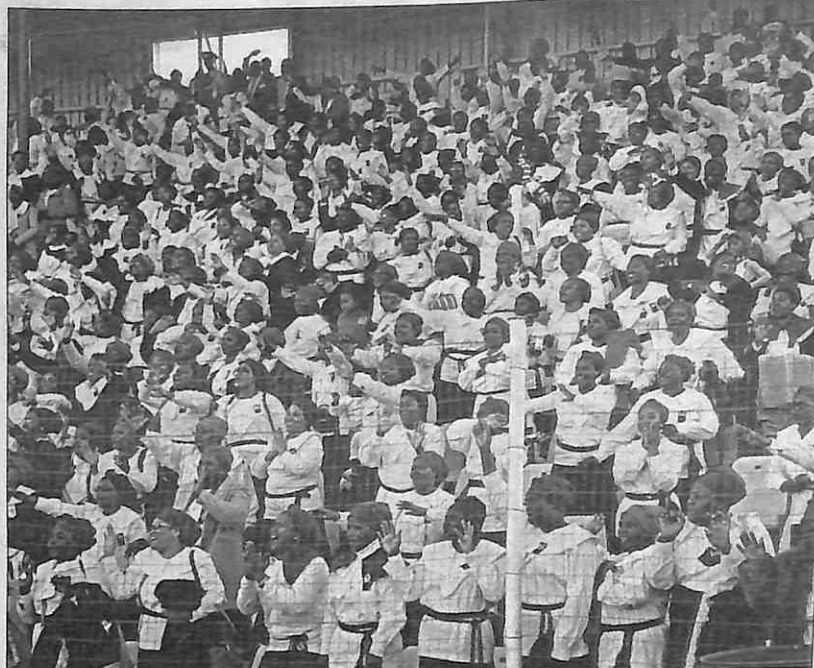


PREACHING THE WORD: Bishop Engenas Lekganyane of the St Engenas ZCC delivering his speech.

ST. ENGENAS MEMBERS EXCITED TO MEET THEIR BISHOP



HELLO: Bishop Engenas Lekganyane greeting the throngs of his church members at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. The leader of one of the biggest churches in the country was in the country for a service attended by members from across the region. The service was graced by His Majesty King Mswati III and Her Majesty Indlovukazi. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



CLAD IN UNIFORM: A section of the many who were at the stadium.



IN NUMBERS: A section of the thousands of members who crammed the stadium to see the bishop and worship with the King.



ALL SMILES: Some of the members who were captured by the roving camera.



ZEALOUS: A section of the throngs who were at the stadium in anticipation to see the bishop.



COULDN'T MISS OUT: Some of the excited members who had come to meet the bishop.



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Proposals with all relevant documentations must be submitted by **4:30pm Wednesday - 14 June 2017** (hand delivered to General Manager's Secretary)

Address to:

The General Manager
SNAT CO-OPS House,
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BISHOP ENGENAS LEKGANYANE

St. Engenas Zion Christian Church



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SENIOR OFFICIALS IMPLICATED IN E291 000 STATIONERY THEFT

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

SOME senior officials in the ministry of education and training have been implicated in the theft of stationery worth E291 244 from the Lubombo regional education offices.

The theft of various text books is said to have taken place between 2016 and 2017.

A groundsman, Thembumenzi Dladla was arrested in connection with the theft of the books.

He was charged with two counts; that of house breaking and theft.

In the first count, he is alleged to have wrongfully and intentionally



broke and entered into the ministry's storeroom and stole text books worth E99 168.

He is also alleged to have committed a similar offence in February 15, 2017 wherein he is said to have stolen text books worth E192 074.

The accused person, who is represented by Lawyer Mzobanzi Dlamini, was back in court last week for com-

mencement of the matter.

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused pleaded not guilty to both counts. The crown then called in witnesses to prove commission of the offences. First to present evidence was one Musa Tfwala who is the inspector of primary schools in the region. During his evidence, Tfwala told the court that only a few senior officials were allowed to enter the storeroom which kept the books alleged to have been stolen.

He also stated that however, the accused person was also allowed to enter the storeroom to conduct his cleaning duties, but under close supervision.

The witness however did not mention any break-in incident which is

alleged to have taken place at the storeroom.

Through impeccable sources, it has transpired that however, the alleged theft of the text books was collaboration between some senior officials within the same office and a principal from one of the privately owned schools in the Lubombo region.

This however, is information which has been gathered outside of the court proceedings. Evidently, the evidence presented by the first witness seemed to have been in favour of the accused person as there was no mentioning of an incident whereby the storeroom was broken into.

The matter was eventually postponed and is expected back in court today.

Bennett donates E10 000, sanitary towels to Imbali Foundation

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

MBABANE based businessman Walter Bennett donated E10 000 and 900 packets of sanitary towels to the Imbali Foundation in honour of Knox Nxumalo.

The businessman, who is well-known for his giving hand, once again stepped up and donated to another initiative set to benefit the needy.

Bennett made his presentation to the foundation founded by Princess Sikhanyiso last Thursday at his office at Dlanubeka Building, where he applauded the media together with the foundation for bringing up an issue that society had turned a blind eye on.

"Today, I want to thank the media for opening our eyes on this issue and the foundation, led by the princess for taking this issue and running with it. Had it not been for these two bodies speaking about it, people like me wouldn't have taken note of it," he said.



HELPING HAND: Mbabane based businessman Walter Bennett donated E10 000 and 900 packets of sanitary towels to the Imbali Foundation in honour of Knox Nxumalo.

He said when he first learnt of this issue he was baffled because this was something he had never really paid attention to. "I was surprised when I learnt that there were pupils who miss school for three to five days every month because they were on their monthly cycle," he said.

He said this had a possibility of damaging a child psychologically hence applauded the foundation for bringing awareness on the issue and helping where they can.

Bennett then pleaded with the foundation to make the donation of the 900 packets of sanitary towels to

Nkambeni in honour of retired lawyer Knox Nxumalo who is a resident of the area. He explained that the area should be beneficiaries to the donation because they had produced a great citizen of the land in Nxumalo.

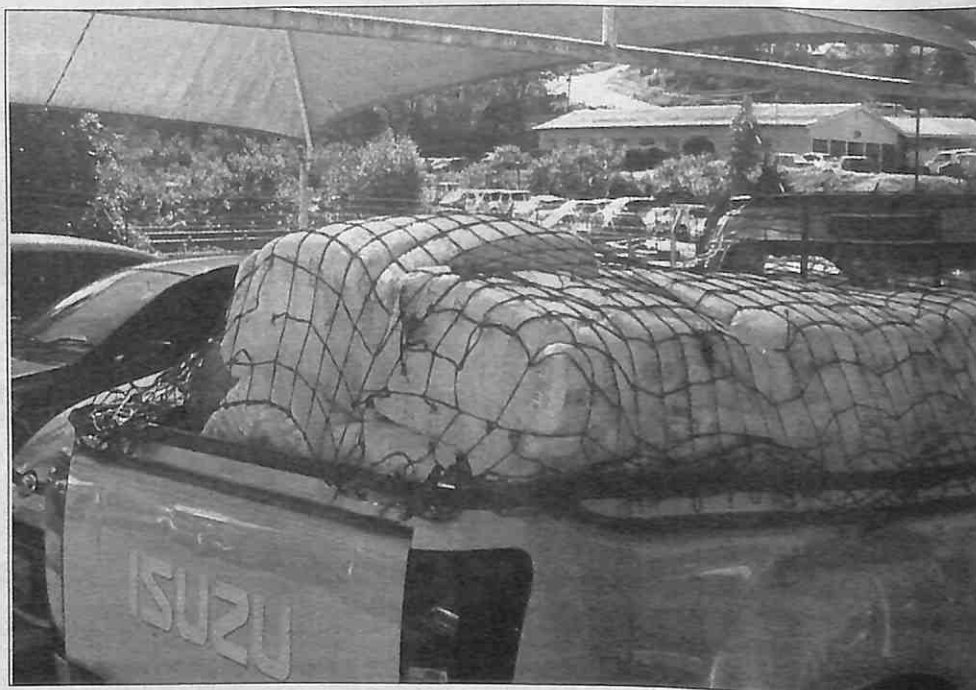
Honoured

"Nxumalo is a great man hence I would like for his home area to be honoured," he said. "My humble request is that the 900 packets be taken to Nkambeni and the ones that will be purchased with the E10 000 be shared amongst four schools of your choice," he said.

He further explained that the 900 packets of sanitary towels that he was handing over were not from him personally but he had gotten them from SwaziPharm.

"I told them about this initiative, asked that they sell me the sanitary towels at a discount but instead they donated the 900 packets," he said.

Imbali Foundation thanked Bennett for the donation and stated that it would go a long way and promised that they would disseminate them as per his request.



DONATION: The 900 packets of sanitary towels donated by SwaziPharm through Walter Bennett.

Swazis safe in Qatar - govt

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

THE ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation has allayed fears amid the diplomatic scandal that has rocked Qatar.

Qatar was in recent days rocked by a diplomatic scandal following a recent hack of the country's state-run news agency. The Qatari government has called the information that was leaked 'fake' saying their agency was hacked.

Qatari emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani allegedly criticised Saudi Arabia on state media outlets while calling for improved ties with Iran.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Joel Nhleko when asked about the safety of Swazis in that country amid the crisis said the nation must calm down as they were closely monitoring the situation.

He said Swazis in that country were currently safe. "We have touched base with our embassy in that country and they have assured us that Swazis in Qatar are safe, they had nothing to fear just as yet," he said.

Nhleko explained that they had called to find out how safe the diplomats were and the rest of the Swazis living in the country.

"We have also contacted the government, through their embassy in the country to find out about the chances of the situation there being a danger to Swazis living in Qatar and they have also assured us that there is nothing to worry about," he said.

Nhleko said they would continue assessing the situation by being in close contact with both the country's embassy in Qatar as well as the Qatari government to make sure that Swazis are safe at all times. He emphasised that as it stands there was nothing to fear and Swazis must keep calm.

"Swazis are safe, there is nothing to fear, we are monitoring the situation," he said.

The scandal that rocked Qatar over a week ago has seen five Arab countries; Bahrain, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Yemen cut diplomatic ties with Qatar and have recalled their diplomats in that country; they have also given Qataris living abroad 14 days to return home. Regional airlines have also suspended services to Doha.

69 ARRESTED FOR DRINK-DRIVING

By Observer Reporter
Mbabane

THERE were 69 drink-driving cases recorded by members of the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) over the weekend.

These cases were recorded in all four regions of the country from last Friday to yesterday, announced Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba.

Mamba said most of those arrested had already appeared before the different Magistrate's court in the country while others will appear this morning. He added that generally it was a calm weekend as there were no major incidents reported over the weekend. He said there was only one fatal accident in the police records which happened along Luyengo/Malkerns public road at Emseleni this past Saturday.

He said a Mercedes Benz Sprinter driven by a 19-year-old man of Gundwini knocked down a 58-year-old man of Hluthi.

The pedestrian sustained serious injuries and was rushed to RFM Hospital, where he was certified dead on arrival. The driver has been charged with Culpable Homicide and will appear at the Manzini Magistrate's Court today.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL CONSENT IN TERMS OF THE MBABANE TOWN PLANNING SCHEME OF 2016

I / We Fikelephi K Nxumalo, the owner(s) of the property in question, hereby make a Public Notice in terms of Clause 1.6 of the 2016 Mbabane Town Planning Scheme, that I / We wish to apply for a SPECIAL CONSENT to establish (description of development) **A Block of 8 Bedsitters (double storey Building) on Plot of Township / Portion of Farm 1507 Msunduzi Mbabane.**

Any-one having an objection to this application may lodge their objections, in writing, with the Mbabane City Council at P. O. Box 1, Mbabane, Swaziland not later than **2 July 2017** that is 21 days from the last publication of the Notice namely on **12 June 2017.**

ASHRAFF INDISPOSED, CASE FAILS TO RESUME

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

● High Court Judge Sipho Nkosi postpones case as Indonesian Consul reported sick

THE civil case in which Indonesian Consul Kareem Ashraff has filed an urgent application seeking the court to issue an order to evict two directors from GIGATECH Investments out of his premises was postponed because the businessman was indisposed.

This was after lawyer Lindifa Mamba, representing Ashraff, informed Judge Sipho Nkosi that his client was indisposed and could not make it in court.

The judge postponed the matter to this week for continuation as both counsel Mamba for Ashraff and Sabela Dlamini for GIGATECH Investments were still making submissions when the court last adjourned.

Ashraff has run to court where he is seeking an order to eject the company and its directors from his property in Matsapha.

He wants GIGATECH Investments, a technology company, together with its directors George Fetbia and King Collin, ejected from the property which is situated within the industrial hub of the kingdom.

According to Ashraff, who owns a number of properties in the country, he entered into a lease agreement with the two directors sometime in 2007 and they signed a two-year lease which was renewable for a year in 2009.

He had told the court that he got to know the directors through a friend who advised that the two

were specialists in technological equipment and they wanted to secure a domicile where they would operate their business.

"They told me that they had done business with the ministry of health and were to secure another business deal through a South African based company. Since I have assisted a number of people financially, I had no problem in assisting the two whom I offered my property for lease," Ashraff had earlier told the court.

When asked by his lawyer on whether they had agreed on the purchase of the property, Ashraff replied to the negative, stating that never at any stage had he reached such an agreement.

This was after the directors had, as having instructed their lawyer Dlamini, put it to Ashraff that he had in fact reached an agreement with the two to the effect that the money they would have spent in rentals would be almost equivalent to that of purchasing the property.

However, Ashraff vehemently denied this, stating that there was no way he would have agreed to such. Giving evidence further, he told the court that what has now brought him to court is the fact that GIGATECH Investments and the two directors have not been paying for the property in question since they signed the lease agreement.

"Although I have not had occa-



POSTPONES: High Court Judge Sipho Nkosi.

sion to inspect the inside of the property of late, I, however, noticed that the outside is in a dilapidated state and needs renovations, while the yard now has overgrown grass all over," Ashraff said.

Adjacent

The property is a three-bedroom house, and a servants quarters which is adjacent the same plot which Ashraff stated that Amani Family Trust in where he is a trustee, has been paying rates till today while GIGATECH and the two have been contributing nothing.

He now wants the company and the two, who are also using the servant's quarters as their home while

the three-bedroom house is used as a business domicile, to be ejected henceforth, as a result he filed the application before court, seeking an order to that effect.

The two businessmen who approached Ashraff, had nowhere to stay nor work in, hence he gave E20 000 financial assistance to them and the property.

With the view that they would work together as Ashraff said he has had a good working relationship with government, he offered them the money and the property where business was expected to be carried out.

This he did as he had anticipated a good working relationship with the two and their company.

However, upon realising that the two were no longer living up to their promises, Ashraff said he decided to release them from the partnership.

They had informed me that they were also working closely with a dentist in Manzini, who had promised that a South African based business was bringing in a 95 per cent business offer they would enter in with the ministry, but this never happened.

Having assisted a lot of Swazis in realising their dream, he said he had no problem with assisting the two as they had displayed trust when they approached him.

The matter is before Judge Nkosi for argument and the director's defence had not finished cross examining Ashraff, at least by the time this report was compiled.

Local govt elections; some candidates already campaigning

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

AS registration for the local government election continues, some aspiring candidates are said to have already started campaigning, something against the elections rules and regulations.

Voters' registrations started early last month, and will be concluded at the end of this month.

Residents within urban boundaries have been raising concern about the on-going process, saying it has been made complicated by the list of requirements. Apparently, residents are required to produce title deeds, proof of residence, affidavits (for tenants) and, or trading licences as part of the long list of requirements.

Meanwhile, some aspiring councillors complained that others have started campaigning and are assisting residents to compile the required documents for registration.

In fact, some are said to be also hosting parties for eligible voters, especially those living under organised settlements such as police officers, teachers and nurses. Apparently, most civil servants in Siteki are eligible voters as the government houses where they are accommodated fall within the boundaries of the town.

The aggrieved aspiring councillors are of the view that campaigning at this stage of the election process is prohibited. They have blamed the ministry of housing and urban development which have been mandated by the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) to oversee the elections.

Speaking during separate interviews, the aspiring councillors pointed out it was expected that the ministry would conduct voters' education before the beginning of the registration process. "It seems there will be chaos during the elections since some people are literally buying votes already, and you cannot blame them since the regulations are not known as yet," said one Sabelo Maziya. Meanwhile, the registration process is said to be going smoothly as a considerable number of people have already registered.

Micro-Projects funds E2.7m roads for Moneni, Lwandle

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

AFTER being involved in a land dispute which has seen Moneni and Lwandle areas not benefiting from development projects, Micro-Projects is bringing a road project worth E2.7 million.

The project was officially handed over by Manzini South Member of Parliament (MP), who is also Minister of Public Service Owen Nxumalo and Paul Mwekhio, Micro-Projects representative.

Pots Construction has been contracted to undertake the project, which also

involves the re-gravelling and paving of a stretch of road from Moneni to Lwandle area. Speaking during the handover on Friday, Nxumalo said as parliamentarians, they requested that Micro-Projects take a developmental role in the area.

This is not the first project that has been undertaken in Manzini South as there have been low level bridges and a community hall, which have been built at Lwandle.

The community was ecstatic about the development as they stated that transport was scarce in the area, more especially when it was raining as the road become slippery.

Ndiphetho Dlamini, who is Bucoph

of the area, stated that as community members, they will work hard to ensure that the road is well looked after.


Meanwhile, Pots Construction Director Sanele Mashwama, who was also present during the handover, stated that they expected to finish the project in three months.

He said the project would be done in phases.

Nxumalo emphasised that the contractors should hire local labour and urged community leaders to provide support for the project. This project has been hailed as one of huge magnitude when it comes to road projects that are financed by Micro-Projects in all the tinkhundla in the country.

UNITED: Pots Construction Director Sanele Mashwama, Sibusiso Mkhonta (community member) Paul Mwekhio (Micro-Projects rep) Manzini South Member of Parliament Minister Owen Nxumalo and Ndiphetho Dlamini, Bucoph, at the project unveiling.





INVITATION TO A BREAKFAST MEETING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS CIVIC EDUCATION

The Ezulwini Municipality hereby invites the Ezulwini Business Community to attend the Local Government Elections Civic Education Breakfast Meeting as detailed below;

Date:	Wednesday 14 th June 2017
Time:	07:30 Hours
Venue:	Royal Villas

AGENDA

1. Opening
2. Elections Civic Education
3. Discussions
4. Closing

To book your seat, send an email to townclerk@ezulwini.co.sz or call Patience at 2417 1281 or 2416 1904 ext. 118 before close of business on Tuesday 13th June 2017.

"Be champion form your Local Government"

VUSI MATSEBULA
TOWN CLERK/CEO

VICTORY FOR NURSES ASSISTANTS AS GNT, SNA REACH AGREEMENT

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

GOVERNMENT Negotiating Team (GNT) and the Swaziland Nurses Association (SNA) have reached an agreement that will see nursing assistants being afforded equal relevant training and development opportunities in line with the government In-Service Training and Development Policy.

This was confirmed by a collective agreement signed by Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Public Service Evert Madlopha on behalf of GNT and Swaziland Nurses Association President Bheki Mamba last Friday.

Such a development comes after a petition which was delivered to the prime minister that demanded that nursing assistants be allowed to further their studies without them having to resign.

The petition said there must be an improved quota for nurses who are allowed to train utilising in-service, not the three per year that have been seen previously, which according to nurses is an insult to the profession. According to a document released by Sibusiso Lushaba who is Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union Secretary General on May 17, GNT together with SNA commenced discussions to address concerns raised by SNA through a petition deliv-

This was confirmed by a collective agreement signed by Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Public Service Evert Madlopha on behalf of GNT and Swaziland Nurses Association President Bheki Mamba last Friday



TRIUMPHANT: It has been agreed that nursing assistants (not in picture) are public civil servants and shall be afforded equal relevant training and development opportunities in line with government's in-service training policy.

ered to the premier's office and consequently an Industrial Court Order. The document states that training for nursing assistants was one of the concerns raised through the petition which the Industrial Court directed for both parties to resolve in negotiations.

After negotiations, the parties according to the document agreed that nurs-

ing assistants were nurses, recognised and regulated by the Swaziland Nurses Council.

It was also agreed that nursing assistants are public civil servants and shall be afforded equal relevant training and development opportunities in line with government's in-service training policy.

SNAT members to accompany executive to GNT meeting

MEMBERS of SNAT will on Wednesday accompany their executive to meet with the Government Negotiating Team (GNT) to discuss the issue of finalising the salary review exercise.

This comes after negotiations failed to continue last week between the two parties.

SNAT is the Swaziland National Association of Teachers.

This past Saturday during an extra ordinary meeting held at the SNAT centre, members were informed that the GNT continued to frustrate and to impede the salary review exercise, with the pending issues being appeals and allowances. The members were informed that appeal process was supposed to start by November, 2016 and the nine months that were initially planned for this exercise would end in August this current year.

During the meeting it was agreed that the executive would meet with the GNT last week.

However, just like last time SNAT Secretary General Zweli Mndzebele said the negotiations could not proceed as government continued to maintain its stand of refusing to recognise the existence of the National Public Servants and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU).

It was stated that there were no engagements that were made between the GNT and PSAs with regards to allowances since gov-

ernment refused to sign a deadlock claiming she does not know NAPSAWU.

Mndzebele said even last week, there was nothing which was done as government stated that she was dealing with the NAPSAWU issue.

Mndzebele said last Wednesday, the executive team would go with SNAT members to the negotiations and the members would be outside to get feedback on the negotiations as they progress and will decide there what the way forward is.

The issue of government refusing to acknowledge NAPSAWU existence has also hindered the negotiations on the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for the previous year 2016/17 since a new government financial year has started. This has not happened as according to SNAT executive GNT arguing that she is still finalising bilateral issues with NAPSAWU. According to a statement made by Deputy Secretary General of SNAT Sikelela Dlamini the delaying tactics by GNT are a well calculated move to frustrate SNAT members so that by the time the negotiations ensue, they are ready to take anything that she offers without further scrutiny.

Dlamini stated that the cost of goods and services is unbearable and there is a need to compensate members for the erosion they suffered.



SERA Column

READ THE OBSERVER EVERY FORTNIGHT, ON MONDAYS FOR UPDATES ON SERA

Interact with the on
info@sera.org.sz or 2404 8425
with Sikhumbuzo Nkambule
Manager, Consumer and Stakeholder Management



SAVING ON YOUR ELECTRICITY USAGE THIS WINTER

Saving electricity at home has become increasingly important in recent years. Using electricity without regard to conserving energy contributes to global warming and leads to massive electricity bills. Choosing your appliances wisely, being mindful of your energy consumption habits, and getting creative with household chores can help save money and give you the peace of mind that comes with knowing you're doing your part to reduce strain on the environment. Below we look at some of the "DO IT YOURSELF" tips that you can practise in order to cut down on your electricity spending;

Use more natural lighting. Do you tend to keep the curtains and blinds closed and flip on the overhead lights? Letting your house flood with natural light instead can lead to big electricity saving. Unless you need strong, focused light to complete a particular task, try leaving the lights off during the day and embracing the sun's rays in the rooms you're using.

- Try to set up your family's daytime work and play space in the brightest room in your house. That way everyone can read, work on art projects, use computers, and so on without relying on artificial lighting.
- Use light-coloured curtains and blinds as window coverings. Find coverings that provide privacy but still allow diffused light to flood your rooms.

Use energy-efficient lightbulbs. Replace all of your incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) or LED bulbs. Incandescent bulbs release most of their energy through heat, rather than light. Newer bulb styles are much more energy efficient, and they save a lot of

electricity and money over time.

- CFLs use only about 1/4 the energy of incandescent bulbs. They come in many shapes and styles. Be sure to dispose of these bulbs properly, since they contain small amounts of mercury.
- LED bulbs are slightly more expensive than CFLs, but they last longer and don't contain mercury. LED bulbs are slightly more efficient than CFLs. If you like the ability to customize your environment, LED bulbs come in multicolour and dimmable variants.

Unplug everything. Did you know that appliances and electronics continue sapping electricity as long as they're plugged in, even when their switches are turned off? Making a habit of unplugging these items when they aren't in use saves a lot of energy over time.

- Power down your computer and unplug it when you aren't using it. Computers are one of the main culprits when it comes to using a lot of energy in a household, so unplugging them when you're finished checking your email for the night is worth the hassle.
- Unplug your TVs, radios and sound systems. Leaving these plugged in day in and day out is a waste of electricity and money.
- Don't forget smaller appliances like coffee makers, toasters, hair dryers and phone chargers. These use small amounts of energy, but it really adds up over time.

Insulate your house. It's important to make sure your house isn't releasing too much air-conditioned air during the summer or heated air during the winter. If you have cracks in the frames of your windows, under your doors, in your

houses basement or foundation, in the attic, or anywhere else in your home, you may be leaking electricity and money.

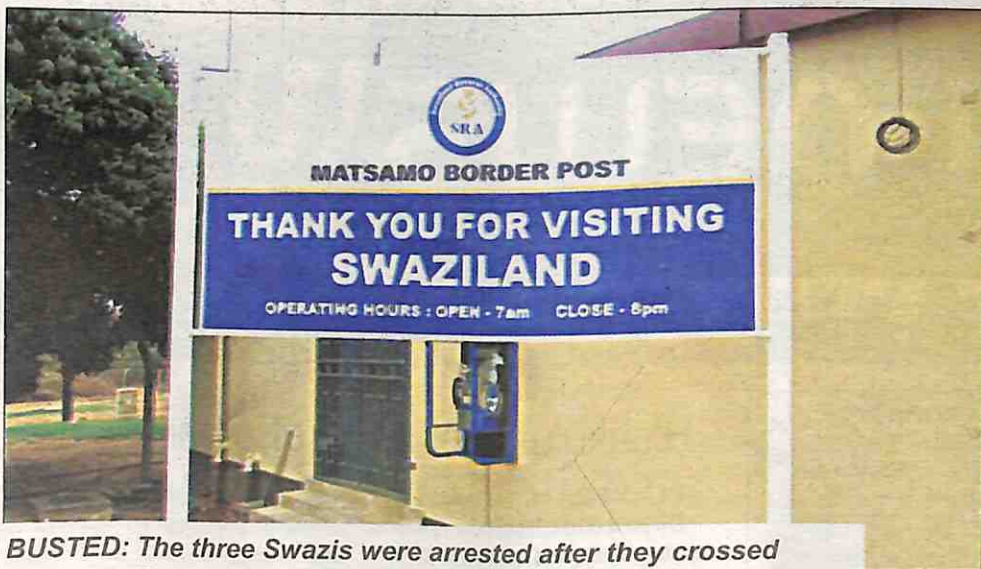
- Have a contractor inspect your home to determine whether additional insulation may be needed.
- Use caulk and door seals to seal the areas around your window and door frames. You can also buy plastic sheeting to cover your windows during the winter

Keep your house at a lower temperature in the winter. You can save a lot of money by turning the thermostat a few degrees lower during the winter instead of heating your house until it's toasty. Set it just low enough so that you're still comfortable while wearing thick layers of clothing. Wear wool socks and sweaters to keep warm instead of relying on your home's heating system.

How can I create awareness regarding the waste of electricity?

Talk to your family, friends and classmates about the issues with electricity usage in the home and classroom. Talk to them about how standby mode still consumes power, about the need to use efficient light bulbs and about needing to put appliances on timers rather than forgetting to turn them off. It's the little things that add up and count long term.

JOIN US ON OUR NEXT ARTICLE ON WHY WE ENCOURAGE THE MOVE FROM INCANDASCENT TO CFL/LED LIGHT BULBS



BUSTED: The three Swazis were arrested after they crossed Matsamo Border Post safely on Tuesday. (Pic: Sizwe Dlamini)

WOMAN, TWO MEN NABBED WITH DAGGA IN NELSPRUIT

Stories by Sizwe Dlamini
Matsamo

A female hawker was arrested for dagga possession in Nelspruit, South Africa, with two other men from Ntfontjini.

The arrest happened last Tuesday after members of the South African Police Services (SAPS) asked to check the bag that the two men were carrying. The female (name withheld) said she was lucky to be released after she managed to

convince the police that she was innocent and had no idea what the men were carrying.

