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MARKALAN SANDERS NO. 17. OF CO.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2017







Mbabane Highlanders supporters took out their frustration of losing to promoted Vovovo on a Mbabane Swallows fan who had strayed onto their stand. The 'Birds' supporter is seen being whisked away after being heavily beaten up. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

OVERWIED OUT BABY MAMAS AGGOUNT



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ALLEGED MURDERER ONCE WIPED OUT BABY MOMMA'S ACCOUNT

STORIES BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI AND THEMBEKA DLAMINI

¬he man who allegedly killed his wife by decapitating her once wiped out one of his baby momma's accounts and further sympathised with her misfortune when he heard about it, feigning surprise.

This is according to Sebentile Shongwe's colleagues who said when the incident happened, she was not only in a relationship with Muzi Khumalo (33), but was also working with him at a certain government parastatal located in the outskirts of Matsapha.

The parastatal is known to this publication and has been withheld to protect its reputation as well as the identity of the mother of his minor child.

Boulders

Khumalo is alleged to have hacked Cebisile Gcinile Mhlanga to death in July, the headless body was only discovered recently by community members of Estandini near Hlatikulu. After his arrest, Khumalo assisted the police in locating the severed head which he had hidden under boulders.

When his former workstation was



visited, the workers there stated that they were not only shocked by the incident, but were further shocked to see that they knew the man who allegedly committed the gruesome deed.

Activity

"She once came to work complaining that her salary had disappeared from her Standard Bank account and she approached management for an advance," a source close to the matter stated.

The source revealed that seeing as the reason for asking for the advance smacked of fraudulent activity, management stated that the only way she would get the advance would be after reporting the matter to the police as there needed to be investigations done for her money to be traced.

"Prior to being told to report the matter to the police, the woman was asked who she suspected could have had accessed her account," the source recalled.

Shongwe is alleged to have pointed fingers at her sister with whom she stayed with, oblivious that her lover, who was all along sympathising, was already using her hardearned money.

Salary

"After the matter was reported to the police, footage from close circuit television (CCTV) surveillance cameras from Standard Bank's automated teller machine at the Riverstone Mall were retrieved and watched and damning evidence showed Khumalo withdrawing the money at the time it disappeared," the source said.

"He had helped himself to her E2 300 salary and did not show any remorse during the time she was perplexed about its disappearance," the source said. Following the discovery that Khumalo had done this, he was reportedly hauled before a disciplinary hearing and thereafter dismissed. Despite appealing his dismal, he failed and the incident further caused irreparable damage to the relationship with his baby momma, resulting in the couple breaking up.

Alleged murderer was a good man - baby momma

CCI am shocked about this," Muzi Khumalo's baby momma said on Friday.

Despite the fact that they separated on the strength of him having stolen her salary, she said she could not reconcile with the alleged killer and the father of her minor child.

"I last talked to him on Saturday and there was nothing amiss about the conversation," she said during a telephonic interview.

When her place of employment was visited on Friday, colleagues said she had left early after falling sick after discovery that the man who beheaded his wife was her

ex-boyfriend. "She was here earlier but then asked to go home because of this," colleagues said. They said conversations, after seeing the clear picture of the alleged murderer in the Swazi Observer, went towards comforting her and telling her how she had survived as she too could have been mur-

dered. The former colleagues also said they could not believe Khumalo could have done such a repugnant crime as he was a good man.

They said they were still horrified to learn that Khumalo had led the police to Gcinile Cebisile Mhlanga's head which was located two days after the body.

Mzuthini won't be going

STORIES BY SAMUKELISIWE **GININDZA**

he Commissioner General Mzuthini Ntshangase of His Majesty's Correctional Services has, made it clear that he will not be checking (at least anytime soon) the inmates at Bhalekane Correctional Facility.

Responding to a questionnaire sent to the facility two weeks ago, the Public Relations Officer Gugulethu Dlamini did indicate that some of the questions will go via the CommGen first, as most were directed towards him.

serving the their time there.

"Every region has a deputy commissioner general responsible for the operations of all the institutions under his/her command, they conduct on-site inspections and thereafter report to the Commissioner General, who then decides upon the action to be taken with regard to the report by the deputy commissioner general," Gugulethu responded.

This publication reported about

Amongst the questions one allegations of torture and mis- and some other inmates on our tions include being squeezed their manhood's, being bashed on their heads with soccer boots during a routine strip search.

The four whistle blowers also mentioned that the tortured they endured at the facility turned them into hostile animals.

"In Bhalekane I experienced what it feels like to be touched on my private parts by another man, they were doing their usual strip search, where they went on to touch me

queried when the CommGen will conduct suffered by the inmates private parts, very intimately, which visit Bhalekane Correctional Facility, at the hands of the correctional destroyed our manhood. I believe as per the pleas from the inmates officers at Bhalekane. The accusa- sexual orientation should be of choice, not forced, yet what the officers did to us goes beyond discipline," another said.

Another inmate revealed that some other day they (officers) returned straight from playing soccer and did a strip search, where their heads smashed on the floor with soccer boots and also their genitals were squeezed.

Some further added that one of the officers even went as far as pulling his pubic hair.



BEHEADED WOMAN SAGA:





The suspect leading the police to some of the scenes where evidence was collected. (r) The suspect with detective Senior Superintendent Elvis Mashwama Shabangu who is the Regional Crime Branch Officer (RCBO) in the Shiselweni region preparing to be taken to some of scenes.

... attends disciplinary in full Jericho garb

when Muzi Khumalo was hauled before the disciplinary committee, he was allegedly wearing his full Jericho regalia accessorised with chains and ropes.

"This is the only thing that stood out about him as he was an otherwise calm man who did not do anything untoward," his former workmate said. The source further said that was the last time they saw Khumalo at the work place as he went on to find greener pastures.

According to reports which surfaced at the time the body was being identified, Khumalo was until recently working for an electrical con-



Alleged murderer Muzi Khumalo who beheaded his wife.

Its déjà vu for others

🔫 ome people believe Muzi Khumalo could have been overcome by evil spirits.

This they said after recalling that his brother also killed his wife in fit of rage in 2010.

"His brother recently completed his sentence and then this happens," a former colleague said on Friday. The 2010 murder case was confirmed by the deceased's sister yesterday as well.

ppeals to bury beheaded woman

indiwe Mhlanga is requesting assistance to bury her

Fresh from identifying the body at Nhlangano, Mhlanga said she was bereft as she had no way of sourcing funds to bury the mother of five. She first requested that reporters avoid going to their homestead at Mdumezulu, on the outskirts of Manzini.

Mhlanga said her father was not well and as such she was still trying to find a way of informing

When called yesterday afternoon, she said she was still bracing herself for the right time as she could not bring herself to

inform the elderly man know that the gruesome murder which has gripped the nation was his own daughter.

She relented that she was shocked that her sister had been brutally murdered by the person who was supposed to have protected her. She said her sister leaves behind

five children two for Khumalo and three from another man. Mhlanga revealed that all the children were minors as the eldest was in Grade Four while the youngest is about 18 months old. "I don't know what to do as I don't have anything in hand right now," she said while leaving Nhlangano. She revealed that she could not even transport her sister's remains from Nhlangano, "This is what I told the police that I don't know how will I transport her as I am

the only one left.

Our mother passed away while our father stays at home helpless as he suffered a stroke," she lamented. She said she would like her sister's funeral to fall on the weekend after the police are done with their investigations.

She appealed for assistance to cater for the funeral from members of the public saying those who would like to lend a helping hand can contact her on her mobile at 76643007.

Anger has no space in one's body

linical psychologist Ndo Mdlalose believes the increase in spates of murder come about due to people not learning to have outlets for their anger.

"Yes, in times like this, one is often tempted to dismiss such murders as these perpetrated for ritual purposes and I will not dispute that they are a possibility," Mdlalose said. She said there were however heightened incidences of crimes of passion which were borne out of situations which could have been avoided had the murders been afforded a chance at counselling. She relented that she could not blame former colleagues and baby momma for not believing that Muzi Khumalo could have been capable of killing his wife, "Rapists and killers look ordinary because they are so good at hiding their real feel-

She said the former lover could have been able to tolerate and calm his demons whenever he got angry or learnt to avoid doing things that could trigger violent episodes. She was quick to state that she did not blame the deceased for Khumalo's actions as anger could have been building up for years.

Abuse

"It is no shock that he was a good guy, he could have been. Probably, she was able to understand him," Mdlalose said of the former lover.

She emphasised that this goes to show that men can abuse a person emotionally without them knowing. She said women should be wary of emotional abuse because it gets put aside and does not get the label as does physical.

"He might not hit you, but do things such as denying you rights. Something simple like not wanting you to communicate with certain people or taking away your cellular phone, that is abuse," she said adding that abusers are in general very clever and cunning. Labelling men who are able to abuse others without the victims knowing, she called them sadist or psychopaths, "They appear normal to an extent that a person could say they are normal."

"You might find that the victim did not do anything but he was confronting his anger issues at that time hence I advise that when there is



Clinical psychologist Ndo Mdlalose.

something bothering you, deal with it at that time because it might come back and come out at another time," she said adding that anger had no space in one's body, it has to come out. Suicide helpline 76021111

Bhalekane - Correction

"He wanted me to tell him where I eral to go check and probably moni-I had none but he still insisted with torturing me," Mcolisi* added. According to the two ex-inmates they were not corrected at the facility, as they were hoping, instead they were turned into monsters. "Our sentence might have ended but we are definitely not the same people that went in there, we are worse and I would not be shocked if one of the inmates committed murder or any related offense because we are the animals that they are trying to build at Bhalekane," he said.

It was after this that the former inmates then requested the commissioner gen-

was keeping my narcotics, I told him tor the situation at the facility, as they mentioned that it was getting out of

> "I was at the facility for two years, he never visited even for a single day, but we would read in newspapers and see him talking in television that we are his children, he is not aware of the inhuman occurrences that happen in that facility and if he does not pay attention, his good name and that of the institution will be dragged through the mud due to one persons arrogance," Bongani* one of the ex-inmates added.

The former inmates claim to be speaking on behalf of the inmates still serv-

"They are kept there with no one to hear their cries, so it is up to us who have gone through all they have gone through to expose all that happens in that facility because it is bad, we are a country that is known for humanity but at Bhalekane they are breeding monsters, it must stop," Fikz* said.

The former inmates further added that most of the drugs are sneaked in by the officers themselves.

'We get the dagga and tobacco through them, it is unfair for them to then come back and torture us for supporting their business," one added

*Not their real names

Inmates are safe - PRO

egardless of all these allethe facility, the Correctional Services still insist that the safety of the inmates kept there in ensures.

This comes after no proper investigations were conducted since this publication first published the story.

Correctional Services Public Relations Officer Gugulethu Dlamini when asked what the commissioner general has done so far to ensure that the inmates are not victimised in the facility, stated that the inmates are safe when within the facility.

"The safety of the inmates lies gations that have been indicated by the ex-inmates of out discrimination of any kind," Dlamini responded.

> She went on to add that there is a professional way of ensuring that all the voices are heard in this saga, which will not be disclosed to the media.

"The criteria we will use in the investigations to ensure that fairness is practised without fear or favour is confidential," she added.

Dlamini further revealed that the rules governing the correctional service as a whole have amongst others domestic rules, refraining from revealing the rest.

AN OLD AGE HOME NEEDE E - PASTOR VUVULAN

BY SIMON SHABANGU

he Senior Pastor of Christian Family Church International Swaziland Pastor La Salette has told the Lubombo Regional Administrator (RA) Sylvia Mthethwa that having operated in the area for some time they had observed the need for an old age home.

She said there were many cases of old people dying in misery because of neglect.

"We want to put up a place where the aged people who have no one to care for them can be loved. We have already extended our proposal for this facility with the local authorities and we are praying that our wish be granted so that we care for the elderly people," she said. She also told the RA that they had about seven care points in total, all of which are operational and helping a lot of children with healthy food and basic education at preschool. She thanked the RA and the Eco Lubombo Organisation (ELO) committee for choosing them as beneficiaries of the aid. She said the items



Senior Pastor Dr. La'Salette making her remarks. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

donated will go a long in assisting the different NCP stating that it will also



Mhlume MP Sifiso Magagula addressing the gathering.

be shared with the other NCP's in the

Residents applaud King for appointing Sylvia

is Majesty King Mswati III has been applauded for appointing the country's first female Regional Administrator by the people of Vuvulane.

The residents feel Sylvia Mthethwa has proved that women are capable of changing things around and bringing positive change where it is needed the

Beauty Mndzebele, who is a local farmer said they were grateful to the King for his wisdom in assigning Mthethwa to be responsible for the Lubombo region.

"This is the first time in history that we are visited by the RA and we are surprised that there is someone who can leave their comfortable office and come to see us here. Your coming here is the beginning of all good things to come because I know that the place will never be the same after your visit,"

She also urged the community to learn from what the RA has done by



Lubombo Regional Administrator Sylvia Mthethwa joined by ELO members and stakeholders in presenting the donation to Senior Pastor of Christian Family Church International Dr La'Sallette.

bringing gifts to the care point and also feed the children, especially after their harvest.

Shisagesi who is a member of the area's inner council shared the same sentiments and hailed the RA for her

ELO DESTINED FOR GREATER HEIGHTS - RA

he Lubombo Regional Administrator Sylvia Mthethwa has paid tribute to the sponsors and partners for the success of the annual Mlawula Magadzavane Challenge Walk, which was aimed at raising funds for charity and was attended by over 1 000 people.

This was said by the many speakers who made remarks during the presentation of food hampers, clothes and many other goodies by the RA and the Eco Lubombo Organisation (ELO) representatives to the community of Vuvulane Section 19 on Thursday. The presentation was held at Khanyisile Neighborhood Care point which is a project started by the Christian Family Church Swaziland in partnership with local churches and international donors.

She stated that they were able to make the donation because of the contribution made by the different partners and corporates that came through for the walk.

She said this initiative is aimed at empowering the under-privileged members of the Lubombo region.

"In the pursuit of its objectives the ELO would like to extend a hand to some of the beneficiaries as identified by the stakeholders. It is the hope of the ELO that this endeavor will grow overtime and offer more practical solutions and options to those in need. The socio-economic challenges faced by the people of the Lubombo region are insurmountable, but with the help of all the stakeholders, the ELO promises to deliver on its promises," she said.

Sponsors and partners in the project include the ministry of tourism and environmental affairs, traditional authorities, MPs, SNTC, ELO members and general public amongst others.

"It is indeed an indication that the people of Swaziland can be very supportive and generous. I am positive that this initiative will grow and benefit more people in the near future," she added.

She thanked the leadership of Vuvulane for supporting the initiative by the church which started the NCP and urged the community leadership to work with the church in their pursuit of establishing an old age home.

caring spirit and visiting a poor community. "You are one of a kind and we thank His Majesty for appointing you to this area. We are aware that there were a lot of people involved in the project but choosing us as beneficiaries makes us feel humbled," he

Commended

The area's MP Sifiso Magagula also commended the RA for the initiative of starting the Eco Lubombo Organization stating

that Vuvulane is lucky to be among the first beneficiaries of the project. He said Vuvulane is one of the poorest areas in the country and yet it is perceived as an area that is well off. He pleaded for more help for the public saying the situation was dire.

He also commended the founder of the NCP stating that the area has changed so many lives especially the children who are learning a lot especially the Christianity values.

Nomanir

A customer withdrawing money from the SwaziBank Nomanini ATM at Woodlands Shopping Complex in Mbabane

SwaziBank now in post offices

BY OBSERVER REPORTER

their nearest SwaziPost outlets for their banking services.

The bank's Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele said they provided this service after noting that they had customers who live and work in remote areas which are far from their branches or ATMs.

He said the service was not just intended for those living in these areas as it was advantageous for those who are momentarily out of the urban areas and in need to transact quickly. "You don't need to worry. Just visit a post office

near you and you will receive the service you need from a Swazi waziBank customers have Post Office," he said further the convenience of using assuring that at the post office, one can withdraw, deposit, transfer funds and even open new accounts such as Transactor Accounts, Savings Accounts and Investment Accounts.

Accounts

He explained that the Transactor Accounts include Ordinary Savings Account, Umlamuli Account, Siyakhula Savings Account and Umlolongi Tertiary Account.

On the other hand, Investment Accounts include Siphephelo Savings Account, Insika and Insika Prime Accounts.

Woodlands and Mpaka get ATMs

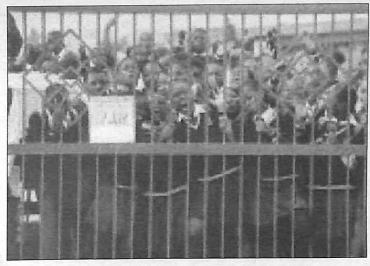
withdraw cash from an Automated Teller Machine.

Dalriach, Thembelihle, Mantjolo, Mbangweni and Sidvwashini folk now have the convenience of going to Woodlands Shopping Complex

or the convenience of where a Nomanini ATM has SwaziBank customers been installed. The same con-who live in Mbabane venience has been afforded for West, they no longer have to those living in and around drive into town in order to Mpaka or just passing the area as the Mpaka Shopping Complex boasts a new ATM machine for ease of cash withdrawals. For more information, kindly contact the SwaziBank Call Centre 2409 5000.

The following Swazi Post offices offer SwaziBank services:

THE TOTOTAL	ig owasi i oot omoco one	OWENDERN
Hub (Manzini) .avumisa	Ntfonjeni Buhleni	Luyeng
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Shaneni	Sithahalwani	Hlatikhi



Saim Christian High School parents have voted that pupils owing school fees should not set foot in class-rooms. However, the picture does not suggest that these are the pupils cited in the story.

Principal 'stops' pupils from writing trial exams

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

In most cases, parents would walk through hell and back just to see children have a better future but that is not the case with parents of children schooling at Saim Christian High School as the parents have all voted that pupils owing school fees should not set foot in classrooms.

Saim Christian High School is situated at Mahwalala just a few kilometres away from Mbabane. It's a school offering both International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGSCE) and Matric.

This unusual resolution was taken at a previous parent's meeting at the school.

Yesterday was yet another day for another parents meeting.

It was approved that all owing parents should have paid their balance by the end of August. However, parents were also notified that those who will have some problems in paying before the deadline should come to the headteacher's office where their matters were to be further discussed.

Complaining

A parent identified as Simelane is said to have told the meeting that he was tired of hearing Sydney Mdluli complaining about owing pupils. He allegedly insisted during that meeting that Mdluli should implement meetings resolutions which was in this case not allowing owing pupils into

Some parents were able to settle the balance while some failed and never showed up to discuss their troubles with the headteacher's office.

This has since then led to the expelling of the owing pupils. What makes matters worse is

the fact that they were expelled during the time of writing trial exams. Pupils were served with these letters last week Wednesday. Yesterday's meeting was attended by less than 20 parents In his opening remarks, that Christian school headteacher, Mdluli shared his disappointments on the fewer number of parents who attended the meeting.

"This meeting was officially requested by the parents so I'm disappointed with the poor turn out. It was supposed to be held on the fifth of this month but it was pushed to this date for some reasons," said the head teacher.

After the school chairperson has asked on a way forward from the presents parents, it was agreed that the meeting must proceed but no permanent decisions must be taken.

"The meeting must proceed, we will only discuss certain issues and not make final decisions due to the poor attendance," a parent suggested.

Status

The meeting then proceeded; it started with Mdluli informing parents that they owed the school more than E500 000. Mdluli mentioned that this deficit was making it hard for the school to run its day to day business.

He also revealed that the school was still owing an overdue payment about E103 000 for matric exams fee.

This amount is supposed to be paid at the country's matric centre to enable pupils sit for their final exams.

Parents emphasised that Mdluli should stand his ground and never let owing pupils inside classrooms.

'Alukhale luswebhu', one parent was heard saying in vernacular.

His statement was met with applause from the parents.

SCU, BOTH PRIVATELY OWNED

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

he problems which led to the closure of the Swaziland Christian Medical University stem back to the eighht Parliament which tied government to a memorandum of agreement to give a subvention to a privately-owned institution.

Subventions are usually provided for Public Enterprises which are better known as parastatals.

According to well-placed sources, government made an undertaking to provide E27 million annually to an institution which clearly stated that it was owned by the Africa Christian Mission (ACM).

The university charter stated that ACM reserved to themselves, their heirs and successors in title to be the only owners of the university through Reverend Chong Yang Kim.

In the same vein, in 2012, government undertook to provide a subvention of the above stated amount.

It was seven months later that gov-

ernment, through an addendum, tried to rectify this anomaly by stating that the university should fall in the category A list of the public enterprises in terms of the Public Enterprise Act (control and monitoring).

This is one of the reasons the institution was subsequently closed and this information was given to parents this past week.

Signed

The amended Memorandum of Agreement between the university and government signed by former Minister of Education and Training Wilson Ntshangase and incumbent Principal Secretary Pat Muir, government promised a subvention of E27million per annum.

The memorandum, which was signed on December 17, 2012, reads; "The Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland shall provide to Africa Continent Mission an annual subvention of E27 million according to its affordability to allow for any flexibility of making any financial adjustment depending on the fiscal situation."

The period for the provision of the annual subvention was to be effective from 2014 to the next financial year.

Of note, when this agreement was made, the current minister of education was interim board chairperson of the institution while the incumbent chair, Benedict Xaba was minister of health and their roles were reversed. Magagula lobbied Xaba to assist with the formation of the university and the roles' reversal now sees Xaba lobbying Magagula to keep it open.

Failure

A well-placed source explained that due to failure by the institution to rectify its charter accordingly where ownership was concerned, resulted in government not giving it the promised subvention which also relied on the fiscus.

"When looking at the investment by the mission, to date, it stands at E60million and the subvention from government, had it been given, would now be at E81million for a privately-owned institution," the highly placed source said

Minister of Education and Training Phineas Magagula.

Subvention allegedly misused

A lleged failure by the Swaziland Christian Medical University (SCU) to submit audited financial statements to government despite getting a subvention has given rise to allegations that the money was misused.

The issue of the lack of audited financial statements was highlighted by Minister Phineas Magagula over a week ago during a brief interview. "How could we let the institution continue getting government funding whereas they were unable to produce audited statements," the minister had asked.

This past week, a source revealed how the subcommittees which have been instructed to look into finances and academics were brought about after there were allegations to the effect that property was allegedly purchased with some of the subvention from government.

However, these allegations have not yet been proven in any competent setting or court of law.

Even if open, there would be no graduation

our years of learning has come to nought for hundreds of students at Swaziland Christian Medical University as their institution was alerted, over a year ago, that courses offered were not adequately pursued.

This is according to the Swaziland Higher Education Council report which states that as early as 2016, it recommended the extension of the duration of courses to allow students to take practicals.

In 2016, the audit on the institution revealed that there was an acute shortage of laboratory equipment and related inputs and as a result, students had not done the required practicals.

Despite the university increasing the numbers of laboratories as well as equipment and reagents, "The university failed to convince the panel that the students were ready to graduate in 2017.

The mitigation strategies were given, but there was no evidence to support the claims," states the report.

Adding, it stated that there should have been consideration for more practical oriented subjects such as the Bachelors of Radiography, Psychology as well as social work. The only course which seems to have been adequately disseminat-

ed, was the Bachelor of Nursing Sciences which was approved by the Swaziland Nursing Council.

When assessing the pharmacy programmes, the panel members felt that extending the duration of the programme would not necessarily ensure that the graduates produced would be of the required standard of pharmacists in the country. Recommendations were to the effect that an independent competency assessment for the students should be conducted since this would help in deciding on the competencies of the completing students, especially third and fourth years. "This would assist in independently

ascertaining the exact competencies of the students within the pharmacy programme at the SCU and in the pegging of these students into the relevant Swaziland Qualification Framework," reads the report. SCU was not fully registered. Despite the Swaziland Higher Education Council (SHEC) failing to succinctly state that the Swaziland Christian Medical University should be closed in its audit report submitted to cabinet in April, it was never fully registered in the first place. The university has been operating under provisional licensing pending its meeting requirements by SHEC.

Our boycott is legitimate - SANU

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

he challenges facing the tertiary education sector seems to be contagious as Southern African Nazarene University (SANU) students have this past week been on a class boycott deemed illegal by the administration which has accused the students of not following proper channels in engaging in the boycott.

This has led to the university directing the students to call off the class

boycott and resume classes before it could consider their request for a legit-imate class boycott. The students on the other hand maintain that the class boycott is authentic and has vowed not to go back to class until their concerns have been resolved.

While the Swaziland Christian University (SCU) has been closed until further notice by the ministry of education, and the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) being closed after a class boycott that resulted in a riot on

September 7, 2017; SANU students have also embarked on a class boycott over internal issues and what they call a drastic cut of their allowances.

The students' representative body says it had requested the dean of students' affairs to accompany then to engage the ministry of labour concerning the cuts on Tuesday.

Issues

The students say they still have issues that need to be addressed before they can resume lessons.

AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISE?



He explained that government had over the years been giving the institution about E2.1 million while trying to get the charter rectified, to no avail.

He explained that all government owned, was the 75.7260-hectare land on which the university stands which is leased at E50 000 per year valid for 40

With promises by the university to

rectify the issue of ownership made in 2016 to the Swaziland Higher Education Council (SHEC) government increased the subvention to E4.7 million and the university was provisionally registered. Of note, despite that government committed the E27million, the MOA stated that the mission (ACM) would fund all recurrent and investment needs as well as equipment required for the successful operation of the medical uni-

The 2017 audit by SHEC, while recognising that the charter had been revised, and that the university re-registered strictly under ACM without the mention of Pastor Kim and his heirs, said there was still need for the partnership with government to be defined and rationalised

Senator Chief Kekela dumps SCU founder while visiting King

he founder of Swaziland Christian Medical University (SCMU) Pastor Chong Yang Kim was recently left hanging when his emissary allegedly disappeared after promising him an audience with His Majesty King

After three days of anticipation, the senator allegedly left Kim on his own, without informing him that he was leaving the royal residence.

The disappearance of the senator was reportedly not noted by Kim until protocol officers asked the waiting party for the purpose of their visit.

"Having trusted the senator to lead their delegation, the pastor and his party were left dumbfounded as they revealed that they were now waiting on the senator to make an appearance before stating the purpose of their visit," an impeccable source said. It was after the intervention of another protocol officer that the pastor got to know that the senator had left unceremoniously.

It is common practice that an aggrieved member of society can seek audience with His Majesty and seek his intervention when they feel laid out structures have failed.

The source stated that the pastor was



Chief Kekela and Principal Chief of Protocol Mphiwa Dlamini.

not barred from seeing the King as he was not denied access, but simply because his emissary made an exit without stating that he was leaving, Kim and his partners then failed to state what they wanted to see the King for.

"Chief Kekela just stood up and went to his waiting white and blue van never to return," the source said adding that there had been no communication between the senator and protocol officers as he left on his own accord. Efforts to get reasons for departing unceremoniously proved futile as the senator was called several times on Friday and yesterday to no avail.

Principal Chief of Protocol Mphiwa Dlamini who was reportedly present on the day said he did not see the senator and hence would not know why he left.

He advised Kim to look for another emissary in the event his initial one abandoned him. He however relented that he was also in the dark as to what could have caused the senator to leave, if it indeed happened.

SCU banned from talking to media

Several high-ranking Swaziland Christian Medical University per-Sonnel as well as those from the board said they had been banned from

The students say the cut in the book ment in at SANU. allowance makes it impossible for them to get the necessary books and stationery as the E2 000 only enables them to purchase one book yet they had more courses which also need

They said they used to get a book allowance of E6 900.

They also complain of the cut in the uniform allowance as they say it will not be enough to cater for their full uniform.

With regards to the university the students felt the SCU was better than theirs as they lament that there are a number of shortages on learning equipspeaking to the media.

Some, without stating who banned them, said they could no longer speak to any journalist, in conspiratory tones.

They pointed out that there is no proper computer lab, as they said the lab which had five computers was now closed allegedly because only one of the computers is working.

They also said there are no laboratories in their institutions which affect the students enrolled in the faculty of health especially those doing medical laboratory studies and Pharmacy.

Bookshop

The students also said there was no proper bookshop at the university hence there is a shortage of books. They said the shortage of books also extended to the library where they



allege still has the books which were used by the institution when it was a college.

Furthermore the students say there are students who are owed by the university their refunds for the starter pack fees. Lastly the students want the university to accept their elected SRC members regardless of the fact that they are not members of the church of the Nazarene.

These are the president and the vice president whom they say the university has rejected simply because they are not in "good standing" or members of the Nazarene church which they say is discrimination.

After Swazi Airline E200million loss: LUFTHANSA Consulting assisting SWACAA get new airline

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

he Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority (SWACAA) has engaged a German consulting company to not only ascertain which routes locals could be interested in, but to also look for an airline that could be interested to service those routes.

Lufthansa Consulting has, for the last few months, been assisting the authority in trying to get more traffic to land at the airport which has been operational for over two years.

According to SWACAA Director General Solomon Dube, as part of the authority's strategic plan there was a need for the development of a scientific air service plan which will utilise the King Mswati III International Airport and the board allowed them to hire the services of Lufthansa. He clarified that the consultancy was not the airline.

He said the consultants came to the country and advised them on what to do and they were currently on part two of the project, which is scouting for an air-

He said a team returned from Johannesburg on Wednesday and were yet to deliver their report to him on how deliberations had gone.

He said Lufthansa, as part of their project, had formulated a study that could assist in identifying the exact type of airline that would be suited for the coun-

He said even though clients who used their services went to Johannesburg, they realised that there was a huge demand for destinations such as Durban, Cape Town and Harare as most connected to these destinations.

Discussions

He said the preliminary discussions with a small South African airline were at infancy stage and it was up to the targeted airline to have advanced discussion with the look of coming to the country.

He said during introductions to the yet to be named airline, the South Africans stated that they had previously had interest in coming to the country.

Dube said their timelines were to the effect that the company was considering coming to the country with a view to commit and this should happen within the next six months.

He said their association with Lufthansa has opened doors for them as they were to attend the Route World Forum in Spain where they will get to meet other airlines.

The scope of work being done by Lufthansa is the same as that which was done after government took a decision to revive the National Airline in order to make use of the King Mswati III International Airport

With Lufthansa deal, country's airline in limbo

ith the country having reportedly put aside E200million for the revival of the Royal Swazi National Airways Corporation as well as £180 million to pay employees hired, there seems to be no hope in sight for the company's resurgence from the ashes.

The scope of work being done by Lufthansa is the same as that which was done after government took a decision to revive the National Airline in order to make use of the King Mswati III International Airport.

According to Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini's meeting with editors in early this year,"The Royal Swaziland Royal Swazi National Airways (RSNA) came

with the proposal that we hire reputable consultants to assess the viability of reviving the air-

Just as the latest study, the first consultant hired stated that the country would do well to be serviced by a 50-seater plane which would operate regionally. Thereafter, another consultant was hired and the suggestions of a bigger plane were made resulting in a plane being leased with the purpose of servicing areas such as Dubai, for the mostly people en-route to Asian coun-

During the time the consultant was engaged, the country leased a plane to service routes to be operated by the airways.

WOMAN'S 'TOTAL EXPERIENCE' LEADS TO HEALING

BY SAMUKELISIWE GININDZA

lady who was partially deaf was healed on Friday during the first day of Christ Embassy Total Experience with Pastor Tomisin Fashina. The lady was healed while she was still

seating amongst the throngs who came from all four corners of the country.

She indicated to the ushers that she was deaf in her right ear and could now hear after she touched herself on the strength of the pastor's authority while he was still in the pulpit. One of the ushers broke the good news to congregation present, con-

firming this was the lady as she walked towards the pastor, who then laid his hands on her. It is not clear if the lady was born with the disability or not but her good news of being healed were received well by the people present. Many of those sick, disabled and searching for a divine intervention in their lives, marriages and finances came with faith, which brought change to their lives.

Pastor Fashina about to pray for a woman who has been living with sugar diabetes for 16 years during the Total Experience with Pastor Tomisin Fashina held at Prince of Wales Stadium on Friday. (Pics: Samukelisiwe Ginindza).



A section of those who came forward for the man of God to pray for them.

... Diabetic woman gets her healing

lady who was suffering from sugar diabetes was also healed, she was chosen by the man of God to come forward.

"The holy spirit is telling me about a lady who is diabetic and has been cured to come forward," Pastor Fashina said.

Indeed she did come forward and stated that she had been living with the condition for 16 years before the man of God declared her free.

The lady who is estimated to be in her 40s or 50s was touched by Pastor Fashina once more before she was again declared free of her 16-year long suffering.

Soon after all those who were sick, living with disability or asking for God's intervention in their lives were told to declare their healing with hope and faith, most came forward immediately after that for a testimony.

Healed

"I have been afflicted by a teary eye for a week now, but I was healed instantly after the man of God ordered us to touch where we are not feeling well in order to receive healing," she added.

Many of the people who were present accepted Christ on the day; some of them were those who were accepting the Saviour for the first time in their lives.

Even though the crowd consisted of the young and old, the young stood out from the rest as they were quite a few in number.



Ushers from The Christ Embassy Church stand next to a lady who was healed from partial deafness.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CONSULTANCY TO UNDERTAKE AN OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY STUDY ON THE SWAZILAND ELECTRICITY COMPANY (SEC)

The Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority (SERA) is an organization established under the Energy Regulatory Act 2007. The mandate of SERA is the administration and implementation of the Electricity Act 2007.

The Regulator hereby invites Expressions of Internst (EoI) from suitably qualified consultancy firms to supply the

TENDER NUMBER 3 OF 2017/18: CONSULTANCY TO UNDERTAKE AN OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY STUDY ON THE SWAZILAND ELECTRICITY COMPANY (SEC)

The consultant must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the energy industry locally, regionally and internationally and must have the skills and expertise to conduct an operational efficiency study on an electrical utility company. The study is expected to give a situational analysis of the utility's operations and must make use of qualitative and quantitative methods of evaluating efficiency. The consultancy is expected to undertake a technical, financial and economic evaluation of the utility's operations

The consultant is expected to provide a track record of similar completed assignments by either the firm or members of the proposed team.