"The truth is I am innocent as I did not know the contents of the bag that the men were carrying.

Lift

"I got a lift from them 20 minutes prior to the arrest. I am grateful that the men told the police that both I and the driver of the car were both innocent and this led to my release," the woman said.

SAPS said a lot of Swazis

were transporting the illegal herb at this time of year.

Illegal

Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) Chief Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba said dagga is still illegal in South Africa.

"Dagga is still illegal in South Africa and Swazis who travel there need to be careful and not agree to transport or look after a stranger's luggage especially if its contents are not known," said Mamba.

Plantation workers haunted by snake

SOME Plantation Forest Company employees live in fear as they are hounded by a snake in the residence provided by the company.

There is a pond that leads up to the residential area, known as the A1 hostel that houses predominantly Plantation Forest Company employees, which is inhabited by a big snake.

A female plantation worker said she actually saw the snake as it was entering the pond that is located at the entry point to the area.

"After hearing my fellow plantation workers say that they have seen a big snake in the previous weeks, I had the unfortunate chance of seeing it with my own two eyes as it was entering the water. "I think it saw me long before I saw it, so it then escaped into the water and all I saw was its fat body all the way up to its tail. I did not see its head and I thank God for that

because I would know no sleep if I saw the head. With my neighbours, we once heard the snake move outside at night during our sleep," the employee said.

Another Plantation Forestry Company worker said the snake in question must be at least two metres long.

Another plantation worker confirmed that the snake was living near the water as weeks before, he had seen dogs which patrol with the local security guards barking wildly at the water.

Mbuso Shiba a ranger at Big Game Parks, said the workers should first try identify the snake and then call them to remove it.

"The only snake that is protected in Swaziland is the python. If it is indeed a python, then we will come and remove it without hurting it," said Shiba.



HERE: The pond located at the entry point to the A1 residential area were the snake is said to inhabit.

SWAZISPA HOLDINGS LIMITED



VACANCY

ELECTRICIAN x 6

Main Purpose of the Job:

Incumbent will be responsible for the maintenance and repair of all electrical equipment in accordance with company policy and procedures.

Education, experience and competencies required:

- O'Level/Matric equivalent
- Electrical Trade Test/Grade 2 Electrical Wireman
- Minimum of 3 years' practical experience in electrical maintenance in MV/LV
- 1 year HV Switching, pumps, transformers, boilers, air con and refrigeration experience
- Knowledge of the evacuation, fire detection and protection procedures
- Good communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently
- Problem seeking/resolving ability
- Team player
- Ability to work under pressure

Key Responsibilities:

- Repair and maintain electrical appliances such as lights, DB equipment, tower lights and electric motors.
- Service/Install/Inspect and report on all electrical and associated equipment.
- Perform electrical tasks in accordance with the electrical code of standards.
- Adhere to Health & Safety regulations.
- Record daily checks on Distribution Boards.
- Liaise with supervisor regarding any industrial equipment that requires special attention.
- Assist with any other duties as may be assigned from time to time.
- Complete handover to the next shift and inform supervisor of all relevant incidents that happened.
- Perform general building maintenance, routine cleaning and inspection of plan rooms, generators and DB's.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 19 JUNE 2017

Please forward application with certified copies of academic qualifications together with an updated CV to:

The Human Resources Department

Swazispa Holdings Limited

Private Bag, Ezulwini

Fax: (+268) 2416 8815

recruitment.swazispa@suninternational.com

NB: Should an applicant not receive feedback 21 days after the closing date that application would have been unsuccessful.



National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS

INVITATION TO TENDER

The National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA) invites bids from eligible and qualifying bidders for the supply and delivery of the following supplies:

Reference Number	Contract Title
PP/CONS/8/2017	Provision of Cleaning (Lot 1) and Grounds Maintenance Services (Lot 2).
PP/GOODS/8/2017	Supply and Delivery of Forklifts & other warehouse equipment
PP/GOODS/9/2017	Supply and Delivery of Dateline Termination Units (Routers)

Lot 1 and Lot 2 may be awarded separately.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 08.30 to 16.30 at the address given below.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders from the 9th June 2017 at the address below, and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of E300.00. The method of payment will be Cash or Bank certified cheque.

A compulsory Pre-Bid meeting shall be held relating to the Provision of Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance Services PP/CONS/8/2017 at the address below:

VENUE	DATE OF MEETING	TIME OF MEETING
Central Medical Stores King Mswati III Avenue, Plot No.77, Matsapha	Friday, 16 th June 2017	9:00am

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10.00 am on Tuesday, 28th June 2017. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on the date above, 10:05am in the NERCHA Training Room.

All bids must be accompanied by all stipulated documents and information as indicated in the Tender document.

The address referred to above is;

The Tender Board

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COUNCIL ON HIV & AIDS (NERCHA)

PLOT 738 OF FARM 2

EMJIKA ROAD

MBABANE

Telephone: (268) 2406 5000

FAX: (268) 2406 5004

Further information can be obtained from:

Thini Fakudze or Nothando Dlamini

Telephone: +268 2406 5000

Fax: +268 2406 5004

Email: procurement@nercha.org.sz / nothando.dlamini@nercha.org

SHISELWENI NEWS



...With

Starsky Mkhonta

Nhlangano office

Tobacco Complex, Cnr King George Masengule Streets
Opposite SEDCO PremisesTel: 2207 5159 Cell: 7621 5081
Email: Starsky@realnet.co.sz

WORKING HARD: Shiselweni Regional Youth Council Coordinator Thembinkosi Hlatshwako (black golf shirt and cap) doing the 'daka-boy' role.



Mahamba Gorge, partners extend one-room for orphans

MAHAMBA Gorge Hiking and partners have joined hands in extending a one-room house for orphans at Magele, an area under near Hlatikulu Mtsambama Constituency.

The orphans are some of the beneficiaries of the proceeds made during this year's hiking.

On Saturday, the Mahamba Gorge Hiking technical team was joined by some of its partners in extending the house and this proved to be an exercise which received unbelievable support as even the residents helped out.

Regional Administrator Themba Masuku as well as the Regional Secretary Zwakele Dlamini, joined by Mtsambama Member of Parliament Mphaya Richard Simelane as well as two other MPs

Mbongiseni Malinga and Sikiza Mhlungu, were part of the exercise and were literally seen doing blocklayer's role.

They were seen pushing wheelbarrows loaded with sand and cement. Also participating in the building of the house was Lucky Ndlovu, who was representing the office of the deputy prime minister.

The DPM's office also deals with matters touching on needy and vulnerable children. There is a new wing under the DPM's office known as the National Children's Unit and Ndlovu heads it.

The four orphans, two boys and two girls, for all this time have been squeezing in a one small room which was also built through funds sought from the

Mahamba Gorge Hiking and other partners. Apart from extending the house, the orphans were also assisted in building a poultry shed where they will start rearing indigenous chickens. A kraal for goats and a vegetable garden were some of the projects completed on the same day as well as a pit latrine.

At least two chickens as well as a goat were presented to the orphans to start income generating projects.

The actual builder Sandile Masuku said he was doing everything for free. He said the RA, who is his uncle (*babe lomncane*) approached him and told him about the project.

"My uncle asked me to assist them in the project. I offered my services for free," said the builder.

Hlatikulu Tycoons FC also participate

PLAYERS of National First Division outfit, Hlatikulu Tycoons, also took part in the construction of a house for the four orphans at Magele.

According to the team's captain Lwazi 'Mray' Mdluli, they were happy to be participating in community projects, especially those which benefit the needy.

He said even the team's elders were fully behind projects meant to improve the lives of disadvantaged members of the society. "This is the oldest team and it was started on the foundation of assisting those who cannot help themselves. Some of us are still being brought up on these principles where one has to play a role in situations like this. Moreover, the community members are our supporters and whatever they do, we also have to be seen taking part," said Mdluli, the captain of 'Amatayitay' as Hlatikulu Tycoons are popularly known.

Mdluli said it was pleasing to see people joining hands with the purpose of rescuing those in unfortunate situations. He said as a team, they were learning something.

"What is being done today is 'ubuntu' which Swazis are known for. If we can have this spirit spreading all over the country, then we can sail to 2022 vision with ease," said Mdluli.

The team was accompanied by

one of its former players Mabheba Dlamini, who is in the management.

The representative from the deputy prime minister's office Lucky Ndlovu said it was good to see people meeting in such a fashion. Ndlovu, who is the Director of the newly established wing under the DPM's office National Children's Unit appreciated all the people who contributed, adding that such was what his department encouraged.

"What is happening here today is in line with our work. The office of the RA brought this kind of a project to our attention and we are here to witness the good work done by many hands," said Ndlovu. Bucopho of the area Jabu Kunene said it was encouraging to see the support given to the orphans. She singled out Coordinator of the National Emergency Response Counsel on HIV and AIDS (NERCHA) in the Shiselweni region Sharon Neves as she was the one who discovered the plight of the orphans.

Two of the girls said they were happy with the way Neves cared for them. They said each time they were visited by Neves, she always brought them something. "She always brings smiles to our faces as each time, she comes with something for us, hence we now refer to her as our mom," said Siphesihle Mwani.



DONORS: Those who assisted in the project for the four orphans of Magele.

THREE OUT OF 14 MPs PRESENT

WITH MPs from the Shiselweni region having said to have agreed that they will now assist each other on any social task or project in their communities, only three participated in a project for orphans at Magele, an area under Mtsambama Inkhundla.

Four orphans made up of two boys and two girls were left with smiles on their faces as they were helped with different projects.

It was first the extension of one of their single room house where they have been sleeping, a poultry shed, vegetable garden and toilet; all done on the same day where three MPs also played significant part. MPs Mbongiseni Malinga of Gege and Sikiza Edward Mhlungu of Matsanjeni

THE 14 MPs IN THE REGION

Shiselweni II - Mthokozisi Kunene (absent)
Shiselweni I - Mandla Nxumalo (absent)
Sigwe - David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala (absent)
Somtongo - Sandile Nxumalo (absent)
Sandleni - Jameson Simelane (absent)
Ngudzeni - Dumisani Ndlangamandla (absent)

Kubuta - Njabulo Mabuza (absent)
Nkwene - Sikhumbuzo Dlamini (absent)
Maseyisini - Mduduzi Small Joe Dlamini (absent)
Hosea - Thulani Masuku (absent)
Zombodze Emuva - Titus Thwala (absent)
Mtsambama - Mphaya Simelane (present)
Matsanjeni South - Sikiza Mhlungu (present)
Gege - Mbongiseni Malinga (present)

South joined their colleague Mphaya Simelane in these projects meant to benefit the orphans.

Of note is that the two MPs are from constituencies far away from Mtsambama.

MP Mphaya donates goat while two colleagues offer chickens

MTSAMBAMA Member of Parliament Mphaya Richard Simelane has donated a goat to the four orphans of Magele.

The MP said his contribution would enable the orphans to start an income generating project.

Two other MPs who joined Simelane during the construction of the house for the orphans also donated chickens.

These are Gege MP Mbongiseni Malinga and Sikiza Edward Mhlungu of Matsanjeni South, who each donated two indigenous chickens to the children who live by themselves.

MP Simelane said he was thankful to the two MPs for not only donating to the course, but also being fully involved in the day's activities.

The MP said someone also pledged a chicken towards the income generating project.

MP Simelane also thanked the office of the regional administrator for starting initiatives that benefit communities.

"The RA and the RS have done commendable work for the region and communities have benefited a lot through the efforts of these two gentlemen," said MP Simelane.

MALAWI MOVING SWIFTLY TO COMMERCIALISING GMO CROPS

By Ackel Zwane
Lilongwe, Malawi

MALAWI stood out as one of a few African countries already on the brink of commercialising genetically modified crops (GMOs) where it is now monitoring nine varieties in the controlled field trials growing cotton, cowpea and banana.

Participants at a three day COMESA/ACTESA communication training workshop for media practitioners on biotechnology and biosafety held in Lilongwe, Malawi this week were told that that country passed the Biosafety Act in 2002, biosafety regulations in 2007 and the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy came into effect in 2008.

On the other hand Swaziland is among six countries that conducted location trials in preparation for general release approvals. Burkina Faso (cowpea), Ethiopia (cotton), Ghana (cowpea), Nigeria (cowpea and sorghum), Swaziland

(cotton) and Uganda (banana and maize). A year after the second decade of commercialisation of biotech/GM crops in 2016, a total of 18 million farmers in 26 countries grew 185.1 million hectares of biotech crops – an increase of 5.4 million hectares or three per cent from 179.7 million hectares in 2015, says the 2016 Global Status Report on Biotech crops launched in Malawi last Wednesday.

Malawi has a biosafety regulatory committee that discusses applications for trials, and a biosafety registry office both institutions that saw the country progress with trials of three different genetically modified crops, which are now at different stages, as Malawi gears up for commercialising GM crops. Bt cotton is at the variety registration trial stage, while Bt cowpea is in its second year of confined field trials (CFT) and virus resistant banana is in its first year of CFTs at proof of concept stage.

The trials are being conducted in nine field sites in all the regions of the country. At a field visit last Tuesday participants learnt that farmers were already

upbeat, demanding a rollout of the seed. Despite major strides in combating hunger over the last 30 years, 800 million people go to bed daily on an empty stomach, and there are 40 000 hunger-related deaths every day. This 'silent holocaust' is 'unconscionable', pleads Ismail Serageldin of the World Bank. Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of peace, called hunger the greatest of all violence.

Worldwide, one in three children is underweight, and one in five is stunted due to undernourishment. Nearly 40 000 people – half of them children – die every day due to hunger related causes. By 2020, the number of undernourished could well surpass 1 billion.

In many developing countries, where subsistence farmers eke out meager livings, and the ability to provide enough food for survival is often less than assured, the vital importance of staple AgBioworld asserts that crops such as rice, sweet potato and cassava cannot be overstated. In many places, the loss of a crucial crop to pests, diseases or weather can mean the difference between

life or death, straining the resources and threatening the well-being of entire communities.

In rapid succession, the leading scientists around the world are attesting to the health and environmental safety of agricultural biotechnology, and now they are calling for genetically modified crops to be extended to the people who need it most – hungry people in the developing world. More than 2 900 eminent scientists, including three Nobel laureates, have signed a statement of support. Expert panels with the World Health Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development have made strong statements supporting the safety of the crops. Numerous scientific societies are passing proclamations in support.

And just last April, six national science academies (U.S., Britain, Brazil, China, India and Mexico) and the Third World Academy of Sciences, issued a joint statement, not only endorsing biotechnology but urging companies,

governments and charities to extend it to the developing world.

The need for new technologies is great, as the seven academies describe:

● "Today, there are some 800 million people who do not have access to sufficient food to meet their needs."

● "Malnutrition plays a significant role in half of the nearly 12 million deaths each year of children under five in developing countries."

● "In addition to lack of food, deficiencies in micro-nutrients (especially vitamin A, iodine and iron) are widespread."

● "(Global climate change) and alterations in land use will exacerbate the problems of regional production and demands for food."

● "In developing countries about 650 million of the poorest people live in rural areas where the local production of food is the main economic activity. Without successful agriculture, these people will have neither employment nor the resources they need for a better life. Farming the land is the engine of progress in less developed countries."

Similarly in Swaziland after frequent visits to trial fields in both Malkerns and South Africa farmers, especially cotton farmers, are already calling for a speedy distribution of the Bt cotton seed. This followed facilitations by the Swaziland Cotton Board to engage all stakeholders including members of Parliament who must fastback the legislative aspect of things.

Juris Manufacturing management, employees moving on after chaos

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlanguano

GRIEVANCES which led to chaos a couple of months ago at Juris Manufacturing, one of the textile companies in Nhlanguano are being attended to by management.

Already there are signs that both parties will soon reach an understanding.

The close to 2 000 employees went berserk a few months ago where they also attacked management and assaulted one of the senior managers who was stabbed in the process.

The chaos which lasted for days saw all operations coming to a halt and almost led to a catastrophe as even the company's properties as well as the buildings were vandalised. It is said while the misunderstanding was sparked after some of the employees had an altercation with one of the senior managers who was planning to fire them; it is believed the other reason for the chaos was related to the working conditions the employees were subjected to. Claims are that the setup in the company was against labour laws.

Now, it is said grievances that the employees raised after the issue was reported to the relevant bodies such as the labour department, there is tangible change which is something the employees appreciate. The employees who all along were given 30 minutes as their lunch period, now have a full hour for lunch.

Again, as all this time the employees were not allowed to move out of the premises for their lunch, such has also been given attention as now they are allowed to leave the premises to have their lunch anywhere but expected back at work on time.

Employees interviewed said the changes were now being implemented adding that they commended

such a move.

"Even the delay on our salaries, we have been assured that it has also been given the attention it deserves. It's a clear sign that the riot we staged worked to our advantage even though we do not condone it. Management should learn to address issues affecting us at their infancy stage. We were pushed to a corner to demand what we feel is our right as employees," said one of the leaders of the employees.

On the other hand, the union Amalgamated Trade Union of Swaziland (ATUSWA) leadership said even though there was nothing official communicated to them that things were now in order at Juris Manufacturing, it was encouraging to learn that progress has been made in addressing some of the grievances.

ATUSWA Secretary General Wonder Mkhonza said they had ears on the ground regarding what was endorsed as a way forward at Juris Manufacturing. He said since there has been no other riot after the one which brought the company on its knees, he was of the view that all parties were now moving on the same direction.

"Nothing has been communicated by our office in Nhlanguano which could need our attention as ATUSWA. This means all is well as we did tell our officers that should they have a problem, they should not hesitate to contact us. It looks like all is fine and this is what we expect in a working environment. Employers should listen to their employees just like they (employers) expect the employees to listen to them," said Mkhonza.

Mkhonza said it was however not the right time to celebrate whatever progress had been made at Juris Manufacturing up until as a union they were convinced that the issues were really addressed.

Health centre fails to take off at Mashayikhatsi

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlanguano

A health centre project which was blessed by His Majesty King Mswati III has failed to take off at Mashayikhatsi and many are concerned.

The decision to have the health facility constructed came about after it was found that the New Haven Clinic's state was no longer up to standard and no longer good enough in providing the necessary health service to the public.

The launch of the project where His Majesty was represented by Princess Tsandzile took place towards the end of last year.

Private Secretary to His Majesty Mbongeni Simelane who was also one of the speakers remarked how the country's leaders are eager to see the project materialising.

Witness

Also present to witness the sod cutting which meant the beginning of work included Minister of Health Sibongile Simelane as well as Shiselweni Regional Administrator Themba Masuku who was tasked to ensure that the project was implemented.

Regional Secretary Zwakele Dlamini was also present.

Neighbouring chiefs such as Chief Velebantfu attended the ceremony where the gathering was informed that this was a project blessed by the highest authority in the land and no one was therefore expected to question it and its location.

Architects also came to display the designs of the health facility whose cost amounts to millions of emalangeni.

Sandleni MP Jameson Simelane was also present and many other dignitaries.

It is however a concern to others now as to why a project of this magnitude is still not taking off and most importantly, after it received blessings from the country's leaders.

The New Haven Clinic is now many years old, its ceiling walls are in a total



NOT AWARE: Minister of Health Sibongile Simelane.

mess and everything is congested and falling apart.

MP Simelane said he was not sure as to what exactly has caused the delay of the project. He said such a project was important as it would help have the communities of the relevant chiefdoms receive the required health services than having to travel long distance.

Answers

"I may not have answers as to what is delaying the project but I am optimistic that it will materialise more especially that the site where it is earmarked received blessings from His Majesty. Others may want to politicise the project by questioning its urgency and if it is a priority but the bottom line is that when something has received blessings from the country's authorities, no one should debate that," said MP Simelane.

On the other hand the RA said he was optimistic that the project would definitely be implemented.

"I don't want to believe that there can be someone politicising such a project.

Politics versus service delivery, I think one should know which should win. If the health facility is not there, it means there is also going to be no service delivery. Service delivery is needed at all costs especially when taking into account that as a country we are eyeing the 2022 vision," said Masuku.

Construction

On that note, Minister of Health Sibongile Simelane said the construction of the health facility would definitely take place. She said she was not aware of any talks or plans to block it or anyone politicising it.

"There are many things involved and it's a process to have this kind of project started. Tendering as well as many other requirements should be in place before seeing the actual work such as putting up the structures and infrastructure. I don't have even the slightest doubt as I am fully confident that the health facility at Mashayikhatsi will definitely take off the ground. There are similar projects which also have taken time to be implemented and such is usually caused by many factors," said Minister Simelane.

16 NATIONAL NEWS

GOGO (89) ABUSED BY OWN CHILD, SLEEPS IN CHICKEN DEN

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

AN 89-year-old woman is being forced to sleep inside a chicken shed by her 41-year-old abusive son.

Timphisini Constituency Headman Makhelekehane Matfunjwa said Gogo Melleny Ndawe has been living in the chicken shelter for seven years, however, she refuses to report her son to the police for abuse.

"The abuse that the old woman has been forced to endure at the hands of her own son Mpiyakhe Shiba is just too much. She tells me that she is regularly assaulted by her son when he comes home drunk in the evenings, and this started in 2011," Matfunjwa said.

Ndawe, who lost her husband in 2002, had three children; two girls and one boy.

The girls, after completing school, went to live and work in Matsapha and Shiba went to South Africa to look for a job.

He returned in 2011, and started demanding money from his mother.

When he was visited by his girlfriends, he would tell his mother to move out of the bedroom as he wanted to use it.

"At first Ndawe would sleep inside



THIS IS NOT RIGHT: Gogo Ndawe (89) who is forced to sometimes sleep inside a chicken shed by her abusive son. (Pics: Sizwe Dlamini)

it, but Shiba then started locking the kitchen as well as the bedroom, forcing his mother to sleep with the chickens. Shiba would leave the homestead for a whole week, locking the food away from his mother who will be helped by neighbours who pitied her," said Matunjwa.

Imprison

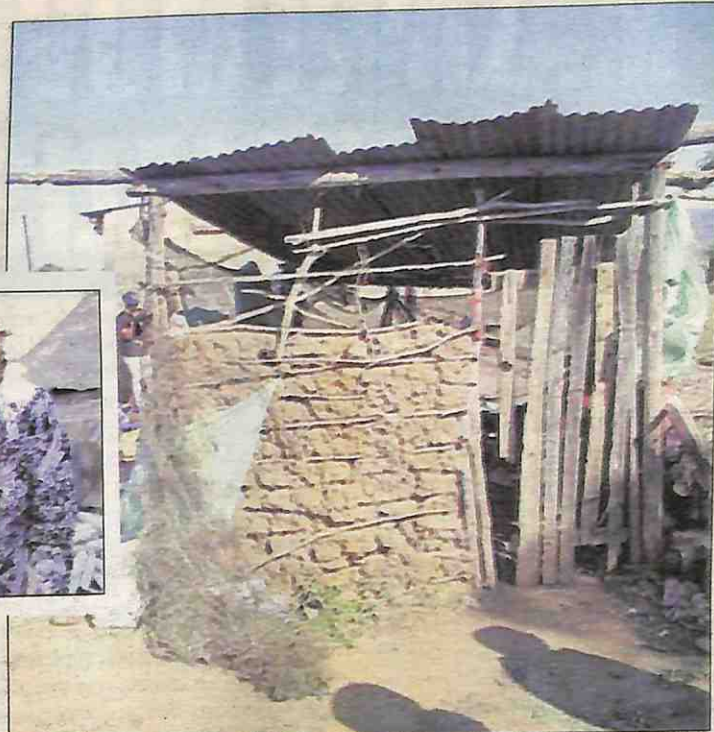
When interviewed, Ndawe said she did not want the police to imprison her

only son. "I am just waiting to die, I rely on handouts from generous residents to survive. I do not know what is wrong with my son, he gets violent when he is drunk, like his father.

Money

He hits me when I have no money, I do not want him to go to jail as this will leave me all alone," said Ndawe.

Meanwhile, Timphisini Member of Parliament (MP) Apton Ndlovu said



ABODE: A closer look at the chicken shed where Ndawe sleeps.

some of the abuses that go on at the area were horrific and deserved media attention.

"I have told the headman in the area to help the community by alerting us of any abuses that may be going on. We cannot always help people if we do not know what is going on, unfortunately some of the abuses are never reported," said Ndlovu.

On that note, Acting Police Public Relations Officer Assistant

Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said they were open to dialogue and mediation. "We sometimes understand that there are situations when a victim does not wish to open a criminal case against an individual for whatever reason. In cases like those, we then mediate the situation and open dialogue between the affected parties; this is a very good way of controlling and sorting out situations amicably," said Vilakati.



GRAND ENTRANCE: Senator Ndumiso Mdluli with retiring Mayiweane Principal Anderson Mkhonta who was accompanied by his wife at Mayiweane High School sports ground on Friday. Next to her is current Principal Patrick Ndlangamandla. (Pics: Sizwe Dlamini)



FAREWELL: A parent presenting gifts to Mkhonta.



THANK YOU: Current Mayiweane High School Principal Patrick Ndlangamandla handing goats to the retiring principal.

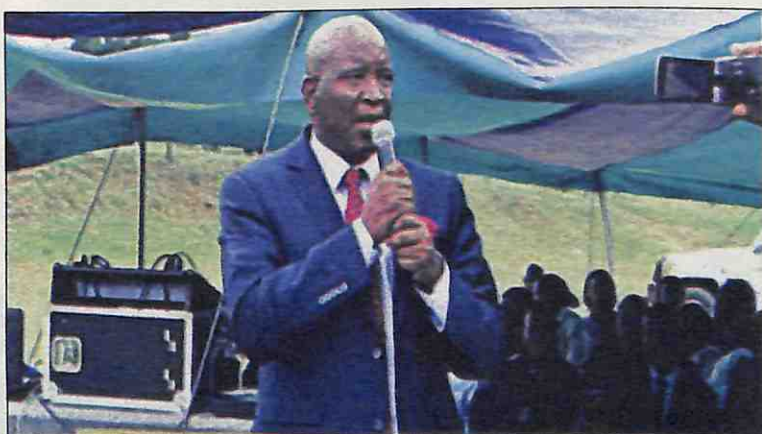
SENATOR NDUMISO MDLULI HAILS KING

By Sizwe Dlamini
Mayiweane

SENATOR Ndumiso Mdluli says His Majesty King Mswati III is a prophet.

Speaking at Mayiweane High during the farewell ceremony of former Principal Anderson Mkhonta, who was retiring after serving in the teaching profession for 33 years, Mdluli said the King has given Swaziland a prophetic word of landmark proportions by making vision 2022 a national development goal for all Swazis to strive for.

"Today we are retiring a respected and empathetic leader in Mkhonta, but retirement in a professional sense does not mean retirement in life itself.



ALL HAIL THE KING: Senator Mdluli addressing the gathering.

Therefore, we know that Mkhonta will still be a leader in our communities

where he is an important leadership figure. In times like these, I cannot

help but remember our King's prophetic word of Swaziland reaching first world status by the year 2022, these words have seen our King being transformed into a prophet, thus we need leaders like Mkhonta to help the country reach this vision as foreseen by our King," said Mdluli.

Transparency

The senator added that when Mkhonta started at Mayiweane High in 2001, the school was in an unattractive state but due to persistence and transparency coupled with commitment, he managed to engineer landmark structural and administrative improvements.

He said the King blessed the school by officially opening it in 2005.

Mdluli said this showed the calibre of the former principal as he turned

the school into a reputable institution.

He further appreciated the 33 years that Mkhonta has served as a teacher in the country.

Meanwhile, current Mayiweane High Principal Patrick Ndlangamandla said he was proud of inheriting a school that was led by a man who was focused on the development of children and the surrounding community.

"I have big shoes to fill and intend to continue all the hard work that Mkhonta has implemented.

Today, we see a lot of members of the community here to give our former principal a resounding send-off, this is evidence that the school is central to the community that is united in its admiration of Mkhonta," said Ndlangamandla.



FEATURES & OPINION

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ROUNDTABLE

FACT: One of the challenges facing modern business and private sectors globally is the fact that the current financial and economic systems and organisations, unless inspired by God and led by the Holy Spirit, will not prevail in solving the deepening economic problems of the world.

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- At Ezulwini-Bethel Court - First Tuesday of every month
- At Matsapha- S&B Restaurant - First Thursday of the month
- At Simunye-Simunye Club-second Tuesday of the month
- Manzini - Third Tuesday of the month, at The George Hotel
- Mpaka - Malindza Primary School, third Thursday of every month
- At Nhlalanga - Ngwane Teacher's Training College-every last Thursday of the month
- Siteki - Second Thursday of the month, new building next to Baceth Hardware
- Ngculwini - At Mhubhe High School, second Saturday of the month 11am-1pm
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GBR AN ANSWER TO NATIONS

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● "We believe God will use organisations like the GBR - Global Business Roundtable to ensure that His people take over and control the economies of the world."

WE are still sharing the Great Men Of God that shape the God-centred organisation, the Global Business Roundtable.

It is a fact that for one's growth, a Spiritual Father is needed, thus GBR having a number of them, who play a crucial spiritual growth in the organisation.

Today we share a brief profile of another spiritual father this organisation looks up to, and this is none other than evangelist Angus Buchan, who recently gathered nations in Blomfontein.

A New Thing Preview - Season 2

THE role of GBR TV and GBR Radio is basically to educate, transform, impact and empower God's people holistically in all sectors of society.

Season 2, currently showing in most electronic mediums, addresses issues including: cancers, diabetes, depression, poverty, drug abuse, career choices, fatherhood, manhood, marriage - choice of a life partner, business and funding opportunities for young entrepreneurs, kingdom women and their roles in society, ministers of the gospel - their roles, yesterday, today and in the future, why pray and intercede, GBR global prayer network, the role of the trade and investment summit, role of trade and investment companies within GBR, the role mandate and objectives of The Strategic Partnership - globally, nationally and locally for GBR and many others. Remember to tune into GBR's exciting programme, A New Thing, every Saturday at 5pm, on TBN (Channel 343) and on RTM every Monday at 8pm and 6pm on Saturdays.

On Swazi TV tonight at 9pm with a repeat on Sundays, 5pm.



Angus Buchan

A humble story of a Scottish couple who immigrated to a land formerly known as Rhodesia (or Malawi to some), which was later renamed Zimbabwe. In 1947, this couple was blessed with a son who grows up to be a maize and cattle farmer in Zambia. This maize and cattle farmer named Angus, who got married to a lovely lady called Jill, decided to move to Greytown in the KwaZulu-Natal in 1976. Years later, Jill explains the need to move from Zambia in the following manner, "We always agreed that when we had children we'd bring them up ourselves and not send them away. That's actually why we left Zambia, we didn't want to put them on a plane and send them far from home". Andrew, Fergus, Robyn, and Jill are the blessings from God that prompted Jill and Angus to move from Zambia to South Africa.

In 1980, within four years of settling in South Africa and a year after receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, the Buchans started Shalom Ministries to preach to the local community. Over time he became a full-time evangelist. The day to day running of the farm was interfering with the evangelical ministry, so, the business of running the farm was left to his sons.

Oom Angus, The Evangelist

As an evangelist, Oom Angus, as he is affectionately referred to, is passionate about the role of men in the society and is mindful of how damaging it can be for the community or a country at large when men are not taking their rightful place in the family and society. It is in this regard that The Mighty Men Conference, organised by Shalom Trust, was launched.

This is an annual gathering of Christian men and boys. He says of this gathering, "God gave me a directive to turn fathers back to sons and sons back to fathers, to take back the family unit." This event takes place at the camp for a few days in the open air. The purpose of the meeting is to mutually worship and connect with God, thus growing spiritually while in the beautiful outdoors God created. The first camp pulled a crowd of 40 individuals, by the sixth year it was held, it pulled a crowd of more than 200 000. It's seventh and final year in 2010, there were more than 400 000 seated. This was a fit that will never be forgotten. Those who were fortunate to attend, recalls this fondly and with a sense of awe. Many such conferences are still held by believers and God's faithfulness is experienced.

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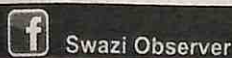
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ON THIS DAY

...JUNE 12

1979 - Bryan Allen flew the Gossamer Albatross, man powered, across the English Channel.

1981 - Major league baseball players began a 49 day strike. The issue was free-agent compensation.

1981 - "Raiders of the Lost Ark" opened in the US.

1982 - 75 000 people rallied against nuclear weapons in New York City's Central Park. Jackson Browne, James Taylor, Bruce Springsteen, and Linda Ronstadt were in attendance.

1985 - Wayne "The Great One" Gretsky was named winner of the NHL's Hart Trophy. The award is given to the league Most Valuable Player.

1985 - The US House of Representatives approved \$27 million in aid to the Nicaraguan contras.

1986 - South Africa declared a national state of emergency. Virtually unlimited power was given to security forces and restrictions were put on news coverage of the unrest.

1987 - US President Reagan publicly challenged Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall.

1990 - The parliament of the Russian Federation formally declared its sovereignty.

1991 - Russians went to the election polls and elected Boris N. Yeltsin as the president of their republic.

1991 - The Chicago Bulls won their first NBA championship. The Bulls beat the Los Angeles Lakers four games to one.

1992 - In a letter to the US Senate, Russian Boris Yeltsin stated that in the early 1950's the Soviet Union had shot down nine US planes and held 12 American survivors.

1996 - In Philadelphia a panel of federal judges blocked a law against indecency on the internet. The panel said that the 1996 Communications Decency Act would infringe upon the free speech rights of adults.

1997 - Interleague play began in baseball, ending a 126-year tradition of separating the major leagues until the World Series.

1997 - The US Treasury Department unveiled a new \$50 bill meant to be more counterfeit-resistant.

1998 - Compaq Computer paid \$9 billion for Digital Equipment Corp. in largest high-tech acquisition.

1999 - NATO peacekeeping forces entered the province of Kosovo in Yugoslavia.

2003 - In Arkansas, Terry Wallis spoke for the first time in nearly 19 years. Wallis had been in a coma since July 13, 1984, after being injured in a car accident.

2009 - In the US, The switch from analog TV transmission to digital was completed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Mark Henry(wrestler)
- JUNE 12, 1971 (46
years old)
Christine



Sinclair(soccer player)
- JUNE 12, 1983 (34
years old)

#GUPTALEAKS: HOW CAPTURED AMBASSADOR LOBBIED THE DUTCH

JOHANNESBURG - The government official who helped the Guptas obtain permission to land a private jet at Air Force Base Waterkloof has been using his position as South Africa's ambassador to the Netherlands to negotiate business deals on behalf of the controversial family.

New information from #GuptaLeaks indicates that Bruce Koloane, who got his diplomat job after being suspended as chief of state protocol at the department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), also forwarded information on the base directly to Gupta lieutenant Ashu Chawla around the time of the 2013 Waterkloof debacle.

The #GuptaLeaks also show that:

- Koloane, appointed as ambassador to the Netherlands in August 2014, met with Dutch businessmen in The Hague in 2015 to negotiate a deal with a manufacturer of greenhouse systems on the Guptas' behalf;

- Koloane's friends were allowed to stay at the Guptas' upmarket private game lodge in Limpopo around the time of the negotiations with the Dutch greenhouse company;

- Koloane sent Chawla documents on a prospective coal mining site in KwaZulu-Natal in the midst of the Waterkloof fallout; and

- He attended the Gupta wedding at Sun City and stayed at the resort for three nights.

The Dutch Deal

Correspondence between Koloane, the owners of Dutch company KPG Greenhouses and Rajesh "Tony" Gupta suggests Koloane used his position as ambassador to help the Guptas clinch business deals in the Netherlands. In July 2015, KPG Greenhouses' Marco van 't Hart sent an email to Koloane's official embassy email address and CCed Herman van der Kroef, the department of trade and industry's representative to the Netherlands, in the email.

"Thank you for visiting our company in Maasland. In the meeting you asked if we would consider to sell our company for at least 50 per cent and if we would be interested to start a production site in South Africa," he wrote.

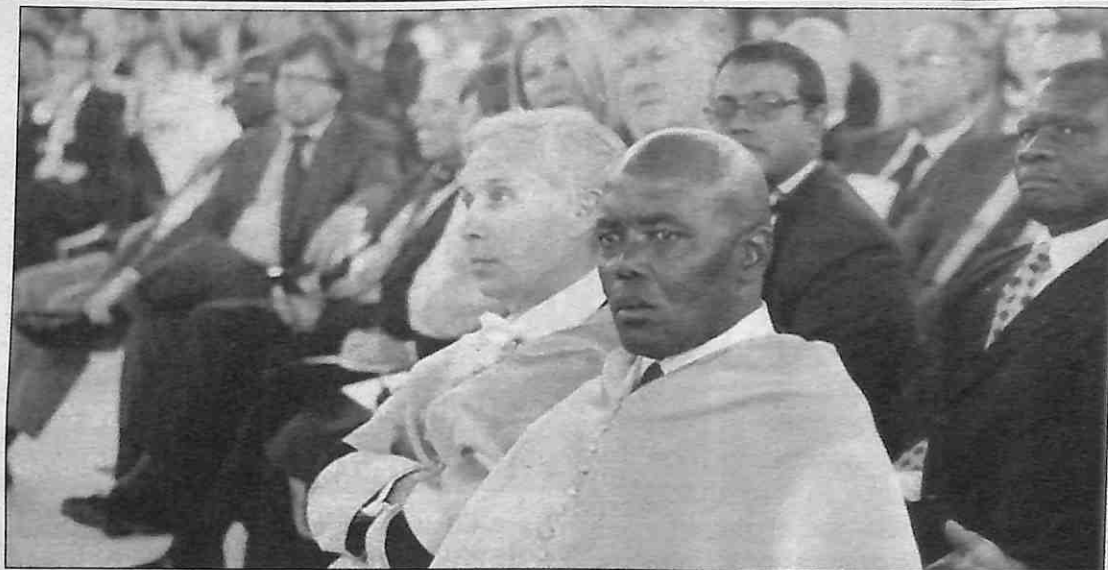
It is clear from the email that Koloane and Van der Kroef were representing someone else's interests during their visit to the company, situated a 30-minute drive away from the South African embassy in The Hague's city centre.

"...for this your investor can better talk too Mr Koppert himself (sic)," wrote Van der Kroef, referring to KPG Greenhouses' owner, André Koppert.

A day later, Koloane forwarded the email to Tony, the youngest Gupta brother, saying, "As promised".

Koloane's bidding set in motion protracted negotiations between Tony Gupta and Koppert, although it is not clear from the emails whether a deal was clinched.

Later in July 2015, Koppert emailed



CAPTURED: Correspondence between Bruce Koloane, the owners of Dutch company KPG Greenhouses and Rajesh "Tony" Gupta suggests Koloane used his position as ambassador to help the Guptas clinch business deals in the Netherlands.

Tony Gupta to enquire about the family's intentions and Gupta replied: "Dear Mr Andre, thanks for your mail. Our group is very diversely invested eg OAKBAY resources, Sahara computers, JIC mining services, The new age newspaper etc. we are looking to invest in agriculture sector (hydroponic) so we are looking to takeover or invest in your company also... (sic)."

But Koppert apparently was not keen to sell such a large stake in his company.

He did, however, suggest that KPG Greenhouses and the Guptas explore opportunities together to invest in a greenhouse manufacturing facility in South Africa.

Tony Gupta, though, was not overly excited by this offer, responding in late July 2015:

"Honorable Mr. Koppert, thanks for your mail and sorry to delay my reply. I will not be keen for your below mention idea... Once again thanks (sic)."

Tony Gupta and Koppert kept in touch throughout August and September to try to set up a meeting, but it is not clear from the emails whether they ever did.

News24 contacted Van 't Hart on WhatsApp this week. He said he was in a meeting, but did not respond to later queries. Koppert did not respond to phone calls or messages.

'Brother Tony'

A month after Koppert and Gupta had exchanged emails, Koloane again made contact with a member of the Gupta business network, this time to help two of his friends score a weekend stay at the Guptas' luxury Clifftop Lodge in the Welgevonden private game reserve in Limpopo.

"Please find forwarded an email confirming arrival dates for my friends from the USA.

Brother Tony has asked that I forward you the info so that you can make arrangements at the Lodge for a game visit. (One couple) Please check with him on this matter and confirm reservation with me by email and please copy Chelsea Jennings as

well (sic)," Koloane wrote to Chawla in August 2015, using his Yahoo email account.

A few days later, Chawla responded to Koloane with an email that included a PDF document for the booking at the lodge, saying:

"Dear sir. As discussed here is the booking attached for your reference (sic)."

The document indicates that Jennings and her partner stayed at Clifftop for two nights in September 2015. Their stay included three meals and two safaris and from the booking it appears that they were not charged.

Koloane's relation to Jennings is unclear from the emails.

News24 sent queries via WhatsApp to a cellphone number she included in an earlier email to Koloane. The messages appear to have been read, but Jennings did not respond.

Coal Asset

In October 2013, barely six months after Koloane helped the Guptas secure the Waterkloof landing, he received documents from one Funokwakhe Cedric Xulu detailing a study done on a prospective coal mining site near Empangeni, KwaZulu-Natal.

The study was conducted at Xulu's request by Pietermaritzburg scientist Chris Whyte, and details the viability of coal mining in the Mpisi prospecting area. Koloane subsequently forwarded the study and other documents on the Mpisi coal reserve to Chawla.

"Dear Ashu. Please find attached a geological report for a coal asset as discussed with Tony," wrote Koloane. The #GuptaLeaks trove shows that Chawla eventually forwarded the documents to Tony Gupta in March 2014. Whyte confirmed he had compiled the study and was commissioned by Xulu. He said he had no idea the report would end up with the Guptas.

Xulu did not respond to an SMS and did not answer his cellphone.

Back to Waterkloof

The #GuptaLeaks contain further details about Koloane's direct communication with Chawla during the

planning of the Waterkloof landing of the chartered Jet Airways plane carrying guests to the Sun City wedding of the Gupta brothers' niece, Vega.

In February 2013, Chawla emailed Koloane, then chief of state protocol:

"As discussed can you please get me the following info regarding the Waterkloof airport. We would need the following information for us to plan any operations to Waterkloof airport. All charts for operation (airfield charts, SID/STARs if any, ILS/VOR/NDB approach charts) under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) (sic)."

On March 20, former air force official Christine Anderson sent Koloane an email discussing operational matters at Waterkloof:

"AFB Waterkloof ILS/VOR (WKV) is out of service from 4 March 2013 until the end of April 2013 for a new system. In bad weather aircraft must plan to divert. SID/STARs will not be able to perform when ILS/VOR is unserviceable (sic)."

Koloane then forwarded her message to Chawla.

According to the string of emails, a "flight information manual" for Air Force Base Waterkloof was also sent to Chawla by a Sahara Computers employee called Sandeep.

But this exchange only occurred in June of that year, after Vega Gupta's wedding, and it is not clear whether this document originated from Koloane.

A spreadsheet containing the names of about 260 guests for Vega Gupta's wedding at Sun City also suggests that Koloane attended the lavish affair, and spent three nights at one of the resort's hotels with an unknown guest. According to the document, which appears to reflect invitees who had RSVPed by April 22, "Vusi B Koloane" was marked as "attending".

The spreadsheet indicates he and a partner were to stay at Sun City for three nights.

News24 made numerous attempts to obtain comment from Koloane and from Dirco spokesperson Clayton Monyela, but no responses were forthcoming.

IT'S COLD OUTSIDE ZUMA'S ANC

IN the liberation struggle against apartheid, a small number of white people joined the battle to overthrow the South African regime.

One of them, academic Raymond Suttner, was first arrested in 1975 and tortured with electric shocks because he refused to supply information to the police. He then served eight years in prison because of his underground activities for the African National Congress and South African Communist Party.

After his release in 1983 he was forced - after two years - to go underground to evade arrest, but was re-detained in 1986 under repeatedly renewed states of emergency for 27 months - 18 of these in solitary confinement. First published in 2001, Suttner's prison memoir 'Inside Apartheid's Prison', has been made available again, now with a completely new introduction. The Conversation Africa's Charles Leonard spoke to Suttner.

Why did you write the book?

I was hesitant to write it because there is a culture of modesty that is inculcated in cadres. I used to think it was "not done" to write about myself. I also thought that my experience was a "parking ticket" compared with the sentences of Nelson Mandela and others. But I came to feel that I have a story to tell. Nevertheless, I hope that resources will be found so that more stories are told, not only of prison but the many unknown people who pursued resistance in different ways in a range of relatively unknown places.

You were imprisoned and on house arrest for over 11 years. It was based on choices you made. Would you make the same choices today?

Yes. I did what I believed was right at the time and even if things are not turning out so well at the moment, that does not invalidate those choices. I saw the liberation struggle as having a sacred quality and considered it an honour to be part of it. I was very influenced by the great Afrikaner Communist Bram Fischer. He had nothing to gain personally and could have been a judge, the president of the country or anything else. Instead he chose a life of danger and later life imprisonment. I was inspired by that example, amongst others, to do what I could. When one embarks on revolutionary activities, there are no guarantees of success. I was not sure that I would come out alive. I did what I believed was right and would make the same choices again.

So those choices were worth it?

Definitely. This was not a business venture where one could answer such a question through balancing profits and losses. For me joining the struggle, as a white, gave me the opportunity to start my life afresh by joining my fortunes with those who were oppressed. It gave me the chance to link myself

...But there's little warmth left inside



with the majority of South Africans.

That was a more authentic way of living my life than whatever successes I may have achieved, had I simply focused on professional success. Most importantly I see this choice - to join the liberation struggle - as giving me the opportunity to humanise myself as a white South African in apartheid South Africa.

Do you still feel the damage after all these years in prison?

Yes. I have post-traumatic stress. I am not sure that it will ever be eliminated or that I always recognise its appearance. Many of us live with scars from that period.

I have not always acknowledged or understood that I have been damaged but it is directly related to my having fibromyalgia (a disorder characterised by widespread musculoskeletal pain accompanied by fatigue, sleep, memory and mood issues), according to the specialist who diagnosed it. She cautioned me about returning to my prison experiences, in this book, fearing the possibility of it setting off physically painful symptoms. That didn't happen as far as I am aware and returning to the scene of trauma may be part of healing, according to some.

Why did you break with the ANC over 10 years ago?

I had not been happy with many aspects of Thabo Mbeki's presidency but that did not mean I should

align myself with his successor Jacob Zuma. Zuma's candidacy was promoted not only by ANC people but especially the South African Communist Party (SACP) and trade union federation COSATU's leaderships, presenting him as having qualities that were not valid. In particular, the claim that Zuma was a man of the people with sympathy for the poor and downtrodden was untrue. It was already known that he was linked with corrupt activities before he was elected as ANC president in 2007. But what was decisive for me was Zuma's 2006 rape trial. There was something very cruel in the way the complainant, known as 'Khwezi', was treated, in the mode of defence that Zuma chose. I found that unacceptable.

Is it not lonely outside the ANC?

I miss the comradeship that I understood to bind me to people with whom I had shared dangers, joys and sorrows. When you are together in difficult times, it creates a special bond. I did not conceive of that being broken.

But when you break away in a time of decadence, what is it that one misses? I cannot resume relationships on the same basis as those which I previously counted as comradeship. Our paths diverged. I went out into the cold and some with whom I used to be very close chose to link themselves with a project that has meant corruption,

violence and destroying everything that was once valued in the liberation tradition. These former comrades have all been accomplices in Nkandla (Zuma's private rural home which was upgraded at a cost to the country of R246-million to taxpayers), the social grants scandal and many other features of this period which have seen some individuals benefit unlawfully and at the expense of the poor. I do not say that every person I know has been improperly enriched. But all those who have been in the ANC/SACP/COSATU leadership have endorsed, indeed even provided elaborate defences of some of the worst features of the Zuma period. In the new introduction to the book, I use the word "betrayal" and I chose it to refer to these people, many of whom were once brave, who turned their backs on those from whom they came or whose cause they once adopted as their own. Yes, it's lonely. But that loneliness cannot be remedied by resuming bonds with people who have taken fundamentally different paths. I now build relationships with others from whom I am learning and growing.

Raymond Suttner, Emeritus Professor, University of South Africa and part-time professor Rhodes University, Rhodes University, on The Conversation.

Wit and Wisdom

● "If an apology is followed by an excuse or a reason, it means they are going to commit same mistake again they just apologised for."

— Amit Kalantri

● "For glory lit, and life alive, for goals unreached and aims to strive. All men must try, the wind did see. It is the test, it is the dream."

— Brandon Sanderson, *Words of Radiance*

● "Enough about my beauty," Buttercup said. "Everybody always talks about how beautiful I am. I've got a mind, Westley. Talk about that."

— William Goldman, *The Princess Bride*

● "Wit seduces by signaling intelligence without nerdiness."

— Russell Nicholas Falek, *The Bed of Procrustes: Philosophical and Practical Aphorisms*

● "I have always been a huge admirer of my own work. I'm one of the funniest and most entertaining writers I know."

— Mel Brooks

● "One of the strongest natural proofs of the folly of hereditary right in kings, is, that nature disapproves it, otherwise, she would not so frequently turn it into ridicule by giving mankind an ass for a lion."

— Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

● "Soar with wit. Conquer with dignity. Handle with care."

— Criss Jami, *Killosophy*

● "Someone once told me that we move when it becomes less painful than staying where we are."

— Anne Hines, *The Spiral Garden*

● "Being born in a stable does not make one a horse."

— Arthur Wellesley

● "The small amount of foolery wise men have makes a great show."

— William Shakespeare

● "You sounded like Dolly Parton on helium."

(After Kristy Lee Cook of season 7 on American Idol sang her country rendition of the Beatles "Eight Days A Week.")

— Simon Cowell

● "It was like ordering a hamburger and getting only the buns"

(After Brooke White of season 7 on American Idol sang the song 'Hero' by Mariah Carey)

— Simon Cowell

● "Writing a book is like sliding down a rainbow! Marketing it is like trudging through a field of chewed bubblegum on a hot, sticky day."

— Betty Dravis

● "Yeah, well, wish in one hand, crap in the other, and see which fills up first"

— S.A. Bodeen, *The Compound*

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.75%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	7%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.25%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E11.80 per litre
Replacement	E11.85 per litre
Diesel	E11.70 per litre
Paraffin	E 7.95 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 8 JUNE 2017

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	12.7950	12.8450
British Pound/SZL	16.5836	16.6484
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.5271	8.5596
Swiss France/SZL	13.2673	13.3150
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.1963	1.2074
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.6551	9.6980
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.4708	9.5071
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	14.4091	14.4654
Gold	1,287.8700	
Oil	46.7200	

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Standard Bank

MONTIGNY'S ANNUAL TURNOVER EXCEEDS E1BN FOR THE FIRST TIME

By Manqoba Makhubu

MONTIGNY Group's annual turnover exceeded E1 billion for the first time in 2016.

The company has set a target to grow its turnover to reach at least E3.7 billion per year in 2020.

Responding to a questionnaire from the Business Desk, Montigny Executive Director Andrew Le Roux said the group has projected to grow its annual turnover by an additional E300 to 500 million this year.

He said based on last year's performance, the company was still on track to meet its 2020 target.

He said there were four reasons for this.

"Firstly, it will be due to the increase in the total available volume of timber, which is sustainably becoming available from the plantations.

This comes after a significant reestablishment of plantations subsequent to the devastating fires of 2007. Secondly, it will be due to the establishment of additional processing and value-add processes at Montigny and Usutu that are now taking place, providing higher value products. Thirdly, the

"Swaziland is a landlocked country and more can be done to facilitate cross-border trade,"



regional shortage of timber will allow for above inflation price increases.

Lastly, we have concluded the purchase of a port facility in Maputo and the first shipment of wood chips has already been dispatched to Europe," he said.

According to Le Roux, South Africa remains the company's main market, where it supplies up to 40 per cent of the volume of

timber to select sectors.

"Namibia, Mozambique, Japan and Europe also remain important, and growing, markets," he said.

The company has grown impressively over the past five years.

Le Roux said one of the main reasons for this, was the investor-friendly environment in the country.

However, their primary chal-

lenges included the 24 hours border access to their main regional market, South Africa, very laborious Value Added Tax (VAT) processing mechanisms between the country and South Africa.

"Swaziland is a landlocked country and more can be done to facilitate cross-border trade," he said.

With regards to the electricity generation project, Le Roux said good progress had been made thus far.

The company intends to set up a 35 megawatt renewable energy power plant through the use of resources at the sawmill site, which would include all available forest residues and sawmill off cuts.

This publication earlier reported that the company was negotiating for a 20-year contract with the Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC).

"We are now in the final stages of negotiations with finance and technology partners, as well as the Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority (SERA) and SEC," said the director.

There's still a huge market for beef - SMI

By Manqoba Makhubu

THERE is still a huge market for beef both locally and internationally, Swaziland Meat Industries (SMI) has revealed.

Though by the end of last year 2 440 rural farmers sold 6 500 cattle to SMI, Managing Director Jon Williams said they were still struggling to meet even the local demand for beef and its by-products.

He was speaking during the company's training of farmers held at The George Hotel in Manzini last Friday. SMI exports beef mainly to Europe and Mozambique.

The company also sells beef and its equivalents in the country under the brand Simunye Beef.

"There is still a huge potential for beef in the export market. Also, in the country there is still a shortfall of beef to meet local demand. In fact, the country imports significant amounts of beef to meet the existing local demand, especially by retailers. This shows that farmers still have a huge market to supply," he said.

Williams said the main reason why



HUGE SHORTAGE: SMI Managing Director Jon Williams addressing farmers during a training hosted by the company for farmers last Friday at The George Hotel in Manzini. (Pic: Manqoba Makhubu)

the country remains a net importer of beef was due to low cattle production by farmers.

"For example, the calving rate has remained low amongst farmers and the mortality rate of calves remains

very high. The adult mortality rate also remains very high, despite during the drought period," he said.

Adding, he said the cattle size was also increasingly getting smaller and this affects production as well as farmers return on investment.

Williams further challenged farmers to look at these issues and address them.

"We will always be available to offer technical assistance and help farmers. We have initiated a number of interventions which we believe could be of great help to farmers," he said.

For example, he said they often visit dip tanks to talk about the problems that affect farmers and to help them come up with possible alternatives.

Williams said the company also offers technical assistance to feed-lotters.

He said they have also set discounts for farmers using the Embiveni reward card, which is given to all farmers who sell cattle to SMI.

During the training held on Friday, farmers benefited from different presentations by animal experts.

"There is still a huge potential for beef in the export market. Also, in the country there is still a shortfall of beef to meet local demand."

These included animal health specialist Johan Ferreira from Baylor South Africa and nutritionist Cronje Marais, who offered technical advice to the farmers.

One of the concerns raised by farmers during the training was the increase of the blue tick which was dubbed the 'common problem'.

Ferreira said they have come up with a number of products designed for tough times.

He urged farmers to invest heavily on the health of their herd.

"If the animal is sick, it will not reproduce the way it should. But, if you treat the animal, it will reproduce at the most perfect rate and offer a good return on investment," he said.

"It is costly, but worth the investment," he added.

He said they were willing to partner with the country and through SMI, can work with dip tanks together with government officials.

By Majaha Nkonyane

LOCAL franchise owners and aspiring franchisees will be afforded an opportunity to learn from experts on how best they can run franchises more efficiently and effectively.

This will be through a franchise workshop to be hosted by FNB at the Royal Villas on Thursday.

The workshop is themed, 'Empowering Local Businesses to Run Franchises More Efficiently and Effectively using enablers demonstrated by FNB.'

According to a statement issued by the bank, the workshop will be facilitated by different prominent speakers that are well versed with the franchise sector, both locally and internationally.

The speakers will include FNB

FNB EXPOSES LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS TO WORLD OF FRANCHISING

...as it grows its business banking portfolio to accommodate franchise owners

Group Franchise Specialist, Riaan Fouche, Franchise Association of Southern Africa Director Eugene Honey, as well as a testimony from 'master franchise' of the Ocean Basket franchise in Swaziland and Mozambique, Thokozile Vilakati-Jele. FNB Head of Business Banking Lubasi Katundu, said the intention of the workshop was to expose local entrepreneurs to the world of fran-

chising and further provide a platform for interaction with key note speakers to gain insight on how to successfully run a franchise locally and also on how to franchise a business. She said the speakers would address various topics on how attendants could apply and secure funding to a franchise business as well as how to assess and evaluate a franchise business. "FNB is in the process of

growing the business banking portfolio to accommodate local franchise owners. We have also packaged a unique product service offering to support local franchisees and aspiring franchise owners in the event they want to turn their local business into a franchise. The package ranges from transactional banking, asset finance, business finance, merchant services, online banking, and fuel

guaranteed products, amongst others," she said.