PLEASE NOTE

It is compulsory to attach a certificate of incorporation, trading license tax clearance and VAT registration number. The Eol must also comply with the Swaziland Public Procurement Regulations available at the Swaziland Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (SPPRA) at www.sppra.co.sz.

onsulf Energy Regulatory Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject any EoI or stop the process of approval at any stage, at its sole discretion without assigning any reason and shall bear no liability whatsoever consequent upon such decision.

Interested parties may submit EoI demonstrating their understanding and capability statements, including company profiles in sealed envelopes with 3 copies for all the requested documents (clearly marked with the work for which the EoI is submitted) through registered post or hand delivered to reach the company address not later than 11AM, Monday, 25th September 2017.

For further information regarding this tender, please contact the Project Manager, Mr. Ntokozo Sonke Dlamini on the

Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority 1st Floor RHUS Office Park, (former MTN Offices- Mbabane) Karl Grant Street, Mbabane, H100 Swaziland

P.O. Box 7137, Mbabane, H100, Swaziland Tel: +268 2404 2103; +268 2404 1439; +268 2404 8425 Email: info@sera.org.sz



PUBLIC NOTICE

ELECTION AND NOMINATION DATE NOTICE (Under Section 15)

It is hereby notified in terms of regulation 15 that the elective authorities listed hereunder shall hold their respective Local Government Elections, on Saturday, 28 October 2017 and that polling shall take place between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm.

It is also notified that nomination day is, Wednesday, 27 September 2017 and each candidate is expected to deliver his duly completed and signed nomination paper at the offices of the respective authority between the hours of NINE 'OCLOCK IN THE MORNING and NOON.

RETURNING OFFICERS **ELECTIVE AUTHORITIES**

- 1. Municipal Council of Mbabane 7. Municipal Council of Manzini
- 2. Nhlangano Town Council
- 3. Siteki Town Council
- 4. Hlathikhulu Town Board
- 5. Lavumisa Town Board
- 6. Ngwenya Town Board
- 8. Pigg's peak Town Council
- **Ezulwini Town Council**
- 10. Mankayane Town Board
- 11. Matsapha Town Council
- 12. Malkerns Town Board

MACMILLAN EDUCATION SWAZILAND SITF 2017

Swaziland is a worldacclaimed educational

As a trusted brand in Swaziland, we pride ourselves in developing quality learning materials for all levels across the curriculum. Our materials, both print and digital, offer relevant, engaging and dynamic learning opportunities for learners, as well as memorable teaching experiences for educators.

As a company with a proud history of excellence, we strive to deliver innovative solutions that drive 21st century education. Our passion for learning and life-long commitment to elevate education in Swaziland is evident in the educational support we provide to our stakeholders. These include:

· Offering a wide range of teaching and learning resources

 Sponsoring education workshops and events, including inter-school debates and speech-and-prize ceremonies

· Donating books to remote communities to promote literacy at grassroots level.

acmillan Education To attest to our culture of excellence, as a company we are proud to have scooped the first prize in the 2017 edition of the Swaziland International Trade Fair, under the education category. The modern design of our stand, enhanced by the use of digital content gadgets, gave a minimalist yet classy feel, which our stakeholders adored. This was complement by our fresh edutainment programme for children - traditional storytelling - by famous poet, Blacknote.

> We also commend our dynamic Sales and Marketing team for their diligence in serving the throngs of stakeholders who visited our stand. As per this year's theme: "Unlocking Trade Opportunities for Economic Growth", our team made presentations to potential authors, publishers, booksellers and the general public about opportunities available in our company.

> In the true spirit of supporting education in the country, our team also gave away lots of promotional materials, including books.

As our partner in education, join us in celebrating one of our many achievements!







MTN SHOULD NOW CONNECT PEOPLE WITH GOD - PASTOR

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Pastor Philani Simelane says MTN has done a commendable job connecting people in the country but now it's time the company connects people with God.

Simelane was preaching during the vigil of the late MTN Mobile Money Senior Manager Thokozani Dlamini which was held at his parental home in Sigombeni yesterday.

While some mourners wondered if the mobile company was expected to share heaven's, cell number as some were heard whispering the question, the pastor seemed to have read their minds as he quickly clarified what he meant some reduction

Simelane said the company would do so by sponsoring programmes aimed at promoting the gospel of Christ.

He condemned companies which use songs which seem to promote anti-Christ tendencies such as the institution promoting the song titled 'Jezebel'. He said he could not make sense of this song. Men dominate hell Pastor Dumisani Dlamini left the throngs of relatives and friends of Thokozani in stitches of laughter when he said men dominated hell as their screams were heard by a geological group who drilled a hole about 14.4 kilometres deep in the crust of the earth.

He said the team immersed a microphone and heard voices believed to be screams from the condemned souls from earth's deepest hole.

He encouraged the mourners to search for the "sounds from hell" on the net as he believed that the accounts stated there are true.

"Go and research 'sounds from hell' it will enlighten you. Down there are screams of girls, women and men who are seeking help but there is no more help.

But now Jesus is asking you what benefit will it be if one earned the world but lose his eternal life," he said.

Thokozani had a good personality, friends and relatives said. The hundreds of mourners who braved the night to pay their last respects to their beloved one described Dlamini as a humble person and motivated others with his good character. The funeral was attended by among others community leaders and members, staff from MTN, Imperial fleet services PSI Swaziland and some of his friends from university. Family and relatives said he was everything to them as he was described as a father, son, and brother.

They said this was a great loss for them as he was of great help in the family and as such he left a huge gap.

One of his friends said he was a father figure to him and said he would always be remembered by his friends for his good deeds.

The families stated that they were shocked and saddened by the demise of their beloved son who was everything to the family that was still expecting great things from him.

His funeral was held according to the custom of Emalangeni as a few minutes after 3am men left the huge marquee that was filled through the night to the burial site.



Netflix co-founder Reed Hasting and Strive Masiyiwa in Barcelona earlier this year. (courtesy pic)

KWESE TV coming month end, with Netflix

...as the African satellite broadcaster makes inroads into the Swazi market offering several choices such as the EPL and NBA

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Swazis will from the end of this month have so much more to choose from as Kwese TV is set to be launched locally.

According to information sourced from Zimbabwean billionaire Strive Masiyiwa's official Facebook page, the launch will see set-top boxes used to beam channels from the satellite broadcaster sold officially in the country by several retailers as well as MTN Swaziland. When asked about the partnership with Kwese TV, MTN Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Luphondvo said he was unable to get the exact details but there were discussions around such a partnership.

Kwese TV is a satellite and broadcasting network owned by Masiyiwa's Econet Wireless Zimbabwe, under Econet Media. It is accessed through subscription and offers one premium bouquet of over 60 channels which include Kwese Sports which shows selected Saturday English Premier League games as well as the Spanish

The satellite broadcaster has over 60 channels in its bouquet that includes: kids channels, movies, series, music, sport, factual channels, reality channels and religious channels.

This past Thursday, Masiyiwa further announced a new offering by the satellite broadcaster, "My team thought about all the things you need, and the answer is our new service, Kwesé Play which we launched today in partnership with Netflix, the giant US Internet streaming entertainment company". He said, for now, Netflix would be available in South Africa and later rolled out to the rest of the continent. In a Facebook

post, he said, "I've written here before about identifying a human need and then working to solve it with your own entrepreneurship and innovation. Sometimes you may also identify a "human want," for example, to have more choice, convenience, speed, better prices, and a greater selection of inspiring, interesting and educational ways to spend your time."

Explaining how it will work, he said traditional subscription service relies on a decoder connected to a satellite dish, "The challenge of satellite technology is that it's inflexible and rigid, limiting the things you can do. It's actually quite an old technology."

He said it was in this regard that Kwesé Play used the most advanced decoder in the world (an Internet "streaming box") connected by fibre optic cable.

"The high speed fibre (internet) connection allows us to provide the most intelligent TV service possible," he said adding how it was one used mostly in the United States of America

"Our streaming box is the one used mostly in the US. It's a called Roku, and is only available in Africa from Kwesé Play and its distributors," he wrote.

He said Netflix was provided through what is called an internet 'streaming app' which allows one to open and search for thousands of movies. "This video on demand service means you can access the content as and when you wish to watch," he said.

He said the partnership with Netflix covers the whole of sub Saharan Africa and when it rolls out, subscribers will not need a credit card and foreign exchange, "You can pay your Netflix subscription with your country's own currency."

Men lead Msunduza Clean Up the World campaign

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

guwe Likusasa Letfu (NLL) this past weekend introduced a game changer as they brought men together to 'man up' for the environ-

Groups of men from all over Swaziland came together to do something meaningful as they cleaned the various locations under Mbabane East Constituency.

Converging at the Msunduza Market Recycling Centre yesterday morning from 7am, several groups went different directions as they invited their sex to be leaders in ensuring that the environment is well taken in care of for future generations.

NLL is an organisation purposed to teaching communities about the importance of sustainable living through making everyone aware about reducing their carbon foot-print and they held the first event yesterday morning.

Explaining the purpose of the event which supported Mbabane City Council's Clean Up the World, global NLL Project Coordinator Gcebile Ndlovu said their focus was the youth who are the future of the country. She said in their quest to ensure that they will grow to find a semblance of beauty that their parents grew up with, they had seen it fit to rope in men to lead the campaign as men are traditionally the leaders in society.

"The best way to get the youth involved is to put exemplary men in their sight as leaders who will actively take part in taking care of their environment," she said. She said teaching the youth was well and good, but good examples went even further in etching the importance of preserving the environment.

Ndlovu said by taking issues of the environment to a simpler level, this will ensure that future generations understand the part they play.



A Mbabane City Council employee showing cleaners how to seperate recyclable waste from regular waste.

In yesterday's drive, community members came together with students from the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) Geography, Environment Science and Planning Society (UNIGEPS) as well as community police who were led by Nene Dvuba.

He said they had cleaned up areas such as Gobholo, Mncitsini, Mdulwini, Macobolwane, Corporation as well as Mcozini. "The focus is not just to clean up, but to emphasise on recycling as well," said Dvuba.

He said they were teaching young people from the area that in cleaning up their area responsibly, they could make some money as well in that they could sell selected rubbish to recycling companies.

He thanked the Mbabane Municipality for helping NLL choose their area as it was inundated by garbage which makes it unsightly. Summarising the happenings of the day, NLL Director Ngwane Nxumalo said the event was a success. He thanked the Swaziland Environmental

Authority and the municipality, pool team Sikhatsi Car Wash as well as the local community for their contribution to the event.

He said the three teams were led by community leaders who took the men around the area.

Nxumalo commended men who came with their families to the campaign saying they were exemplifying the way things should be, men taking the lead. Recognising SEA acting Executive Director Gcina Dladla's presence, he said it was heart-warming to note how even though he was leader in his organisation, he took part in the clean-up as

He assured that this was not a once off event as they intend to return to the community and teach people about the environment and how to conserve it.

"If a person cleans up his homestead and surrounding area, the whole community will remain clean," he said, adding that cleanliness could not be once off as they hope to return to a clean commu-

NGWENYA HIGHWAY OWNERSHIP DISPUTE

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

s someone sleeping on the job? 18 years later, the government still does not in wholly own the Ngwenya highway also known as the MR3.

The Ngwenya highway was constructed back in 1999; it was built by government under the ministry of public works and transport.

Information gathering by this publication was that government is still at loggerheads with some of the 'old citizens' of Ngwenya Village.

The bone of contention is some citizens are not willing to surrender their old title deeds to the municipality so they can be given new ones that are in accordance with the current land allocated to them.

The 'old citizens' are still holding on to their old title deeds, that has results in them still owning parts of the highway. Even though, it is not clear why they do not want to give up on their old title deeds but information gathered is that they are not happy with the current portion of land allocated to them.

Source said government was still trying to gain full ownership of the road leading to the Ngwenya Border Gate. The road was still registered to be



owned by a farmer while in reality it belongs to the state.

Information obtained from a reliable source was that, even where trucks usually park at the border still belongs to a farmer.

This has left government with little or no say at all with some of the daily

activities taking place in these aforementioned areas.

Ngwenya Town Clerk, Phumzile Shabalala confirmed that there are some properties that were slashed during the highway's construction.

"What we know is that the process of re-allocating of land wasn't finalised.



The town board and the ministry of public works and transport are currently trying to finalise the issue of land relocating," Shabalala revealed.

She went on to mention that the process of land relocating will enable government and the affected citizens to rightfully own what really's theirs. She insisted that government was working tireless, trying to resolve the issue and further encouraged all affected citizens to engage the town board.

"They are ongoing meetings between the town board, ministry of public works and transport and surveyors," Shabalala revealed.

She disputed claims that some of the citizens were not in possession of title deeds. Mabuza gave a clarification that some were still holding on to old title deeds which include some of the land portions that at present time belong to government.

"It's not true that they don't have title deeds but they don't have title deeds that reflect the current land ownership," Shabalala clarified.

She also highlighted that this was her second year in office and she had been

working around the clock to make sure that all parties reach a mutual agreement. She added that another thing was also causing a delay in solving this issue was that it involves many different government departments.

"It involves the ministry of public works and transport who are the constructors of the road, surveyor general who is responsible of allocating the land and the ministry of housing and urban development because that is where municipalities subscribe to. It also involved the deeds office," she noted. She said the meetings usually take place but challenges began when one key member is not present. She further encouraged all parties involve to come together and solve this pending issue.

Efforts to get a comment from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport were ineffective.

Principal Secretary, Makhosini Mndawe's phone rang unanswered while Minister Lindiwe Dlamini when called did not answer but sent a message saying she was in a meeting.

BoSigujana flew off the shelves during the Trade Fair

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

Just like pictures, numbers too don't lie; *BoSigujana* were selling like hot fat cakes at the Swaziland International Trade Fair (SITF), with 7 000 of them sold.

This means roughly E17 500 was made during SIFT that ended on Monday. By buying the set top boxes, one is able to watch Swazi TV, Channel S, TBN and also listens to SBIS and VOC.

Director of Communications, Andreas Dlamini from the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) was ecstatic about the sale; "during SITF's, roughly 7 000 Set-Top Boxes (Sigujana) were sold".

The set top boxes are still selling at a promotional affordable and yet reasonable E250. This special is only for the month of September which also happened to be SIFT's month and Umhlanga (Reed) dance, both at Lozitha and Shiselweni. Initially, especially, for one to watch locally brewed television shows one needed to fork out E500. That is the original price for the set top boxes.

"The promotion will last until the end of the month as we are waiting for the Shiselweni Reed Dance," Dlamini said. Dlamini also revealed that the response of Swazi's showed that many Swazi could afford the promotional price.



He then encouraged the public to get themselves the set top boxes. Minister of Information, Communication and Technology, Dumsani Ndlangamandla also confirmed that it had been reported to him that about 7 000 of set top boxes were sold during SIFT.

"They told me that about 7 000 set top boxes were sold. That to me sends a signal that it's necessary for us as a ministry to have a discussion because judging by the figures, one would conclude that Swazi's wants to own bosigujane. The only problem is, the set top boxes are not accessible," Ndlangamandla added.

The minister further added that on Friday morning, he instructed Dlamini to finalise and furnished him with a report so he can start to action on it. He added that when buying the set top boxes, television license fee which is E180 was not and is not inclusive in the original and promotional price of the set top boxes.

Swazi National, Magistrate's Courts have limited power over debt disputes

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

The Swazi National and the Magistrate's Courts have no jurisdiction over money disputes.

More often than not, when people are being owed money they run to these courts to seek an intervention and for some justice to be served, especially when the debtor cooperates with the law officers. If not, the cases tends to drag for a lifetime.

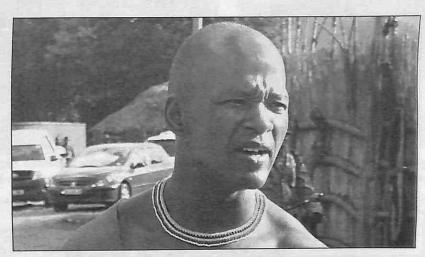
This publication has established that the Government of Swaziland is in a process of introducing small claims courts to plug this gap, revealed the Attorney General Sifiso Khumalo during an interview this past week.

However, he pointed out that the minister of justice or the chief justice was the right persons to dwell on such a topic.

"The Swazi courts have cases that they work on as governed by the law, cases of people owing each other money are civil cases so even if you can take the debtor to the Magistrates Court, the court will not have power because it has limited powers in such cases," Khumalo revealed.

"I understand that we are in the process of establishing small claims courts but you can confirm that with the chief justice. In small claims courts, it is where instant justice will be available for such cases," Khumalo added.

When asked on when the public can



Attorney General Sifiso Khumalo.

expect such courts to start operating, Khumalo said it was within the judicial jurisdiction.

The attorney general further explained that the small claims courts will not be established for only cases of people who owe each other money.

According to information gathered from officials working at the Swazi National and Magistrate's Courts, these two systems of justice lack an instrument to arrest debtors who are not willing to pay back monies they owe.

A warrant of arrest can only be issued against the debtor when he or she failed to pitch in court; this charge is called contempt of court.

Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Edgar Hillary in a brief interviewed also confirmed the news of estab-

lishing a small claim courts in the country.

"There's a Bill that we are still working on, small claims courts are an international phenomenal," he said.

Minister Hillary went on to mention that small claims courts were for minor cases, further giving an example of when one owes another one a sum of E400. He said such cases should be dealt by the small claims courts.

He added that it was not yet clear on when such courts can start operating. He emphasised that for now his ministry was working on the Bill as there was a need for a piece legislation to be passed on to legalise the court.

He further mentioned that there was a need for the court to be harmonised with other courts.



Ekhaya Kusekhaya Director Sifiso 'Zwide' Ndwandwe receiving his gift from Sibusile and Zethu for giving a correct answer during the guessing game at the launch.



Lindokuhle Mthupha and FNB's Sijabulile Vilakati.

FNB SMOOTHFEST MAKES A COMEBACK #ZAJIK'Z

STORIES BY AYANDA DLAMINI

fter a year without the intimate FNB Smooth Fest, the festival makes a comeback with an exciting line- up when compared to the two previous events.

This year's fest will feature South African artists such as Zonke, Amanda Black, Jimmy Dludlu, Floewe, MTN SWAMA award winner Nomalungelo Dladla, Apple Gule, DJ Ntombs and DJ Mix mash. This was revealed by FNB Communications Specialist Sibusile Sigwane who was the programme director with FNB Head of Marketing Zethu Dlamini during the fest launch on Thursday at Nkonyeni Golf Estate.

Sigwane and Dlamini revealed the line-up through a guessing game with guests and those who gave the right answer were presented a gift (FNB branded Cabernet Sauvignon wine).

Sigwane also revealed that South African reality star and Idols SA judge Somizi Mhlongo will be MC of the show which will be held at Riders Ranch.



Guests at the 3rd FNB SmoothFest launch which was held on Thursday at Nkonyeni Golf Estate. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)

Believe

"We believe this year's show will come with exciting performances and Riders Ranch is an ideal place for the Smooth Fest," said Sigwane.

The event was graced by acting

Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Owen Nxumalo, FNB CEO Dennis Mbingo, local artists such as Nomalungelo Dladla who serenaded the attendees with her soulful tunes with Floewe, DJ Mix Mash, personalities and FNB management and staff.

Tickets to the festival are out and available at Shoprite computickets and they cost E725 VVIP, E 485 VIP and E 300 general.

"We only have 50 VVIP tickets available and 300 VIP tickets," said the programme director.



Programme Director Sibusile Sigwane and Zethu Dlamini with songbirds Nomalungelo and Floewe during a guessing game.



FNB 's Gugu Dladla- Dlamini presenting DJ Mix Mash a gift after he correctly guessed the line-up.

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...SmoothFest a necessary mainstay of local scene - Minister

cting Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Owen Nxumalo sees FNB's smoothFest as a necessary mainstay of the local scene.

Entertainment, just as arts and culture, is what allows us to wash the dust off often-hectic lives and schedules from our souls.

It allows us to breathe and take in innovations that will propel the country forward.

Hence it is with this in mind that we consider FNB's SmoothFest as a necessary mainstay of the local scene," said the minister.

He mentioned that the commitment that they saw as a ministry from the bank was something to be admired particularly as it feeds into government's emphasis on the creation of opportunities in the different areas of industry, opportunities that will align the country and its people to a stronger, more vibrant financial sector.

"It is encouraging to note that only last month the country was celebrating upcoming artists and those that have taken the local music industry to greater heights and even as we launch this year's SmoothFest, I am happy to see that some of these local musicians are within our midst."

This goes to show that First National Bank is a bank that not only celebrates local talent, but promotes it through providing a platform for local musicians to not only share the stage



Acting Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Owen Nxumalo making his remarks at the SmoothFest launch.

with their international and regional counterparts but also to share their music with music lovers around the country," said the minister.



FNB Head of Marketing Manager Zethu Dlamini ushering in Minister Owen Nxumalo.



FNB's Buyile, Gugu posing with Riders Ranch PRO Banele Diamini.



Claiming Grounds' Steven Mthethwa was also at the launch.

SMOOTHFEST A PLATFORM FOR LOCAL ARTISTS TO SHINE - FNB CEO

NB Chief Executive Dennis ◀Mbingo says the FNB SmoothFest is a platform for local artists to shine and have an opportunity to collaborate with international acts.

"SmoothFest is basically for local artist to promote themselves, they must know they are not supporting but are primary acts of the fest," said the CEO during the launch.

He was supported by acting Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Owen Nxumalo as he mentioned that the FNB SmoothFest does not only celebrate local talent, but promotes it through providing a platform for local musi-



Kodak moment for Acting Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Owen Nxumalo, FNB CEO Dennis Mbingo and Swazi Observer Managing Editor Mbongeni Mbingo during the launch.

cians to not only share the stage with their international and provincial competition but also to share

their music with music lovers around FNB CEO Dennis Mbingo the country. The fest is scheduled for October 21.



delivering his speech at the launch.





MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE

PUBLIC NOTICE

LANE CLOSURE

Notice is hereby published in terms of Section 71(1) of the Urban Government Act No.8 of 1969, that there will be a temporary lane closure of the following sections;

- 1. Gwamile Street between the traffic lights at Gwamile/Mdada intersection and the traffic light at Gwamile/Dabede /Somhlolo intersection, and
- 2. Mdzimba Avenue between the traffic light at Dabede/Mdzimba intersection and the traffic lights at Mdzimba/ Somhlolo/Gwamile intersection (above Mbabane Spar)

The construction work is estimated to be completed within a period of two (2) months, from 18 September to 18 November 2017 and is being undertaken by A.G. Thomas (Pty) Ltd.

These sections of the roads (Mdzimba Avenue and Gwamile Street) will be temporarily closed for the duration of the construction period as shown below with limited access to residents. Motorists passing through these areas are advised to take directions as indicated below with extra caution.

Any inconvenience caused by the closure of these sections of Gwamile and Mdzimba Avenue is regrettable.

Johannes Masuku Contact person: 7621 5529 Cell:

25186362 Tell:



JUMBLED VOTERS' ROLL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

Promises are made to be kept. It is seems like the 10 weeks the ministry of housing and urban development had to prepare and release the voters' roll was not enough, as it came out mostly without photos/names near voters particulars as promised.

Ratepayers are not happy with this as during the registration process for elections they were promised that the voters' roll would come out with the national identity (ID) card photo which would be placed together with voters names, but to their surprise the photos do not appear. Where the photos were supposed to be, they are not found.

This publication gathered that almost in all the towns of the country, the voters' roll has about 20 performent photos per town. In some towns it is even less than that. The ministry of housing and urban development announced that October 28 will be local government elections day.

Even though the ID number appear sin the voters' roll but the absence of ID photos has not gone down well with voters as they believe that this will enable illegitimate voters to take chances and rig the elections. At Ngwenya, the voters' roll

has only photos with no names. **Concerns**

In almost all the towns of Swaziland, such as Mbabane, Manzini, Pigg's Peak, Ngwenya, Matsapha, Nhlangano and Hlathikhulu the concerns are similar.

The concerns include the sudden ommission of ID photos, and inaccessibility of the voters roll. This publication gathered that to have a personal copy of the voters' roll in Matsapha, they charge E10 while in Manzini you pay 50 cents per page. Other issues that were discovered are; in some towns including Mbabane and Matsapha some voters do not have physical residential addresses while others have post office addresses. This has not only enraged voters but also caused

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doubts about the accuracy of the voters' roll.

"It would be difficult to challenge the outcome of the forthcoming elections as it would be hard to prove if a candidate voted in a wrong ward or not, this will derail complaints," a ratepayer said.

Voters registered on proxy, especially those asked by companies do not appear on the voters' roll.

"Who has power to deregister a voter than us the ratepayers?" another ratepayer asked.

In Matsapha, it is alleged that during the registration process, officials went door to door registering voters. When questioned about this, the officials allegedly informed those aggrieved that they have the right to register people that way.

right to register people that way.
According to Vusi Ngwenya, who is the Chairperson of the Ratepayers Association at Ngwenya, during the registration process, they were promised that the voters' roll would come out with a ID photo in every voter's name.

"How can one lodge a complaint if the only thing appearing is the voter's name? Having the photos was going to make it easy to trace if one is from the claimed place of residential," Lukhele said. He further revealed that in some instances only the voter's photo appeared on the list while in some this was a vice versa situation.

Mentioned

Richard Mavimbela, Chairman of the Ratepayers Association at Siteki mentioned that ratepayers are not even happy with the whole registration process as most of the people who registered were not ratepayers.

He went on to add that at the process these culprits were being removed from the list.

"The voters' roll isn't pinned up for everyone to see their names. Another problem is that in some wards, more than half are Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF) members who work at the border," the obviously devastated Mavimbela revealed.

He added that soldiers don't add much to the town as they do not even buy food in the town's stores as they usually eat in their camps. "These soldiers stay temporarily here as they're then deployed to another work station so now it would be hard to prove if those who are going to vote are the same ones who registered here," Mavimbela continued.

He said this may lead to undeserving candidates winning the elections as some will lobby in some voters from the USDF and farms, as Siteki is surrounded by them.

In Matsapha Tommy Kirk spoke on behalf of Steven Motsa who is the Chairman of Ratepayers. Kirk said the voters' roll is jumbled as some voters from Ward 3 were registered in Ward 5.

He also touched on the absence of photos.

Also contacted on the issue was Pieter Pietersen of Hlatikulu who shared similar sentiments as the others. He added that the absence of photos made things worse because even people from the rural areas of Hlatikulu who are non-ratepayers have also registered for the elections and it will be hard to identify them in the absence of the photos. He continued to add that there was currently no returning officer.

In Nhlangano, Nkululeko Mavuso also echoed Pietersen's words. He said they have written and pinned up an objection, that they do not accept the voters roll as it is jumble.

Chairman of both Mbabane rate payers and Swaziland National Association of ratepayers (SNARP) Solomon Nxumalo also echoed the other chairpersons' words and further added that the returning officers in Mbabane vanished two weeks before the official closing date for elections registration.

Appearing
When reached for comment,
Minister of Housing and Urban
Development Phiwayinkhosi
Mabuza, said the encountered problems which resulted in the photos
not appearing occured as a result
of a technical problem.

"The Information Technology guy had some challenges in printing out the ID photos," Mabuza revealed. However, he was quick to clarify that the absence of photos was not in any way a major problem. "That doesn't mean much, it's just the photos are helpful but not a legal requirement as long as the name appears," he said.

Mabuza attested that the photos

Mabuza attested that the photos were going to make it easy in identifying voters.

He went on to say the challenge of printing out the ID photos was more critical in big towns which have bigger population. He added that, in small towns, the IT person managed to make a print out of the photos.

"In big towns he had a challenge because so many people registered for the elections while he was under time constraints," he said.

He said the errors of the voters' roll were going to be fixed like in Ngwenya where only ID photos appeared instead of the voters' names. Some errors to be fixed are that of non-appearing of residential areas. Mabuza said the main reason for making the voters' roll public was to fix such errors.

Local government elections go on, despite court case

BY FORTUNE NDLANGA-MANDLA

s this a sign of fighting a losing battle?

While the Swaziland National Association of ratepayers (SNARP) is patiently waiting for the court to decide whether the local government elections should go on or not, 28 October remains as election's day.

Our daily publication reported that government declared 28 October as the voting day for local government elections.

This comes after it was reported in the media that SNARP had filed an urgent application in the High Court where it was, among other things, seeking an order proclaiming the ongoing local government elections as illegitimate.

The association was further looking for an order that the local government elections be stopped and held in abeyance until the determination of the application.

Informed

SNRP chairperson, Solomon Nxumalo, was shocked when informed that the elections were going on. He said as an association, they were not in any way informed about the new developments on the elections date.

"We asked that the elections should be stopped and conducted in terms of the Swaziland Constitution, they only replied to us once and we were still waiting for the Constitutional Court," Nxumalo said.

"The issue of elections hasn't been resolved, they haven't replied us. I don't know whether the country's Constitution no longer exists," Nxumalo wondered.

Existed

He went on to mention that they were still expecting to hear from the court and further questioned why the Constitution existed if it is not being respected.

He said participating in the forth coming local government elections next month will solely depend on individuals.

"Some will decide to participate while

others may decide to boycott the elections," he stated.

The chairperson also clarified that voters were not for the idea of not having elections but were mobilising for amendment of the legislation governing the local government elections.

When reached for comment, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Phiwayinkhosi Mabuza said there was nothing coming from the court stopping the elections from being conducted.

"We are going on with the elections," Mabuza boldly said.

Minister Mabuza confirmed that the issue of the elections was still in court where SNARP appealed that the elections should be conducted by Elections Boundary Commission (EBC).

"The lawyers are still to deliberate

on the issue but we as the ministry are going on with the elections," Mabuza revealed.

Proceedings

When asked why his ministry did not wait for the court proceedings to be done with before announcing the elections date, Minister Mabuza said, "The court may not even give a judgment any time soon so if we were to wait for the court ruling it will mean people can even obstruct the national elections," he shared his sentiments.

"The elections cannot be at abeyance just because someone had filed a case at the court," he noted.

Mabuza felt idea that, there was nothing wrong with SNARP learning over the media about the date of the local government elections despite the pending court case.

SD OPTIMISTIC ON AGOA READMISSION

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

hree years ago, Swaziland was declared ineligible for benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) which resulted in dire consequences such as job losses in the textile industry; it is now a matter of three months before the country's fate is known.

Based upon a recommendation by the United States Interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee, US President Donald Trump is expected to make his determination on AGOA eligibility before the end of year 2017. According to the US Embassy, the president is required to notify Congress 60 days prior to the effective date of such a change and the effective date will be January 1 for the 2018 AGOA Eligibility Review.

"The 2018 AGOA Eligibility Review was initiated on July 12, 2017. The interagency trade Policy Staff Committee will make a recommendation to the US trade representative on each country's AGOA eligibility status in the fall," says US embassy Public Affairs Officer Joia

The country was kicked out by the Obama administration citing that the Kingdom had repeatedly failed to demonstrate measurable progress toward the guarantee and protection of internationally recognised worker rights.

These included among others the right to freely speak, associate, and assemble without police or government interference. In a press statement, the US government lamented the country's failure to take the required steps to promote

and protect worker rights which would have allowed Swaziland to remain part of the AGOA family.

"The Swazi government made a sovereign decision not to make the reforms necessary to retain AGOA eligibility, despite clear communications from the US Government as far back as 2010 concerning what actions needed to be taken," read part of the statement published in 2014.

Two weeks ago, unions comprising IndustriALL, Amalgamated Trade Union of Swaziland (ATUSWA), and the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) met and agreed to support Swaziland's readmission to AGOA.

The unions said Swaziland had made significant progress towards protecting workers rights therefore they were calling for the reinstatement of the country on AGOA. The unions claim that over 17 000 jobs were affected when AGOA benefits, which included dutyfree exports to the US, were withdrawn. The ministry of labour and social security on the other hand said from its side, it had adhered to the benchmarks that were set for the country to be eligible for the US preferential trade agreement and now awaits the review outcome.

The ministry cited that it has made

amendments to the the Industrial Relations Act, the Suppression of Terrorism Act, and the Public Order Act. These Acts were said to have had sections which restricted freedoms of assembly, expression and association.

Each year in December, all eligible sub-Saharan African countries are reviewed to determine if they have established, or are making substantial progress toward establishing, the required

conditions for participation in AGOA. Swaziland will be part of that review process.

AGOA is a US preferential trade program established in May 2000 that provides duty free access to the \$3 trillion US market for thousands of products from eligible sub-Saharan African countries. The purpose of the law is to support sub-

Saharan African economic development through trade and investment. The programme offers tangible incen-

tives to sub-Saharan African countries for undertaking often difficult political and economic reforms that promote long-term growth and development.

Swaziland began benefitting from the program in 2001 when the Swazi government voluntarily accepted the AGOA eligibility criteria, which include respect for the rule of law, poverty reduction, combatting corruption, respect for worker rights and human rights, child labour protections, and market openness.



PREVOCATIONAL TRAINING, FPE CONUNDRUM AT SWAZI NATIONAL

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

n the midst of the debate about Free Primary Education (FPE) and the introduction of prevocational training in schools there is a view that both have negative effects on pupils adequate infrastructure and resources to accommodate the pupils.

FPE is seen to have increased the demand for spaces in high schools and in turn created a shortage of infrastructure and learning tools. Prevocational training on the other hand has been received with mixed feelings by both parents and pupils.

At Swazi National High School for instance, pupils and parents have raised concerns over these issues, revealing that some of the pupils in Form One class identified as H were not able to do agriculture allegedly due to a shortage of land, tools, and farm inputs and infrastructure.

Responding to this allegation the headteacher, Brian Dlamini, admitted that some of the pupils could not do the subject as only about 90 per cent were able to take the subject. He however did not admit that such was due to the shortages suggested by the pupils and parents but said the children had chosen the stream where agriculture is not offered.

When told that the pupils had stated that they had been informed that they were expected to do all subjects in their first year before choosing their preferred subject in Form Two he said it was noted and would be addressed by the curriculum review committee.

Other parents also revealed that pupils found themselves in the prevocational class even when they qualified for other streams due to shortage of spaces in their preferred streams which did not go down well with them.