Katundu said the workshop would be a great opportunity to learn from and network with the leaders and stalwarts in the franchise industry.

She urged all invited guests not to miss out on an opportunity that has a potential to transform local businesses into accredited world renowned franchises.



**FNB Group
Head of
Franchise
Riaan
Fouche.**



**Director of
Franchise
Association of
Southern
Africa Eugene
Honey.**

RIAAN joined FNB as Head of Franchising in 2006. In only six years, the franchise team of specialists under his strategic leadership, managed to double FNB's Franchise Market share and became one of the most innovative and leading Franchise

Banks in SA and Africa.

He is currently responsible for FNB Franchising's International Development with specific focus on Swaziland, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Ghana and Tanzania.

Riaan was an active board mem-

ber of the Franchising Association of Southern Africa for 10 years and was also nominated as Franchising Personality of the Year Award in 2001. He owned several franchise businesses over the past 20 years, which gave him the ability to further develop his entre-

preneurial skill and understand the dynamics of franchising. He has built sustainable relationships with all the key franchise role-players nationally and internationally. This earned him the respect of both the franchise and banking community in SA and internationally

EUGENE Honey has specialised in Trade Marks and Copyright matters, as well as Commercial IP matters, including Franchising and Licensing for approximately 24 years.

He acts for many local and international trade mark proprietors, licensors and franchisors.

He has been on the EXCO and

also legal advisor to the Franchise Association of South Africa (FASA) for approximately 13 years. Eugene was admitted as an attorney in 1991 and passed the Trade Mark practitioner exams in 1995 after joining an IP firm in 1993.

He has been listed in international ratings publications for franchising and trade mark matters

from as far back as 2007, including in Who's Who Legal and Chambers.

Headed

Whilst at Bowman Gilfillan, he headed up the IP Department for approximately eight years, which moved to Adams and Adams in 2012.

He has also been responsible for

the drafting of an industry code for the franchise industry, which is currently being considered by the relevant minister and was inducted into FASA's Hall of Fame in 2011 for his contribution to the franchise industry in South Africa. He recently completed a study on franchising in Namibia for the Namibian Government.

'Let's take youth from margins to mainstream economy'

Stories by Manqoba Makhubu

THE country, just like the majority of other developing countries, faces a stern task to ensure that its youth are incorporated and absorbed in the mainstream economy.

Junior Achievement Swaziland (JAS) Executive Director Siboniso Madlopha says it's high time for the country to address how this could be done in the course of the burgeoning youth population coupled with shrinking employment opportunities.

"Our approach is that young people need to go beyond just participating in income generating projects to become key players in the mainstream economy as the saying goes, 'young people are the future leaders,'" he said.

He said the youth should not be only viewed as future leaders politically, but also in the economy.

"When we talk of the next business person, the next millionaire, we are talking about the current youth. But, the question is what are we doing today to ensure that happens?" he stated.

For example, he said if parents put their children in schools and ensure that they get the best education through forking out more, then it was equally important to also do the same in entrepreneurship.

"Let us also prepare future leaders in entrepreneurship. So that even when

...JA to introduce young women entrepreneurship programmes in 2018

JAS seeks to introduce young women entrepreneurship empowerment programmes in 2018.

JA Executive Director Siboniso Madlopha said though they currently run all inclusive programmes, the new programme was aimed to specially focus on the mindset of the blossoming women entrepreneurship leaders.

"We believe that is where we have to start, entrepreneurship is a mindset. So we need to move the girl from being a supporter into being a leader. But, it starts with the mindset, not the opportunity. That is why we want to zero down to girls and provide them the best opportunity to extensively learn about business," he said.

He said this came after they realised that there were very few girls participating in their programmes, especially under the Out of School Youth Programme.

"We believe that if we can zero down and specifically target them, go where

investors come in, they can find ready people to partner with locally," said Madlopha.

He said JA envisions a future where investors will not come into the country and own 100 per cent of their businesses, but find readily available partners in terms of skills, the mindset and the adventure of doing entrepreneurship.

they are and have them interact with us, then we can be able to achieve the desired impact," he said. As a start, he said, they have already started radio programmes on Swaziland Broadcasting Information Services (SBIS) on both Siswati and English channels.

"We want to also use this platform to engage girls, get them to talk with us and participate in shaping their 2018 programme," said Madlopha.

He said the objective was not to have young women only in handcraft, but participate in proper economic driving enterprises.

He said they have a number of young women who have graduated from their programmes and were now engaged in meaningful trade activities and running thriving businesses. "There's one thing I have observed with girls, once they grasp something, they do it better because they then throw a lot of passion and zeal into the project," said Madlopha.

Madlopha thanked government, especially the head of government, Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini, the ministry of commerce industry and trade and the private sector for supporting youth entrepreneurship and JA programmes. "But, we also have to move to the how part. As JA, we believe that though government cannot have enough money to fund youth entrepreneur-

ship, but government doesn't need that much money. Government needs to look into what are we doing as a country, where are we spending our money and how can young people be part of that," he said.

For example, he said from the tenders that government issues out, at least a small fraction of those tenders, about 10 per cent for a start, could go towards empowering the youth and have them participate in the mainstream economy. "Here we do not refer to hiring the youth, but we refer to the youth being part of the project, contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers for major projects," he said.

For example, he said from a E25 million project, about E2.5 million could be generated to support youth businesses, "and that doesn't come from government coffers, but it comes within the project."

Adding, he said main contractors could also sub-contract part of their minor works like paving to youth owned businesses.

"It can be difficult for government to fork out E100 million to support youth businesses. But, that money could be easily generated if young people can be given that piece from let's saying a total of about E1 billion tenders given out by government," he said.

Madlopha said often, the argument was that young people don't have the experience and capacity to do such significant works.

"But, where will they get the experience if we don't give them ourselves?"

he said. "That is why then we also have to train our young people and expose them to these opportunities. We need to also mentor them so that they can get the required experience and prepare them to partner with stalwarts in the world of business," said the executive director.

He said that's what JA stands for, to train young people to manage businesses. "It's not only about them getting tenders, but they should also be able to pay their suppliers, pay loans, supply consistently, be tax compliant, create and manage relations with their key stakeholders," he said.

"Experience cannot be brought, let's let these young people get the experience and grow," he added.

Madlopha said this could apply across different areas where tenders are issued out, including agricultural supplies.

He said a lot of opportunities could be amassed from private public partnerships (PPP).

"If government and the private sector could come together and aim to equip young people with the experience that they have, this can go a long way to support our economy," he said.

He said the same could be done for small and medium enterprises (SMMES). "Let's not create jobs for these young people, let us also help them create jobs for themselves."

Therefore, even when we give them these opportunities, they would have to show how many people they would hire, so that there will be no greediness from such initiatives," he said.

CANGO HAILS SARFED FOR CURBING UNEMPLOYMENT

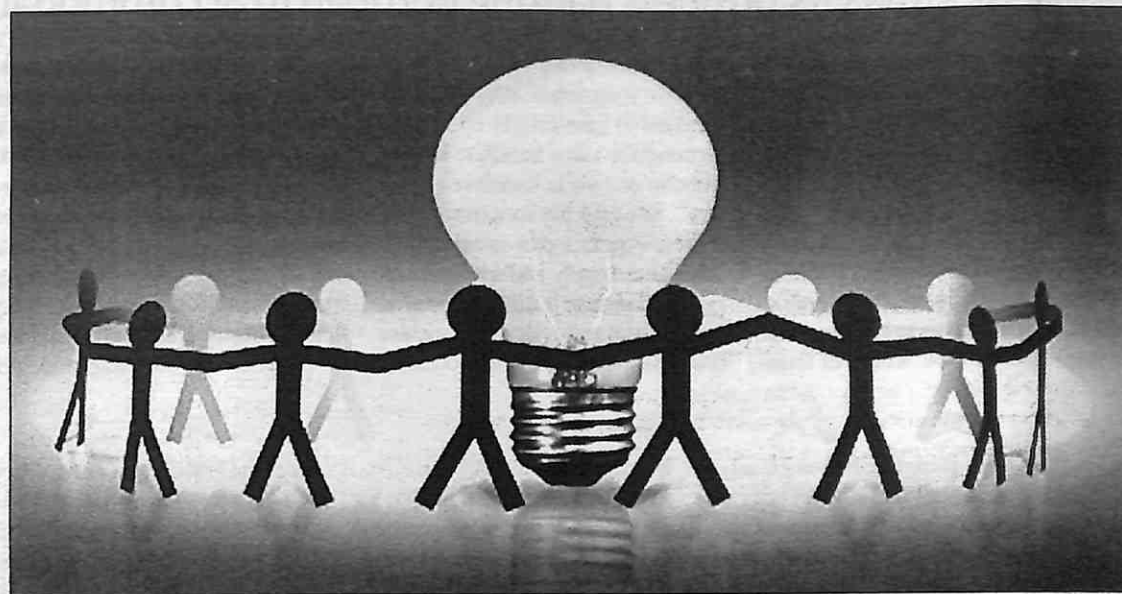
By Majaha Nkonyane

THE Southern African Research Foundation for Economic Development (SARFED) has been hailed for curbing unemployment in the country.

This was during a graduation ceremony which was held at Thokoza Church Centre last Friday. Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO) Executive Director Emmanuel Ndlangamandla commended SARFED for the job well done in continuously fighting unemployment in the country.

"We are currently faced with unemployment estimated at 28 per cent whilst youth unemployment is around 56 per cent. The country is therefore in need of individuals that are committed in creating jobs to employ others," he said.

Ndlangamandla also congratulated



ed the graduates of the programme for having successfully completed their course.

"Improving ones skills through continuous learning is one of the key ingredients for success in life. It is encouraging that you are motivated to learn in order to have

viable businesses to benefit not just individuals but community and the country at large," he said. Adding, he said success in enterprise comes with falling, but keeping on pushing.

He also said networking remains important with likeminded people.

"Passion is also important in the field of entrepreneurship and putting theory into practice is equally important. Blaming systems and government will not

help," he said. However, he noted that business has many obstacles, but he said one has to have the stamina to stay the course. "Learning from ones mistakes is very critical, not all mistakes are bad as some are learning points," he said.

Meanwhile, SARFED Regional Coordinator George Choongwa described their line of business as a type of business that focuses on social inclusion.

"Entrepreneurship makes the world go round and our focus as a business as tough as it is ensuring that there is social inclusion through micro entrepreneurship development, research and information dissemination," he said.

However, he said they face a lot of challenges with financial institutions as they consider them a risk, "but our solution is in the business incubation for entrepreneurs."

This is to help small businesses in the informal sector."

The graduation ceremony awarded seventeen graduates who included: Thembi Ndlangamandla, Mike Simelane, Sphiwe Masuku, Zanele Dladu, Zamekile Kunene, Delisile Maseko, Primrose Simelane, Bongani Mkhonta, Sikhumbuzo Dlamini, Nomsa Njatangase, Esther Kunene, Sphiwe Fakudze, Sandile Masuku, Zandile Shongwe, Siphos Dube and Siphos Dlamini.

Micro Projects pumps over for E88 000 Ndlandlameni Dip Tank

By Majaha Nkonyane

GOVERNMENT through Micro Projects have recently pumped a total of over E88 972 for the Ndlandlameni Dip Tank project.

Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati praised the areas where livestock owners who raised money for the project amounting to E26 000, each homestead contributed E100.

He applauded both the farmers and Micro Projects for constructing the dipping tank that would attend to both sheep and goats.

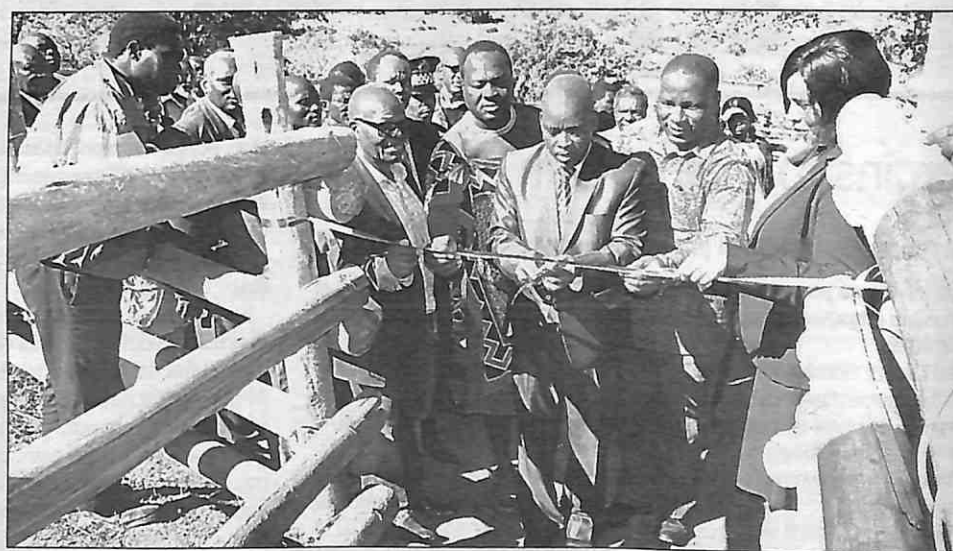
"I am so glad for this beautiful structure for dipping of sheep and goats and I am totally convinced that ticks during their peak months will be under control as well as scab and goat mange," he said.

"I would be making a grave mistake not to thank His Majesty's government for continuing with the funding of the communal development projects, such as the construction of dip tanks, water projects, schools and many more in the country," he added.

The minister also advised field officers to immediately take action whenever they suspect any diseases on animals.

"Field officers if they suspect either of the two diseases are advised to take prompt action and report such cases to their respective offices immediately," he said.

The minister requested that the dip tank should be looked after so that it may serve the needs of the community.



OFFICIAL: Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati cutting the ribbon to officially open Ndlandlameni dip tank.



PROUD: Minister Vilakati posing with other members of Parliament who came to support him at Ndlandlameni.



LIBANDLA: Members of Ndlandlameni community seated in their numbers during the official opening of the Dip Tank.

Business Extra

Eskom's 20% uses 'impossible' assumptions

JOHANNESBURG: Eskom's plans to ask for a 20 per cent tariff increase for next year assumes higher economic growth than just about anyone expects – and assumes a physically impossible doubling of sales by renewable energy independent power producers (IPPs), despite Eskom actively fighting against their coming online.

It also assumes that Eskom will get rid of about 4 300 workers – 10 per cent of its workforce – by March 2019 by not filling the posts left vacant when a member of staff retires.

These assumptions make the application likely to once again result in an enormous additional tariff request later on using the so-called Regulatory Clearing Account (RCA), which is a monitoring and tracking mechanism that compares certain uncontrollable costs and revenues with actual costs and revenues incurred by Eskom. A confidential draft of Eskom's planned application for next year's tariff hike to the National Energy Regulator of SA (Nersa) made its way into the public domain this week. It spells out all the mechanics regarding how the utility came to the 20 per cent figure.

Importantly for most consumers in the country, the application is actually for 27.29 per cent from municipalities.

Eskom's tariffs are set by establishing an "allowable revenue" to cover costs, which gets divided by the expected volume of electricity sales. The five-year tariff determination from NERSA, which ends this year, had made hopelessly overoptimistic assumptions about growth and power demand.

When Eskom failed to sell the amount of power the tariff was designed around, it repeatedly asked to use the RCA to add more tariff hikes in the next few years to make up the shortfall in revenue. **Fin24**

MADIBA-ZUMA TO EXPLAIN MILLIONS OF RANDS IN ACCOUNT

JOHANNESBURG - ABSA is said to have threatened to close down a bank account held by President Jacob Zuma's wife Tobeka Madiba-Zuma, flagging unexplained millions of rands passing through her account.

The bank's move comes a year after it ended business relations with Zuma's son Duduzane. It follows the major banks taking a firm stance against commercial entities linked to the Gupta family, in spite of pleas by Cabinet ministers close to Zuma.

Last year, it emerged that the banks had closed all the business accounts of Gupta-owned companies; leaked e-mails also show that around the same time Absa closed both Duduzane's transactional accounts (cheque and credit).

It is not clear whether the action against Madiba-Zuma is linked to the Gupta-related controversy with the banks.

Sources said the bank wanted her to explain large sums of money in her account.

Madiba-Zuma has denied receiving a letter from Absa about its concerns. The Sunday Times understands she has yet to respond to the bank.



ANSWERS: Tobeka Madiba-Zuma.

The Guptas have been waging a public and private battle against the major banks since they gave notice of their intention to shut the accounts of Gupta entities, including their holding company Oakbay, in late 2015.

Appeal

Gupta e-mails leaked to the Sunday Times detail how Duduzane played the race card in his appeal to Barclays Africa CEO Maria Ramos to reverse the bank's action.

Revelations that the bank is targeting accounts held by the Zuma family may explain the political pressure that has been put on Absa since last

year. There appears to have been a well-orchestrated strategy by Zuma backers to take on the bank.

The fight has been led by ANC Youth League President Collen Maine, who led a march on its head office in February demanding that it pay back R1.5-billion that the Reserve Bank gave Bankorp, which later became Absa.

Madiba-Zuma said questions put to her by the Sunday Times about her bank account were an invasion of privacy. "I have no knowledge of Absa's intention to close my account. I have not received anything which has been communicated to me." *Timeslive*

Standard Bank donates R10m to Western Cape relief efforts

CAPE TOWN - Standard Bank has donated R10-million to assist with relief efforts in the Western Cape, parts of which have been devastated by raging fires and storms over the past week.

The fires and storms have claimed numerous lives and displaced thousands of people, while completely gutting homes, schools, businesses, and vehicles.

"It is with the deepest, and most heartfelt sympathy that our thoughts go out to those who have lost loved ones in the Knysna fires and severe weather in Cape Town. Our thoughts too, are with those residents, especially the destitute and vulnerable, who have been displaced and left exposed in the affected areas," said Ben Kruger, CEO of Standard Bank Group.

"I am heartened that so many of South African's citizens, corporates and individuals, have stepped up to assist with relief work. It is with hope for a better tomorrow for all those affected, that we at Standard Bank, are donating R10 million to the efforts. Our wish is that this will bring some relief to those that have

been impacted by the natural disasters in all regions affected by the fires and storms. In some areas, entire communities will need to be rebuilt, and my only hope is that this urgent donation will make a difference," said Kruger.

He said the donation was in addition to the work that was being done on the ground by the Standard Bank Coastal, Knysna, Plettenberg Bay,

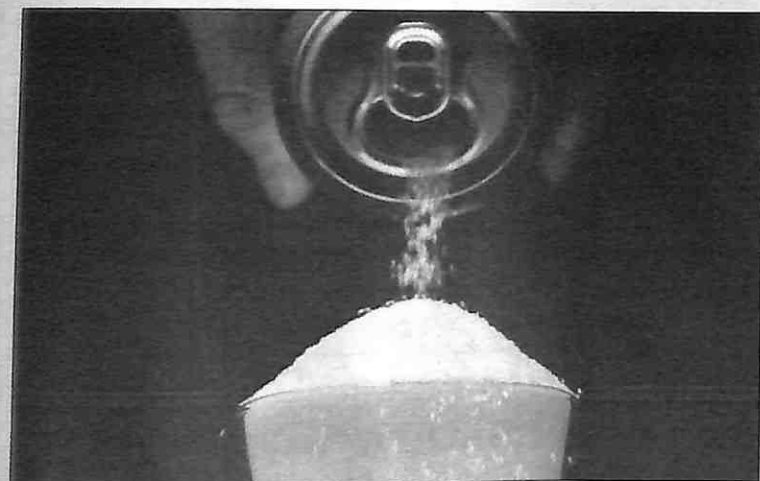
Mossel Bay and Greater Cape regional heads and their teams.

The teams have been working since Wednesday evening in the areas to rally drives for donations of food and blankets, running jointly with SFM 90.1. They have donated food parcels, water and

cold drinks to fire-fighters and citizens, collected clothing and blankets, and are offering alternative, and safe, accommodation, to those who have been displaced.

In addition, the Standard Bank Insurance teams in the area have set up dedicated insurance desks at branches to assist with claim requirements.

SowetanLive



Is sugar tax doing its work already?

JOHANNESBURG - There are more signs that the heavily contested proposed tax on sugar-sweetened beverages is starting to effect change as the soft drink industry fights it tooth and nail.

Coca-Cola Beverages SA this week presented its various imminent reformulations and product size reductions at a hearing before Parliament's standing committee on finance.

By the end of the year, 330ml cans will be displaced by 300ml versions and 500ml bottles by 440ml ones, while sizes above two litres will disappear. By next year, the company claims it will have reduced the average sugar content of its products by 24%, compared with 2016. In March, Clover said it had put on hold most of its new projects to focus on mitigating the multimillion-rand effect of the impending sugar-sweetened beverage tax. Clover has launched its first sugar-

free beverage, Tropika Slenda, in response to the impending tax.

Velaphi Ratshefola, the Managing Director of Coca-Cola Beverages, told City Press that the bulk of the company's reduction was through actual reformulation of well-established local brands.

Selling more bottled water and diet brands also helps drive the average down.

Products

According to Ratshefola's presentation in Parliament this week, different products' sugar content is being cut by between 10% and 70%.

This includes Fanta and Schweppes, but Coke itself is notably absent.

Coca-Cola Beverages' moves echo those of much smaller competitors such as Softbev and Little Green Beverages, which are working to replace sugar with non-nutritive sweeteners across their ranges while looking at pushing smaller units. *fin24*

NUMSA SPURNS 5.3 PER CENT WAGE OFFER

JOHANNESBURG - On the second day of wage negotiations, the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) rejected the offer by the bargaining council for employers in the engineering sector.

The offer is a 5.3 per cent increase but NUMSA is asking for a 15 per cent increase based on the rate an employee is working and not on the minimum rate.

NUMSA said it also wants the agreement to include non-parties, such as

the National Employers Association of South Africa (NEASA) and the Plastics Converters Association of South Africa (PCASA) who fall under the Metal and Engineering Industries Bargaining Council.

Agreement

The current wage agreement ends on June 30. The union wants a two-year agreement while the employers are pushing for three years.

The employers are offering: an increase of four per cent in the second and third year, if the consumer

price index (CPI) is below four per cent. But if the CPI in those years is above eight per cent, then they are offering an increase of eight per cent. NUMSA said the employers also want new employees to earn half of the minimum rate.

In a statement on Friday, NUMSA said it is "shocked by the offer", particularly that equal pay for work of equal value will be violated through the 50% offering to new entrants to the sector. Wage talks resume on Thursday. *TMG Digital*.

R11bn Coega investment in jeopardy

JOHANNESBURG - The completion deadline for South Africa's largest motor investment in 40 years will most likely be missed following disagreements between small local businesses and the main contractor over the allocation of work.

This adds to the note of gloom following the announcement by General Motors SA last month that it would exit the country before the end of the year, resulting in the loss of more than 500 jobs.

The R11 billion car plant at the Coega industrial development zone in Port Elizabeth, a joint initiative between China's Beijing Automotive International Corporation (BAIC), which is the majority shareholder with a 65 per cent stake, and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), is a product of 26 bilateral agreements signed between

China and South Africa in 2015.

It was launched in August last year with construction earmarked to start in December the same year. The plant was meant to be fully operational during the first quarter of 2018.

The hold-up is a dispute between BAIC SA and small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) affiliated to the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NAFCOC) in Nelson Mandela Bay.

Jobs

About 2 500 jobs are expected during the construction phase of the plant that will produce trucks and sport utility vehicles. The 47-hectare site earmarked for the project remains untouched with no sign of construction machinery. The IDC this week could not give a forecast for when the project would start. *fin24*

SACC says Parly morally bankrupt

JOHANNESBURG - The South African Council of Churches is calling for fresh elections.

It's a unanimous resolution of its national conference.

Twenty-five major churches in the country were attending the conference in Benoni this week.

It also wants Parliament to be dissolved.

The council believes government has lost its moral legitimacy, saying it's also concerned by a powerful elite in control of state systems.

The church body also says multimillion-rand upgrades to the president's Nkandla home is a serious breach of public integrity.

eNCA

Focus on SA scene

RAMAPHOSA THE FAVOURITE TO TAKE OVER ANC REINS

● Ramaphosa was hailed as "a person wealthy enough not to be tempted to dip his hand in the cookie jar; understands business and will thus boost investor confidence"

JOHANNESBURG - A mock ballot conducted by the Durban-based Xubera Institute for Research and Development concluded that Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa was the favourite to replace President Jacob Zuma as the president of the ANC, however participants raised the most number of concerns around his trustworthiness. Former African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma came in second - but also not without baggage - and was closely followed by Minister in the Presidency Jeff Radebe.

Radebe was the most trusted among the three, although the roundtable discussion included in the report, titled In Search of a Leader Befitting the Aspirations of South Africans, took place early in February - before it came to light that he had exchanged sexually suggestive SMSes with a female presidency staff member in 2014. The participants were "mainly aca-



WAEALTHY: Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa has been tipped to take over ANC reins with Former African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

demics, professionals, people in business and civil society". Ramaphosa was hailed as "a person wealthy enough not to be tempted to dip his hand in the cookie jar; understands business and will thus boost investor confidence; has an understanding of labour issues; and his involvement in the Convention for a Democratic SA negotiations

put him in high standing". However, the participants also cautioned that he could "promote the capitalist agenda and would not pay much attention to the plight of the poor, and [would concentrate] on high-level strategic matters, thus neglecting local economic focus", and that the "Marikana massacre is still his albatross". *News24*

FEDUSA calls for Zuma's resignation after Moody's downgrade

JOHANNESBURG - The Federation of Unions of South Africa (FEDUSA) on Saturday added its name to those calling for President Jacob Zuma's resignation.

FEDUSA is shocked by ratings agency Moody's Investors Services' decision to downgrade South Africa's foreign and local currency debt from Baa2 to Baa3

with a negative outlook, the trade union federation's Acting General Secretary Riefdah Ajam said.

Moody's downgrading of South Africa followed similar actions by S&P Global and Fitch earlier this year.

At the time, Moody's placed South Africa on review for downgrading. "Moody's has cited the weakening of South Africa's institutional framework; reduced growth prospects reflecting policy uncertainty and slower progress with structural reforms; and the continued erosion of fiscal strength

due to rising public debt and contingent liabilities as the principal triggers of the downgrade to Baa3 from Baa2," Ajam said.

Moody's said there was evidence of systemic erosion of the independence of key South African institutions such as the judiciary, the SA Reserve Bank, and National Treasury.

"How many more times must

South African citizens face the wrath and deal with these consecutive blows due to ill-fated decision making?

Economy

Fedusa is outraged that our economy and our membership at large have now been faced [with] a double whammy in one week - first the negative con-

traction of the GDP statistics and now the second nail in the coffin due to the Downgrade," Ajam said.

Moody's had cited the abrupt Cabinet reshuffle in March as illustrating a gradual erosion of institutional strength.



Scrap the R9bn we owe to Eskom, say mayors

Cape Town - Mayors have asked for the Southern African Local Government Agency (SALGA) to lobby for the scrapping of their R9 billion debt to Eskom as a way of ensuring the financial viability of their municipalities.

This was one of the major issues thrashed out at the SALGA inaugural Council of Mayors meeting that took place in Cape Town this past week.

Mayors from across the country came together to discuss challenges facing their municipalities, engage

with national ministers and try and find solutions.

Collectively municipalities owe Eskom R9.6bn but are also owed R116bn by other creditors which include government departments.

This week, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Des van Rooyen said 59 municipalities owed money to Eskom, with the Free State, Mpumalanga and North West owing the most.

In the Free State, municipalities owed the power utility R3.6bn, followed by Mpumalanga with R2.2bn

and North West with R780 million.

Gauteng municipalities owe Eskom R508m, KwaZulu-Natal R6m and Western Cape R11m.

And in the Northern Cape, municipalities owe the power utility R465m.

In the Eastern Cape they owe R328m and in Limpopo the debt was R287m.

Some municipalities have been in bitter wars with the power utility over unpaid debts which resulted in Eskom threatening to cut power supplies.

Weekend Argus



IMPLICATED: Deputy Finance Minister Sifiso Buthelezi.

Deputy finance minister implicated in more corruption claims

JOHANNESBURG - The Deputy Finance Minister Sifiso Buthelezi is under the spotlight again, for his former role as chairperson of PRASA's board.

According to media reports, Sifiso Buthelezi ignored over a billion rand of financial irregularities at the rail agency during his six-year tenure.

It says National Treasury's probe found that Buthelezi and the board failed to carry out their duties. The

report calls for criminals charges against them for contravening the Public Finance Management Act.

Out of over 200 contracts, it found only 13 were legitimately awarded between 2012 and 2015.

Buthelezi was recently accused of improperly benefiting from R150-million in PRASA tenders, a claim he has denied.

The Democratic Alliance opened a criminal case against him last Friday. *eNCA*

Firefighters make inroads in PE fire battle

PORT ELIZABETH - The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality says that firefighters who worked throughout the night, have made inroads in extinguishing the blaze that engulfed the city.

Woodridge College and Preparatory School near Port Elizabeth caught fire, resulting in pupils being evacuated.

"We can confirm that the areas that

remain a challenge are Van Stadens Gorge, (wind has subsided, inroads have been made at Woodridge College and the surroundings). Rocklands (fire under control, wind subsided giving firefighters a good opportunity to make progress) areas. The fire and emergency team worked throughout the night," said municipality spokesperson Mthubanzi Mniki. Inspections were taking place

at Woodridge College to ascertain the amount of damage the fire caused.

Mniki said electricity outages continue in some areas with electricity distribution in two of the city's water pump stations been cut due to fire damages.

A 72-year-old woman died at her farm in Thornhill, west of Port Elizabeth this past Saturday while her husband succumbed to his injuries in hospital. *eNCA*

MOM REVEALS SHE SPENT \$25K ON HER SON'S PROM SEND-OFF

NEW YORK - The mother who splurged \$25 000 on exotic cars, three tons of sand and even a camel for her teenage son's extravagant Dubai-themed prom send-off, has spoken out about the touching reason she threw him such a lavish party and why she's pushing back against the haters.

"He struggled a lot when I was sick," proud mom Saudia Shuler told the New York Post of her son, Johnny Eden Jr., 18. "I couldn't walk, I couldn't go to the bathroom on my own."

He had to go through all that and still go to school. And I said, 'If I make it through this, I'm going to make his prom the best.'

The pre-prom party on June 2 in Philadelphia included a live Arabian camel, a rented Lamborghini, Range Rover and Rolls Royce, three tons of sand, and three dates all wearing custom designed gowns costing \$1 500 each and Giuseppe Zanotti, Versace and Yves Saint Laurent shoes at \$1 000 to \$1 400 per pair.

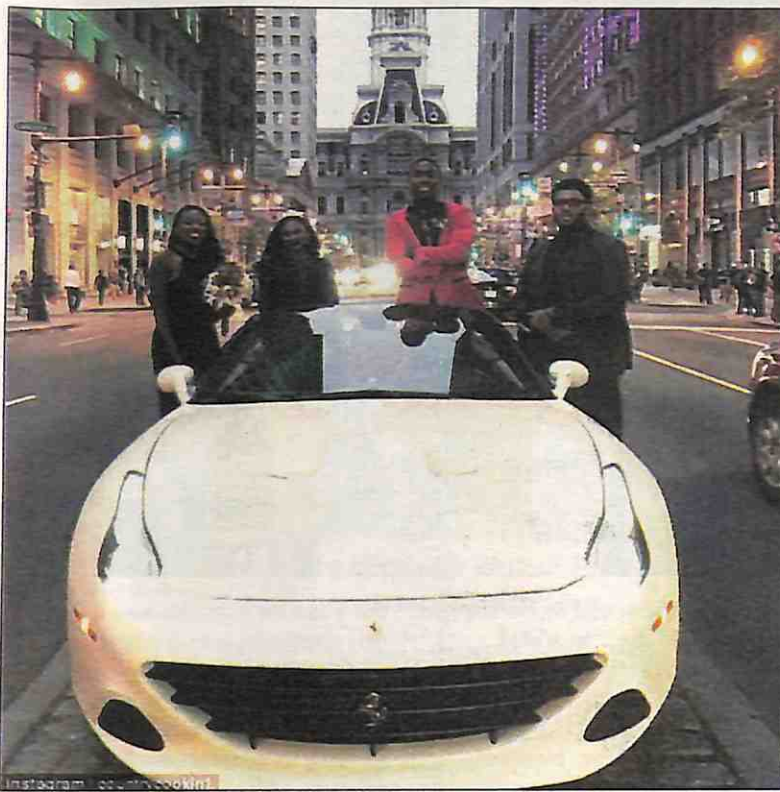
Not to mention the three Styles By Chey custom-made outfits for the lucky teen.

Son

Shuler, 43, said she couldn't have made it without the help of her only son when she had a stroke in June 2014, then was diagnosed with preliminary thyroid cancer in October 2015, and she still has a condition that gives her seizures, according to the New York Post.

Additionally, her son managed to

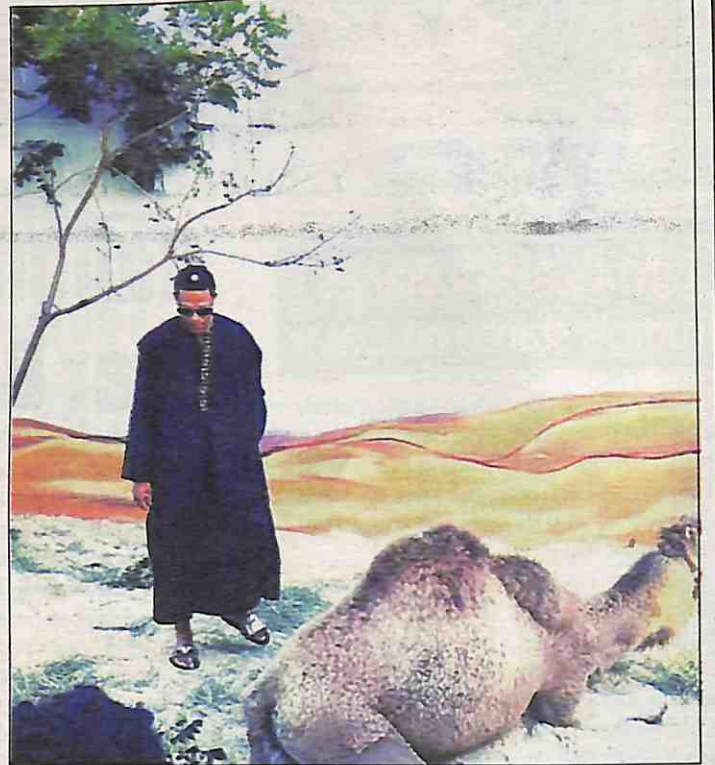
- Johnny Eden Jr., 18, wore three outfits and took three dates to his prom in Philadelphia on June 2
- Also had a rented Lamborghini, Range Rover and Rolls Royce for the dance



LUXURIOUS: Three luxury vehicles were rented for the party, including a Lamborghini. (Daily Mail)

keep up a 3.76 GPA at Simon Gratz Mastery Charter and is attending Delaware State in the fall to study chemical engineering.

Because of his hard work, not only helping her but in school, she wanted to reward him in a big way. But the extravagance brought her



KEEPING MUM: Shuler won't say how she got the one-humped Arabian camel to the party, preferring to save that for 'Oprah or Ellen.'

plenty of criticism from people who thought it was crazy to spend so much on a teen party. "Fun fact: it will take 200+ years for black people to close the wealth gap."

This isn't the way, my people," said one commenter on Shuler's Instagram page.

Shuler has been quick to defend herself from such snipes. "Please tell me why it's wrong to give our f***** kids a fairy-tale, even if it's just for one day. All the kids on prom I posted. I know them personally. Teach our kids that they can see us sin-

gle mothers do this.

Then they can do anything. They lived like the rappers the see everyday for just one day. Let them live," she wrote on Instagram.

Friends

The Dubai-themed party was actually just her second choice, originally she wanted to fly her son and his friends to the actual city, but then she decided she wanted the community to participate in the fun.

"Plus, he had too many friends," she laughed.

Daily Mail



WELL PREPARED: The teenager wore three different outfits himself and took along three dates, all in their own custom-made gowns, to his prom.



CENTRE OF ATTENTION: He also had a Lamborghini, a Range Rover and Rolls Royce for the formal dance at Simon Gratz Mastery Charter.

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Egypt's Al-Sisi praises Trump's stance on Qatar

CAIRO - Egypt President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi has praised President Donald Trump for his role in "the formation of a united front to combat terrorism" after he called on Qatar to stop its financial support of extremist groups.

Al-Sisi's praise-filled phone call on Saturday came after the US president echoed accusations made against Qatar by a Saudi-led group that cut diplomatic ties with the small oil-rich country earlier this week.

Al-Sisi thanked Trump for his participation in a counter-terrorism summit in Riyadh last May, in which he abandoned some of the harsh anti-Muslim rhetoric of his presidential campaign and vowed to fight terrorism in partnership with Middle East leaders. The escalating crisis in the Persian Gulf erupted this week when Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain cut diplomatic ties with Qatar. **AP**



PLEASED: Egypt President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi.

Ethiopia warns drought aid to run out next month

WARDER - Ethiopia's government is warning it will run out of emergency food aid starting next month as the number of drought victims in the East African country has reached 7.8 million.

An international delegation visited one of the worst-affected areas on Friday near the border with Somalia, which suffers from widespread drought as well.

Ethiopia's disaster relief chief Mitiku Kassa told The Associated Press that the country needs more than \$1bn for emergency food assistance.

Seasonal rains have been critically small and local cattle are dying. The number of drought victims has risen by two million people in the past four months. The risk of an acute food and nutritional disaster is "very high," the disaster relief chief said. The International Organisation for Migration said hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced, with the problem compounded as people pour into Ethiopia from Somalia. A United Nations humanitarian envoy said donor fatigue and similar crises elsewhere have hurt aid efforts. Both Somalia and neighbouring South Sudan are among four countries recently singled out by the United Nations in a \$4.4bn aid appeal to avert catastrophic hunger and famine. **AP**

Gabon TV host suspended after Bongo 'death' blunder

LIBREVILLE - A newsreader for Gabon state television has been taken off the air after mistakenly announcing the death of President Ali Bongo, the channel said on Saturday.

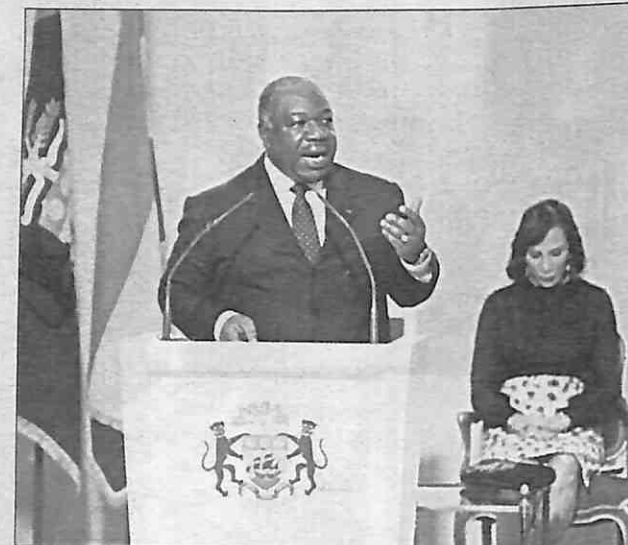
Journalist Wivine Ovandong made the error during a Gabon television news bulletin on Thursday when she read from notes saying that Bongo had died in Barcelona.

In fact, on Thursday was the eighth anniversary of the death of Bongo's father and predecessor, Omar, who did die in Barcelona on June 8, 2009, after more than four decades in power.

Current President Ali Bongo is alive and well.

Gabon television Director General Mathieu Koumba told AFP that Ovandong had been suspended as "a precautionary measure".

"We need to protect her, too,



because social media has had a field day," he added.

Koumba appeared on the channel on Friday and said it had apologised to Bongo and his family for the "blunder".

"It can happen to anyone. But

this was a bit much because it was confusion over the head of state," he said.

Ovandong had only been in the job for a few days after spending several years as a field reporter. **AFP**

Al-Qaeda-linked group claims deadly UN base attack

BAMAKO - A powerful Al-Qaeda-linked group on Friday claimed an attack on a United Nations camp that killed three Guinean peacekeepers in Kidal in Mali's troubled north.

The Group to Support Islam and Muslims, a fusion of three Malian jihadist groups with previous Al-Qaeda links, posted a statement on its Telegram channel saying it had targeted the UN base "with a set of mortar shells," wounding soldiers and causing significant material damage, the SITE extremism monitor reported.

The UN mission in Mali, MINUSMA, said earlier on Friday its Kidal camp "came under heavy rocket/mortar fire" and "a little later a position nearby was attacked" outside their base, killing three peacekeepers and wounding eight more.

The Group to Support Islam and Muslims, also known as Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen in Arabic, is a fusion of three Malian jihadist groups with previous Al-Qaeda links formed in March.

Led by the Malian jihadist Iyad Ag Ghaly, a former leader of the Ansar Dine

Islamists, the group has claimed multiple attacks on domestic and foreign forces since its formation.

The UN mission said it "condemned in the strongest terms these cowardly attacks against its personnel and the danger they cause for the civilian population."

The Guinean government said "terrorist attacks" had killed "three valiant soldiers (and) wounded three others" at a checkpoint just outside the camp, adding that one of its contingents remained unaccounted for.

AFP

Chad settles tax dispute with foreign oil firms

N'DJAMENA - Chad, one of the African countries hit hardest by the drop in oil prices, announced on Saturday that it had reached an accord with a group of foreign energy companies, ending a tax dispute.

The deal, signed on Friday by the government and a consortium led by Esso, a unit of US energy giant ExxonMobil, extends the group's operating licence in the Doba basin until 2050.

It also calls for the development of polymer injection technology to increase oil extrac-

tion, Chad's Oil Minister, Bechir Madet, told AFP.

In October, a Chadian court had imposed heavy fines on the consortium over unpaid taxes, claiming \$75bn.

No financial details of the agreement were disclosed, though Madet denied that the consortium would pay the government \$200m.

"We are very happy with these agreements which will allow us to relaunch the consortium's operations in Chad," said Christian Lenoble, a spokesperson for the group.

The consortium also includes

Malaysia's Petronas, and once included Chevron of the US, which has since been replaced in the group by Chad's national oil company.

As one of Africa's poorest countries, Chad relies heavily on revenue from oil sales, though President Idriss Deby has pledged to diversify the economy to protect it from sudden price drops.

"We are pursuing economic diversification," Madet said, adding: "Producing more oil creates more wealth and jobs. That is going to help our economy."

AFP

BRIEFS

Guterres concerned about UN attacks

LIBREVILLE - UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres voiced concern on Friday over the "widespread instability" and attacks on UN troops in the Central African Republic, which has been wracked by renewed sectarian violence since last month. One of the world's poorest nations, the Central African Republic has been struggling to recover from a three-year civil war between the Muslim and Christian militias that started after the 2013 overthrow of leader Francois Bozize. A new flare-up of sectarian violence since the beginning of May has forced tens of thousands to flee conflict-ravaged areas. **AFP**

5 killed in Somalia over food aid

MOGADISHU - Five people were killed in crossfire between two groups of government soldiers on Friday when fighting broke out during the distribution of relief food in the southern Somali city of Baidoa, police and witnesses said. The incident happened in the afternoon at a site where food aid was being distributed to people displaced by drought earlier this year. Baidoa is about 245 km northwest of Mogadishu. "Two groups of soldiers clashed on the scene where food was being distributed. Five people, mostly women, died in the crossfire and 14 others were wounded. It was an accident and the case is being followed and investigated," Major Hussein Edin, a police officer, told Reuters. **Reuters**

Police officer dies in DR Congo attack

DR CONGO - Unknown gunmen attacked the court office on Friday night, burning several vehicles parked on the premises. A police



officer was killed in an attack on a court compound in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a judicial source said Saturday, weeks after a mass jailbreak from Kinshasa's main prison. A magistrate in the Matete district in the east of the capital told AFP that unknown gunmen attacked the court office on Friday night, burning several vehicles parked on the premises. He said one police officer was killed and another wounded in the assault, adding that three prisoners held at the compound were later found to be missing. **AFP**

Buhari won't return this weekend

ABUJA - Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari will not return home from medical leave in Britain at the weekend, presidency sources said on Saturday, having previously told Reuters the ailing leader would be returning by then. Buhari's doctors said they will need to carry out testing on him today, and the test results will determine when he returns to Nigeria, the sources said. The president's undisclosed ailment has left his deputy, Yemi Osinbajo, in charge. **Reuters**

Boko Haram claims attack on Nigerian city

MAIDUGURI - Islamist insurgency Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for the attack on Nigeria's northeastern city of Maiduguri on Wednesday night that killed at least 14 people, the first major assault in 18 months on a key stronghold against the militants. The raid took place six months after Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said Boko Haram had "technically" been defeated by a military campaign that had pushed many insurgents deep into the remote Sambisa forest, near the border with Cameroon. Maiduguri is the centre of the government's eight-year-old fight against Boko Haram, which has been trying to set up an Islamic caliphate in the northeast. **Reuters**

World News

Protests erupt after US police kill a Tulsa black man

OKLAHOMA - Three Oklahoma law enforcement officers triggered a protest on a city street that prompted the appearance of dozens of officers in riot gear, showing force.

This followed the fatal shooting of a black man while trying to pick him up for a mental health issue this last Friday.

The Tulsa County sheriff's deputies were attempting to pick up 29-year-old Joshua Barre near his house, but the man walked away to a nearby convenience store instead, Tulsa police spokesperson Leland Ashley said.

Two deputies and a Tulsa police officer opened fire before Barre could enter the store when they discovered he was carrying two knives and became concerned about the safety of the people who were inside the place of business, Ashley said. The deputies who fired the shots are white and the police officer is black. All three have been put on routine administrative leave. **AP**

THERESA MAY APPOINTS FORMER HOUSING MINISTER GAVIN BARWELL

LONDON - Former housing minister Gavin Barwell has been appointed as the new Downing Street chief of staff.

Mr Barwell, who lost his Croydon Central seat in the snap election called by May, will bring 'considerable experience' to the post, the Prime Minister said.

His appointment comes following the resignation of May's closest aides Nick Timothy and Fiona Hill, who had served as joint chiefs of staff.

Speaking today, May said, "I'm delighted that Gavin Barwell accepted the role as my chief of staff. He has been a first class minister and is widely respected. 'He will bring considerable experience of the party to the post.' As I said yesterday, I want to reflect on the election and why it did not deliver the result I hoped for. 'Gavin will have an important role to play in that."

"I look forward to working with him," Barwell said. "I voted for Theresa May to become Prime Minister. 'I believe she is the best person to heal the divisions in our country that

...as new Downing St chief of staff



APPOINTS: British Prime Minister Theresa May.

last year's referendum and the General Election have laid bare, getting the best Brexit deal for the whole country and leading us towards a brighter future outside the EU.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as her chief of staff."

Prior to Barwell's appointment, he had written a book called *How to Win a Marginal Seat*, which was published last year. It came after he secured his seat in the 2015 election with a margin of just 165 seats.

However, he lost out to Labour's Sarah Jones by 5 000 votes.

Prior to being elected, Barwell's career consisted of working as a backroom man for the Conservatives.

He was in CCHQ for nearly two decades before moving into Parliament.

It is thought that Barwell has been brought in to shake up Theresa May's No 10, make it work better and answer critics who say she doesn't play nicely with the wider party.

Katie Perrior, who resigned from Downing Street when the election was called, revealed the pair ran a dysfunctional No 10 obsessed with crushing enemies. **Daily Mail**

Trump's tantrum: President says he won't go ahead with state visit to UK

NEW YORKE - President Donald Trump has called off state visits to the UK until the British people are prepared to meet him with open arms.

The commander-in-chief told UK Prime Minister Theresa May in a phone call that he didn't want to visit the UK if there were going to be large-scale protests against him - likely meaning his visit will be indefinitely postponed.

The call was made at some point in recent weeks, shocking the British leader an insider close to her told *The Guardian*.

The source said they were present in 10 Downing Street - the prime minister's official office - when the call came through.

May was the first foreign leader to visit Trump in the White House when she made an appearance in DC just seven days after his inauguration.

She extended a formal invitation from Queen Elizabeth II to Trump during that visit, and told press she

was 'delighted that the president has accepted that invitation'.

But there has been very little public talk about Trump visiting the country.

Some of May's advisors told her that the offer was premature and should have been 'put back a bit' in the wake of his controversial Muslim travel ban, but could not be rescinded once made.

Strained

Trump's relationship with the British public has been highly strained for years - particularly in Scotland, where his golf developments have upset locals.

But things have become considerably worse since he became president.

Most recently, he attacked the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attack on London Bridge.

Trump tweeted that Khan had told people 'not to be alarmed' in the wake of the attacks - but he ignored the con-

text that Khan was talking about the increased police presence, not the attacks themselves.

After Khan dismissed the remarks, pointing out the error, Trump doubled down, saying Khan had to 'think fast' to come up with his 'pathetic excuse' of a response.

The response from the British public was strong, with UK politicians and even Harry Potter author JK Rowling taking Trump to task online.

And in February, a petition to the British Parliament signed by more than 312 000 people triggered a debate on whether Trump should be allowed to visit.

The petition read in part: "Donald Trump's well-documented misogyny and vulgarity disqualifies him from being received by the Queen or the Prince of Wales."

"Therefore during the term of his presidency Donald Trump should not be invited to the United Kingdom for an official state visit."

Daily Mail



NO VISIT: US President Donald Trump.

'Boris bids to be PM: Johnson team circles wounded Theresa May'



PREPARES: Boris Johnson.

LONDON - Boris Johnson is preparing a new bid to become Prime Minister as Theresa May's grip on No 10 becomes increasingly fragile.

A close ally of the Foreign Secretary said last night it was 'go-go-go' for Johnson's leadership push, adding, "we need Bojo. We need a Brexiteer. We need somebody who can talk and connect with people like Jeremy Corbyn does. We need

someone who can make Britain believe in itself again." Johnson's supporters are being careful to say that he will not take any action while May remains in No 10 - but the fact that his allies are actively briefing about his virtues will be seen in Downing Street as destabilising. Talk of his leadership bid came as May was rocked by the resignations of the two Downing Street advisers who have been blamed for

the Election disaster - and a Mail yesterday poll found that half of voters want her to quit.

Atmosphere

Such is the febrile atmosphere that *The Mail* yesterday was even told that allies of Johnson believe he has secured the support of Michael Gove. But friends of Gove - who was Johnson's rival for the leadership in last year's contest - dispute this.

Daily Mail

BRIEFS

Germany to test facial recognition software

BERLIN - Germany will start testing facial recognition software at a Berlin Train Station in a few months that could help police identify and locate terror suspects more quickly, a minister says. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said this past Saturday the software would be tested with volunteers at Berlin's Suedkreuz Station and if successful would be expanded to other locations and also used for a range of criminal investigations. "We already have video surveillance in train stations, of course. But we aren't able, for example, to put a picture of a terrorist on the run into software that would alert us when he appears in a station," Maiziere said in an interview on the website of the Tagesspiegel newspaper. **AFP**

Spaniard dies of stab wound to the back

BARCELONA - Spain's Foreign Ministry says a British autopsy concluded that Ignacio Echeverria, the Spaniard who confronted assailants during last weekend's attacks in London, died after being stabbed in the back. A Foreign Ministry spokesperson said this past Saturday that Echeverria's family shared the information with the ministry after the autopsy was performed. Witnesses described seeing the 39-year-old Echeverria using a skateboard against attackers before he fell to the ground during last Saturday's attacks on and near London Bridge. He was employed in London by HSBC bank. Seven other people also died in the attack on June 3. **AP**

3 men detained after Jet landing

BERLIN - Three male passengers were detained this past Saturday evening in Cologne, Germany after their easyJet flight from Ljubljana, Slovenia to London made an unscheduled landing there, Cologne police said in a statement.



The aircraft landed in Cologne after passengers reported that the men were talking about "terrorist matters," according to the statement. The men were not identified. Police carried out security checks of the aircraft and questioned passengers after all 151 passengers were evacuated safely from the Airbus 319 aircraft using emergency slides, the airport said in a statement on its website. **Reuters**

'Notre Dame attacker a novice'

PARIS - An Algerian man who attacked a policeman with a hammer outside Notre Dame cathedral was a loner with a deep interest in Islamic State jihadist propaganda, the Paris prosecutor said this past Saturday. Farid Ikken, a 40-year-old doctorate student, was shot and wounded by another policeman during Tuesday's attack in which he shouted: "This is for Syria". He was officially charged late Saturday with the attempted murder of law enforcement officials and association with terrorists, and jailed ahead of a hearing. He had previously been receiving hospital treatment for a gunshot wound to the leg. **AFP**

IS abducted Iraqi girl reunited with family

IRAQ - The Ashti camp in Iraq's northern city of Arbil this past Saturday celebrated the return of a girl whose abduction by jihadists three years ago sent shockwaves through her Christian community. Joy filled the prefab unit that is now the home of six-year-old Christina Ezzo Obada's family, who were forced to flee the town of Qaraqosh, which lies between Arbil and Mosul and was taken over by the Islamic State group in mid-2014. "Seeing my daughter is a miracle," said her 46-year-old mother Aida. "I was shocked because she has changed so much, I didn't recognise her." **AFP**



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MOZAIK, MASTER P THRILL IDAHOT AT SOLANI'S

By Entertainment Reporter

IT was a delightful day at Solanis Shisanyama this past Saturday as the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT), was celebrated.

IDAHOT is a worldwide celebration of sexual and gender diversity. This was funded by The Rock Of Hope, with assistance from CAL (Coalition of African Lesbians).

MTN SWAMA nominees Mozaik and Master P thrilled the crowd with their different sets.

Mozaik took over the stage at 6pm and rendered a good performance which was well received by the crowd. He thrilled the crowd when he performed 'Bhejane' as they sang along with him.

His energy was felt on stage as he kept on jumping up high and interacting with the crowd. The crowd sang along to every single song he performed; from 'Gwayimane' to 'Right On time'.

Master P did justice to the show as well, he rendered good music for the crowd from old school to current hit songs. DJ Tempt followed him as he made everyone dance.

According to Rock of Hope Communications Officer Melusi Simelani, the artists, as allies of the



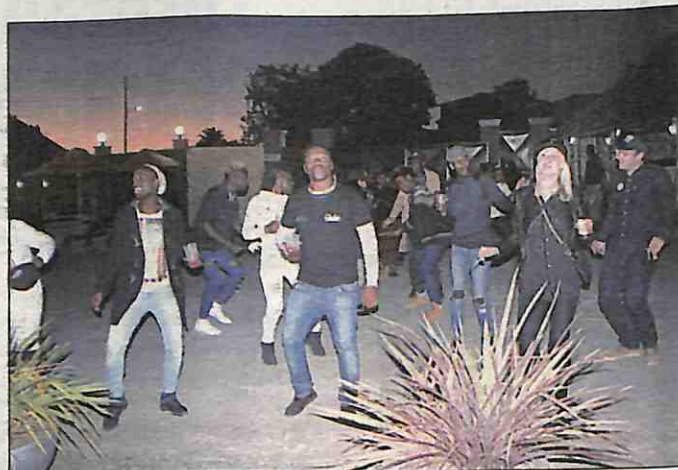
TOP AND BELOW: Mozaik on fire at the IDAHOT celebration as he performs 'Bhejane'. The celebration was held at Solanis Shisanyama on Saturday.

LGBTI community, agreed to perform at a minimal amount. These are namely, Mozaik, Master P and Mseto of +268.

"We acknowledge, also Karly B, who ran from pillar to post, with us, in ensuring we had a proper sound during the

day. We cannot appreciate the love and support, enough. We would not have had this, at this level of success without them.

Big ups to the director, and staff at Solanis for being kind to us," Simelane said.



GETTING JIGGY: Crowd dancing to Master P's set.



TURN TABLIST: Master P thrilling the crowd with his set.