The headteacher said it was true that the school pride is in the commercials and pure sciences which render these streams to have limited spaces compared to the prevocational class known as class F.

He however clarified that parents are informed of the shortage of spaces in the other streams when they are full. Dlamini said the controversy then arose when the parents wanted to change the pupils from class F to the other classes, adding that such is not allowed by the school.

He said another challenge is that parents want their children to do certain courses only to find in high schools as there is no mather the subject combination offen previous results did not qualify them which also caused the misunderstandings.

The principal also pointed out that there was fear from parents that pupils who chose the prevocational subjects were not going to be accepted in tertiary institutions which he said was

He said some colleges had come out to state that from this year they will be accepting those pupils hence they should not panic. Dlamini encouraged parents and pupils to report irregularities and register their complaints with the school.

Manzini Regional Education Officer Mlimi Mamba when consulted on the issue said the parents should visit his office so they would work out a solution. He stated that he was not aware of the criterion used by the school but the education sector policy does not allow discrimination and segregation of pupils based on their academic performances.

He stated that at times the school and the parents may discuss the options for the pupil but it would be wrong for the school to compel the child to take certain subjects based on their academic performances without engaging them or the parents.

Pupils from the school had mixed feelings about the classes as some said they were happy being in those classes while others said they were unhappy.

A pupil in class C said she would have like to be in class F while others said they hated the class as they would not have a choice to do the subjects that they are currently doing had they been in class F.

A teacher from the school said they were also not clear on the way pupils were allocated classes saying they needed clarity as such seemed to be known by the headteacher and another teacher who is also the boarding master referred to as Cindzi.

Prevocational education pupils not accepted by tertiary institutions

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

revocational education has been received with mixed feelings by both parents and pupils following that most pupils who chose the prevocational subjects were not accepted to tertiary institutions.

Tertiary institutions maintain that the entry requirements have not changed to accommodate prevocational education and may only consider such once the prevocational subjects have been accredited by Cambridge.

Swaziland National Association of Teachers Secretary General Zwelithini Mndzebele also confirmed that parents have mounted pressure on the need for government to speed up the process of getting the prevocational subjects accredited by Cambridge to allow the pupils to qualify for tertiary education.

Reported

He said the ministry reported to have early this year, sent a team to the United Kingdom in line with this move. Mndzebele stated that the ministry would be better placed to report on the progress made thus far and whether pupils would now be accepted or not in tertiary institutions. The non recognition of the prevocational certificate by tertiary institutions had added insult to the injury as parents view such as the end of the academic journey of their children.

The argument advanced in the education sector policy is that for the coun-



try to become regionally and globally competitive, and a major regional exporter of skilled human resources, there is an urgent need to re-position and market technical and vocational education and training.

The ministry acknowledges that currently there is uncertainty about demand for technical education and skills training which is compounded by underenrolment in secondary, prevocational courses and negative perceptions about vocational courses.

"The sub-sector itself is being restructured and graduate flows may be delayed to 2018. This confirms the urgent need for a directive policy and resourcing sufficient to achieve the sub-sector mandate - the sustained flow of skilled graduates in the technical and vocational education," reads part of the education sector policy.

University of Swaziland has also confirmed that prevocational subjects are not considered when high school leavers apply at least till the courses have been accredited by Cambridge. The university only consider IGCSE subjects for admission in high school leavers. Similarly, William Pitcher College also requires that students have at least two credits and four passes in the subjects taught at primary school if they will be primary school teachers

Alluded Subjects the director of Education Dr

Sibongile Dlamini Mntshali says the ministry is working on having prevocational being accredited by Cambridge. She alluded to fact that tertiary institutions did not accept pupils with the prevocational certificates saying they did not recognise the certificate as it is different from the one from Cambridge. She said two colleges being SCOT and Voctim have indicated that will eventually accept pupils who had prevocational certificates and urged parents not

She added that once the prevocational subjects have been accredited other institutions will follow suit and accept the pupils without a hustle. The director speculated that the 2018 cohort maybe the first to obtain accredited certificates.

FAIRYTALES STILL DO EXIST

The two exchanged numbers and a friendship blossomed from then, which later turned into a relationship. The two finally tied the knot last week at Lugogo Sun, in an event where love and laughter warmed the hearts of the family and friends present

BY SAMUKELISIWE GININDZA

ight years ago Lungile Gamedze was walking to work on a Thursday morning in Matsapha when without noticing; her belt fell off and was picked by a kind gentleman who was walking behind her.

Thankful to the soul with a kind heart, the two exchanged numbers and a friendship blossomed from then, which later turned into a relationship.

That 'knight in shining armour' was Mkhosi Dlamini who finally put a ring on Lungile's finger exactly eight years after he picked her belt.

As if to prove to many that fairytales still do exist the two finally tied the knot last week at Lugogo Sun, in an event where love and laughter warmed the hearts of the family and friends





The couple displays their jewellery after the rings exchange. RIGHT - The cake which was glamoured with pearls and yellow roses left most beaming with pride for the two.

present. "From there we exchanged numbers, started talking soon after that, only to start dating a month later and today we are getting married," Mkhosi.

There was clearly love all over

the air at Mkhosi and Lungile's ceremony. Mkhosi, who is a pastor at True Foundation Ministry, is from Shewula in Lubombo while Lungile a counselor at PSI is from Siteki.

It was destiny set in the stars



Lungile Gamedze and Mkhosi Dlamini sealed their eight-year long love story with a wedding held at Lugogo Sun on Saturday, in an event attended by family and friends who came in their numbers to witness them begin a journey of a thousand years together. (Pics: Samukelisiwe Ginindza)

for the two as they grew up in the same area, probably passed each other along the corridors without knowing that one day they would be an item.

"I still do believe in fairytales

because our love story would leave many attesting to that and we hope it inspires them to believe in each other and what they share," Lungile said.

Even their many shares of bad

things they have gone through, the two still found a reason to smile and look forward to the journey worth a million years together as written in their history.



The bride and groom with the bride's mother, sister and brother after the ceremony.

DNLA INVESTMENTS





Maid of Honor Vanessa helps the bride with her hair during the photo shoot. RIGHT - The bride watches as the groom helps her fit in her shoes.

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Manzini: Opposite Satellite Bus Rank Below Hub, Cell: 7639 8839 / 2505 8455



The groom with his friends.



WRITER'S NOTE ..

ood day dear readers and welcome to yet another issue of ASPIRE, your favorite youth section ASPIRE whereby we aim to INSPIRE and motivate young people to be the best that they ASPIRE to be.

In this week's edition, we interview a photographer affectionately known as Pumba.

The youngster who is currently enrolled at Limkokwing University does amazing things on the lense and is certain to achieve more with the work he is putting in. Lindelwe brings you that interview on page 19.

On the following page, we start off things with Junior Achievement pupils from St Mark's who were attached with the Swazi Observer for job shadowing.

They share their experiences on the next page.

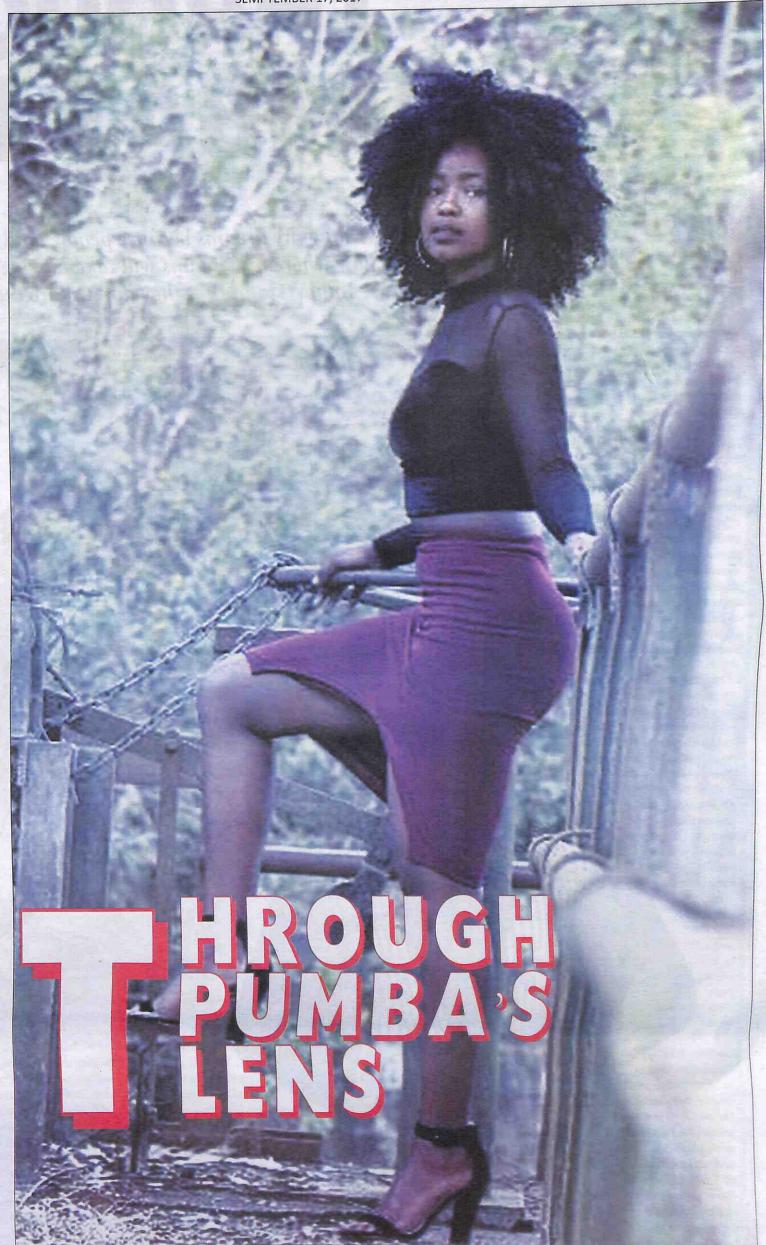
On the following page, we have our regular entertainment feature, the Sunday Podium, courtesy of yours truly and today I look into the issue of Gciniwe Fakudze's appointment into the new mobile telecommunications company Swazi Mobile's top brass.

On the very page, we

On the very page, we also have our poem of the week and 'maweja' writes about reflection.

Thank you very much for the encouraging feedback. For comments and feedback, let converse at sbusisodlaminitheg@gmail.com.
Till next time
Cheers





MAIN INTERVIEW

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

indani Dlamini, widely known to his peers as pumba is a no edit, no slight edit photographer.

Doing his final year at Limkokwing University of Technology where he is pursuing an Associate Degree in Film and TV Production under the Media and Broadcasting Faculty.

"I grew up at Corperation and loved taking pictures quite often, I would take selfies of everything I do, and compare my pictures.

Pumba excelled in photography at school which was one of the modules he studied in 2015, and that's where he started taking note of his skills in photography.

He improved his photography skills by taking on photography assignments and taking people's pictures, to get more understanding of the camera and how it actually works.

He went on to taking pictures for free at ceremonies (weddings) parties of and other events). He says he was advised by a friend of his to creat a Facebook page to showcase his work. That's when things starting looking up for pumba and he eventually decided to buy his own camera, where he would capture moments and post them on his social media pages.

"When I started taking pictures at events for free, a friend of mine suggested I create a Facebook page to showcase my work. That's when people started noticing more of my work, and eventually I bought my own camera in order to get more clients."

It proved to be a good move as more people started booking him for photoshoots.

"My skills started to catch people's attention as Mbali and Mbekezeli gave me a chance at Solanis for the Easter weekend and took I took alluring pictures so they decided to make me the Solanis official photographer, and that's how it all started. This

is when my journey in photography started making the right turns because I began to network with people that would make my brand grow.

He says he

ASPIRES to have h i s o w n studio soon.

don't like revealing my dreams because people tend to laugh at them, but because I know where my dreams will take me, I tend to laugh with them because I understand that they don't share the same vision. So the the next coming years will be hectic as my two silent investors are planning

PHUMBA

THROUGH PUMBA'S LENS

66

"I don't like revealing my dreams because people tend to laugh at them, but because I know where my dreams will take me, I tend to laugh with them because I understand that they don't share the same vision.







these are bypass plans as my pumba caption studio is just around the corner. The brand aims to deliver unforgettable memories for its client." Pumba says he looks up to Daniel Toro, and says he believes he takes

best.
"I look up to Toro, but I am also
inspired by some local creative
photographers. A group of like

quality pictures and is simply the

minded individuals and myself formed a group called SHUTTER BUGS, it's a group of highly skilled photographers who share pictures and ideas. What is good about this group is either you will get a positive or negative response about the picture, and to that I may testify that it has made me a better photographer because I have other creatives to critic my work.

He says finances have been the major challenge so far, but is grateful to close friends and family for help.

I thank the Lord that I have people who support me in the business, financially and mentally. Mum, dad, Machawe, Garfield, kiki and Sito to mention a few, are the people who have supported me financially and provided advice.

Current work done

Recently Pumba has worked with pulse models Swaziland in the charity work when they were with Swazi Mobile, and the grounders market; I also got lucky and had a photo shoot with Miss Teen Swaziland this past week." For bookings, interested clients can send send an email to - lindanidlamini95@gmail.com or contact him on Facebook.

SUNDAY PODIUM

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

ASPIRES PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

to rise

such as

flexible

working

plans,

mentoring

♦his week, Gciniwe Fakudze - the first person to grace the cover of your favourite youth column was unveiled as new mobile telecommunications company Swazi Mobile's Chief Customer Executive.

And as our first cover, we have followed Fakudze's moves with keen interest, and we know that so do many other young people who look up to her as a role model.

She has made a great move that represents a young person and what this section stands for - risk takers who will never fear a challenge!

Gciniwe Fakudze has done what so many of our leaders fail to do which is to challenge themselves, and aim for what they are passionate about! That's why so many people are sad and inefficient in life they aren't doing what they are passionate about.

It's what Fakudze has been able to do - to continuously challenge herself and subsequently better herself as a brand. With this move, she has moved out of her comfort zone and is looking for a challenge. It is what young people do, they do not fear challenges and that's why it is of major importance to involve them if there is any development and progression to take place in a country.

Young people do not want dullness and unimaginativeness which is why a 19-year-old Mark Zuckenburg came up with a better form of communication with Facebook, and why a 19-year-old Kai Kloepfer who is otherwise known as 'the Mark Zuckenburg of guns' aims to curb gun violence by inventing biometrically-activated firearms. in First World coun-

Her move proves a character with guts and insatiable ambition, and this is motivation to young people because if she has done it, then what can stop you? It proves that it's possible for a young person to do great things - through persisting to their goals, and of course working hard towards achieving

This then leads me to my second point - she has shown that women, well young women to be precise - are also fearless and able to take on top executive positions and further excel in the execution of

With Gciniwe's appointment, she represents a new era of women. For so long, there's always been politics towards young women in power. With her, there's none of that. Her hard-work is what has placed her where she is today. No one can ever credit her success to her tribe, religion, surname or any bedroom politics - because it is known that she is a determined risktaker, who works hard to achieve what she sets her sights on. She is to our country what Lettie Pate-White was to the world when she joined Coca-Cola some decades before an amazing Yende women brought me to this earth. It is no secret that despite the calls for gender-equality in the world, our country - the whole continent even, has failed to take action and give more women powerful

positions. Even with programmes

schemes, assertiveness courses and diversity initiatives and cajoling of tries designed all varieties, our country is still falling to encourbehind, as it seems all the attempts a g e are in vain. women

The only ones who have succeeded in making it have been those in their late 50s. Those who will not face the calamities of rushing home after hours to grill steak for the family dinner or be late for an early meeting because of 'issues with the nanny'.

Well Gciniwe represents the success of the new era - and the complete success of this era will also call for the bringing back of those who have managed to bounce back from dropping out because of pregnancy, or those who fell back because of bringing up children.

She had stood up for ageism and big-ups to her for that, and of course a big shout out to Swazi Mobile as well for trusting a young person with a top executive position. We know of others who have been in existence for years and claim to believe in the imperative of gender equality who have however failed to prove that.

Red is the colour of

POEM

REFLECTION

Looking at your mirror What do you see? Is that all you can be? I guess you need to take another look Look carefully

Look into your mirror There's no reflection now! Do you see a doctor? A nurse? A teacher? A woman or man if success? Don't be a victim A victim of your own stupidity aibbs of sino Sorry! In this world there is no room for fools

Buck up and work Work for your future Be strong, hard and sometime bold Survive through it all. Nothing must keep you down Nothing must keep you away Be focused, stay focused Grab hold your future with both hands See your victory com-Embrace your future

Be all you can be As for me I walk with arms outstretched. Grasping through each source of light at the end if the tunnel

My flames burn as I wait to express myself Wait a few years, a day or two. There's more in life for me to do that. That's how I see my reflection.

Reflection

By Welile Mahlalela





BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

his past week, saw the opening of schools following the second term break.

On the very last week of school holidays, we had more

young people joining the Swazi Observer courtesy of the Junior Achievement initiative for job shadowing. This week, we bring you St Mark's students who tell us about their experiences. Enjoy.

ST MARKS STUDENTS SHARE JOB SHADOWING EXPERIENCE



I now consider being a journalist - Bandiswa

Prior to coming here, I wasn't sure what to expect from the whole experience, in fact, I wasn't sure if journalism was a career I really wanted to pursue.

Then when I came here, I learnt that I really enjoy journalism as it is a platform to express oneself on any issue. I am also a creative person and also write books, poems and stories thus I loved how this connected as part of the creative world. I appreciated the people I met and it was a pat on the back every time I saw my name in the newspaper with my article and pictures I took. That really inspired and motivated me to consider being a journalist, probably part-time but it is greatly acknowledged. I met very experienced and helpful people and I appreciate the laughs we always had with the Sunday team.

I learnt that journalism offers one much more than just publishing what the public wants to know, it also allows you to meet interesting

people, just like I met Meshack Maseko, the Brand Manager of MTN, at the SITF. I don't think I would have met him if it wasn't for this opportunity that was provided for me by Swazi Observer and my school. I also spoke to the Minister of Commerce over the phone.

I learnt that an illustrious journalist must publish without fear or favour all news that is in the public's interest whilst you respect the public itself and observe the institution of the country's authority by ensuring that all publication involving their Majesties are factually, culturally and traditionally correct. A true journalist consists of these qualities and more and these qualities were instilled in me during the course of the week. I am very appreciative to the Swazi Observer staff for welcoming us and taking their time to educate, help and INSPIRE us to follow our dreams and be the best people we

I've leant to go for something I'm passionate about - Nelisa

Yee always wondered how being in a work environment feels like, and luckily was fortunate enough to have experienced that whilst still in school.

I assimilated that a work environment isn't just "all work and no play" as some people may suggest, there's actually more to it.

It's more of mastering work ethics, acknowledging the fact that there is a time for everything, a time to work and a time to joke, but it should be more of working than playing if you can't keep up with meeting deadlines.

The career choice that one may opt for, shouldn't be because it's a dead end alternative, rather go for something you are passionate about and feel you will relish for the rest of your life. If you choose a career path because you've heard it's got "good bucks" or maybe because of any other reason then you're probably going down the wrong road, change your mindset or you'll hit rock bottom.

I got the opportunity to go to the Swaziland International

Trade Fair and meet different kinds of people whom I envy not just because they are public figures but because they live in the "world of commerce" the Minister of commerce, trade and industry Jabulani Mabuza being the leading example. I am very much ardent about accounting business information systems so being granted the chance of learning more is like ticking an item off my bucket list.

A corporation named the National Industrial Development Corporation of Swaziland caught my attention, what I liked about this corporation is that it has economic growth as its objective as it promotes new industrialised projects through funding. The NIDCS is not the only corporation I learnt of but also FSE&CC, UNISWA Foundation and more.

I wouldn't say I can't wait to be employed in whatever vocational field but I would say I'm looking forward to it especially with the cordial reception I received upon my stay at the Swazi Observer from the staff to the management.

I will now focus on more than just the entertainment section - Minenhle Ncongwane

o be honest, before I did my job shadowing at Swazi Observer, I never thought of working at any media house let alone read a newspaper.

A week before my experience, if I picked up a newspaper, I would only be browsing through the entertainment section.

This has been a great opportunity and great exposure; this was for us to get a feel of the corporate world and to make right choices unit regard to the careers that we want to pursue. Working for this newspaper has taught me that there's a lot more to being an accountant, its taught me that there are other careers that you can look into, that involve accounting but much more interesting. Just to point out the few things that we did during our time here:

• We went to the Swaziland International Trade Fair

 We got to interview and take pictures of some businesses (NIDCS,FSE&CC,UNSWA UNISWA Foundation)

 We met the Minister of Commerce Jabulani Mabuza



• We met up with the staff of the Swazi Observer, in particular the accounts team.

accounts team.

an informed decision career. I got to work to nomenal woman, The

Talking to the accounts officer gave me a broad view of what she does, and how her job is different from that of the accountant and the cashier. In my mind I had this weird idea that an accountant does everything, and I found that this can be divided into different sections. Going to the trade fair was the focal point of my journey here.I was able to understand the variety of businesses in the country, this will assist me in making

an informed decision about my career. I got to work with a phenomenal woman, Thembeka Dlamini, who has taught me a lot, more than just about business but also a bit of life morals. She was there for us throughout the week, helping us, and introducing us to the right people.

I would like to thank the Swazi Observer, as well as our school St Marks High School, for allowing us this opportunity. This has been a wakeup call for us as we leave high school on what we should expect when we get out there.

ANC'S SINDISO MAGAQA'S TRIBUTE;



Sindiso Magaqa's body arrives at the Ibiis Sports Ground in uMzimkhulu yesterday.



MZIMKHULU, KZN - Former ANC Youth League leader Sindiso Magaqa, who died on 4 September, was laid to rest in Umzimkhulu yester-

Magaqa's family, friends and several high-profile dignitaries were attending the funeral.

Among the mourners were presidential hopefuls, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Lindiwe Sisulu and Zweli Mkhize.

Magaga was injured when he and two other ANC councillors were shot in July at a spaza shop in Mzimkhulu, south of Durban, in July.

He later died in hospital amid speculation that he may have been poisoned following the failed assassination attempt. Autopsy results have not yet been released.

Former ANC Youth League Treasurer, Pule Mabe said at the funeral that Magaqa had dedicated his life to fighting cor-

Mabe was speaking during the funeral service for Magaqa in Umzimkhulu

He said, "One of the messages we must



The late Sindiso Magaqa.

send to the people of South Africa is that killing Magaqa for what he stood for, fighting corruption, being able to report such instances is not necessarily going to deter our generation... Like Magaqa we must display maximum courage. We must also be selfless.'

Mission

Commenting on Magaqa recently, EFF leader Julius Malema said, "In the line of political duty, Magaqa had become a

brother who when even threats of death were made on our lives, he always remained faithful to his convictions and mission. This very feature about him, his bravery and daring personality, may have robbed us of his youthful life.

"May the soul of Sindiso Magaqa rest in a revolutionary and perfect peace. I send my heartfelt condolences to his wife and children, the family and all comrades. eNCA



Magaqa's funeral service.



NO PLACE FOR HITMEN INSIDE THE ANC - MKHIZE

WAZULU-NATAL-ANC Treasurer General Zweli Mkhize has slammed political killings in KwaZulu-Natal.

He was speaking at the funeral service of Sindiso Magaqa in Umzimkhulu, KwaZulu-Natal

We cannot lose comrades and then have fingers pointing inside the ANC, but we can't see who did that. We would like everything to be open comrades so that we know what happened?'

"There is no place for criminals and hitmen inside the ANC," said Zweli Mkhize, ANC Treasurer General.

Magaqa was injured when he and two other ANC councillors were shot in July at a spaza shop in Mzimkhulu, south of Durban, in July.

He later died in hospital amid speculation that he may have been poisoned following the failed assassination attempt. Autopsy results have not yet been released. eNCA



Magaqa 'asked God to save him', says pastor

WAZULUNATAL-As Sindiso style attack in Umzimkhulu in July. Magaqa clung to life after he was critically wounded in a failed assassination attempt, he had 'seen God".

Magaqa, the former secretary-general of the ANC Youth League, relayed his vision to his pastor who had visited his bedside in the Durban hospi-

Magaqa and two others were wounded when the car they were travelling in was riddled with bullets in a hitHe survived the attack, but last week died in hospital. His two colleagues survived but are still in hospital.

Addressing hundreds of mourners yesterday, Pastor Johnson Bavu said that Magaqa had wept in his hospital

Wounded

I went to see him and he wept and said that he had seen our God," he said. He purportedly told the clergyman that as he lay wounded in the bullet-riddled car, he begged God to spare his life.

"He told me that he asked God to save him," he added.

Among the mourners were ANC Treasurer Zweli Mkhize, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba. Small Business Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu was choppered in, arriving on a private charter from Durban's Virginia

Times Live

Magaqa's niece pays emotional tribute to her uncle

WAZULU-NATAL -Sindiso Magaqa's niece has described him as a kind and loving person.

"Uncle used to take us out with him to go have fun. We would eat and play games and have fun. I loved my uncle," said an emotional Yelokazi Magaqa. She said there's no uncle that she loved like her uncle and that he loved her too

and everything. But why did you KwaZulu-Natal. eNCA

died so young? Why did you allow him to die God? Lord what are we going to do at home? But it is fine because you are the creator of every-

Magaqa was injured when he and two other ANC councillors were shot in July at a spaza shop in Mzimkhulu, south of Durban, in July. He later died in hospital.

lagada was laid to rest on Saturday "My uncle was paying for my fees in his hometown in Umzimkhulu,



Sindiso Magaga's mother Khethiwe MaDlamini Magaga at her sons funeral service.





Nontobeko Mbuyane

Fund Development and Communications Manager

id you know that the greatest gift you can give to yourself and everyone around you is caring and sharing?

Sharing in all its forms is a truly powerful way to bring happiness. You can share things that are special to you like a book, food or even clothes. Or even better you can share a smile, a special event in your life, or even your affection. But all in all the fact that you shared something with someone else whether big or small, istruly profound! Sharing is fundamental to the development of all human relationships. We begin learning to share as soon as we are able to communicate. Often it begins with our parents teaching us the importance of sharing a toy with a friend. The greatest joy about sharing is the happiness others feel when you have shared with them. Not only does sharing bring us joy, it teaches us the importance of taking care of others.

Just this past week SOS Children's Villages brought happiness to the lives of children at Ekululameni (St Josephs School). Since SOS Children's Villages has equally committed givers and friends who are willing to share with them, they also share when they have

Through a generous donation of clothes and shoes made by EDCON Group of companies, which has local shops such as Jet, Edgars, CNA, SOS Children's Villages shared with these equally vulnerable children at Ekululameni. This donation was made

to SOS Children's Villages and after all the Village Children were provided and the donation distributed, the remaining pairs of shoes were shared with Ekululameni. Oh, such joy it brought to the children there.

As small as the donation might have been, it allowed SOS to see that there was enough abundance around to share with the people around them.

At the end of the day, SOS Children's Villages also thrives by being given hence as Zig Zigler once said "the more people you can help to get what they want, the easier it will become for you to get what you want".

In this regard of blessing other children in need, SOS Children's Villages hopes to be continuously blessed with givers.

For a fact when you commit to build relationships and help people to achieve their goals and dreams. It is almost like magic begins to happen.

You feel really good and the universe rewards and miraculously the resources, people and everything you need to succeed seem to show up.

And it is for that reason that when there was surplus from our blessings we also went all out to bless other children.

While we understand that sometimes we may not have something material to share but in all honesty a smile, love and even a compliment can bring so much happiness. For example, "you look so pretty today"

These simple words can often make someone feel special and cared for,

HAPPINESS IS SHARING!



and in return, make the one who said them happy.

Sharing is truly a win-win! One of the best things you can share with others is your own happiness. Tell them what made you happy and why. Your story just might inspire a change in them.

The next time something good happens to you, don't keep it to yourself. Share it, because just like smiling, happiness can be contagious! And we continue to thank those who are the reason behind the smiles and happiness of the Children at SOS Children's Villages through their generous donations!

And yes we still are asking you to at least share with SOS Children's Villages just ONE LILANGENI! This you can do by simple dialing *007*03*04*032# or send through mobile money number, **7640** **0273** or through the bank with account details, First National Bank, Account Number: 62372140493 branch code: 280164 Because happiness is shareable, share

with us today!
For more information contact, Nontobeko
Mbuyane on Nontobeko.mbuyane@sosswaziland.org or call +26825058471/1/2/3
and visit our facebook page @SOSSwaziland
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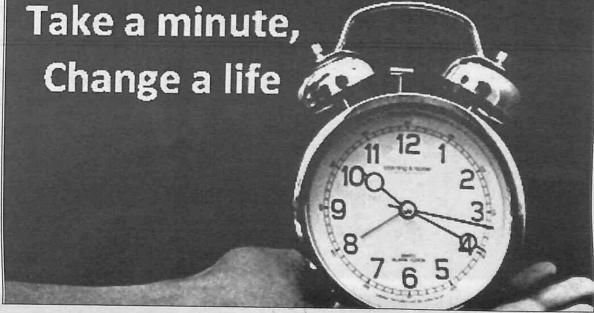
TAKE A MINUTE, CHANGE A LIFE



e would like to thank everyone who made time to visit our stands at the recentlyended International Trade Fair held at Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre.

We had busy but beautiful few days meeting our old customers, registering new ones and chatting to potential ones.

Last Sunday, 10 September was World Suicide Prevention Day and this year's theme was 'Take a Minute, Change a Life,' Many countries commemorated the day by raising awareness the best way they could, with relevant organisations posting messages on social media or organising walks and talks around the unfortunate subject. The day is also very much significant to our country where, increasingly, not a week passes without a few people taking their own lives or attempting to, or considering self-harm as a way to solve their problems. As a healthoriented organisation, and one that also deals with the aftermath of suicides, it is our hope that we all come together to come up with a holistic way to prevent further unnecessary



and preventable loss of life.

The South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) is responsible for raising awareness about the warning signs of suicide, providing free online Facebook chats with experts, as well as providing those that have lost a loved one to suicide with a place to share, connect and get help. They have done a lot of research on suicide and mental health issues in general and they try to generate as much conversation as possible about suicides and mental illnesses. These happen to

be taboo subject, yet it is imperative that we talk about them without ceasing if we are to be of assistance to those affected. The longer we hold off discussions, the worse the repercussions on society. Suicides and mental illness thrive on silence.

Society needs to start understanding that mental illness is a sickness just like broken legs, diabetes, asthma, or any other. Having mental illness does not make one a second-class citizen or worthy of discrimination. Mental illness can be treated, and where it

cannot be treated, it can be managed. When someone breaks a leg, they need medical assistance to fix it; it is time for people to also understand and accept that sometimes people also get broken inside because of environmental factors or because of genetic predisposition. When that happens, they also need human crutches for support and need to get medical assistance to get what is broken fixed. When mental illness is not treated, or when problems are not solved, it might lead to suicide or other loss of life insti-

According to SADAG, 75 per cent of people who attempt suicide give some warning of their intentions to a friend or family member. For that reason, we need to listen closely to what others say and be there for them, point them in the right direction to get help and not say things that drive them over the edge. Sometimes people distance themselves from their loved ones' problems by saying, "pray about it," or "everyone has their own problems to deal with; deal with yours." SADAG also said most suicidal people who called them did not actually want to die but just didn't know how to eliminate their problem. They, therefore, encourage people to not be afraid to say 'are you okay?' 'I'm worried about you', or ask 'are you thinking of hurting yourself?' A simple question might actually make a difference between

Dups adds its voice in encouraging people to take their eyes off Whatsapp and other distractions for a moment, take a look around them, and be supportive to those among us having a really hard time coping with life's problems. Please give us a call on 2505 2028 to find out about Dups products and services. You can also send queries to info@dupsgroup.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter @dupsinsurance or pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlangano, Mbabane, Piggs Peak and Siteki

life and death.

undayObserver

cene

THE SECOND-HAND CLOTHING ISSUE

DOBHA PHANSI

COMPILED BY: Kudzai Chimhungwe | SUB-EDITING BY: Mdubasa

Email: scene@observer.org.sz

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WRITER'S NOTE:



n 2013, a man named Benjamin Hammond Haggerty (aka Macklemore, the rapper) said in his most infamous song, "One man's trash is another man's come up."

"This was a play on the original saying, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." For those of you who don't remember, or who genuinely have no idea what I'm talking about, the song was 'Thrift Shop'. It was basically a song of praise towards the entire second-hand clothing industry.

The song talked about what second-hand shopping clothing is like, although in a somewhat exaggerated manner, and made it seem like the coolest hobby that you could possibly do. From finding unique clothing, to coming across some very bizarre objects, 'Thrift Shop' increased a lot of people's interest in buying clothes, shoes, and furniture that aren't new. Second-hand clothing stores around the world most certainly benefited from the song's positive outlook on the activity.

Thrifting, thrift shopping, or secondhand shopping has been around for a very long time, and the idea behind it even longer. Many of us have received our older siblings' or cousins' old, 'hand-me-down' clothing for the main reason of saving money. And as much as we would complain and whine, our parents would walk off with satisfaction on their faces knowing that they just saved a lot of money.

Affordability is thrifting's biggest advantage. In most people's eyes, an item decreases in value if someone else has previously owned it. So while the average, basic t-shirt can cost anywhere from E50 and upwards at most stores, a second-hand shirt can be as little as E5 depending on where you get it. What person in their right mind wouldn't go for such a bargain?

This week's edition of The Scene is all about second-hand shopping. We are going to talk about quality, pricing, the best items to get second-hand, and the worst. If you weren't a fan of second-hand shopping before, we will convert you, nicely. As you read, remember to keep an open mind and remember that in this case, it's not the journey that counts, but rather the dope clothes and good savings that come with second hand shopping.

Cheers!





hrift shopping, or secondhand shopping is the act of buying clothes, shoes, bags, or furniture that has been previously owned.

Buying a used car is not considered to be thrifting, nor does buying a house that someone else has lived in.

A thrift store, or second-hand shop, is like a sanctuary for things people don't want anymore. This wis not to say that the items in a thrift store are garbage, but that someone simply finds no use for them anymore. Think of yourself, is everything you throw away absolutely useless and damaged?