ALL SMILES: Karly B and his partner having a light moment.



RELAXED: A chilled session during the day.



ONES AND TWOS: DJ Tempt on the decks.



SUPPORTIVE: Mseto and first lady of +268 were also there to support their friends.



SING ALONG: Crowd dancing and singing along to Mozaik's song as he performs.

SWAZI ANIMATED DOCUMENTARY TO SCREEN IN LA FILM FESTIVAL

● Thandie Newton signed on as executive producer ● Liyana will debut on Saturday

Stories by Ayanda Dlamini

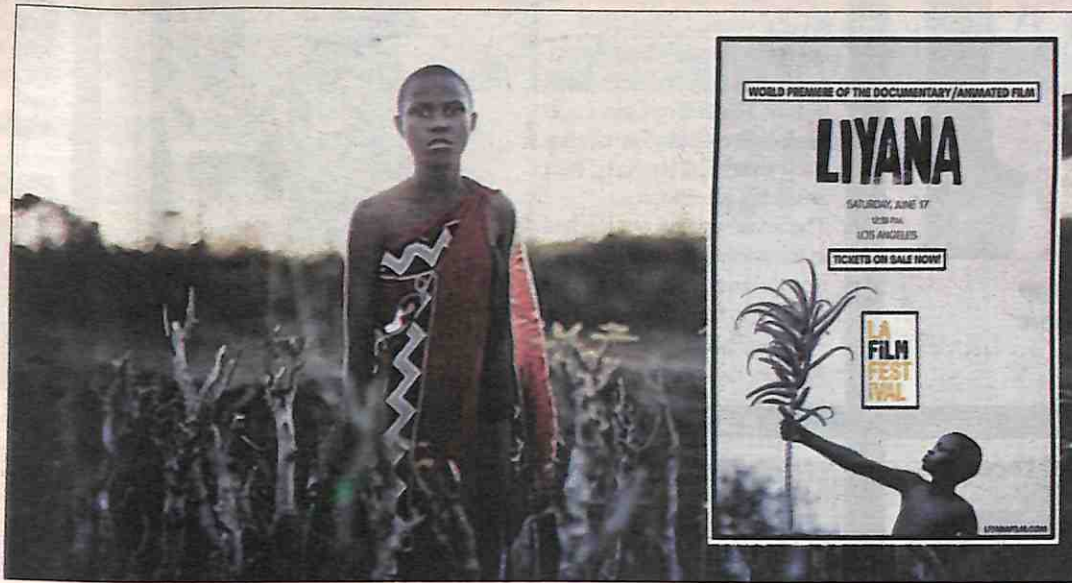
THE TV and film industry is growing bigger and better every day in the country as five orphans used their own experience to create a poetic fairytale about a young girl in a documentary called 'Liyana'.

Liyana will debut on Saturday at the Los Angeles Film Festival. The film is produced and directed by Aaron and Amanda Kopps and it features five children; Zweli, Sibusiso, Phumlane, Mkhuleko and Nomcebo.

According to an interview the Kopps did with an American publication, Entertainment Weekly, Koops recruited South African teller Gcina Mhlophe to work with the five children and help use their stories as inspiration Liyana. According to their Twitter account, the documentary was filmed in 2015.

The Kopps feature film takes an in-depth look at the real lives of orphaned children in the country. At the same time, it weaves an inspiring tale of a fictitious young girl named 'Liyana', who sets out on a dangerous journey to rescue her young twin brothers.

Here is the twirl; Liyana's story



comes directly from the imaginations of the five young children and their first-hand experiences.

Energetic

"As the children in the film tell their story, they're energetic and charismatic, so we found that limiting the motion in the animation kept it from competing with the documentary footage of the kids," Aaron said.

Liyana's story begins with a peaceful childhood, but when her father contracts HIV, both of her parents die. After a frightening attack at Liyana's homestead, she sets out on a dangerous quest in the wilderness, accompanied by her beloved family bull.

Animation

Aaron Kopp told the American publication that he grew up in Swaziland

and wanted to make sure that the animation style accurately reflected the world he knew.

Priority

He said their top priority was for the animation to be visually rich. "We wanted the characters to be beautiful and emotive, and for the landscapes, architecture, and clothing to be distinctly Swazi," he told Entertainment Weekly.



...US star Thandie Newton signed as executive producer

MORE and more intelligence to the Swazi documentary is that American Star Thandie Newton signed as the executive producer.

According to her Twitter account and an interview she did with Entertainment Weekly, she believed it was a jewel of a project, life changing for the subjects and the audience.

"I watched the finished film through streaming tears. Liyana is as powerful, beautiful and unique as its subjects. I was blown away by how the directors took the space and time to reveal how gorgeous, imaginative, articulate, emotionally sophisticated, courageous, witty and intelligent these children are," Newton said.

Newton is an actress who has appeared in several British and American films; 'Mission Impossible 2', 'For Coloured Girls', 'Good Deeds' and '2012' just to name a few.

Sands Of Time album most selling in South Africa

By Nomfundo Sifundza

THE Sands of Time album has hit a stride as it is reportedly the most consistently selling album in the whole of South Africa.

The album, having been distributed in just about all Musica outlets in South Africa, has impressed in sales as it has overtaken hip hop mogul Cassper Nyovest's 'Thuto' and has been reported by Musica as the most consistent album in sales. These statistics, as revealed by the largest music shop in South Africa, have inspired many and others have

taken the moment to say they are proud to be Swazi. The album, released last summer by Swaziland's finest Sandziso Matsebula, popularly known as 'Sands', has had the whole of South Africa flocking Musica outlets to purchase their own copy weeks upon weeks.

The whole of last week, Musica reported that it (the album) stood tall on the first spot, topping amongst all Lebo Sekgobela's and Sipho Ngwenya's albums, respectively.

These reports of the album sales must have pushed it to platinum or gold status but Phila Dlamini; Sands Manager,

was coy about revealing information about the sales thus far.

Otherwise known as Phila Koshini, the manager only confirmed that indeed the album sales were consistent as they were still at the high rate they were in when it was released.

Asked on whether he could say the same about the sales in Swaziland, Dlamini said he could not be certain as yet as he had not compiled the Swaziland shops reports but confirmed that the 12 track album was still available in CNA, Sdeez and Mgavuzza outlets.

On the other hand, the hugely enter-

MUSICA TOP 10 VINYL			
THIS WK.	ARTIST	TITLE	LAST WK.
1	PHILA KOSHINI & THE SANDS	SANDS OF TIME	1
2	LEBO SEKGOBELA	THE WARRIOR	2
3	SIPHO NGWENYA	THE WARRIOR	3
4	THE WARRIOR	THE WARRIOR	4
5	THE WARRIOR	THE WARRIOR	5
6	THE WARRIOR	THE WARRIOR	6
7	THE WARRIOR	THE WARRIOR	7
8	THE WARRIOR	THE WARRIOR	8
9	THE WARRIOR	THE WARRIOR	9
10	THE WARRIOR	THE WARRIOR	10

taining, energetic and rhythmic 'Tigi' is at the crown of the MTV Base Top 20 charts.

MACFORD'S WORKSHOP INFORMATIVE TO THE YOUTH

Stories by Phumelele Mkhonta

FROM organising great shows, former minister and businessman Macford Sibandze rendered a profoundly educational workshop to the Manzini youth on Saturday at The Park Hotel.

The event was attended by over 50 young people and school pupils who were glued to each and every rendition and teaching illustrated by the speakers of the day.

The 'Macford Workshop' is an initiative whose goal is to educate artists, models, deejays and people in general on fundraising strategies, events management and other marketing strategies which are pivotal in culture and arts industries. Esteemed speakers of the day were;

Sibandze as the host, Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture CEO Stanley Dlamini, South Africa's Fashion Festivals organiser and former model Grace Ramasobane, Swazi Boy's Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane and Miss Tourism Nadia Nascimento.

Zwane mainly focused on putting together a successful show while Nadia motivated the attendees on a winning attitude as she is a winner with so many accolades.

Planning

Sibandze, the brains behind the workshop, spoke on how to put together a successful show.

"Careful planning, meeting with the team frequently, having good relations with the media, and apt budgeting are the

...SNCAC CEO hails Macford

SWAZILAND National Council of Arts and Culture CEO Stanley Dlamini hailed Sibandze for imparting his intelligence to the youth.

"This workshop will integrate a lot into understanding the seriousness of arts. There is a lot of money in this industry, but the right keys just have to be used," said Dlamini.

He also warned promoters against making quick money as they may lead into 'bogus' shows, which the country has experienced before.

fundamentals of putting together a successful event," said Sibandze in his presentation.

He emphasised that promoters

"Constant and consistent events with success may lead promoters into attaining big deals," said Dlamini.

Dlamini also hinted that there will come a time where promoters will have to produce an events management license before hosting a show.

"We are still in talks with AMADI and Mananga Centre to formulate a short-course in Event Management. The certificate that will be earned there will be the licence of the promoter," said Dlamini.

should not be in a rush to make quick money.

"Hosting events is all about creating consistency so consumers can

Artists no show

UNFORTUNATELY there were no musicians and deejays that were spotted at the workshop.

The only performer who was present was Smallz the Comedian.

Sibandze encouraged artists to attend such workshops as they are informative and can boost their career.

"It is a norm that artists think they know in their prime. Truth is, most artists die down and it is such workshops that keep them apt in this industry," he said.

gain trust in you. Once you win consumers trust, you may gain more potential clients or lucrative tenders," he said.

International
Celebrity News

George Michael's iconic clothes to auction

LOS ANGELES - An auction frenzy is on the way as George Michael's iconic clothes are put up for sale.

The black "Rockers" leather jacket and Ray-Ban sunglasses he wore in the Faith video are up for grabs, along with a Jean-Paul Gaultier studded jacket he wore for the I Want Your Sex video.

Fans of the star - who died on Christmas Day - can also bid for a leather knee-length coat he donned for the 1994 MTV awards at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.

MTO



ICONIC: George Michael's iconic clothes.

Jessica Chastain marries Gian Luca Passi de Preposulo

LOS ANGELES - The screen star tied the knot this past Saturday in a gorgeous white strapless gown.

They have been together for several years.

And now Jessica Chastain has made her relationship with fashion Executive Gian Luca Passi de Preposulo formal after they married in Italy last Saturday afternoon.

The loved-up pair got hitched in the northern city of Treviso, near Venice, at the groom's sprawling family estate, Villa Tiepolo Passi.

Mirror



MARRIED: Jessica Chastain and Gian Luca Passi de Preposulo.

Katy Perry opens up about past suicidal thoughts

LOS ANGELES - Katy Perry got emotional during a therapy session broadcast online last Friday as she discussed her personal struggles.

The singer has been live-streaming herself—at meetings, at yoga class and even sleeping—on YouTube over the past week to promote her new album Witness, which dropped that day. Last Friday, she met with Siri Sat Nam Singh, a licensed therapist who appears on Viceland's The Therapist, and talked about how she used to



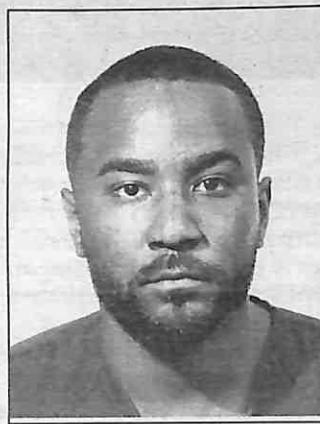
OPENS UP: Katy Perry.

have suicidal thoughts and wrote a song about referencing them—her 2013 track "By the Grace of God."

Nick Gordon arrested for domestic violence

FLORIDA - Nick Gordon was arrested earlier yesterday on two charges—one for domestic violence battery and the other for kidnapping or false imprisonment of an adult in Florida.

According to the booking sheet, the 28-year-old was taken into custody and booked in Sanford, Florida this past Saturday. Reports are that the adult victim is Gordon's girlfriend and that he allegedly beat her up last Friday night, which sent her to the hospital. The outlet, which has also posted photos of the alleged



ARRESTED: Nick Gordon.

SA Celebrity News

Bahumi Madisakwane out to make her mark

JOHANNESBURG - The case of reality television actress Bahumi Madisakwane and her super famous dad Somizi Mhlongo is not really one of like father like daughter. It is no doubt that the budding actress has star qualities in her veins but unlike her over-the-top father, Bahumi says she is more reserved and level headed.

"I am very laid back. I basically wake up and go to school. If I don't have school, I go to work and do that routine almost every day," she giggles. *Sowetan*



OUT TO PROVE: Bahumi Madisakwane.

Minnie sets the record straight

JOHANNESBURG - Remember a few years ago when Minnie Dlamini was dating soccer player Itumeleng Khune and it emerged that he had paid R1 million lobola for her? Well Minnie set the record straight on those reports today.

"I was never, ever, ever, ever 'lobolad' by a soccer player in my life. It never happened. So, we can lay that to rest, please guys, it did not happen. The first time I got 'lobolad' was now, and I'm getting married now," she said on Fresh Breakfast with DJ Fresh. *Drum*



NEVER HAPPENED: Minnie Dlamini.

MultiChoice to cover Minnie Dlamini's wedding

JOHANNESBURG - TV presenter Minnie Dlamini and her photographer fiancé Quinton Jones have apparently sold their wedding rights to MultiChoice for a whopping R6-million.

As if that was not enough, Dlamini is also said to have scored a lucrative sponsorship deal for the couple's engagement and wedding rings, as well as other jewellery items from Sandton's top jewellery designer, Jenna Clifford.

Dlamini had been keeping scores of her fans on social media well-informed about her wedding, even disclosing that she was planning it herself.

SundayWorld



TO BE AIRED: Minnie Dlamini and Quinton Jones wedding.

Nomzamo Mbatha hangs out with Alicia Keys

NEW YORK - Nomzamo Mbatha is living her best life in the States. The actress jetted off to the US last week where she attended the Polo Classic.

She also got the chance to rub shoulders with singing sensation Alicia Keys.

Nomzamo couldn't stop raving about the moment.

"Met one of the most sweetest and kindest souls, Alicia Keys. I can't explain the feeling when she performed 'Empire State of Mind' and had everyone singing in their loudest voices," she said.

Timeslive



MINGLES: Nomzamo Mbatha.

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY

Mpiyakhe proposes a new business venture. Jabu commits himself to his new mission, despite its challenges.



PROPOSES: Mpiyakhe.

ISIDINGO

TODAY

Gabriel is livid when Nikiwe walks out on him and doesn't return. Basetsana gives a puzzled Rajesh the cold shoulder. When her parents return early, Anja is so bust.



FULL OF SURPRISES: Nikiwe.

Muvhango

TODAY



REVEALES: Thandaza.

Thandaza tells Mankosi the shocking news... There's an unwelcome visitor for Vhutshilo at the royal house. Bongsi hits on a way to make some extra cash.

RHYTHM CITY

TODAY



WARNED: David.

Pearl continues to manipulate David. Niki warns David about Pearl. Bongsi becomes increasingly insecure about being eclipsed by Reneilwe.

PICTURE OF THE DAY

Send me a picture of you in your bra



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

People you attract around you may be in similar circumstances to your own: they might also have a little more experience - particularly with regard to a hobby. Their tips could prove useful. The research and development part of your brain could be in over-drive too. Whilst travelling you could come up with several good ideas: the art may be to write these down before they're forgotten!



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

You may need to move money around at speed - both to pay off a bill and to secure the best possible savings rate. An interesting offer could come your way too: the only 'snag' with this is that there might be more travel involved than you'd really like.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

It's likely to be you who makes all the calls today. Driven firstly by the need to know more about what happened at the weekend but also because you need it to be known that you're back 'on a case', you could be exceptionally busy juggling one call after another.



ARIES MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

You might wonder why someone's talking quite so much. Perhaps you'll be at the sharp end of a hard sell. What's interesting is that you seem to be 'hearing' body language better in the past. In fact, you could do a really good financial deal. You might also explore just why a particular issue sets someone 'off on one'.



TAURUS APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Continuing to fire on all cylinders is likely. You may not want to go through a chain of command and so could ask to 'speak to the manager', so that you end up dealing with the person who really could help. Those who know you well might also notice that the language of your emails, style of letters and general demeanour suggest you're less aggressive and in more comfortable go-getting mood.



GEMINI MAY 21 - JUNE 21

Gaining control of a discussion might not be easy - perhaps because a colleague is just so emotional about an issue. The only snag with giving way, is that the list of tasks then left for you to do could require that you



access your Superman/woman abilities. Talking yourself into trouble is likely and could put your nervous system under stress.



CANCER JUNE 22 - JULY 22

News from people who live far away and/or the prospect of a long journey seems likely to put you in good humour. With the 'child within' coming out to play, your contribution to an artistic project could be inspired. There might even be talk about giving you a new title. At a different level, you may be dealing with a new address or logo.



LEO JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

In commercially top form, you could wheel and deal the day away. Your mind is likely to work faster than usual - with your intuition also working at maximum. This could enable you to get to the heart of a matter before others: so you might also experience moments of exasperation and impatience when it seems colleagues are dragging their heels.



VIRGO AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Far from finding yourself in the hot seat answering questions, you may be the one who fires them off. A paper-trail brings out the detective in you. Confidence in your ability to sort out a mess might not be misplaced.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 23

You could be so easily overwhelmed by paper-work (though mostly emails probably). A smooth routine is unlikely. You may have loads you want to tell friends and colleagues.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 21

You know there's all to play for. You also know you need to know more before you can make your move. Yet you might not wish to ask a question directly. Those who know you really well (very few) may see you're on a charm offensive.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

It's another 'wordy' day. Discussions are likely to be lively and to focus on both destinations and the cost of travel. News from friends already in transit could disturb your day. A younger relative's career news may be both exciting and a little puzzling.

BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MINI CROSSWORD - PUZZLE CHOICE

SPACE EXPLORATION

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards

V D N E I R F L R I G G N I T E E R G
A V S E S S I K P A V W O R R A I B V
B Y B C W O B A G D C B C S S L E B C
C E H E T C S V T O A D A D T A V D H
E A G L L S U O L R R E R E U N Y N A
M R A U I O E P S E D V I H B A T E R
O N L O I C V S I E G O N C E N L I M
T I N R N L J E F D I T G T E E A R B
I N V A A Y E T D M F I H I V T Y F I
O G M A C D V D N L T O B W O T O Y R
N O I T A U T A F N I N H E L I L O V
R A H N O I T C A R T T A B C M K B P
C A P T I V A T E D C I C R U S H P D
S D V P C D E T N A H C N E N I A X E
O E M V E B O S W E E T H E A R T V A
R S H E H A T T D E R U T P A R N E R
E I G Q O V L D E A I T R E A S U R E
T R U E L O V E O N S A B A V H L E S
V E N I T N E L A V H E V O M T L R T

Adore, Appeal, Arrow, Attraction, Beau, Beguiled, Beloved, Bewitched, Bow, Boyfriend, Captivated, Card, Caring, Charm, Cherish, Crush, Cupid, Dearest, Desire, Devotion, Dote, Emotion, Enchanted,

Enraptured, Eros, Gift, Girlfriend, Greeting, Infatuation, Kisses, Love, Loyalty, Passion, Romance, Smitten, Sweetheart, Treasure, Truelove, Valentine, Yearning.



Interview with a journalist

A quote from an interview with the head of a growing company. Journalist asks:

employees are working in your company?
- Approximately half of them...

USELESS FACTS

1. Laws pertaining to birth aboard aircraft and ships mean it is possible for a person born on a British ship, anchored in a United States port, with a Chinese father and Turkish mother, to have quadruple nationality.
2. The Norwegian National Rail Administration owns all 4,114km (2,556 miles) of railways in Norway but does not operate any trains.

3. German-American confectioner Charles F Gunther claimed to own the remains of the serpent from the Garden of Eden.
4. In addition to insects, the diet of the Common Brown Lemur includes soil and red clay.
5. Liverpool actor and guitarist Ozzie Yue used to flick pieces of paper at Paul McCartney in art class at the Liverpool Institute High School For Boys.

BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Friday's brainteasers

1. What object is king of the classroom?
Answer: The ruler!
2. Why did the children eat their homework?
Answer: Because their teacher said it was

a piece of cake.

Today's brainteasers

1. What can you call a math teacher?
2. What do you call a boy with a dictionary in his pocket?

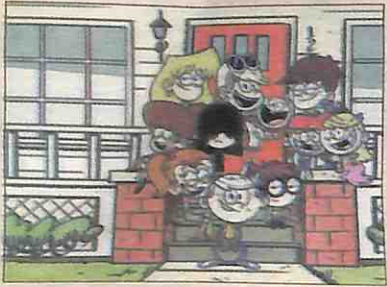


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NEWS



HIGHLIGHTS



The loud house
Today 15:40 | Nickelodeon (305)

"S2/E8 - No Such Luck". The sisters think Lincoln is bad luck so they ban him from attending their activities.



The kitchen
Today 16:00 | Food Network (175)

"S10/E1 - Make The Most Of Your Summer Bounty". The crew shares fun summer recipes like pork tenderloin quesadillas and a piña-perfected cocktail. Learn how to keep summer produce fresh all summer long.



Evermoor Chronicles
17:55 | Disney Channel (303)

"S2/E25 - Splintered". Bella is set to leave Evermoor for fashion school, but when a mysterious man in a magic mirror shatters Ludo into magical splinters, Bella realises she has to stay in the village to fix Ludo.



Uprize
Thursday 21:00 | BET (129)

On the morning of 16 June 1976, students in Soweto gathered to protest against the use of Afrikaans in schools. What started as a planned peaceful march turned into a bloody confrontation with the police. The protests spread to other parts of the country, causing economic instability and international condemnation that rapidly plunged the government into crisis. Uprize looks at the political, social and cultural conditions that shaped the mass action and its impact on our democratic society of today.



THE RAP GAME

THE Rap Game season 3 on Lifetime (DStv channel 131) every Monday evening, starting today at 20h00, follows rapper and music mogul, Jermaine Dupri as he mentors five hot aspiring young rappers all vying to win a recording contract with Dupri's label, So So Def.

In this loud docu-series, the five young rappers, who are all looking for their big break, are put

through their paces when invited to move into his Atlanta mansion together with their manager moms. Dupri - the powerhouse musical force behind hip hop superstars such as Mariah Carey, Usher, and Bow Wow - mentors the young stars through every aspect of the music business.

Game

Through his customised rap boot camp, they are schooled in all

facets of the rap game.

The young singers trying to scoop up the record deal are Tally; a talented teen from Nashville whose rapping abilities were discovered accidentally, Deetranada; whose hip-hop dancer brother helps her to build her social-media presence, King Roscoe; who has an entire team that manages him, Nova; whose uncle/manager stops at nothing to help his nephew

become the next big rap star and Flau'jae, who has been mentored by the likes of Master P and Lil Boosie.

Talented

Catch all The Rap Game action on Lifetime as a talented line-up of rappers and producers, including Bow Wow, Rick Ross, Fabolous and Jeezy, join Dupri as mentors to guide the aspiring rappers throughout the competition.

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tomers will get to watch live matches of the English Premier League, Spanish La Liga, and Afcon - all from our DStv Compact and up packages.

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**Catch Lucifer
Tonight
@ 23:25 | M-Net
(101)**

"S2/E14 - Candy Morningstar". After Chloe's near-death, Lucifer goes off the grid cutting off all contact from his family and the police department. Neil Gaiman's devilishly charismatic Lucifer spawns to life in this entertaining drama.

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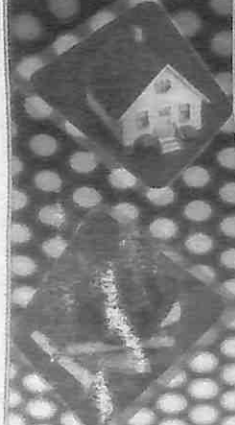
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ESTATE NO. EM 53/2017

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NELISIWE MDZEBELE
P.O.BOX 908
MATSAPHA

ESTATE LATE:
DAVID JOHN WRIGHT
ESTATE NO. EM 168/2017

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Swazi Observer
OBSERVER ON SATURDAY



INFANTINO 'CONFIDENT' IN 2022 DESPITE QATAR CRISIS

QATAR - FIFA is confident the diplomatic crisis sweeping Qatar will normalise and not threaten the 2022 World Cup, the organisation's President, Gianni Infantino, said in an interview published yesterday.

"We are facing a diplomatic crisis," Infantino told Switzerland's *Le Matin* Dimanche newspaper. "I am confident the region will return to a normal situation."

He told the paper FIFA was "closely watching the evolving situation and we are in regular contact with the highest authorities in Qatar."

But he stressed that Qatar's World Cup was five years away.

"Obviously, if football can offer a small contribution to improve the situation, I won't hesitate to offer my

help," he said, while adding that FIFA should stay clear of "geopolitics."

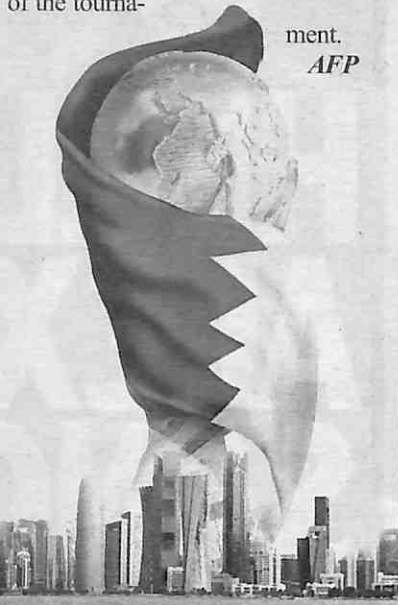
Saudi Arabia and allies, including the UAE and Bahrain, cut diplomatic ties with Qatar last Monday, accusing it of supporting extremism.

The move triggered the most serious diplomatic flap to hit the region in years and experts have said it could impact the 2022 World Cup.

Since being controversially chosen by FIFA in 2010 as the host, Qatar has maintained that it is a politically secure nation, despite its location in a volatile region. Doha has also emphasised that the tournament serves the entire Gulf, and not just the tiny gas-rich emirate. Those claims have faced fresh scrutiny during the crisis, possibly invigorating a cam-

paign by critics of Qatar to strip Doha of the tournament.

ment.
AFP



Southgate insists players passed huge test

LONDON - Gareth Southgate described Harry Kane's dramatic stoppage-time equaliser against Scotland as 'a huge moment' for his England team, implying that they had buried the ghosts of last year's shock defeat by Iceland.

After Southgate saw Leigh Griffiths propel Scotland into a 90th-minute lead with the second of two stunning free-kicks, Kane underlined his credentials as the new national team skipper with a stunning goal of his own.

"The questions around us centre on character when events go against you," said Southgate. "So we have to be a team that is never beaten."

"For 80 minutes, we had been in control of the game and I felt we deserved to be in the lead, but then we had a mad minute and a half and witnessed two outstanding technical finishes. You didn't see anybody sink to their knees and you didn't see anyone throw in the towel."

"We came here looking for more but after the narrative of that game we have to be pleased with a point. The way we came back is fundamental to being a top team. This is only one step in that direction but it's a significant moment."

Southgate said he would not make a judgement on whether keeper Joe Hart was at fault for the Scotland goals until he had watched them again. Instead he praised him for being "composed with the ball at his feet".

Not everyone was so generous to Hart, however.

Gary Neville, who was England's assistant coach when Hart and his colleagues succumbed to Iceland last year and was here working for TV, suggested the goalkeeper was at fault for Scotland's goals.

"I have to say it's a good strike, but Joe Hart is beaten a metre inside his post. Should he get there? Maybe," he said of the first.

While on the second he said: "I think Joe Hart should save it, again. People can criticise me if they want but that's poor from the goalkeeper. Griffiths knows if he gets it up and down it's a goal and Hart doesn't move his feet quick enough."

Kane echoed Southgate in praising England for the manner in which they fought back. "To get the equaliser in stoppage time showed unbelievable character," he said.

Gordon Strachan described the game as 'one of most emotional games ever as a manager'.

"It was like watching a heavyweight boxer against a middleweight," the Scotland manager said. "These guys are giants given the level they play at compared to us."

He said of goalscorer Griffiths: "He's a wonderful character. Strange but wonderful."

Daily Mail

Roberto Carlos dragged into doping scandal

LONDON - Former Real Madrid legend Roberto Carlos has been dragged into a doping controversy after a German documentary alleged he was one of at least two Brazilian international footballers who took banned performance enhancing drugs around the 2002 World Cup in Japan and Korea, a tournament Brazil won.

During a long investigation into doping in Brazilian sport, led by the acclaimed journalist Hajo Seppelt, undercover reporters obtained substances, including steroids and EPO from a doctor, Julio Cesar Alves, who has claimed to provide doping substances to dozens of Brazilian stars across multiple sports for more than a decade.

Runner Eliane Pereira, who has represented her country, told Seppelt she had been given doping products since the age of 17 by Alves.

Marco Aurelio Klein, who was until recently the head of Brazil's anti-dop-



ACCUSED: Former Real Madrid legend Roberto Carlos.

ing organisation, told Seppelt that a dossier of sportsman's statements about their visits to Dr Alves had been handed to prosecutors in 2015.

Among paperwork compiled as part of a potential case against Dr Alves was a claim that Roberto Carlos, who won the Champions League three times with Real among many trophies in his career, visited Dr Alves in July 2002, within weeks of the World Cup. Filmed by undercover reporters pretending to want drugs for performance-enhancing reasons, Dr Alves told them: "I treated Roberto Carlos. The national player. He came to me at the early age of 15."

He was a lanky boy. I developed his thighs. It was me who made Roberto Carlos' thighs into what they are today."

Seppelt and his team from ARD television made multiple attempts to obtain a response from Roberto Carlos, including at last weekend's Champions League final in Cardiff. The 44-year-old, widely regarded as one of the greatest left-backs of all time, declined to make any comment.

Daily Mail

Bayern Munich confirm signing of Serge Gnabry

MUNICH - Bayern Munich have signed former Arsenal midfielder Serge Gnabry from Werder Bremen on a three-year contract.

Gnabry, who was top scorer at the Rio Olympics last summer, joins Carlo Ancelotti's side after an impressive season with Bremen.

The 21-year-old, who scored 11 goals last season in the Bundesliga, told the club's website: "It is a great honour to be part of FC Bayern. I have exciting times ahead of me, which I look forward to."

Bayern Chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge added: "We are delighted to see another young German national player in FC Bayern in Serge Gnabry. Serge has developed very well in Bremen."

The move will go through on July 1, with Gnabry providing Ancelotti with an option out wide alongside Arjen Robben, Douglas Costa and exciting French prospect Kingsley Coman.

Gnabry failed to cement a place in the first team at

Arsenal in four seasons at the Emirates Stadium, spending the 2015-16 season on loan at West Brom.

But after a disastrous spell at The Hawthorns in which he made just one Premier League appearance, Gnabry reignited his career back in his native Germany.

The Stuttgart-born winger moved to Bremen for £5million last summer, despite Gunners boss Arsene Wenger expressing his desire to keep him at the club.

But the lure of first team football meant a return to

Germany, for whom he won a silver medal at the Olympic Games in 2016.

Gnabry earned his first senior cap last November, scoring a hat-trick in the World Cup qualification

away to San

Marino, which Germany won 8-0.
Daily Mail



FAMILY: Real Madrid footballer Cristiano Ronaldo with son Cristiano Ronaldo Jr, known as Cristianinho and Georgina Rodriguez. (AP)

Ronaldo 'welcomes birth of twins with surrogate'

MADRID - Real Madrid footballer Cristiano Ronaldo has reportedly become the father of surrogate twins.

The children, a boy and a girl called Eva and Mateo, were born on Thursday, according to Portuguese TV channel SIC.

"Mateo and Eva, those are the names of Cristiano Ronaldo's twins," the channel claimed.

"The boy and girl were born to a surrogate mum. It's a secret that Cristiano Ronaldo hasn't yet revealed to the rest of the world."

The TV station did not initially say where it believed the children were at the moment and revealed there were no pictures yet of the babies.

There has been immediate no official confirmation of the news from the footballer or his agents, but several Portuguese websites

and newspapers, including leading Portuguese daily *Correio da Manhã*, were running the story on Friday.

A UK newspaper reported in March that Ronaldo was due to become the father of twin boys.

It said a surrogate mother on the west coast of the US was heavily pregnant and was expecting the babies "very soon."

Ronaldo, who is dating Spanish beauty Georgina Rodriguez, stunned the world in July 2010 by announcing on Twitter and Facebook he had become a father.

Cristiano Ronaldo Jr, known as Cristianinho, is now six.

The child's proud grannie Dolores Aveiro revealed in an approved biography published in July 2014 in Portugal that she had picked the youngster up from a private hospital in Florida.

Daily Mail



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



Chelsea lead race to sign R Madrid star Rodriguez

LONDON - Chelsea are front-runners to sign Real Madrid's Colombian attacking midfielder James Rodriguez.

According to Spanish publication AS, the Premier League champions have stolen a march on their rivals for Rodriguez who was on the periphery for Real last season.

It is thought that £70m would be sufficient to bring the 25-year-old to Stamford Bridge.

Real would want to conclude negotiations in a swift fashion in order to reinvest the transfer fee into a bid for Monaco starlet Kylian Mbappe.

Rodriguez has struggled to break into Zinedine Zidane's star-studded starting line-up

and the Champions League winners have plenty of depth to accommodate his exit.

Antonio Conte is thought to have spoken to the Chelsea board of his desire to bring in Alvaro Morata and Rodriguez and is confident a deal will be concluded for the latter.

Morata on the other hand looks set to join former Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho at Manchester United. Despite his relative lack of game-time last term, Rodriguez still netted 11 times in all competitions for the club.

But with only 13 La Liga starts to his name, the Colombian is looking to take the necessary steps to play regular football.

Daily Mail



IN DEMAND:
James Rodriguez.



MANCHESTER - Sanchez would earn £275k-a-week at The Etihad if he's reunited with his former Barcelona boss, Pep Guardiola.

City are also hoping Arsenal will accept an offer of £50million for Sanchez, 28.

The Chilean scored 30 goals for Arsenal in all competitions in the season just ended.

That underlined his importance to the Gunners and Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger is adamant that he'll be staying.

But Sanchez has only a year remaining on his contract, has not agreed a new deal and Arsenal face losing him

for nothing next year.

He is also wanted by Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich and has been linked with Chelsea.

If City can strike a deal, it would end for the time being at least, their interest in Monaco sensation Kylian Mbappe, 18. But Mbappe is more likely to sign a new deal with Monaco - or move to Real Madrid.

City, having already signed Benfica goalkeeper Ederson Moraes and Monaco midfielder Bernardo Silva for a combined outlay of £78m, are also in the market for a centre-back and two full-

backs. They remain interested in Southampton Virgil Van Dijk, 25, but won't meet the Saints valuation of £70 million.

Tottenham right back Kyle Walker, though, is expected to be a City player by the end of this week, when his England commitments are completed.

Walker, 27, is valued at £40 million by Tottenham, but Manager Mauricio Pochettino is prepared to sanction his sale. Pochettino intends using Kieran Trippier, 26, as his first-choice right back next season.

Daily Star

LONLA INVESTMENTS

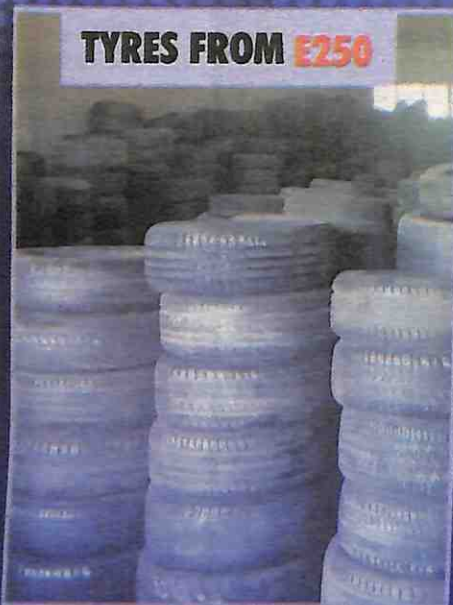
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ARSENAL FACE A TEST OF PULLING POWER

LONDON - At Real Madrid they started the wooing at 14 years old. And they deployed the man who was effectively their ambassador in chief for young French players, although now he is their coach.

Zinedine Zidane took the time to show Kylian Mbappe around Real's training facilities when the boy came to visit. He is 18 now and football's most-wanted teenager.

So although Arsenal have done well with Mbappe, having started their pursuit 18 months ago, they are lagging behind Real Madrid.

Gallingly for Arsenal, they were seemingly close to persuading him to come to London last summer for what would have been about

£230

000

under

FIFA

compensation rules.

Now they will

have to add £100m to that fee, such has been the rise of Mbappe this season.

Tomorrow he may complete a remarkable season by taking on England at the Stade de France for France, having already won the league with Monaco and helped them into the Champions League semi-final, making a lasting impression on Manchester City en route.

"I know we beat them at home but he was clinical," recalls John Stones, who struggled against Mbappe that night and is expected to play again in Paris tomorrow. 'He's a top player in the making and we'll be looking to stop

him."

Mbappe turned 18 in December yet seemingly maintains an air of innocence. His breakthrough moment this season came against Rennes in December when he scored a hat-trick.

"I was the happiest person in the world," he says. "I slept with the match ball, signed by all my team-mates." Yet while Monaco may be ideal for his development at present, it was impossible not to notice the empty seats and paltry crowd at the Stade Louis II that night against Rennes.

Arsene Wenger met Mbappe last summer to convince him that Arsenal was where he could grow. Both Wenger and Arsenal Chief Executive Ivan Gazidis were in Nice last week.

Wenger, a former Monaco manager with contacts still at the heart of the club, is the man driving the bid to bring Mbappe to the Emirates. He knows it is a tall order but he has been stung by the suggestion last season that he is now expendable at the age of 67. This could be a test of the pulling power Wenger still has. *Daily Mail*



CLINICAL: Kylian Mbappe.



GOLDEN BOYS: England captain Lewis Cook lifts the World Cup trophy above his head after the Young Lions beat Venezuela yesterday.



ENGLAND HAS NEW GOLDEN GENERATION

SOUTH KOREA - It may not erase 51 years of hurt, but England have a new golden generation.

Paul Simpson's Under-20s are champions of the world. These are the History Boys. Dominic Calvert-Lewin is the man whose name will be written in the record books, his goal ensuring the Young Lions beat Venezuela 1-0 in South Korea, but praise must be heaped

■ England started better of the two sides as Dominic Solanke enjoyed two early chances but couldn't find net
■ Venezuela hit the post from 40 yards out when Ronaldo Lucena tried an ambitious shot from free-kick

upon Freddie Woodman too, whose incredible penalty save kept England in the game. Argentina, South Korea,

Costa Rica, Mexico and Italy had all fallen by the sword of St George before this one, and Venezuela were the final

victims of a team that deserve every second of their success. In Suwon, the first real chance of the match fell the way of Dominic Solanke, the new Liverpool signing with four tournament goals to his name before the final. Making the most of a slip in the Venezuela defence, he found himself with space for a shot, but his first-time effort was scuffed and saved by Wuilker Farinez. Five minutes later, Solanke struck again. This time wide of the post, but the 19-year-old was finding his feet as England's Young Lions dictated the pace of the game.

Ademola Lookman in particular looked at ease with the occasion. This is a player who already has eight Premier League appearances, and a debut goal, to his name.

The Everton man carved England's next opportunity, holding off the challenge of Manchester City midfielder Yangel Herrera to shoot at goal, but Farinez was there to beat the ball away again.

For all England's pressure, it was Venezuela who enjoyed the first

major chance when Ronaldo Lucena unleashed a fierce effort from 40 yards out.

Catching the Young Lions off-guard, the Venezuela man struck his free-kick goalwards, with the ball bending towards the far corner of Woodman's goal.

He will have breathed a sigh of relief to see it cannon off the woodwork and away from danger. A wake-up call for Simpson's side, though.

And so they stepped up another gear, with Calvert-Lewin rising above the defence from a corner to head goalwards. That time his effort was saved, but just four minutes later it was a different outcome.

The Everton talent showed persistence and desire to jump with Nahuel Ferraresi, not allowing the Venezuelan centre back a chance to head the ball clear. He was first to the second ball too, nicking an opportunity to shoot. That was saved, but again he was alert to tuck home the rebound at the near post. England were on their way.

SWAZILAND



GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT
BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

TENDER NO51 OF 2017/18

REQUEST FOR BID PROPOSALS (RFBP) FOR THE DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A PARLIAMENT BUILDING IN LOBAMBA

The Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland through the Ministry of Public Works and Transport intends to obtain proposals from suitably qualified consultants, joint ventures, or consortiums for the design and supervision of a parliament building in Lobamba.

RFBP documents will be available with effect from Wednesday, 14th June 2017, on payment of cash or bank guaranteed cheque of E5,000 non refundable at the Government Revenue Office (Account No. 531/4201/21132) from:-

The Principal Secretary
Ministry of Public Works and Transport
Buildings Department (Accounts, Office 28)
Lusutfu Road
MBABANE

Completed bid proposal, a copy of a valid Construction Industry Council (CIC) Certificate, Trading Licence, Tax Clearance Certificate, Labour Compliance Certificate for individual members, in case of a joint venture or consortium, Tender Security (E10,000) and the General Receipt of purchase of RFBP document must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and deposited in the Treasury Tender Box by 9h00 on Friday 15th September 2017, clearly marked Tender No. 51 of 2017/18, addressed to:

The Secretary to the Tender Board
Treasury Building
Lusutfu Road
MBABANE

A briefing meeting will be held on **Thursday, 22nd June 2017 at 10h00** in the Ministry of Public Works and Transport conference room. No late or telegraphic tender will be accepted. Any bidder who attempts to influence the award of the tender will be disqualified. The Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender or any part thereof.

S. M. MNDawe
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

SWAZILAND



GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT
BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

TENDER NO52 OF 2017/18

REQUEST FOR BID PROPOSALS (RFBP) FOR THE DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 35,000 SEATER STADIUM IN MANZINI

The Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland through the Ministry of Public Works and Transport intends to obtain proposals from suitably qualified consultants, joint ventures or consortiums for the design and supervision of a 35,000 seater, Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) and International Association of Athletics Federations (IAFF) compliant stadium in Manzini.

RFBP documents will be available with effect from Wednesday the 14th June 2017, on payment of cash or bank guaranteed cheque of E5,000 non refundable at the Government Revenue Office (Account No. 531/4201/21132) from:-

The Principal Secretary
Ministry of Public Works and Transport
Buildings Department (Accounts, Office 28)
Lusutfu Road
MBABANE

Completed bid proposal, a copy of a valid Construction Industry Council (CIC) Certificate, Trading Licence, Tax Clearance Certificate, Labour Compliance Certificate for individual members, in case of a joint venture or consortium, Tender Security (E10,000) and the General Receipt of purchase of RFBP document must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and deposited in the Treasury Tender Box by 9h00 on Friday 8th September 2017, clearly marked Tender No. 52 of 2017/18, addressed to:

The Secretary to the Tender Board
Treasury Building
Lusutfu Road
MBABANE

A briefing meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 21st June 2017 at 10h00** in the Ministry of Public Works and Transport conference room. No late or telegraphic tender will be accepted. Any bidder who attempts to influence the award of the tender will be disqualified. The Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender or any part thereof.

S. M. MNDawe
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

Liverpool in last-minute race to sign £40m midfielder

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool are reportedly ready to spend £40million to try and land Arsenal and England midfielder Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain this summer.

Reds boss Jurgen Klopp is a big admirer of Oxlade-Chamberlain's versatility and believes he would be a huge asset to his squad as Liverpool prepare for life back in the Champions League next season.

There has been plenty of speculation over the 23-year-old's future over the last six months but Arsenal are ready to hand Oxlade-Chamberlain, who is out of contract next summer, a new long-term contract worth £100 000-a-week to keep him at the club.

The Gunners are desperate to fend off any interest from Liverpool in the player, who is reportedly tempted by the possibility of playing for Klopp after failing to progress

how he would have liked during his six years at The Emirates.

Liverpool are ready to bid as much as £40m to land one of their top targets this summer, according to the report in the Sunday Express, in the hope that they can turn Oxlade-Chamberlain's head at the last minute and force through a switch to Anfield.

The Reds' transfer business

has not gone too well so far this summer, with the club having to write an apology and pull out of the race to sign Virgil van Dijk, while an expected move for Roma winger Mohamed Salah has yet to materialise.

Teamtalk



Mourinho claims to always pick teams in 'big trouble'

MANCHESTER - Jose Mourinho claims to be "terrible at picking teams", with Manchester United, Inter and Real Madrid taken on in "big trouble".

The Portuguese tactician has enjoyed success wherever he has been, with a productive spell at Porto putting him on the path to greatness.

He is, however, of the opinion that he inherited testing situations in Italy, Spain and England before turning fortunes around.

Mourinho was quick to bill himself as "a special one" upon taking the reins at Chelsea, and it appears that he continues to revel in that role.

He told Portuguese newspaper Expresso: "I'm terrible at picking teams."

"I always choose teams, as they say in England, in big trouble. Inter was in big trouble, Real Madrid was in big trouble, Manchester United in big trouble, that is, always in big trouble."

Mourinho guided Inter to a historic treble during his time at the San Siro, with Serie A, Coppa Italia and Champions League crowns secured.

He then went on to return the

La Liga title to Madrid during his time in Spain, before heading back to the Premier

League.

More title success followed at Chelsea, before succeeding Louis van Gaal at Manchester United and leading them to Community Shield, EFL Cup and Europa League glory in his first season at the helm.

Goal



BAXTER HAILS 'MASSIVE' WIN

JOHANNESBURG -Bafana Bafana coach Stuart Baxter says Saturday's 2-0 away win against the Super Eagles of Nigeria at Akwa Ibom Stadium ranks among the best moments of his coaching career, especially considering the manner in which it was achieved.

Coming into this Saturday's game, South Africa had not beaten Nigeria in an official game and there was talk that Baxter had not enough time to prepare for this crucial opening Africa Cup of Nations qualifier for Cameroon 2019.

But the mentor said he had a gut feeling that things would go well when he saw the energy levels in the players from the first day he took them for training last Monday, and how they had all responded to his philosophy.

While cherishing this great win over one of the best football playing nations on the African continent, Baxter has cautioned his players to keep their feet firmly on the ground in order to build on this success, which he described as massive. This result, however, must be cherished by all South Africans con-



HAILS: Bafana Bafana head coach Stuart Baxter during the South African national men's soccer team training session at FNB Stadium on June 07, 2017 in Johannesburg.

sidering the circumstances in which it was achieved.

"I have received countless messages of congratulations, mostly from back home in South Africa. They are still trickling it and it goes to show what this win means for the country," said an emotional Baxter.

"It is the way the victory was achieved which has been so emotional. The long trip to west Africa, the short preparation period and then go into the match and completely outplay the home favourites is something special," reflected Baxter.

SuperSport

Germany hit seven, Kane rescues England

LONDON -Germany ran up an expected goal avalanche in thrashing San Marino 7-0 as Harry Kane celebrated his first start as England captain with a late equaliser to deny Scotland in 2018 World Cup European qualifying matches this past Saturday.

Having already trounced San Marino 8-0 in the reverse fixture, Germany's almost second string line-up quickly set about running up another rugby score in Nuremberg.

Julian Draxler opened the scoring on 11 minutes before a brace from Sandro Wagner had the Germans 3-0 up before the half hour mark. Amin Younes added the fourth seven minutes before the break while

Shkodran Mustafi added a fifth two minutes after the restart.

Julian Brandt made it six 18 minutes from time before Wagner completed his hat-trick on 85 minutes as Germany continued their perfect start to qualifying, a feat matched only by Switzerland in Group B.

In Glasgow, Kane marked his first match as captain with an equaliser three minutes into injury time in a match between old enemies that burst into life in the dying moments.

There had been little warning of what was to come during a largely uninspiring encounter that only started to warm up once English substitute Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain had given the visitors a 1-0 lead on 70 minutes. But two sumptuous free-

kicks from Leigh Griffiths in the final three minutes looked to have given Scotland a stunning turnaround victory. Yet a first win over the English since 1999 was denied Gordon Strachan's team deep into stoppage time as Kane fired home a cross from Raheem Sterling to earn a 2-2 draw.

"At 60 years old, that would have been the best result of my footballing career," said Strachan.

"To do what they did was phenomenal. You can't do any more than they did. It was like a middleweight fighting a heavyweight."

It meant England avoided a first qualifying defeat since October 2009.

However, their lead at the top of Group F was cut to two points as Slovakia won 2-1 in Lithuania.

AFP

Mkhize wishes Tinkler well at SuperSport United

CAPE TOWN -Cape Town City defender Thamsanqa Mkhize is eternally grateful to coach Eric Tinkler for rescuing his career and has wished the ex-Bafana Bafana midfielder well at SuperSport United.

SuperSport last Thursday announced Tinkler will fill the void when Stuart Baxter vacates the Matsatsantsa hot-seat after the Nedbank Cup final with Orlando Pirates on June 24.

Mkhize's career was in tatters at the end of the 2015/16 season after he left Maritzburg United to sign for Orlando Pirates but the move fell through, after then-Pirates coach Muhsin Ertugral said Mkhize was not the player he wanted. The duo's poor relationship stemmed back to their

time together at Golden Arrows.

Mkhize was subsequently club-less and forced to train on his own in Durban. However, he went for a trial at City and Tinkler was impressed at his work-rate at training and decided to sign him. The KwaXimba-born player didn't look back and went on to become one of the trusted players in the back four as he started 19 league games and stuck one goal against Chippa United in a 4-1 scoreline in April.

The Citizens won the Telkom Knockout and finished third in the Premiership this past campaign, thereby qualifying for next year's CAF Confederation Cup.

"Thank you to KickOff.com to give me the opportunity to thank the coach

for the opportunity he gave me in my life," says Mkhize.

"I wish what I'm saying will reach him that he can know how grateful I am for the opportunity he gave me at Cape Town City, and for the relationship I had with him at the club. I'm grateful I got all of that."

I know I learned so much under his guidance.

"What stood out from Tinkler is the way he communicates with the players. It makes it easy for the players to perform under him."

The way he works is to instil the confidence in you that you want to work for him. So he's someone who's positive and someone who knows how to get the best out of the player to perform for him. *kickoff*



CHAMPION: Spanish champion Rafael Nadal clutches the Coupe Des Mousquetaires in his grasp, the only man ever to have won it 10 times. (Daily Mail)

NADAL SEALS HIS VERY OWN LA DECIMA

...Spanish superstar takes Wawrinka apart at Roland Garros to claim historic tenth Paris title

PARIS - To Rafael Nadal 'La Decima' - a tenth French Open title, with his astonishing hold on Roland Garros extending beyond his 31st birthday.

The Spanish clay-court master became the oldest Paris champion of the post-1968 era and the first to win a Major 10 times when he smashed Stan Wawrinka 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 in two hours and five minutes. Nadal fell onto his back on the clay after the Swiss made a mess of a mid-court volley, having claimed the Coupe Des Mousquetaires for the loss of just 35 games.

Even by his standards Nadal has dominated this tournament, and Wawrinka had no answer to his power and consistency off both flanks, plus a dominating display off his first serve.

Come injuries, career hiatuses, Roland Garros has never seen a player like it, and surely will not do so again.

It was actually his 15th Grand Slam title and his first since winning here in 2014.

Had he converted that fifth set lead at the Australian Open he would have been breathing down Roger Federer's neck.

Brilliance

You could never call winning something 10 times a non-event, but as a contest the fact was that this was no thriller, and that was down to Nadal's brilliance.

A contributor too, perhaps, was what Andy Murray took out of the Swiss last Friday.

Wawrinka came in with two hopes, the first that he could recreate the

big occasion form that has seen him win all three Grand Slam finals he has played.

The second was that Nadal has not come under any pressure this fortnight, and that if he could be pushed close then his nerve might be tested.

Points

On another sultry Paris afternoon with the ball fizzing through the court Wawrinka actually created the first break point at 1-1.

But a missed forehand let the opportunity go and then Nadal missed three in the next game, with his returns going awry.

On a fifth break point at 3-2 the Spaniard gratefully received a simple netted backhand to move ahead and then he clinched the set at 5-2 with a forehand long from his oppo-

nent. It was actually the Nadal backhand that was doing much of the damage, and he rammed home the advantage by breaking to love for a 2-0 lead in the second set.

Wawrinka did revive a bit after that and tried to move his man around a little more but he could not find the accuracy or depth. His body language sagged and two points from the end of the second set he angrily smashed his racket into the court.

It was now turning into a masterclass, and even though Wawrinka kept fighting he could not find any solutions. Nadal's cross court backhand was especially devastating, and the game was effectively up when he broke for a second time in the third set after a marathon fifth game.

Dailymail

Issacs lauds Kaizer Chiefs trio Khune, Mphahlele, Mathoho after Bafana win

JOHANNESBURG - Former Amakhosi defender Dominic Issacs was full of praise for the club's representing trio during this past Saturday's 2-0 African Nations Cup qualifying win over Nigeria.

Stuart Baxter got his tenure as South Africa coach off to the perfect start as Bafana clinched their first-ever competitive win over the Super Eagles this weekend.

Amakhosi trio Itumeleng Khune,

Ramahlwe Mphahlele and Erick Mathoho were all part of the starting XI that saw off Nigeria, while Lorenzo Gordinho was amongst the substitutes, and Issacs feels the players did well to represent the Glamour Boys, and their country, on the international stage.

Experience

"Khune showed his experience in goal, doing a fine job whenever he was required to come into action," former Amakhosi defender Issacs

said on Chiefs' official website.

"He commanded his area very well. Rama was excellent, very solid defensively, while making threatening runs forward as well. Mphahlele's cross for Tokelo Rantie's opening goal was class.

"Tower, meanwhile, formed a formidable combination at the heart of defence with Thulani Hlatshwayo. Mathoho played very well."

Looking at Bafana's overall performance in Uyo, Issacs added: "To

be honest, I felt confident before the match that we could win.

Stuart Baxter has now been coaching in South Africa for quite a while and knows all the players inside out.

"Of course, Nigeria had a relatively young and inexperienced squad, but Bafana's overall performance was good, they were tactically very sound and deserved the win."

Kickoff

Jali to play in UEFA Cup

JOHANNESBURG - Bafana Bafana midfielder Andile Jali will play in the UEFA Europa Cup for the first time next season after three and a half years in Belgium.

This after his club KV Oostende exercised an option to renew his contract for a further year, despite the player feeling he was ready to move to a bigger league.

Club's coffers His side has qualified for the UEFA Europa Cup, giving the player a chance to showcase his talent to a bigger audience and hope that clubs will vie for his signature. The stocky player told City Press in Nigeria that he almost signed for Leeds United last season, but Bafana's lowly FIFA ranking (they are currently 65th in the world) scuppered the deal and he could not secure a work permit in England.

He said he has also been on the verge of signing for a Chinese club, but that agreement fell through after the club owner sold his company, exhausting the club's coffers.

Jali is, however, not disappointed that the moves did not materialise and says he will work hard to secure a move in the near future.

The player says he is starting to enjoy life in Belgium after his spate of injuries.

In April, the last time Jali played for Bafana, there were concerns about his weight, but the 27-year-old denies he put on extra kilos.

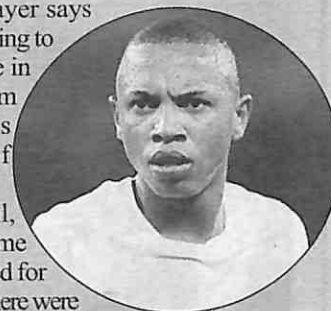
"I don't have weight issues," he said. "It's just that people had not seen me for a long time and they started talking. But that didn't bother me at all as I knew it was not the case. If that was the case, my club would have told me to work on it".

He says he likes Belgium and the people there, adding that he will stick around for another season and see what happens.

The former Orlando Pirates star player, who has been linked with a move to Mamelodi Sundowns, says coming back home was not an option at this stage.

He says he would like to stay in Europe for another three years before returning home. "Sometimes loyalty doesn't pay the bills, so money talks. If I get more money at home, then I will consider that".