THE PROBLEM

If you answered yes to that question then you are most likely a hoarder who has trouble letting things go, or EXTREMELY frugal. Either way, you should probably be featured on TLC. Anyway, a lot of people give away or donate items they no longer use, and buy more to replace them almost every year. This creates a cycle of things that are constantly being disposed of, showcasing a perfect example of the wasteful nature of human-kind.

THE SOLUTION

Thrift stores are the perfect solution to this problem. They are shops that resell used and occasionally new clothes and products. The majority of thrift stores receive their inventory from donations from everyday people like you. They also receive some items from high-end retail stores who have failed to completely sell their inventory, although this does not happen often.

Thrift stores and second-hand markets are everywhere because everywhere you go, people are always looking to get rid of old things. Finding them is not difficult. For starters, you can Google "second-hand shops" in your area. The downside of this is that not all trendy second-hand spots can be found on the World Wide Web. So, the easiest thing to do is ask those people who seem to know everything about everything, they should be a good source of info on such matters.

GAME CHANGER

Thrifting is an art, thrifting is a hobby, and thrifting could essentially change your life AND your wallet. But thrifting is not to be taken lightly. You don't just wake up one day and decide you're going to go to the thrift store and then just go. Yeah, sure, you can accidentally

come across a thrift-shop and do a little shopping, but a real secondhand shopper always comes prepared.

Here are some preparation tips to make sure you get the best out of your second-hand shopping adventure:

- Go with an empty bag. Depending on where you go, you're going to buy a lot of stuff. Going with a large empty bag ensures you have something to carry all of your 'new' goodies. If you don't, you'll most likely be walking around with a bunch of tiny bags which will definitely hinder your ability to shop for more clothes
- Set a budget. Choose a number and don't go over that number. Again, that number will vary on where you go. If you go to the second-hand market in Manzini you can make your limit E50 and walk away with a bag full of clothes. Second-hand stores at more formal locations can be a little pricier, but you're still guaranteed to save a lot of money.
- Don't go with high expectations. When you go expecting to find certain types of clothing, you leave room for utter disappointment. Don't go with the mentality that you want to find a purple highwaisted skirt, but rather go with the mentality that you want some new skirts. This is much more conducive and will guarantee that you walk away with some nice finds.
- Bring some hand sanitizer. Again, this depends on where you are going. A lot of second-hand shops and

markets have inventory that is dusty and sometimes a little dirty. Don't let this deter you from getting elbowdeep in a pile of clothes. However, make sure that you come with sanitizer just to ensure a sense of cleanliness.

WHAT IS THRIFT

SHOPPING?

There are a few other things you should keep in mind once you arrive at your selected second-hand destination. While you're shopping, remember these things:

1. Always check for quality. It is useless buying something second hand if it has holes or stains all over it. Don't be afraid to thoroughly inspect whatever you're interested in buying. If you find a hole that you can't fix, or a stain in an obvious spot, put whatever it was down and look for something else. A second-hand shop like Wardrobe at The Gables inspects, washes and irons all of their donations upon arrival. So if you go to a place like that, you are automatically guaranteed quality items. However, market places don't always have that assurance so it's your job to inspect anything carefully before you buy it since there are no refunds or exchanges.

2. Be friendly. Whether it be the owner or employees of a second-hand shop, or vendors at a second-hand market, be friendly. This advice applies more towards a market though. Be empathetic and consider what it's like to spend the whole day in crowded market, trying to sell clothes in order to make a living. Don't make a mess of their stalls or be rude. Always say thank you

before you leave, even if you do not buy anything from them.

3. Don't be afraid to bargain. After you have become used to second-hand markets, you'll find the idea of a sweater for E50 to be expensive. This is where expert bargaining skills come in handy. However, remember that the vendor you are bargaining with also needs to eat at the end of the day. A lot of them are willing to bend the price a little as long as they end up making a profit.

4. Go with a friend. This is said with a little hesitancy, especially if you and your friend have the same sense of style. Because there is only one of everything, you could end up fighting for a piece of clothing if you both like it. However, going with someone can be a lot of fun because you'll both get excited over how much money you are saving. Also, if you run out of money, you can use your friends'.

5. Have fun. There's no use in taking time out of your day to go second-hand shopping if you're going to be too picky or grumpy about the whole situation. Buy something crazy, converse with people, and make sure you get the best experience possible.

Second-hand shopping is a perfect example of 'Don't judge a book by its cover.' There are so many negative opinions about the entire activity. However, if you ignore such opinions and try it out for yourself, you could discover a brand new love!

By Kudzai Chimhungwe



THE PERKS OF BEING THRIFTY

hopping at thrift stores or second-hand shops definitely has more advantages than disadvantages. Some of the numerous benefits include:

1. You save money: Second hand clothes are ALWAYS cheaper than anything you can find in a typical retail store. Style is not about how much something costs, but rather how you wear it and present yourself. If you were to buy the majority of your clothes from second-hand shops and markets, you would save enough money to do more exciting things in life like eating out at a nice restaurant or travelling.

2. You reduce the amount of waste in the world: Most people have heard the saying, 'Reduce. Reuse. Recycle'. Second-hand shopping falls perfectly under the reuse and recycle categories. So many clothes end up dumped and disposed in public areas. Some even end up in the ocean and prove to be harmful for sea life. This only creates more waste and can be very bad for the environment. When you use and purchase products that are being thrown away, you help to reduce waste in the world.

3. You help support local businesses: When you buy clothes from Jet, Woolworths, Edgars and other stores, you are really only supporting the CEOs who own such companies. But when you buy from second-hand shops and markets, you are directly supporting the hard working people in the local community.

4. You can expand your sense of style: The cheap prices means you can afford to try new and different types of clothing and you won't regret buying them if you don't like them since they are so cheap to begin with. Most people stick to certain types of clothes when they go to the store because they can't afford to try something new.

The cheap prices of second-hand



ost people have heard the saying, 'Reduce. Reuse. Recycle'. Second-hand shopping falls perfectly under the reuse and recycle categories. So many clothes end up dumped and disposed in public areas. Some even end up in the ocean and prove to be harmful for sea life. This only creates more waste and can be very bad for the environment.

shops allow you go out of your comfort zone and try new styles frequently.

5. There are good finds all the time: The stigma at second-hand shops and markets means there's not a lot of competition. Coupled with the fact that everyone has a different sense of fashion means that there will always be good finds. It is not hard to find a piece of clothing that is truly iconic in your eyes.

6. Individuality: When you go to a normal store, there are over ten

copies of one item of clothing. This increases the chances of you meeting someone with the same bag, shirt, or jeans as you.

However, second-hand shops guarantee that you will be the only one with a fuzzy blue sweater, or with a bag from a certain brand in the entire country. This is a big bonus for most people.

7. Designer clothing for a fraction of the price: There are tons of namebrand clothes at second-hand businesses.

Style is not about how much something costs, but rather how you wear it and present yourself. If you were to buy the majority of your clothes from second-hand shops and markets, you would save enough money to do more exciting things in life like eating out at a nice restaurant or travelling.



Finding designer clothing, bags, and shoes is quite easy if you just take the time to look. People will think that you're financially ballin', when you've actually spent 1/16 of the actual price.

8. Teaches you to spend money wisely: Why spend hundreds of Emalangeni on clothing when you can find good quality clothing for much cheaper. Secondhand shopping allows you to budget your money and to buy good quality products for cheaper.

9. Less money spent on children's clothing: The affordability of second-hand shopping has already been mentioned, but a separate point needs to be made when it comes to kids. Children outgrow their clothing at such a rate that it is almost criminal to consistently buy them new first-

hand clothes. In addition, they are really good at destroying their clothes when they play, so it makes more sense to buy their clothes second-hand.

10. It's fun: Shopping at a store can be fun, but you always have a general idea about the types of clothing you're going to find. But with thrifting or second-hand shopping, you never know what you're going to find. You can go there with all the expectations in the world and leave feeling surprised that some clothes are even still around.

Overall, thrifting is what you make of it.

If you go into it with a negative attitude, then you will have a terrible experience.

However, if you are open minded, then you will be pleasantly surprised with how much fun you have.

DOBHA PHANSI

People shouting random prices, cramped and occasionally crowded conditions, makeshift canopy tents and noise everywhere. This is what a typical day at the Manzini Market looks like. From afar, it may not appear to be pretty or even

it may not appear to be pretty or even remotely appealing, but this is hands down one of the BEST places to get second-hand clothing.

The average person who knows very little about second-hand clothing will call it the Manzini Market. But those special people who are essentially the elite of thrifting call it DBP. This stands for *DobhaPhansi*, which quite literally means "pick it from the floor." You would only understand this name



if you've actually been there to see what goes down at DBP.

Located next to the main kombi and bus rank in central Manzini, DBP

is one of the top places to get affordable, second-hand clothing in the country. From a distance, all you can see are makeshift tent covers in shades

of black, blue and green that are taken down and put back up on almost a daily basis.

These serve as the only barrier

between the vendors, the clothing, and the shoppers and whatever weather conditions, whether rain or shine, are present at the time.

From a closer look, it is a very busy place. Upon entering, or rather stepping under the large tented area, there are people and merchandise everywhere.

The goods, aka the clothes, shoes and handbags, are organised and arranged on top of those wooden crates that are used to stack food at many grocery stores and wholesale retailers.

Prior to the crates, the clothes were displayed on plastic material on the ground, hence the name *Dobha Phansi*.

Cost

Pricing at DBP is very competitive. Everything will be significantly cheaper there when compared to your typical clothing

A graphic tee that would normally be E100 in a shopping mall can sell as low as E10 at DBP, while a furcoat with a retail value of E500 can easily go for E150.

However, just like most things in life that seem too good to be true, there's a catch. The same product can be sold at different prices according to the vendor. One vendor can sell bras for E25 each while another one five stalls down can be selling them for E10 each.

The best thing to do when you get



there is to walk around and get a general idea of the prices before committing to a purchase. However, if you see something that you truly love, buy it right there and then because it most likely won't be there by the time you come back from compar-

ing prices.

Walking around gives you a good idea of how items are priced, but make sure you don't miss out on a spectacular deal because you're convinced you can get it cheaper somewhere else.

hing to do when you get it most likely wo

s much as it is labelled a second-hand clothing location, a lot of the clothes at DBP are actually new. They may not have the "new clothing" smell that so many of us have grown accustomed to, but the fact that they have never been worn or used renders them new.

NEW CLOTHES AT SECOND-HAND PRICE

These "new" clothes are branded rejects from clothing manufacturers, or simply don't sell in the stores. They travel around the world and some of them end up Swaziland via Maputo. The number of such clothes is so high that you can go to DBP every week and manage to walk away with new clothes every time.

In fact, it's not rare to find the tags still attached on many of the clothes sold there. The market only runs on Wednesdays and Thursdays so many of the vendors have other jobs they do in order to make a living. However, a lot of their time is spent finding clothes to sell on those two magical days of the week. One coat

what it's like to sell clothing at DBP.
"I've been here for four years and I love it because it helps me make an

vendor by the name of Sive explained

It allows me to meet different people which is exciting.



Also, I get to travel to lots of places when I get the clothes I sell here." When asked what he didn't like about being a vendor, Sive said, "I experience different situations and chal-

lenges every day and it can sometimes be very difficult to adjust. However, I work hard and always find solutions to my problems so every day is a good

AMAZING FINDS

o not be deceived by the knee high piles of clothing that you'll see around DBP. Finding good clothes takes a bit of effort, but it is always worth it.

Vendors don't mind you sifting through all of the clothes as long as you don't leave their stall looking messy and disorganised.

Make sure you go through as

many clothes in a pile as you can because the best are typically hidden in the middle.

If you look thoroughly enough, you can easily find name brand clothes without the name brand price.

You can also find a host of designer bags and shoes that look virtually new. Walking away with an amazing find is not hard to do if you have a sharp eye for quality and style.

UNCONVENTIONAL

Regardless of the cheap prices and the relatively good quality of clothing, DBP is still considered unconventional.

Many people, regardless of their skin colour or financial income, still look down upon such places.

They see it as a dirty place where nothing good can come from.

Such mentalities are a great barrier to the success of secondhand clothing businesses.

It is very difficult to change opinions like that, but it is important that people understand that second-hand places like DBP have a very important part to play in society.

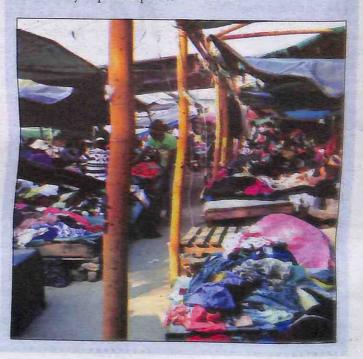
Waste

They help reduce the amount of waste that is created by conventional retailers, and they provide an alternative for people who can't afford to shop at the average store.

DBP may not be for everyone, but it is definitely a place that everyone should check out at least once.

Shopping there does not automatically deem you 'poor', but it will definitely help you save a lot of money in the long run.

Make sure to check out DBP every Wednesday and Thursday near the kombi rank in central Manzini!



DISADVANTAGES

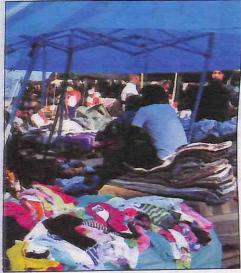
ne of the major drawbacks of DBP is that you can't try on the clothes before buying them.

Some vendors let you try on the clothing on top of the clothes you're already wearing, but this doesn't always give you an accurate idea of how they will actually look and feel once purchased.

Most things like shirts and sweaters are easy to buy without trying on, but this doesn't always work for jeans and pants.

BestTherefore, make sure to know your size and what looks best on your body when shopping there.



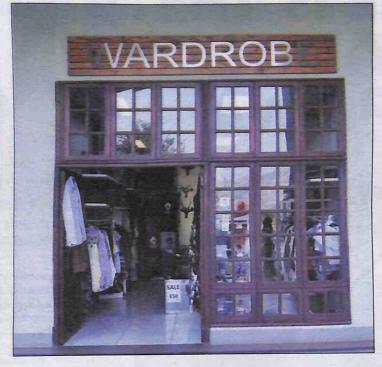




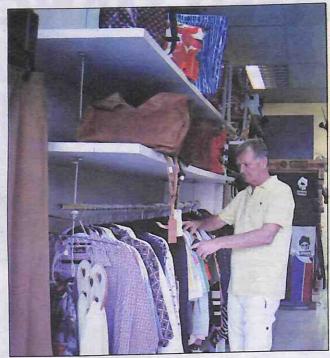
VENDORS

he vendors work hard to draw customers to their stalls by shouting out extremely attractive prices.

This works well for a lot of them since most people turn their heads when they hear that shirts are selling for E3 each. The location of the stall determines how the goods are arranged. Stalls on the outer sides of the market area take advantage of makeshift walls to hang their clothes up while those in the centre pile the clothes up on crates. Despite the appearance of whatever stall you visit, you're guaranteed to save a fortune from shopping there. By Kudzai Chimhungwe



•• 5 ••



SECOND-HAND WITH A TASTE CLASS

oing to shop at markets that sell second-hand clothing isn't ideal for everybody. However, there is an answer for those people who want second-hand let be without having to search

those people who want second-hand clothes without having to search through heaps of clothes. Wardrobe, a nice little shop at The Gables, is the perfect compromise of sophistication and affordability when it comes to second-hand clothing.

New owners Chris and Gugu Ball have most certainly changed the way people see second-hand clothing

Their shop makes second-hand clothing look like Gucci or Channel. Although they've only been in charge of the shop for the past three months, they have worked hard to make it their own, and to make it welcoming for everyone who comes by. Their ownership of the shop is in a way second-hand. "We bought the business with all the stock and all the staff. But my wife, Gugu, has definitely added a lot of new stuff."

FROM TINY STALL TO SUCCESSFUL SHOP

Prior to owning Wardrobe, the couple sold perfumes, creams and other body products. "We had a little stall here [at Gables] for several weeks while we were waiting for a

The stall was outside Shoprite and we sold perfumes. That was the first thing we started selling. We ran the stall for a few months every Saturday while waiting for a shop. We were promised a shop on the Galleria side of Gables but it never happened. However, I'm glad that that didn't work out because this location is so much better for our shop."

The shop's current location is perfect because it means it's visible to almost everyone who visits The

"We are located right between

Second-hand shopping is still considered a controversial topic. There are those who look down upon it and see it as distasteful. Chris responded to this by saying, "Some people will never change their mind. And to the others, we show them what we have to offer. A lot of the second hand stuff is original. You won't find anything else like them.

Clicks and Woolworths which are two of the biggest stores here so we definitely get a lot of traffic." Chris doesn't feel intimidated by the fact that his shop is located between the two big retail stores, but rather uses the location to his advantage by attracting more customers.

The shop isn't their main source of income as they both have other jobs. Chris is a therapist who specialises in craniosacral therapy while Gugu works for the UN here in Swaziland. "Being a therapist is quite a long, long way from second-hand clothing. But my wife was the driving force behind the start-up." Although working for one of the biggest humanitarian organisations in the world, Gugu wanted to do more with her life aside from her work

The couple took over the shop during the winter and has been working hard ever since to constantly improve it.

"I've been here since the beginning of July. The previous owner decided to sell this shop, so I took over. It has been really good being here, and also quite an experience since this is my first time doing anything like this so there's been a big learning curve."

Managing a new business has had its ups and downs, but overall, Chris and Gugu have been doing a stellar job. "My wife has a lot of clients here so that has really helped our business.

Since she's a Swazi she has built

up a lot of clients, including some of her friends."

INVENTORY

The inventory at Wardrobe is a mixture of something new, something old, and something borrowed. "Approximately half of the stuff in here is second-hand and the other is new. It's a nice combination. We have been doing very well because Gugu knows what people want here," explained Chris.

"We actually have a local fashion designer whose stuff we stock here." The designer's name is Zama Sibiya and her line is called Ethnic Wear. It features a variety of clothing with a traditional twist for any occasion.

"A lot of the [second-hand clothes] come from Europe which means the quality is very good. They come to Swaziland via Maputo, then we go from here to Maputo to get them. We also get somepeople who want to get something in exchange for their barely-worn second hand clothing." Wardrobe does also accept donations. Regardless of where the clothes come from, they are all examined for quality, washed and ironed before being put out on display.

ORIGINALITY

Second-hand shopping is still considered a controversial topic. There are those who look down upon it and see it as distasteful. Chris responded to this by saying, "Some people will never change their mind. And to the others, we show them what

we have to offer. A lot of the second hand stuff is original. You won't find anything else like them. Some people will go to Woolworths next door and find something nice, but you'll find a few other people in the same area wearing the exact same thing. You can almost guarantee that you won't find another one of whatever we have in the shop."

Whether you go to a market or to a shop like Wardrobe, second-hand clothing is a booming business. There's a big market for secondhand clothes in Swaziland. The market in Manzini is a good example. If you've got the patience you can find some really incredible stuff. But some people don't want to sit there and sift through all of those clothes. On top of that, the clothes don't always look good because they haven't been washed and ironed. Some people don't want that. They would rather pay a bit more and come to a place like here."

One of the employees at Wardrobe, Joseph Tsela, described his experience working there. "I've been here for two years now. I really like it here. I get to see new people all the time and it's quite an experience seeing how the customers interact with the clothes. I also buy some of the clothes myself."

When asked how we would help expand the business, Joseph said, "Marketing the products is the best way to do that. Social media like Facebook and even the newspaper can help people to know what is going on with the store." The shop hopes to increase their social media presence so that the community at large can be informed about the store.

To get updates on what's happening at Wardrobe, visit their Facebook page: Wardrobe.sd

By Kudzai Chimhungwe

REED DANCE IS THE BEST - MS AFRICA FINALIST PHIWA

S Africa Top 10 finalist and South African based Swazi Model, Phiwa Tshangela says the Reed Dance is one of the best cultural activities which, if well promoted, has the potential to significantly increase the number of international visitors coming to the

The model, who was also among the multitudes of people who came from all walks of life to witness the Reed Dance, praised His Majesty King Mswati III and Her Majesty Indlovukazi for ensuring the country continues to observe this important culture practice which seeks to protect and nurture the girl child.

She said the King and Her Majesty continue to be the best ambassadors for Swazi culture even at a global level. "Our unique traditions have made the country wellknown worldwide. As a citizen and a representative of the country at the Ms Africa contest I am honoured to be a citizen of this beautiful country with its rich heritage, concomitantly I am committed towards representing my country the best way possible, culturally, and in all other ways befitting my queen status" she said. She noted that the beauty of the Swazi



tradition is that it fuses important values for a specific target group with the beauty of music wherein the lyrics of the songs sang at the Reed Dance reinforce positive behaviour which embrace a value system that encourages abstaining from all behaviour that could disrupt positive development of that specific target group. "Through relevant lyrics, the songs also endorse the love of the King and Her Majesty and specifically the culture. The songs also promote and motivate the nation on a

number of issues including gender and other related issues" she added.

She noted that a number of Swazi cultural activities remain unique which needs to be used to the country's advantage, for instance used as a major draw card to attract tourists to Swaziland. "Most countries pay little attention and emphasis towards their traditions choosing to adopt more contemporary lifestyles. Swaziland is one of the very few countries to place cultural traditions in the spotlight with



MS Africa Finalist Phiwa Tshangela with her siblings during the Reed Dance Ceremony at Ludzidzini Royal residence.

their colorful ceremonies, as a result of this Swazi traditional cultural events have become a global phenomenon. The country needs to take advantage of such activities and aggressively market the country to the international arena" she added. The reed dance which ended on a high note last Sunday attracted over 100 000 maidens from around the country and beyond the borders, they all came to celebrate their chastity. The ceremony also attracted scores of tourists from many parts of the world including celebrities from South Africa. International media from a number of news publication houses also descended upon the Kingdom to witness this ceremony. Meanwhile Phiwa is in the running for the crown of the Ms Africa where the four divisional

Africa winners as well as the continental and country winners will go on to represent Africa and most of the 54 countries at the prestigious International Mrs. and Miss Pageant. The Africa pageant will produce role models and the winners will play a significant role in the promotion of tourism and they will be involved in humanitarian work, focusing on skills development, education, job creation, entrepreneurial support and medical volunteer work to uplift their countries. The finalists' select are women representing the various age divisions. The finalists' were chosen from each African country, based on photos submitted and their entry form received. These ladies will then go through to the finals in South Africa from October 29 -November 5.

BISHOP T.D. JAKES, JILL SCOTT, JOYOUS CELEBRATIONS FOR 2017 ESSENCE FESTIVAL

ocal music and fun lovers who want to take time out and visit ■ the warmest place to be, Durban, will be glad to learn that the 2017 Essence Festival Durban in South Africa happening at the end of September promises to be one of the best as it will see the likes of USA Evangelist Bishop T.D. Jakes, Rev. Al Sharpton, song stress Jill Scott and the sensational Joyous Celebrations among the many artists lined up for the festival.

Hosted by the Durban Tourism in conjunction with the Ethekwini Municipality among other stakeholders, the festival will be held in different venues including the ICC Durban and the iconic Moses Mabhida among others from September 26 to October 1. Happening on across three days, the event will also has a host of motivational speakers including the likes of South African billionaire Vivian Reddy who is Chairman and Founder - Edison Power Group, Actress, Model, Media Personality Nomzamo Mbatha and Fred Khumalo Journalist, Author among other high profile speakers lined up for the festival. ESSENCE Festival Durban is a jam-packed interactive weekend of experiences that celebrate South African culture through entertainment, stimulating conversation, food, art, fashion and much more. The weekend also places a specific focus on serving as a safe space for black women to kick back and flourish.

The event, which is the second leg of such, will also have a night of fun dubbed 'All-Star Concert' which will feature the likes of Mi-Casa, an award-



Vivian Reddy.



formed in 2010 with a signature sound that enabled us to reach a global audience. DJ, keyboardist Dr Duda, singer/songwriter J'Something and trumpeter Mo-T form the award winning ensemble. Also lined up in this session is Nasty C, a talented rapper, songwriter and record producer who is known for his single, "Way It Go." Another notable artist on the line is Babes Wodumo, the multitalented South African dancer, model and

Kwaito artist who is quickly rising to

the top of the South African music

Nomzamo Mbatha.

winning South African band that was

Phuti Mahanyele.

scene. One of her famous tracks in her debut album, Gqom Queen Vol. 1, was released in 2016. The incredible artist also lined up

for the event is Khuzani whose performance is described as a one-of-akind musical experience. The talented instrumentalist and 2017 South African Music Award winner is a fanfavorite in South Africa and gaining even more listeners with the release of his latest single "Isixaxa Samaxoki.

There will also be an all-star praise and music session featuring Joyous Celebration, the reknown inspira-



Babes Wodumo.

tional music extravaganza, which comprises of loving interpretations of existing spirituals, traditional hymns and original compositions, all produced by the magical combination of its founders.

Another session of note will be the 'Daytime Experience: Beauty and Style Stage' where the fashion in Durban is truly second to none.

The Beauty and Style stage will bring to spectators and fashion lovers, live demonstrations, informative conversations and plenty of tips from



beauty and fashion experts. In addition people will have the chance to strut their stuff during the infamous street style fashion show that closes out the stage each day.

Business people and aspiring entrepreneurs are also not left out as there is the Daytime Experience session dubbed 'Business Talks'. At this forum people will hear from some of South Africa's most notable business executives and entrepreneurs as they share advice on taking careers to the next level and open up about their roads to success. This year's speakers include Phuti Mahanyele, Dr. Judy Dlamini, Johanna Mukoki among others.

Stories by Simon Shabangu



BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA

orn in Vuvulane, a small

town north of the

That was music pro-

duction. The minute

he heard about how

he can also create

his own melodies

and songs using a

number of softwares,

the dream was sold!

Finally he had found

something to challenge

his mind during his dull

days, producing music.

Thulani (the colleague)

mentioned the Antidotes,

who were a bit familiar to

Lungelo but never knew much

about them. He said they were

a group of young men, with a

number of them residing around

the city of Mbabane. To tell the

truth, that was inspiration on

its own. Knowing that the

Antidotes were not old folks but

young inspired music produc-

ers, that was the ultimate type

of inspiration a person like

Lungelo would hope for. A very

amazed Lungelo wanted to know

more about these guys, who pro-

duced a number of tracks that

stole his ear and soul. He's been

Along those lines,

Lubombo region.

UPCOMING PROJECT

Bundu Escape EP

- 1. Propper_Ganda Save The Kids From Darkside
- Propper_Ganda Shenzhen Canton To be released on Audio Arque Records (South Africa) before the end of 2017

UPCOMING EVENT

The Black Indibano

pring is here and to show that one can not wait for the winter season to pass is to put on those light clothes and dancing shoes, party through the blissful night of spring in style!

Element Deep Project Musique (EDPM) together with Antidote Music and Ron-Deh-Voo has come up with this amazing idea of sharing the knowledge of the music industry amongst other artists, upcoming Djs from Limkokwing University and the masses at large. The cover charge on the day will be split into two, Student ID E40 an normal fee E70.

The Black Indibano is translated as the black gathering. It is actually a phrase derived from a combination of both siSwati and the English language. In most events, people get to make friends, meet old friends or even make business associates, this is proof that gatherings are a way of life and essential, not just to artists only but, to human beings in generally. We dubbed the event The Black Indibano to accommodate that need of not only to gather, but to actually meet and make friendship with other people in centauries like these.

Artists to perform on the Day There are three different sets of groups who will jointly provide entertainment to the masses, namely. Antidote Music: (Mmely//Secret

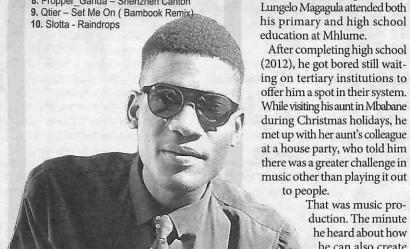
Souls//!Sooks)

Limko's Finest : (Ace4nic//Bay-Bash (Hip-Hop)//Master Jack//Propper_Ganda//Yam-Yam Supporting DJs: (Dj Ali//Dj

Venue: Ron-Deh-Voo Date: September 23 Time: 3pm till late

TOP TEN TRACKS

- 1. Hird Ft. Yukimi Nagano Keep YouKimi . Yam-Yam - The Untitled Song
- 3. !Sooks ITKWD (Secret Souls Remix) 4. Czar Ft. S-Tone - Let It Be (Gruv
- Basement Remix)
- 5. Martin Dexo & Xero feat Narno Tarne The
- 6. J Diesel English Please
- 7. Propper_Ganda Here Comes Traffic
- 8. Propper_Ganda Shenzhen Canton





Halfway through 2013, he got one of the music production softwares, which was fruity loops of course. Since that day he has not looked back.

SUCCESS OCCURS WHEN OPPORTUNITY MEETS PREPARATION

Making a couple of projects along the pipelines, Propper_Ganda released his first single [Voices] which was accompanied by a marvel remix by Martin Dexo [4th Groove Rec] and Element Deep Project [EDPM Rec]. Year 2014, while studying matric in South Africa, Propper_Ganda met two other "potential" producers and formed a group The Frantics[Nash La Musica and St. Ozz].

"If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together." This African proverb was put to test by Propper_Ganda with no disrespect to The Frantics, but to polish up his craft and by year 2015, he released a three track solo EP [Fable Beings EP] which he got an overwhelming feedback as it was still early hours in the industry. So after those few releases he would promo out tracks to relevant people including the Antidotes for feed-

He continued to play around

with ideas in studio and on last year he decided to release two singles [KontrolFreak andHere Comes Traffic] which have received a lot of love from his Soundcloud followers. Late 2016 he returned the favour to 4th Groove Rec's Artist, Martin Dexo who came forth with a release titled "I Believe" [4th Groove Rec], with interpretations from Propper_Ganda and Xero (yet to be released.)

With the deep house music industry in Swaziland taking its shape, Propper_Ganda clearly does not want to be left out of the movement with his latest feature on Swaziland's very first deep house sampler courtesy of Antidote Music [Kingdom Vault Series 1:Deep House]. Honoured to release among the talented deep house producers [!Sooks& Secret Souls], He features with a song titled "Bud", the dub version.

Facebook: Propper_Ganda The Element

Twitter: @Propperganda sound-Soundcloud: cloud.com/propper_ganda

Instagram: @propper_ganda Email.com: elementdeepprojectmusique@gmail.com

CATCHING UP WITH ANTIDOTE MUSIC

pring season is upon us, summer is about to creep in on the horizon and one of Swaziland's leading dance music and digital record labels is pulling all the stops to make sure that dance floors are packed to capacity.

Following the pre-release of Slotta's T.H.I.S EP, the infectious dance release is now available on all major digital music stores and streaming sites.

The release features four hot tracks composed, arranged, produced and mixed by Slotta himself. All or Nothing, one of the singles from T.H.I.S EP, debuted Deeper Shades of House radio show No. 585. For those who may not be familiar, the Deeper Shades of House radio show is one the most internationally followed house music podcasts and is hosted by Lars Behrenroth. Moreover, the release has received overwhelming positive feedback from house music patrons as well as some of the industry heavyweights.

Here are some of the comments from well-renown DJs and producers within

he release features four hot tracks composed, arranged, produced and mixed by Slotta himself. All or Nothing, one of the singles from T.H.I.S EP, debuted Deeper Shades of House radio show No. 585.



the house music scene:

Vinny Da Vinci: "TOP E.P. all round!!!" - Favourite Track: Slotta - Swazi Garrison. Clive Bean: "Raindrops caught my attention so much I can't think of the next time in my set, should be fire. Dope package!" Favourite Track: Slotta - Raindrops. Bruce Loko: "Amazing." - Favourite Track: Slotta - Swazi Garrison.

Essential i: "Raindrops is my favorite track. Smooth production guys. Well done!" - Favorite Track: Slotta - Raindrops. DJ T-Deep: "Great work."

Loz Goddard: "Absolutely solid EP here, especially Swazi Garrison & Lit Sunsets! Will definitely be supporting these at shows & on the radio." - Favorite Track: Slotta -Swazi Garrison.

!Sooks's Swiss Machine

omething else to look forward to on Antidote Music's catalogue is the Swiss Machine Remixes.

Taken from !Sooks' debut EP, 7 Years of Colour, Swiss Machine gets some stellar redressing from USA based Phasen, Argentina's Jero Nougues and Avi Subban from South Africa. This upcoming release will be available as a pre-release on Traxsource on 6th of October and will be available worldwide on all major digital music stores and streaming sites on the 20th October 2017. One last notable mention goes to one of Antidote Music's artists and Swaziland's very own, Secret Souls, who were featured on the producer's corner on the Urban Beat radio show on Metro FM on the 1st September. During the show,



an insert profiling Secret Souls was played along with some of their music. Clearly, house music in the kingdom is taking great strides globally. For more updates follow Antidote Music on Instagram (@antidotemusic), Twitter (@The_AntidotesSZ) and like their page on Facebook.

WISEMAN, NONDUMISO SAY

iseman Ngwenya officially tied the knot with the love of his life Nondumiso Dlamini at a colourful wedding ceremony held at lovebirds who are both teachers

Greyhound at Ezulwini. Family members and friends from both sides came together

Pastor Zacharia Mthethwa united the two lovers who are both to witness the union of the two members of the African Evangelical

Church (AEC). After the ceremony the couple proceeded to the Royal Swazi Spa gardens for by profession. United

a photo shoot. (Courtesy pics)

















MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



The headline of the top story in the Times of Swaziland, September 8, 2017, read: UNISWA CLOSED AS STUDENT RIOT TURNS NASTY.

And here is the lead of the story, its first sentence: "Shattered glass, an overturned police vehicle and rocks thrown all over the place is what was left after a clash between cops and students of the University of Swaziland, Luyengo Campus."

That lead led me to do one thing I've wanted to do for quite some time, now: Visit the file which contains cases of the error of subject-verb disagreement, S-VD, for short, and try to offload it. No doubt, you can spot the S-VD in that lead. Quickly, let me revise the sentence and highlight the particular element which has been corrected in it: "Shattered glass, an overturned police vehicle and rocks thrown all over the place ARE the aftermath of a clash between cops and students of the University of Swaziland, Luyengo Campus."

In the original sentence, we have a subject which comprised three items, one of which was even plural. But the verb that followed the subject was "is." This, of course, is in error, because of the fundamental syntactic principle of agreement between a subject and its verb. That incorrect verb, "is," which is singular, just had to give way to the correct one, "are," which is plural.

We need to note, however, that many a grammarian would argue that the job is not complete by just changing the singular "is" to the plural "are." That is because the tense of the verb still has a ring about it, so to say. Instead of leaving it in the present tense, "are," it should be in the past tense, "were."

By the way, another element was also changed in the sentence under review, to wit, the phrase, "what was left after." These four words were reduced to just one word: "aftermath." This is defined by one popular dictionary as, "the situation that exists as a result of an important (and usually unpleasant) event."

No doubt, a clash of that nature was a very unpleasant event. But I digress.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY MAJOR CAUSE FOR SCHOOL DROPOUTS – UNFPA was the headline of a news story in the Sunday Observer of July 26, 2017. The second paragraph of the story reads,

AND S-VD REIGNS SUPREME!

thus: "The officer in charge assistant representative (sic) stated that like most African countries, Swaziland has a very youthful population, with about 34 per cent of the population between 10 and 24, which according to UNFPA translates to over 400 000 young Swazis. Thwala-Tembe said if proper investment in their education and health are made the country can achieve its full potential for economic growth."

If you peruse the second sentence in that paragraph, you will find one case of S-VD. The verb in that sentence is "are." But what exactly is the subject of the sentence? What has happened here is very easy to see. The writer has taken the two elements, "their education and health," as the subject, hence, the plural verb, "are."

But that is wrong. The simple subject of the sentence is "investment," which is singular. This is the element that must guide the nature of the verb, not the complete subject, which is, "proper investment in their education and health."

Accordingly, the sentence needs to be revised, thus: "Thwala-Tembe said if proper investment in their education and health is made, the country can achieve its full potential for economic growth."

The S-VD in the following sentence is quite glaring, I daresay: "Ramaphosa's camp believe the story was planted and that the emails have been leaked and circulated to coincide with what many believe would be the beginning of the nominations." This is the sixth paragraph of the top story in the City Press of September 3, 2017 with the headline, IT'S OPEN SEASON FOR THE ANC'S DIRTY TRICKS.

As you can see, "Ramaphosa's camp," which is the subject of the sentence, is singular, but the verb, "believe," is plural. This is a very glaring case of S-VD because the verb follows its subject immediately. The error should be righted, accordingly: "Ramaphosa's camp believes the story was planted..."

On August 17, 2017 the lead story in The Star bore the headline, MUGABE'S R45M SA PAD.

To the headline is an interrogatory rider which reads: "Is Zim first lady securing her future?" Here is the first sentence of the second paragraph of the story reads: "The news come against the background of a national outrage over allegations she assaulted a 20-year old Joburg model she found with her two sons at a hotel on Sunday."

Quite a number of words do masquerade as plural in number; but they are, indeed, singular. The word "news" is one of such lexical masquerades! Never be misled to dance to the tune of this masquerade by using a plural verb after it.

The S-VD needs to be corrected by revising the sentence, thus: "The news COMES against the background of a national outrage over allegations she assaulted a 20-year old Joburg model she found with her two sons at a hotel on Sunday."

You can find exactly the same error in the following sentence: "Thursday, this week marked a painful day when the whole world stood still, wondering whether the news from Paris WERE true or false."

This is the opening sentence in an opinion piece with the title, TEARS FOR PRINCESS DIANA 20 YEARS ON, Times of Swaziland, September3,

2017

The S-VD, as you can see, has been cast in capital letters. "News," to reiterate, is a lexical masquerade: It looks like a plural word, but it actually singular in number. Never use a plural verb after it.

Maybe, instead of talking about S-VD reigning supreme, we should talk about lexical masquerades, especially, "news," misleading supremely! Check this out: "The difference between news media and other forms of media is that the former convinces us that news are not a form of entertainment, but something far more crucially- important information (sic) that we consume in order to better understand our world, as opposed to the pure, macabre entertainment we associate with other forms of media."

That is an excerpt from a feature in the Swazi Observer of May 3, 2017, one titled, THE ROLE OF NEWS MEDIA.

There you can see the lexical masquerade, "news," at its beguiling best! Come on, never fall for it! "Never be led to say, "News ARE not a form of entertainment." This is S-VD par excellence! The correct thing to say is: "News IS not a form of entertainment."

Let me highlight the culpable elements in the following sentence, so that you can see the S-VD, without much ado.

"If there ever was doubt that our nation is facing a leadership crisis, EVENTS surrounding the charging of Finance Minister Pravin Gordham HAS put paid to them." This is the first sentence in a commentary in The Star of October 25, 2016, with the title, "Our country is in a leadership crisis."

You can readily see the two partners in crime: EVENTS and HAS! A plausible explanation for this error, methinks, is the fact that the subject of the sentence, "events," has been separated from the verb, "has," by a long phrase. Besides, the phrase contains the gerund or participial noun, "charging," which is singular.

All that notwithstanding, we must be able to determine the correct verb that should follow the subject of our sentence. The plural subject, "events," can only be followed by a plural verb, "have." Accordingly, the sentence should be revised to correct the S-VD, thus: "If there ever was doubt that our nation is facing a leadership crisis, EVENTS surrounding the charging of Finance Minister Pravin Gordham HAVE put paid to them."

The following are two bullet points from an article in the Times of Swaziland SUNDAY, July 24, 2016, with the title, TRUTH ABOUT DEMOCRACY. First bullet point: "True democracy respect the fundamental rights and the universality thereof. Second bullet point: "True democracy respect the doctrine of separation of powers."

It is quite easy to see the error. In both cases the singular subject, "democracy," has taken on the plural verb, "respect." Democracy should take on the singular verb, "respects."

What is true of errors, generally, is equally true of the error of Subject-Verb Disagreement, particularly: We cannot eliminate it.

But we can attenuate the reign of SV-D by always crosschecking the subject in our sentence with its verb, with particular regard to the nature of the noun that forms our subject.



EDUCATORS CORNERWith Gadinkosi Dube

SCHOOLS SHOULD FOCUS MORE ON LIFE SKILLS

A ll educational institutions should make a concerted effort in teaching and promoting life skills.

In order to produce professionals with sound morals, logic thinking, and innovative ability then our life-orientation skills programme should be taught simultaneously with the core modules for the different educational disciplines.

Let us not forget that the major purpose of acquiring an education is for one to attain the necessary knowledge, skills and attitude so as to play a contributory role in improving their immediate environment and that of the broader society.

If education is not a viable tool to improve our quality of life and of those around us, then it becomes a wasted investment and time-depleting activity.

Life skills enable learners to be easily and suitably integrated within the country's workforce and the general

populace.

BASIC SKILLS

There are a number of fundamental skills that our learners should have at their fingertips these include: Leadership effectiveness, interpersonal, presentation, communication, financial management, technical writing, analytical and problem solving skills to name but a few. Such skills cannot be easily absorbed from a piece of literature or book However, continuous practice can help cultivate these, making the learner more skilloriented and confident in the long term. Mastering the skill is good but being well-versed in its application is excellent. In actual fact institutions should focus their efforts in creating enthusiasts who believe in doing things or taking action other than merely knowing things for the lame purpose of rendering lip-service.

The minimal practice of entrepreneurship and private business in our national community can be attributed to the skills deficit that dates back

as early as elementary level.

One doesn't only need the basic knowledge about a certain trade or industry but numerous factors can affect professional progress. Promotions, performance appraisals and organisational growth are all linked to the skills set of the workforce in most commercial or industrial structures.

'Hard-knock' education

Those who acquired informal education through their life experiences can attest to the fact that invaluable skills are learned in the process of hustling and bustling in pursuit of ones goals.

Experiential learning doesn't only enrich the individual with a new wealth of knowledge but the skill of emotional maturity normally termed as emotional intelligence in academic corridors also takes form.

It is highly unlikely that most people will use knowledge to judge ones level of competency and proficiency. However, the set of skills that give them the competitive edge or an added advantage over their fellow colleagues can be used.

ASSESSMENTS BY INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL

IT'S NOT JUST AN ACADEMIC INSTITUTION,

IT'S A SCHOOL OF LIFE

Job-shadowing programs should start as early as Standard Five or Grade Seven so that learners can slowly acclimatise to the practical component of the career they desire to pursue. This will help eliminate misconceptions of career prospects and make them accustomed to the glaring realities of industry at an earlier age.

Industrial personnel should be invited to schools not only to shed light on career guidance or to give motivational talks but to also teach a few key sections of the syllabus since they have practical insight on some subject matters. To promote skill development further, industrial personnel can also contribute in the preparation and setting of assessments like examinations and projects. This will ensure that the skills acquired by learners are aligned with corporate needs. Therefore advisory boards should also be formulated with a large fraction of the board members being industrial officials.

EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITIES

In order to avoid the incident of

producing 'academic winners' and 'social losers' additional activities besides academic work should be undertaken by the learner. More often than not, we tend to prioritise academic activities and place extra mural activities at the bottom of the list. We shouldn't forget that our learners live in a socially interactive global community. Extra mural activities promote, team adhesion, social outreach, interpersonal and people skills.

Let's not produce academic geniuses who are social robots. Such practices are detrimental to the learner's health in the long term. Ours is to help educate learners not indoctrinate or brainwash them to become socially incompatible. Schools should be fun and well balanced in this regard. Parents should also be encouraged to monitor their children's academic and social activities. Both educators and parents should act as pillars of support for the learner's social interaction activities. The social stratification of individuals i.e. nerds, party animals, dunderheads etc. are labels that emanate from the existing imbalance between academic work and life or social skills in our scholars.

IS GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA ROOTED IN LOCAL REALITIES?

BY SHOBHA SHUKLA, CNS (CITIZEN NEWS SERVICE)

lobal processes for development should be rooted in and informed by the grassroots movements. But is there a gap or disconnection? Can we do better to ensure that development discourses at all levels are plugged in affected communities on the front-

Governments often fail to, meaningfully and centrally, engage the people on the ground, in processes around global agendas (like Agenda 2030); or how such policies will impact their daily lives. Reasey Seng, who is the programme coordinator at SILAKA in Cambodia, strives to link the two, with a view to achieve development justice. She spoke with CNS (Citizen News Service) on the challenges she and other women activists face in today's times in plugging the loopholes, and the way forward. Reasey Seng is also among the key participants at the forthcoming 3rd Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF 2017), to be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand (7-9 September 2017). There is indeed an urgent need to raise awareness of the ordinary people around sustainable development goals (SDGs). From her first-hand experience of working with very diverse groups like farmers, university students, urban working women, poor women and others, Reasey knows that most people have no idea of what SDGs are



and how they are linked to their daily lives and work. Unless the discussions that take place at the UN are conveyed to them in a simplified language, unless there are meaningful consultations with the people, and unless their inputs are fed into global discussions, realization of the SDGs is likely to remain a faroff dream. Reasey's main responsibility is to facilitate the work of women's organisations with government agencies to increase women's participation in politics and decision making, so as to ensure that government laws and policies are gender sensitive and respond to the needs of the women on the ground. She also works with young women activists at the subnational level, and with women at the local commune council level so that they can play their role effectively in ensuring a

women's agenda at the commune level.

To help achieve Agenda 2030, initiating a dialogue at grassroots and local levels around SDGs is important. Governments and NGOs must raise awareness in their various constituencies on what SDGs are and how they are going to impact their lives. Once this is explained to the people in simple words (and not in a difficult-to-understand technical language), they will be able to actively engage around the challenges and systemic barriers they encounter in their daily lives and also suggest workable solutions. They must also be involved with monitoring and review of the Agenda 2030 processes. A meaningful people's involvement will help in localization of the sustainable development process, which is so very essential to achieve the SDGs, by leaving no one behind.

HIGH LEVEL DISCOURSES MUST BE TUNED TO LOCAL VOICES!

It is really important to plug the grassroots movements into global processes like the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) if we want to achieve development justice, feels Reasey. "As it is a global agenda, all people must be an integral part of it. It just cannot be a few select leaders deciding for the rest of us. To me it seems as if we do not have the right to take our own decisions to see the world we want to see. Everything seems to be depending on the decisions of an elite group of people who decide for us the kind of world they want us to live in. But the world is not a place merely for a group of people who own everything. So it becomes all the more important to include the voices of the grassroots into the negotiations at the global level. You cannot ignore the people just because they might lack the capacity to write the policy, or the capacity to speak your language. They are the ones who know the reality and the problems at the ground. You as leaders must pay heed to these realities and hear their problems, so that you take action to have a just society for people to live".

NO END TO COLONIZATION: ITS NEW FORM GRIPS REGION

The Asia Pacific region, including Cambodia, is witnessing a new form of colonization - the economic

colonization - which is dominated by the corporations and where profit becomes more important than people's welfare. All social services like health, education and water and other services are getting privatized in Cambodia, like elsewhere. This affects mostly the poor, especially poor women as they are doubly disadvantaged as a group - being women as well as poor, said Reasey.

FAIR DISTRIBUTION IS INTEGRAL OF DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE

It seems as if for most governments, it is about 'people for development' and not 'development for the people'. But Reasey rightly believes that development justice is not only about equality, it is also about fair distribution. It is about having a society where citizens have the power to put people's interests, and not corporate interests, centrestage; where voices of the marginalized are included in the government processes. Development justice is about having a world where women can freely express themselves, voice their needs and wants, make decisions for themselves without any fear. Reasey stresses that we are all together in this fight to change an unjust system and also calling for accountability from the governments and the leaders of the countries. This battle is not about changing any one person or persons; we are fighting to change the existing unfair and unjust system, she rightly asserts.

Shobha Shukla, CNS (Citizen News Service)

(Shobha Shukla is the Managing Editor at CNS (Citizen News Service) and the above article is based upon her interview series of key women leaders in Asia Pacific region who have played a key role in striving for development justice. Follow her on Twitter @Shobha1Shukla)

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WHO WILL BE THE NEXT FSE&CC PRESIDENT?

VOICE OF BUSINESS



The Federation of Swaziland Employers & Chamber of Commerce

ince its inception in 1964, the FSE&CC has consistently upheld the principles of democracy and good corporate governance contemplated in its Constitution. The FSE&CC Constitution provides for a two (2) year term for its president and governing

The presidential position cannot be held for more than two consecutive terms. On Friday, the 22nd September , the FSE&CC shall continue to uphold this legacy during its annual general meeting. On that day, the members of the FSE&CC shall, through the ballot

The FSE&CC remains the most influential business association in Swaziland, which represents the interests of over 500 enterprises in Swaziland. These enterprises employ over 100 000 of the workforce in the formal sector and contribute to over 60 per cent of the national GDP.

People who have captained the FSE&CC ship over the past four decades?"

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1964-65 N. Kirsh	1981-84 D. Von Wissel M			
1965-67 L. Aldred	1981-84 F. D. Jelley			
1967-68 J. G. Richardson	1981-84 N. Crowther			
1968-69 Dr. J Mackenzie	1984-87 N. Crowther			
1969-72 D. A. Crabtree	1987-89 J. P. Hughes			
1972-73 J. G. Richardson	1989-94 D. Von Wissel			
1973-75 Rev. Forrester	1993-94 R. H. Howe			
1975-77 C. Harland	1994-95 M. R. Seal			
1977-79 R. M. Taft	1995-98 T. C. Mulroney			
1979-81 D. A. Crabtree	1998-01 D. Von Wissel			
13/301 5.7				

box, answer the questions, "who shall be the next FSE&CC president, who shall be appear in the below list of noteworthy business people who have ably captained the FSE&CC ship over the past four decades?"

Members shall not only elect the president but they shall elect the vice president: commerce and trade and the vicepresident: industrial relations & social

policy. They shall also elect twenty-two other board members who shall be representing the various sectors of the national economy.

The outgoing members are appreciated for their dedication, effort and guidance in driving the advocacy agenda of the FSE&CC in the past two years. Especially, in circumstances, where they are not remunerated for their service,

since the FSE&CC is a voluntary body meant to drive the interests of business.

The FSE&CC remains the most influential business association in Swaziland, which represents the interests of over 500 enterprises in Swaziland. These enterprises employ over 100 000 of the workforce in the formal sector and contribute to over 60 per cent of the national GDP. In light of this huge responsibility, that

is borne by the FSE&CC board, in representing all its member enterprises, members are encouraged to finalise their nominations and make their voice heard at the AGM, when deciding on who shall protect and lead the private sector's interests for the next two years. Especially because, the recently released reports of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank paint a bleak picture of the national economy.

The IMF Report has revised downwards the country's 2017 GDP growth projection from 1.65 per cent to 1.0 per cent. The main reasons cited are the prolonged effects of the drought, the sharp decline in SACU Revenue and the continued expansionary Policy (mostly in the form of increased governments spending, rather than tax cuts).

The World Bank Ease of Doing Business Report 2017 ranked down Swaziland from 108 to 111 out of 190 countries. The downward movement was attributed to the fact that the reforms that took place did not address the main issues of either reducing time and/or the costs of administrative processes. These reforms include the implementation of ASY-





TOURISM & TRAVEL

BONGANI DLAMINI

Email: mm@tourismauthority.org.sz

STA Marketing Manager

REATHTAKING **BREAK FROM** CITY LIFE IN **SWAZILAND**

n July, the Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA) hosted South African media on a destination familiarisation tour, and Cape Times' travel writer Zelda Venter was part of this wanderlusting contingent. Venter published her first of a two part article about her trip last week and this is what she had to say:

"A few hours later and you're out of the country and in another world. And you don't even need a visa.

It's with great excitement that I accept when the Swaziland Tourism Authority arranges a media trip. It felt as if I was going to go to another continent. What would I pack for winter? Would I be able to use the rand? I had no idea what to expect. A delightful surprise awaited me.

Heading towards the Ngwenya-Oshoek border post - the fastest way to reach Mbabane, the capital, from Gauteng - I get my first glimpse of the majestic Ngwenya mountain range, named for its resemblance to a basking crocodile. Crossing the border is no problem, as long as you have a valid passport and sufficient documents if in a private vehicle. This is the biggest port of entry and exit and is open daily from 7am to midnight.

The Ezulwini Valley, a tourist haven, awaited. First on our stop was Malolotja Nature Reserve. With more than 18 000ha of mountain wilderness, it's breathtaking. The

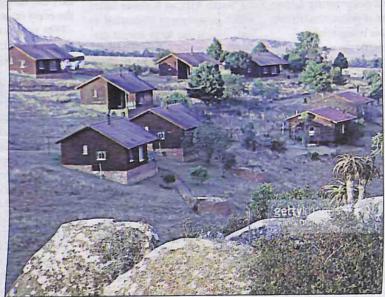
protected reserve is home to a variety of plants and wildlife. It offers spectacular views and is an adventurer's dream. There are about 200km of hiking trails. Walks on these - which vary from two to seven days with an abundance of backpacking camps along the way - are safe. They can be done with or without a guide. A great break from the hustle and bustle of the city, it's guaranteed to recharge mind and body. As they go through the mountains and grasslands, hikers will come across various buck and other

It has also been recognised as one of southern Africa's richest bird life areas. Even though I'm not a great bird watcher, I can't help but be amazed by the variety of species. Malolotja is especially important for the breeding of endangered species, such as the blue crane and blue swallow.

More than 280 species of birds have been recorded here. An absolute must for the adrenaline junkie is the treetop canopy tour in the nature reserve. With 11 forest platforms, 10 slides and a 50m suspension bridge that crosses the Majolomba River, it provides an up close and personal encounter with nature, big thrills and spectacular views.

By the time it was getting dark, we set off to our first overnight destination, Maguga Lodge. This hidden treasure is set in the Mokojwa





mountain range next to the vast Maguga Dam, about 15km from Pigg's Peak and easily accessible by car. It's hard to decide what to do next - whether to relax in my thatched rondavel, watch the African sky from my veranda or explore the gar-

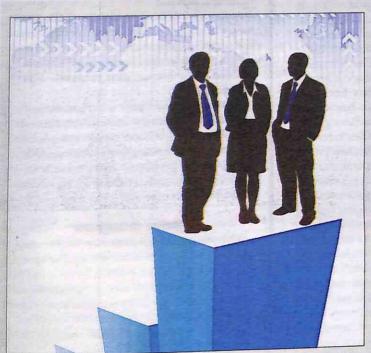
I opted for a drink at the hotel deck with its panoramic vista and followed up with a pleasant meal chosen from an extensive menu. Maguga Lodge is the perfect getaway for families or those who just want to bask in the sun and enjoy the view as well as the energetic who want to go hiking or cycling. And if you don't want to be completely disconnected, rest assured it has great internet connectivity. As we left, I spotted a houseboat drifting on the dam - accommodation for the tourist looking for something different, it's definitely on my bucket list.

The next day we set off to Mantenga Cultural Village to watch traditional dancers and learn more about the Swazi way of life and traditions. The Swazi people are proud of their rich heritage and among the friendliest people I've met. Our guide, Lucky Mavuso, is a true gem and as we wound along the mountain range and drove through endless sugar cane fields, we got to know him well. A man of many talents, Mavuso is a trained game ranger and storyteller

When we encountered cattle on the road - which happened often - he referred to them as "natural robots". He assured us that no one ever got lost in Swaziland. There was always a friendly local around to nudge a tourist in the right direction. After spending the morning at the cultural village, we had lunch at Malandela's Farmhouse Restaurant.

The lawns here host the Bush Fire Festival and people come from all over the world to this annual music and art event, which usually takes place at the end of May. The drive there was easy, along the road to the rural town of Malkerns, through sugar cane and pineapple farmland. The restaurant was cosy, with fires going, its speciality top-notch home-cooked meals.

A tour of the garden, with its sunken Afro-Shakespearean Globe Theatre, is a must. It's colourful and a popular venue for functions. Mantenga Lodge in the Ezulwini Valley was the overnight stop and another easily accessible destination. You can get almost everywhere in Swaziland with a regular hatchback the main roads are well maintained, with barely a pothole in sight. Mantenga was warm and welcoming, like most of the places here - fairy lights brightened the outer deck overlooking the mountains. It's the perfect spot for a sundowner before you move into the cosy dining room for supper."



CUDA World for customs declarations, the hiring of more judges to ease the judicial congestion, the implementation of Sekulula VAT refund system, the introduction of the Government USSD code to ease the

application process for starting a business (among other government services). In view of such circumstances, we wish the nominees the best of luck in the upcoming elections.

FSE&CC OUTGOING BOARD DIRECTORS

19. Wilhelm De Koker ORDINARY MEMBERS – SERVICE INDUSTRY Pick 'n Pay (Mbabane) COMPANY 1 Andrew Le Roux - President Montigny Swaki Investment 2. Fikile Nkosi - VP Trade & Commerce Nedban 20. Alex Mngomezulu 3. Bheki Maziya – VP Industrial Relations RSSC ORDINARY MEMBERS – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION / AGRO INDUSTRY Corporation 21 .Busi Simelane
ORDINARY MEMBERS – TEXTILE, GARMENT AND APPAREI RSSC NAMBoard 4. Nick Jackson Fashion International ORDINARY MEMBERS - HOTELS, CATERING AND TOURI ORDINARY MEMBERS - FORESTRY, TIMBER & PULP Mbabane Hotels Swaziland Plantations 23 Marcus Ward ORDINARY MEMBERS - TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS ORDINARY MEMBERS - BANKING / FINANCIAL SERVICES Unitrans Swaziland 24. Mduduzi Magongo First National Bank 7. Dennis Mbingo 25. Stephenson Ngubane ORDINARY MEMBERS - INSURANCE ORDINARY MEMBERS - BUILDING CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING SRIC Inyatsi Construction 26. Zama Ngcobo ORDINARY MEMBERS - BUSINESS WOMEN'S FORUM OF SWAZILAND ORDINARY MEMBERS - INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) MTN Swaziland 27. Nellie De Sousa 10. Ambrose Dlamin ORDINARY MEMBERS-EDUCATION 11. Petrous Dlamin 28. Nonhlanhla Dlamini ORDINARY MEMBERS-HEALTH IDM ORDINARY MEMBERS - ENERGY AND WATER SWSC 12. Sikhumbuzo Tsabedze Medisun 29. Dr. Penuel Gina 13. Vusi Gama ORDINARY MEMBERS- PETROLEUM SECTOR ORDINARY MEMBERS - MANUFACTURING / PROCESSING Swazi Wire 30. Francisco Ferrei Galp 14. Dale Allen OTHER MEMBERS (27/10/15) Swaziland Beverages 15. Zama Kunene Swaziland Cane ORDINARY MEMBERS - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 31. Dr. Sipho Nkambule Mananga Growers Ass. 16. Dr. Taruvinga Woodmaster's AM Recruitment 32. Mr. Vic Irwin 17. Carol Nacobo Ubombo Sugar ORDINARY MEMBERS - RETAIL AND WHOLESALE 33. Mr. Oswald Magwenzi Mbabane Motors 18. Brett Foss

SWAZI INDIGENOUS SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS UNDER THREAT

tand-off between ministry of works and transport and public transport owners is not ideal



BY Comfort Mabuza

an somebody stop the looming war of words between the Swazi Indigenous Road Transport Council and Road Transportation Board? Minister of Public Works and Transport, Lindiwe Dlamini -LaGwebu and Chairman of the Council Duma Msibi, truce please.

Not only does this have traits of ushering violence, but people's lives are threatened and at great risk. A high percentage of retrenchments looms within the public transport system as drivers and their assistants (baholeli) will be rendered jobless. It should be stated that this sector that was a brainchild of King Sobhuza II, and has a rich legacy, has survived so many challenges. In South Africa, public transport wars leave causalities and untold tensions.

Engaging in a mature approach is more desirable. No one singlehandedly should decide how the transport system is to be regulated against the backdrop that Swazi indigenous business sees it as their gold mine as many people have sacrificed a lot to remain in this risky business environment. Taking away people's bread from their hands in such a lightning speed is not a welcome development. The Road Transportation Board must not set itself into such a conflict with transport owners and commuters thus causing such undue tensions.

DIALOGUE IS CRUCIAL

Public transport owners must be engaged all the way and the commuters cannot be left out. Dangling millions of Emalangeni is a drop in the ocean and too little money to sustain this massive economic hub without transport owners. Current permit holders paid a fortune for their buses, and no one should dare attempt to kick them out of business.

Whatever the rationale behind the proposed takeover, it should not violate the socio-economic rights of the indigenous Swazis.

I hope those behind this move,

who themselves run successful businesses elsewhere, would definitely think twice about the negative impact of this programme. Swazis are a peace loving nation and any form of violence and threats to their peace is regrettable.

I can imagine the scuffles that would become the order of the day once a take-over is allowed without proper consultations. Any development that pushes indigenous Swazis out of business and their economic livelihoods must be frowned at and rejected.

Are we not supposed to be ensuring that Swazi business people's interests are protected here? Socioeconomic rights being manipulated openly must be fought with all might. We, therefore, appeal to both the Road Transportation Board and the Road Transportation

Council to sit down and chart a way forward to put the country's interests before theirs. Lest, we incite the transport workers, we must engage in a healthy dialogue until a lasting solution is found.

AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE **TRANSPORT** NEEDED

Vision 2022 is about people and harnessing national transport needs

must not frustrate people who have sustained this industry.

Having used public transport personally, we must be ensured that we will arrive home safely. With a sick economy like ours, I thought a public transport subsidy could be entertained perhaps, not pushing the owners out of business and have their income slashed and stolen by a dream that has drastically not been tested. Rather than having a new transporting company run the show, why not subsidise the costs per litre of diesel and petrol as an incentive for public bus owner.

Should people commuting daily to work have special weekly tickets instead? Or better still, could insurance premiums for public transport be considered as part of an incentive perhaps?

At the heart of such a move, interests of the commuters and bus owners should influence the final

aving used pub-lic transport per-sonally, we must be ensured that we will

arrive home safely. With a sick economy like ours,

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be entertained perhaps,

not pushing the own-

ers out of business and have their income

slashed and stolen by

a dream that has dras-

tically not been tested.

Has there been a study undertaken about how PUTCO died a natural death in South Africa or the South African Railway Buses which government attempted to run. Swazis like to re-invent disasters when we know that government should not be in these kinds of businesses as they possess no skills and acumen on how to

Somebody please drum this to the principals at the ministry, something is not right and speaking in tongues on such a delicate matter with national interest agenda is not healthy at all. This is about people's socio-economic rights madam minister, please save us from that will explode and ensure that interests of transport owners and the commuters are weighed

and balanced accordingly.

NATIONAL VISION MUST EMPOWER

If Vision 2022 is meant to leave indigenous Swazis who own public transport worse off, then let us not dare tamper with people's livelihoods and by not engaging them.

Sugar-coating such initiatives aimed at negatively impacting people's

livelihoods, without closer-scrutiny can cause great misery to the commuters.

Violating people's fundamental economic rights should not be allowed to thrive.

Whenever one hears of such hasty planned national developments that destabilse people's income, one is always neartbro ken. We are dealing with a vulnerable group of people, who will sooner than later find themselves pushed out of business.

Have we forgotten how Sappi Usutu retrenched thousands of our people when it was closed down?

While pulp was considered Swazi gold once upon a time, today we have forests which as far as I concerned are no longer empowering our people.

Those who had spent their lives at Usuthu Pulp were later pushed out of the township of Bhunya village and Mhlambanyatsi, some have never recovered even from the crumbs they got as terminal benefits. We must always ensure that economic rights of the people are given due attention and consideration. So if government does its homework accordingly, it must work with the people concerned so that we end up with a win-win scenario. We still want to underscore that no national development should leave our people vulnerable and more disadvantaged. Protecting economic interests of our people must become our rallying call and battle cry. Protect economic rights of the cit-

LOCAL BUSINESS INTERESTS MATTER MOST

We have decried how the Asian communities have taken over informal trading business, and their temporal residence permits say they are investors, are issued by the every same government.

Why not protect the interests of the Swazis. This cannot be helping us towards achieving the Vision

Instead, we have lost the heart and soul of informal trading in Swaziland. Again I am laying the blame at the doors of a government whose local businesspeople interests is suspect. Who shall save us from this poor foresight needing to be seen addressed and resolved sooner than later? We have already given the shops, fish and chips informal business sector to foreigners, Lord have mercy? Who shall save our people, because it's like the government has no interest to save informal economic sector which supports the ordinary Swazi on the streets.

As we have not recovered from that shock and reality, we are now saying the transport industry that has always been a domain for Swazi business interest, now we are declaring it another state capture, to be given away.

SAVE OUR LOCAL TRANS PORT INDUSTRY BUSINESS

Attempts should be targeted at empowering transport owners to become better business people. Empowerment programmes aimed at ensuring professionalism in this industry should be encouraged. I recently stated transport brands like Zeemans Bus Services, Sondundu, Phakama Bus Services and Muhle Tours, as having withstood so many hurdles to remain household names. They have proven that Swazis can become successful given a chance. Let's empower such successful initiatives with more skills encouraging them to stay afloat. Why then plan a takeover of such success stories? It's high time we open louder the volume on local initiatives that work.

We must celebrate such successful stories which remain the beacon of hope the Swazi public transport industry needs further financial support, and government's overnight decision for an imposed takeover is regrettable.

Public transport wars are just too dangerous and risky to be allowed to erupt in our motherland. Socioeconomic rights are being violated with impunity and a great con-



NDWANDWE'S ZONE **LEADERSHIP**

waziland's independence liberated many neighbours, evident in positive sentiments responding to my facebook post.

By South African Swazi families nurtured in Swaziland, affirming this country's positive contribution to their success. The leadership of King Sobhuza II—remembered with fondness and he is a hero to many South African families who lived in Swaziland. King Sobhuza II is not a hero to the 'so called' Swazi democrats who are in exile, and they also expressed their views on my facebook

As a nation builder, I provide space for differing views and I respectfully disagree with those who believe democracy can only be defined according to western principles, intriguing and emotive independence debate.

As I have no reservations in firmly expressing how extensive the research I am currently conducting in critical knowledge creation and production towards indigenous governance systems reflecting indigenous dignity. Today, this column shares how independence liberates neighbours the Mozambican experience, the journey of Claudina Da Cenceicao Sao Martinho, now proudly Swazi citizen, popularly known as Dina.

ORIGINS

Dina originates from a location in Maputo, with humble beginnings and Swazi connection. Her great-grandfather Khumalo a Swazi from Lomahasha, hence her grandmother LaKhumalo grounded them with African values. She taught them how to sit tight and not expose her body to all and sundry, values she still maintains even today. Dina carried water on her head, grinding mealie meal with 'ibethal' hand machine, grinding sorghum and millet on the grinding stone 'imbokodvo.' Gogo Khumalo taught her how to brew traditional beer, umqombotsi, paw and pineapple and serve customers fried fish, as this was their source of income.

This African child slept on the grass mat with other children, some were experiencing bed wetting, but this was part of life.

At school Dina was good in Maths, this skill has helped her as a businesswoman throughout her life. She used to carry 'Skhokho' I call Swazi pizza base, the crust from the mealie pot, for school lunch and drink lots of water. Dina learnt 'kubhadza' from her experience in building mud huts as part of her childhood memories, as she was raised in a mud hut.

As the eldest of this extended family, Dina had to sacrifice, leaving school at the age of 13 years and started working in a factory. Two years later, she got married at age 15 to Joaguim De Oleveira Sao Martinho who was 23 years, her mother refused they eloped.

She returned to her home as her husband wanted to know her family and also contribute in improving their livelihood. When starting out, she first learnt dress making from a Portuguese lady but this was not her passion. Hair dressing is where she found her passion as another Portuguese lady taught her, before the war.

MOVING TO SWAZILAND

When war erupted, this couple moved to Swaziland, and lived with LaSithole married to a Portuguese man in Shiselweni on a cotton farm. They had food and shelter, whilst being protected from the Swaziland police for they were illegal immigrants. Whilst living with LaSithole and family, her husband build a house, thanking this family for their

Later they moved to Manzini, where they were once arrested for being illegal immigrats. But a Lawyer, Babe Dlamini helped them register as refugees and got jobs, moved into a flat with no furniture but used card boxes as sleeping mats, and the coffee table was a car tyre. Eventually they were able to send food home, meeting her moth-

INDEPENDENCE LIBERATES NEIGHBOURS



er at now Mhlumeni border, as they could not return to Mozambique.

The late Susan Fortune, *Babe* Dlamini and the late *Babe* Holmes became their support system and family, providing advice and at times food. When Dina moved to Woodmaster's she was able to grow vegetables selling some and providing laundry services for people on weekends, saving up to buy furniture at Ellerines. Her hairdressing passion had connected her with the late Peggy Manyatsi, who introduced her to *Make* Kuhlase who mentored her with beautician skills.

Later she was recruited by Make Khathwane at Bonanza Boutique, where she was mentored by the late Paul Andrew, the most glamorous Mbabane personalities, whom I personally modelled for. Dina won awards from this work experiences as her passion and talents were now synchronised. The Revlon Award she felt it and when she got it, she knew it was her gift from God.

Dina bought Bonanza Salon, moved to opposite bus rank, then Mona flats, and now Serendipity. Throughout her career she has mentored many hair and beauty apprentices, who have their own

Dina's friendship with Princess Gcebile, enabled her to work on Emakhosikati's hair, learnt to work whilst kneeling and the policy of none disclosure due to risking a fine.

Dina learnt to work with natural hair and traditional hair regalia, this experience expanded her hair specialisation. She visited Portugal, had a car accident and was in hospital for two years and one year at hospices for rehabilitation. Dina utilised her versatile hair and beautician skills, during rehabilitation whilst on a wheel chair, with a broken hip and leg, not broken hands. She provided services to fellow hospice mates, this shocked her husband, Dina proving how unbroken hands create magic from a wheelchair.

Dina's vision is to open an academy for hair, beauty and culinary skills to empower future generations.

This vision originates from her life story on how using her hands has brought a comfortable lifestyle and success even though she comes from a humble beginning.

Throughout her life, people were assisting her to achieve success, with a tear in her eyes, she recalls the late Mrs Ning with fond memories. Dina worked for her at the then Holiday Inn, they shared a trustful bond, and on her death bed Mrs Ning gave her E10 000 and salon equip-

ment. Giving back generously is Dina's magic, hence this academy for hair, beauty and culinary skills would be a manifestation. God may not have blessed her with children of her own, she believes this academy would ensure she mentors and guides God's children. Dina is a devoted Catholic, therefore working for God is second nature to her. As she feels children must know that it is possible to achieve success using their hands. And not everyone should desire office work, and those who cannot go to college and university must know their hands can create magic.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Swaziland's independence evidently liberated Dina from Mozambique, who has recently received her Swazi citizenship. This has motivated to invest in this academy, as it will liberate some young people in Swaziland. As they do not envisage future success due to humble beginnings, they could be OVCs or currently in sex work or experiencing depression due to lack of academic skills.

Dina's journey speaks to how your hands can liberate you from being an illegal immigrant into an honourable citizen. Motivated to ensure that Swaziland is her country, supported by the late Susan Fortune, Dina has built a home in Mpolonjeni.

Yes, she married at the age 15 years, in today's terms she would be classified as a child bride. But Dina is still married to her husband, her friend and partner for 48 years. Dina's words of advice to the youth "Trust your hands and be proud of what they can create with love and passion." What a pleasure spending the morning of my birthday with this inspirational woman.

She returned to her home as her husband wanted to know her family and also contribute in improving their livelihood. When starting out, she first learnt dress making from a Portuguese lady but this was not her passion. Hair dressing is where she found her passion as another Portuguese lady taught her, before the war.



THE RED PEN

Phila Dlamini -Vilakati

GOD'S COFFEE

group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university Professor.

Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said;

"If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups...and then you began eyeing each other's cups."

Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of life we live.

Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us. God brews the coffee, not the cups...Enjoy your coffee! The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything. Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Author unknown

I don't like forwarded texts. But this is by far one of the best WhatsApp texts I have received in ages. I thought I should share. To me, the message above has a lot to do with contentment. We should always try to be comfortable, pleased and satisfied with what we have. Contentment gives you a peace of mind.

Peace of mind is the most sought after 'commodity' in human life. It appears that most of us are in a state of perpetual restlessness. On analysing the causes of this restlessness, I have ventured to find for myself ten solutions that need to be followed religiously if we are serious about achieving perfect peace of mind.

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Most of us create our own problems by interfering too often in others' affairs. We do so because somehow we have convinced ourselves that our way is the best way, our logic is the perfect logic, and those who do not conform to our thinking must be criticised and steered to the right direction, our direction. This kind of attitude on our part denies the existence of individuality and consequently the existence of God, for God has created each one of us in a unique way. No two human beings can think or act in exactly the same way. All men or women act the way they do because they are prompted to do so by the Divine within them. There is God to look after everything. Why are you bothered?

FORGIVE AND FORGET

This is the most powerful aid to peace of mind. We often nurture ill-feelings inside our hearts for the person who insults or harms us. We forget that the insult was done to us once but by nourishing the grievance we go on excavating the wound forever. It is essential that we cultivate the art of forgiving and forgetting. Believe in the justice of God and the doctrine of Karma. Let Him judge the act of the one who insulted you. Life is too short to waste in such trifles. Forgive, forget and march on.

CRAVE FOR RECOGNITION

This world is full of selfish people. They seldom praise anybody without selfish motive. They may praise you today because you are well off and have power but no sooner you are powerless, they will forget your achievement and start criticising you. Do not always bank on or put a huge value on words of praise. If it comes cool, if not...no big deal. Why do you crave for recognition? Believe in yourself. Do what you have to do ethically and sincerely and leave the rest to God.

JEALOUSY

We all have experienced how jealousy can disturb our peace of mind. You know you work harder than your colleagues in the office but they get promotions, you do not. You started a business several years ago but you are not as successful as your neighbour whose business is only one-year-old. Should you be jealous? No, remember everybody's life is shaped by his previous Karma that has now become his destiny. If you are destined to be, the world cannot stop you. Nothing will be gained by blaming others for your misfortune. Jealousy will not get you anywhere, but will only give you restlessness.

ENVIRONMENT

If you try to change the environment single-handedly, the chances are you may fail. Instead, change yourself to suit the circumstances. As you do this, even the environment, which has remained unfriendly to you, will mysteriously appear to be congenial and harmonious. Endure what cannot be cured. This is the best way to turn a disadvantage into an advantage. Every day we face numerous inconveniences, ailments, irritations and accidents that are beyond our control. We must learn to endure them cheerfully thinking, "I will pull through". God's logic is beyond our comprehension. Believe it and you will gain in patience, in inner strength, and in will power.

DO NOT BITE MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW

This maxim should be always remembered. We often tend to take more responsibilities than we are capable of carrying out. This is done to satisfy our ego. Know your limitations. Meditate regularly. Focus on what you can handle and not what others have done. This will increase your efficiency to a great extent.

NEVER LEAVE THE MIND VACANT

An empty mind is the devil's workshop. All evil deeds start in the mind. Keep your mind occupied with something positive; something worthwhile. Actively follow a hobby. You must decide what you value more. Your hobby, may not always earn you more money, but you will have a sense of fulfilment and achievement. Even if you are resting physically, occupy yourself with healthy reading or mental chanting.

PROCRASTINATION

Do not waste time in wondering "should I or shouldn't I?" Days, weeks, months and years may be wasted in that futile mental debating. You can never plan enough because you can never anticipate all future happenings. Always remember God has His own plan too. Value your time and do things promptly if and where need be. It does not matter if you fail the first time. You can rectify your mistakes and succeed the next time. Sitting back and worrying will lead to nothing. Learn from your mistakes but do not brood over the past.

A TOAST

I cannot put the red pen down before acknowledging that it is graduation season and we have a lot to be thankful for and so much to be excited about. High five to all of you who have successfully completed your studies.

A toast to three very special friends of THE RED

To: Sphiwa, Hlonphile, Senamile and Bingo. The tassel was definitely worth the hassle. Well done for all the hard work. Wishing you all the success and happiness the world has to offer. May life become all that you want it to. May your dreams stay big and your worries stay small. I pray that you never need to carry more than you can hold. ENJOY GOD'S COFFEE!!!

BRIEFS

Fascinating' video of Mugabe talking 'nonracialism' like Mandela goes viral on social media

HARARE - A video of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe talking "non-racialism" has emerged on social media, with some Twitter users saying it's "fascinating" how the veteran leader used to "talk" like Nelson Mandela whom he now castigates.

Mugabe made headlines recently when he attacked Mandela's legacy, saying that the South African icon cherished his personal freedom over the economic freedom of his people, which was the reason why today in South Africa "everything is in the whites' hands". The 93-year-old president said this while speaking in Shona at a ruling party rally in the central town of Gweru. News24

Tanzania charges officials with economic sabotage over seized diamonds

DAR ES SALAAM - Tanzanian prosecutors charged two government officials on Friday with economic sabotage after they were accused of undervaluing an export-bound consignment of diamonds seized from a mine majority owned by London-listed Petra Diamonds. Archard Kalugendo, director of the state-run diamond and gemstone valuation unit, and government gemstone valuer Edward Rweyemamu were jointly charged with being responsible for \$1.1 million of lost tax revenue. The court case is the latest twist in a government crackdown on the minerals industry this year, with President John Magufuli accusing the sector of not giving the government a fair share of Tanzania's mineral wealth. Reuters

Mobile money sent to hundreds of families hit by Sierra Leone mudslide

DAKAR - Money is being sent via mobile phone to hundreds of families who survived a deadly mudslide on the outskirts of Sierra Leone's capital Freetown last month, the United Nations said on Friday. At least 500 people were killed and more than 3 000 left homeless when a mountainside collapsed mid-August in the town of Regent - in one of Africa's deadliest mudslides in decades. The mobile cash payments, which are being funded by Britain's aid department, will help about 1900 households hit by the mudslide to pay for needs from education and food to healthcare, and to enable them to resettle in safer areas. Reuters

Congo security forces kill at least 18 Burundian refugees

KINSHASA - Congolese security forces killed at least 18 Burundian refugees at a camp in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in clashes over plans to send some of them home, a local activist and a diplomatic source told Reuters. Activist Jean-Chrysotome Kijana said Congolese forces opened fire on the refugees on Friday when they tried to free several of their compatriots who had been arrested by the intelligence service at the camp in the town of Kamanyola. Reuters

Online exemptions open for Zimbabwean permits

PRETORIA - Holders of the Zimbabwean special permit (ZSP) due to expire on 31 December, are now able to apply for the new Zimbabwean exemption permit (ZEP) as announced by Home Affairs Minister Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize. The online ZEP application process opened on Friday and would close on Thursday, 30 November, VFS Global said in a statement. The new ZEP dispensation was valid for four years and would allow ZSP holders to continue to work, study, and run businesses in South Africa. Holders of ZSPs would be required to complete the process individually which would include a personal appointment for registration of biometric data.

African News Agency



SUNDAYOBSERVER AFRIGA

The right place

The right Sunday

LESOTHO CAN'T BE ON SADC AGENDA FOREVER - ZUMA

RETORIA - Chairperson of the Southern Africa **Development Community** (SADC) - South Africa's President Jacob Zuma - on Friday appealed to the authorities and the people of Lesotho to work together to ensure peace and stability in the small mountain kingdom.

"As SADC, we cannot and shall not be in Lesotho forever. We desire to have Lesotho off the SADC agenda soonest," Zuma told a Double Troika of Heads of State and Government in Pretoria.

"It is unfortunate and regrettable that as we gather here this afternoon that the Commander of the Lesotho Defence Force, Lt-General (Khoantle) Motsomotso, who was with us here in this very building three weeks ago during the SADC Summit, tragically lost his life in a senseless killing."

Motsomotso was killed earlier in September, while two senior officers who were allegedly responsible for the murder, were also killed in a shoot-out at a barracks in Lesotho's capital Maseru.

Eyewitnesses said the officers burst into the army chief's office



SADC Chairperson - South African President Jacob Zuma.

and shot him, before being killed by guards. Zuma said the assassination of Motsomotso typifies a dangerous pattern of targeted killings in South Africa's neighbour. "The tragic death of General Motsomotso should not be allowed to pass by unnoticed by our regional organisation, especially because it happens two years after the killing of another former Commander of the Lesotho Defence Force, Brigadier

Maaparankoe Mahao in June 2015," said Zuma.

"The assassination of General Motsomotso, therefore, sets a dangerous pattern in that country. The prevailing situation in this sister country should not be allowed to continue forever as if, it is business as usual. There is a need for decisive action by the region."

During a SADC summit held in August, the Lesotho government reassured the regional bloc that it would implement all SADC decisions and develop a time-bound roadmap for reform in various sectors including the constitution, parliament, security, the public sector and judiciary.

"We believe that the Kingdom can only achieve lasting and sustainable stability once these reforms are implemented," Zuma said.

African News Agency

Zim's Tsvangirai airlifted to SA, battling for life

ARARE - Zimbabwe's main opposition leader and former prime minister, Morgan Tsvangirai, has been hospitalised in South Africa after his health deteriorated, a senior party official told AFP yesterday.

"He is in South Africa on account of a medical cause. He is being attended to," a senior official from Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymi-

ty.
"We are monitoring the situation. He will be fine, it's only that he was overwhelmed with work and his health deteriorated." The MDC spokesper-



Zimbabwe's opposition leader and former Prime Minister, Morgan Tsvangirai.

Tsvangirai, 65, announced last year that he had been diagnosed with cancer of the colon son could not be reached for and that he had begun

chemotherapy.

The News Day, an independent daily, said Tsvangirai was airlifted to South Africa early Friday morning after he fell ill.

"He was on oxygen and drip and had been vomiting heavily," the paper said in its report.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, 93, Tsvangirai's rival for over a decade, regularly flies to Singapore, reportedly for medical reasons. Most details about his health have never been confirmed.

Tsvangirai's party has been riven by divisions since he struck a troubled four-year powersharing deal with Mugabe after violent and disputed elections in 2008.

Nigeria's Buhari to pass through London after UN General Assembly trip

BUJA - Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari will pass through London, where he spent five months on medical leave this year, on his way home from the United Nations General Assembly, his spokesman said on

Buhari will depart for New York today, his spokesman said in an emailed statement. It will be the first time he has left Nigeria since returning on 19 August from Britain, where he had received treatment for an unspecified ailment.

Spokesman Femi Adesina said Buhari would hold a lunch meeting with US President Donald Trump and other leaders, adding: "President Buhari will transit through London on his way back to the country."

Buhari will be accompanied on the trip by cabinet ministers and the governors of three states.

The statement did not say whether he would have medical treatment in London. Adesina declined a request to comment further. Reuters

UN to tackle claim it mishandled CAR rape cases

IBREVILLE - The UN's peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) said on Friday that it would probe allegations that investigations into sexual abuse by UN soldiers had been disastrously mis-

MINUSCA spokesperson Vladimir Monteiro, reached by phone in the Central African capital of Bangui, said the force would "examine the allegations."

A US-based NGO, Code Blue Campaign, on Wednesday said a confidential source had given it 14 internal case files regarding allegations of sexual offences against CAR civilians by UN troops. Complaints were made against UN soldiers from nine countries - Pakistan, Zambia, Republic of Congo, Burundi, Morocco, Egypt, Cameroon, Gabon and Niger. But a "sham process" meant these complaints were never probed in depth, it said.

In eight of the cases, alleged victims were not questioned to provide evidence; potentially corroborating witnesses were not sought out for interviews; and investigators showed 'overwhelming bias" against those who complained, its report said. News24



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

EFIANT NORTH KOREA LEADER SAYS HE WILL COMPLETE **NUKE PROGRAMM**

TOUL - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country is nearing its goal of "equilibrium" in military force with the United States, as the United Nations Security Council strongly condemned the North's "highly provocative" ballistic missile launch over Japan on Friday.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency carried Kim's comments yesterday - a day after US and South Korean militaries detected the missile launch from the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

It traveled 3 700 kilometers as it passed over the Japanese island of Hokkaido before landing in the northern Pacific Ocean. It was the country's longest-ever test flight of a ballistic missile.

The North has confirmed the missile as an intermediate range Hwasong-12, the same model launched over Japan on August 29.

Under Kim's watch, North Korea



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

has maintained a torrid pace in weapons tests, including its most powerful nuclear test to date on September 3 and two July flight tests of interconstrike deep into the US mainland when perfected.

The increasingly frequent and aggressive tests have added to outside fears tinental ballistic missiles that could that the North is closer than ever to

building a military arsenal that could viably target the US and its allies in Asia. The tests, which could potentially make launches over Japan an accepted norm, are also seen as North Korea's attempt to win greater military freedom in the region and raise doubts in Seoul and Tokyo that Washington would risk the annihilation of a US city to protect them.

The KCNA said Kim expressed great satisfaction over the launch, which he said verified the "combat efficiency and reliability" of the missile and the success of efforts to increase its

While the English version of the report was less straightforward, the Korean version quoted Kim as declaring the missile as operationally ready. He vowed to complete his nuclear weapons programme in the face of strengthening international sanctions, the agency said. **AFP**

Drug war, Islamists 'rising' risks for Philippines

ANILA - President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly drug war and armed Islamist rebellion pose "rising" risks to the Philippine economy, though it should continue to grow robustly in the short term, Moody's Investors Service said.

Duterte is battling militants in the southern city of Marawi, while rights groups have accused him of orchestrating a crime against humanity with police killing more than 3800 drug suspects in 14 months. "The re-emergence of conflict in the southern Philippines, as well as the Duterte administration's focus on the eradication of illegal drugs, represents a rising but unlikely risk of a deterioration in economic performance and institutional strength," the credit ratings agency said. Sound economic and fiscal policies including a focus on infrastructure development balance out political and other risks, it said in a country report released on Friday that affirmed the Philippines' investment-grade credit rating and stable outlook. But martial law, imposed by Duterte on the southern region of Mindanao to stop the Islamist threat, could be declared elsewhere in the country and upset this balance, it said. "(A) worsening of the Islamist insurgency in Mindanao... could lead to an expansion of martial law, undermine both foreign and domestic business confidence, and disrupt economic activity in other parts of the country," it said. Reuters

UK's Boris Johnson reignites leadership speculation with Brexit plan

ONDON - British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson set Jout his plans for a "glorious" Brexit in a lengthy newspaper article yesterday that angered colleagues and reignited speculation he would challenge Prime Minister Theresa May for the leadership of the Conservative

With May due to set out her vision for Brexit in a speech in the Italian city of Florence on Friday, Johnson published a 4 300-word article that roamed well beyond his ministerial brief and, in some cases, went beyond the approach set out by the government.

Britain, he said, would not pay to access European markets in the future. Once out of the European Union, the country should borrow to invest in infrastructure, reform the tax code and set immigration levels as it sees fit. A prominent Brexit campaigner in last year's referendum, Johnson also repeated the controversial claim that the government would be 350 million pounds better off per week once outside



British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson.

"My friends, I must report that there are at least some people who are woefully underestimating this country," Johnson wrote in the Daily Telegraph. "They think Brexit isn't going to happen. "I am here to tell you that this country will succeed in our new national enterprise, and will succeed mightily."

"We have a glorious future." A favorite with grassroots memJohnson had been expected to challenge for the leadership after May gambled away her parliamentary majority in a June election she did not need to call.

Instead, he publicly pledged his loyalty. But the Times newspaper reported earlier this week that Johnson believed he had since been sidelined as May prepares to compromise over a divorce bill with the EU to ease the negotiations Reuter

Temer asks Supreme Court to send back new charges

Brazilian President Michel Temer.

RASILIA - Lawyers defend-Bing Brazilian President Michel Temer on Friday asked Supreme Court Justice Edson Fachin to send back to the prosecutor's general office the new graft charges that were presented against Temer on Thursday.

Temer's defence said in the request that the new charges are irregular because they cite events that presumably happened before he became president. Under the Brazilian Constitution, a sitting president cannot be charged for possible crimes committed by him before he took office. Those charges would have to wait until he leaves to be taken to the courts.

The corruption charges presented on Thursday were the second Temer could face. A first set of criminal charges saying that Temer took bribes from meatpacker JBS SA was blocked

in August by his allies in the lower house of Congress, which has the power to decide whether a president should stand trial by the Supreme

Temer's lawyers said the second set of charges should return to the prosecutor's general office for reevaluation. They want the cases that happened before he took office to be scrapped from the charges.

BRIEFS

British police arrest 18-year-old in hunt for London train bomber

LONDON - British police hunting those behind a bomb which injured 29 people on a London train on Friday said they had arrested an 18year-old man in a move described as significant. "We have made a significant arrest in our investigation this morning," Neil Basu, Senior National Co-ordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing, said in a statement. "Although we are pleased with the progress made, this investigation continues and the threat level remains at critical." Reuters

About 1.5 million, mostly in Florida, without power

MIAIVII - About 1.5 million homes and businesses in Florida and Georgia remained without power on Friday after Hurricane Irma, including 46 of Florida's nearly 700 nursing homes caught in the deadly storm's path. Irma, which ranked as one of the most powerful Atlantic storms on record before striking the US mainland as a Category 4 hurricane on Sept. 10, killed at least 84 people. Several hard-hit Caribbean islands, including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, suffered more than half the fatalities. Florida Power & Light, owned by NextEra Energy Inc and the state's biggest electric company, said it was working aggressively to restore power to the 23 percent of its customers still in the dark.

Dhaka protests Myanmar airspace violation

DHAKA - Dhaka on Friday protested violation of its airspace by Myanmar drones and helicopter, as tensions escalate between the nations after nearly 400 000 Rohingya fled across the border to Bangladesh since last month. Bangladesh's foreign ministry in the capital summoned the charge d'affaires of Myanmar's embassy and warned that the encroachments could lead to "unwarranted consequences". "Bangladesh strongly protested the instances of violation of her air space by Myanmar military drones and helicopter on September 10,12 and 14, 2017," the ministry said in a statement. AFP

US urges China, Russia to act after North Korea missile launch

WASHINGTON - The US called on China and Russia to take "direct actions" to rein in North Korea after it fired a ballistic missile over Japan into the Pacific. "China supplies North Korea with most of its oil.

Russia is the largest employer of North Korean forced labour," Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in a statement. "China and Russia must indicate their intolerance for these reckless missile launches by taking direct actions of their own."

The launch, from near Pyongyang, came after the UN Security Council imposed an eighth set of sanctions on the country over its ballistic missile and atomic weapons

Iceland PM calls for snap election

REYKJAVIK - Iceland's prime minister on Friday called for a second snap election in less than a year after a party quit the coalition government because he hid his father's involvement in seeking a clean record for a convicted paedophile. Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson said he preferred the election to be held in November, just over a year after the last snap vote which was triggered by the Panama Papers scandal.

Telegraph

Focus on Sascene

GORDHAN LASHES KPMG

URBAN - Pravin Gordhan has threatened to sue audit firm KPMG and demanded an apology for the damage the company had caused with the controversial South African Revenue Service "rogue unit" report.

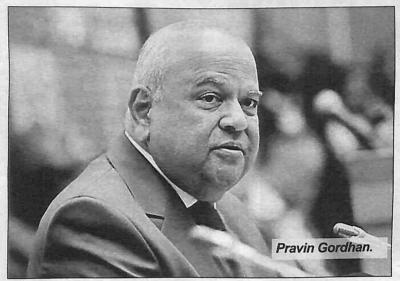
Eight senior executives were forced out in a major shake-up on Friday.

The firm also announced it had withdrawn the SARS rogue unit report for falling short of the standard of work the company expected.

Former finance minister Gordhan has been under investigation by the current leadership of SARS and the Hawks over the "rogue unit".

KPMG said "the evidence in the documentation provided to KPMG South Africa does not support the interpretation that Gordhan knew, or ought to have known, of the 'rogue' nature of this unit.

"We recognise and regret the impact



this has had."

Demanding an apology, Gordhan said the collaboration of KPMG executives with "nefarious characters" in SARS had led to "state capture" of the institution.

On Friday the firm announced the resignation of Chief Executive Trevor Hoole, Chief Operating Officer Steven Louw, chairperson Ahmed Jaffer and

five senior partners. "I absolutely understand that ultimate responsibility lies with me," Hoole said in a statement.

KPMG is also seeking to take disciplinary action to dismiss Jacques Wessels, the lead partner on audits of Guptalinked firms, it said.

Siphoning

KPMG has been embroiled in controversy in the past few weeks over the work it did for the Guptas, including the siphoning of R30m from a dairy farm in Vrede, Free State, to pay for the lavish wedding in Sun City in 2013.

The firm said on Friday it acknowledged the mistakes that happened and they had been working for the Guptas since 2002.

Nhlamu Dlomo was Friday appointed to replace Hoole.

Gordhan said he welcomed the withdrawal of the KPMG "Sars" report, but was "surprised by the scant regard shown for their role in the "capture" of the revenue service and the huge damage that it has done to the livelihoods and reputations of a very professional, honest and loyal group of public servants.

"It is unfortunate that a company with the stature of KPMG, with a responsibility and obligation to be objective, has been found to be wanting. "This is exacerbated by their collaboration with the Gupta family."

The auditing company also said it would donate R40m it received from the Guptas over the years to education and to organisations fighting corruption in the country.

In his attack, Gordhan said KPMG should have the integrity and honesty to say the research and investigative unit created in SARS was legal and the detection and combating of the illicit tobacco trade and efforts to end tax evasion was lawful.

After leaked e-mails, KPMG International conducted an investigation into its South African operation and found that the company should have cut ties with the Guptas long before March last year. ENCA

SAA'S DUDU MUST GO - DA

APE TOWN - The Democratic Alliance says that Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba cannot ignore the facts any longer and that South African Airways chair Dudu Myeni must be removed.

The party yesterday welcomed the intervention of the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) which it said confirmed its view that Gigaba's, decision to extend Myeni's term as chair of the SAA board was illegitimate.

"Accordingly, we are also of the belief that Myeni is technically no longer the chair of the board and that any board decisions taken since September 1 must be viewed as irregular and unenforceable," said DA deputy spokesman on finance Alf Rees.

He said Gigaba had failed to take the robust action that was required to save SAA and stop the ongoing losses and consequent taxpayer bailouts.

Failure

"SAA is a complete shambles and the minister's failure to remove one of the main obstacles to progress at the airline shows that SAA is clearly not a priority for Minister Gigaba.

"The intervention of the CIPC in the extended appointment of Ms Myeni will be useful to the Standing Committee on Finance in dealing with its resolution that requests that Minister Gigaba review his decision to extend the appointment and to provide the basis on which he made the decision.

Times Live

Private security firms a threat to society

URBAN – South Africa's numerous private security companies posed a danger to society and were in urgent need of regulation, police minister Fikile Mbalula said on Friday.

"These companies pose a danger to society and their strong regulation is required," said Mbalula. A Bill to this effect was awaiting the signature of President Jacob Zuma, he said. "This Bill will go a long way in addressing many of the related challenges.

"Criminals have found a loophole in having access to weapons through registering security companies in South Africa. The private security industry regulatory authority, which is under my ministry, has been instructed to do a nationwide audit of the security companies that offer close protection services, also called bodyguards."

Mbalula was speaking at the notorious Glebelands Hostel in Umlazi. The minister arrived two hours late with a phalanx of police and city personnel in tow, walked speed-



Police Minister Fikile Mbalula

ily around a few blocks of the complex greeting residents and making small talk, then addressed media outside the notorious Russia house unit. He said the nationwide audit of private security companies would include data collection and ensuring compliance with the law. Companies found wanting would lose their operating licences.

African News Agency

'MAGAQA 'ASKED GOD TO SAVE HIM'

WAZULU NATAL - As Sindiso Magaqa clung to life after he was critically wounded in a failed assassination attempt, he had "seen God".

Magaqa, the former secretary-general of the ANC Youth League, relayed his vision to his pastor who had visited his bedside in the Durban hospital.

Magaqa and two others were wounded when the car they were travelling in was riddled with bullets in a hit-style attack in Umzimkhulu in July. He survived the attack, but last week died in hospital. His two colleagues survived but are still in hospital.

Addressing hundreds of mourners oyesterday, Pastor Johnson Bavu said that Magaqa had wept in his hospital bed.

I went to see him and he wept and said that he had seen our God," he said.

He purportedly told the clergyman that as he lay wounded in the bullet-riddled car, he begged God to spare his life.

"He told me that he asked God to save him," he added. Among the mourners were ANC Treasurer Zweli Mkhize, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba. *Times Live*

PIC board expresses confidence in CEO

OHANNESBURG – The Public Investment Corporation (PIC) Board expressed its confidence in the ability and integrity of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Daniel Matjila, management and staff of the PIC.

"The board wishes to state that it will continue to exercise its fiduciary duties without fear or favour, including accountability to all stakeholders. The board also noted media allegations prior to the meeting about its intention to remove the CEO. The board wishes to reiterate that it rejects these allegations with the contempt they deserve," the board said in a statement on Friday.

"The CEO made representations to the board responding to allegations levelled against him through the media. The CEO provided detailed documentary evidence of the decisions made by the PIC and that the process followed was in accordance with all policies, procedures and delegation of authority of the PIC."

In the statement on Friday, the board said that it took the decision to communicate the outcomes of its special meeting held in Pretoria.

"Ordinarily, the board would not publicly disclose the outcomes of its deliberations. However, the board deems it necessary to break from this tradition, given the heightened interest from the media and other stakeholders," it said.

"Following the deliberation by the board on the allegations and representations, the board accepted the representations of the CEO. Times Live ESKOM GETS ULTIMATUM ON TRILLIAN, OTHER ISSUES

OHANNESBURG - Public "The minister, in particular, expressed Parliamentary questions, was inac-

OHANNESBURG - Public Enterprises Minister Lynne Brown issued Eskom with a final ultimatum on Friday, to be briefed on the clarity of the power utility's relationship with Trillian, a Gupta-linked company, by Tuesday.

Brown met with Eskom's acting Chairperson Zethemba Khoza and acting group executive of Eskom Johnny Dladla on Friday, and questioned the power utility's "commitment to speedily addressing allegations of maladministration and corruption" to restore the public's confidence, her department said.

"The minister, in particular, expressed her disappointment at Eskom's inappropriate and tardy responses to questions she asked relating to its business relationship with Trillian," her department said.

According to the statement, Brown received a report from Eskom on September 1, that was signed off by Khoza.

"The report contained glaring gaps, and the minister requested further information. It was recently revealed that information Eskom provided the minister about its dealings with Trillian, which she used to respond to

Parliamentary questions, was inaccurate," her department said.

The Eskom Board are meeting tomorrow, and Brown wants to be briefed on Tuesday with resolutions the Board have reached on disciplinary processes; investigations into questionable contracts; stability in the company and particularly the executive team; why it took Eskom's legal department five days to forward her supplementary questions to the Board; and what happened between the first and second media statements Eskom issued on Trillian in June.

African News Agency

31

'Magaqa's murder linked to ANC's

December conference'

-WAZULUNATAL - As rumours abound that Sindiso Magaqa's assassination was planned by his own "comrades" in the ANC, his family have said that it has become hard to love the party.

The former ANC Youth League secretarygeneral was gravely wounded in a hit-style attempt on his life in July and died as a result of his wounds last week.

Speaking at his funeral yesterday, his uncle, Reverend P. Thobela, said that his killers may be found within party ranks.

"We love the comrades [the ANC] but when they do this, we are scared," he said.

Thobela said that the motive for his nephew's murder should be viewed against the national political landscape. "Everything points to December [the ANC's national elective conference]," he said. Magaqa's friend, Les Stuta, said that the newly-elected Umzimkhulu Councillor was killed when he was on the cusp of exposing corruption."He came to me with documents on corruption around a community hall. We are here because we lost him over a hall," he said.

Times Live

KHOZA WON'T ATTEND **DISCIPLINARY HEARING** WITH INVALID LEADERSHIP

OHANNESBURG

African National Congress MP Makhosi Khoza on Friday, said that she would not be attending her disciplinary hearing today after the Pietermaritzburg High Court ruled that the party's provincial leadership was

"For that reason alone, apart from the other material flaws in the disciplinary process initiated against me, the rescheduled disciplinary hearing is a nullity and cannot be proceeded with.

Any conduct to the contrary will, at the very least, be in constructive contempt of the judgment and unlawful," she



wrote in a letter on Friday

"It follows as a matter of course that any potential disciplinary steps to be taken could only be decided upon by a newly elected [Provincial

Executive Committee] PEC after a constitutionally compliant Provincial Elective Conference has taken place and new Provincial Office Bearers have been duly elected." African News Agency

Kunene ordered to remove sex videos from website

OHANNESBURG - Controversial businessman Kenny Kunene's online news website the Weekly Xposé has been ordered to remove two videos of a woman with whom Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa allegedly

Judge Raylene Keightley delivered judgment on Friday in the South Gauteng High Court in Johannesburg.

The website published graphic sexual videos, which a woman allegedly sent to Ramaphosa, who is not in the videos. The website blurred out the woman in the videos, but published her name, age and where she lives.

Keightley said the woman's right to privacy outweighed the public interest and the right to freedom of expression.

She said the publication "crossed the line" and did not consent to the world seeing the videos "at a click of a button".

She ordered the videos and any sexually graphic pictures be removed and could not be published in future.

Keightley said it does not matter if the videos were made for Ramaphosa.

Kunene was ordered to pay with costs.

Times Live

ANCWL slams 'smear campaign' against Public Protector

OHANNESBURG - The African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) on Friday slammed the enormous attacks" allegedly being mounted against Public Protector Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane.

This after it emerged that Mkhwebane had secret meetings with officials from the Presidency and the State Security Agency (SSA) days before releasing a final report into the CIEX on Absa.

Filed

This was revealed in court papers filed by SARB in the Pretoria High Court earlier this week.

Mkhwebane's CIEX report, released

on June 19 found that Absa bank should pay R1.15 billion to the fiscus over an "illegal gift given to Bankorp Limited/Absa Bank between 1986 and 1995".

The public protector also recommended that the mandate of the SARB be changed from targeting inflation to promoting economic growth.

Maintaining

Mkhwebane has since defended her disputed June 7 meeting with the Presidency, maintaining that "there was nothing sinister about that meeting".

"Since her office released the CIEX report, Adv Mkhwebane has endured enormous attacks from those who are

implicated, their proxies, defenders and beneficiaries of the CIEX loot.

"SARB, instead of focusing on complying with the remedial actions of the report and supervise the bank sector that is untransformed and some of the banks exposed by Competition Commission for manipulating the South African currency, has joined the smear campaign to discredit the Public Protector.

The ANCWL further accused SARB of attempting to divert attention from the CIEX report with accusations that the public protector was colluding with the SSA and Presidency.

News24

SASSA's plan for social grant payouts

RETORIA - The South African Social Security Agency has outlined a fiveyear change programme for the take-over of the function of payment of social grants, Social Development Minister Bathabile

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Social Security, led by the minister, was giving an update on progress made by SASSA on the new payment system for social grants in Pretoria on Friday.

The briefing follows the implementation of the Constitutional Court orders as directed in March this year.

In its judgment, the Constitutional Court ordered the minister and SASSA to submit quarterly reports highlighting the steps being taken to ensure the appointment of the new service provider when the current 12-month contract with Cash Paymaster Services lapses at the end of this year.

Dlamini said the proposed fiveyear take-over period was based on extensive research into various payment options and rec-

ommendations of the ministerial advisory committee and the work streams.

She added that they had begun collaborating with South African Post Office (SAPO) to ensure beneficiaries are paid at the end of March next year.

"As part of this interim arrangement and in line with the position of the governing party, SASSA began collaborating with Sapo with a view to working together to ensure payment of social grants beyond March 2018."

According to the minister, under the current contract with CPS, there are serious challenges, which she said they are working on resolving, with regard to the payments.

"Under the current contract with CPS, the total amount of all social assistance transfers are deposited into a CPS bank account. This creates serious challenges as SASSA is unable to have direct oversight on this account. To address this, Sassa is in a process of reactivating its paymaster general account with the South African Reserve Bank. News24

Former prosecutions boss Nxasana wants Zuma in the witness box

National Director of Public Prosecutions Mxolisi Nxasana wants President Jacob Zuma to face cross-examination about what motivated his removal from office. In an interview with eNCA on Friday, Nxasana claimed the president was determined to fire him

OHANNESBURG - Former

Nxasana revealed he knew his position at the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) was in jeopardy when Zuma refused to meet with

because Zuma feared being pros-

ecuted for corruption.

He said when he eventually managed to secure time with the president, Zuma made it clear the NPA head was no longer in his good books.

"He told me that people were telling him that I'm dangerous,



Former National Director of Public Prosecutions Mxolisi Nxasana.

that I really want to prosecute him and he said to me you know the mere mention of Mr Ngcuka, Bulelani, it just drives him crazy. And he said these people came to him and said I meet with Bulelani Ngcuka in one of the flats in Durban."

Eskom gets ultimatum on Trillian, other issues

OHANNESBURG - Public Enterprises Minister Lynne Brown issued Eskom with a final ultimatum on Friday, to be briefed on the clarity of the power utility's relationship with Trillian, a Gupta-linked company,

Brown met with Eskom's acting chairperson Zethemba Khoza and acting Group Executive of Eskom Johnny Dladla on Friday, and questioned the power utility's "commitment to speedily addressing allegations of maladministration and corruption" to restore the public's confidence, her department said.

"The minister, in particular, expressed her disappointment at Eskom's inappropriate and tardy responses to questions she asked relating to its business relationship with Trillian," her department said.

According to the statement, Brown received a report from Eskom on September 1, that was signed off by Khoza. "The report contained glaring gaps, and the minister requested further information. African News Agency





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SPECIALS

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Zlatan Ibrahimovic delivers an update on his return from injury

ONDON - Zlatan Ibrahimovic expects Manchester United to achieve great things this season - and to return from injury better than ever.

Written off by many upon switching Paris St Germain for Old Trafford last summer, the veteran striker silenced the doubters by netting 28 goals in his maiden campaign in English football.

Ibrahimovic scored in both the EFL Cup and Community Shield successes at Wembley, as well as playing a key role in United's triumphant Europa League campaign - the competition in which he sustained a serious

Five months on and the striker is making impressive progress in his recovery from knee ligament damage and, having initially been released in the summer, has been rewarded with a contract until the end of the season.

It is a campaign Ibrahimovic clearly believes can end in glory.

United are back in the Champions League and entered the weekend top of the Premier League, with the 35-year-old well aware of the fact Jose Mourinho has won the title in his second season during all five reigns of major clubs.

"I think we can achieve great things," said Ibrahimovic, whose team-mates host Everton today. "We have to remember the second year of Jose Mourinho is always the best one. "This year will be very exciting and with these new players the team is stronger, and I expect us to do great things. "I'm just waiting for the moment to get back to the team and to play with them and enjoy the moments."

A return before Christmas is on the cards for the former Sweden striker, who could reportedly even be back as early as November.

Ibrahimovic has downplayed his knee ligament injury as a "little break for a small injury", although patience and positivity have been key during rehabilitation.

"I feel good," Ibrahimovic said in a wideranging interview with Inside United.

"I have trained every day since I had my knee operated on, there is no vacation.

"It's a new challenge but I am strong mentally and when I focus on an objective nothing can stop me. "I will go through everything, it doesn't matter what's in my way, I will break everything to reach my goal.

"When I come back to play football on the field I will be better than before, I am not coming back because I am the one I am, I am coming back to be a better version of the old one. Imagine how that will be!

Teamtalk

ARIS - Pep Guardiola says 'MBAPPE NOT ON new Paris Saint-Germain forward Kylian Mbappe has plenty to prove before he can be MESSI'S LEVEL YET' considered on the same level as the all-time greats after Arsene Wenger said he could be the next



Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe.

always plays every three days, never injured because he controls his body," he said. "That's why I don't think we help with hypothetical suitors for him, saying you are going to be the new guy. So let Mbappe have the fantastic career he will have and after we"ll see in

the future." Guardiola also said he had warned his Manchester City stars about the perils of social media although he has no intention of curbing their use of it.

A number of City players, in particular new French international full-back Benjamin Mendy, are prolific users of social media.

Former Monaco defender Mendy was widely criticised when he mocked Brighton's Lewis Dunk on Twitter after he scored an own goal in the match against City on the opening day of the season.

Bayern Munich hitman Lewandowski urges agent to push through a deal to Real Madrid

ERLIN - Robert Lewandowski has instructed his agent to push through a move from Bayern Munich to Real Madrid, according to AS.

The Arsenal Manager heaped praise on the French teenager, who

joined the Paris giants from Monaco in the transfer window, linking up

with Brazilian superstar Neymar

to form a frightening forward line.

But the City boss, when asked

by reporters on Friday to com-

pare Mbappe with Lionel Messi,

whom Guardiola managed at

"Nobody can sit at the same table as Messi. Maybe Mbappe, he's a

top player, he will be an outstanding

"But to equal what Messi has

done in 10 or 12 years, or Cristiano

(Ronaldo), for example, we have

to wait. I appreciate Mbappe would-

n't like me to put more pressure

Guardiola said Argentine for-

"I think Messi has the numbers

of 60-70 games every season, in

the big games, always being there

to score and assist, never injured,

ward Messi had produced his best

on his shoulders.'

season after season.

player, I'm pretty sure of that.

Barcelona, reacted cautiously.

The Polish striker made waves earlier this summer when he questioned why the German champions didn't match the spending of Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona.

Bayern CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge then added fuel to the flame by mentioning in an interview with German newspaper Bild that Real Madrid was 'the club of Lewandowski's dreams'. And now, according to the Spanish outlet, these issues have come to a head with the forward believing this is the perfect time to make the move to the Bernabeu and insisting



situation but still reap the rewards

of the striker - who has

scored over 40

goals in each of

the last two sea-

sons — on the

Dailymail

pitch.

his agent sounds out the La Liga giants. The 29-year-old has been prolific since his switch from Borussia Dortmund back in 2014 — netting a remarkable 117 times in just 153 matches.

Meetings between Bayern and the player's representatives are expected to be frequent this sea-

home.

scored his first goal in his second spell at the club in a 2-1 win over promoted Brighton and Hove Albion on Friday as Eddie Howe's side grabbed a vital first Premier League victory of the season.

> The south coast side went into the game second bottom in the league, having lost their first four fixtures and scored only once.

Deadly Jermain Defoe

proves his worth

...as he completes Bournemouth's

comeback victory against Brighton

ONDON - Bournemouth's Jermain Defoe

Their miserable run looked like it might continue as, after a goalless first half at the Vitality Stadium, the visitors took a surprise lead 10 minutes after the break when Solly March headed in his first Premier League goal from Pascal Gross's cross.

Chris Hughton's side were ahead for 12 minutes before Bournemouth's Jordon Ibe changed the game. The influential former Liverpool attacker found South African midfielder Andrew Surman in the middle of the box, who finished in the far left corner of the Brighton goal.

Ibe turned provider again little more than five minutes later, showing good control outside the area to hold onto the ball and play it through to

The 34-year-old did not need to take a touch as he span quickly and struck the ball low past goalkeeper Mathew Ryan to score his first goal in a Bournemouth shirt since he lined up alongside his now manager 16 years ago. "He's an unbelievable professional. He sets the example." Dailymail Jermain Defoe.

STEVEN GERRARD LABELS MESUT OZIL A 'LIABILTY'

Fly

Emirates

ONDON - Plenty of pundits have said the against the Premier League's and Steven Gerrard simply 31 games, he has out of possession, he icism often levelled his way. joined the party.

The Liverpool legend labelled Ozil a liability away with a win ratio of from home, criticised him for doing no dirty work, said he is useless out of possession and does not know how to put in a shift.

Arsenal are set for their third Premier League away game this season today, having already lost 1-0 to Stoke City then 4-0 to Liverpool. Avoiding a third defeat at Chelsea could depend on which Ozil turns up. THE CONTRACTOR OF THE PERSON O

The German's record year-old.

scored five times and assisted eight goals,

only 19 per cent. Ozil and his teammates didn't turn up at Anfield but it was

their beating at the bet365 Stadium that prompted Gerrard to have his say about , the 28-1

"He just doesn't do enough," pundits have said the against the French Lagues same about Mesut Ozil top five isn't the greatest. In he said. 'It's clear to see that, son (15) but laziness is a crit-

doesn't want to know. He only wants to be on the ball, trying to create, but world class players do both.' No-one in the

Premier

for Arsenal - having also covered 329.3km for them last season, second only to Nacho Monreal. Ozil, then, is hardly a slouch.

League has created more

chances than Ozil this sea-

In Gerrard's case, he was

taking about away from

He has been clocked at

20.7mph - the fifth fastest

At Madrid, he was well known for his counter-attacking ability, with devastating through-balls. Dailymail

Mesut Ozil.

ALONSO KEEPS MCLAREN WAITING OVER NEW DEA

INGAPORE- Fernando Alonso said he needed time to look into McLaren's new partnership with Renault before pledging his future, as he kept his options open despite their split with Honda.

Alonso repeatedly threatened to guit as McLaren struggled with their Honda engines, and their switch to Renault power next year is expected to convince

Mobil

But the two-time world champion, who has also dabbled in IndyCar, said he first wanted to study the new partnership, which was announced at the Singapore

Grand Prix on Friday. just received the

news and now after Singapore, which is the first priority for me, I

will try to know a little bit more about the project and about the Renault engine, about the expectations for next year," Alonso said.

"Because obviously right now I don't know anything. So after I consider that I will make decisions.

The 36-year-old Spaniard

said earlier in Singapore that he had offers both inside and outside of F1, and that he would make up his mind in the next few weeks.

Alonso, who won his world titles with

the Renault team in 2005 and 2006, has a long-term goal of becoming only the second driver to complete the Triple Crown winning the Monaco Grand Prix, Le Mans and the Indy500.

Securing his services is a major priority for McLaren, who are Formula One's most suc-

cessful British team but have not won a race since 2012.

"We're going to turn our attention to Fernando now," said McLaren executive director Zak Brown. "We've been speaking a lot. I think in the not-toodistant future we should be able to get something done.

"And that will be the last big piece of the puzzle.

Switching to Renault might not be the catch-all solution for McLaren as, like Honda, the French engine-maker has also had its problems with F1's complex hybrid technology.

"McLaren have gone from the fourthworst engine to the third-worst engine," commented Sky Sports analyst and ex-F1 driver Martin Brundle.

Alonso also sounded a note of caution when he said,"You never know if it's a good move or a bad move for the

"But I think definitely if McLaren thought it was time to split with Honda and go for Renault, it's because they have good information about next year.

"Hopefully that will put McLaren again in the places that we all feel that McLaren belongs." Alonso added that he felt "proud" of McLaren's project with Honda, despite the fact it has failed to yield a single podium place in more than twoand-a-half seasons.

"We all felt that it was the perfect match, we all felt that this could be a great time for this partnership," he said.

"Unfortunately, we tried our best and we didn't succeed.'

have to improve our communi-

cation for the next rubber."

In the play-offs, where the

winners will compete in the

Stunning Vettel grabs Singapore pole

INGAPORE - Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel came from nowhere to seize pole position at the Singapore Grand Prix as he threw down the gauntlet to championship leader Lewis Hamilton yesterday.

Vettel, who had struggled in practice, timed a record 1min 39.491sec at the floodlit Marina Bay street circuit ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Daniel Ricciardo. Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen will start fourth with Hamilton, who leads Vettel by just three points in the standings, fifth ahead of his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas. Verstappen, 19, had looked set to become the first teenager on pole but Vettel stormed through with two blistering laps in the final session to clinch it by three-tenths of a second."Yesterday (Friday) was difficult, this afternoon was difficult but tonight the car

just came alive," said Vettel, who looked stunned by his own performance. Qualifying has often been crucial in

Singapore, where seven of the nine races so far have been won by the driver who started from pole.

Vettel was 11th in Friday's second free practice session, and he took a chunk out of one of the circuit's walls in the final pre-qualifying run-out on Saturday.

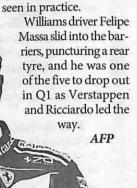
He was just 12th in Q1, the opening section of qualifying, before improving to fourth in Q2.

But he is now in a great position to claim his fifth win in Singapore, while Hamilton will be up against it when he starts from the third row of the grid.

"I knew we had it in us. It was a bit of a struggle to get there but now I'm just happy," Vettel said.

The drivers had got off to a slow start after a fire in a Porsche Carrera Cup race before qualifying left oil on the track at Turn 20, making conditions treacherous.

"The oil seems everywhere in the final sector," complained Toro Rosso's Daniil Kvyat, as the early times were far slower than those



GIBSON THE RIGH MAN FOR SA JOB, SAYS SIMONS

OHANNESBURG - A fresh approach, experience, and the right man for the job: Ottis Gibson pushed all the right buttons to become South Africa's new coach.

That's according to Eric Simons, a member of the panel Cricket South Africa appointed to find a successor to Russell Domingo. "He's going to bring a fresh outlook," Simons said. "He's got a lot of experience now, and he has coached at a number of levels.

"He's coached West Indies, where he ended up losing his job. I think in that process as a coach you end up learning a lot. "We asked a lot of questions about him - what he's like, what his style is - and we obviously need to marry the relationship not only with him and the team but especially with the captain. I think they are going to fit well together from that perspective.

"He is a good thinker, a good planner of the game, and I think that's what (captain) Faf (du Plessis) likes; he likes that information and that relationship is very important."

What separated Gibson from other candidates who were in the running — one of whom was Domingo, who had spent four mostly successful years in the position? "He has international experience and I think he learnt a lot through that tough period with West Indies.

"As coaches, we hire them when we shouldn't and fire them when we should hire them. "In speaking to him and the players around him, he was very honest about what he has learnt and what he has become." Was Gibson the panel's first choice?

"He emerged as the first choice because that's the one we picked at the end of the day. It was a very good process. Everybody started on an equal footing and then it slowly emerged. "It was not just a case of picking the person you also have to marry what's needed. We are not far away from an ICC (International Cricket Council) tournament (the 2019 World Cup), although it may feel far away. AFP

yrgios pulls Aussies level in Davis Cup a captain. I was a bit stressed and I think RUSSELS - Nick Kyrgios clinched Davis Cup has been my I passed my stress to Lucas," he said. "I'll

a five-set thriller to pull Australia level with Belgium in the Davis Cup semifinals on Friday, just hours after admitting he wasn't taking tennis seriously enough.

The combustible Kyrgios came back from two sets to one down to defeat 33year-old Steve Darcis 6-3, 3-6, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1, 6-2 in 3hr 36min on the clay courts of Brussels' Palais 12 arena.

Kyrgios fired 34 aces and 41 winners to take his Davis Cup singles record to seven wins in eight, as Australia finished the day at 1-1 after world number 12 David Goffin had beaten 185-ranked John Millman 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-3, 7-5.

Kyrgios, defeated in the first round of the US Open by compatriot Millman earlier this month, went into the match suffering a hip injury as well as a lack of motivation.

Writing on www.playersvoice.com, the 22-year-old said: "I am not the proonal tennis needs me to be.

"I'm not making the improvements I should because I don't want it enough, I'm not taking it seriously enough.

"There is a constant tug-of-war between the competitor within me wanting to win, win, win and the human in me wanting to live a normal life with my family away from the public glare."

However, he was overjoyed by his performance in Brussels as Australia, the 28-time champions, seek a place in the Davis Cup final for the first time since they last won the title in 2003.

"(Captain) Lleyton Hewitt and I have put so much dedication into this, the

No one priority this year. I think we must be favourites going into the doubles' tomorrow, Kyrgios told daviscup.com. Jordan Thompson and John Peers will play

the doubles against Arthur De Greef and Ruben Bemelmans with the reverse singles to be played on Sunday.

In Lille, Dusan Lajovic made a mockery of the absence of Novak Djokovic to give Serbia a shock lead over France in their semifinal.

World number 80 Lajovic edged Lucas Pouille, ranked 58 places higher, 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (9/7), 7-6 (7/5) in the first rubber of the tie also being played on clay.

"This is what the Davis Cup is all about," said Serbia captain Nenad Zimonjic, who is without his three leading singles players -Djokovic, who is sidelined until 2018 with a wrist injury, Janko Tipsarevic and Viktor Troicki.

However, France, the nine-time champions, levelled the tie at 1-1 when Jo-Wilfried Tsonga downed Davis Cup debutant and world number 95 Laslo Djere, 7-6 (7/2), 6-3, 6-3.

France captain Yannick Noah was critical of his own performance.

"I did not have a very good match as





BARCLAYS O

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



LUKAKU IS A REAL FINISHER,

ONDON - Jose Mourinho backed Premier League. "He Romelu Lukaku to shine against his former club as early Premier League pace-setters Manchester United host Everton at Old Trafford today.

United's league record had been perfect until they were held to a 2-2 draw at Stoke last Saturday, although the disappointment of conceding twice was mitigated by the impressive scoring form of Lukaku and Marcus Rashford.

Now 24 and with six years of Premier League experience behind him, Lukaku is now ready to succeed at the top level according to his manager, unlike in 2011 when he joined Chelsea from Anderlecht.

"I think Romelu has come here at the right moment," Mourinho said. "He is a good age. He has a good number of years of experience with different clubs in the Premier League. He is clearly a player who has adapted to the

has good

friends already in the dressing room and has had an easy integration

into our group. The way the team is trying to play has good relation to his qualities as a player. So I think he has come at the right moment of his career."

Lukaku's strong start to life at Old Trafford, he has six goals in six games for United, will help to offset the absence of France midfielder Paul Pogba, who may be out for several weeks.

Conte eyes revenge over Arsenal

ONDON - Antonio Conte has challenged Chelsea to ⊿avenge last season's FA Cup final heartache when they face title rivals Arsenal today.

Conte's team were denied a memorable Premier League and FA Cup double after the champions crashed to a 2-1 defeat against Arsenal at Wembley in May.

With Alexis Sanchez scoring a controversial opener for Arsenal and Chelsea's Victor Moses sent off for diving, it was a bitter conclusion to an otherwise perfect first season in charge for Conte.

The Gunners also handed Conte the most chastening defeat of his reign earlier that season with a 3-0 victory in the league, as well as defeating Chelsea in the Community Shield at the start of this term.

Any meeting with London rivals Arsenal is a big moment in Chelsea's season, but those painful losses mean the latest derby at Stamford Bridge carries extra significance for Conte and company.

"I remember very well that

game. We were unlucky, if you remember the first goal it was very strange," Conte said of the Cup final.

"I was sure this goal would be disallowed, instead we started 1-0 down.

"We tried to change the game, then a red card, with 10 men we equalised, but then we conceded another goal.

"When you lose there is always disappointment but I always see a good mentality from my players when there is a defeat.

Answer

"After a bad start to this season, the Burnley defeat, I had a good answer from my players, they showed a great mentality."

That opening weekend loss to Burnley aside, it has been a perfect start for Chelsea, with three successive league wins followed by a 6-0 thrashing of Qarabag in the Champions League on Tuesday.

In contrast, Arsenal have endured a rocky period as a loss at Stoke was followed by a humiliating 4-0 defeat against Liverpool.

G ABSA

REMIER LEAGUE

16 September 2017

13:30 Crystal Palace

16:00 West Bromwich Albion v West Ham United

16:00 Watford

16:00 Newcastle United

Huddersfield Town

Tottenham Hotspur 18:30

Sms "Premier" to 6464

v Southampton

v Manchester City

v Stoke City

v Leicester City

v Swansea City

16:00 Liverpool

Burnley

Sms "Liverpool" to 6464

Sunday 17 September 2017

14:30 Chelsea Sms "Chelsea/Arsenal" to 6464

17:00 Manchester United

Everton

Arsenal

Sms "Manutd" to 6464

Get all the latest scores and news updates as the game progresses



Absa Premiership **Fixtures**

16 September 2017

15:00 Baroka FC v Free State Stars 20:15 Platinum Stars v Chippa United

Sms "SAPLS" to 6464

18:00 Kaizer Chiefs Sms "Chiefs" to 6464 **Bidvest Wits**

Sunday 17 September 2017

15:00 Golden Arrows v AmaZulu FC

Sms "Sapls" to 6464







Sale of PSL club Platinum Stars to be announced

USTENBURG - Platinum Stars' sale to Rustenburg businessman Thabo Mokgatle will be announced on Wednesday, TimesLIVE is informed.

The announcement of the sale by Stars' long-time owners, the Royal Bafokeng Nation, is scheduled to be made at a press conference at Kedar Lodge outside Rustenburg.

Mokgatle - a businessman from the township of Phokeng, where Stars' home ground, Royal Baofokeng Sports Palace, is situated - is believed to have the intention of bringing greater financial clout to the North West Province Premier Soccer League club.

Struggled

Stars have struggled to provide financial outlay to their coaches in recent seasons to make significant signings and hang onto their top players.

Mokgatle, apparently a cousin to Royal Bafokeng King Leruo Molotlegi, reportedly owns EK Holdings, a software company that services the mining industry.

Platinum Stars General Manager Senzo Mazingisa could not be reached for comment.

Goal

BAROKA FC CONTINUE T DREAM STA

OLOKWANE - Baroka FC continued their dream start to the season with a 1-0 win over struggling Free State Stars in Polokwane yesterday afternoon.

The hosts dominated the first half, creating numerous opportunities and forcing Badra Ali Sangaré into some fine saves.

A superb ball over the top to Lucky Nguzana 17 minutes in caught Luc Eymael's defence sleeping, but they were let off when the striker failed to hit the target.

Paulus Masehe in particular struggled to cope with the onslaught and was booked after 21 minutes for a reckless lunge on Talent Chawapiwa.

If there was one Free State Stars

players who threatened in the first half, it was Sinethemba Jantjie - who justified his elevation to the starting lineup by giving the Baroka defence nightmares on the break.

Ea Lla Koto's best chance of the half

came 41 minutes in as a well-orchestrated counterattack saw Jantjie break through. However, he failed to take the ball around Virgil Vries, giving the defence enough time to get back and deal with the danger.

Kick Off



ORLANDO PIRATES COACH MYSTIFIED BY REF'S CALLS

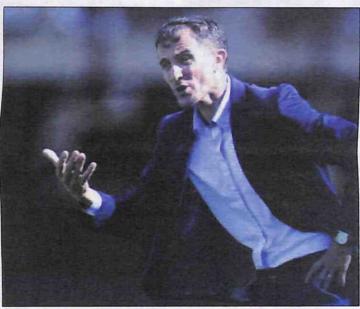
IETERMARITZBURG -Orlando Pirates coach Milutin Sredojevich said he was mystified by two major decisions that potentially cost his side victory in their ABSA Premiership clash away against Maritzburg United on Friday.

Thabo Qalinge had an eighth minute penalty appeal turned down after being hacked in the home team's penalty area and in the 50th minute Ntsikelele Nyauza poked home the ball from close range only for the goal to be disallowed.

"These were two critical situations where I'm asking myself what happened.

"First when Qalinge was brought down and why our goal was disallowed," the new Pirates coach said after the goalless draw at the Harry Gwala Stadium.

"We played against a very good team in a very tough place to come



Orlando Pirates coach Milutin Sredojevich.

to play. It was a very tough match are a team that are physically very from the start to end. Maritzburg

fit and with an unusual tactical for-

mation for a PSL club, playing with three behind. "I believe we handled the match well. We had some problems in the first 15 minutes but after those 15 minutes we came into the game and dictated the tempo.

Aspect

"We are in the process of building, and in that context very satisfied with the defensive aspect.

'We need to be much better and faster in terms of ball circulation and build-up and the chronic problem of our football is the finishing that needs to be much better,' Sredojevich added.

"We'll pick the positives from this game and look to upgrade what was good, correct what was wrong and look forward to the game against Cape Town City on Tuesday.

Pirates are home at the Orlando Stadium for that match.

Soccer Laduma

Furman says he joined SuperSport United to win silverware

OHANNESBURG - With two knockout competition title medals, SuperSport United captain Dean Furman looks back at his decision to join the club as a good because he is always hungry to win trophies.

The 29-year-old is the type of player who is not afraid to put his body on the line for his team to succeed, having played a key role in the two Nedbank Cup titles they have won since his arrival

Furman will have an opportunity to win a third title when SuperSport take on Cape Town City in the MTN8 final at Moses Mabhida Stadium on October 14, in a repeat of last year's Telkom Knockout (TKO) final.

City beat SuperSport in the TKO final played at Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane and Matsatsantsa would not want to get beaten by the Citizens again.

It's SuperSport's third straight knockout competition final and Furman could not be happier with how things have worked out since he joined.

"That's what I came here to do. When I initially sat down and I spoke to the CEO Stan Matthews, he said 'come to South Africa and let's win things together'," Furman reveals.

"So far we've taken two Nedbanks and obviously the now another cup final. We want to create a winning culture here and we want to be lifting trophies and we want to be competitive on all fronts. So far so good."

The last time SuperSport lifted the

MTN8 was 13 years ago in 2004 under the guidance of Pitso Mosimane, when the competition was then known as the SAA Supa 8.

They were then on the losing side against Moroka Swallows in 2012 at Orlando Stadium.

Since arriving at SuperSport, Furman has been knocked out in the first round of the MTN8 twice, but hopes he can

finally be part of the side remembered for winning it in 2017.

Finally be part of side remembered for winning it in 2017.

"I can only talk from my perspective and we've been [knocked out] in the first round on both occasions," he reveals.

"I missed it in 2015 because I came late and last year to Mamelodi Sundowns, so this was

one that we really thought we could have a good go at. "We in the final, job is not finished but we are delighted to be there. Kick Off

MANYISA MOVED TO PROVE HIS CRITICS WRONG

OHANNESBURG - The death threats Oupa Manyisa and his teammates received four years ago, when he was with Orlando Pirates, remain vivid in

his memory.

A relaxed Manyisa, at his new home in Chloorkop as a Mamelodi Sundowns' player, opened up about his experiences of playing continental club football with the Buccaneers. Manvisa reached two finals with the Sea Robbers, the 2013 CAF Champions League and the 2015 CAF Confederation Cup. He finished on the losing side on both occasions but the experience he gained makes him a perfect fit with the reigning African champions, who continue their bid to retain the Champions League tomorrow at Lucas Moripe Stadium against

Morocco's Wydad Casablanca in the first leg of the quarterfinals. "I will never forget the trip to Egypt for the final of the Champions League in 2013," Manyisa said. "We were up against all odds.

Win

The Al-Ahly players told us it's either they win and we go home or we win and die here.

At first it was too difficult to handle that statement, especially seeing the large crowd at the stadium with some even sitting on top of the score board. It unsettled us. "But once we found our composure the atmosphere created by the fans didn't intimidate us. It made us stronger because you must be mentally strong to succeed, especially in the continent." Goal

wanted me, but a few things hap-

pened and I thought Everton

would be the best place for me to

come. I thought I would get a lot

of game time here, more than I

possibly would at Manchester

United, and that was a massive

"To be honest, having been at

Burnley for three years, I wasn't

a fan of the club like I used to be.

I wasn't as big a fan of Man United

as I had been, so I had to sort of

put that to one side and just think

rationally about what would be

"My family are all Man United

best for me as a footballer.

factor in my decision.

SPORT

ZIDANE WANTS MORE FROM BALE

Madrid need their record signing Gareth Bale to improve, with the Welsh winger having suffered criticism from supporters and Spanish media, coach Zinedine Zidane said yesterday.

Bale scored in the first Liga game of the season at Deportivo La Coruna but has not found the net since and was whistled by Madrid fans on Wednesday during the 3-0 Champions League win over Apoel Nicosia.

We want and need him to do more on the pitch, and he does too," Zidane told a news conference. "But we are calm because he will do it soon."

Real Madrid face high-flying Real Sociedad at Anoeta today and, with Cristiano Ronaldo serving the final match of his five-game suspension and Karim Benzema injured, the onus will be on Bale to make the differ-

However, Zidane said the winger does not have to be the team's leader in the clash against Eusebio Sacristan's secondplaced side, who have won all three of their opening games and are level on nine points at the top with Barcelona.

"He will do his job," said Zidane. "Each day he feels better. I said that he has had four months out of the team (injured) and to return to his level he needs at least four months.

"We don't have to think that because Cristiano and Karim are not there he has to be the leader, there are other important players too.

"Occasionally a player makes the difference with his goals, his moves, but we make the difference as a group more than an individual player.'

Zidane confirmed that Toni Kroos and Jesus Vallejo would miss the game with injury problems in a squad already missing Ronaldo, Benzema and the suspended Marcelo.

Eight-placed Madrid are already four points behind Barca and if the Catalans win at Getafe there will be a seven-



Gareth Bale.

point gap before the kick-off at Anoeta today, increasing the pressure on Bale.

"If (Bale) scores two goals, everyone will be happy and the

dynamic of what everyone thinks of Gareth will change," said Zidane. "Everything takes time, he needs time, that's it."

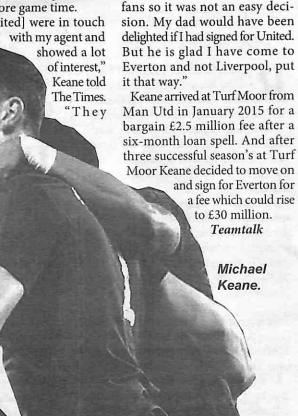
Keane reveals why he rejected Man Utd return

ANCHESTER - Michael Keane has revealed he did have the option of returning to Manchester United in the summer but turned down the opportunity in favour of signing for Everton.

A return to Old Trafford looked almost certain for Keane, 24, when it emerged that Jose Mourinho was interested in the the Burnley centre-back.

But instead of an emotional return to Old Trafford, Keane opted for a move to Everton to link up with Ronald Koeman in a a move that he thought would offer him more game time.

"They [United] were in touch



Kroos adds to Madrid's casualty list

Kroos added a fresh Lblow to a depleted Real Madrid ahead today's trip to on-form Real Sociedad with the German the latest of a number of key players ruled out.

Kroos missed training yesterday with a minor muscle problem and joins the suspended Cristiano Ronaldo and Marcelo and injured Karim Benzema, Mateo Kovacic and Jesus Vallejo on the sidelines.

"Toni has felt discomfort and we are not going to risk anything," Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane said yesterday. "In the course of the season there are complicated moments and that's what we have now with injuries." Real already trail rivals Barcelona by four points in the La Liga title race after just three games. Sociedad meanwhile are level with Barca at the top of the table after their best start to Super Cup.

a league season since 1981.

what they have been missing in draws against Valencia and Levante as he returned to score twice in a comfortable 3-0 win over Apoel Nicosia in the Champions League in midweek.

However, the World Player of the Year is absent once more as he completes his fivegame domestic ban for pushing a referee in the Spanish "We need to think that this is our last game

with Cristiano out," added Zidane.

"We need him, he is an important player, but we have a squad good enough to do well even when he isn't there. Goal

FIXTURES

Today

Absa Premiership

v AmaZulu FC Golden Arrows

Bundesliga 2017/2018

Hertha BSC Hoffenheim 13:30 Bayer Leverkusen v Freiburg

15:30

Borussia Dortmund v

CAF Champions League

Wydad Athletic Club Mamelodi 'Downs Etoile du Sahel Al Ahli Tripoli

erre A

12:30 Sassuolo Juventus Sampdoria 15:00 Torino SPAL Cagliari

Benevento Napoli 15:00 Milan

Chievo Atalanta 18:00 20:45 Genoa

Premier League 2017/2018

Arsenal 14:30 Chelsea Manchester United 17:00

French Ligue 1

21:00

Amiens SC 15:00

Rennes 17:00 Angers SCO 17:00 PSG

Olympique Marseille Metz

Olympique Lyonnais

Ronaldo showed Madrid

Motale discusses Pirates' defensive improvements OHANNESBURG - Former

Orlando Pirates defender, Edward 'Magents' Motale has had his say on why Orlando Pirates' defence has improved so dramatically this sea-Pirates currently have the joint best

defensive record in the Absa Premiership after four games, conceding just a single goal, after conceding 40 in 30 games last season, the fourth worst record in the league. And Motale believes that it has come about due to a change in mindset amongst the

"You can see a change in their (Pirates') mindset, because they play more as a unit," he told Soccer Laduma. "It's not like before when they couldn't play with each other, let alone play for the coach."

The 51-year-old continued by saying that new coach, Milutin Sredojevic, has made some changes, although he's not entirely sure what they are, and that Musa Nyatama has made a big impact since joining the club from



Edward 'Magents' Motale.

Bloemfontein Celtic. "They are now playing as a team and I'm not exactly sure what it is that Micho did," he continued. "I don't know if he motivated them or if there is something that's changed in the training sessions. Maybe they were just happy to see Micho come in... I don't know.

We all know that (Musa) Nyatama has been instrumental in midfield. He's great in defence and great to watch. He's fitted into the team like a glove and there's been no stage fright." Soccerladuma

Sundowns struck by injuries ahead of quarter-final first leg

OHANNESBURG - African champions Mamelodi Sundowns are without three significant attacking options as they prepare to host Wydad Casablanca in the quarter-final of the African Champions League today.

Khama Billiat, Yannick Zakri and the mercurial Liberian international Anthony Laffor will all be absent for the South African side.

It is a major blow to Sundowns' hopes of establishing a decent lead from today's first leg in Atteridgeville to take to the return game in Morocco next week.

Billiat, who was runner-up last year in the Confederation of African Football's award for the best Africanbased footballer, is still struggling with a hip flexor injury while Ivorian import Zakri has been battling with a groin strain. Laffor hurt his ankle on Monday when Sundowns beat

Free State Stars away in South Africa's Premier Soccer League to register a second win in their first three games at the start of the new sea-

Injured

The trio of injured strikers have been important regulars for Sundowns over the last year with Laffor the inspiration for the Pretoriabased clubs at key moments in both the semi-final and final of last year's Champions League.

Sundowns' midfield engine room will be without South African international Tiyani Mabunda, who also has a groin injury, while back-up goalkeeper Kennedy Mweene suffered a hamstring injury on international duty for Zambia.

"The worst result you can think for us this weekend is that if we don't score, they must not score.

CITY HIT WATFORD FOR SIX AS AGUERO BAGS TREBLE

ONDON - Manchester City stormed to the top of the Premier League as Sergio Aguero's hat-trick inspired a 6-0 demolition of Watford, while Philippe Coutinho's return couldn't lift Liverpool in a 1-1 draw against Burnley yesterday.

With previous leaders Manchester United not in action until today's clash with Everton, City had a chance to move three points clear of their title rivals.

Aguero ensured they did just that as the Argentine forward maintained his mastery of Watford at Vicarage Road. Pep Guardiola's side took the lead in the 27th minute when Aguero headed in from Kevin de Bruyne's free-kick for his seventh goal in five games against the Hornets.

Aguero wasn't finished inflicting



Aguero jumped highest to head in Manchester City's opener.

pain on Marco Silva's men and he struck again four minutes later, tapping in after Watford goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes couldn't hold David Silva's cross-shot.

Having notched his fifth goal of the season, Aguero turned provider in the 38th minute, slipping in Gabriel Jesus for a nonchalant finish.

It was City's 12th goal of a memorable week that also included a 5-0 thrashing of Liverpool and a 4-0 win at Feyenoord.

Nicolas Otamendi added to that tally when he headed in the fourth from Silva's cross in the 63rd minute before Aguero completed his 10th City treble with nine minutes left.

There was still time for Raheem Sterling to win and convert an 89th-minute penalty to cap City's swaggering display. At Anfield, with Sadio Mane suspended, Coutinho made his first Liverpool start since his failed attempt to force a move to Barcelona. Brazil forward Coutinho missed the first five games of the season with a back injury before coming on in Wednesday's 2-2 Champions League draw against Sevilla. *AFP*

Crystal Palace 0-1 Southampton: Hodgson suffers defeat in his first game

ONDON - Two hours before kick-off, Roy Hodgson got out of his car in the car park between Selhurst Park and Sainsbury's and greeted the well-wishers who crowded around.

He pressed the flesh and posed for selfies in his dark suit before a security guard led him into the stadium.

"He knows the club," one supporter said to no one in particular as he watched him go, reassuring himself that Hodgson's homecoming to the place he first came with his father, a Croydon bus driver, 64 years ago, would be a cure for the uncertainties visited upon this corner of south London by the doomed 77 day reign of Frank de Boer.

A few minutes before the start, the newly anointed Grand Old Man of English football, marched out of the tunnel in front of the Holmesdale End, where he had stood on that first visit with his father, and acknowledged the applause of the crowd. Glad All Over rang around the ground.

DAILYMAIL

Spot-on Vardy earns a point for the foxes

UDDERSFIELD - Jamie Vardy's penalty cancelled out a goal on his first Premier League start from Laurent Depoitre as Leicester City earned a battling 1-1 draw at Huddersfield Town.

Huddersfield had edged a first half that produced few moments of quality at the John Smith's Stadium and the match burst into life shortly after the break as Depoitre – who had made just one league substitute appearance this term – calmly slotted in a 46th-minute opener after outmuscling Harry Maguire.

But it proved a short-lived lead as four minutes later Vardy netted from the spot for the second consecutive week after Andy King was crudely felled by Chris Lowe.

Huddersfield looked the most likely to grab a winner thereafter and will feel aggrieved that Elias Kachunga saw a goal ruled out just after the hour, with replays suggesting the forward was perhaps marginally offside.

Leicester almost stole the points themselves, but Vardy failed to connect with Riyad Mahrez's cross with the goal unguarded.

A point leaves Huddersfield in fifth after five matches, while Leicester – who had lost back-to-back games to Manchester United and Chelsea – are 14th.

Huddersfield were fast out of the traps and Depoitre, named up front in one of three changes, met Tom Ince's cross with a glancing header straight at Kasper Schmeichel.

Lowe then sent a teasing ball across the face of goal that evaded everybody and the full-back also delivered a deep cross from the left that Maguire did well to shield to safety.

Leicester had offered little and a Vardy leftfoot snap-shot that flew wide shortly before the break was the best they had to show for a lacklustre first half.

The match came alive after the restart.

First, Depoitre showed superb strength to shrug off the attention of Maguire 30 yards from goal to collect Abdelhamid Sabiri's throughball and race into the area before coolly slotting past Schmeichel.

roal

Liverpool held by stubborn Burnley

IVERPOOL - Jurgen Klopp's frustrating start to the season continued as Liverpool were held to a 1-1 draw by Burnley at Anfield on yesterday, despite Mohamed Salah's fifth goal of the season.

The German made seven changes, including a first start of the campaign for Philippe Coutinho, to the side that was held at home 2-2 by Sevilla in the Champions League in midweek, but yet another defensive error cost Liverpool dearly against a Burnley team that has not won at Anfield in 43 years.

Two goals in three minutes were the highlight of a first half in which Liverpool dominated possession, yet were required to come back from a goal down after Scott Arfield opened the scoring on 26 minutes.

It again highlighted the weakness of a Liverpool defence that has been under the microscope over the opening weeks of the season and Klopp's furious response on the touchline spoke volumes about his own view of proceedings.

Robbie Brady won an aerial challenge with Trent Alexander-Arnold, heading into the area where centre-halves Ragnar Klavan and Joel Matip were drawn into a challenge on Chris Wood.

A faint touch off Klavan moved the ball on and the unmarked Arfield drove the ball home from 12 yards for his first goal since last October.

That strike stunned the home crowd into silence as Burnley threatened to spoil Liverpool's celebrations on the 125th anniversary of their first-ever match.

Fortunately for the home supporters, they only had to wait three minutes to draw level with the most simple of goals as an Emre Can pass, from well inside his own half, dropped invitingly for Salah.



Salah picks up the ball and sets off on a run forward as Burnley's Robbie Brady puts the winger under pressure.

The Egyptian showed neat control and a touch to take his marker Stephen Ward out of the game before driving an unstoppable fin-

ish past Nick Pope, the goalkeeper making his first Premier League start in the absence of injured England international Tom Heaton. *AFP*

Paulinho snatches victory, Dembele suffers injury scare

ETAFE - Substitute Paulinho scored a late winner as Barcelona came from behind to beat Getafe 2-1 and continue their perfect start to the new LaLiga season.

The Brazil international netted his first Barca goal with six minutes remaining as Ernesto Valverde's men recovered from a dreadful first half to claim a fourth straight top-flight victory in 2017-18.

The visitors lost Ousmane Dembele to injury in the opening period of his full Liga debut and their yesterday afternoon got worse when Japan international Gaku Shibasaki scored his first Getafe goal in stunning fashion before the break.

But another of Valverde's subs, Denis Suarez, struck for the first time since January as the visitors battled back in the second half, before Paulinho grabbed the winner just as it looked like they would have to settle for a draw. Leaders Barca now



have 12 points from their first four games and sit seven clear of reigning champions Real Madrid, whose game in hand is a testing away trip to in-form Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Getafe remain on four points and have now gone 10 LaLiga matches without a home win, despite a brave performance.

The hosts made a bright start, forcing Gerard Pique into a rugby tackle on Jorge Molina to thwart an early attack, earning the defender a booking, although the resulting free-kick was wasted.

Getafe were inches away from moving in front when a neat passing move ended with Shibasaki's cross from the left being put into the side netting by a stretching Molina only a yard out, with a vital deflection from Pique as the pass was making its way to the striker doing just enough to put him off.

Barca lost Dembele to a hamstring injury midway through the first half after he had attempted a back-heel near the corner flag, Gerard Deulofeu coming on.

Somewhat against the run of play, Barca should have moved ahead when Samuel Umtiti could only send a close-range free header straight at Vicente Guaita from Andres Iniesta's in-swinging cross.

But it was Getafe who took a shock 39th-minute lead at the other end, with Damian Suarez's deep cross brilliantly chested back by Markel Bergara, allowing Shibasaki to unleash a magnificent 20-yard volley past Marc-Andre ter Stegen, who was making his 100th Barca appearance.

Goal



MTN Premier League 2017/18



Tambuti FC's Neliso Myeni and Mbabane Swallows' Sifiso Mabila fighting for the ball during the MTN Premier League game at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Swallows won 3-2. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



Felix Badenhorst winning the ball from Sisekelo Matsenjwa.

Swallows' second goal scored by

Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu.



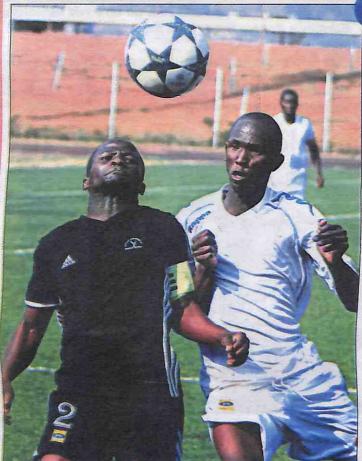
Njabulo Ndlovu and Mpendulo Ngidi vying for the ball.



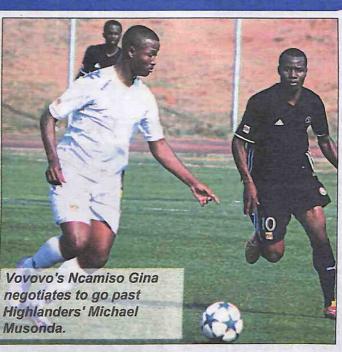
Swallows' Gomezgani Gondwe, Felix Badenhorst and Njabulo Ndlovu celebrating one of their three goals.



VOVOVO STUN 'BULI



Mbabane Highlanders' Xolani Sibandze and Vovovo FC's Mamuli Msibi battling for the ball during the MTN Premier League match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Vovovo won 2-1. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



Dejected Mbabane Highlanders supporters after the defeat.



Highlanders' Mfanufikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze controls the ball while Vovovo's Mxolisi Tsabedze blocks him.



Vovovo players celebrating the victory against Highlanders.





MTN Premier League 2017/18

CAN AMABHUBESI WIN IN THE DEEP BLUE OCEAN?

STORIES BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI apart from being just an ordinary newly

Matsapha United vs Red Lions Somhlolo National Stadium, 1:30pm

ed Lions started the season under a baptism of fire at the hands of Cross town rivals Manzini Sundowns which gave them a 4 - 0 thrashing in the opening fixtures of the Super Sunday.

The biggest question stands as to whether the struggling Dumsani Makhanya-led side will be able to fight off high-flying Matsapha United who announced their arrival to the elite league with a confident win against police side Royal Leopard. Matsapha have one thing that sets them promoted side, and that has to be their experienced technical personnel. Most of their players are

all experienced a n d have tasted Premier League footb a 1 1 before. They have

great squad and their coach Saul Chaminuka is also an experienced tactician who seemingly knows how to manoeuvre his way around tough game. He knows very well that if he has any chance of competing this season, battles against Red Lions need to be sort-

ed. Red Lions on the other hand will have to step up as two consecutive losses can be draining and demoralising, and that is surely something 'DU' doesn't want so early in the season. The team is expected to parade some of their new signings in this encounter the likes of Nigerian striker Ugochukwu Ohakwe, South Africa star Katlego and former

Manzini Sundowns star Delisa Hongwane, amongst others.

'Weslians' out for redemption at Malanti's expense

Malanti Chiefs vs Manzini Wanderers Somhlolo National Stadium, 3:30pm

anderers have been rocked by boardroom squabbles and as a result failed to have

a proper pre-season camp and the cracks showed last week when they were butchered 4-0 by a rejuvenated Mbabane Highlanders which was out for blood.

Nyanga Crooks Hlophe's largely inexperienced side were seemingly destabilised two minutes into the game when defender Maphosa was given marching orders by the man in black.

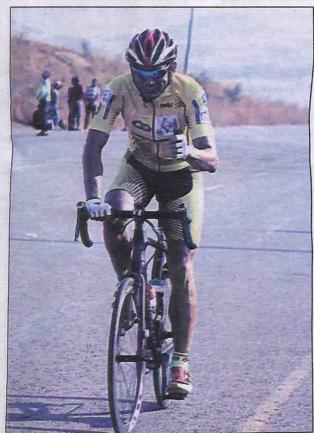
The hub giants will face off against Premier League outfit Malanti Chief and securing a win against the gold and black side will not be a stroll in the park. Malanti Chiefs came from behind to snatch a 3-

2 victory from Midas City in their opening game of the

Malanti showed good character during the game but a few cracks were visible they seemingly missed former Malawian hit-man Gomezani Gomez who now plies his trade with swashbuckling glamour side Mbabane Swallows.

Both teams have what it takes to bag maximum points in this encounter and supporters should be guaranteed an exciting clash.

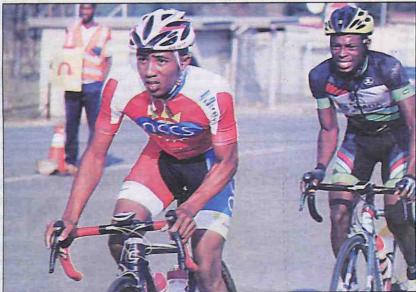
N KHEMANI CLASSIO



The South African cyclists Calvin and Renald having a chat during the course of the race.









Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council CEO Darius Dlomo with Minister Owen Nxumalo, who represented the Minister of the Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs, also took part in the race.



A cyclist from Dig Deep pictured along the route.

SA'S CALVIN IS MTN KHEMANI CHAMP

BY SABELO MAJOLA

YCLING - SOUTH Africa's Calvin Beneke rose above the scorching heat and a route dominated by tough hills to be crowned the MTN Khemani champion.

Over 100 cyclists took part in the race held at Mankayane yesterday. For his achievement, the Champion walked away with the E8 000 first prize.

Beneke made his break together with BCX teammate Renald Butler 30km from the start and the pair led all the way to the finish line, coming first and

second respectively. Calvin clocked 3:34:17 while Renald came in a second

Interviewed after his success, Calvin said it was his third time participating in the race and that he came sixth last

"There was a select group that made a break from the start but Renald and I were able to break away from the group but it was a very challenging race particularly the last 20km," he said.

His teammate Renald was handed the King of the Mountain award and there was no Queen of the Mountain winner as the fairer sex snubbed the 120km race. The first Swazi to cross the finish line was Mduduzi Zwane who finished eighth and clocked 3:54:56 hours. He said that it was his first time at the podium in the race and was impressed with his performance.

"We underestimated the two South African guys, let them open the gap with the hope that we would catch up with them. By the time we tried closing the gap, it was too late," he said.

Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa were some of the countries who came through for the race.



KHEMANI ROUTE TO CHANGE, **ACCOMMODATE SPRINTERS**

BY SABELO MAJOLA

YCLING -After complaints from some cyclists, MTN Khemani organisers are considering revising the route to accommodate sprinters.

This was mentioned by Khemani founder Dr. Futhi Dlamini when making his remarks after the race.

"We have had sprinters complaining that the Khemani route is meant for climbers only and next year we might look for a route that will accommodate them but Mankayane will remain the beneficiary of this race," he said.

Dlamini praised the administrators for a job well done and said it was a beautiful race.

"The local cyclists did well, for a long time they haven't been making it to the top ten but they fol-



A cyclist from Dig Deep pictured along the route.

lowed closely this time around and it is impressive," he said.

Cyclists at the start of

RETHA HARDING THE FIRST LADY IN

TN Khemani lady cyclist Retha Harding was the first lady to cross the finish line in the 60km category of the race.

Harding crossed the finish line in 2:18:14 hours and was followed by Promise Ntshese on a time of 2:22:16

Winning in the men's section was Newcom Wheels' Zwelithini Zulu on a time of 1:53:48 hours and he was followed by the MTN Khemani pair of Kwanele Jele and Philani Ngcamphalala who clocked1:54:59 and1:59:38, respectively.

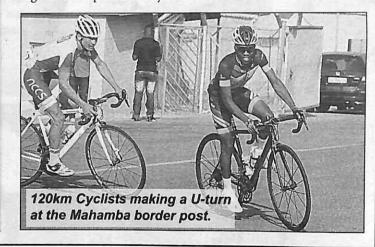
USDF's Sibusiso Mnisi came fourth at 1:59:39 hours.

	race.			
SELECTION OF THE RESULTS:	15 Similo	Nyoni	4:12:54	Kheman

120	km top 15	results:			
Pos	Name	Surname	Time	Team	
1	Calvin	Beneke	3:34:17	BCX	
2	Reynard	Butler	3:34:16	BCX	
3	Jan	Montshioa	3:42:36	Sampanda	
4	Nolan	Hoffman	3:48:48	BCX	
5	Thokozar	ni Mahlangu	3:51:05	Sampanda	
6	Fiffy	Kashululu	3:52:07	S.Namibia	
7	Mpho	Moloi	3:52:36	Rise	
8	Mduduzi	Zwane	3:54:56	Khemani	
9	Gcina	Banda ·	4:00:04	Dig Deep	
10	Sabelo	Mngometulu	4:01:35	Khemani	
11	Isaac	Mudau	4:06:18	Rise	
12	Abeng	Malete	4:10:32	Sampanda	
13	Ananias	Ananias	4:10:48	S. Namibia	
14	Danzel	De Koe	4-10-52	S Namibia	

60k	m top 15 r	esults:		
1	Zwelitini	Zulu	1:53:48	Newcom
2	Kwanele	Jele	1:54:59	Khemani
3	Philani	Ngcamphala	a1:59:38	Khemani
4	Sibusiso	Mnisi	1:59:39	USDF
5	Losika	Kelaotswe	1:59:40	Jonmol
6	Ayanda	Dlamini	1:59:48	4 Eva
7.	Mcebo	Langa	1:59:49	4 Eva
8	Benele	Mnisi	2:01	USDF
9	Lungelo	Dlamini	2:02:19	Individual
10	Dumi	Mhlongo	2:03:28	khemani
11	Siyandza	Dlamini	2:03:46	Individual
12	Simanga	Ndwandwe	2:04:53	USDF
13	Letlaamo	reng Ikaneng	2:04:57	Jonmol
14	Ciniso	Dlamini	2:04:59	Newcom
15	Jahalethu	Dlamini	2:05:11	Individual

the MTN Khemani 60km



Ncabaneni Vuka Aces crowned Ntondozi Under-20 League champs Football is now business - 'Cruiser'

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

TONTOZI - Sounds of celebration echoed the remote ka-Ndinda sports ground when Ncabaneni Vuka Aces were crowned champions of the Ntondozi U-20 Reserve League.

The team recorded a 3-1 victory against Juventus to walk away with the E2 000 cash prize. The games which attracted over 500 supporters in the area were sponsored by Ntondozi Member of Parliament Moses Vilakati who said sports promotes unity hence his decision to fund the games. He also stated that the tournament was meant to keep the youth in the area active and away from bad behavior. "Ntondozi has great talent and this is why teams in the PLS have a player from Ntondozi con-



The teams posing with dignitaries including Minister of Sports David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala, MP Moses Vilakati and National Football Association of Swaziland President Adam Bomber Mthethwa. (Courtesy pic)

stituency," he said. The legislator explained that the initial sponsorship for the Under -20 League stood at E26 000. He said they are hopeful to increase the sponsorship next year.

The MP recently donated 13 soccer kits to teams under the constituency. In addition, the MP, who is also minister of agriculture, sponsored the Ntondozi league for E50 000.

TONTOZI - Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David Cruiser Ngcamphalala says football should now be treated as a business.

Addressing the gathering during the Ntondozi Under- 20 League presentation last Saturday, the minister said he was impressed to note that the youth of Ntondozi takes soccer seriously.

"Football is no longer just sport but it is business as it can change ones lifestyle and become a source of income for those who believe in it," he said.

"As a ministry we are

very Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala.

grateful when MPs support sports in their various constituencies because that is where most talented players are groomed. We have been able to discover a lot of talented players during the Shukuma Swaziland

tournaments hosted countrywide," he said.

Also present during the event was National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) President Adam

Bomber Mthethwa and representatives from Montigny, Buy and Save Spa as well Swazi

Mobile.

VOVOVO WALLOP HIGHLANDERS 2-1

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Vovovo Highlanders

(0)1

OCCER - Rookies Vovovo have produced what is so far their biggest shocker of the season after handing capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders a 2-1 drubbing.

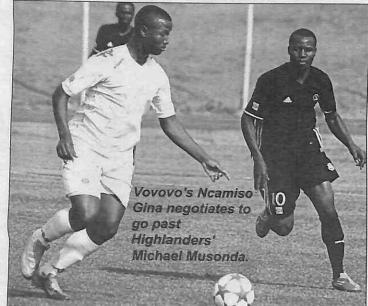
(2)2

This was during a fast flowing encounter played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The Caleb Ngwenya led side outdid themselves with a spirited first half performance to beat the much fancied opponents, recording their first victory in top flight football.

The job was done in the first half as the home side scored two goals in a space of four minutes.

Diminutive midfielder Mncedisi Dlamini scored twelve minutes into action with a low shot that came from a Sabbela Mohammed low



Winger Machawe Dlamini then doubled the score line in the 16th minute when he connected, with an easy header, a Mncedisi Dlamini corner kick shot beating the Landers backline which was in sixes and

Highlanders, who were a shadow of the team that convincingly thrashed Manzini Wanderers 4-0 last week, tried to respond in the 27th minute through Zambian striker Michael Musonda whose free kick taken from the edge of the box was, however, saved by Vovovo goalkeeper Machawe Dlamini.

Vovovo enjoyed a 2-0 cushion going to the break. Highlanders came out recharged in the second half as they pulled one back two minutes into restart through a Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkambule free

The crafty midfielder unleashed a rasping shot that rested on the far corner of the net leaving Dlamini stunned at the poles. Striker Sabbela failed to punish his former side in the 77th minute when he failed to head home a Machawe Dlamini rocket that had hit the cross bar. Instead the Ghanaian player missed the target with the goal at his mercy.

Highlanders effort to force a draw in the match were in vain as Vovovo protected the lead until the end of the match stunning the over 1 000 Highlanders fans that had come to see the team in action.

'Downs', 'Bucs' share the spoils

BY SABELO MAJOLA

Sundowns... (1)2 Pirates.....(2)2

OCCER - Manzini football supporters were Streated to an intriguing affair which saw Manzini Sundowns come back from two goals down to force a 2-2 score against Moneni

This was during a fast flowing Manzini derby played at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday.

An early penalty converted by Menzi Simelane in the first minute and another from Sihle Ndaba two minutes later put Moneni Pirates ahead in the

Sundowns' midfielder Sandumuzi Zwane, however brought his team back into the game in the 34th minute when he beat an off-side trap before firing past the Buccaneers goalkeeper Siyabonga Zwane. Zwane was the busier of the two shotstoppers in the second stanza, coming to the rescue for the 'Sea Robbers' in what could have been brilliant goals for Sundowns.

He first denied Phumlani Ngwenya 12 minutes in the second half who had unleashed a long range shot headed for the top corner and pulled yet another brilliant save to deny a well positioned Sandumuzi in the sixes 10 minutes before time. The 'Kappa Boys' salvaged the situation at death and it was through Melusi Mkhwanazi in what appeared to be an off-side strike, something that didn't go down well with Pirates. The result put Sundowns at the top of the MTN Premier League on a better goal difference.

Sundowns - Lwethu, Bongani, Sandile, Kingu, Jerome, Paito, Justice, Phumlani, Sandumuzi (Mbutfo), Ndumiso, Linda (Melusi) Pirates -Siyabonga, Thabo, Mthunzi, Samkelo, Menzi, Junior, Fanelo, Muhle (Charles), Vusumuzi (Thabiso), Xolani, Sihle

Forces derby ends in stalemate

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

G. Mamba (1)1 Leopard.....(1)1

OCCER - The security forces derby pitting Correctional Services side Green Mamba and police side Royal Leopard ended in a 1-all stalemate yesterday.

The clash was played at the King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium at Nhlangano.

Green Mamba was the better side in early minutes of the game, enjoying the lion's share of possession, but that was short-lived as Leopard drew first blood through speedy winger Bongiknhosi 'Manyovu' Dlamini seven minutes into the game

The winger dribbled his way past the 'Mamba defence before unleashing a low volley past Siyabonga Simelane who was manning the poles for Mamba.

Despite conceding the early goal, Green Mamba continued to run proceedings in the field of play but they somehow failed to break the frail Leopard defence. As they enjoyed play, the likes of Njabulo Thwala and Muhle Shiba gained confidence firing the needed shots but Leopard shot-stopper Phephisani Msibi was up for the challenge, making sure to deny them the net.

The green and white side's efforts finally paid off in the 45th minute after Sikhumbuzo Ntimane was disposed by Njabulo who exchanged a couple of passes before leveling matters for the free and white side.

After recess, Leopard upped their game and tried to make things happen in the final third, even bringing on former Moneni Pirates midfield maestro Bongani Ndzimandze, Philani Shabangu and Fanelo Tsabedze who rejuvenated life into the police side. Despite displaying an improved performance in the second half, the police side failed to find the elusive winner and eventually the physical encounter finished in the 1-all stalemate.

'Birds' beat resilient Tambuti in five goal thriller

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Tambuti (0)2 Mbabane Swallows (3)3

OCCER - MTN League Defending champions Mbabane Swallows recorded their first win of the new campaign after beating a resilient Tambuti 3-2 yesterday.

This was during a grueling encounter played at the Somhlolo National

It was a game of two halves as Swallows dominated the first stanza scoring three goals within the first quarter.

The Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati led troops' fast flowing pace worked for them in the opening minutes of the match as they took the lead seven minutes into action through a timely header by lanky striker Sandile Hlatswako resulting from Tony "TT" Tsabedze corner kick shot.



Experienced midfielder Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu doubled the advantage in the same fashion seven minutes later when he hammered home a 'TT' free kick giving Tambuti goalkeeper Thokozani Mkhulisi no chance at the poles.

The tried and tested "TT" added the glamour side's tally to three, six minutest before the breather when he unleashed a powerful volley at bout outside the 25 yards, provoking wild celebrations from the Birds faithful.

Tambuti came out of the laurels in

the second stanza as they began to ask questions from the shaky opposition defence, which minus fullback Sanele Mkhweli who was forced out of the match due to an injury, making way for youngster Mhlonipheni Matsebula.

The Lubombo based side pulled one back in the 52nd minute through winger Neliso Myeni who fired home a Zweli Dlamini pass inside the box, beating 'Birds' goalkeeper Sandanezwe Mathabela.

The Texan Phiri led charges haunted the Mbabane giants and it was through diminutive midfielder Simanga Magongo who converted a free kick outside the box.

Swallows keeper Sandanezwe became the darling for his side when he denied Fabrice Mopina at close range five minutes before time, as Tambuti threw everything to the opposition in search of the elusive equaliser.

Sitsebe's COSAFA dream in Kenya's blocks tomorrow

Swaziland

Mozambique

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

OCCER - The Celiwe 'Cece' Nkambule inspired Sitsebe's 2017 COSAFA Women Championship dream is now in limbo as they have to beat giants Kenya to advance to the next stage.

The locals will face Kenya in a winner take all match set for Barbourfields Stadium tomorrow afternoon

The side faced off with Mozambique in a Group B match played at a packed Luveve Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Sitsebe's glowing star, 'Cece' had literally stolen this second group match but the ladies failed to hold on to the 2-1 lead for allowing Betinha to score Mozambique's equaliser at

'Cece' had put the Mduduzi Nxumalo coached Sitsebe ahead with a 49th minute strike but Lucia snatched an equalizer whose leveling effect lasted mere seconds before substitute Nqobile Dlamini restored the lead in the 75th minute.

But it had to be Betinha's 90th minute equaliser that left Sitsebe facing a rather daunting task against free scoring Kenya which recorded a 10-0 win against hapless Mauritius in a midmorning kick off.

While the draw literary dumped Mozambique, Swaziland's chances to advance to the semi finals are dithering on a possible group exit as they now need an outright win over West Africans, quite a big task.

Group B	40 Mariables	0
Kenya	10 Mauritius	
Mozambique	2 Swaziland	2
Next fixtures		
Tomorrow		
Mozambique v Ma	auritius (Luveve Stadium)	1000
Kenya v Sw	aziland (Barbourfields Stac	fium)

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L GF GA GD

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De Jongh joins SFCA

OCCER - Sihlangu Head Coach Pieter De Jongh is now a member of the Swaziland Football Coaches Association (SFCA)

The Dutchman joins the local coaching mother body three months after taking charge of the senior national team.

This was revealed by SFCA Chairman Anthony Mdluli during a coaches' workshop held at the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) Technical Centre yesterday.

"De Jongh is a now member of the coaches association and he would have been here today but I think it was due to a breakdown in communication that he could not make it," said Mdluli who is also assistant to the Dutch mentor. He said the workshop attended by over 30 members was meant to equip the coaches with important aspects of the coaching pro-

Mdluli also highlighted that the association was working on ways to deal with coaches who are not in compliance with the CAF Club Licensing requirements, which he said was not good for our football.

"Members are encouraged to comply with the rules as strict laws have been already put in place for those who defy the rules.

These measures have been implemented in the Super League and the same will be done in the Premier League and First Division soon," he said."he said



Sunday Observer PORTING

September 17, 2017



TODAY
ABSA PREMIERSHIP
15:00 Golden Arrows v AmaZulu FC

remier League
1:30 Chelsea v Arsena
1:00 Manchester United v Evertor

SIGO GIA

SIGO GIA

SIGO GIA

Premier League newcomers stun Highlanders with a 2-1 victory
Mbabane Swallows get narrow escape against Tambuti

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10-man Bidvest Wits secure a point away to Chiefs

OHANNESBURG - Ten-man Bidvest Wits secured a point away to Kaizer Chiefs, as the two sides played out a 1-1 draw at FNB Stadium yesterday evening.

Itumeleng Khune was called into action after 10 minutes as he produced a good save to keep out Amr Gamal's header.

The Clever Boys did all the attacking in the opening exchanges, with Steven Pienaar dictating play from the middle of the park.

Chiefs, on the other hand, were finding it tough to get the ball off Wits in the opening 30 minutes, which led to a lack of chances from their side.

It was proving to be a busy half for Khune, as he produced a double save to deny Daylon Claasen and Gamal after 36 minutes. With just a few minutes remaining in the second half, the Clever Boys were reduced to 10 men when Nazeer Allie was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Chiefs broke the deadlock after 52 minutes as a great build-up saw Kgotso Moleko pick out Siphiwe Tshabalala to head home from close range.

Crashed

Wits nearly levelled matters two minutes later, but Vincent Pule's effort from 25 yards out crashed against the crossbar with Khune well beaten. Gavin Hunt responded by introducing Ben Motshwari, Phumlani Ntshangase and Gabadinho Mhango as they looked for a way back into the clash. Steve Komphela opted for changes of his own as Keagan Buchanan and Bernard Parker were introduced with 25 minutes remaining.

Despite the numerical disadvantage, the Clever Boys continued to push for an equaliser, although the Chiefs defence were standing firm.

Wits eventually found the equaliser in stoppage time, as Gamal controlled well before firing a fine effort into the bottom corner from the edge of the box. *Kick Off*

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE LOG

Position	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
Manzini Sundowns	2	1	1	0	6	2	4	4
Mbabane Swallows	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
Moneni Pirates	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
Young Buffaloes	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
Green Mamba	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
Mbabane Highlanders	2	1	0	1	5	3	2	3
Matsapha United	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Malanti Chiefs	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3
Vovovo	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	3
Royal Leopard	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
Manzini Wanderers	1	0	0	1	1	4	-3	0
Tambuti	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
Midas City	2	0	0	2	3	5	-2	0
Red Lions	1	0	0	1	0	4	1	0

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

1.30pm

derers 3.30pm

FRIDAY		
Midas City	1-2	Buffaloes
Vovovo		Highlanders
Tambuti		Swallows
Sundowns	2-2	Pirates
Green Mamba	1-1	Royal Leopa
	FIXT	URES
TODAY		202
Somhlolo National	Stadium	
Matsapha United	VS	Red Lions
LI-I- P OU C		
Malanti Chiefs	VS	Manzini Wan
		Manzini Wan
MT		a governoval strict
MT Yesterday	N NF	RESULT
Yesterday Sikhalo	N NFL	RESULT
Malanti Chiefs MY Yesterday Sikhalo Hub Sundowns Bad Boys	0-0 0-1	RESULT

Milling	VS	Sea Birds	3pm
(ing Sobhuza	II Stadium		
ycoons	VS	Mahlalini	1.30pm