Sport 24



Cameroon send Morocco packing

JOHANNESBURG - Vincent Aboubacar's goal gave Cameroon a 1-0 win over Morocco in their 2019 CAF Africa Cup of Nations Group B qualifier this past Saturday at Stade Omnisport Ahmadou Ahidjo in Yaoundé.

The hosts came into this encounter backed by their vocal supporters at home and were the favourites to claim the full three points.

As soon as they made their way onto the pitch, Hugo Broos's men showed hunger as they dominated the proceedings over their visitors.

Although the first 20 minutes had no goals for either side, it was the African champions who wanted it more as the Atlas Lions were yet to threaten.

However, as the tie approached the half-hour mark, Aboubacar received a wonderful pass from the midfield and he managed to beat two Moroccan defenders, before putting the ball past the onrushing goalkeeper, Munir El Kajoui.

It was 1-0 at halftime.

Upon their return from the tunnel, the hosts enjoyed the majority of the ball possession, yet failed to double their lead as Herve Renard's defence stood firm.

Although they will automatically qualify to reach the 2019 CAF AFCON tournament, the Indomitable Lions are now sitting at number one with three points.

They are the group's joint leaders with Malawi on three points and one goal, who beat Comoros on the same day.

For the Atlas Lions, the loss means they remain rooted at the bottom of the log table with zero points from one match.

However, both nations will resume their campaign next year in March when Cameroon visit the Islanders (Comoros) while Renard's men will host the Flames of Malawi.

Backpage TXT



GOAL SCORER: Vincent Aboubacar's goal gave Cameroon a 1-0 win over Morocco in their 2019 CAF Africa Cup of Nations Group B qualifier this past Saturday.



FUTIS NKHABA PRIZE PRESENTATION



PRESENTATION: Futis consultant Boniface Mdluli (3rd I) handing over the trophy to Ngwenya United captain Sifiso Dlamini while NFAS President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa and other football officials look on. This was during the Futis Nkhaba prize presentation held at Sigwaca House on Friday.



ALL EARS: Ngwenya United players following the proceedings.



ALSO THERE: Mthethwa with Futis consultant Boniface Mdluli.



REWARDS: Mhlosheni Celtics FC director receiving his prize money from the sponsor.



GENDER EQUALITY: Nkoyoyo FC Director Cyril Khumalo and the team's Manager Gugu Mabilisa during the event.



MR CHAIR: Nkhamba Regional League Chairman Vusi Dladla making his remarks.



APPRECIATION: Hhohho Regional Football Association (HRFA) Chairman Dr Comfort Shongwe delivering his speech.



BIG NAMES: NFAS Technical Director Boy 'Bizzah' Mkhonta, Malanti Chiefs coach Mduduzi Nxumalo and Nkwene Member of Parliament Sikhumbuzo Dlamini listening to speeches.



PAYING ATTENTION: HRFA executive members Mduduzi Dlamini and Ntokozo Tsela were also present.



TAKING NOTES: Journalists taking notes while HRFA Treasurer Linda Mnisi looks on.



THANK YOU: NFAS President Adam Mthethwa as guest speaker at the event.



PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: Nkosingiphile Shongwe leading the programme.



HERE TO STAY: Futis representative Mdluli addressing the gathering.

MTN MONTHLY MASTERS AT MBABANE GOLF CLUB

THATS WONDERFUL: Andrew Mkhonta reacts after teeing-off at Mbabane Golf Club.



READY: MTN team Jordy Shiba, Mfanafuthi Bhembe, Maloba Musenge and Wakhi Lawrence posing this past Saturday. (Fics: Lucky Simelane)

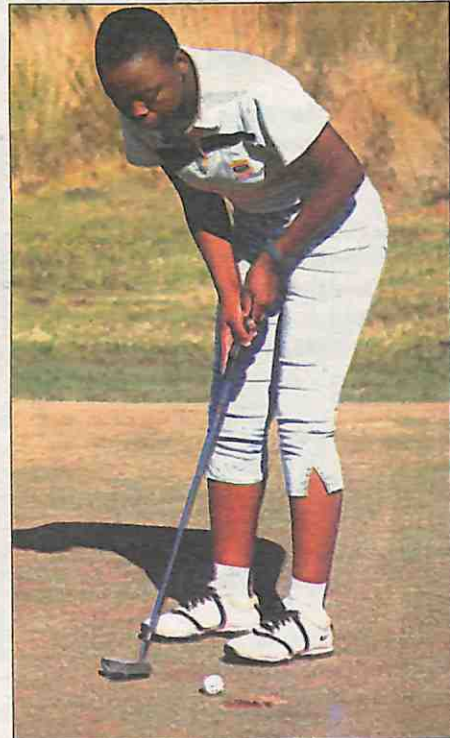


UP COMING STARS: Junior golfers, Zamokuhle Mabuza, Uviwe Vilakati, Mpumelelo Nkonyane and Mongi Masuku also displayed their skills.

Mduduzi Mtsetfwa.



DUST: Wandile Ntombini having a tough time. **RIGHT- WATCHING:** Phil Mnisi in action.



GREENS: Calisile Gina watching her ball.

YES I CAN: Manzini Wanderers striker Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe also plays golf.

ME TOO: The little one Mpumelelo Nkonyane (wearing a maroon jersey) swinging after teeing-off.

YES: Jordy Shiba reacts after teeing off.



IN THW GREENS: Dumsani Msibi and Robinson Hlophe also participated in the tournament.



READY: Uviwe Vilakati prepares to tee-off.

football talk

all your latest world football news

● Arsenal forward Alexis Sanchez, 28, has finalised a summer move to Manchester City, according to Chilean journalist Fernando Solari. (Ferplei, via Sun)



● Arsenal are closing in on completing their second signing of the summer with the £10m capture of 21-year-old midfielder Aleksandr Golovin from CSKA Moscow. (Daily Mirror)

● Striker Alvaro Morata, 24, has urged Gareth Bale to join him in making the switch from Real Madrid to Manchester United this summer. (Don Balon, via Daily Star)

● Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, 35, is set to join MLS side LA Galaxy following his release by Manchester United. (Sun)

● Chelsea are keen to sign Real Madrid's 25-year-old Colombian attacking midfielder James Rodriguez and the Spanish club are willing to sell. (AS - in Spanish)



● Paris St-Germain's new Sporting Director Antero Henrique has made contact with Monaco over a bid for their coveted 18-year-old striker Kylian Mbappe. (L'Equipe - in French)

● Leicester winger Riyad Mahrez, 26, has an offer from Arsenal but is waiting for a rival bid from Barcelona, his preferred destination. (Sport)

● Liverpool are interested in signing Southampton's 28-year-old Serbia forward Dusan Tadic, who has a release clause of £13m in his contract. (Times - subscription required)

● Inter Milan want £44m for Croatia winger and Manchester United target Ivan Perisic, 28. (Sky in Italy, via Sky Sports)

● Lazio midfielder Felipe Anderson, 24, has admitted that he dreams of playing for Manchester United. (Sport TV, via Daily Mail)

● Chelsea have agreed a £35m deal with Monaco for 23-year-old midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko. (L'Equipe, via Sun)

● Beaten Champions League finalists Juventus have targeted three players, with Bayern Munich's 26-year-old winger Douglas Costa, Sevilla midfielder Steven N'Zonzi, 28, and 22-year-old Lazio forward Keita Balde on the summer wishlist. (Daily Mail)

● Arsenal are looking to seal a £5m double deal for Sunderland's Swedish pair Joel Asoro and Benjamin Mbulungu-Kimpioka. The former is an 18-year-old forward and the latter a 17-year-old winger. (Sunderland Echo)



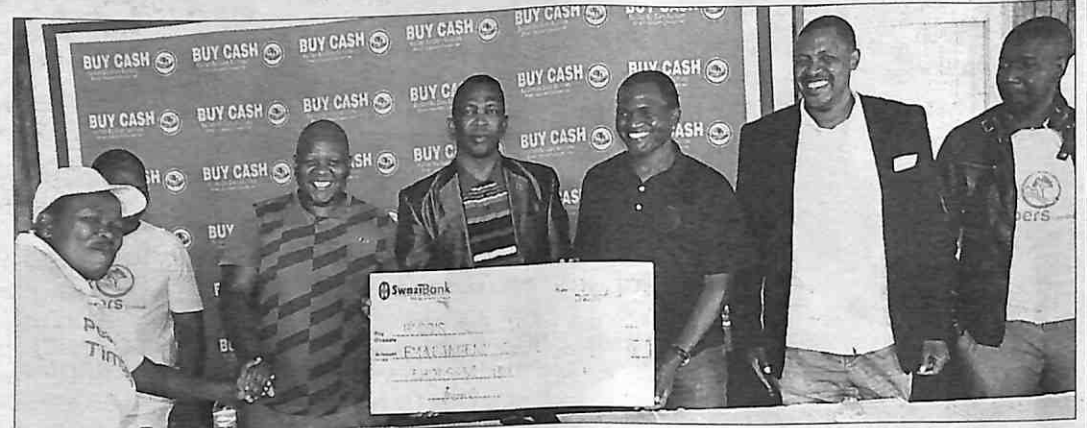
COMPANIES UNITE FOR SOCCER, NETBALL TOURNAMENT

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SPORTS - THREE companies, namely; Peak Timbers Limited, Swaziland Plantations and Buy Cash Hardware, have joined hands in bankrolling the 'Big Three Fire' soccer and netball tournament' to the tune of E20 000.

This was revealed during a launch held last weekend in Pigg's Peak.

Peak Timbers Public Relations and Environment Manager Nhlanhla Nxumalo said the tournament's main aim was to reduce fire incidents in the country, hence the slogan 'Keep Peak Green'. Nxumalo further took the opportunity to raise awareness on the causes of fire and its consequences. He said bee robbing and arson attacks were the main causes of unwanted fires. "In plantations, fires are caused by bee robbing using fires to smoke them. The youth, in most cases, are the ones who cause fires within the plantations through robbing bees by smoking them out with fires, and mostly, the process goes bad when the bees start stinging the robbers. Arson attacks, especially by dagga growers within plan-



PROGRESS: Officials and organisers displaying the E20 000 replica cheque during the launch of the tournament 'Fire Season Soccer tournament'. Buy Cash, Peak Timbers Limited and Swaziland Plantations have collaborated in hosting the tournament dubbed 'Keep Peak Green' which is aimed at reducing fires during the winter season.

tations, is also a big problem," he said. Nxumalo said information to communities was if they identified bee hives in the plantation, they must call their toll free 1313. "They will be assisted to get the honey and get E20 for each hive."

On the consequences, Nxumalo said people usually lose their jobs due to the uncontrolled fires.

"Fire damages large tracks of plantations, and at times lives are lost in trying to manage the fire. The company also makes huge revenue losses due to damaged stock, overtime from firefighting crews, rental of air support from as far as South Africa to fight fires and huge insurance premiums, which may also result in job losses. Retrenchments are imminent

at times due to the damaged plantations. The biggest losses are economic losses to the country's revenue. Fires also kill wildlife and the environment. Property is damaged at times as fires travel fast to surrounding communities." Anyone who identifies a wild bee-hive within the plantations is urged to report it on toll-free number (1313).



PROGRESS: Langa Nazarene Primary team.

Langa Nazarene Primary progress to SSSA regional championships

Stories by Sports Reporter

Langa Nazarene Primary..... (1)4
Good Shepherd Primary..... (0)0

SOCCER - RAMPAGING Langa Nazarene Primary School annihilated Good Shepherd Primary 4-0 in the Swaziland Schools Sports Association Siteki Zone ball games, to book a place in the regional championships.

Langa had beaten Global Primary School 2-0 earlier on to set a date with Good Shepherd, who had beaten Malindza Community 5-3 after penalty shootouts. The

games were played at Siteki Sports Ground on Friday. Langa, who paraded a formidable squad, opened the scorers charts in the 28th minute via the boot of brace hero Thabo Ginindza, who dribbled past the opposition defence before unleashing a powerful shot past the advancing goalkeeper. Langa proved to be too strong for Good Shepherd as they attacked more but missed some of the chances through the bravery of Good Shepherd goalkeeper, who made some beautiful saves to ensure that the score line is not embarrassing. Good Shepherd had some few chances that were not threatening at all to the opposition. The match went to the

break with Langa leading 1-0.

The second half saw Langa piling more pressure on the opposition defence and it was a matter of time before they increased their tally through Sibusiso Mkhabela. Skipper Thabo, who was a menace on the Good Shepherd defence, completed his brace in the 75th minute after poor communication from the opposition while Kwanele Nxumalo made it four in the 88 minute to send his team to cloud nine.

The victorious Langa will now progress to play in the four-team regional championship where the winner will represent the region in the national championships.

Siteki Nazarene High School brush aside Mpundle

Mpundle High School..... (0) 0
Siteki Nazarene High School..... (0) 2

SOCCER - TABLE TOPPERS Mpundle High School succumbed to a 2-0 defeat at the hands of Siteki Nazarene High School in the scintillating SSSA ball games encounter played at Siteki Sports Ground on Friday afternoon.

The game, which was arguably the draw card on the day's games, gave the spectators something to cheer about as both sides were entertaining when in possession of the ball.

Mpundle were threatening when going forward while their opponents looked intimidating with their build-ups. The first real chance of the game came in the 7th minute when Nazarene's Nhlanhla Maluleka failed to score in a one-on-one situation while in the 9th minute Mpundle's Simanga Maziya broke free but failed to beat the advancing Mxolisi Dlamini between the poles as he made a good save. Even though Mpundle conceded a lot of fouls within their half, the opposition failed to utilise the set pieces. No goals were seen in the first half as the match went to the break. Nazarene's enterprising left winger, Lindelani Mahlalela, who was a constant menace on the Mpundle defence, scored through a header in the 65th minute after the opposition defence failed to deal with a cross. With Nazarene probing in their attacks, Mpundle introduced defender Mxolisi Fakudze for struggling Thandolwethu Khumalo in the right back. Mpundle thought they had equalised when skipper Mhlengi Gamedze nodded past the Nazarene goalkeeper but that goal was ruled offside, much to the frustration of the team's supporters. Five minutes before stoppage time, Nazarene's Mkhuleko Dlamini pinned the final nail in the coffin as he scored a superb goal to make it 2-0.

DE JONGH CRIES FOUL OVER REFEREES AFTER NIGER DRAW

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – SIHLANGU head coach Pieter De Jongh has cried foul over poor officiating, following the nation's pride 0-0 draw against Niger on Saturday afternoon in Niamey.

In his post-match comments, the Dutchman said the Burundian match officials seemed to be on the host's side after disallowing his side a goal scored by Felix Badenhorst and further denied them a penalty during the opening match played at the SK Stadium.

"We played well as a team and had our goal scored by Felix disallowed by the referee despite being scored from a rebound. The officials looked like they were on the side of the home team due to some of the decisions as they also failed to give us a penalty after a Tony goal bound shot was handled inside the box," he said.

"However, this was a great result for

Swaziland since we were playing under hot weather conditions of 42 degrees Celsius but we were in control of the match. We managed to create chances during the opening minutes of the match, which we failed to utilise.

We made two changes in the second half, bringing in Simanga Shongwe and Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze who both gave a fair showing in the match," he said.

The squad will now take on two North African sides; Tunisia and Egypt in their other Group J matches in their quest to qualify for the next finals of the continent's showpiece to be staged in Cameroon in 2019.

The team is expected to return home tomorrow afternoon through the Oshoek Border Post where they will preparing for their two assignments in the CHAN 2018 qualifier against Zambia and the annual COSAFA senior challenge.



WE WERE ROBBED: Sihlangu head coach Pieter De Jongh.

'Swazi Bolt' gets gold in Regional Championships

By Sibusiso Masilela

ATHLETICS – THE country's fastest man Sibusiso Matsenjwa made the country proud after winning a gold medal in the 200m of the SADC Regional Championships finals held in Zimbabwe yesterday.

The Royal Swaziland Police sprinter clocked 20.58s, where he outclassed five finalists from other SADC countries to qualify for the World Championship to be held in England in August.

He further secured a silver medal in the 100m finals where he clocked 10.38s to finish behind the eventual winner Karabo Mothibi from Botswana, who clocked 10.38s.

Matsenjwa expressed excitement

THE TOP FOUR RESULTS				200m	
100m				1. Sibusiso Matsenjwa	20.58s
1. Karabo Mothibi	10.29s	Botswana		Swaziland	
2. Sibusiso Matsenjwa	10.38s	Swd		2. Adams Luxolo	20.77s
3. Ngoni Makusha	10.39s	Zimbabwe		South Africa	
4. Mutukisi Keene	10.43s	Botswana		3. Makusha Ngoni	21.00s Zimbabwe
				4. Giant Motsvedi	21.26 s Botswana

about his achievement when contacted yesterday from Zimbabwe.

"I am over the moon following my achievement in Zimbabwe where I got gold and silver medals in this tough competition where I competed against good athletes from the region.

This competition has given me good practice, ahead of the World Championship. I will continue working hard," he said. He further thanked his club RSP and local sporting bod-

ies for the support he received from them during the competition.

"They really supported me and their support encourages me to continue fighting for my country," he further said.

This was Matsenjwa's third gold medal in 200m after winning during the two previous regional championships held in 2013 and 2015 in Botswana and Mauritius, respectively.

'Player-coaches, referees a headache in volleyball'

By Sibusiso Dlamini

VOLLEYBALL – PLAYERS who also officiate and sometimes coach their teams are proving to be a problem in the volleyball sport.

This issue was raised during the Swaziland National Volleyball Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was held at the Olymp Africa Centre in Lobamba yesterday.

The issue was raised by an Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF) official, who said players who did everything in the sport caused confusion.

"I think we need to deal with the issue of players who will coach and sometimes officiate during matches. This is because they cause confusion, and further break the team structures. We cannot work like this. They need to

"I do admit that the issue of having players who also officiate and coach is a problem that needs to be dealt with, but we need to also understand the stage we are in as the sport in the country. We still don't have well trained personnel in the different areas of the sport, and so that's why we have this problem. But we need to deal with it."

choose whether they want to be players, coaches or referees."

When addressing the concern, President of the SNVA Eric Sibanda acknowledged that the issue was a long standing problem in the sport, as it was due to the lack of specialised personnel in the different areas.

"I do admit that the issue of having

players who also officiate and coach is a problem that needs to be dealt with, but we need to also understand the stage we are in as the sport in the country. We still don't have well trained personnel in the different areas of the sport, and so that's why we have this problem. But we need to deal with it."

Sibanda also blamed teams for the situation, stating that teams send players for coaching courses and meetings yet they should be sending coaches and officials.

"Teams are also to blame for the situation because they send players for the courses that we host, when they should be sending their coaches or at least the managers. The other time we hosted a workshop and we had to beg the instructor not to leave because teams didn't send enough people, which was a sham," he said.

MDZIMBA ARSENAL DELAYS IMBUMBE'S PROMOTION

By Sabelo Majola

Mdzimba Arsenal... (0)1

Imbumba..... (0)1

SOCCER – HAD they attained maximum points against Mdzimba Arsenal, Mbabane Promotion League champions Imbumba would have gained a slot in the Super League.

They, however, played to a 1-all draw during a match at the Prince of Wales Ground yesterday.

The battle for the third tier promotion is heating up in the Southern Hhohho Promotion League and it is still not clear as to who will make it and who remains in the Division A. Watched by over 200 football spectators, the fast flowing clash had both teams missing the target in the first half as it ended 0-0 after a fair share of scoring chances for

both. The second half was dominated by the Mdzimba based side as they came back revamped but it was the Mandla Mahewu sponsored league champions Imbumba, who opened the scorers chart through Thoba Simelane with a long range strike that went past Zakhele Dlamini at the poles. Imbumba's celebrations were short lived as Arsenal cancelled their lead after being awarded a penalty, following a hand ball by an Imbumba defender in the box. Banele Gama took the responsibility and scored from the penalty spot to level the score and the game ended 1-1. Imbumba has seven points and remain at the top of the standings while second placed Emajukujuku are one point shy from the leaders. Khanjana overtook Liverpool at the top in the Northern stream as they beat the latter 1-0 to take their point tally to seven while Liverpool have six points.



IT'S A GOAL: Imbumba goalkeeper Sihle Hlatjwayo diving the opposite direction as Mdzimba Arsenal scores through the penalty spot. The game was played at Prince of Wales Sports Ground yesterday and ended in a 1-all draw.

Record nine tournaments in volleyball

By Sibusiso Dlamini

VOLLEYBALL – THE Swaziland National Volleyball Association (SNVA) has revealed that they had a historic year this past season as they hosted a record nine tournaments.

This was revealed during the association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Olymp Africa Centre yesterday.

Making his address, Swaziland National Volleyball Association President Eric Sibanda said the sport had surely taken strides in the past season as they had a record nine tournaments, something the members also applauded the executive committee for.

The tournaments included, amongst others, the SITF tourney, the King's Cup and the RSSC tournament.

"This year we had a record nine tournaments, and we are proud of this. It is exactly what we need for the development of the sport in the country."

Correctional Services official Mpendulo Ngwenya applauded the executive committee for securing the sponsorship, stating that their good efforts were showing.

He was, however, quick to point out that there was room for improvement and further pleaded with everyone to support them for the development of the sport.

"I think the executive is doing a good job.

This is really commendable because we have never had so many tournaments before in the sport, and we are now also SOCGA and SNRSC affiliates. This is why we all need to constructively criticise them, because we are all working towards the development of the sport."

RESULTS

10 JUNE 2017

AFCON 2019 QUALIFYING

Senegal	3-0	Equatorial Guinea
Mali	2-1	Gabon
Cote d'Ivoire	2-3	Guinea
Burkina Faso	3-1	Angola
DR Congo	3-1	Congo
Tanzania	1-1	Lesotho
Sierra Leone	2-1	Kenya
Nigeria	0-2	South Africa
Guinea-Bissau	1-0	Namibia
Niger	0-0	Swaziland
Cameroon	1-0	Morocco
Botswana	0-1	Mauritania
Burundi	3-0	South Sudan
Zambia	0-1	Mozambique
Malawi	1-0	Comoros

NFD PLAYOFFS

Baroka FC	2-0	Stellenbosch
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2018 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS - EUROPE

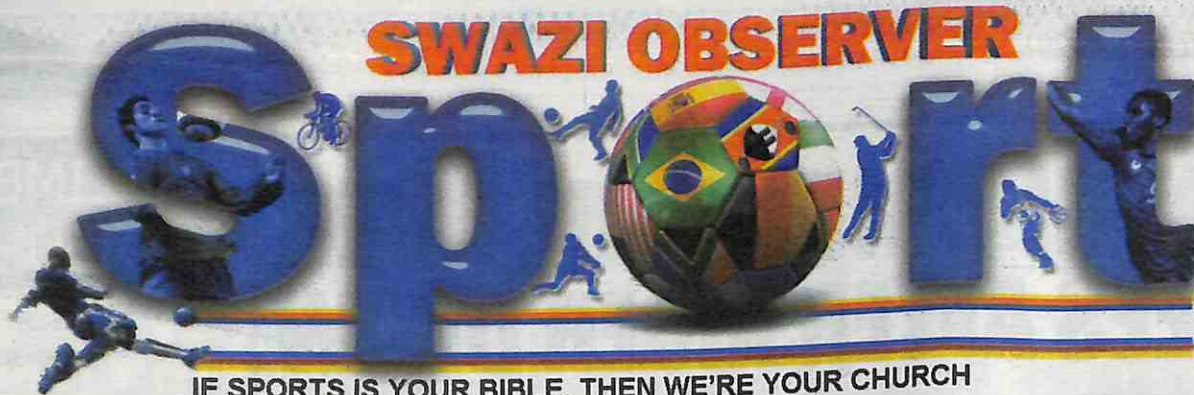
Poland	3-1	Romania
Norway	1-1	Czech Republic
Germany	7-0	San Marino
Montenegro	4-1	Armenia
Lithuania	1-2	Slovakia
Azerbaijan	0-1	Northern Ireland
Scotland	2-2	England
Slovenia	2-0	Malta
Kazakhstan	1-3	Denmark

11 JUNE 2017

AFCON 2019 QUALIFYING

Central African Republic	2-1	Rwanda
Zimbabwe	3-0	Liberia

SWAZI OBSERVER



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

Monday June 12, 2017



SIBOZA, 'TOUCH', HORTON FOR TOP FA POSITIONS

...Siboza vying for Vice Presidency in forthcoming elections

By Qondile Ntiwane

SOCCER - NATIONAL Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) executive member Johannes 'Ace' Sibozza and Premier League of Swaziland executive member Peter Magagula will contest for executive positions in the upcoming NFAS elections.

Sibozza has been nominated for the position of vice president alongside incumbent Nichodemus Mashwama, Hhohho Regional Football Association (HRFA) Comfort Shongwe and Manzini Regional Football Association (MRFA) Chairman Peter 'Samora' Simelane. Magagula, on the other hand, will be contesting for the position of executive committee member where he will compete with former PLS executive committee member Steve Horton, National Referees Association of Swaziland (NRAS) Chairman Elphas Ngcamphalala, MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini, Manzini Wanderers Legend Jerry Mbazo Gamedze, MRFA Secretary Njabulo Mabuza and Sabelo Kunene. The nominees will com-



Johannes 'Ace' Sibozza.



Peter 'Touch' Magagula.



Steve Horton.

pete for the various positions during the NFAS elections slated for Sibane Hotel on June 25. Other issues to be discussed during the Ordinary General Assembly include the address of president, report of the executive committee presented by the general secretary covering the period since the last General Assembly, vote on approval of accounts, consideration of proposals for alteration of the Statutes, rules and regulations of the association and questions from members and all other matters the executive committee wishes to propose.

The nominees

President:

1. Adam Mthethwa
2. Timothy Shongwe

5. Njabulo Mabuza
6. Peter Magagula
7. Sabelo Kunene

Vice Presidents: (Two positions)

1. Nichodemus Mashwama
2. Comfort Shongwe
3. Johannes Sibozza
4. Peter Simelane

Executive committee members

1. Elphas Ngcamphalala
2. Sikhumbuzo Dlamini
3. Jerry Gamedze
4. Steve Horton



FA DISQUALIFIES MASHUMI'S NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT

SOCCER - THE National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) has disqualified the nomination of the association's Vice President Mashumi Shongwe for the position of president. Shongwe was nominated for the position of president alongside the incumbent Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa and former vice president Timothy Shongwe, contesting the forthcoming elections to be held at Sibane Hotel on June 25.

According to a circular released by the NFAS CEO Frederick Mngomezulu last Friday, Shongwe's nomination was disqualified following his suspension from football activities and also pending the outcome of the High Court case, where Shongwe is challenging the sanctions imposed on him.

Sought for comment on his disquali-

... Disqualification pending outcome of High Court case this week

cation, Shongwe said he would wait for the outcome of the court case which is slated for this week.

"I have been made aware of these developments but I am not going to comment any further because the matter is still in court," he said.

Shongwe was suspended by the football association after claims he was defiant from both FA and the then Shiselweni Regional Football Association (SRFA) executive committee led by Enos Vilane on the issue regarding the association's elections held in July last year.

The FA vice president said the suspended parties defied a directive by the football mother body and went on with the elections despite a stand by the organisation asking Shongwe to resign as an executive member if interested in standing for elections at regional level.

Minister 'Cruiser' congratulates Sihlangu

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER - MINISTER of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David Cruiser Ngcamphalala has congratulated the country's pride Sihlangu seMnikati for their gallant 1 - all draw against Niger.

The national team was playing the first game of the AFCON 2019 qualifiers and they are expected back in the country today.

The minister said he was proud of the team's achievement.

He said he knew it would be a tough match and a draw away for Sihlangu was great.

"It's a great result for the team. Managing to get a point when you are playing an away match is an achievement and the boys need to be commended for a job well done. I would have loved to go and support them myself but due to other national commitments, I couldn't. I heard on radio and the boys played well."

He urged the players to continue working hard for the next games.

"I hope the team will have a safe trip back home."

The minister further gave advice to the newly appointed coach Pieter DeJongh not to listen to all the criticism, because it comes with the nature of being a leader.

"Criticism will always be there. Not everyone will love you, and you need to accept that. He just needs to silence the critics by working hard and getting the desired results."

The minister then urged the nation to continue supporting the team.

"We have to support the national squad and with everyone's support the team can go far."



CONGRATULATIONS: Minister of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala.