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THE SEASON FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTIONS UPON US...

TANGOMA TELITULU ON STRIKE

● No weather forecast updates on weekends until they get overtime allowances

STORY ON
PAGE 3

INSIDE

BUS ROLLS WITH 30 WEDDING GUESTS

► PAGE 2

BLOODY WEEKEND: 5 STABBED, 3 DIE

► PAGE 2

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2 NATIONAL NEWS

Bloody weekend: 5 stabbed, 3 die

THE past weekend was bloody.

Five people were stabbed in different places under varying circumstances and three of those lost their lives.

Blood started to flow on Friday in Siteki when friends fought resulting in one of them losing his life.

"The two friends were drinking at

a watering hole when they suddenly argued and failed to agree on anything. A fight ensued and one of the friends hit the other with a beer bottle on the head," said a source.

The bleeding man was rushed to Good Shepherd Hospital and given the seriousness of the injuries he was transferred to Mbabane Government

Hospital where he died.

In the second incident, a man was found dead at Ludzeldzwe with several stab wounds.

It is suspected that the man was killed by a love rival. He is alleged to have arrived at the residential place looking for his lover who rents a flat.

"Those he found told him that the person he was looking for was at some place not far away from where they were. The man apparently found

his lover with another man and a fight ensued. It is suspected that his rival called for backup from his friends and they overpowered him," said a source.

In the last bloody incident, two men were playing a game of pool when they clashed over something. A fight ensued between the two players and one of them was stabbed. A brother to the stabbed player is said to have joined the fracas and stabbed the play-

er who injured his sibling.

As he walked away from stabbing his brother's assailant, the victim picked himself up and stabbed him (brother) in the back.

He fell to the ground and died. Currently, the original two players who first started the fight are admitted to hospital and are being treated for stab wounds.

Police assistant mouthpiece Phindile Vilakati confirmed all three incidents.

BUS ROLLS WITH 30 WEDDING GUESTS

By Starsky Mkhonta
Hlatikulu

CLOSE to 30 people who were returning from a wedding ceremony almost perished at the notorious Mehlwabovu road when the bus they were travelling in overturned.

The passengers were part of a wedding ceremony which had taken place at Mpaka and were returning home on Saturday evening when their bus, Screamer Bus Service failed to climb the steep incline of the Mehlwabovu road and overturned.

The bus is owned by a Lukhele family and some of the relatives were found at the scene on Saturday evening just towards 10pm with others making attempts to tow the bus.

However, no one from the relatives was comfortable with giving details on what exactly happened when this newspaper made enquiries about the accident.

For the remainder of the night, the flow of traffic especially motorists coming from the Manzini direction to Hlatikulu was hindered.

Efforts were made to pull the bus by means of a tractor but since it was already late, it was not possible and relatives resolved that it should be towed the next morning (yesterday).

It is said the unidentified driver tried to engage the right gear to climb up the steep incline but things did not go his way and the bus started reversing.

...The passengers were part of a wedding ceremony which had taken place at Mpaka and were returning home on Saturday evening when their bus, Screamer Bus Service failed to climb the steep part of the Mehlwabovu road and overturned



ROLL OVER: Screamer Bus Service which capsized with passengers from a wedding ceremony was found in this position on Saturday night along the steep Mehlwabovu.

The bus overturned throwing out some of the passengers. Reports are that a stampede inside the bus occurred with some of the passengers fearing that the bus could burst into flames with them still inside. Fire and Emergency Services team from Nhlanguano arrived at the scene and assisted some of the passengers out of the bus and also rushed others to Hlatikulu Government Hospital.

It is said only two were admitted after their conditions were found to be critical. "We are told that there were 28 on board and only two sustained serious injuries and had to be admitted

while the rest were treated and discharged for minor injuries," revealed a source.

Others praised the driver for bravery. Deputy police mouthpiece Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the accident stating that police were still investigating what the cause could have been.

"Two of the passengers were admitted while the others were treated and discharged on the same night. The bus was transporting people coming from wedding ceremony in Mpaka," said Assistant Supt Vilakati.

NatCom defends police promotions

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

NATIONAL Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula has come out strongly to defend the recent promotions by the police service, saying it is something that is within the budget of the police.

Speaking during the End of Year Conference for Senior Officers at Matsapha Police Academy, Magagula said the filling of vacant posts through promotions is done after critical appraising the desirability thereof, particularly after striking the right balance between the interest of security and other economic factors.

The national commissioner said it should be borne in mind that in a scenario where security is compromised, there can be no viable economic progress.

Magagula stated that it is on this premise that one astute British politician opined that security can never and should not be compromised. In addition, Magagula said

what should be worthy of being noted is that promotions are financed from the already appropriated budget for the police and there is no additional cost borne by government outside the approved budget. He said the implication that the police utilise funds that could have otherwise be channelled for other social challenges and programmes that are the responsibility of government is a way off the mark and does nothing but set the organisation against the nation.

The national commissioner said it is also a cause for concern that the proclaimed monthly expenditure on promotions was not validated with the police but was simply banded about to create unnecessary antagonism between the police and the captive readership.

Magagula said as the Royal Swaziland Police Service, they have become accustomed to such negative comments, as they are normally not only restricted to promotions but they also surface when they embark on the recruitment drive.

HOUSING MATTER BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION- NATCOM

THE National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula has stated that the issue of housing facilities at police camps has been unfairly generalised and blown out of proportion by the media, given the police efforts to address deficiencies.

Magagula blasted the media saying for balanced reporting it would have been expected that credit be given where it is due, especially when one considers that in almost every police station there are new blocks of flats mushrooming.

Speaking about the rondavels which made headlines recently, Magagula said what is disturbing is that the eyesore rondavels

that were captured in the newspaper are not at present utilized by the police officers and a process to have them demolished is underway. Magagula went on to blast the publication saying as a police service they were not consulted on the matter. He said with reference to police buildings that were affected by a storm in particular at Lundzi Border Post, the officers concerned were given alternative accommodation, whilst the police await the process of having the houses rehabilitated.

Magagula said it is disconcerting that a newspaper caption makes it to be perceived as if the officers are still enduring the unbearable conditions.



THANKS:
National
Commissioner
of Police Isaac
Magagula.

NATCOM THANKS GOVERNMENT FOR SUPPORT

NATCOM Isaac Magagula has thanked government support.

Magagula thanked the provision of transport facilities in the form of 82 units to ameliorate the transport shortage problem that has paralysed the police operational response mechanism for quite some time.

Magagula said though police service cannot say the problem has now been fully resolved, they appreciate the effort government is making towards addressing the challenge, in particular as even satellite police posts were allocated with vehicles in order for even the remotest of communities to have access to police services.

vices.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini made his remarks during the event, applauded the police service for performance targeting and appraisal programme managed by the policy and programme coordination in his office.

He said the police service reports regularly and very thoroughly. The premier said it is reassuring to note that the main police stations continue to display performance against set targets.

He said the time taken to respond to 999 calls is arguably the most promi-

nent and important of the service targets.

The prime minister said while the police service have performed reasonably well in that regard, the recent allocation of additional vehicles will undoubtedly improve the capability of meeting, within the prescribed time, the needs of emergencies in the public domain. The PM pointed out that three police stations which are Manzini, Pigg's Peak and Lobamba have been refurbished and when funds permit, more stations will receive the planned rehabilitation work.

He said it is pleasing to note that the processes to set up the Security Forces and Services Compensation Fund are at an advanced stage.



'TANGOMA TELITULU' ON STRIKE

COVER STORY

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

WEATHER forecast updates from the Swaziland Meteorology Services are currently not available as workers, otherwise known as 'tangoma telitulu,' have engaged in a strike over unpaid overtime allowances since September 2014.

According to a reliable source at Swazi Met, the staff will not be going to work on weekends until management addresses the overtime issue. They join the long list of companies that have embarked on both wildcat and legal strikes in recent weeks while some are ongoing.

They all revolve around money.

The source said since 2013, Swazi Met workers have not been getting their overtime allowances and it left them with no choice but to arrive at a resolution not to work on weekends.

"As we speak, the office is closed. We will now be only available in the

...According to a reliable source at Swazi Met, the staff will not be going to work on weekends until management addresses the overtime issue. They join the long list of companies that have embarked on both wildcat and legal strikes in recent weeks while some are ongoing. They all revolve around money

WHAT OVERTIME?:

Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs
Emmanuel Dlamini.



office on weekdays from Monday to Friday. We will be opened at 8am and close at 4:45pm. On Fridays we will be closing at 11:45am until the matter is addressed," said the source that preferred not to reveal all their plan of action.

The effects of the strike have started to show as we today do not carry weather forecast for the week as usual

and Swazi TV also failed to relay weather updates yesterday.

Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Emmanuel Dlamini confirmed the strike by *tangoma telitulu*.

Dlamini said tomorrow (today) the ministry will be meeting with the Swazi Met management, shop stewards and employees at 9am to dis-

cuss the overtime allowances issue.

"The ministry wants to know who told the workers about overtime allowances since management is also not aware of such an agreement," said Dlamini. He said an overtime has documentation that needs to be followed and be signed if needs be.

"But in the case of the Meteorology Services there isn't any documentation, so as a ministry we want to engage all the stakeholders at MET so we get where the overtime issue is coming from," he said.

He said the workers are currently working on a work to rule procedure which is a legal general order for workers to work from 8am to 5pm.

Meanwhile, the department of the meteorology services is under the ministry of tourism and environmental affairs and it is responsible for disseminating analysed and interpreted meteorological data and meteorological forecasts to the public and to

airports.

Swaziland Meteorology Services established and operates a national net-work of meteorological stations designed to represent various climatic regions and to satisfy the needs of various national development plans and activities.

They also collect all meteorological data and exchange meteorological data in accordance.

The Swaziland Meteorological Services has a duty to provide the aviation meteorological service with weather updates to contribute towards the safety, regularity and efficiency of international air navigation by the provision of timely and accurate weather information.

It will be apparent that aircrew must be able to access accurate weather information when planning their flight and given the changing nature of the earth's weather patterns, this information will need to be updated as necessary to ensure that a planned flight can be completed safely.

This is achieved by providing necessary meteorological information to aircraft operators, flight crew, air traffic services units and airport management through network of international communication systems which ensures close liaison between those supplying meteorological information and those using it.

SOMNTONGO MP CHAIRS PHALALA COMMITTEE

By Mbono Mdluli
Lobamba

SOMNTONGO MP Sandile Nxumalo has been elected Chairperson of the Parliament Select Committee tasked with investigating operations of the Phalala Fund.

The committee is expected to be having its first session after the elections of MP Nxumalo today in Parliament, where it will be digging for more information on the fund from the people concerned.

Nkhaba MP Menzi Dlamini is deputy chairperson.

The other members of the committee include MPs Saladin Magagula (Hhukwini), Johane Shongwe (Mbabane West), and Thulani Masuku (Hosea). The House of Assembly elected the committee last Wednesday to investigate the irregularities alleged to be reigning supreme within the fund.

MP Magagula, when called on the matter, stated that the chairperson and his deputy were already chosen. He said this took place just after the sitting of the House of Assembly on Wednesday. He pleaded with the media to consult with Nxumalo or Dlamini for any information as they were the chairperson and deputy chairperson, respectively.

MP Nxumalo, when reached for comment, confirmed that he was the chairperson of the committee.

He said the committee would be having its first session for the first time today in Parliament.

"The committee will be having its first session tomorrow (today), where it will be interrogating the people concerned on the matter," Nxumalo said.

The committee was elected by the House to investigate the alleged irregularities within the fund. The MPs had called upon government to explain what was happening with the fund, as many people were suffering because they were not getting treatment through it, despite that they were eligible to be helped.

Minister for Health Sibongile Simelane tried to explain what was happening to the MPs on the matter.

Shallow

However, her statement was not accepted by the MPs, as they felt it was too shallow, yet so many things were reported to be happening under the Phalala Fund. They also felt the information she shared with them was contradictory. For instance, the minister said E170 million was owed through Phalala Fund yet Nkwene MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini said E92 million was owed.

The services of Phalala Fund, according to the Nkwene MP, were stopped in July, yet the minister said in a week, 70 patients were transported to neighbouring countries for treatment through Phalala Fund.

STREET GAMBLING NEAR COP SHOP IN MANZINI

By Sisho Magagula
Manzini

AS the police in all regions intensify their vigilance and visible policing techniques this festive season, their Manzini counterparts are being badly exposed as street gambling is taking place right under their noses at the Manzini bus rank.

On a daily basis, a group of men from various parts of the country converge at a convenient spot next to cross border kombis servicing the Manzini-Johannesburg route and openly engage in gambling activities. Some of the men are from far-flung places such as Bulunga and Luve.

Street gambling remains illegal in the country. The gambling activities the men engage in include playing cards and board-games (*mdraft* and *mlabalaba*). Worth noting is that these activities take place everyday, even on weekends, within a distance of about 500 metres from the Manzini Police Post.

Sporadic arguments and fights often erupt among the men as these illegal games are played but most of the time, such never get reported to the police because the players always cover each other. On Friday afternoon, for instance, around 6pm, a fierce fist fight ensued at the spot where two grown men exchanged blows after a disagreement. The men were quarrelling over money that had been pledged by each before the game started. The agreement is always that who-



QUICK BUCK: These men were captured engaged in illegal street gambling near the Manzini Police Post on Friday. (Pic: Sisho Magagula)

ever wins a game, takes the whole amount of money pledged. Various amounts of cash are pledged, from E10 to E200.

On Friday, each of the men had pledged E50 and when one of them won the *mlabalaba* game, the losing man refused to hand over the money to the winning man and a fight ensued.

At first, the other players stopped playing and watched the fight. They cheered on the fighting men, clearly enjoying the show. However, as the crowd grew and the cheers became louder, the other players decided to stop the fight and separated the men for fear that the loud noise

would draw the attention of the nearby police. In a brief interview, one of the regular players at the spot, who said he was from Bulunga, said the gambling games had become their source of living. "I wake up everyday, board a bus and come here to play the games. I have been doing so for the past four years after I lost my job as a security guard in Matsapha. There are many others like me here and this has become both our sport and a source of livelihood," he said confidently. What is evident is that a majority of the players are not aware that their activities are illegal but they are very cautious to cover their tracks when fights ensue.

On Friday, no police officer at the nearby police post noticed the fight and none of the nearby vendors bothered to report.

This has become a way of life for them. Further puzzling is that police officers are usually seen patrolling the Manzini bus rank in pairs, especially during this time of the year, but these illegal games continue unabated.

Reached for comment and asked why the police were allowing an illegal activity to thrive under their nose, Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati could only say they appreciated the observation. "We will beef up our security and intensify our monitoring. This should not be happening; we would like to warn the people engaging in these activities to desist from them because street gambling is illegal in the country," she said.

155 motorists arrested for DD

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

ABOUT 155 booze lovers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol over the weekend.

The figures were confirmed by Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba yesterday. Mamba noted that the statistic showed an increase from last week's 103 reported cases. "There were 155 drink-driving cases reported over the

past weekend while in the previous weekend 103 people were nabbed for drink-driving," he said. Those arrested have either appeared in court for their troubles or would be having a date with a magistrate this morning. Mamba, therefore, urged motorists to drink responsibly and not get behind the wheel after drinking any alcoholic beverage.

4 PICTURES

OUTSPOKEN NCUMBI TURNS 45 IN STYLE



HAPPY DAY: EBC Commissioner Ncumbi Maziya joined by his wife Princess Nkonto as he cuts his 45th birthday cake during a celebration held at his plush home at Nokwane on Saturday afternoon. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



THE SPECIAL DAY: Melusi Dlamini directing proceedings of the event.



SOULMATE: Princess Nkonto making her remarks during her husband's special day.



SPECIAL GUESTS: King's Office Deputy Chief Officer Mbongeni Simelane, NERCHA National Director Khanya Mabuza and EBC Head of Secretariat Richard Phungwayo also came through to join the Maziyas on their special day.



GOOD MOMENT: A section of the guests who were at the party.

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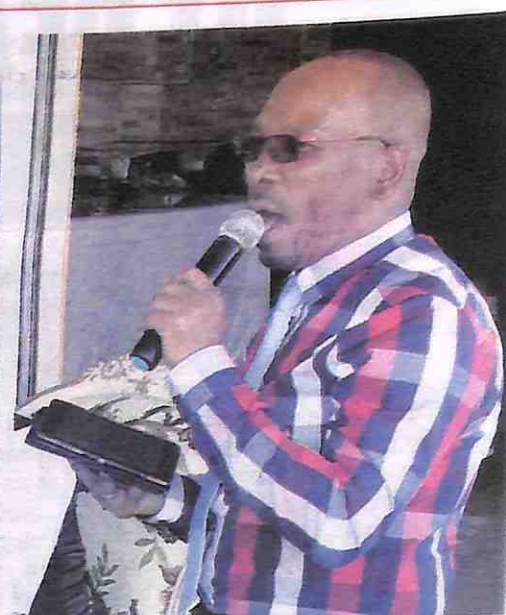
BUDDIES: Mangcingca Fakudze speaking on behalf of friends.



POSE: Melusi flanked by sister Busi and LaGoje.



ATTENTIVE: Guests listening to speeches of the day.



LIFE IS A BLESSING: Pastor Delisa Simelane, who is the family's spiritual leader, sharing the Word of God with the gathering.



SMILES: Senator Princess Phumelele also came through to support the couple.



PARENTAL SUPPORT: The couple with their mothers enjoying some intimate moments.



PRESENT: Khanya Mabuza and Mbongeni Simelane were also among the special guests present on the day.

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DJ PEACE DIED A REPENTED MAN - FAMILY

Stories by Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

HUNDREDS of people, mainly those from the entertainment industry paid their last respects to a local music icon yesterday, Mcolisi Mthethwa who was best known as DJ Peace.

Mthethwa succumbed to an undisclosed illness which he battled for a few months. He was laid to rest at his parental home, Mpolonjeni in the Lubombo region following his demise at the age of 38. For any person who passes away, especially at a tender age, the best consolation is knowing that he died after getting it right with God.

This is what comforts the Mthethwa family as they related his last few days which saw him giving his life to the Lord. His aunt, Lindiwe Galela said Mthethwa prepared for his demise as he made peace with people whom he was at odds with during his life.

She disclosed that before he was admitted to hospital, he called several people and reconciled with them. He went on and arranged a meeting with the priest from his family church, upon which he accepted Christ as his saviour.

His aunt said at this point, Peace was still his usual self even though he looked sickly. They were hoping that he would recover from the sickness as it did not appear to be serious at the time. A few weeks later, he was admitted at Good

Shepherd Hospital, where eventually succumbed to the illness after two weeks.

"Peace lived his life to the fullest, and we are happy for him as we saw him turn over a new leaf and give his life to Christ," said Galela. She was echoed by Zanele Sibeko who further challenged parents to never give up on their children.

Sibeko noted that the teachings which Peace received from his parents eventually caught up with him as he made the right choices during his last days.

Peace leaves behind his parents, wife, five children and his siblings. He was ushered to his resting place by other renowned entertainers who included DJ DD Cool and others from various entertainment stables.



SUPPORT: Prophet Gcina Mthethwa and DJ DD Cool. (Pics: Wonderboy Dlamini)

Family thanks entertainment industry for support

THE Mthethwa family has thanked the country's entertainers and friends of the late Mcolisi 'DJ Peace' Mthethwa for supporting them during the sad moment.

Peace, who is the son of radio personality Edward, was laid to rest yesterday morning, just three days after his demise at Good Shepherd Hospital, where he was admitted.

William Mthethwa, the deceased's uncle said entertainers from across the country responded swiftly following the sad news of the passing of one of their own.

Apparently, Peace was regarded as an icon by many due to his experience in the entertainment industry. At the time of his demise, he was said to have been working on making further collaborations with other artists based in South Africa. His uncle said even though the burial of their family member was hastily organised, his friends from the entertainment industry came through and contributed towards the function. Mthethwa said they also received support from the Swaziland National Arts and Culture.



FINAL JOURNEY: Mcolisi 'DJ Peace' Mthethwa's coffin being ushered to the family graveyard.



HEART-BROKEN: Family members observing the burial of DJ Peace yesterday morning.



GOODYE MY SON: Peace's father, Edward Mthethwa and elders of the family following the burial ceremony.

Tequila shot lands man in dock

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

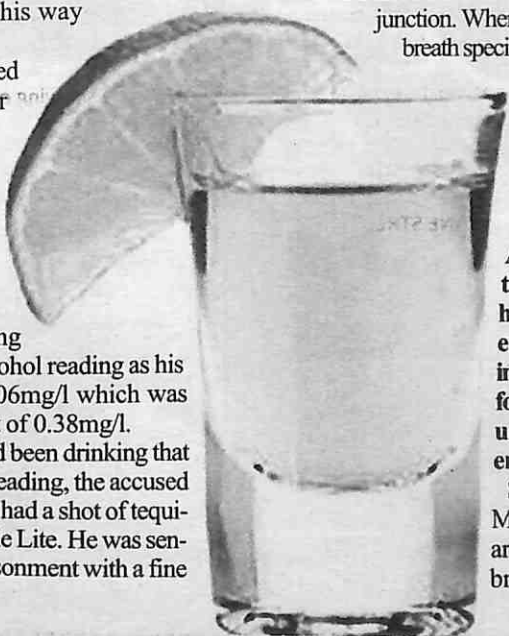
HAVING a shot of Tequila landed a man in serious trouble as he was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Barat Turban Gaswin was arrested near Mathangeni while from his way from Sibayeni Lodge.

The accused was charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol. He elected to conduct his own defense during his appearance before Manzini Magistrate Philiswe Simelane. He pleaded guilty to the charge.

The accused was among those with the highest alcohol reading as his breath specimen read 1.06mg/l which was way above the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

When asked what he had been drinking that resulted into such a high reading, the accused informed the court that he had a shot of tequila and a carrypack of Castle Lite. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment with a fine option of E2 000.



Soldier records highest alcohol reading

A member of the Umtsofo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF) was among those who recorded the highest reading of 1.66mg/l, which was way above the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

Mduduzi Mbingo was arrested near Ka-Hlobile junction. When his breath specimen

...he pleaded with the magistrate to be lenient when passing sentence.

was taken it read 1.66mg/l during his court appearance the accused pleaded guilty to the charge. In mitigation, he informed the court that he is a bread winner and there a lot of people who are dependent on him. Mbingo informed the court that he is employed by

the Umtsofo Swaziland Defence Force as a soldier. He pleaded with the magistrate to be lenient when passing sentence. Due to the high alcohol content the magistrate sentenced the accused to two years imprisonment with a fine option of E2 000.

Driver with lowest alcohol reading fined E1 500

A driver with the lowest alcohol reading ended up having to pay E1 500 for driving while under the influence of alcohol. Sbonakaliso Mhlango was arrested after his breath specimen

read 0.40mg/l as opposed to the legal limit of 0.38mg/l. during his court appearance the accused pleaded guilty to the charge of driving while under the influence. In mitigation, he informed the court that he had taken alcohol the previous night. He said when he got behind the

wheel he thought that he was no longer drunk. He pleaded with the court to be lenient with him when passing sentence since he had a low alcohol reading. In passing sentence, the court slapped the accused with 15 months imprisonment with a fine option of E1 500.

Tourist nabbed for DD

A driver who was in the country for a fun time had to fork out money in order to avoid spending some time in jail as he was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol. Senzo Tsabedze was nabbed by the police near Star paint in Mahhala while driving his VW Golf vehicle registered FYR 82 GP.

When a breathalyser test was conducted on the accused it read 0.82 mg/l. Tsabedze pleaded guilty as charged.

He informed the court that he was from a game of golf when he was nabbed for the offence.

He said while playing golf he decided to down a few beers. He stated that he didn't think the few beers could result into such a high alcohol reading.

A list of other DD offenders:

| Name | Fine option |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Senzo Tsabedze | E2 000 / 2 years |
| Zakhele Dlamini | E2 000 / 2 years |
| Sbonakaliso Mhlango | E2 000 / 2 years |
| Bhekisiza Sibiya | E2 000 / 2 years |
| Sabelo Ndlangamandla | E2 000 / 2 years |
| Thokozane Ndawandwe | E1 500 / 15 months |

TOP LAWYER'S E1.7M HOUSE UP FOR GRABS

By Sisho Magagula
Mbabane

AN executive house belonging to Manzini-based top lawyer and former

acting judge of the High Court Zonke Magagula will be sold by public auction for E1.7 million next month.

The sale of the house will be in pursuance of a writ of execution issued by

the High Court in respect of a loan the attorney has with the First National Bank of Swaziland, trading as Wesbank.

According to a notice of sale issued by the registrar of the High Court, the

house is on certain lot No. 3 of Portion 26 of Farm 1098, situated in the Jacaranda Township in Malkerns. It is a luxurious house with four main bedrooms, two bedrooms, one scullery, two lounges,

one dining room, one study, a kitchen and two bathrooms. There is also a storeroom and one shower. It sits on a piece of land measuring 2 024 four square metres.

The auction will be conducted by Deputy Sheriffs for the Hhohho region outside the High Court building on January 12.

According to the notice of sale, interested bidders who wish to obtain further information on the upcoming auction of the lawyer's house may contact the High Court registrar for further details. Even though the reserve price currently stands at E1.7 million, the house could be sold at a higher price on the day, depending on the bidding process and interest from the bidders.

Swazi Mobile opens shop at Siteki

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

SWAZI Mobile has interest in reducing the unemployment rate in the country by empowering people to sustain themselves.

The fast growing company on Saturday opened its seventh shop in the country at Siteki, ensuring that people from all parts of the country have easy access to the company's products. Representing the company during the official launch of the offices was Corporate Communications Manager Macford Sibandze, who disclosed the company's plans to reduce unemployment amongst the youth. Sibandze said, for instance,

the company had since sponsored two major events which will be taking place simultaneously on New Year's Eve. These will be the crossover events at Mavuso Trade Centre, where gospel artists from within the country and outside the borders will be performing live, while a similar event will also be held at Cafe Mogambo where artists from various entertainment stables will be taking the youthful population through to the New Year. Sibandze said this was part of the company's support to the entertainment industry as it aims for self-reliance amongst the artists. He pointed out the fact that formal employment opportunities were mostly minimal, hence supporting other industries was vital to ensure that the youth have a way of sustaining themselves.

Meanwhile, Sibandze reported that the company will be opening more shops in other areas in order to get closer to the people. Previously, the company also opened shop at Simunye about three weeks ago. "We realised that Lubombo is much bigger and, therefore, needs several shops so that the people do not struggle when they need our services," said Sibandze.

Hundreds of people showed interest in the products offered by the company during the opening of the Siteki branch.

Sibandze disclosed that more people were showing interest in the social bundles, which is mainly for the elderly people. These provide voice and internet data for people above the age of 60 at an annual cost of E240.



WE SERVE: Corporate Communications Manager Macford Sibandze and his colleagues had a busy day during the opening. (Pic: Wonderboy Dlamini)



NOTICE TO ALL INSURERS, CLIENTS OF SEFIKA INSURANCE BROKERS PTY) LTD AND THE PUBLIC

In the exercise of the powers conferred on the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) by section 59 (2) (a) of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority Act, 2010, the FSRA hereby advises all insurers, clients of Sefika Insurance Brokers (Pty) Ltd and the general public that Sefika Insurance Brokers (Pty) Ltd's licence as an insurance broker has lapsed.

FSRA has directed Sefika Insurance Brokers (Pty) Ltd to cease carrying on business as an insurance broker in Swaziland with immediate effect due to the failure to comply with the provisions of the Insurance Act, No 7 of 2005, FSRA Act, 2010 and the subsequent lapse of the entity's licence.

FSRA hereby notifies all insurers, clients of Sefika Insurance Brokers (Pty) Ltd and the general public to cease conducting insurance business with Sefika Insurance Brokers (Pty) Ltd.

All current clients of Sefika Insurance Brokers (Pty) Ltd are advised to deal directly with the insurance companies underwriting their insurance policies.



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI

INVITATION TO TENDER

- 1) NO. 1 OF 2018 / 2019: PROVISION OF NUISANCE ABATEMENT SERVICES.
- 2) NO.2 OF 2018 / 2019: PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES.

The Municipal Council of Manzini hereby invites tenders from reputable, established and experienced relevant consultants registered in Swaziland for the above mentioned tenders, respectively.

Tender documents may be obtained from the Municipal Council of Manzini on presentation of a receipt of payment of non-refundable amount of five hundred emalangeni (E 500.00) for each tender to the Rates Hall at The Municipal Council of Manzini from Monday the 18th of December 2017.

There will be a non-compulsory briefing on Monday the 18th of December 2017, starting at 12:00 am at the Manzini Council Chambers.

Each complete tender must be delivered in a sealed envelope showing only the project name and tender number and addressed to:

THE ACTING CLERK TO COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI
NKOSELUHLAZA/NGWANE STREET
P O BOX 418
MANZINI, M200

And shall be delivered not later than 1100hrs, Thursday, 25th December 2017.

Late, incomplete or telegraphic tenders will not be considered.

A tender guarantee in the amount of E 5,000.00 will be required to be submitted with the tender.

The lowest or any other tender will not necessarily be accepted.

L.P. DLAMINI
TOWN CLERK



manzini news

website: www.mzcitycouncil.sz

8 PICTURES

SWAZI MOBILE OPENS SITEKI BRANCH



WE CONNECT: Some of the customers who were first to be attended to at the new shop in Siteki during the opening of the branch last Saturday. (Pics: Wonderboy Dlamini)



ENQUIRY: Swazi Mobile's Lindiwe Nxumalo and Corporate Communications Manager Macford Sibandze posing with some of the customers who came to inquire and buy some of the company's products.



KODAK: Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane and songbird Nomalungelo Dladla pose for a picture with Sibandze in the company's picture frame.



SWAZILAND NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND

NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE

The Board, Management and Staff of the Swaziland National Provident Fund wish you and your family love, peace and happiness this holiday season.

We also wish you a prosperous New Year. Please note that our offices will close for the festive holidays from 20th December 2017 at 12noon, and re-open on 3rd January 2018.

To attend to urgent funeral claims, our main branch (Manzini HQ) shall open till 12noon on 29th December 2017. Our Maintenance Office shall continue to operate for emergency maintenance issues.

Emergency Contact Number:
Property Foreman - 7602 8508

SATISO SEKUVALA LIHHOVISI

Lidlelantfongeni (SNPF) latisa sive nalabo labatsintsekako kutsi sitobe sivalile kuwo onkhe emahhovisi etfu nalawo langaphandle. Sitobe sivalele emaholide akhisimusi. Sivala mhlaka 20/12/2017 nga 12 emini. Sivule mhlaka 03/01/2018.

Sive siyatiswa kutsi ticelo letiphutfumako letiphatselana nemngcwabo titobuketwa ehovisini lelikhulu laka Manzini. Litovulwa kuze kubengu 12 emini mhlaka 29/12/2017. Lihhovisi letekulungisa litawuchubeka lisebente ticelo/timo letiphutfumako.

Kuthula, kutfokota, nelitsemba kubekini ngalamaholide akhisimusi nangemyaka lotako!!!!

Lidlelantfongeni Building, Corner Ngwane & Martin Streets, Manzini, P.O. Box 1857, M200
Tel: (00268) 2508 2000, Fax: (00268) 2508 2001 | Email: info@snpf.co.sz | Website: snpf.co.sz

Twitter

SNPF_SD

Facebook

Swaziland National Provident Fund



WE WORK HARD: Lungile Mavuso and Zanele Mthethwa also bought themselves new cellphones.



COME ONE COME ALL: Swazi Mobile's Mfanawenkhozi Dlamini, Sibandze and Lindiwe Nxumalo taking a breather as they attended to customers.



SMILE: Nonkululeko Mkhombe flanked by comedians Dr Shakes and Ndosh at the launch.



MBABANE City NEWS



..with Lucky Tsabedze

"Responsive Quality Service on Time"

READ THE SWAZI OBSERVER EVERY TUESDAY FOR EXCITING NEWS ABOUT MBABANE

Interact with the author luckyt@mbacity.org.sz or [mcm_mbacity](#) [MunicipalCouncilOfMbabane](#) +268 7603 6347

ENJOY FREE WIFI AT THE BUS RANK



MBABANE – As promised in the last article, the Municipal Council of Mbabane has launched free wifi at the Mbabane bus rank.

The wifi signal is picked up by devices as 'mbacity' and each device has a limit of 10 mega bites per day. The reach of the wifi is strictly limited to the bus rank but there are already plans to expand to other areas of the city in the next phase of the municipality's initiative.

The free wifi is already available at the bus rank and will be available until the end of January 2018.



During a briefing on Swazi TV's Kusile Breakfast Show, Lucky

Tsabedze mentioned that free wifi has become a significant feature

in the world's leading cities and that was the reason why the municipality has prioritised the provision of wifi to the city's residents and visitors.

Piloted

Tsabedze also mentioned that the free wifi was first piloted at KaBoyce High School, Mater Dorolosa High School and St Francis High School for a period of about 4 months.

"This is the second phase of the municipality's drive to be a 'Smart City' and we are very excited about the initiative because not only are we the first city to offer access to free wifi in Swaziland but Mbabane

city now joins a list of leading cities who offer free wifi to residents and visitors. Offering free wifi to our residents and visitors is a huge success for the city and the country especially because in the 21st century communication is a matter of high importance as it is the information age and that is why we are bringing this platform for Mbabane residents to enjoy. I must state that at the end there will be wifi coverage through out the city, Mbabane is developing and we are excited," said Tsabedze during another interview on Letisematseni on the Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Services (SBIS).

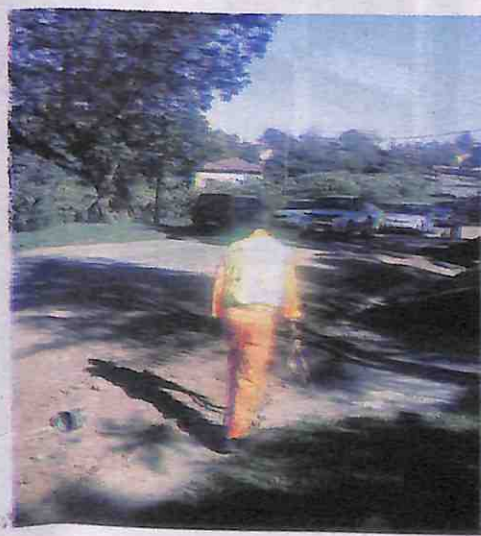
The municipality is in partnership with Real Image.

Pothole patching blitz on 40 streets complete

MBABANE – Following recent rains, the municipality's Technical Services department did an

assessment of the damaged streets and drew a schedule to rehabilitate the damaged roads.

The following pictures are show some of the road works:



SENTENCE INCREASED TO 5 YEARS, MAN RUNS TO SUPREME COURT

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

A convict whose two-year custodial sentence was substituted with a five-year sentence on appeal at the High Court is now appealing against the reviewed sentence at the Supreme Court.

High Court Judge John Magagula on November 14, handed down a judgment in the appeal, where he substituted a magistrate's two-year custodial sentence with five.

Mzwandile Khethabahle Siyaya, through his lawyer Thami Fakudze, moved an application before Judge Magagula to have the matter taken to the Supreme Court for appeal, an order which was granted by the court to that effect.

Siyaya, who was convicted for contravening the Arms and Ammunitions Act, had been sentenced to two years in prison without an option of a fine by the Nhlanguano Magistrate's Court and he was appealing against the sentence as he had pleaded guilty to the charges.

...Mzwandile Siyaya says he was shocked when his two-year sentence was increased to five during appeal at High Court

Judge Magagula had found that *in casu*, there was a manifest and serious misdirection on the part of the trial court and for this reason stated that that the court shall interfere and impose the correct sentence, and that both counsel found that the sentence in respect of count one is erroneous.

Opposed

Judge Magagula had stated that for the foregoing reasons, the sentence of the trial court is set aside and substituted with the five years in prison without an option of a fine on count one as opposed to the two years.

On count two, the six months in prison without an option of a fine remained likewise on count four, being the five months in prison with a fine option to pay E500, while he was acquitted and discharged on the third count and the sentences are to run concurrently.

Siyaya had hoped his appeal would succeed at the High Court, more so because he is a first offender and that he pleaded guilty to the charges when they were put to him on trial without



wasting the court's precious time.

In his appeal application, he had challenged the decision of the magistrate on the basis that the two-year sentence was too harsh, adding that although the Act under which he was charged provides for an option of a fine, the magistrate failed to afford him such an option.

Siyaya was charged with illegal possession of a firearm in terms of Section 11(1) of the Arms and Ammunition Act of 1988 and the penalty for such an offence is stipulated in Section 14 (2) of the same Act to be imprisonment of not less than five years or a

fine of not less than E5 000 in respect of a first offender.

The trial court, according to Fakudze, made an error in sentencing the appellant to two years imprisonment and in not granting him an option to pay a fine.

Argument

Judge Magagula stated that he is unable to agree with Fakudze's argument regarding the option of a fine as he was not aware of any legal requirement that once a prescribed sentence provides for the option of a fine, the court is compelled to give such option.

It is a *trite* principle, according to Judge Magagula of sentencing that sentencing is a primary function of the trial court and as such the trial court enjoys a wide discretion to determine the type and severity of sentence on a case by case basis.

This, according to the appeal court, means that a trial court has a discretion to decide to impose only a custodial sentence or provide for the option to pay a fine where such is allowed by

a statute.

Judge Magagula had further stated that in determining sentences, courts follow broad sentencing principles known as the 'triad' and these principles require that in determining sentences, trial courts consider there things being the gravity of the offence, the circumstances of the offender and public interest.

Judge Magagula found nothing wrong with the trial court imposing a sentence without the option of a fine *in casu* but he observed that there was a manifest and serious misdirection on the part of the trial court. For this reason, he felt the court should interfere and impose the correct sentence.

Competent

"For the foregoing reasons, the court found that there is no doubt in any mind that it was competent for the court *a quo* to impose a sentence of imprisonment without an option of a fine and accordingly found no merit in the grounds of appeal."

Siyaya was convicted of contravening the Act in that he was found in illegal possession of 9mm colt pistol with a tempered serial number while at Hluti Police Station on July 15, on the first count.

On count two, he was convicted of contravening the same Act in that he was found to be in possession of 18 live rounds of ammunition without a holder of a licence or permit while on the fourth count he was convicted for contravening the Immigration Act in that he was found to have remained in the country illegally.

SRA Pigg's Peak branch closed in solidarity

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

SWAZILAND Revenue Authority (SRA) Pigg's Peak branch was closed last Thursday due to the SRA employees strike action.

Customers who had planned to visit the SRA Pigg's Peak offices were greeted by four signs indicating that all SRA operations had been suspended until further notice.

Details of how long the offices would be closed could not be confirmed due to the fact that only one of the SRA employees in Pigg's Peak was willing to speak to the media.

The employee, who asked that identity be protected due to fear of reprisal, said the main reason why the offices were closed was to show unity and solidarity to the ongoing action at their headquarters and main border at Ngwenya.

Balance

"SRA Pigg's Peak employees joined other SRA employees in participating in this lawful industrial action. The whole cause for the strike is the 6.5 per cent increment which is the balance for the 13.3 per cent increment that we as employees were promised a few months ago.

Currently, SRA employees in Pigg's Peak will be away from the officers until further notice and if rumours are to be believed I have been told that SRA management may have a contingency plan to continue operations," said the employee.

The source added that they were not sure what will obtain regarding the strike. "All we can do is hope for a speedy solution soon," he added.

The SRA strike action gathered ground last Wednesday after an initial picket



CLOSED: SRA offices in Pigg's Peak were closed due to the ongoing strike action. (Pic: Sizwe Dlamini)

the previous day. The workers downed tools, bringing operations at the often busy Ngwenya Border Gate to a standstill. They marched to deliver a petition at the ministry of finance.

Amongst others demands cited in the petition by the workers is a housing allowance, which the workers are claiming they were currently not being given.

Six busted for Save the Children E60 000 robbery

By Phesheya Kunene
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

SIX men appeared before court over stolen valuables worth E60 700 at Save the Children.

The suspects; Msimisi Ngubeni, Phila Arieve, Makhosandile Dlamini, Mangaliso Masuku, Junior Silva and Mandende Nkambule, are accused of stealing a number of items including eight laptops, two cellphones and money in cash.

According to the charge sheet, the crime was committed on January 19, 2015.

The matter finally proceeded in court, where two of the suspects pleaded not guilty and they were acquitted and discharged.

In court, Save the Children Human Resources Officer Faith Mavuso said the crime was committed on a rainy Friday night where the suspects allegedly used an iron rod to break into the building.

She said her supervisor's office had been damaged by the rains and when she went to monitor the following morning, she discovered that the office had been burgled.

Noticed

"When I entered the building I found the iron rod on the floor. I then noticed that a crime had taken place while I wiped the water from the rain on the floor. I called my colleague and we discovered that my office was also broken into," she said.

She said the stolen laptops were used by the staff members and they could not do their work when they found that their working tools were stolen. The petty cash box was found



YOUR WORSHIP:
Magistrate Sifiso
Vilakati.

dumped on the floor with money in cash amounting to E1 200 and two cellphones also taken. Mavuso added that airtime worth E200 was also stolen together with a Building Society bank book.

Evidence

The four suspects who pleaded guilty did not dispute the evidence paraded by the state witness. However, Msimisi Ngubeni told the court he was injured during his arrest and ever since then he has not received proper treatment.

"I am experiencing severe pains and I have tried to communicate with the correctional services officers but they always tell me I do not have the necessary medical documents to proof that I was injured, hence they give me pain killers each time I complain about the pains," he said.

Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati instructed the warders to assist the suspect. He then postponed the matter to next year.

3.6% AND 14% REDUCTION IN FATAL TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

ROYAL Swaziland Police (RSP) Service National Commissioner Isaac Magagula says when it comes to the traffic policing scene, they are witnessing a gradual decline in the number of serious and fatal accidents with a 3.6 per cent and 14 per cent reduction recorded, respectively, when compared with the past year.

However, he said this did not offer any respite for police because the injury or death of any person on the road is one too

many. Magagula said these decline(s) notwithstanding and without prejudice to other prone areas, they as police remained concerned about the frequent incidents of road carnage along the Malagwane Hill requiring short, medium and long term interventions.

He said in the short term, they have already scaled up police presence in the Malagwane Hill descent.

He added that police officers had been deployed to caution truck drivers about the dangers posed by the hill and best measures of avoiding being involved in an accident.

Magagula said there were also cooling

stations which enabled heavy duty vehicles to descend down the hill safely. NatCom said all these measures were within the Lorraine Hlophe Commission appointed by the Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini. Magagula also sent out a request of tow trucks which would belong to the police service. He also proposed for the provision of an emergency lane to allow free passage of emergency services vehicles such as police, Fire and the Emergency Medical Services vehicles. Magagula also asked that the ministry of public works construct additional lanes to maximise the free flow of traffic, especially when descending the hill.

PM urges police to heighten level of security this festive

PRIME Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini has encouraged the RSP to heighten the level of security in the country during the festive season and Incwala ceremony.

He was speaking during the end of year conference for senior police officers at Matsapha Police Academy last week.

He said the responsibilities of the police service were extensive and it was almost inevitable that the casual observer would

often judge performance by the crime that is committed and publicised, rather than the extent of crime prevention which, by its nature, is rarely visible. He said the fact that the country had a reputation that exuded a high standard of public order and safety, said a great deal for the work of the police service, including its visibility efforts, public education initiatives and standard of public behaviour.

Dlamini said it was reassuring to note

that the country's main police stations continue to display performance against targets. He said the time taken to respond to 999 calls is arguably the most prominent and important of the service targets.

"While the police have performed reasonably well in this regard, the recent allocation of additional vehicles will undoubtedly improve the capability of meeting, within the prescribed time, the needs of emergencies in public domain."



TOP TABLE: The Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini with the national commissioner of police following proceedings.



ALSO THERE: Zombodze Emuva Member of Parliament Titus Thwala and Senator Moi Moi Masilela also attended.

Conduct independent checking on police at roadblocks – PM

IN a bid to prevent police officers from the temptation of soliciting bribes, Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini says there must be close independent checking of police behaviour at roadblocks and the like.

He said the temptation to solicit bribes must be eliminated. Dlamini said that could only be achieved by a combination of regular guidance and motivation sessions and the deterrent effect of independent monitoring.

Speaking about road accidents which were experienced all over the country, he said the public is still seeing too many road accidents and weekly lists, of some length, of motorists arrested and fined for driving while under the influence.

He said not to blame the police service but the fact that there are still many unroadworthy vehicles on the road, extensive reckless driving, and large numbers of people ignoring the perils of driving while under the influence, means that the police service must continuously increase its efforts.

The premier further thanked His Majesty King Mswati III for upgrading the police college into an academy, thus equating it with other institutions of higher learning. During the event, Senator Moi Moi Masilela also made his remarks during the event where he concurred with the PM in thanking His Majesty in upgrading the police college. Masilela further requested that the academy be upgraded to a university soon.



PARTICIPANTS: A section of senior offices who attended the event.

Govt applauds HMCS for fight against HIV

Stories by Observer Reporter
Mbabane

DIRECTOR of Health Services Dr. Vusi Magagula has applauded His Majesty's Correctional Services for its commitment towards the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic in the correctional community.

Under the theme: 'Fighting AIDS together, Getting to Zero,' senior officers from the department, offenders and stakeholders united in commemoration of the day where issues pertaining not only HIV but other communicable diseases, including cancer, were deliberated.

Magagula was speaking during the commemoration of the World AIDS Day at Mawelawela Correctional Centre last Wednesday, where the department was joined by hundreds of community members from within Luyengo and Malkerns compounds.

Addressing the gathering, Magagula said such an event was not an annual



WORLD AIDS DAY: His Majesty's Correctional Services senior officers and officers posing during the commemoration of the World AIDS Day at Mawelawela Correctional Centre on Wednesday. The department was joined by hundreds of community members from within Luyengo and Malkerns compounds and other stakeholders.

ritual but an event that reflected on reviewing the country's stance on efforts to end the HIV and AIDS pandemic. He said that government had committed herself in the fight against this disease

by procuring and making anti-retroviral treatment accessible to all citizens. Government has further made possible; access to antiretroviral therapy and HIV testing even to non-tested

communities. He said these drugs were very effective in making HIV a manageable chronic disease and in lowering the rate of HIV related deaths.

He said it was high time Swaziland put the pandemic response at the centre of universal health coverage.

The director then lauded the Commissioner General Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase for the dedication and energy he has demonstrated in raising awareness towards the HIV epidemic within the department.

He said the correctional services, as custodians of over 3 500 offenders, was doing a commendable job on issues of HIV.

Awareness on HIV and AIDS within the correctional setup was essential as these offenders formed part of society and would return to such communities upon release from custody. With a number of health practitioners deployed in the various correctional centres, offenders are able to access such services as HIV testing and counselling, pre-art services, TB screening, health education and treatment of non-communicable ailments including diabetes, hypertension etc.

Department to increase efforts - COMGEN

COMMISSIONER General Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase says His Majesty's Correctional Services will remain committed towards the fight against HIV and AIDS where efforts to attain the set targets were being made through various interventions.

Speaking on behalf of the commissioner general, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kudzai Ndlovu said the department was pleased to observe that various stakeholders have continuously rendered support to the department and government towards eliminating the scourge. He also stated that the department demonstrated commitment to improving access to ART in its clinics which contributes to efforts of attaining the 90-90-90 targets. "Challenges constitute key barriers to universal access to HIV services. This highlights the point that government should not be left to bear such burden alone but partners and the organised private sector must play their part. We certainly need to increase investment in the health of our citizens, optimise our response strategies and strengthen our coordination and accountability frameworks to achieve optimal returns on our investment in health," he said.



DONATION: Thabsile Dlamini, Thembeke Dlamini, Patricia Dlamini, Danger Nhlabatsi and Futhi Mazibuko posing during the donation to Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society. (Pic: Lungelo Nkambule)

RED CROSS GETS E61 343 CLOTHING DONATION FROM EDGARS

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

BAPHALALI Swaziland Red Cross Society received E61 343 worth of clothing, courtesy of Edgars Stores. The donation was handed over to Red Cross to be distributed to the needy during the festive season. Edgars Stores is in partnership with Red Cross, which complements its role of alleviating human suffering.

The partnership has seen other donations in the past years and many people from less privileged communities

benefited since 2013.

"We are pleased and happy to work with Red Cross because in the years we have partnered with them, they have shown transparency and trustworthiness," said Patricia Dlamini, Edgars Stores Speciality Department Manager. She also mentioned that they had a good partnership with Red Cross, adding they would continue to support them with donations.

Donation

Meanwhile, Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society Secretary General Danger Nhlabatsi thanked Edgars Stores for the donation.

He said it would be very helpful, especially to people who were ravaged by disasters like wild fires and storms that destroy houses.

Grateful

"We are very grateful that Edgars trusted us to do this humanitarian work. As a national society, we are going to make sure that we deliver these items to the most vulnerable people," Nhlabatsi said.

On the other hand, Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society promised that on the day of distributing the clothes they will invite Edgars Stores representatives to bear witness that indeed the clothes are delivered to deserving people.

Pigg's Peak youth can expect a fully functional youth centre

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

A fully functional youth centre will be set up in Pigg's Peak, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza, who also doubles as an MP for the area, has said.

He was speaking at the Pigg's Peak youth day held at Killarney Sports Ground on Saturday.

Present were gospel artist Mayibongwe Mthimkhulu, representatives of the youth organisation Intellectual Foundation, Swaziland National Youth Council (SNYC) Chief Executive Officer Makhosini Dlamini, Pigg's Peak Crime Prevention Officer Thulani Gwebu, DD Cool, DJ Lolo, Mango Groove, Malanda dance crew, as well as a host of local Pigg's Peak youth dance groups.

Mabuza said it was important that the youth start to sharpen their skills in all aspects, not just in entertainment.

"This is a very great time in history to be a young person in Swaziland. With the constant advancements of technology, the youth of today are exposed to a wealth of information that is read-

ily available through technology like the internet. This wealth, if used properly, can propel a young person to do great things. In today's society, unemployment amongst the youth is very high, but this unfortunate state of affairs can be exploited for the better if a young person can think of other revenue streams besides employment," he said.

Progressed


He added that as the country progressed towards the first world status by the year 2022, the SNYC and all interested stakeholders, would build a fully functional youth centre in Pigg's Peak town.

Mabuza said the centre would be managed by the youth themselves.

"This will sharpen the youth at an administrative and managerial level.

As we speak, the SNYC is already surveying an area where the centre will be built and I hope that by January we will have a concrete plan of where the centre will be," he said.

The youth day was characterised by youth motivational speeches provided by the various guests.


SWAZI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO TENDER
RENTAL OF AN ELECTION MANAGEMENT SOLUTION
Tender Reference 173 OF 2017/2018

The Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) invites sealed Tenders for the rental of an Election Management Solution.

Tenders must be accompanied by a receipt of a non-refundable E 300 (Three Hundred Emalangeni) which should be paid at Mbabane Revenue Office, Treasury Building in account number 442-1201-04401

PAYMENTS NOT MADE INTO THIS ACCOUNT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope

The Outer envelope must be marked as follows:
"The Secretary to the Tender Board
Treasury Building
P.O. Box 38
MBABANE"

The Envelope must be clearly marked with the following words; "The Elections and Boundaries Commission – EBC Tender No.173 of 2017/2018 – Rental of an Election Management Solution "Do not open before 9.00 Hours Friday 19th January 2018".

Tenders must be delivered to the offices of Tender Board, Treasury Building, P.O. Box 38, Mbabane, Swaziland, by 9.00 Hours (CAT) Friday 19th January 2018 and deposited into the Treasury Tender Box.



A Pre-Tender briefing will be held on Wednesday the 20th December 2017 at the Elections and Boundaries Commission Conference Room (Lobamba) at 10:00hrs.

Tenders received in time by the latest date and time for submission will be opened at the Treasury Building at 9.00 Hours (CAT) Friday 19th January 2018. Late, telegraphic, electronic and faxed tenders will not be considered. Tenderers may attend the opening procedure.

The documents specified in the Instructions to Tenderers including the, General receipt of SZL300, copy of current Tax Clearance Certificate, Trading Licence, Form J, Form C, Labour Compliance Certificate, SNPF Compliance Certificate and a Tender Security of SZL 20,000.00 must be enclosed in the tender envelope.
The Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

For further information, contact the following: Mr. Eric Kunene
Tel: +268 7618 3779; +268 2416 2504/6
Email: info@elections.org.sz

The Tender document will be available at the Elections and Boundary Commission Offices, at Nkhanini, Lobamba


WISHING YOU A MERRY
CHRISTMAS!
THE COUNCIL, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF SWASA
WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR CLIENTS A MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY.
THE SWASA TEAM THANKS YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT DURING 2017 AND WE LOOK
FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN IN 2018!

PLEASE NOTE
Our offices will be closed from 12pm on Friday the
22nd of December 2017, to re-open at 8am on
Monday
the 8th of January 2018.

2nd Floor, Swaziland Industrial Business Centre, Plot No.
41, King Mswati 3rd Avenue 11th Street West, Matsapha
Industrial Site
P.O. Box 1399, Matsapha
Tel: 2518 4523/18 Fax: 2518 4526

Nav per
share
E2.28

Nav
per share up
↑ 21.1%

Investments
valued at
E299.6 m

Dividend
per share
3.8 cents

HIGHLIGHTS

Figures in Emalangeni

| | Audited 12 months ended 30 September 2017 | Audited 12 months ended 30 September 2016 |
|---|---|---|
| STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | | |
| Interest Income | 6,438,346 | 5,026,123 |
| Dividends received | 10,578,188 | 10,637,006 |
| Operating expenses | (17,117,318) | (7,392,181) |
| OPERATING PROFIT | (100,784) | 8,270,948 |
| Unrealised gain on revaluation of investments | 58,893,872 | 14,233,786 |
| PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION | 58,793,088 | 22,504,734 |
| Taxation | 2,936,715 | 650,666 |
| PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD | 61,729,803 | 23,155,400 |
| Other comprehensive income | - | - |
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | 61,729,803 | 23,155,400 |

Figures in Emalangeni

| | Audited 12 months ended 30 September 2017 | Audited 12 months ended 30 September 2016 |
|--|---|---|
| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION | | |
| ASSETS | | |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Fair value through profit or loss: | | |
| Investments | 261,101,727 | 161,207,855 |
| Deferred tax asset | 5,381,395 | 2,444,678 |
| | 266,483,122 | 163,652,533 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 33,217,143 | 72,628,389 |
| Loans | 38,516,494 | 25,016,439 |
| Other receivables | - | 7,280,000 |
| Tax receivables | 190,753 | 190,753 |
| | 71,924,390 | 105,115,581 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 338,407,512 | 268,768,114 |
| EQUITY AND LIABILITIES | | |
| EQUITY | | |
| Share capital | 181,090,820 | 181,090,820 |
| Retained earnings | 142,515,788 | 86,175,771 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 323,606,608 | 267,266,591 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Other payables | 14,800,904 | 1,501,523 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 14,800,904 | 1,501,523 |
| TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES | 338,407,512 | 268,768,114 |

Figures in Emalangeni

| | Audited 12 months ended 30 September 2017 | Audited 12 months ended 30 September 2016 |
|--|---|---|
| STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY | | |
| SHARE CAPITAL | | |
| Balance at the beginning of the period | 1,418,365 | 1,418,365 |
| Issue of shares | - | 298,457 |
| SHARE PREMIUM | 179,672,455 | 179,672,455 |
| Balance at the beginning of the period | 179,672,455 | 118,296,777 |
| Issue of shares | - | 61,375,678 |
| RETAINED INCOME | 142,515,788 | 86,175,771 |
| Balance at the beginning of the period | 86,175,771 | 66,282,610 |
| Dividends paid | (5,389,786) | (3,262,239) |
| Profit for the period | 61,729,803 | 23,155,400 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 323,606,608 | 267,266,591 |

Figures in Emalangeni

| | Audited 12 months ended 30 September 2017 | Audited 12 months ended 30 September 2016 |
|---|---|---|
| STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS | | |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Cash generated from operations | (15,427,780) | (25,746,431) |
| Purchase of investments | 6,438,346 | 5,026,123 |
| Proceeds on disposal of investment | 10,578,188 | 10,637,006 |
| NET CASH (USED IN)/GENERATED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES | 1,588,754 | (10,083,302) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Purchase of financial assets | (41,000,000) | (39,051,070) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES | - | 61,674,135 |
| Proceeds on share issue | - | (3,262,239) |
| Share buy back | - | - |
| NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES | - | 58,411,896 |
| TOTAL CASH MOVEMENT FOR THE PERIOD | (39,411,246) | 9,277,524 |
| Cash at the beginning of the period | 72,628,389 | 63,350,865 |
| TOTAL CASH AT END OF THE PERIOD | 33,217,143 | 72,628,389 |

NOTES

1. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The financial results have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and in the manner required by the Companies Act of Swaziland. The basis for the preparation of the financial results is consistent with that applied in the preparation of the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2017.

They have been audited by the auditors of the company.

2. HEADLINE EARNINGS

2.1 EARNINGS PER SHARE

Earnings per share 0.44 0.19

2.2. NUMBER OF ORDINARY SHARES OF E0.01 EACH IN ISSUE

Actual 141,836,461 141,836,461
Weighted average 141,836,461 121,939,352

3. INVESTMENTS

Listed 44,836,727 41,028,855
Unlisted 216,265,000 120,179,000
261,101,727 161,207,855

4. LOANS AND RECEIVABLES

Loans 38,516,494 25,016,439
Other receivables - 7,280,000
38,516,494 32,296,439

5. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Management and performance fees 13,926,529 4,834,551
Interest income 2,264,572 3,290,092

All related party transactions are made at terms equivalent to those prevailing in arm's length transactions. There have been no guarantees provided or received for any related party receivables or payables. The company has not recorded any impairment of receivables relating to amounts owed by or investments in related parties during the period.

6. CASH GENERATED FROM OPERATIONS

Profit Before Tax 58,793,088 22,504,734
Adjustments for:
Dividend Income (10,578,188) (10,637,006)
Interest Income (6,438,346) (5,026,123)
Change in fair value of investments (58,893,872) (14,233,786)
Increase in loans (13,500,055) (4,520,000)
Decrease/(Increase) in trade and other receivables 7,280,000 (7,280,000)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables 7,909,593 (6,554,250)
(15,427,780) (25,746,431)

COMMENTARY

INTRODUCTION

The Board is pleased to report on Greystone Partners Limited's ("Greystone" or the "Company") 30 September 2017 period end results. Greystone continues to focus on driving sustainable long-term growth and value creation in its investment portfolio of primarily unlisted businesses operating in a broad range of sectors. Greystone aims to invest in businesses that can deliver superior earnings, cash flow generation and dividend growth over the long term. Through its relationship with African Alliance Swaziland Limited ("African Alliance" or the "Manager"), the Company believes it holds all the credentials for sourcing investment opportunities and extracting value through proven entrepreneurial ability, together with alignment of underlying management.

Key highlights for the period ending 30 September 2017 have been:

- Greystone's reported Net Asset Value ("NAV") per share at 30 September 2017 is E2.28, which represents growth of 21.1% on the 30 September 2016 NAV per share of E1.88.
- A two year compound annual growth rate for the reported NAV to 30 September 2017 of 32% per annum.
- A dividend of E0.038 paid to shareholders in September 2017.
- The investment portfolio has increased in value at the reporting date to E299.6 million, up from E186.2 million at 30 September 2016.
- E89 million worth of investments have been invested by Greystone in the 2017 financial year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the period, Greystone enhanced its net asset value, by 21.1% (2016: 10.7% (excluding the capital raise in 2016)). Total assets increased to E338.4 from E268.8 million mainly as a result of:

1. The increase in the value of Greystone's underlying equity investments of E58.9 million; and

COMMENTARY (CONT.)

2. Loans receivables increasing to E38.5 million from E32.3 million.

Total Comprehensive Income for the year increased to E61.7 million (2016: E23.1 million) mainly due to the revaluation of the underlying investments by E58.9 million (2016: E14.2 million). Greystone's total investment income of E17.0 million (2016: E15.6 million) comprised of dividend income of E10.6 million (2016: E10.6 million) and interest income of E6.4 million (2016: E5.0 million). Dividend comprises of dividend received from Swaziland Royal Insurance Corporation ("SRIC") of E 8.19 million (2016: E7.28 million), SBC Limited of E1.5 million (2016: E3.3 million), Orchard of E32,000 (2016: E13,000) and Lojaf (Pty) Limited of E1.1 million.

Operating expenses amounted to E17.1 million (2016: E7.4 million) and comprise of day-to-day operational expenses incurred to run Greystone, the Managers management fee, transaction costs to conclude the acquisition of the Pick n Pay Stores as well as a performance fee payable to the Manager as per the terms of the Management Agreement.

INVESTMENT REVIEW

During the current year, Greystone invested E89 million in various equity and debt investments. The largest of these acquisitions was the minority stake in Lojaf (Pty) Limited ("Lojaf"), which acquired the four Pick n Pay stores.

KPMG was again engaged to perform the independent valuation of Greystone's unlisted investments. KPMG applied the market multiple methodologies in valuing SRIC and Orchard Insurance Limited ("Orchard"). For SRIC's short term insurance business and Orchard, the price earnings multiple was the primary methodology. The methodology in undertaking the valuation of the long term insurance business of SRIC has been the market multiple methodologies using the embedded value.

For Ngwane Mills (Pty) Limited ("Ngwane Mills") and Lojaf, the primary valuation technique applied by KPMG was the discounted cash flow methodology. In addition, as a reasonableness test, KPMG used the capitalisation of maintainable earnings methodology, using the EV/EBITDA multiple of comparable companies.

The respective applied multiples and the discounts to the observed peers is as follows:

| Investment | Multiple Applied / Discount Rate | Observed Peer Multiple | Discount to Peer Multiple |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| SRIC - Short Term | 8.35 | 10.3 | -19.3% |
| SRIC - Long Term | 0.98 | 1.3 | -23.6% |
| Orchard | 6.59 | 10.3 | -36.2% |
| Ngwane Mills (Pty) Limited | 18.1% | | |
| Lojaf (Pty) Limited | 17.4% | | |

The investment portfolio ("Investment") comprises of Swaziland Royal Insurance Company E93.8 million (2016: E87.2 million), SBC Limited E44.8 million (2016: E41.0 million), Orchard Insurance Limited E1.53 million (2016: E0.78 million), Swazisp Holdings ("Swazisp") E0.02 million (2016: E0.02 million), Lojaf E78.1 million, Ngwane Mills E42.8 million (2016: E32.1 million) and two debt investments of E38.5 million. Movements in the investment portfolio in the reporting period consisted of:

1. The investment of E41 million in Lojaf;
2. The realisation of two Select Limited promissory notes for E38.6 million; and
3. Investments of E48.0 million in various short term debt instruments yielding between 12% and 13%

The underlying Investment portfolio continues to perform well and is currently valued at E299.6 million (2016: E186.2 million). The investments in SBC Limited and SRIC continue to perform extremely well and Ngwane Mills has seen a turnaround from its write down in the prior year. As mentioned in 2016, Ngwane Mills was impacted by a difficult year in the agricultural industry due to the drought as well as the weakening of the Rand / Lilangeni to the United States Dollar. Both these factors improved in 2017 leading to much improved financial performance by Ngwane Mills. Greystone's latest investment into Lojaf has been positive thus far with some strong performance from the stores and some good growth prospects. The table below summarises the internal rate of returns for each of the investment in the reporting period.

| Investments | Realised / Unrealised | Internal Rate of Return | Times Money Multiple | Holding Period |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Equity Investments | | | | |
| SBC Limited | Unrealised | 22.6% | 3.5x | 5.9 years |
| SRIC | Unrealised | 51.9% | 5.3x | 5.1 years |
| Orchard Insurance Limited | Unrealised | 39.4% | 7.9x | 6.3 years |
| Swazisp Holdings | Unrealised | -5.4% | 0.7x | 6.4 years |
| Lojaf (Pty) Ltd | Unrealised | 121.2% | 1.9x | 0.8 years |
| Ngwane Mills (Pty) Ltd | Unrealised | 5.2% | 1.1x | 1.8 years |

| Debt Investments | Realised / Unrealised | Yield on Debt Note | Times Money Multiple | Holding Period |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Debt Investments | | | | |
| Select Limited Promissory Note | Unrealised | 12.0% | 1.0x | 0.0 years |
| Lesana Medium Term Note | Unrealised | 13.0% | 1.0x | 0.3 years |

OUTLOOK

The 2017 calendar year has been a productive, return focused period for Greystone both in terms of acquisitions, capital management and growth of the underlying investments. With its strong balance sheet, Greystone is well placed for new deals to complement its well positioned existing portfolio.

POST BALANCE SHEET

There are no post balance sheet events to report.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements for the 12 months ended 30 September 2017 have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of Greystone Partners Limited will be held on or before 31 March 2017. Adequate notice will be given to all shareholders prior to the meeting.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The directors and management of Greystone Partners Limited confirm their commitment to the principles of openness, integrity and accountability as advocated by sound principles of Corporate Governance contained in the King Reports.

By order of the Board
AT Dlamini

SHISELWENI NEWS

Nhlangano office

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

...With

Starsky Mkhonta



Mahlalini resident helps community repay debt

AS some residents of Mahlalini failed to settle their loan debts from by the Inhlanyelo Fund, a resident has come to their rescue and cleared it which was an amount of E10 000.

About eight residents were struggling to service their loans, this then led to others not being able to apply for the funds.

However, after Musa Mayisela settled the debts, the Fund has returned to the community to provide the financial assistance.

Mayisela, a resident of Mahlalini, is one of the senior employees at World Vision.

Philile Dlamini said Mayisela did the community proud as since he cleared the debt on behalf of all defaulters, doors were now opened to anyone to apply for financial assistance provided they possess all the requirements.

She said there were now a number of people who had started income generating projects through financial assistance of Inhlanyelo Fund.

"Mayisela was touched when it was explained to him that the community was unable to get financial help from the Fund because those who were loaned money, had failed to service their loans thus the Fund stopped assisting others who were eager to start projects. As we speak, we are told that over 60 people have benefitted as they have started businesses or projects which sustain their families," said Dlamini. Dlamini added that when Mayisela decided to bail out the residents, he never made any conditions informing them that he was just assisting. "No terms or conditions were set out, he simply assisted so that others could also benefit. He said he was just helping and expected

nothing in return," said Dlamini.

On that note, Mayisela said by assisting in settling the debts he wanted more community members to be assisted by the Fund.

Assisted

"After noting that defaulters hindered others from being assisted by the Fund, I decided to help.

I am employed and since this problem was not only affecting the residents who were in arrears, but everyone, I took the decision that for the sake of the community, let me assist so that doors can be opened for others to benefit from the Fund.

I do not expect any refund, this is my community and anything affecting them also affects me. I am happy that since I settled the debt, many are now benefitting from the Inhlanyelo Fund," said Mayisela.

RESIDENT SPONSORS SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH FOOD

CLOSE to 700 Sunday school children from different churches under Mahlalini *umphakatsi* had their meals catered for by Musa Mayisela at a recent inter-denomination event held at Edwaleni.

Mayisela was thanked by the churches for the contribution he made especially by sponsoring the meeting which involved over 25 churches with food.

The meeting saw Sunday school children discussing Biblical issues.

Churches contributed towards the exercise but Mayisela availed himself and assisted by spending close to E5 000 to add to the food prepared for the children.

"I learned about the inter-denomination involving the children from churches around the area and I saw the need to contribute something. I think I spent over E5 000 towards meals adding to what was prepared for the children. Assisting churches should be done by everyone," said Mayisela.



CLOSE TO 100 WOMEN TO BE TRAINED ON HANDCRAFT

MAHLALINI resident Musa Mayisela has organised training for 100 women to be equipped with handcraft skills.

Mayisela is said to have been of great help to the community especially in spearheading development and has also been at the forefront in funding some projects.

He is the Director of first division's Mahlalini FC.

In a bid to empower women, Mayisela has planned a week long training programme so that they be equipped with skills of weaving material which would be sold locally and abroad.

He said he was aware that many women of Mahlalini were struggling.

He mentioned his plan was to organise more training for the women of the area so that they can provide for their families with-

out going to seek employment elsewhere and leaving their homes and families.

"I am bringing experts from Johannesburg who will train the women on many skills, but the first group will be trained on making carpets and special mats.

Training

We have already arranged with the elders of Mahlalini as the training will take place at the *umphakatsi*," said Mayisela.

Mayisela said he was confident that after the training, there would be the desired results and all that the women would produce with their hands; it would meet the standard needed in international market.

The training will begin on January 8 for the first group and registration for participants had been concluded.

RESIDENT SPONSORS CHURCHES WITH UNIFORMS

CLOSE to 100 members of different Zion Churches have been included in the list of beneficiaries where Mahlalini resident Musa Mayisela has reserved an amount of money to buy them uniform.

From each of the Zion churches identified by Mayisela as deserving sponsorship of uniform, all the beneficiaries will be the youth. He said he has already arranged with the churches that each should identify those who could not afford to buy the uniform and forward the list to him. "From the four churches, I expect close to 100 members which means

each should forward a list of 25 members who deserve to be assisted in terms of the church uniform.

They will submit the sizes of those that will benefit and then I am going to foot the bill no matter how much this will cost.

I have been told that since there are those who are orphaned children, they don't have church uniform and I have taken that responsibility," said Mayisela.

Mayisela said he started sponsoring churches back in 2011.

He said as a Christian himself, whatever contribution he made to church-

es, he was aware it would go a long way to those who benefitted.

"It's not about membership or what denomination you come from, whether you are from the Zion church or any of the ministries, you have to contribute something.

With the churches I have identified, I saw the need to buy the youth uniforms as cannot afford given that they are those from struggling families. We all should support anything to do with churches.

Others will be using the uniforms during services this festive holidays," said Mayisela.

...HE ALSO DONATES BAGS OF CEMENT TO CHURCH

MUSA Mayisela has been thanked by the leadership of Sibovu Apostle Church of Christ for donating 15 bags of cement.

The resident who is said to be popular with many in the area including churches, was approached by the elders seeking his help towards completing the construction of a building.

Pastor Sinini Mhlongo said it has taken many years to build the new structure because of lack of funds. He said as a church, they were thankful to Mayisela who when approached that they were facing financial challenges in completing the church, he donated 15 bags of cement.

"We have started using the new incomplete building and the cement Mayisela has forwarded will definitely take us somewhere.

We still need more help in terms of sponsorship.

Appreciate

Mayisela, we are told is also sponsoring other projects that are of benefit to the community. We can't all rely on him but we appreciate what he is doing for the community," said Pastor Mhlongo.

Mayisela said he was always available to his community in whatever way he could be of assistance. "This is my community and what I am doing is giving back to them," said Mayisela.



PRAISED: Musa Mayisela is praised for spearheading development at Mahlalini.

RECKLESS MOZAMBIKAN CAR SPINNER DENIED BAIL

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Matsapha

THE Mozambican national who knocked down four pedestrians along Dixies at Matsapha industrial site killing one on the spot has been charged with culpable homicide.

Samisidine Senestiao Latia (21) appeared in court for the first time last week before Matsapha Circuit Court Magistrate Mthokozisi Dlamini.

The accused was arrested after he lost control of a VW Jetta vehicle which veered off the road and knocked down four pedestrians who were

walking along the right side of the road.

The car went on to knock against a concrete drainage system.

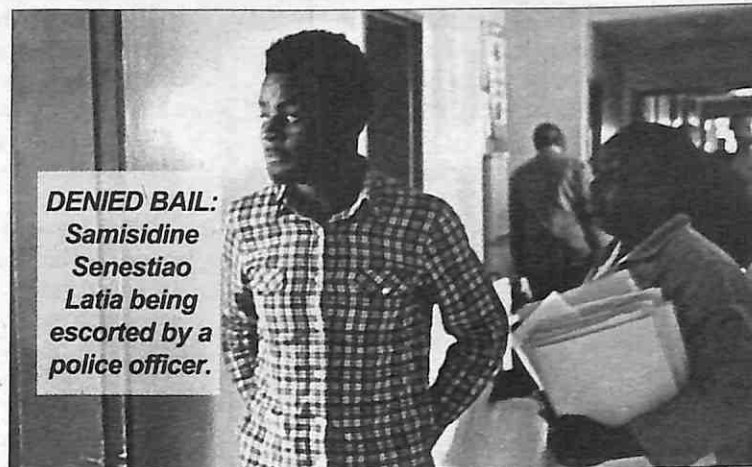
During the accident, a 33-year-old female pedestrian of Mahlabatsini area sustained serious head injuries and was rushed to RFM Hospital, where she was certified dead on arrival.

Amputated

Two of the injured pedestrians were admitted at the same hospital while the third one was treated and discharged.

Two of the pedestrians had some of their limbs amputated.

The accused, during his appearance in court, elected to conduct his own



DENIED BAIL:
Samisidine
Senestiao
Latia being
escorted by a
police officer.

defence. He was slapped with four charges.

The first charge was that of culpable homicide in that the accused

...The accused was accused was charged with negligent driving in that he knocked down two pedestrians after driving without care on attention

knocked down Nokuthula Dlamini (33) of Lushikishini.

On the second count, the accused was accused with negligent driving in that he knocked down two pedestrians; Lungile Mamba (29) of Mhlaleni and Sifiso Nzima (33) of Logoba. The accused is alleged to have driven negligently in that he drove without care and attention, he failed to apply brakes on time and overtook on a solid line where the road is taking a bend to the right.

The third count was for driving a vehicle which was unregistered.

The last count was that of driving a vehicle without a licence.

During his court appearance, the prosecutor applied that the accused be remanded until Wednesday.

The accused was further advised that bail is opposed.

Accused who escaped while in hospital re-arrested

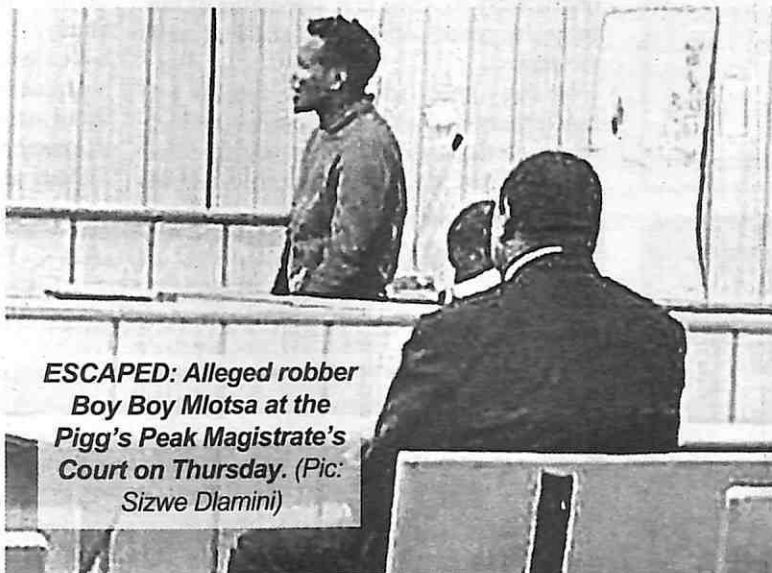
By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

THE alleged robbery suspect who escaped from custody while admitted at the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital has been re-arrested.

Boy Boy Mlota (23) was originally apprehended by members of the Nginamadvolu community about a month ago but managed to escape police custody while receiving treatment at the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital.

At the time of the escape it was said that Mlota was still bound by handcuffs, but that minor detail did not deter the escapee who managed to evade police arrest for 48 hours.

Also at the time of the escape Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba said Mlota did not escape, but was instead released officially.



ESCAPED: Alleged robber
Boy Boy Mlota at the
Pigg's Peak Magistrate's
Court on Thursday. (Pic:
Sizwe Dlamini)

"We have reports that Mlota was released officially by the Pigg's Peak police, that means he did not escape, he was released because the police had no legal reason to keep him behind

bars," he said.

However, that story changed after Mlota appeared before the Senior Magistrate Siphosini Dlamini on Thursday in the presence of police

officers.

Appearing at the Magistrate's Court the police said Mlota did escape from their custody while in hospital where he was receiving treatment for injuries.

"In November I received a call that an angry mob was assaulting Mlota at Nginamadvolu. It (mob) wanted to bring the accused to the police station, but I decided to go to the area to attend to the situation. After doing this, I then took the accused to hospital where he escaped police custody," the officer said.

Mlota was then rearrested on the outskirts of Nginamadvolu days after his escape and as a result he missed the original remand date.

Meanwhile, the magistrate told Mlota to produce evidence that he did not escape from police custody.

"Your next remand is December 21, please try to produce your doctor's report that will clear your name of the alleged escape," he said.

CTA PETROL THEFT CASE RESURFACES

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

A case of fuel theft at government's Central Transport Administration (CTA) which is alleged to have taken place in 2007 last week resurfaced at the Magistrate's Court after failing to commence trial for almost 10 years.

The matter reflects that government lost a sum of E287 586.28 worth of fuel between the period of 2007 and 2011. Two accused persons, namely General Tfwala and Sikhumbuzo Dlamini who are also said to be government employees, appeared before Principal Magistrate Dumisani Magagula. They are facing two counts of fraud and theft, respectively.

On the first count, two of the accused persons are said to have acted in furtherance of a common purpose and misrepresented themselves to Mfanimpela Mkhonta, who was at the time a depot manager of Chevron Swaziland (Pty) Ltd, that fuel amounting to the said sum of money had been delivered at Big Bend Research as ordered by government through the CTA department.

The accused persons are alleged to have wrongfully induced the said manager to file a tax invoice demanding payment of the said amount while knowing that there had been no such delivery. Moreover, the accused persons are further implicated with four others in the second charge of theft. They are alleged to have acted in furtherance of a common purpose and stole fuel amounting to E13 065 from the Siteki CTA depot, the property of government.

The accused persons have been out of custody after they were granted bail of E1 000 each during their first appearance. Last Thursday, the matter was set for trial on May 21, 2018.

Businessman seeks commissioner's help as police defy court order

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

A Lomahasha based businessman has since sought the intervention of National Commissioner of Police, Isaac Magagula as his subordinates continue to flout the very same law they are entrusted to uphold and further bring to book any individual who acts against it.

Joseph Mtshali has had his truck valued over E100 000 detained by Siteki police, much against two court orders which were issued by Lubombo Senior Magistrate Donald Mavuso and Principal Magistrate Dumisani Magagula, respectively.

This emanates from Mtshali's arrest which occurred early last year, where he was charged with the theft of a motor vehicle.

Of note is that the businessman was arrested at the Lubombo Police Headquarters, where he intended to

register the truck which he alleges to have bought from a garage in Matsapha. After the trial of the matter which took slightly over a year, Mtshali was acquitted and discharged as the crown failed to prove a case against him.

Effect

A court order, which was to the effect that police must immediately release the truck to Mtshali, was subsequently issued by the principal magistrate last month.

The businessman has come out to say that, however, police under the department of the theft of motor vehicles have informed him in no uncertain terms that they will not release the truck.

This was after Mtshali had gone to the police station to claim his vehicle back in accordance with the court order.

"I observed that the truck now has some parts missing, and this could be why the police are now making unreasonable excuses of not releasing it



despite a court order which was issued in their presence," said Mtshali.

Forced

Mtshali said the conduct of the police gave him the impression that the uniformed force is superior than the laws of the country, hence was now seek-

ing clarity from the national commissioner.

In fact, Mtshali said he had already made attempts to have the matter resolved by the national commissioner, and was promised that some senior officers will be tasked to work on it.

MAN WHO BURIED FOETUS WANTED OUT OF HOMESTEAD

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangano

THE man who reportedly carried a foetus from hospital to bury it secretly at home was afraid that he will be in trouble should his wife learn about it.

*Sive Mamba, a married man, is said to have decided to bury the foetus thinking that his wife would not be aware that he was cheating on her.

He had impregnated another woman who unfortunately had a miscarriage and her relatives are said to have given him the premature saying he should 'sort it himself out'.

Sive, confused by this, decided to bundle the foetus in a bag and took it to his home area in Nsongweni where he buried it in the family fields with the hope that no one would notice.

Last Monday Sive boarded a kombi in town, carrying the foetus in the bag, and upon arriving home, he proceeded to the fields to bury it.

A close family member said Sive decided to bury the foetus secretly without even alerting elders in the family because he did not want his wife to find out what had happened.

It is believed that on the day in question, his wife was also at home and she only learned about the incident after the arrival of the police who had been called after the family had found a freshly dug 'grave' in the fields.

"Sive probably got confused as to how his wife would react should she hear that he was cheating on her.

He did not want this matter to reach her or anyone and he decided to secretly bury the foetus. Unfortunately, someone saw him as he carried a torch and that got the family worried and that's why the next morning someone went to check as to what was happening the previous night in the fields.

It was then that his wife, who also lives in the same homestead, got to know about the matter which angered her. She was so angry such that she decided not to sleep at home," said a close family member.

The relationship of Sive and his wife has now been strained following the incident.

"She is furious and no one knows what she will do. She was devastated when arriving home on Tuesday to learn that something of this nature happened with her husband fingered as the suspect.

We don't know how the two families will handle the issue," said a family member. Other reports are that since the homestead where Sive did this is not actually his parental home, he



EXPLAINING: Gogo Jane Matsebula (LaMasuku) narrating events that led to the foetus being buried in her fields last week.

should be chucked out of the Matsebula homestead.

"Sive is only a nephew at the Matsebula homestead as this is her mother's parental home.

Otherwise, his parental home is just past Casino (Nhlangano Casino Royale).

There are now calls by other family members that he should be chucked out as what he has done has tainted the image of the Matsebula family.

We are not sure what will eventually happen but some of the influential members in the family no longer want him here," said a close family member.

*Not his real name



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Physical Address: Plot 784, 1st Street Matsapha Industrial Site, Office number 11.

PUBLIC TRAINING SCHEDULE - January to June 2018

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

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

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

NOTICE

COLLECTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

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

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

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

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



Mbabane Head Office: Inaba House, Simbikile Road, Mbabane, Swaziland Tel: (+268) 2404 3231/9
Maseru Office: SRC House, opp. The Hub, Mkhokho Street, Maseru, Swaziland Tel: (+268) 2505 5121/3

THE ROYAL SWAZILAND SUGAR CORPORATION LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Kingdom of Swaziland)
REGISTRATION #: 197710032001568
LISTED ON THE SWAZILAND STOCK EXCHANGE (SSX)
ISIN CODE: SZ0005797820
SHARE CODE: RSSC

DECLARATION OF A SECOND INTERIM DIVIDEND NUMBER 50

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a second interim dividend (dividend 50) of 99 cents per share in the currency of Swaziland for the year ending 31 March 2018 has been declared payable to Shareholders registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 12 January 2018.

The transfer books and register of members will be closed from 13 January 2018 to 19 January 2018 both days inclusive, for the purpose of determining those Shareholders to whom the dividend shall be paid. Payment of dividend is expected to be posted on or about 02 February 2018.

Normal and withholding tax will be deducted from dividends paid to local shareholders and non-resident shareholders respectively where applicable.

The above-mentioned interim dividend will be paid out of current earnings. The unaudited consolidated forecasted profit before taxation of the company and its subsidiaries for the year ending 31 March 2018 is approximately E900 Million.

By Order of the Board

LS Masango
Company Secretary

18 December 2017



Registered office
Simunye Sugar Estate
P O Box 1
SIMUNYE L301
Swaziland



Transfer Secretaries
KPMG Advisory (Swaziland) (Pty) Limited
P O Box 331
MBABANE H100
Swaziland



Sponsoring Brokers
Swaziland Stockbrokers Limited
P O Box 2818
MBABANE H100
Swaziland

Directors: Dr AT Dlamini (Chairman), HRH Princess Phumelele, N Jackson (Managing), J du Plessis, IG van der Walt, ZR Magagula, B Mkhali, D van Niekerk, MSM Shongwe, Chief ZN Ndlangamandla, JN Gule, A Idris M Geraghty. Alternates: Dr B Wadinga (Alternate to A Idris), M Ndelela (Alternate to JN Gule), A Ngcobo (Alternate to Dr AT Dlamini). Company Secretary: LS Masango.



P.O. Box 1 Simunye Tel: (+268) 2313 4000 Fax: (+268) 2313 8171



FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

info@observer.org.sz



The Global Business
ROUNDTABLE

Platform

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

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

SWAZILAND HONOURED: GBR Swaziland scooped awards at the World Congress 2017.

GBR Swaziland through the lens



ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM: Participants of the GBR Swaziland Economic Symposium.



UNITED: GBR Swaziland team which represented the kingdom at the 2017 Thought Leader's Summit.

CHAPTERS LAUNCHED

Steki, Matsapha and Big Bend Roundtables were launched, a notable milestone for GBR Swaziland and yes, 2018 shall see more Roundtables being launched.

A NEW THING on TV and RADIO

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

● Swazi TV Season 2 (showing Mondays at 9p.m)

● 1Gospel Season 1 (showing Tuesdays at 9p.m.

● TBN-Channel 343 Season 2 (showing Thursday/Saturday at 5pm)

● RTM Season 2 (showing Mondays at 8pm)

● VOC (Every Tuesday 6:30 pm)

● SBIS (Every Sunday 4 pm)



VOC PARTNERSHIP: GBR and VOC signed an MoU for GBR's programme 'A New Thing' currently airing on the station.

GBR/GFFJ WEEKLY MEETINGS

Local GBR sessions take place every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from the different regions of the country. Everyone is free to attend these sessions and become a member, at no cost.

Every after the session, we network..., a powerful session where business deals are clinched and sealed over a meal. Our evening sessions start promptly at 6pm-8pm and the venues and days are as follows:

■ In Mbabane- City Court- last Tuesday of the month

■ At Ezulwini- Bethel Court- first Tuesday of every month

■ At Matsapha- S&B Restaurant- first Thursday of the month

■ At Simunye- Simunye Club- second Tuesday of the

month

■ Manzini- third Tuesday of the month, at The George Hotel

■ Mpaka- Malindza Primary School, third Thursday of every month

■ At Nhlalango - Ngwane Teacher's Training College- every last Thursday of the month

■ Steki- second Thursday of the month, new building next to Baceth Hardware

■ Ngculwini- at Mhubhe High School, second Saturday of the month 11:00-1:00pm.

For more information log in to the GBR and GFFJ websites:

www.globalbusinessroundtable.com/www.globalfundforjesus.com or send an SMS to: +268 7811 2986 for questions and clarifications.



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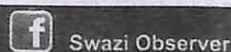
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OUR CODE OF CONDUCT

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

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

Email: mbingo@observer.org.sz
Cell: 7602 9564

Fax: 24045503 or 24046463
Landline: 2404 9600/1/2

ON THIS DAY

... DECEMBER 18

- 1920 - First US postage stamps printed without the words United States or US
- 1923 - International zone of Tangier set up in Morocco
- 1935 - The Lanka SamaSamaja Party is founded in Ceylon
- 1936 - Queensland cricket all out for 49 v Vic, Fleetwood-Smith 7-17
- 1936 - Su-Lin, 1st giant panda to come to US from China, arrives in San Francisco
- 1939 - Finnish army recaptures Aglajärvi
- 1941 - German submarine U-434 sinks
- 1941 - Japanese troops land on Hong Kong
- 1944 - US Destroyers Hull, Spence & Monaghan sink in typhoon (Philippines)
- 1944 - Nazi occupiers of Amsterdam destroy electricity plants
- 1945 - Uruguay joins the United Nations
- 1946 - TV's first network dramatic serial "Faraway Hill" ends two month run in US
- 1947 - Pope Pius XII publishes encyclical Optissima Pax
- 1948 - Indonesia begins its second political election
- 1948 - WDSU TV channel 6 in New Orleans, LA (NBC) begins broadcasting
- 1949 - Philadelphia Eagles beat LA Rams 14-0 in NFL championship game
- 1952 - Ellis W Ryan resigns as Cleveland Indians president
- 1953 - KATV TV channel 7 in Little Rock, AR (ABC) begins broadcasting
- 1953 - KMID TV channel 2 in Midland & Odessa, TX (ABC) begins broadcasting
- 1956 - "To Tell the Truth" debuts on CBS-TV
- 1956 - Israeli flag hoisted on Mount Sinai
- 1956 - Phil Rizzuto signs as NY Yankee radio-TV announcer
- 1957 - World's first full scale nuclear power plant begins to generate electricity, at the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania
- 1958 - First test project of Signal Communications by Orbiting Relay Equip
- 1958 - Project SCORE, world's first communications satellite launched from Cape Canaveral
- 1958 - Niger gains autonomy within French Community (National Day)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Brad Pitt (Movie Actor) - December 18, 1963 (54 years old)



Katie Holmes (TV Actress) - December 18, 1978 (39 years old)

Silent screams find a voice

THE Marikana and Life Esidimeni tragedies betray an appalling truth: officious politicians and their political officials, with the connivance of private parties injured to human debasement, contrived to end the lives of many people through a rogue and perverse act of state violence, military grade in the former case and, chillingly, as health policy in the latter.

A hapless president established the highly politicised Farlam commission of inquiry to investigate the slaughter in Marikana. A frantic minister of health set the health ombudsman to the task in the case of Life Esidimeni.

Both enquiries reveal that differences in the proximate circumstances do nothing to obscure the fact that the victims died, in both instances, in and at the hands of the state.

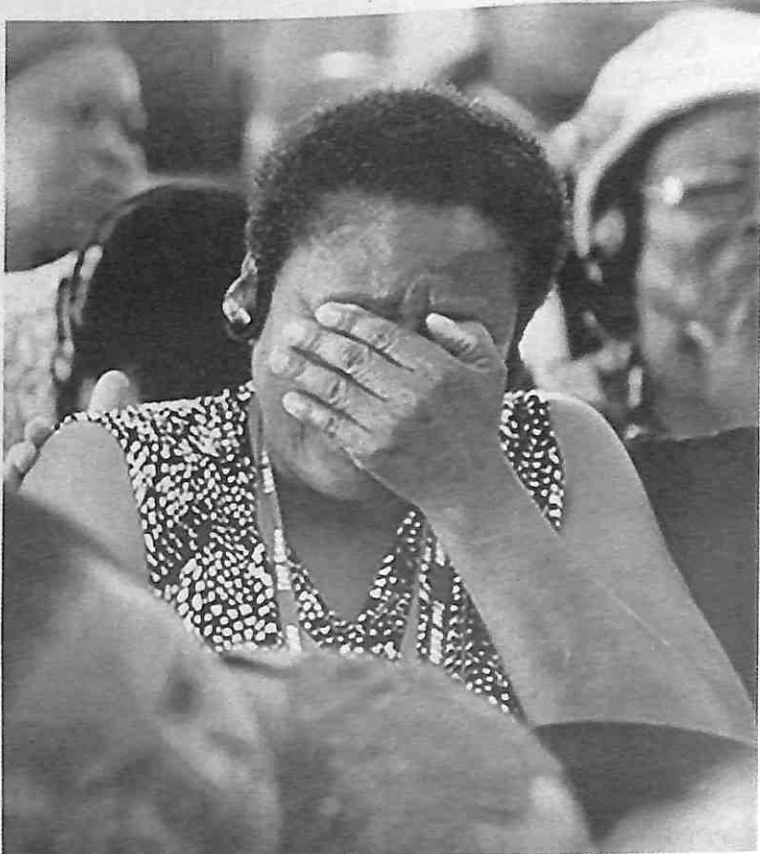
The similarities, however, end there. The outcomes of the Farlam commission are as clear as mud and about as meaningful. The outcomes, so far, of the Life Esidimeni enquiry are anything but. The reasons for this are uncomfortably clear.

While the Farlam inquiry was predictable in its tentative apportioning of guilt, the health ombudsman's report dispassionately dissects the human details of the disaster, in which guilt and recompense are evoked by the deed laid bare in all its many harms.

Most tellingly, the cause of the victims of the state's mental health policy implementation was taken up by seasoned civil society activists and experts, not teams of lawyers in corporate posture.

This is not to impugn the professional remit of Judge Ian Farlam and the various senior legal minds at the commission. Indeed, the commission was waylaid into navigating a familiar political maze of cynical twists and evasive turns and, in truth, could not have arrived at different outcomes.

In the Esidimeni case, an experienced medical scientist, with scarce resources but equipped with a reflex-



ive rigour and, more importantly, steeped in the classical medical training that frames scientific thought in empiricism and invests scientific endeavour with ethics, swiftly and unsensationally produced a compelling account of the disaster, with each spot-lit character in the "dramatis personae" displaying the full array of ignorance, arrogance and rank neglect.

There is no scurrying obfuscation, no evading culpability and no respite from the truth in the health ombudsman's findings.

This is unprecedented in the annals of pre- and, depressingly, post-democracy government.

In particular, proposing a thorough extra-prosecutorial airing of the anatomy of the disaster evinces a clarity of purpose lacking in the Farlam report.

Beyond this, things take a different turn in the fates of the survivors, perpetrators, authorities and observers alike.

It is likely that even the health

ombudsman could not have foreseen that his recommended course of action would provide for a penetrating and excoriating discovery of a state that is in thrall to crass power, a public service that is beyond caring and ghouls who let people starve to death under their roofs.

Dramatis

The good judge's entreaties to the parade of dramatis personae to explain their actions are tinged with incredulity, which intensifies with each engagement. Exasperated, he was moved to ask: "But where was the empathy?"

If I may proffer an answer, My Lord, it is that it was missing in action, absented without leave, outsourced to another level in a self-regarding hierarchy or to dodgy accomplices.

Empathy, like nature and life, has been commodified.

The economics of this empathy produces only grisly models and grim accounting, nowhere more so than in the instance of mass deaths.

Yet it is empathy that, when set to a discipline, becomes the duty of care. The duty of care is axiomatic for the state that dispenses services to the people; for those who hold the treasure of others in trust, for professionals and public servants; and for those charged with political office. It is axiomatic, too, for those who vote for and appoint them.

The duty of care does not end so long as the wellbeing of people is in the custodial embrace of the physician, nurse, lawyer, teacher, company director, municipal manager or politician with the power to affect people's lives. For those obliged to a duty of care, there is no alternative to its fastidious exercise.

Through some bizarre transmutation, the state has wilfully elided its sovereign purpose. The manifest contradiction that ensues is the stuff of civic nightmares.

A baleful, unresponsive and incapable public service is a mortal danger to society. Defensive and imperious, in mindless supplication to political power, in mute obeisance of a dissembling hierarchy, in wilful erasure of the first precepts of service, it becomes, in George Orwell's take on political language, "... like a garrison in an occupied town".

Marikana, Life Esidimeni and state capture draw a laser-like bead on those in office and those they direct who fail in this most fundamental of duties, the duty of care. For as long as that continues, awful tragedies will play out in a relentless procession of disasters. So, if you happen to attend some political conference rumoured to be convening this week, a word to the wise - do not be too certain of your certainties. When you decide upon an action that has a remote impact on human wellbeing, it is better not done if it is done without the obligatory duty of care. By all means, cast your vote, but first exercise your duty of care. You may surprise yourself. You might just make the right choice.

News24

GOD LOVES POLITICIANS TOO

THE ANC's 54th National Conference arguably hasn't started off very smoothly.

For one, there were the court rulings which could have threatened the success of the conference, and the Treasurer-General Zweli Mkhize had to assure business leaders the conference would happen in an "orderly" manner.

There was also President Jacob Zuma's Christmas present, or what others may call a bombshell, in the form of fee free higher education for students coming from households with an annual income of less than R350 000.

Also given the cartoons about bribery happening on the sidelines of the conference, and analysts weighting up the worst possible scenarios if the wrong candidate wins, it appears the SA public is running a secret pool on how long it will take for things to completely burn to the ground.

So I found it completely plausible that the conference was opened with a session of interfaith prayers. With the way things were going, God had to intervene to save the ANC from some tremendous happening we were yet to witness.

But judging by the comments of viewers watching the footage of the prayers in the same room as me, the agenda behind this activity was being questioned too.

While one viewer asked why it was necessary to involve religion in politics, my thoughts on the matter were far more elementary. I was

considering how awkward it must be for the religious representatives who weren't invited to say prayers at the conference.

But then I seriously considered this question: Is there a place for God in politics?

I was raised in a Christian home and in our youth group we were taught to be patriotic and pray for our government and our country. I just accepted it as something everyone does. As a 14-year-old it wasn't a choice, it was just the way things were. But then 2009 happened and Zuma became president and I wondered if God was mad, or if people were mad and God was leaving us to destroy ourselves as a form of punishment. But I kept praying for the country and the government, not as passionately as when I was a teenager, but still mumbling those prayers before falling asleep.

And then one day, the president did something horrible, not much different to the other horrible things he's (allegedly) done and I said something disrespectful about Zuma. I know it was disrespectful because my dad rebuked me right then and there and reminded me of **Romans 13 verse 1**: "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God." (NIV) Well, obviously I was guilt-tripped into continue praying for Zuma. I won't lie and tell you that I wasn't disappointed when God's mighty hand didn't come down to smite him after the revelations of State Capture. I was burdened with hopelessness for the future, so I stopped praying for South Africa.

News24

Obsessed with power, Zuma still doesn't understand Constitution

AFTER 10 years as president of the ANC, just over eight as head of state, twice sworn to uphold the Constitution, dragged to the courts countless times over constitutional blunders, Jacob Zuma still doesn't understand the Constitution of the Republic.

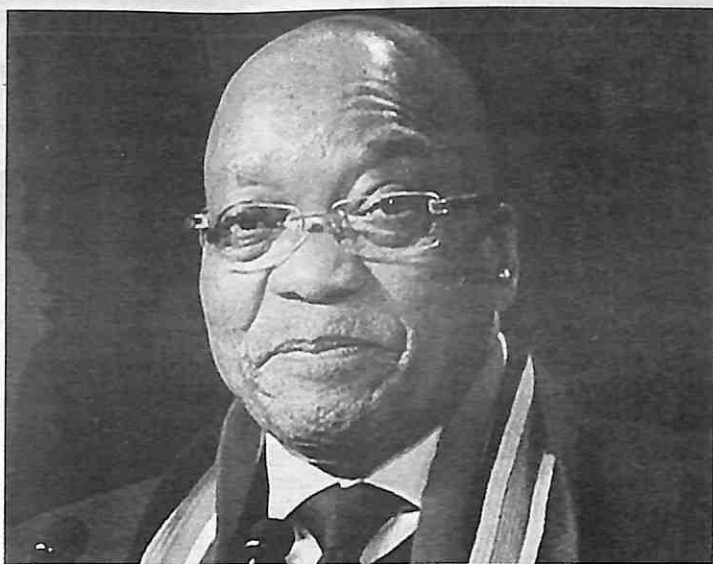
In his political report to the ANC's 54th conference, his last as president of the ANC, Zuma attacked aggrieved party members who approached the courts to seek recourse.

He urged ANC delegates to violate the Constitution of the country by urging the conference to consider adopting a resolution that would in future expel members who took the party to court.

"We have said before that if you take the ANC to court, you have taken yourself out of the ANC," he said. He regretted that he and the ANC leadership had failed to implement this self-expulsion idea.

As a president of the country, whose main task is to uphold and defend the Constitution, Zuma should know that the Constitutional Court has ruled that political rights of party members are protected by the Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution.

The rights to join a political party and the participation in party political activities are not matters that political party leaders can arbitrar-



IN HIS WORLD: South African President Jacob Zuma.

ily offer or withdraw as they like. The rights are enshrined in the Constitution.

Deriving their power exclusively from the Constitution, courts have to adjudicate disputes that arise from the threats or threat to violate such political rights.

It's not what irritates Zuma or not that matters; it's what the Constitution demands. If Zuma had his way, it seems the Bill of Rights could be amended.

In the Ramakatsa judgement in 2012, ahead of the Mangaung con-

ference, the Constitutional Court confirmed that violation of the rights of political party members deserved a hearing by courts. Political rights were at the heart of the struggle for freedom.

There was a time during the apartheid era when joining certain organisations, including the ANC, was a harshly punishable crime. Zuma should know better, unless he participated in a struggle without a full appreciation of what it was about.

The apartheid government passed the Suppression of Communism

Act which banned anyone from being a communist or member of the South African Communist Party. The struggle for freedom, which essentially entrenched political rights of members of political parties – the right to join and participate in political activities – was meant not only to reverse political oppression perpetrated by the apartheid regime. It also meant to positively grant the rights to citizens.

Blighted by being in the position of power, Zuma is seemingly ignorant of the fact that restricting the rights of party members from seeking legal recourse is something that would make apartheid architects smile in their graves.

But he is concerned less about the constitutional rights of members than he is about the power of party leaders to impose their will on members. He sees the adjudication of intra-party disputes in court as a threat to the ANC. "It is gradually eroding the authority of the ANC," he said. He said nothing of the authority of the Constitution.

Zuma's line of thinking is consistent with his approach in dealing with government matters. When he's challenged in court to act rationally, lawfully and constitutionally, he sees it as an attack on his authority.

It has been a common theme of Zuma's presidency: an obsession with the trappings of power and the retrenchment of accountability in the exercise such power.

News24

A book can change a nation

WHERE will you be in 10 years? Whether it's growing a business or raising a family, we all make plans for our future. Yet our future selves are either enabled or limited by our broader context. So, what is our national context in a generation?

Results from a global literacy study released last week paint a devastating picture. The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (Pirls), which assesses children's reading comprehension, has placed South African children last out of 50 countries.

According to the statistics, 78 per cent of Grade Four learners cannot read for basic meaning in any national language. In other words, eight out of 10 of the country's nine-year-olds are functionally illiterate.

This survey presents the socio-economic equivalent of Cape Town's taps running dry on Day Zero. Simply put, it's the most urgent wake-up call our country has had about what our future looks like, and we need to respond accordingly.

There's a reason Pirls tested Grade Fours. The age is a tipping point: if a child remains functionally illiterate at age nine, there is a strong correlation to them remaining so, which in turn leads to an inevitably steep school dropout shelf.

A 78 per cent illiteracy rate in Grade Four means the next generation will enter the workforce without the basic skills needed to raise themselves out of poverty. It means

a generation without the capacity to learn, to teach, to lead. More alarmingly, it means a generation unable to pass along literacy to their own children, exacerbating the situation with every passing year.

In the US, there is an alarmingly precise correlation between the number of illiterate Grade Three boys and future incarceration statistics (the US, for reference, scored just four per cent on the Pirls survey). In South Africa, boys have fallen behind to such an extent that they are now a full year of learning behind girls of the same age – the second-highest gender gap in the world.

The Pirls survey attempted to quantify social inhibitors to education, such as bullying among peers.

We are also world leaders there, with 42 per cent of South African Grade Fours experiencing bullying weekly (by comparison, 15 per cent of children reported the same experience in the US and UK).

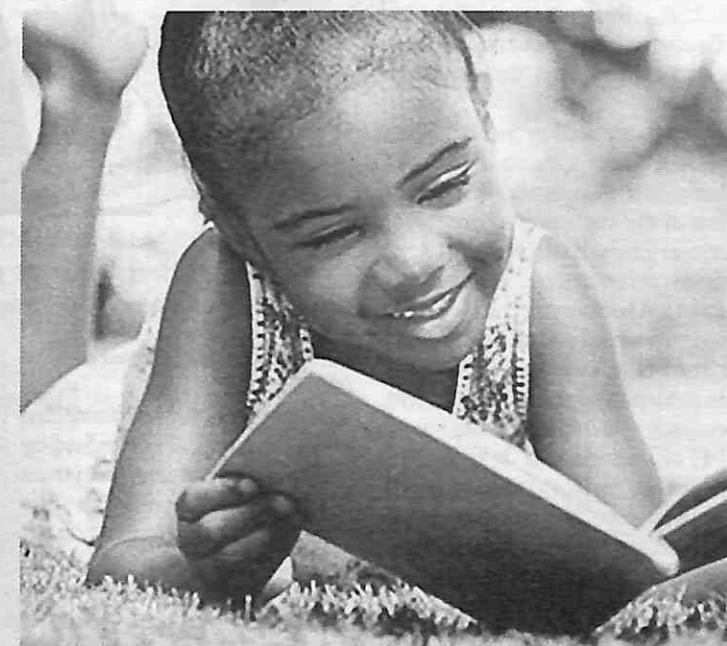
What kind of future can we build when our children cannot build empathy?

Change can happen

Government is putting urgent plans in place to secure our resources: sustainable water, electricity supply and so on. We all weigh in on these because South Africans care about what our country looks like and we're willing to make a noise when we feel a lack of leadership on these matters.

Where is the noise here?

If literacy is everybody's prob-



lem, then it's also everybody's solution. These results need to be the rallying call to the heart of our nation.

Priority

The good news – and there is much of it – is that change can happen. After all, Japan and, more recently, Chile, turned around their literacy rates by simply making it a holistic national priority.

But how do we start with a similar approach in South Africa? Take heart that many of us began a long time ago. NGOs have determinedly been stepping up to the plate, introducing and quietly maintaining extraordinary, effective, and targeted initiatives to support literacy development across the country.

Nal'ibali, for example, operates countrywide to spark children's

potential. It creates opportunities for children to fall in love with books and stories in their home languages as well as in English. Research proves that regular reading and a strong foundation of language in children's mother tongues are two of the most significant indicators of future academic success – even more so than socio-economic status. That's food for thought in a country where the poverty trap seems inescapable.

We are hardly tackling this problem alone – it takes a nation to nurture a reading culture and Nal'ibali works hand-in-hand with hundreds of partners. Together we've seen extraordinary successes in our five years of operation.

City Press

With and Wisdom

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

— Dr. Seuss

"I'm selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes, I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best."

— Marilyn Monroe

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

— Oscar Wilde

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."

— Albert Einstein

"So many books, so little time."

— Frank Zappa

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind."

— Bernard M. Baruch

"You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching,

Love like you'll never be hurt,
Sing like there's nobody listening,
And live like it's heaven on earth."

— William W. Purkey

"A room without books is like a body without a soul."

— Marcus Tullius Cicero

"You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."

— Dr. Seuss

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."

— Mae West

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

— Mahatma Gandhi

"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on."

— Robert Frost

"I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where. I love you simply, without problems or pride: I love you in this way because I do not know any other way of loving but this, in which there is no I or you, so intimate that your hand upon my chest is my hand, so intimate that when I fall asleep your eyes close."

— Pablo Neruda, 100 Love Sonnets

"I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

— Albert Einstein

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."

— Groucho Marx, The Essential Groucho: Writings For By And About Groucho Marx

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate 10.75%

First National Bank

Inflation Rate 5.4%

Central Statistical Office

Mortgage Rate 9.75%

Swaziland Building Society

Bank Rate 7.25%

Central Bank

Petrol (u) E12.10 per litre

Replacement E12.15 per litre

Diesel E12.00 per litre

Paraffin E 8.95 per litre

Engen Garage

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 14 DEC 2017

| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL |
|---------------------------|------------|---------|
| US Dollar / SZL | 13.4546 | 13.5046 |
| British Pound / SZL | 18.0702 | 18.1374 |
| Japanese Yen / SZL | 8.3416 | 8.3711 |
| Swiss France / SZL | 13.6623 | 13.7116 |
| Botswana Pula / SZL | 1.3011 | 1.3140 |
| Australian Dollar / SZL | 10.3076 | 10.3486 |
| Canadian Dollar / SZL | 10.4999 | 10.3486 |
| Mozambique Meticals / SZL | 5.5211 | 5.5942 |
| Euro / SZL | 15.9094 | 15.9685 |
| Gold | 1,257.7600 | |
| Oil | 64.4 | |

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Direct Lines: +268 2404 1543 / 1544
Email: gmswaziland@stanbic.com



Standard Bank

EU market remains vital to sugar industry- Tibiyo Taka Ngwane

By Majaha Nkonyane

TIBIYO Taka Ngwane has commended the European market as a vital market in the sugar industry; this is according to the Managing Director Themba Dlamini.

"The EU market will continue to be of paramount importance to the country's sugar industry due to continued preferential access. Sales volumes for 2016 were 1.4 per cent higher compared to the previous

year," he said.

As much as the EU market prices are forecasted to decline, Dlamini noted that they will be trading at premium when compared to the world market. The prices are also expected to have a close correlation with world market price moving forward.

The United States market and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa is said to remain vital to the industry and provide flexibility for the industry to move from the EU to the region. The country according to Dlamini continues

to have access to the US market under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP).

The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) market was also noted as a major source of value creation for the sugar industry. "Value in this market will be depend on tariff protection, sales into the African and regional markets are expected to grow in line with the industry's strategy to diversify sales into these markets.

This is expected to compensate for declining prices in the EU," he said.

It was further noted that in terms of the short outlook for the industry sales revenues are expected to increase by 2.5 per cent.

This is as a result of favourable sugar prices. Preferential access into the EU and USA markets and effective protection in the domestic SACU market is said to guarantee sustained value of the sugar industry.

Sugar production is projected to decrease by 2.2 per cent with improvements which led to a revised forecast production reduction of 15.6 per cent.

Swazi MTN pumps E350 000 seed capital

By Majaha Nkonyane

SWAZI MTN has once again boosted the entrepreneurial spirit in the country by pumping in E350 000 towards the Technoserve's entrepreneur competition, 'my business my future'.

This was revealed by Swazi MTN's acting Chief Financial Officer Lungile Nxumalo who was speaking at the company's headquarters in Ezulwini on Friday during the award ceremony. This is where three top performing entrepreneurs were awarded a total of E24 000. "The MTN Seed Capital Challenge is a corporate social investment project, driven through the Swazi MTN Foundation. It is implemented in partnership with Technoserve, and the two have a long standing reputation when it comes to addressing the root causes of poverty. When we started two years ago, MTN foundation invested E300 000 and this year



SEED CAPITAL: Acting MTN CEO Lungile Nxumalo speaking during the prize presentation at Swazi MTN offices on Friday. (Courtesy pic)

the support was increased to E350 000," she said.

The competition is implemented in communities characterised by high poverty and unemployment levels, among young people. Nxumalo said the competition targets rural young people who are assisted to start and expand small enterprises that are already in motion.

The increase in support has been noted as an indication that Swazi MTN believes in the power of enterprise development, which is one of the key pillars in the MTN foundation strategy.

Since its inception the competition has awarded 45 participants with seed capital.

The number has increased to a total of 75 young people who have

received seed capital over a two year period. "We are excited that not only are we seeing the top three competitors for 2017, but significantly, we shall see the top dog in this competition," she said.

The competition awarded three businesses where Ntombinkosi Makhubu won E10 000, the 22 year old chicken farmer thanked Technoserve and Swazi MTN for the opportunity to be part of the competition.

"I am very grateful for this opportunity and grateful to Technoserve, I would also like to thank my parents for supporting me with everything.

The Chicken business that I am running is a family business which benefits four of my siblings. With this prize money I plan to increase my chickens and have between 1000 to 2000 chickens which I sell to my community," she said.

The competition awarded:

Ntombinkosi Makhubu E 10 000
Nontsikelelo Mabuza E 8000
Bongekile Mabuza E 6000



FULL HOUSE: Technoserve Programme Manager Samkelo Nxumalo with Swazi MTN acting CEO Lungile Nxumalo whilst a presentation is made.

Government intensifies on financial inclusion strategy

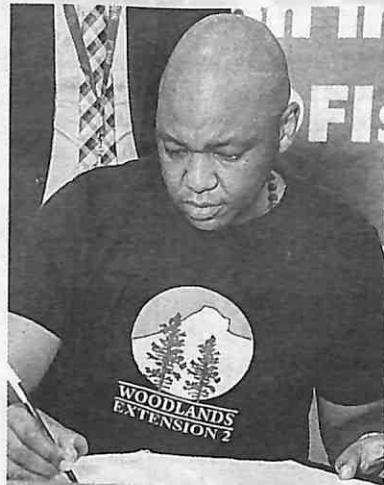
By Majaha Nkonyane

GOVERNMENT is working on a stronger strategy in strengthening financial inclusion.

This was announced by the Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini.

The minister was speaking at the SADC DFI CEO forum which was held at the Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre, Ezulwini.

"As a government in this country, we have escalated our efforts to deal with this delinquency by setting up a Centre for Financial Inclusion in Swaziland and we look forward to achieving improved levels of financial inclusion to spur socio-economic growth and development," he said. They have also pioneered several initiatives aimed at enhancing financial literacy and access to credit which include, the setting up of a Poverty Reduction Fund, Regional Development Fund and most recently Youth Enterprise Fund. However, the biggest challenge that was noted is sustaining these initiatives.



HOUSE MASTER: Swaziland National Housing Board CEO Mduduzi Dlamini at the event.

Dlamini said financial inclusion matters not only because it promotes growth, but because it also ensures that prosperity and welfare is widely distributed among the people. Access to financial services plays a critical role in lifting people out of poverty in a dignified manner, empowering women, and helping governments deliver much needed

services to their people.

Financial inclusion was noted as one factor that is affecting the whole of SADC region. Governments are said to have realised the pivotal role that financial inclusion can play in combating poverty and contributing to inclusive economic growth. The financial sector was said to be developing.

According to Dlamini, this is a prerequisite for economic development and reducing income inequality among the poor and creating employment opportunities.

The forum, amongst other things, discussed provision of business support services to credit clients to increase their chances of survival. There was also a discussion on providing innovative solutions for resource mobilisation for project finance.

Increased provision of infrastructure, bulk water, energy and transportation were also discussed. Provision of project preparation and a feasibility study support and increasing industrialisation and economic integration within the SADC region, were also looked into.

Swaziland amongst COMESA diversified economies

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE country has been listed amongst three of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) countries that have been able to diversify their economies as opposed to 16 that are commodity export dependent ones.

This is according to the 2017 COMESA commodities and development report.

"Egypt, Swaziland and Mauritius have diversified their economies and are not categorised as commodity export dependent countries," the report said.

The report revealed that 16 COMESA countries have continued to be commodity export dependents, leading to them recording low levels of development and high poverty rates.

COMESA secretariat has since proposed that a joint study be conducted with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to come up with permanent solutions to the dependency of commodities for export in different COMESA countries.

The report is basing its findings on the recent commodity price boom of 2003-2011 which showed that strong commodity prices do not alter the long-term pattern of their terms of trade.

The trade terms of economies that are dependent on primary commodities tend to deteriorate in the long run due to the secular decline of primary commodity prices relative to the prices of manufactured goods.

In view of this, UNCTAD has made several observations on the disadvantages of being too dependent on export commodities for developing countries.

It has also given different policy recommendations that countries should introduce in order to bring

about holistic and inclusive development.

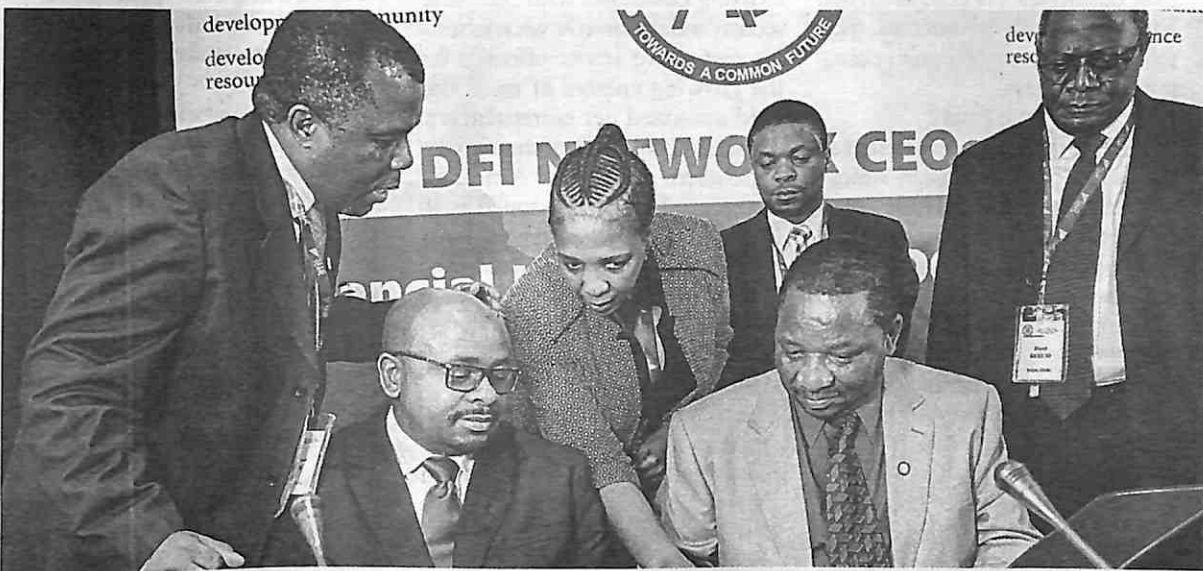
The 16 COMESA countries that are commodity export dependent have been named as Burundi, DR Congo, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The report has recommended that the countries introduce policies that will help build a resilient economy through counter-cyclical fiscal policy, pursuing diversification and promoting good governance.

Other policies include expanding linkages of commodity sectors with the local economy and promoting inclusive growth through social protection, investing in human capital and pursuing transparent policies.

Commodity export dependent developing countries derive the bulk of their export earnings from primary commodities such as minerals, ores, metals, fuels, agricultural raw materials and food. Export commodity dependents may cause potentially harmful impacts and affect all dimensions of sustainable development. Most of the developing countries that depend on commodity exports and or imports are characterised by low human development.

The annual Commodities and Development Report series is produced jointly by UNCTAD and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). It seeks to contribute to an understanding of the linkages between commodity markets and development outcomes by highlighting many transmission channels through which commodity prices impact an economy. Firstly, there are impacts that emanate from the terms of trade. Secondly, commodity dependence presents fiscal and monetary policy challenges. Thirdly, developments on international commodity markets can affect consumers and producers at the micro level.



OFFICIAL: NIDCS CEO Muzikayise Dube and Chairman Ephraim Hlophe signing up for membership. (Courtesy pics)

Royal Bafokeng Platinum gets nod for ABMS

JOHANNESBURG - Royal Bafokeng Platinum has won a court order to transfer workers from Aforika Borwa Mining Solutions (ABMS), after terminating its contract with the company, which has links to the Gupta family.

ABMS is an offshoot of Westdown Investments, the Gupta family's better-known mining contractor which trades as JIC Mining Services.

Royal Bafokeng recently experienced numerous raids by safety inspectors from the department of mineral resources which resulted in the shutdown of operations at some of its shafts.

The court order, issued by the Johannesburg Labour Court earlier this month, came after the Gupta-linked company initially tried to strike a deal to sell off the company.

It followed an urgent court application by Royal Bafokeng and its newly appointed contractor, Reagentswe

Rasimone. According to the order, 1 200 ABMS mine workers are set to become employees of Reagentswe from next year.

Two independent sources allege that ABMS and JIC initially tried to get Royal Bafokeng to pay for the transfer of the workers, claiming that they had spent a fortune training them and, therefore, were entitled to receive compensation. But both companies were in financial difficulty and merely wanted to get whatever they could from Royal Bafokeng, said a high-placed source within ABMS.

Royal Bafokeng spokesperson Mpueleng Poee declined to shed light on the matter, except to say that ABMS tried selling the company, but there was no agreement.

"They tabled a proposal to us to acquire their business. That proposal was unacceptable to us," he said, adding that the company had received a total of 11 sec-

tion 54 shutdown notices this year - seven of which had been sent over the past six weeks.

"These have been issued within a short space of one another," said Poee. "We have also seen a marked increase in the number of inspectors who come for each visit. Of late, the teams that come here are comprised mainly of inspectors from outside the province."

He said the tally in production losses because of these closures was unknown, but staff morale had been affected by the continuous raids. ABMS was contracted to Royal Bafokeng's Rustenburg Rasimone mining operations until the latter opted not to renew the contract. Royal Bafokeng then experienced several raids by inspectors from the mineral resources department, along with shutdowns - all of which, the mine alleges, was as punishment for cutting ties with the Gupta-linked mine.

fin24

#FeesMustFall Zuma kills the fiscus

JOHANNESBURG - Senior Treasury officials on Saturday slammed President Jacob Zuma's announcement of fee free tertiary education next year for 90 per cent of 2018's first-year students.

The officials warned that Zuma's plan - announced on Saturday morning, just before the ANC's 54th elective conference got underway - would cost the country upwards of R20bn a year, and could only be paid for through tax increases. "This thing caught everybody by surprise," said a top official.

"There isn't even a Cabinet decision on this."

He just made a unilateral decision. In fact, that is why Treasury's [former budget head and deputy director-general] Michael Sachs left. If Treasury does not speak up soon as to where the money

will come from, the ratings agencies will come for us.

"The only way we can fund this is through tax increases next year. There is not much we can do on the expenditure side. We have trimmed already and there is a R50bn hole as it is."

Zuma announced that government would provide free university and public college education for undergraduate students coming from poor and working-class households next year.

These students, who enroll at universities and at technical vocational education and training colleges, and who come from households earning an annual income of less than R350 000, will be subsidised by government through grants, not loans. Their funding will cover tuition, books, meals, accommodation and transport.

fin24

AS AFRICA ARRIVES IN THE BLOCKCHAIN, COGNITIVE ERA

AFRICA is currently a positive bedlam of digital innovation, as the beautiful and fast growing continent experiences a technology renaissance.

And to all the economic and social movements across the continent is the positively disruptive influence of technology. This is a worldwide phenomenon. Digital transformation has thus become a buzzword and an emerging reality for businesses and governments willing to do business with the rest of the world.

Evidence of innovative resurgence are the numerous technology initiatives between Casablanca and the Indian Ocean Island nation of Mauritius, including Kenya's "Silicon Savannah", South Africa's "Silicon Cape" tech scene in Cape Town, the "Yaba Technology Corridor" in Lagos, Nigeria and Lusaka's Bongo Hive Technology and Innovation Hub, which is arguably Zambia's number one den for creative industry and technology cognoscenti.

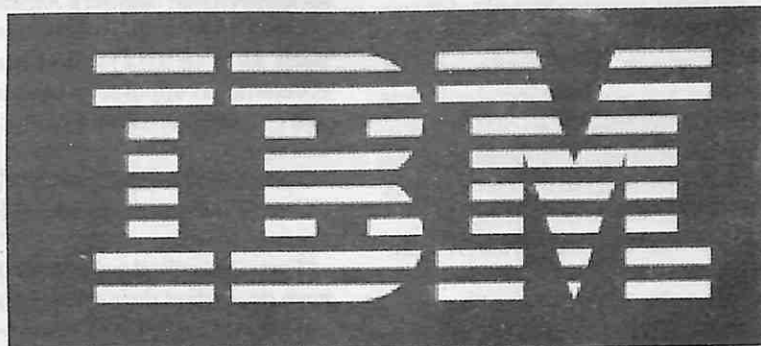
Forbes magazine recently reported that tech start-ups in Africa raised \$129-million in funding in 2016.

This was a 16.8 per cent increase in the number of successfully funded start-ups in 2015. South Africa was the country that saw the most funded start-ups, followed by Kenya, Nigeria, Egypt, Ghana, and Rwanda.

South Africa also saw the largest total funding, with Nigeria almost tied, then Kenya, Egypt, Ghana and Morocco.

Economic and financial inclusion remains a challenge across the continent, as only a third of African adults have access to any kind of basic financial services, according to the IMF. But financial technology – or "fintech" – innovations attracted the most start-up funding in 2016, raising \$31m, or 24 per cent of all the fundraising recorded during the year. This is a sign that the tech ecosystem is in touch with current realities.

At the other end of the fintech spec-



trum are the continent's business elite, most of whom have been quick to adopt advanced technology trends over the decades.

Their influence has, however, been largely focused on the enterprises they managed. Today's technology transformation is happening right across the social spectrum even as the new era of cognitive computing ushers in a new social ethos and a new enterprise technology paradigm for Africa's business leaders and government sectors.

This is at a time when rapid urbanisation and increased demand for key services has opened an opportunity for the continent to leap-frog, over legacy systems, into the future. Additionally, rapid adoption of the internet and information open to customers offers them the option to find the most secure and value-driven propositions available in any African market.

This creates an environment where every piece of the data an organisation produces needs to be harnessed as useful and relevant business intelligence, where enterprises capture and store a huge volume and variety of unstructured data, mine it and develop more accurate, immediate and meaningful insights.

And timely data-driven information that will increase the organisation's ability to respond, innovate and compete.

The ICT infrastructure of any aspiring organisation today must deliver extreme performance to execute real-

time analytics on volumes of big data such as Kenya Power's deployment of IBM automated systems in 2014. The system enabled Kenya Power to study and compare real time and historical data to improve efficiency in business operations while anticipating future customer needs.

A myriad of financial services and technology firms in Angola, South Africa, Zambia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Kenya, Togo and Ghana have since then invested in cloud, data analytics and IT security systems to transform the operational capabilities of their businesses. For companies that have made these investments, their journey into the era of cognitive computing has begun.

Investment

Clearly, increased investment in Africa's ICT infrastructure by African governments and the private sector to support this emerging cognitive reality will need to continue. We have seen the speed in which a single idea can disrupt an entire industry and the very short space of time it can do so. These are ideas and innovations that spawn from the basis and advantage of cognitive information.

It follows, however, that your enterprise ICT infrastructure must deliver extremely high performance to execute real-time analytics on huge volumes of data, and produce cognitive results.

IBM adapts IT infrastructure for cognitive workloads—including servers with hardware accelerators, low-latency flash storage, and intelligent work-

load management—that can help you set the pace for innovation by cutting data analysis from hours to milliseconds and making the ability to take action on data in real-time a reality.

The industry perspective

Regional demand is now building up for infrastructure systems upgrades that can deliver cognitive benefits, something we are seeing across different sectors. Of-course, the demands of different industries or government entities varies, and there is no one-size fits all strategy. Telecommunications companies, for example, deal with multiple vendors, making the complexity of their infrastructure more comprehensive and larger in size than some other industries.

Mining and industrial companies look for high performance solutions to deal with their own complex business needs.

Banks are an interesting example, as they need to find increasingly more innovative ways to serve both their existing customers with complete security and at a low cost, while increasing responsive service offerings for the growing number of small and medium-sized tier entrepreneurs. Typically, banks and insurance firms in Southern and Central Africa, for instance, often spend as much as 40 to 60 per cent of their typical business hours on problem isolation and firefighting tasks, with little time left to attend to business process development (innovation) and attaining service excellence.

On the contrary, adoption of infrastructure as a service and cognitive management technology will boost their capacity to learn from and resolve incidents with minimal human intervention.

Additionally, they will realise significant cost savings, improved transactional times across service channels, and optimal use of personnel time whilst customers enjoy passed on savings

IBM's role in the cognitive age

IBM is playing its own distinct role in the new cognitive era – we have already touched on a few aspects in this regard. We have unique systems for all sectors and continue to build the right collaborative partnerships in the region.

Take for example the Linux server which gives you the freedom to pick the platform that best suits your business priorities, workload, and IT strategies. It also meets growing demands to deliver cognitive results within a high-performance infrastructure. In this respect, the next step is already happening. We are positioning our IBM infrastructure systems, such as secure hardware storage with open source databases, as an enabler of the cognitive era.

Complimenting IBM's cognitive offering to support Africa's digital transformation effort is its blockchain proposition, a technology that is quickly being recognised for its capability to redesign systems, provoking Harvard Business Review to compare blockchain to the internet.

Blockchain provides a trusted solution for managing the regulatory systems and numerous intermediary parties across often complex supply chain systems. These can cut time and cost, plus the possibility of error – or worst, tampering. Blockchain helps reduce these vulnerabilities by offering all parties a transparent, synchronised, tamper-resistant and traceable record of all transactions from beginning to end.

As African countries forge ahead into the future, the drive towards digital transformation will only become stronger, with the need for further innovations as indigenous and foreign companies witness how the cognitive approach is revolutionising their business models and unleashing an almost infinite scope of possibilities.

IBM will continue to build on our strong channel organisation and strategic partner relationships across sub-Saharan Africa, attracting and harnessing the highest level of talent and innovators to co-create new digital spheres of cognitive thinking for Africa's civil society, government and business sectors.

Carlos Dos Santos, IBM Territory Manager for Central Africa, SADC and the Indian Ocean Island nations.

PRASA's new acting CEO makes asset exploitation a priority

JOHANNESBURG - Many people were unimpressed at this week's announcement by the Passenger Rail Agency of SA (PRASA) that it had appointed a new acting group CEO.

The appointment of Cromet Molepo to head up the troubled parastatal was met with a fair amount of scepticism, mainly because he is the third acting CEO to take up the post in two years.

Also, he was drafted from within the group instead of being an outside hire.

City Press interviewed Molepo at his office at Intersite, a subsidiary of Prasa, located in Sandton. He seemed unfazed by public scepticism.

Molepo will relinquish his post as CEO of investment company Intersite temporarily while he runs PRASA.

When he was offered the chance to lead the embattled state-owned company,



PRIORITISE: PRASA's new acting CEO Cromet Molepo.

Molepo said he consulted extensively and thought long and hard before accepting the responsibility.

"I had to decide if it was about me or my country," he said, adding that he was

"keen to take up the position on a permanent basis". Molepo said that, in his discussions with the board, he had made it clear that he was not a stooge.

"One of the things I said is that it must be very clear that I am not a hangman. Issues pertaining to the board must be handled by the board, while practical issues – in terms of legislation, which is my domain – will be my responsibility. All I need is the support of those people who are giving me the mandate. That is all I need – the guts and experience I already have."

Top of Molepo's list of priorities when it comes to fixing the ailing parastatal is staff rotation. That's because, according to the new CEO, PRASA currently comprises "hardworking people and people who were brought into the system who are not adding any value". **fin24**

New minimum wage bill has gaping holes

JOHANNESBURG - The long-awaited National Minimum Wage (NMW) Bill has major holes that could undermine the purpose of a new universal wage floor.

Gazetted last month, the Bill has a different definition of "worker" than the Bill that emerged from negotiations at the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) earlier this year.

It now seems to exclude so-called independent contractors, meaning it is no longer a universal minimum wage and could exclude the most vulnerable casual workers.

The definition creates even more incentive to restructure employment relationships in order to avoid labour laws, warned Shane Godfrey, a senior researcher at the University of Cape



Town's labour and enterprise policy research group.

The bill, along with parallel amendments to other labour laws, opens the door for wage reductions in a number of sectors where wages are set by sectoral determinations.

Other key demands from the labour constituency that negotiated the Bill at NEDLAC are conspicuously missing. These include medium-term targets for the wage and a guarantee that it will increase by at least the rate of inflation every year. **FIN24**

Africa News



MENDING BRIDGES: Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Zim, Botswana to 'fix strained relations' after Mugabe exit

HARARE – Botswana's government is reportedly set to "fix strained relations" with Zimbabwe once the current engagements between the two nations foreign affairs ministers are completed.

According to the state-owned Herald newspaper, the two countries were set to "sign various memoranda of understanding in the coming few months".

This came as Botswana's Minister of International Affairs and Co-operation, Dr Pelonomi Venson-Moitsoi "conveyed a congratulatory message" to President Emmerson Mnangagwa at his official offices in Harare this week.

Venson-Moitsoi said that the two neighbouring countries were going to work together in areas of co-operation after years of strained relations under former president Robert Mugabe.

Discussing

"...I will be discussing with my colleague the foreign affairs minister and we will be discussing a lot of memoranda of understanding between our two countries that we have to speed up and exchange in the next few months," Venson-Moitsoi was quoted as saying.

The two countries had had strained relations for years, with Botswana President Ian Khama said to be one of the loud critics of Mugabe.

Last year Khama made headlines after he called ageing Mugabe, who was still in power then, to step down.

"They [Zimbabweans] have got plenty of good people there who have got good leadership qualities who could take over," Khama was quoted as saying at the time. *News24*



More protests in Togo as president chairs ECOWAS summit

LOME – Protesters again took to the streets of Togo's capital Lome on Saturday to demonstrate against the rule of President Faure Gnassingbe, who was in Nigeria chairing a summit of West African leaders.

Anti-government marches have been held across the country nearly every week since August, attracting hundreds of thousands of protesters demanding the exit of Gnassingbe, who has ruled for more than 15 years.

Gnassingbe was in Abuja chairing a summit for the leaders of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS),

as he currently holds the regional bloc's rotating presidency.

The bloc issued a statement expressing "its concern at the persistent political tension in the Togolese republic".

Crisis

The ongoing political crisis in Gnassingbe's own country is not on the summit's agenda, which is expected to address integrating Morocco into the group and the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

On Thursday the opposition coalition said Gnassingbe's counterparts should "put everything in place so that at the Abuja summit, the regime that has governed

the country for more than 50 years takes on board and finally accepts the alternation of power".

The opposition also described Togo as an "unacceptable political anomaly" in the region.

"All institutions in the country are locked up in favour of a single family and... the ballot box has no meaning," it added, warning that action was needed to prevent the situation becoming "uncontrollable".

Gnassingbe's father General Gnassingbe Eyadema ruled the country for 38 years before Faure took over after his death in 2005.

AFP



A RIDE: A male monkey and female sika deer were spotted interacting this year and scientists are now convinced the behaviour is sexual after watching adolescent females and stags in Japan. (*Daily Mail*)

BRIEFS

Health workers sue govt in Ebola case

DAKAR – Two Sierra Leonean health workers on Friday sued their government in a West African court, alleging its misuse of donor funds during the Ebola crisis had contributed to the deaths of thousands. The Ebola virus surfaced in Guinea in late 2013 and spread to neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone the following year, killing 11 300 people and infecting 28 000 victims overall until the disease was fully contained in 2016. Allegations of abuse of the millions of dollars donated to relief organisations and channelled through government agencies have surfaced in all three countries, though this is believed to be the first case lodged at the supranational Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) court in Abuja.

AFP

Egypt's Zohr gas field starts production

CAIRO – Egypt's Zohr natural gas field, the largest in the Mediterranean, began production on Saturday with an initial 350 million cubic feet a day, the oil ministry said in a statement. The field operated by the Italian ENI company is estimated to hold 850 billion cubic metres of gas. "With the completion of the initial phase for this project planned for June 2018, production will gradually reach more than a billion cubic feet a day," Oil Minister Tarek al-Molla said in the ministry statement. Production would eventually increase to 2.7 billion cubic feet a day, he said. ENI had discovered the field in 2015 in a windfall for the North African country which has had to import fuel to feed its growing demands.

AFP

Attacker wounds two Danes in Gabon

LIBERVILLE – Two Danish nationals were wounded on Saturday in a knife attack in Gabon's capital apparently committed in retribution for "US attacks against Muslims," a rare assault in a Central African nation that has escaped Islamist violence. The two men, who were working for the National Geographic channel, were stabbed while shopping in a market popular with tourists, said Defence Minister Etienne Massard, adding that the attack appeared to be politically motivated. "According to the first testimonies at the scene, the assailant, a 53-year-old Nigerien man, shouted 'Allahu Akbar' ('God is Greatest') during the attack. He was arrested on the spot," said Massard.

AFP

Libya's coast guard rescues over 270 migrants

TRIPOLI – A Libyan official says coast guards have rescued at least 270 migrants off Libya's eastern coast. Navy official el-Hadi Kheil said on Saturday that the Arab and African migrants, who included women and children, were taken to a navy base in the capital, Tripoli. "We were lost and didn't know where to direct our boat," Omar Yusef, a Sudanese migrant, told The Associated Press. "We called the coast guard and a helicopter came and guided us." Libya descended into chaos following an uprising in 2011 that toppled and later killed longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi. *AP*

ANC is ZANU-PF's preferred party

JOHANNESBURG – The African National Congress (ANC) is ZANU-PF's preferred governing party in South Africa, a Zimbabwean official said on Saturday. ZANU-PF politician Simbarashe Mumbengegwi made the comment at the ANC's 54th elective conference in NASREC, Johannesburg. The ruling party in Zimbabwe, which recently saw a leadership change itself when the army forced President Robert Mugabe to quit, had a warm message of support for the ANC. *eNCA*

TUNISIA IN NEW DELAY OF FIRST POST-REVOLT LOCAL POLL

TUNIS – A new date next May has been set for Tunisia's first post-revolt municipal elections, already long delayed, polling officials said on Saturday.

The Independent High Authority for Elections said the polling date was set at May 6, rather than March 25 as previously announced, at a meeting with political parties which requested the delay to better prepare for the vote.



The polls have been seen as the final stage in Tunisia's transition

to democracy following its 2011 uprising which sparked the Arab Spring revolutions.

Following the uprising, municipalities were dissolved and replaced by "special delegations" - provisional bodies set up to manage urban centres.

This has coincided with falling standards of living in cities and towns where the collection of garbage has been random and quality of

infrastructure deteriorated.

At the election, almost five million Tunisians are eligible to vote to elect the leaders of 350 municipalities.

Tunisia has been praised for a relatively democratic transition over the past six years, during which a new constitution was adopted and legislative and presidential polls held in 2014.

AFP

Focus on SA scene

'ZUMA WILL HAVE TO APPLY TO BE VETERAN'

JOHANNESBURG - Snuki Zikalala, Chairperson of the ANC Veterans League, told media at the Nasrec Convention Centre yesterday that the league had met with Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and were planning to meet with Cyril Ramaphosa to discuss the issue of unity with both presidential candidates.

"The economy has gone, there is mass unemployment, crime and we have to rebuild the ANC and build the country.

Wins

"We will say to them whoever wins must make sure the ANC wins. We were injured after Polokwane but we think we can come out united after this conference."

Zikalala said yesterday's discussion over the credential of voting delegates was crucial as only legitimate delegates were wanted at the conference. "That is why the Veterans League wants electoral reform to make sure that delegates who are here are people who were elected by their constituencies." The organisation has been facing a lot of crises, COPE splitting from the party and the expelling of Julius Malema. That is why some of the senior leaders are trying to rebuild the organisation."

Zikalala said society had lost confidence in the organisation. "Come 2019 we may



RE-UNITE: Chairperson of the ANC Veterans League Snuki Zikalala.

lose power and once we lose power we may never get it back again. The ANC is not corrupt but it is individuals in the party who are corrupt." Zikalala said President Jacob Zuma had been honest about the challenges facing the organisation.

"He has to be honest. His speech was okay, it was conciliatory and he does not hold grudges."

Zuma in his farewell speech as party president on Saturday said he wanted to join the Veterans League and continue to contribute to the ANC. Zikalala said Zuma would be treated like any other member and would have to fill in an application form and then he would have to be part and parcel of the ordinary members.

Timeslive

Fees bombshell 'was ANC's, not Zuma's'

JOHANNESBURG - President Jacob Zuma's announcement on Saturday that "poor and working-class" students would get free tertiary education was a decision that the ANC took, not Zuma.

The cost will be R12.4bn for next year alone.

The announcement was quickly condemned by the opposition DA as "reckless politicking", but ANC national spokesperson Zizi Kodwa said the president was not "crazy" when he announced free education.

"Free education within the ANC is no longer a debate. We said that our government must implement free-fee (higher) education next year," Kodwa said, speaking to Independent Media on Saturday on the sidelines of the party's 54th national conference. Free education, he said, was enshrined in the Freedom Charter and reiterated as ANC policy as recently as 1994 when the party became the government.

Belinda Bozzoli, the DA's spokesperson on higher education and training, had said the Zuma's announcement was not "financially feasible".

In announcing the plan, Zuma went against the Heher Commission's recommendations for government-guaranteed loans from the banks. The commission had said free education was not feasible because the state didn't have the money.

Independent media has reliably learnt that Zuma had wanted whole-

sale free education for all higher education students and the inter-ministerial committee had to persuade him that this would not be feasible.

"The president in person has always had a view that we should not have a situation where a student who would like to further his studies is constrained by the inability of his or her family," said a source, who was part of the inter-ministerial committee.

"We said 'let's start with the first years'. We initially had an idea that we can just cover everybody and that would have cost the country in the region of R150 billion from first year to third year," said a source.

"He (Zuma) has been obsessed with that (free education). But the question was where the funds would come from. It was his passion that a solution be found (to fund higher education).

"The president gave the inter-ministerial committee enough time to look into it. And when we met him last Wednesday, he asked 'what are you recommending?' And we were clear as technocrats that we recommended a certain scenario. He adopted it," the source added.

The Treasury issued a statement late on Saturday that it was reviewing the higher education proposals and possible financing options, with any amendments to current spending and taxation to be announced in next year's Budget.

News24

Announcement of new ANC president now only expected today

JOHANNESBURG - The announcement of the next leader of the ANC is now only expected to take place this morning.

This was after the credential process for the 54th elective conference was delayed from its scheduled time on Saturday afternoon following the outcomes of court cases in the North West, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal, the party's Deputy Secretary General Jessie Duarte said yesterday.

Duarte held an impromptu press briefing following the adoption of credentials.

She said there were no inflated numbers of delegates during the adoption of credentials for the conference.

"Credentials is not just about nodding your head, it's [about] checking thoroughly... There was no inflation whatsoever," she assured the media.

The members of the provincial executive committee (PEC) of KwaZulu-Natal will not vote unless appointed as branch delegates, she said.

In the North West, 35 branches were disqualified. "It takes a lot of work because you also have to explain to the delegate why they have been disqualified. They had to be converted to non-voting delegates."

News24

'State must fund parties'

JOHANNESBURG - Political parties should be funded from the fiscus to avoid their being dictated to by "unscrupulous donors" and manipulated by domestic or foreign capital.

This is according to the ANC's financial report, that is expected to be tabled today at the party's 54th national conference in Johannesburg.

NEC members who briefed City Press on the report said it was compiled by outgoing Treasurer-General Zweli Mkhize.

The report states that the ANC is:

- R47m in the red and is struggling to contain costs arising from elections and a large staff complement;
- Battling to pare down R255m in historic debt;
- Hit with lawsuits from service providers and has paid R68m in settlements; and
- Still fighting claims amounting to R27m.

Mkhize's report paints a bleak picture of the

ANC's finances, despite improved fundraising efforts.

It also contains warnings of tougher conditions ahead as a result of the sluggish economy, which is now being battered by ratings agency downgrades. In his introduction to the report, Mkhize reveals that the ANC is 65 per cent dependent on fundraising and donor funding for its operations and activities, making it vulnerable in the current economic climate. He admits that the perceived political uncertainty by business and labour, and the downgrades of South Africa's credit rating by international credit agencies are putting pressure on economic growth and hampering fundraising opportunities.

"This does not bode well for future fundraising initiatives and presents a major risk to the ANC's financial stability and cash flow that must be mitigated," he says.

eNCA

COMPILES REPORTS: Outgoing Treasurer-General Zweli Mkhize.

Credentials of ANC delegates 'need cleaning up' - Mbete

JOHANNESBURG - The ANC suspended the adaptation of credentials for its 54th elective conference late on Saturday night.

The media were informed at 22:45 that the adaptation of credentials had been suspended and that plenary would resume at 09:00 yesterday.

Outgoing Chairperson Baleka Mbete said they "were still cleaning up" the credentials. The credentials process was due to take place after President Jacob Zuma's address to congress.

The conference was already delayed by several hours, as delegates were being registered at the University of Johannesburg on Saturday morning, and there was a special NEC meeting to deal with the court judgments from the day before.

After Zuma's speech, Mbete announced a change to the programme and said the credentials would follow messages of support.

READ: Baleka Mbete endorses Cyril Ramaphosa for ANC president KwaZulu-Natal's Sihle Zikalala challenged this decision.



CLEANING UP: Outgoing Chairperson Baleka Mbete.

"We cannot afford to run the conference without a programme!" said Zikalala. Outgoing Deputy Secretary General Jessie Duarte responded that the credentials were not ready and asked the conference to allow for the continuation of the programme.

News24

EUROPE'S OLDEST WOMAN DIES

- Spaniard Ana Vela, Europe's oldest woman, died weeks after her 116th birthday
- The former dressmaker lived in a retirement home with her daughter who is 90
- She had four kids, four grand-kids and several great-grand-children
- Living in Barcelona since the 1950s, she had a daily glass of sweet wine

BARCELONA - Europe's oldest woman has died a month and a half after celebrating her 116th birthday.

Spaniard Ana Vela, the third oldest woman in the world, died in her sleep on Friday at a retirement home in Barcelona where she lived.

The former dressmaker moved to Catalonia from her home town of Puente Genil near Cordoba, southern Spain, in the 1940s.

The grandmother-of-four, who also had several great-grandchildren, lived longer than two of her four children.

One of her children, a daughter aged 90 who has the same name as her mum, lived with her at the retirement home called Residencia La Verneda where she had been permanently based for the past nine years.

Ana, who became Europe's oldest woman on April 15 when Italian Emma Morano died aged 117, turned 116 on October 29. She was 116 and 42 days old when she died.

Only Japanese pair Nabi Tajima, who is 117 years old, and Chiyo Miyako, who will turn 117 next May, were older than her.

Ana, who was in a wheelchair and suffered dementia, was last pictured in public blowing out the candles on her 110th birthday cake.

She celebrated her last birthday with an intimate family get-together. La Verneda Director David Gonzalez described her at the time as being "as strong as ever."

He told a Spanish newspaper: 'She doesn't look 116. We have younger residents who seem older than her.'

"We treat her just like the other residents here. She's special to us but she doesn't receive any special treatment. "She eats the same as the others. She gets up at 10am and has breakfast, she has a siesta and then a snack before her dinner." Her daughter told Spanish daily El Pais last year: "She likes a glass of semi-sweet wine with her meal but she doesn't drink a lot. "When it comes to food, she eats everything, meat, fish, vegetables. She has a very normal diet with homemade food. When she was younger she had a voracious appetite."

Another Italian, Maria Giuseppa Robucci who turned 114 in March, now becomes Europe's oldest woman.

The world's oldest man, Spaniard Francisco Nunez Olivera, celebrated his 113th birthday on Wednesday.

The retired farmer who has four children, nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, began the day with his traditional sponge cake and glass of milk for breakfast before opening letters of congratulation from around the world. The widower's daughter Maria Antonia, 82, was among those who spent the anniversary with him at his home in the village of Bienvenida in Badajoz, south-west of Spain. Francisco, who has two siblings aged 97 and 93, became the world's oldest man after the death of Polish-born Israeli Yisrael Kristal on August 11. *Daily Mail*

...weeks after celebrating her 116th birthday



OLDEST OF THEM ALL: Spaniard Ana Vela, pictured celebrating her 110th birthday, has died aged 116. She was Europe's oldest woman, and the third oldest woman in the world.



REST IN PEACE: She lived with her 90-year-old daughter in a care home in Barcelona and had four children, four grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. She enjoyed a daily glass of sweet wine. (*Daily Mail*)



Public Service Pensions Fund

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND
P.O. BOX 4469, MBABANE
Tel: 2411 9000 / Fax: 2404 2712 www.pspf.co.sz TOLL FREE: 800 2401
email: info@pspf.co.sz

f /PSPFSwaziland @PSPF_Swaziland

TENDER INVITATION

HILTON GARDEN INN, MBABANE

BMS & CCTV SUB-CONTRACT TENDER INVITATION

TENDER NO. 1. BMS – H42/12/2017 ; 2. CCTV - H43/12/2017

The Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) hereby invites suitably qualified local and international Building Management System (BMS) and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) specialists to tender for the supply, installation, commissioning and guarantee of these work packages to the above project, on Portions 934 & 935 of Farm No.2 in the Mbabane Central Business District.

The scope of works is detailed in the tender documents which may be obtained as from **10:00 am on Monday, 18th December 2017**, at the PSPF offices, (physical address below) on payment of a non-refundable deposit of E500.00 (cash payment only).

Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF)
Ground Floor, Ingcamu Building
Mhlambanyatsi Road
MBABANE

Please note that there shall be **no compulsory** site inspection, however, should a Tenderer wish to familiarise himself with the site, then arrangements could be made upon request.

Tenders must be accompanied by the following documents:

Original receipt confirming payment for the tender documents, Certified Valid Tax Compliance Certificate, Certified Valid Trading Licence 2018, Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years, Company Profile with CV's of key personnel, Workmen's Compensation, Labour Compliance Certificate, Statement of joint ventures /partnerships (if tendering as a JV or partnership), Letter of Intent for Surety, Names and contact details of at least three (3) recent reference customers on a project of similar magnitude.

Tenders are to be returned **NOT LATER than Thursday, 25th January 2018 @ 2:00 pm**, deposited in the tender box at the physical address mentioned above. Tenders must be enclosed in sealed envelopes, dated and marked "**PSPF-1. BMSSUB - CONTRACT TENDER - HOTEL; 2. CCTVSUB-CONTRACT TENDER - HOTEL**". No late submission will be accepted. No facsimile, email or other forms of submission will be accepted than the prescribed. It is not a prerequisite to be registered with the Construction Industry Council (CIC) for the purpose of these tenders; however it shall be a condition of the tender that the award shall be made to Contractors that have valid CIC registration certificates.

The PSPF does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender or any tender nor give any reason for the acceptance or rejection of a tender. For enquiries, please contact Jethro Ndlangamandla, E-mail: jethro@pspf.co.sz

BRIEFS

Thousands stranded after storm

MATNOG - Thousands of people heading home for Christmas in the Philippines were stranded yesterday by Tropical Depression Kai-Tak, a day after the storm killed three people as it pounded the nation's eastern islands. The storm has weakened, with gusts of up to 90 kilometres an hour, after cutting off power and triggering landslides in a region devastated by Super Typhoon Haiyan four years ago, state weather forecasters said. Disaster officials yesterday warned that more floods and landslides were possible and said 15 500 passengers were stranded because ferry services remained suspended in parts of the central Philippines. **AFP**

Man accused of trying to sell missile

MELBOURNE - Australian police yesterday said they had arrested a man accused of working on the black market to sell missile components and coal on behalf of North Korea, the first charges ever brought in Australia over the sale of weapons of mass destruction. The man had been charged with two counts under an act preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, police said, and with another four under legislation enforcing United Nations and Australian sanctions against North Korea. The Sydney man was identified by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and other media as 59-year-old Chan Han Choi, who they said had been living in Australia for more than 30 years and was of Korean descent. **AFP**

Johnson breaks ranks with Brexit

LONDON - Boris Johnson has insisted Britain must not become a "vassal state" of the European Union by being forced to adopt all its regulations, ahead of a crucial Cabinet meeting this week on how the government will conduct Brexit talks. The Cabinet is due to meet tomorrow for the first substantive discussion of the so-called "end state" the government should aim at in the next stage of negotiations, with Theresa May insisting she "would not be derailed" from delivering Brexit. **The Guardian**

5 dead, 15 missing in Chile landslide

SANTIAGO - A mudslide fuelled by heavy rains swept over a village in southern Chile on Saturday, leaving at least five people dead and 15 missing, officials said. Rain caused a river to overflow and the side of a hill to collapse, burying 20 of the 200 houses in Villa Santa Lucia in the Los Lagos region, located 1 272km south of Chile's capital, Santiago. President Michelle Bachelet declared the region a catastrophe zone and confirmed the number of dead and missing. She met with her team of ministers to coordinate rescue and assistance efforts. **AP**

5 killed in suicide attack in church

QUETTA - At least five people were killed and 21 injured when two suicide bombers attacked a church in Pakistan during a service yesterday, just over a week before Christmas, police said. Two women were among the dead at a Methodist church in the restive southwestern city of Quetta in Balochistan province, said provincial police chief Moazzam Jah, adding that five of the injured were in serious condition. Officials said police intercepted and shot one bomber outside but the second attacker managed to reach the church's main door where he blew himself up. "Police were quick to react and stop the attackers from entering into the main hall," Jah told **AFP**. **AFP**



MESSAGE:
President
Donald
Trump.

Palestinian protests called against Pence visit to Jerusalem

RAMALLAH - Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas's Fatah faction on Saturday called for a massive demonstration next week to protest against a visit to Jerusalem by US Vice President Mike Pence after Washington said it would recognise the holy city as Israel's capital.

Breaking with decades of US policy, President Donald Trump also said on December 6, that he would move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In New York, Egypt on Saturday circulated a draft res-

olution that would affirm that any change to the status of Jerusalem has no legal effect and must be rescinded.

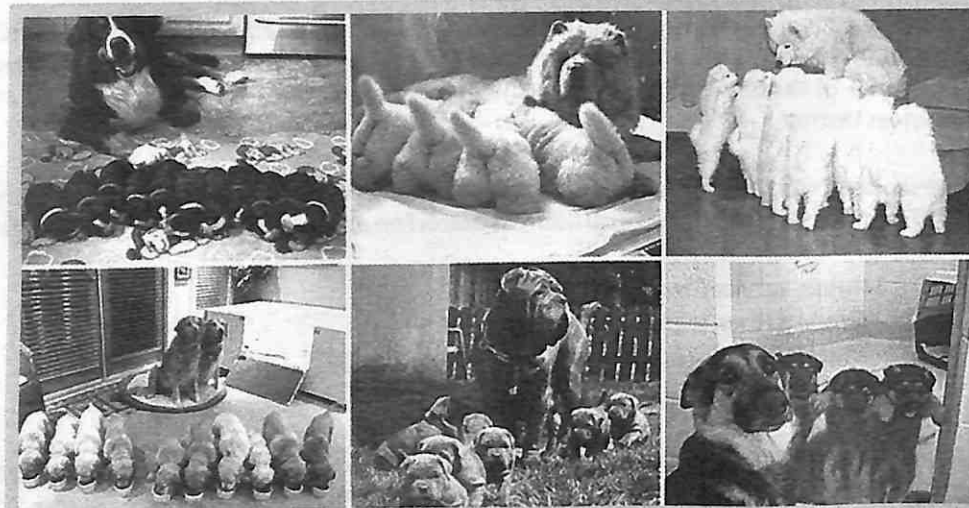
Diplomats said the council could vote on the proposal as early as today, with the United States expected to use its veto power to block it but with most, if not all, of the 14 other council members backing the measure.

Trump's declaration has stirred global condemnation and sparked angry protests across Arab and Muslim countries, as well as deadly clashes in the occupied

territories between Palestinians and Israeli forces.

It also prompted Abbas to cancel a meeting with Pence, who arrives Wednesday in Jerusalem, and warn that Washington no longer had a role to play in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

"We call for angry protests at the entrances to Jerusalem and in its Old City to coincide with the visit on Wednesday of US Vice President Mike Pence and to protest against Trump's decision," Fatah said in a statement. **AFP**



DOG BREEDS: Heart-warming family photos from around the world capture dogs happily posing with their puppies.

N Korea threat on agenda when S Korean foreign minister visits Japan

SEOUL - South Korea's foreign minister will visit Japan this week to meet her Japanese counterpart, the foreign ministry said yesterday, with Seoul and Tokyo seeking to boost cooperation over the handling of North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes.

The need to confront the threat posed by North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear tests comes despite lingering tension over the issue of sexual slavery during Japan's wartime occupation

of Korea. Kang Kyung-wha will arrive in Tokyo tomorrow and meet Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono during her two-day visit, her first trip to Japan as South Korea's top diplomat, the foreign ministry in Seoul said in a statement.

"The two ministers will exchange views on issues of common interests focusing on bilateral relations and North Korea-related issues, including its nuclear programme," the ministry statement said. **Reuters**



VISITS: South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha.

Trump allies say Mueller unlawfully obtained thousands of emails

WASHINGTON - An organisation established for US President Donald Trump's transition to the White House said on Saturday the special counsel investigating allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election had obtained tens of thousands of emails unlawfully.

Kory Langhofer, counsel to the transition team known as Trump for America, Inc. (TFA), wrote a letter to congressional committees to say Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team had improperly received the emails from the General Services Administration (GSA), a government agency.

Career staff members at the agency "unlawfully produced TFA's private materials, including privileged communications, to the Special Counsel's Office," according to the letter, a copy of which was seen by Reuters. It said the materials included "tens of thousands of emails."

Trump's transition team used facilities of the GSA, which helps manage the US government bureaucracy, in the period between the Republican's November presidential election victory and his inauguration in January. The Trump team's accusation adds to the growing friction between the president's supporters and Mueller's office as it investigates whether Russia interfered in the election and if Trump or anyone on his team colluded with Moscow. Asked for comment, White House spokesperson Sarah Sanders said: "We continue to cooperate fully with the special counsel and expect this process to wrap up soon."

The special counsel's office waved off the transition team's complaint. "When we have obtained emails in the course of our ongoing criminal investigation, we have secured either the account owner's consent or appropriate criminal process," said Peter Carr, spokesperson for the special counsel's office. **AFP**

EU opens next Brexit phase but warns 'difficult' talks ahead

BRUSSEL - European Union leaders agreed on Friday to open crucial talks on a future relationship with Britain once it leaves the bloc, but warned it would be "dramatically difficult" to reach a deal before Brexit in 2019.

The leaders of the 27 other member states met without British Prime Minister Theresa May to endorse an interim deal on the terms of the separation, and approve the next stage of discussions.

EU President Donald Tusk said afterwards that the bloc would open "exploratory contacts with the UK to get more clarity on their vision" for ties after Brexit.

But while talks will begin in January on a post-Brexit transition period, the EU's guidelines state that actual negotiations on the future relationship — including trade — will not start until March.

Tusk said the next stage would be even harder than the tortuous six months of negotiations that led to last Friday's interim accord on Britain's financial settlement, expatriate rights and the Irish border.

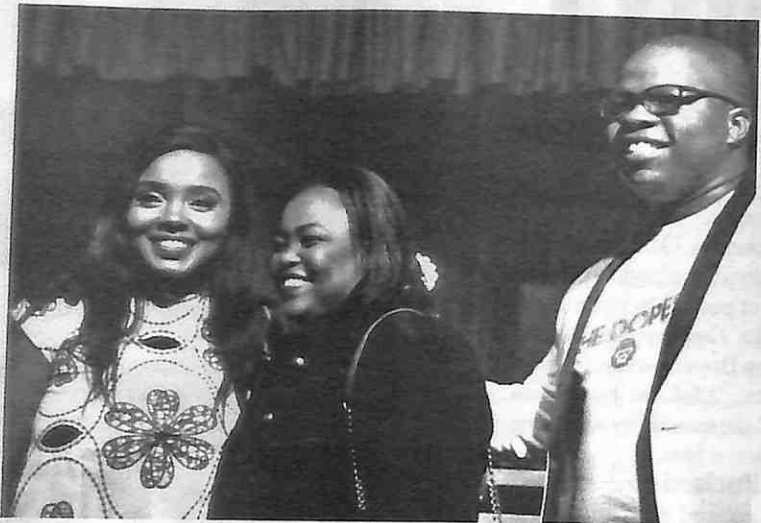
Asked if a final deal could be achieved by the time Britain leaves on March 29, 2019, he cautioned that it was "still realistic and of course dramatically difficult". **AFP**



- NEWS
- REVIEWS
- STAR SIGNS
- CELEBRITY WATCH
- CARTOONS



ON THE DECKS: Generations Star Thando Thabethe aka 'Thaboody' on the turntables during her set.



WINNER: (C) Welile Simelane receiving her ticket for New Year's cross over at House on Fire with the MCs Lindokuhle Mthupha and Elfoe Masilela.



DANCE FLOOR: Music fanatics on the dance floor.

DILOXCLUSIV A THRILLER AT TOTAL GOLD SERIES

By Ayanda Dlamini

THE festive vibe has kicked in. South African spinner Diloxclusiv was a thriller at the second edition of the Total Gold Series (TGS) held at House on Fire as he thrilled music fanatics with his set, rendering different genres from commercial house, hip hop, old school kwaito to urban hits.

He literally pulled the crowd from their respective seats to the dance floor and they danced the night away.

He took over the decks at 11:30 pm at 1 am, taking over from DJ Speech Umlangeni who was also a marvel on the decks with his hip hop fused with house beats set.

The Cape Town based spinner started his set with Gqom music; rendering the likes of Babes Womdumo, Busiswa, DJ Tira, Destruction Boys.

He thrilled fun lovers when he played Busiswa's hit song 'Starring' as the crowd danced and sang along.

It really wouldn't have been a Gqom music rendition without the sounds of Destruction Boyz, 'Omonye phezu omunye'.

Fun lovers trounced their morals on the dance floor when this hit song was rendered and danced the night away.

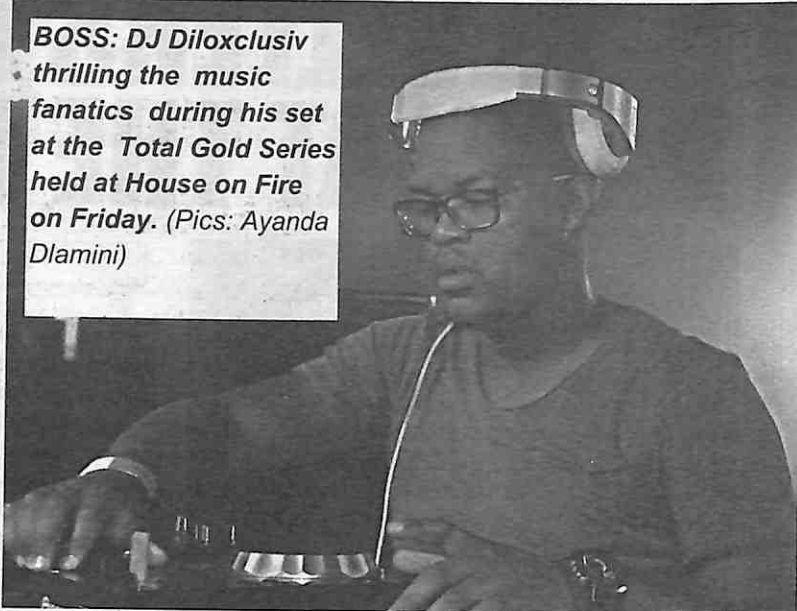
He also rendered Boggo Mafin's 'Thatha isigumbu' and the MCs of the night Lindokuhle Mthupha and Elfoe Masilela were seen on the dance floor with crowd dancing and did the 'Madea' family reunion dance routine.

His rendition also included the jams by Trompies, R Kelly, Mafikizolo, Davido, Beyonce, Alaska, Arthur to name a few.

It is worth noting that Diloxclusiv

...Thaboody sealed the show with deep house

BOSS: DJ Diloxclusiv thrilling the music fanatics during his set at the Total Gold Series held at House on Fire on Friday. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



was not new to the country's turn tables as he was part of the entertainers during the MTN Bushfire 2017.

Speaking to the publication, he said he always enjoys playing in the country because of the lively crowd.

Crowd

"I had to bring my A game for this lovely crowd since they had enjoyed my set on the last Bushfire. I came to accommodate everyone hence I played different genres.

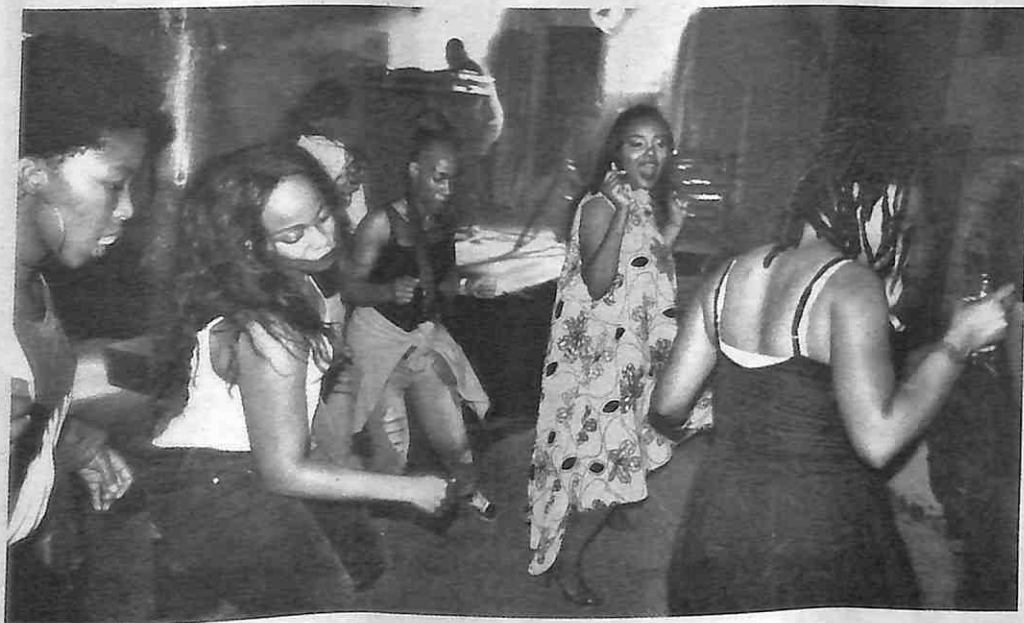
The crowd is amazing; they were actually on their feet from the first song I played till the last. This means they understand me and they know what I do," said the spinner during a brief interview with this publication after his set.

He was followed by the Generations' star Thando Thabethe socially known

as 'Thaboody' and was the main act of the night.

She took over the turn tables at 1 am and gave her best till 2:30 am. She started her set with deep house jams which didn't receive much resounding response from the fun fanatics, but she later got everyone on their feet when she switched to commercial house though her selection of songs was not well known by the music lovers. Her fans, mostly girls where taking pictures of her while she was on the decks.

She was true a diva as seen on Generations in her 'Nolwazi' role as she refused to be interviewed by journalists, though she had promised to be take interviews after her set. She told her manager that she is tired she can't take interviews.



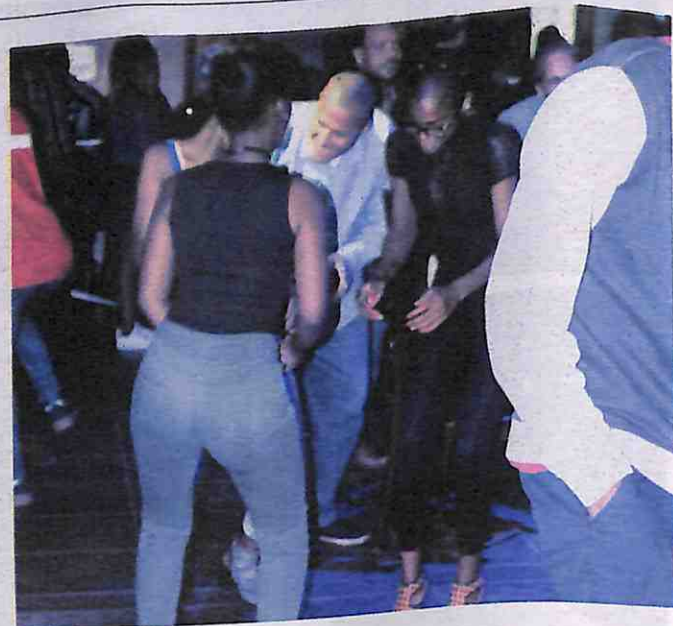
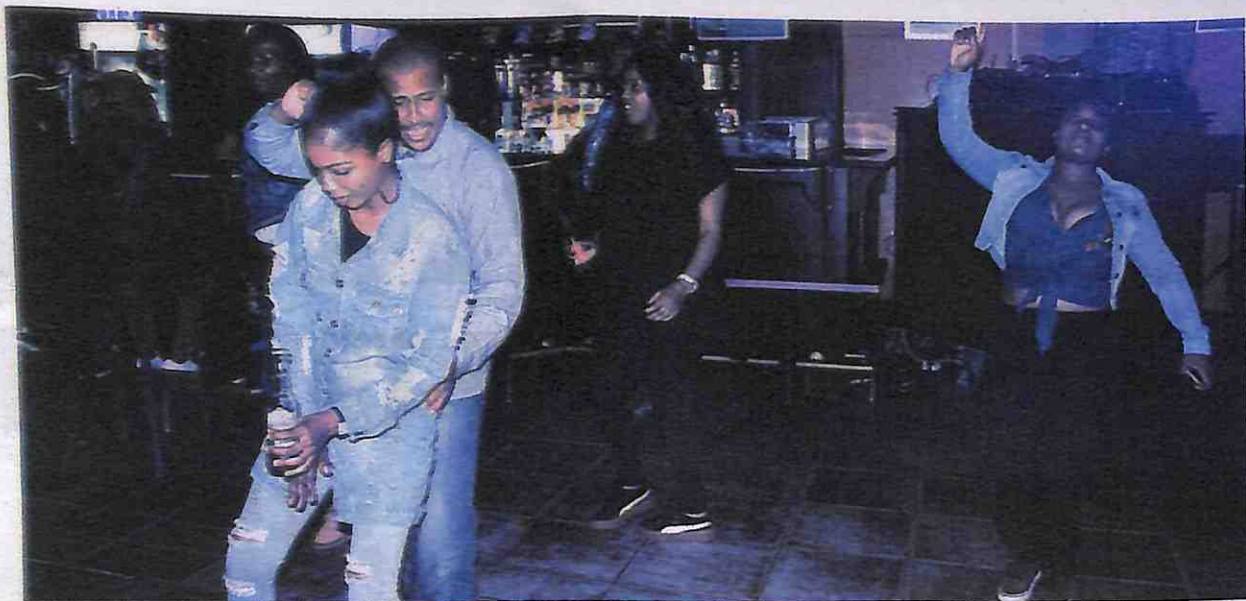
IT'S FESTIVE BOSS: MC Lindokuhle Mthupha on the dance floor with the crowd doing the 'Madea' family reunion dance routine.



SOCIALITES: Teetee Macbubbles and MTN Brand Ambassador Ur Gal Zee were also at the TGS for 'Thaboody'.



THANK YOU: Cape Town DJ Diloxclusiv posing with Happy Valley Marketing Co-ordinator Noxolo Nkabinde.



GET TOGETHER: Revellers dancing during the Pub n' Grill Block Party on Friday. (Pics: Lusito Tsela)

REVELLERS PARTY TILL DAWN AT THE BLOCK PARTY

By Lusito Tsela

THE first edition of the Pub n' Grill Block Party had revellers dancing up a storm till dawn.

Revellers were treated to old school music, new school, hip hop and Gqom music as various local deejays, South African and Mozambican deejays took turns on the decks.

The 48-hour party slated for 6pm started at 9 pm on Friday and was themed the 'Battle of Nations'.

The one roof, two days and three nations party turned out to be the best with all the deejays battling it out for their nations.

Local deejays with the likes of award winning hip hop master DJ Master P, DJ Supa CDQ, DJ Baba, DJ Lady Zee, DJ Tilungu, DJ KB, DJ Deepmotion and Freestyle played their part in ensuring the country's image in the music industry remains intact as they kept revellers on their toes.

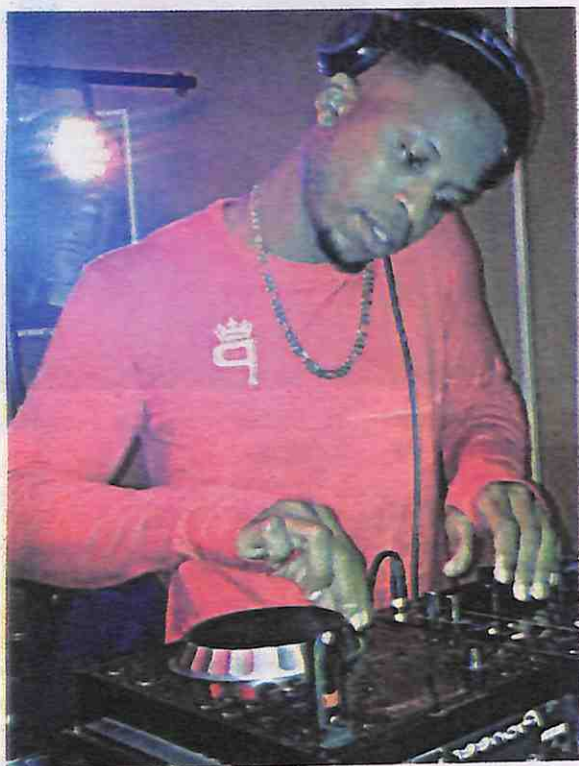
On the other hand, Mozambican deejays in the likes of DJ Benny, DJ VIP, DJ Ernesty and DJ Edson Costa also played their part in keeping revellers on the dance floor with their salsa, house and old school music.

South African deejays, DJ Zaimarn, DJ Tricks and DJ Odwa were high on Gqom music as the night passed by with them rendering songs like 'Omunye phez komunye', by Distruction Boys 'Ganda Ganda' by Babes Wodumo, 'Mahume' by DJ Tira and the afro soul 'Akanamali' by Samthing Soweto to mention a few.

Packed

The show was packed with all various revellers from locals to internationals as the dance floor was packed from time to time.

During the show there was a live performance rendered by the ever so sexy LomaSoul who got everyone up and dancing, though the crowd was not familiar with her songs, they pleaded for more when her set was over. She did not disappoint but gave the best performance.



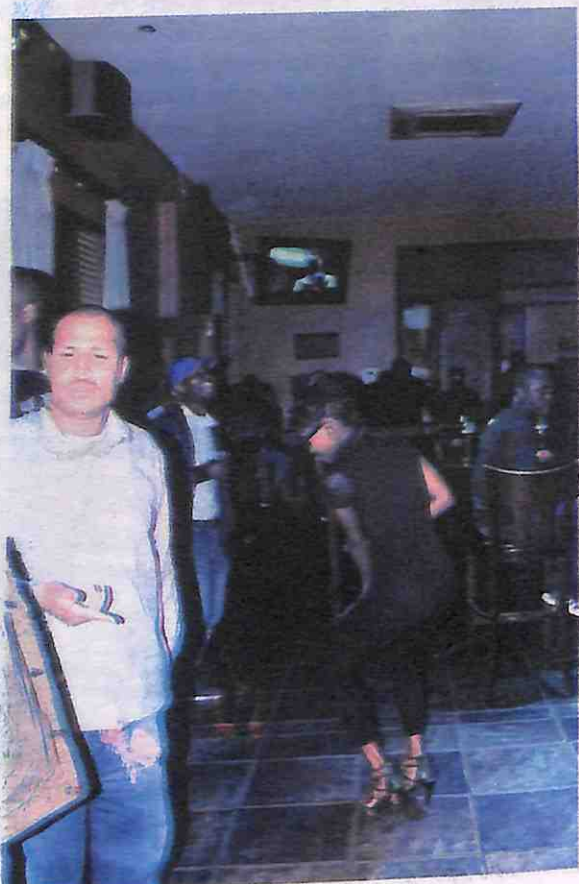
MASTER: DJ Master P enjoying himself on the turntables.



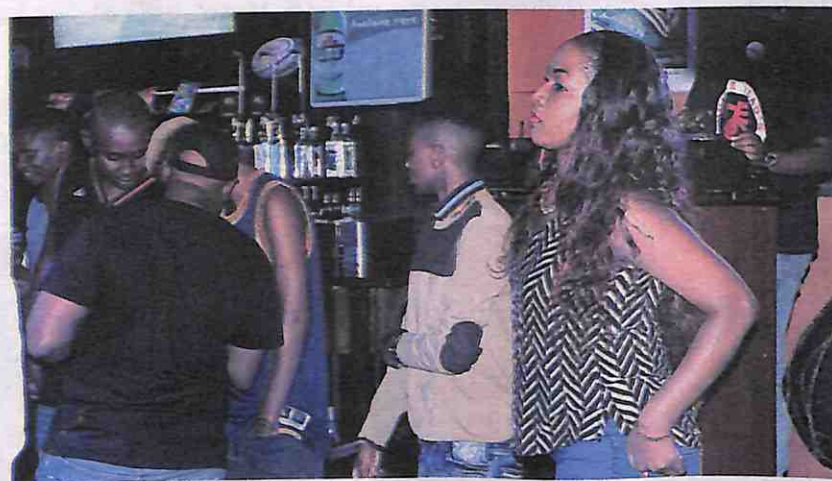
MOZAMBICAN: DJ Edson Costa from Mozambique.



LIKE THIS: KB Da DJ doing what he knows best.



VOSHO: This fun lover enjoying herself.



GETTING READY: Music lovers getting ready to dance.



HAPPY MOMENTS: Mozambican DJ Benny with a friend.



GET DOWN: A reveller getting down.

SANDS KINGDOM TALES PRESENTS 'HOMECOMING'

- Sands' first one man show
- Kingdom Tales spends E16 500 on SWAMA

Stories by Ayanda Dlamini

KINGDOM Tales under the directorship of the country's superstar Sands will this Friday host a one man show dubbed 'Homecoming' at Emfuleni Lifestyle.

This was revealed by the Chief Executive Officer of the new entertainment stable, Sands last Friday during a media briefing which was held at Emfuleni Lifestyle.

According to the CEO, the Homecoming show will be Sands' first one man show which is basically a celebration of his achievements and token of appreciation to local fans who have been following and propping up Sands in his music career.

Sands noted that for the better part of this year, he has been performing at various stages in the Republic of South Africa, throughout all the provinces, hence the decision to host the great homecoming show in the country.

"We have since decided to bring one show to our shores to say thank you to the people of Swaziland for embracing our music, supporting us, and basi-



IT'S ON: MTN SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini with Kingdom Tales CEO Sands during the media briefing held at Emfuleni Lifestyle on Friday. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)

cally entrusting us to being ambassadors of Swazi arts," said the Kingdom Tales CEO.

"With this background information we've seen it prudent to bring the inaugural homecoming show, slated for the 22 of December 2017 here at the wonderful Emfuleni Lifestyle.

"With these few words, I wish to see everyone at the show on December

22. To that end we want nothing but the best in terms of sound, stage and lighting on the day. We hope you will enjoy the music and together we can strive to move the Swazi art scene to hitherto uncharted heights," Sands added.

During the 'Homecoming' show, Sands' fans will get to witness the superstar performing all his songs from

Kingdom Tales buys 110 tickets for registered SWAMA members

THE newly formed entertainment stable is giving back to the community as it pledged to buy 110 tickets for registered Swaziland Arts and Music Association (SWAMA) members.

This was revealed by the CEO of Kingdom Tales in the presence of SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini.

"I'd like to ensure that registered members of SWAMA attend this function so that we can certainly grow together. Next year the show will be bigger and better, with a host of other artists to take to the stage," said the luminary.

It is worth noting that SWAMA has 110 members and they will all be granted a ticket worth E150 to the show which is the pre-sale price. This means Sands spent E16 500 on SWAMA.

"Many times we have produced talented individuals who lack fundamental support in terms of stage, sound and general over-

all production to ensure a world class event. We feel that it's imperative to provide quality productions which will better position our artists as they venture to market their craft outside our borders.

"We seek to improve the quality of productions in the country so that we are maybe at par with our counterparts and contemporaries the world over.

Development

"Kingdom Tales is an art development company based in the Kingdom of Swaziland that seeks to nurture and develop various artistic talents in the country with the wish of exporting the said art to various parts of the world," emphasised the CEO.

'Zox' thanked the entertainment stable for such gesture and congratulated the superstar for his upcoming show and promised a high-quality event.

Tickets to the show will cost E150 presale and E200 at the gate.

'Sands of Time' with the artists featured on, the album, new songs that he has never performed and his old ones from way back when he was still trying his luck in the music

industry. Sands stated that there would be no supporting acts on the day but only the artists featured on his songs ever since he started his music career.



HIGHER: Sithembiso 'Toothless' Magagula showing acrobatic moves during the youth event held at the Worship Centre on Saturday. (Pics: Lusito Tsela)



FULL HOUSE: A section of the crowd appreciating the performances.

KrTC, Switch and Shekinah bring life to Worship Centre youth

By Lusito Tsela

THE day might have started with Sibebe hiking for Worship Centre youth but surely it ended on a high note from top performances.

The youth event held at Worship Centre, in Mbabane saw performances from hip hop artists KrTC and Switch as well as songstress Shekinah rendering songs that got everyone up and singing along.

Former MJ Boys member Sithembiso 'Toothless' Magagula also took to the stage to perform, where he displayed acrobatic dance moves and choreographic intelligence.

On the day, the youth from Worship Centre also dished out great performances, showing off dance moves which were done under the supervi-



COLLABORATION: Rapper Switch and KrTC performing a duet.

sion of 'Toothless' who has reached his dance climax and is now passing on

the skills to the younger generation. Founder of Worship Centre Apostle

Justice Dlamini passed his gratitude to the performers and in turn blessed them for using their God given talents to empower the youth.

Dlamini said he is praying for them to reach international heights and be icons of their fields because they use their talents to worship the Almighty.

Performance

Shekinah gave the audience the best performance and everyone was up and singing along with the songstress who in her high spirit sounds like an angel.

Shekinah ushered everyone into high spirit as she rendered 'Ngizolibonga', 'Imisebenzi' and 'Sekukanengi' before opening way for gospel rap king Switch, who collaborated with KrTC of hip hop before everyone sang along with him as he sang 'Hallelujah'.

KrTC rendered his powerful hit titled 'Amen' and everyone was dancing

and singing along.

The hip hop master proved even in church he can utter powerful rap words and get everyone dancing to his music which makes him the versatile king of hip hop.

Hep also rendered songs like 'The man that I am', Jesus Rocks and 'Gijima'.

Hugues Hakizimana, an author, inspirational and motivational speaker, also took to the stage to give some words of advice to the youth.

The youth event also saw a young Nhlango rap crew dishing out their talents and the crowd went wild as they were called to the stage once more.

The youth also passed their gratitude to the apostle for giving them a venue to do such, which shows that he cares about them as the future of the kingdom.

International
Celebrity News

Tupac murder weapon rejected by Vegas

LOS ANGELES - The handgun cops say was used to kill Tupac Shakur -- which mysteriously disappeared 11 years ago -- should be in the hands of the L.A. Sheriff's Dept. ... according to the detective who was on the case. TMZ broke the story -- the 40 caliber Glock was found in a Compton backyard in 1998, and according to docs, LASD Detective Timothy Brennan was the guy who ordered the ballistic testing which revealed it was used in Tupac's murder. Brennan, who's now retired, tells TMZ ... there

**SLAINED: The late Tupac.**

should be no mystery about where the gun is now, if everyone followed protocol. As Brennan recalls ... he gave the gun to ATF agents who conducted the testing. Once it came up a match, in a federal law enforcement database, he says ATF sent it to Las Vegas cops. *DailyMail*

J.Lo out with Alex Rodriguez amid engagement

MIAMI - They're rumoured to get engaged this holiday season. But on Saturday, Jennifer Lopez and her boyfriend Alex Rodriguez enjoyed a low key outing in Miami. The actress, 48, and the former baseball player, 42, were spotted enjoying lunch with a few friends. Jennifer looked casual in her black turtleneck, while rocking chunky silver hoop earrings. The Jenny From The Block singer styled her caramel colored locks center parted and pulled back into a sleek low ponytail.

**JUST A DATE: J.Lo and Alex Rodriguez.***DailyMail*

Angie reveals what strained her marriage

HOLLYWOOD - Angelina Jolie is reflecting on her final movie with Brad Pitt.

The 42-year-old actress recently appeared on The Hollywood Reporter's podcast Awards Chatter, where she candidly discussed why she wanted to work with Pitt on their critically panned 2015 film, By the Sea. Jolie says she believed at the time that the film would improve their marriage. "We had met working together and we worked together well," she explains, referring to meeting on the set of 2005's Mr. & Mrs. Smith. "I wanted us to do some serious work together. I thought it would be a good way for us to commu-

**STRAINED: Angelina Jolie.**

nicate. In some ways it was, and in some ways we learned some things. But there was a heaviness probably during that situation that carried on and it wasn't because of the film." Jolie acknowledges that outside factors definitely affected their relationship.

MTO

Ciara, Kelly sing carols to children in hospital

SEATTLE - Ciara and Kelly Rowland spread some holiday cheer at Seattle Children's Hospital last Friday. The two Grammy-winning R&B stars surprised child patients and their families and performed Christmas carols for them while accompanied by guitarist Barry Black. In addition, Ciara and Kelly had teamed up with Amazon and presented the kids with a six-foot tall Amazon gift box filled with Amazon Fire HD 7s and Amazon Fire HD 8s. They also took photos with the patients. "They brought a smile to these kids' faces," Suzanne Weir, whose 5-year-old daughter Pascuala Mejia-Canastuj who recently underwent a liver transplant, said

**SONG BIRDS: Ciara and Kelly Rowland.**

in comments posted by the hospital's blog. "It helped get our minds off things and made us feel better. I felt like a weight had been taken off my shoulders. We could just relax and have fun."

Eonline

SA Celebrity News

Kwesta gives a shout out to Stogie T

CAPE TOWN - While there's enough beef to go around in the hip-hop fraternity to last a lifetime, Kwesta has always been about comradery and gave Stogie T a pat on the shoulder after he was slammed by both Cassper and Riky Rick for claiming to have a hand in their success. Although Kwesta has made it clear that hip-hop is competitive for him, he showed love to Stogie for his contribution to music. He thanked the rapper for his "devotion to the craft" and said

**SHOWED LOVE: Kwesta.**

Stogie was one of the people who contributed to his success. *Sowetan*

Three music feuds that shook 2017

JOHANNESBURG - Just because AKA and Cassper seem to have buried the hatchet on their explosive feud, that doesn't mean that 2017 didn't have its fair share of musical blowouts.

iFani vs Cassper

The year started off with fireworks, after rapper iFani took to Twitter in March to lambast Cassper's single Tito Mboweni. In a series of tweets he labelled the song as "trash" and pleaded with Cassper to not waste his time by shooting a music video for it.

Nasty C vs Dr Malinga

In perhaps the strangest feuds Mzansi has seen for a while, Dr Malinga took to social media after the Metro FM Awards at the start of the year to accuse his younger rival of buying awards.

Emtee vs Cruz Afrika

Things got so heated between Emtee and Cruz that the pair even ended up in court amidst intimidation and defamation claims. The pair were later both featured on DJ Njabulo's single Controversy. *Timeslive*

DJ Sbu is not dead

JOHANNESBURG - This time it was DJ Sbu's "death".

Hoax reports went viral on Wednesday saying the Mofaya maker died in New York. The bogus reports were later shut down by the 38-year-old when he took to Instagram to say how grateful he is for the people who called and sent messages of concern -- and he assured everyone he's very much alive and well.

Timeslive**ALIVE: DJ Sbu.**

You know how to make me smile - Violet

CAPE TOWN - Star athlete Caster Semenya and her wife Violet Rasebaya are certainly good at keeping the spark alive. The couple are always out and about doing fun activities with their friends and happily post about their love for one another. Caster recently posted an image of herself with Violet and used the hashtag love. In the comments section Violet returned the love.

"Thank you for the weekend. You really know how to make me smile."

Timeslive**GRATEFUL: Violet Rasebaya and Caster Semenya.**

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY

**ARGUING: Pam and S'khaleni.**

Kwa'Manzini is shocked by a tragedy. Pam and S'khaleni argue about a way forward in their marriage. Iris is charmed by a mysterious and very rich man at the club.

ISIDINGO

TODAY

**RUNNING OUT OF TIME: Lerato.**

Nikiwe tells Benjamin that Sibiya's van was ambushed. Lerato informs Sechaba she's running out of time. Hendrik grounds Anja and Zandre.

Muvhango

TODAY

**NOT INTRESTED: Matshidiso.**

Tenda finds out who his little sister is dating. Vusi learns Katlego was discharged and he's worried. Matshidiso tells Sthe she's only interested in one thing.



TODAY

**DREAM COME TRUE: Fats.**

Fats's dream comes true. Puleng tries to sort her life out. Big Man moves in on the 66ers as David tries to ward off his assassin.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Aries March 21 – April 19

Today a piece of information for which you've been searching could become known. Your money management skills might be called upon to help out a friend or perhaps a family member. You're likely to have some good pointers to pass on, and gratitude should be forthcoming. Put your nose to the grindstone and get going!



Taurus April 20 – May 20

With the shifting planetary alignment, all of your efforts over the past few weeks could finally bear fruit. Success and good fortune are strongly indicated, especially where money is concerned. Worries about finances are likely to disappear, and you could even receive public recognition. This should be a satisfying period.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

A long-awaited vacation or a move you've been hoping to make could finally be possible. Before you go, there may be some paperwork to take care of. Thoughts of business advancement may be playing in your mind, and you might consider taking a course or two to increase your marketability and help you take a step toward achieving your goals.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

Heightened imagination and ingenuity could bring new thoughts for advancing yourself in the financial arena. Practical information from outside sources merges with insights to bring useful ideas your way. Consider everything carefully before taking any action. Be open to the advice and counsel of others. Whatever you choose to do, today shows promise of being very fortunate.



Leo July 23 – August 22

Social events could bring some exciting new contacts your way. Relationships with partners of all kinds should be fruitful and mutually beneficial, particularly when the people are also close friends. If you've been considering entering into a new business partnership, this is the day to start seriously discussing it.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

Your efficient, practical abilities are operating at a very high level today. A long-term goal you've been working toward could finally be reached, bringing good fortune and acknowledgment. Your efforts will probably be appreciated. Major advancement could be in the works.



Libra September 23 – October 23

Your strong business sense and

practical skills couple with imagination and innovation to bring advancement. Information from far away could prove especially valuable. Relationships with friends should be warm and cooperative. Love relationships could also prove rewarding. Consider blowing off a little steam by going out and having a good time.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

Friends and family could visit you today. They're likely to bring new friends whose expertise benefits a project you're working on. You might fantasise about how you're going to spend all the money you're going to make off this project.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

A social event in your neighbourhood, perhaps in your home, could bring useful information your way that you can use to advance your career. You could make some valuable contacts. Information received from neighbours could prove enlightening. You should feel optimistic, enthusiastic, and motivated. Whatever you start today should bring success.



Capricorn December 22 – January 19

With the current astral environment, your professional and financial interests could take a turn for the better. Any difficulties you may have had seem to disappear as if by magic. Whatever work you're doing in either your career or personally, should run more smoothly. You should be feeling strong, energetic, and optimistic.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

All indications are that you're feeling mentally and physically great. Your professional and financial interests could take a sudden turn for the better. Love matters should also be going well, and children bring great pleasure today. This is a good time to make plans for the future and pursue your most cherished ambitions.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

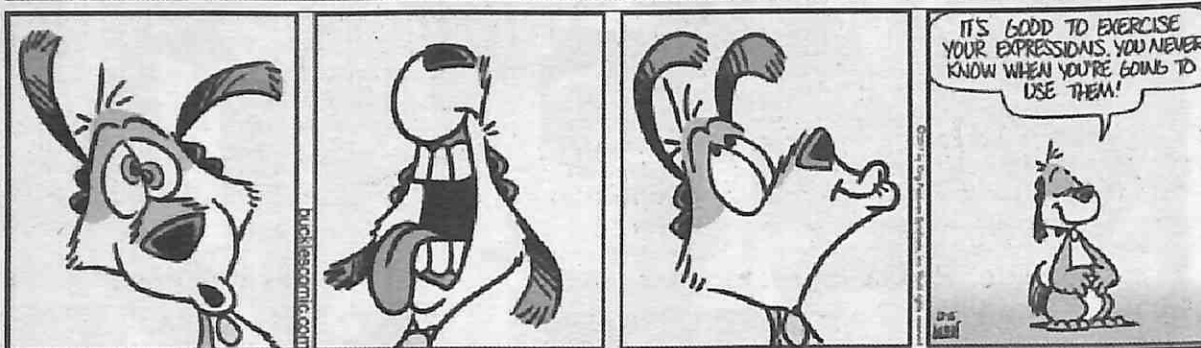
Financial difficulties could be overcome today through the help of someone considerably older than you. Helpful advice could make a future course of action clearer and more practical than it seemed in the past. Your practical ability is heightened, and you're less likely to let strong emotions interfere with making use of it. Intuitive abilities could also be of assistance.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PUZZLE CHOICE

GONE FISHING

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, forwards or backwards.

CHREPPANSEBMSNPARB EY
ALYKCBELK CITS LHRME
EBBBCSCDREDNUOLF GHH
CDAORATHOI JALMG MUA A
KMSRPERIUGSEAAIEPKL
HUSNRIAPNBFRLNMYPEI
SLHSCAKMRGLINLVPYXB
ILSKAZCENIROSOYTRLU
FEAEMRQUNOWAH HUF PET
DTHMALDBDGE CYNSHIGY
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RGOSMPARUNVEQRIHTVN
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MGXCTNVNDXED ECHTCJT
ZOFEGUVOC CAREPGLOEI

ANCHOVY, BARRACUDA, BASS, BREAM, CARP, CATFISH, CHUB, DOGFISH, FLOUNDER, GOLDFISH, GROUPER, GUPPY, HAKE, HALIBUT, HERRING, JELLYFISH, KRILL, LAMPREY, MARLIN, MINNOW, MULLET,

LET, PERCH, PIKE, PIRANHA, ROACH, SALMON, SARDINE, SEA HORSE, SHARK, SNAPPER, SOLE, STICKLEBACK, STINGRAY, STURGEON, SWORDFISH, TROUT, TUNA, TUNNY.

LOL

Laughing out Loud

I forgot

Patient: Doctor! I have a serious problem, I can never remember what I said even when I try hard to recall.

Doctor: When did you first notice this problem?

Patient: What problem?

USELESS FACTS

1. 17th President Andrew Johnson was the only president to sew his own clothes.
2. Ernest Hemingway founded an annual fishing tournament in Cuba, where he lived for many years. Fidel Castro was the winner of this contest in 1960.
3. Mark Twain's favourite cats were named Sour Mash, Sin, Apollinaris,

Beelzebub, Buffalo Bill, Zoroaster, Blatherskite, and Satan.
4. In 1968, Steve McPeak travelled from Chicago to Los Angeles on a unicycle. The trip took him six weeks.
5. The longest word used by Shakespeare in any of his works is "honorificabilitudinitatibus," found in "Love's Labour's Lost."

BRAINTEASERS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Friday's brainteasers

1. What do you throw out when you want to use it, but take in when you don't want to use it?

Answer: An anchor

2. I have a head but no body, a heart but no blood. Just leaves and no branches, I grow without wood. What am

1?

Answer: Lettuce.

Today's brainteasers

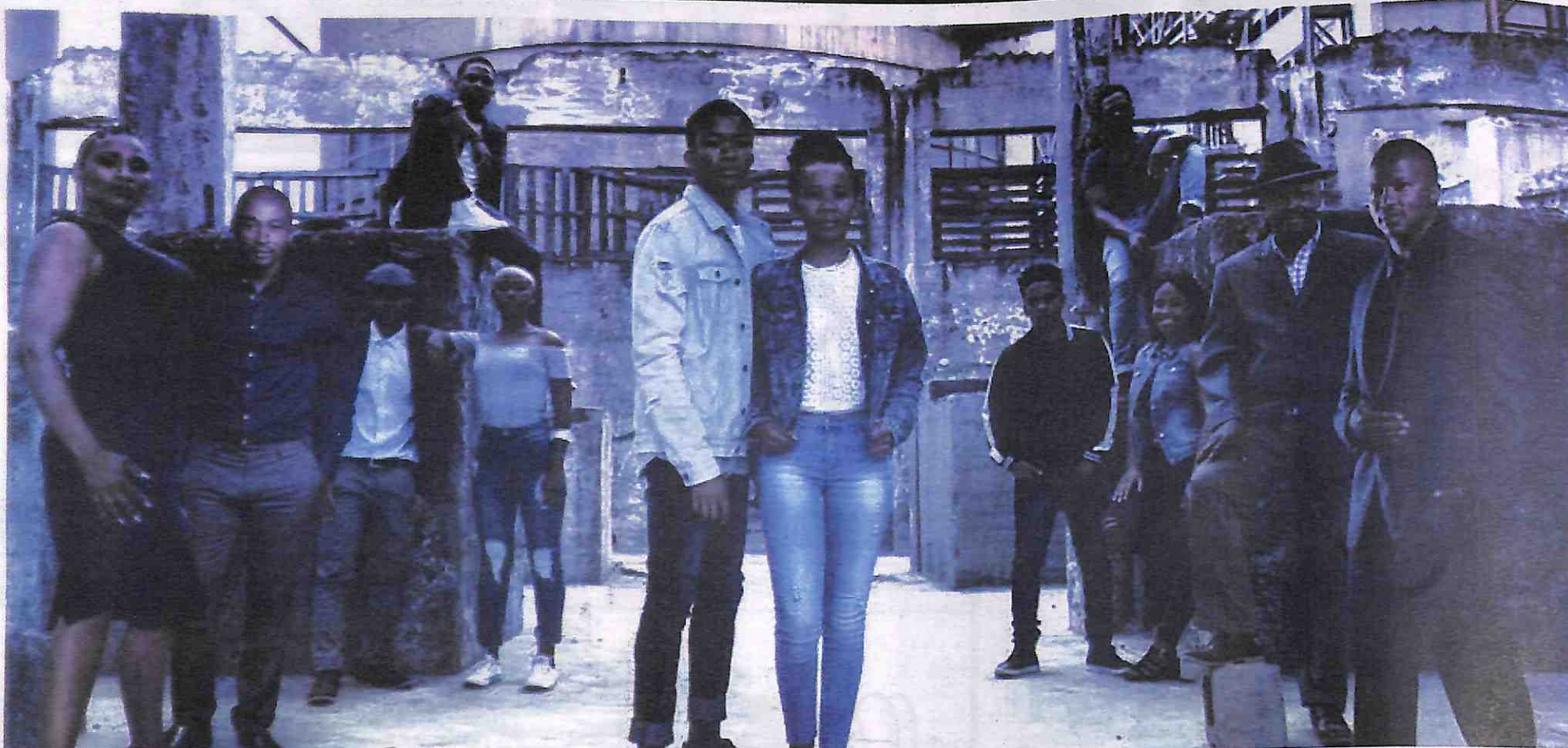
1. A little girl kicks a soccer ball. It goes 10 feet and comes back to her. How is this possible?

2. A rooster laid an egg on top of the barn roof. Which way did it roll?



DStv
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NEWS



NEW DRAMA ON MZANSI MAGIC

THERE's a new drama coming to Mzansi Magic where it takes just one night for things to fall apart.

They say life is like dominoes - it takes one fateful move for everything to fall apart. Such is the case in the new drama series, *Nkululeko*, premiering on Mzansi Magic in January 2018.

From new storytellers, Dumile Films, *Nkululeko* is a coming-of-age story set in the windswept streets of one of South Africa's most infamous townships, Khayelitsha. Here we meet the lead, Nkululeko Zwai played by

newcomer Aphiwe Mkefe, who is a talented mathematician preparing for a competition that could change his life and destiny forever. When he makes an impulsive decision in a moment of blossoming love, he suddenly finds himself in deep trouble and everything he has worked so hard for falls apart - leaving his future in jeopardy.

It is at the centre of *Nkululeko's* unravelling that we are introduced to Sibulele Nginda (Ziyanda Nyoka) who is the daughter of Khayelitsha's well-known Brigadier. Sibulele is exceptionally smart, independent and while the

two are drawn to each other like moths to a flame, it is their meeting that ignites a series of events destined to change their world forever.

Taking on the roles of *Nkululeko's* side-kicks are Mandla (Tiisetso Thoka) and Buhle (Abongile Salli) who have to face their own demons while helping their friend come to terms with his life choices.

Buhle is a colourful hustler from a poverty-stricken family. He believes money can end all his problems and is not afraid to dabble in criminal activities to acquire it, while Mandla is a 'Cheese Boy'

who is struggling to find where he belongs. And what is a drama without protective parents? *Nkululeko's* father, Thami Zwai (Chris Gxalaba) is a caddy at a golf course whose wife left him for greener pastures. His primary focus is to give his son all the opportunities he never had, and so does the Brigadier (Sizwe Msuthu), who is determined to protect his daughter at all costs - especially from the influence of the troublemakers.

"Through the lives of the youngsters in *Nkululeko*, we'll delve into the dynamics of society to explore the complexities of the journey to

adulthood in modern day South Africa. At the heart of this story are great lessons about life, consequences and fate," said Reneilwe Sema, Director of Local Entertainment Channels at M-Net.

Joining the cast for compelling 13 episodes is Tina Jaxa, Abongile Matsai, Andile Mxakaza and Jet Novuka.

"*Nkululeko* is a socially relevant story that we are proud to tell. Having grown up in Khayelitsha, I am humbled by the opportunity given by Mzansi Magic to showcase local stories, providing a platform to a new breed of storytellers. Partnering up with the great Bomb Pictures has enabled us with their support to express our noteworthy stories that will be enjoyed by South Africans," said Sibulele Siko-Shosha of Dumile Films.

2018 SAG NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

THE 24th Screen Actors Guild Awards are taking place in January 2018 and will be hosted by actress Kristen Bell. Awards season is kicking off soon, as the latest nominations have been announced. Actresses Olivia Munn and Niecy Nash announced the nominees for the 24th Screen Actors Guild Awards on Wednesday. The awards, taking place in January 2018, will be hosted by actress Kristen Bell and will be broadcast live on DStv.

Are your favourite actors and actresses nominated? Here are some of the top 2018 Screen Actors Guild Awards nominations:

Film

Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture

The Big Sick

Get Out (27 January at 21:00 on M-Net)



Lady Bird

Mudbound

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role in a Motion Picture

Timothée Chalamet, *'Call Me by Your Name'*

James Franco, *'The Disaster Artist'*

Daniel Kaluuya, *'Get Out'* (27 January at 21:00 on M-Net)

Gary Oldman, *'Darkest Hour'*

Denzel Washington, Roman J. Israel, Esq.

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role in a Motion Picture

Judi Dench, *'Victoria'* & Abdul Sally Hawkins, *'The Shape of Water'*

Frances McDormand, *'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri'*

Margot Robbie, *'I, Tonya'*

Saoirse Ronan, *'Lady Bird'*

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture

Steve Carell, *'Battle of the Sexes'*

Willem Dafoe, *'The Florida Project'*

Woody Harrelson, *'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri'*

Richard Jenkins, *'The Shape of Water'*

Sam Rockwell, *'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri'*

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture

Mary J. Blige, *'Mudbound'*

Hong Chau, *'Downsizing'*

Holly Hunter, *'The Big Sick'*

Allison Janney, *'I, Tonya'*

Laurie Metcalf, *'Lady Bird'*

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RONALDO RETAINS CLUB WORLD CUP FOR REAL

ABU DHABI - Cristiano Ronaldo's second-half free-kick ensured Real Madrid picked up a fifth trophy of 2017 by beating Gremio 1-0 in Abu Dhabi on Saturday to retain the Club World Cup.

A third Club World Cup in four years brings Madrid level with rivals Barcelona as the most successful side in the competition's history and adds to the La Liga, Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and Spanish Super Cup titles already won by Zinedine Zidane's men this year.

Ronaldo was once again Real's man for the big occasion as his strike went through the Gremio wall eight minutes after the break to ensure the European club champions were also crowned world champions for a fifth straight year.

"We wanted to win because Real Madrid have never won five trophies in one year," said Ronaldo.

"I think we played a very good game and deserved to win."

Ronaldo has now scored 15 goals in 20 appearances for Madrid this season despite a slow start in La Liga.

"The numbers speak for themselves," added the Portuguese. "I give my answers on the pitch. The team were phenomenal and it is another



CHAMPS: Real Madrid players pose with the trophy after the FIFA Club World Cup final. (Daily Mail)

trophy for the CV."

Gareth Bale was left on the bench despite scoring with his first touch as a substitute against Al Jazira on Wednesday to book Madrid's place in the final, as Zinedine Zidane kept faith with the same side that started Real's Champions League final triumph over Juventus back in June.

Gremio booked their ticket to Abu Dhabi by

winning the Copa Libertadores for the third time last month and Madrid knew they weren't in for a comfortable evening just two minutes in when Gremio captain Pedro Geromel raked his studs down the back of Ronaldo's calf without any punishment from Mexican referee Cesar Ramos.

Ronaldo, though, confirmed he will be fit for next weekend's Clasico against Barcelona.

Madrid dominated possession but, unlike in their profligate semi-final performance, found clear-cut chances hard to come by against the well-organised Gremio defence.

Hammered

Luka Modric came closest to breaking the deadlock in the first half with a left-footed shot from the edge of the box that flew inches wide of the far post.

Ronaldo also hammered a long-range free-kick that dipped onto the roof of the net, whilst Edilson gave Keylor Navas a similar scare at the other end with a free-kick from range.

Gremio pleaded for the referee to consult with the video assistant referee (VAR) when Sergio Ramos clipped Ramiro inside the area early in the second period.

However, those claims fell on deaf ears and Madrid instantly broke up the other end to open the scoring.

Ronaldo was tripped 25 yards from goal and the world player of the year's resulting free-kick sneaked through a gap in the Gremio wall to skip into the bottom corner.

Gremio were handed a lifeline when Ronaldo had the ball in the net again just before the hour mark, but Karim Benzema was flagged for being marginally offside in the build-up.

Marcelo Grohe then turned another Modric drive onto the post and made great stops from Ronaldo and Bale in the final 10 minutes to keep Gremio in the game.

However, the Brazilians failed to register a single shot on target as Madrid comfortably held out to seal their most successful ever year with a fifth trophy.

Earlier, Mexican side Pachuca beat hosts Al Jazira 4-1 in the third-place play-off.

AFP

Rose storms wins Indonesian Masters

JAKARTA - England's Justin Rose fired a brilliant round of 10 under par to cruise to victory at the US\$750 000 Indonesian Masters yesterday.

Rose, who is ranked six in the world, was the form player at the Asian Tour's season-ending event and finished 29 under for the tournament, eight shots clear of Thailand's Phachara Khongwatmai.

The win caps a stellar end to the season for the Englishman in which he has won three tournaments in the past two months.

"That's my largest ever winning margin at a tournament," Rose told reporters at a press conference. "To really do it at the end of the long season, to come here

with my game in good shape and to deal with the jetlag, deal with the rain delays, to stay focused all four rounds, is something I'm very pleased about."

Commencing

Following a curtailed day of play Saturday, competitors had to complete their third round early yesterday before commencing with the fourth at the Royale Jakarta Golf Club.

After finishing his remaining 10 holes with seven birdies and one bogey for a third round six-under-par 66, Rose held a three shot lead over Zimbabwe's Scott Vincent going into the final round.

Rose started strongly with four birdies in a row before eagling the



TRIUMPHS: Justin Rose. (Daily Mail)

ninth to make the turn at seven-under-par 29.

He kept the momentum up over the back nine, dropping just one shot to bogey the 16th.

Poor weather has plagued the event, disrupting play most days, and it was no different yesterday as lightning storms saw the tournament suspended twice.

But the foul weather appeared to have little impact on the 2016

Olympic champion, who commanded the clubhouse lead on day one and never relinquished it.

Rose admitted it was hard to find rhythm with the delays but said he was pleased with his ability to play just one shot at a time.

Finishing second was Phachara, who was in good form throughout the tournament, ending on 21 under overall.

AFP

Klopp reveals one doubt about signing Salah

LONDON - Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp has admitted that the signing of Mo Salah was down to his scouting department.

Salah has scored 19 goals in all competitions since his arrival from Roma, establishing himself as one of the 'Fab Four' alongside Philippe Coutinho, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino.

Some were surprised that Liverpool paid £34million for a player who had previously struggled at Chelsea, and even Klopp has admitted he needed some convincing.

"His speed is his speed, it doesn't depend on which league he's in. That is clear," said Klopp. "Of course we had to look at a lot of his games to see about other parts, physicality, being strong enough for challenges."

"But you see now, he is. I met him of course at one point and he looked ready. If you watch him only on television he looks quite skinny, I said before the scouting department did a fantastic job around him. They didn't get out of our ears. It was 100 per cent, he is ready, he is ready."

"At one point, we were all sure he was ready. And that's how it looks now."

The former Dortmund boss also admitted that he set no target for the 25-year-old in terms of goals upon his arrival at Anfield, with Salah now competing for the Premier League's Golden Boot.

"It's true he starts often because he is in a very good moment and it is difficult to think about leaving him out," said Klopp.

"He is always a naturally fit player. We talk a lot to the medical department and it is really rare that any issues with him. You don't hear that's he had a problem here or a problem there, that's a big thing."

Team Talk

McGregor says he wants MMA fight next

NEW YORK - Mixed martial arts star Conor McGregor, touted as a potential opponent for Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, has indicated he wants his next bout to be a return to the octagon rather than the ring.

Caught on video by the celebrity news site while out and about in New York, McGregor was asked about Pacquiao's announcement last week that he had opened talks to fight McGregor.

"I think a true fight is what I want to do next," McGregor says in the

...He hasn't fought in mixed martial arts or boxing since losing a boxing bout to unbeaten Mayweather

video posted online on Saturday; 'MMA next'.

Ireland's McGregor hasn't fought in mixed martial arts or boxing since losing a boxing bout to unbeaten Floyd Mayweather by a 10th-round technical knockout in their much-hyped bout in Las Vegas in August.

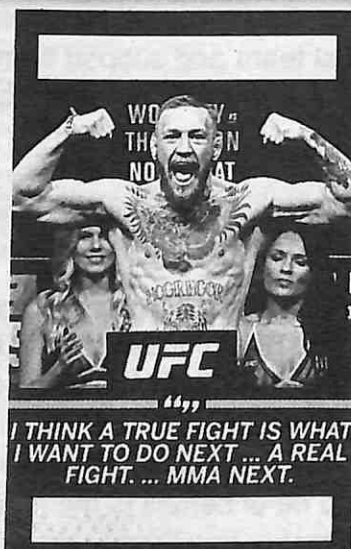
Showtime sports released final figures on Friday showing the cross-combat superfight drew the second-most North American pay-per-view

buys in history with 4.3 million.

Only one other fight - Mayweather's 2015 clash with Pacquiao - has ever drawn more, racking up 4.6 million pay-per-view buys.

Showtime said in a statement that global revenues, including ticket sales, sponsorship and international distribution, for Mayweather-McGregor had exceeded US\$600 million.

AFP





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MEDSCHEME SWAZILAND LAUNCHES HEALTHCARE INSURANCE PRODUCTS

Having been the administrator for Swaziland's biggest medical aid scheme for over 30 years, providing superior customer service and successfully building the reserves of the scheme, Medscheme Swaziland has demonstrated its commitment in healthcare to the Kingdom of Swaziland and her people. This commitment is further reinforced with the decision by AfroCentric Investment Corporation Limited (the ultimate holding company of Medscheme Swaziland) to support the establishment of a health insurance business that will provide innovative and cost effective healthcare insurance products within the Kingdom of Swaziland.

INTRODUCTION OF OUR NEW PRODUCT

We are delighted to announce to the Swazi Nation the establishment of Medscheme Health Insurance Swaziland, accompany that provides cost effective and innovative healthcare products across the entire income spectrum. We offer five plans that start from as little as E299 and cover up to E2.5million per beneficiary in hospitalization fees. In addition, we have introduced the following products that are new to the Swazi market:

- Our Hospital Cash Plan which pays beneficiaries E3,000 a day from day three of hospitalization;
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Our products have been designed with the Nation in mind and are suitable for both corporates and individuals.

MANAGING DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

It is the philosophy of Afro Centric and its subsidiaries to appoint local resources in each country that we operate in. It is for this reason that we wish to announce the appointment of Ntokozo Ndzabukelwako as the Managing Director for Medscheme Swaziland. Having joined the Company over two years ago, Ntokozo has experience in various fields which include Investment Banking, Finance and Hospitality. We are confident that, together with his local team and support from the Group, they will successfully rollout the Company's medium to long term strategy.

INTRODUCTION OF CHAIRPERSON

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of HRH Prince David as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Medscheme Swaziland effective 1 January 2018. Prince David is a very accomplished and respected individual with vast experience in both business and politics. We are confident that through his leadership and guidance, the Swaziland business will flourish and be of benefit to the nation.

NEW LOCAL SHAREHOLDERS

Medscheme Swaziland has identified a number of local Swazi stakeholders who will add significant value as equity partners and is at an advanced stage in terms of negotiations with them. We are confident that an announcement in regard to the successful conclusion of these negotiations will be made shortly.

FOR SWAZILAND FOR GOOD – “SIKHWAMA SEMASWATI”

We would like to re-affirm the commitment of AfroCentric Investment Corporation Limited (the ultimate holding company of Medscheme Swaziland) to continue to remain invested in the Kingdom of Swaziland. This commitment will not just be confined to the health insurance products offered, but will also include additional investment into other components within the healthcare sector over the next 3-5 years. This is in line with the Group's Vision of providing comprehensive and affordable healthcare to the Swazi consumer.

We are confident that our commitment and investment into Swaziland will continue to provide work opportunities to the Swazi people as well as making a positive contribution to the Swazi economy.

In conclusion I would like to extend our gratitude to the Government of Swaziland, for providing an investor friendly environment, the Regulator, the Federation of Swaziland Employers and all other stakeholders that have provided guidance and support to us over the last 36 years. We are very excited about our future in the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Please join me in celebrating the introduction of our new products and the beginning of a new chapter for Medscheme Swaziland.

Dr Anna Mokgokong
Chairperson – AfroCentric Investment Corporation
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- Ability to develop reliable information on government activities.
- Ability to write professional reports.
- Website Content Management.
- Computer literacy.

RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES

- To implement key areas of the internal and external government communications strategy.
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- To promote awareness of the functions and programmes of the Ministry throughout government and the general public.
- To assist in the implementation, evaluation and promotion of the internal and external communications objectives.
- To oversee internal communications function at the Ministerial level.
- To monitor media and content management of the Ministry's page on the government website.
- To assist in the budgeting process of the communications component.
- Calendar submission.
- To liaise media on events of the Ministry.
- To oversee branding of the Ministry and lead team during trade exhibition.
- To create media slot both on TV and radio.
- To coordinate Ministerial and Inter-Ministerial activities.
- To perform any other official duties as may be assigned by the immediate Supervisor and/or Head of Department.

SALARY

The salary will be on Grade C5: E167,543 rising up to E188,572 per annum

APPLICATION FORMS

These are obtainable from the Executive Secretary, Civil Service Commission, P.O. Box 158, Mbabane

Applications must be accompanied by the candidate's Curriculum Vitae and certified copies of Certificates of required qualifications. Candidates must have completed CSC Form B or Form C for serving officers. Candidates who do not possess the above qualifications should not apply as their applications will not be considered.

CLOSING DATE: 4th JANUARY, 2018

BRIEFS

Man Utd eye £26m Brazilian as part of £80m January spree

MANCHESTER - Jose Mourinho has reportedly identified a talented Bordeaux forward as the answer to Manchester United's search for a wide attacker. The United boss appears ready to make a rare delve into the January transfer market next month after failing to land all four of his targets over the summer. Mourinho lapped Romelu Lukaku, Nemanja Matic and Victor Lindelof - but he failed to sign Ivan Perisic after United missed out on the Croatian winger after Inter Milan decided against selling. However, with Perisic seemingly remaining out of bounds for United, Mourinho has sent his scouts to make regularly checks on Bordeaux's young star Malcom - and reports in the Sunday Times claim the club are set to make a move. *Teamtalk*

Bradley Lowery posthumously honoured

LONDON - Bradley Lowery honoured posthumously with the Helen Rollason award at BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2017. The parents of the Sunderland fan, who died in July aged six, were presented with the award on stage at last night's ceremony in Liverpool. Lowery suffered from neuroblastoma - a rare type of cancer - from the age of 18 months and captured hearts across the sporting world during a number of appearances as a mascot. He struck up a close friendship with former Sunderland striker Jermain Defoe and the pair led out England at Wembley for a World Cup qualifier against Lithuania in March. His parents, Gemma and Carl, started the Bradley Lowery Foundation after his death to help treat children with similar conditions. *Dailymail*

Russia making progress over doping says Coe

LONDON - IAAF chief Lord Sebastian Coe believes Russia is showing a significant change in its attitude to tackling the doping scandal that saw the nation exiled from world athletics. Russia has been banned from international athletics competition since November 2015 after doping issues. The country's anti-doping agency, RUSADA, is also yet to be declared fully compliant by the World Anti-Doping Agency. Russian athletes have also effectively been banned from next year's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, unless they can satisfy stringent drug-testing regulations in order to compete as neutrals. *AFP*

Tottenham look to land £53m-rated Fiorentina winger

LONDON - Tottenham are eyeing Fiorentina winger Federico Chiesa with Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus also looking to land the winger, according to reports. His father, Enrico Chiesa, was an Italy international and he has started the season in good form with four goals in 14 appearances. Paris Saint-Germain, Juventus, Napoli and Roma are all reportedly interested in the youngster after he broke into Fiorentina's first team last campaign. La Stampa claims that the Viola have placed a £53 million price tag on his head in an attempt to attract interest from other top clubs. Chiesa, who can also play as a striker or central midfielder, has reportedly been attracting admiring glances from Tottenham - who have only just welcomed back Erik Lamela in a similar position. *Teamtalk*

PSG STAR MBAPPE BEATS MAN UTD'S MARTIAL TO TOP AWARD

PARIS - Kylian Mbappe has been named French Young Player of the Year by Telefoot, beating Anthony Martial and Maxime Lopez to the award.

There were two panels of judges voting for the prize, with a panel of experts voting that Paris Saint-Germain prodigy as the country's outstanding prospect, while the fans' vote was claimed by Marseille midfielder Maxime Lopez, who is considered to be the club's greatest prospect since Samir Nasri.

Collected

Mbappe, though, collected the greatest aggregate number of points, beating Manchester United forward and fellow Monaco youth academy graduate Martial into second. It caps a stellar year for the Paris-

born youngster, who will celebrate his 19th birthday on Wednesday.

He was an integral member of the Monaco side that shocked Europe by reaching the Champions League semi-finals while beating out PSG to the Ligue 1 title, scoring 15 league goals and 26 overall for the Monegasques last term.

Towards the end of the summer transfer window, he made a loan move to PSG, with a permanent deal expected to be finalised next summer for a fee of €160 million.

Upon receiving the Telefoot Trophy, Mbappe told TF1 of his hopes of winning major trophies this season. "In the Champions League, I'm representing PSG, and France, because we're the only French club left. What's important now is qual-



WINNER: Kylian Mbappe.

ifying past Real Madrid. "After that is the World Cup, of course. It's the biggest competition

for a footballer and I dream of being there." *Goal*

Mosimane holds no grudge against Modise ahead of City showdown

JOHANNESBURG - Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane does not see any reason why he should not shake hands with Cape Town City's Teco Modise when the two sides lock horns in mid-week.

"Why not? He has done nothing wrong to me. I only want to remain with the good memories I had with him," Mosimane responded to Timeslive when quizzed about their meeting.

Revelations

In his book titled 'The Curse of Teco Modise', the latter made damning revelations where he stated he wasn't on speaking terms with Mosimane for two years at the Brazilians.

"I saw the goals he scored, the passes he made, he is a legend - a very good footballer and talent," Mosimane said.

Given the impact he has had on the 34-year-old's career, Mosimane is pleased that 'The Navigator' managed to write a



NO STRESS: Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane AND Teco Modise.

good story for himself on the pitch. "I am happy that I was part of his story with him from the beginning to the end and it is a good story. He will tell you that I never said he must go and I never said his contract must

not be renewed," Mosimane said.

'Jingles' is of the opinion that had Modise stayed at Sundowns, he would have earned a legendary status similar to that of Surprise Moriri. *Goal*

Hunt admits Bidvest Wits feel embarrassed by season struggles

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits coach Gavin Hunt admitted for the first time this season that they are all embarrassed by their dramatic turn of events in the last 18 months.

"We've got to take heed of the situation, there's no doubt about it. A lot of us are embarrassed coming from where we were to where we are now," Hunt told the media post-match.

Robert Ng'ambi's first half goal was enough to take Dikwena closer to safety at the half stage of the season, leaving the Students at the bottom of the log.

"It's a disappointment being so far down the table. The chances we are missing... crazy isn't it? They didn't have one chance tonight, not one. I'm talking from open play," Hunt said. With 14 games played, the Clever Boys find themselves rooted at the foot of the table, with only two wins to their name so far.

"When you're top of the log, you're worried. When you're bottom of the log, you're worried. So, we're worried but I mean, we can't play with fear. People go on about this and that but I mean, we're creating opportunities. From the first game this season where we lost 1-0 to Cape Town City, the score could have been anything," Hunt said. *Soccerladuma*

Barca president meets the family of Griezmann to finalise £88m move

MADRID - Barcelona have stepped up their bid to sign Atletico Madrid attacker Antoine Griezmann.

Club president Josep Maria Bartomeu met with the Frenchman's family to finalise a deal for next summer.

Bartomeu shared a meal with Griezmann's sister, who helps manage the 26-year-old's affairs, and his parents in Barcelona.

According to the Spanish outlet Mundo Deportivo, Bartomeu met to discuss the deal which is estimated to cost £87million (100m euros).

The news that Griezmann's representatives are willing to sit down with

Barcelona will come as bad news for Manchester United who were also interested in adding the Frenchman to their squad.

The Catalan club are yet to make official contact with Atletico over activating Griezmann's release clause but Mundo Deportivo understands there should be no problem there, with the two club's sharing a good relationship.

Barcelona believe the deal for Griezmann represents good value for money as they look to bolster their squad with more world-class forwards.

Griezmann looked set for a move before the start of the season but a deal never materialised after the club was hit with a transfer ban, meaning they would be unable to bring in a replacement.

The upheaval during the summer seems to have been detrimental to the forward's form this season though with Griezmann failing to hit the heights he set last term.

He has scored just five goals in La Liga as was unable to help Atleti qualify through their Champions League group.

Dailymail



DEAL DONE: Atletico Madrid attacker Antoine Griezmann.

COUTINHO, SALAH INSPIRE LIVERPOOL TO DESERVED WIN

LONDON- As he fished the fourth out of his net, Asmir Begovic probably wished he had politely declined the chance to voice an opinion on Liverpool's shambolic defending.

"I don't think they have the pride it takes to be a defender," said Bournemouth goalkeeper Begovic, in October, as he helped Sky Sports analyse Jurgen Klopp's team in the aftermath of a thrashing by Tottenham. He criticised 'communication', 'positioning', 'desire' and 'organisation' and added: "They don't look organised, they don't look like they want to defend. I don't think their first thought is defending."

Here, in fairness, Begovic was spot on. Liverpool's first thought is to attack and score goals and once they've scored, to score more. Their second and third thoughts are very much the same, and defending comes down the list.

This commitment to thrill is their



most admirable characteristic. Very much like Bournemouth, in fact, which means there will be days against very good teams when you leak a few goals.

At Wembley, Liverpool were careless and took a beating but they have not lost in a dozen games since and have been a delight to watch.

On the Dorset coast, they struck early through the outstanding Philippe Coutinho and were three up by half-time thanks to Dejan Lovren and

Mohamed Salah's 20th of the season.

Salah is the first Liverpool player to reach the milestone before Christmas since Ian Rush in 1986.

Roberto Firmino added the fourth as they coasted through the second half.

After spluttering against the packed ranks of Everton and West Bromwich Albion, Liverpool thrived against the free-spirited football of Eddie Howe's Bournemouth.

Rio-born Coutinho in particular enjoyed his trip to the English seaside, curling a free-kick against the inside of a post even before he had fired the visitors in the lead.

Exchanging passes on the left with wing-back Andy Robertson, the Brazilian jinked inside, shimmied effortlessly past flimsy challenges from Simon Francis and Lewis Cook and pulled a low finish inside the post.

It was a 10th Liverpool goal of the season for Coutinho.

Six minutes later and the lead was doubled when Lovren converted from a corner which was poorly defended by Howe's team.

Georginio Wijnaldum flicked Coutinho's set-piece to the far post where it seemed to be looping into touch but Roberto Firmino refused to give up on the ball and hooked it back into the goalmouth.

Daily Mail

LOGS

PREMIER LEAGUE

| TEAM | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|-----------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Man City | 18 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 56 | 12 | 44 | 52 |
| Man United | 18 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 39 | 12 | 27 | 41 |
| Chelsea | 18 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 32 | 14 | 18 | 38 |
| Liverpool | 18 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 38 | 20 | 18 | 34 |
| Arsenal | 18 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 31 | 20 | 11 | 33 |
| Burnley | 18 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 12 | 4 | 32 |
| Tottenham | 18 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 31 | 18 | 13 | 31 |
| Leicester City | 18 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 27 | 26 | 1 | 26 |
| Watford | 18 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 27 | 33 | -6 | 22 |
| Everton | 17 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 29 | -8 | 22 |
| Huddersfield | 18 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 16 | 30 | -14 | 21 |
| Southampton | 18 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 17 | 24 | -7 | 18 |
| Brighton & Hove | 18 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 23 | -9 | 18 |
| Crystal Palace | 18 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 28 | -13 | 17 |
| West Ham | 18 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 17 | 32 | -15 | 17 |
| AFC Bournemouth | 18 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 24 | -9 | 16 |
| Stoke City | 18 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 19 | 39 | -20 | 16 |
| Newcastle | 18 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 16 | 27 | -11 | 15 |
| West Bromwich | 18 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 24 | -11 | 14 |
| Swansea City | 17 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 22 | -13 | 12 |

ABSA PREMIERSHIP

| TEAM | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Sundowns | 13 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 23 | 9 | 14 | 28 |
| Kaizer Chiefs | 15 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 13 | 9 | 4 | 22 |
| Free State Stars | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 17 | 17 | 0 | 22 |
| Cape Town City | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 16 | 15 | 1 | 21 |
| Orlando Pirates | 15 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 20 |
| Chippa United | 15 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 10 | 1 | 19 |
| Bloemfontein | 13 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 19 |
| Baroka FC | 14 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 16 | 18 | -2 | 19 |
| Maritzburg | 14 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 8 | 4 | 18 |
| Golden Arrows | 15 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 17 | 16 | 1 | 18 |
| SuperSport | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 15 |
| AmaZulu FC | 13 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 15 | 17 | -2 | 15 |
| Polokwane City | 14 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 17 | -3 | 15 |
| Platinum Stars | 15 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 15 | -6 | 15 |
| Ajax Cape Town | 14 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 16 | -6 | 13 |
| Bidvest Wits | 14 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 17 | -10 | 11 |

SPANISH LALIGA

| TEAM | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|-------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Barcelona | 15 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 38 | 7 | 31 | 39 |
| Atletico Madrid | 16 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 25 | 7 | 18 | 36 |
| Valencia | 16 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 36 | 16 | 20 | 34 |
| Real Madrid | 15 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 30 | 11 | 19 | 31 |
| Sevilla | 16 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 19 | 0 | 29 |
| Villarreal | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 23 | 20 | 3 | 24 |
| Girona | 16 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 20 | 22 | -2 | 23 |
| Eibar | 16 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 18 | 28 | -10 | 21 |
| Getafe | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 20 | 16 | 4 | 20 |
| Real Sociedad | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 28 | 28 | 0 | 20 |
| Leganes | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 14 | -2 | 20 |
| Celta de Vigo | 16 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 27 | 24 | 3 | 18 |
| Athletic Club | 16 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 16 | 19 | -3 | 18 |
| Real Betis | 15 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 23 | 29 | -6 | 18 |
| Levante | 16 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 15 | 22 | -7 | 17 |
| Espanyol | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 19 | -8 | 16 |
| Deportivo La Coru | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 18 | 27 | -9 | 15 |
| Deportivo Alavos | 16 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 12 | 25 | -13 | 12 |
| Melaga | 15 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 13 | 28 | -15 | 11 |
| Las Palmas | 15 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 11 | 34 | -23 | 10 |

ITALIAN SERIE A

| TEAM | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|----------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Napoli | 17 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 38 | 11 | 27 | 42 |
| Juventus | 17 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 44 | 14 | 30 | 41 |
| Internazionale | 17 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 34 | 13 | 21 | 40 |
| Roma | 16 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 28 | 10 | 18 | 38 |
| Lazio | 15 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 36 | 19 | 17 | 32 |
| Sampdoria | 16 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 30 | 23 | 7 | 27 |
| Milan | 17 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 23 | 24 | -1 | 24 |
| Atalanta | 16 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 23 | 20 | 3 | 23 |
| Fiorentina | 17 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 26 | 19 | 7 | 23 |
| Torino | 17 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 23 | 25 | -2 | 23 |
| Udinese | 16 | 7 | 0 | 9 | 26 | 25 | 1 | 21 |
| Bologna | 17 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 19 | 23 | -4 | 21 |
| Chievo | 17 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 17 | 27 | -10 | 21 |
| Cagliari | 17 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 16 | 28 | -12 | 17 |
| Sassuolo | 17 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 11 | 28 | -17 | 17 |
| Crotone | 17 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 32 | -19 | 15 |
| Genoa | 17 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 22 | -8 | 14 |
| Hellas Verona | 17 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 17 | 32 | -15 | 13 |
| SPAL | 16 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 28 | -13 | 11 |
| Benevento | 16 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 8 | 38 | -30 | 1 |

BUNDESLIGA

| TEAM | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Bayern | 17 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 37 | 11 | 26 | 41 |
| Schalke 04 | 17 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 21 | 7 | 30 |
| Borussia Dortmund | 17 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 39 | 24 | 15 | 28 |
| Bayer Leverkusen | 17 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 34 | 23 | 11 | 28 |
| RB Leipzig | 16 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 25 | 22 | 3 | 28 |
| Borussia Mönchengladbach | 17 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 27 | 28 | -1 | 28 |
| Hoffenheim | 17 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 27 | 22 | 5 | 26 |
| E Frankfurt | 17 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 20 | 18 | 2 | 26 |
| Augsburg | 17 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 27 | 23 | 4 | 24 |
| Hannover 96 | 17 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 24 | 26 | -2 | 23 |
| Hertha BSC | 16 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 23 | 20 | 3 | 21 |
| Wolfsburg | 17 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 21 | 21 | 0 | 19 |
| Freiburg | 17 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 17 | 31 | -14 | 19 |
| Stuttgart | 17 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 13 | 21 | -8 | 17 |
| Mainz 05 | 17 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 19 | 28 | -9 | 17 |
| Werder Bremen | 17 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 20 | -7 | 15 |
| Hamburger SV | 17 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 15 | 25 | -10 | 15 |

Baroka get back to winning ways in style

POLOKWANE - Baroka got back to winning ways in the Absa Premiership after beating SuperSport United 3-1 in a league match at the Peter Mokaba Stadium yesterday afternoon.

SuperSport started the better of the two sides and controlled the flow of play, but their decision making in the final third was poor.

The first real scoring chance fell to SuperSport in the tenth minute when Thuso Phala found himself in space on the edge of the box, but he fired inches wide of the target.

On the half hour mark, Baroka took the lead, very much against the run of play, when Lucky Nguzana met a low cross from the left and turned the ball home from 12-yards out after superb first touch to control the ball, 1-0.

In the 38th minute Phala should really have scored when a loose



ball fell to him inside the box, but he headed over the target from close range with just the keeper to beat.

In the dying seconds of the half, Bradley Grobler came within inches of levelling matters for the Tshwane side when he met a pass from the left with a ferocious eight-yard volley which struck the crossbar.

SuperSport came out firing in the second half and found an equaliser eight minutes after

the restart when Azubuike Egwuekwe headed home a Phala corner-kick, 1-1.

SuperSport's joy, though, was short-lived when Letladi Madubanya restored Baroka's lead in the 72nd after a clinical finish, 2-1.

Baroka confirmed the victory in the dying seconds of the match when Mduzuzi Mdatsane found the back of the net to make it 3-1.

Soccer Laduma

KZN DERBY ENDS GOALLESS

DURBAN - The Kwa-Zulu Natal derby between Golden Arrows and Maritzburg United at the Princess Magogo Stadium ended in a 0-0 stalemate.

Arrows started well and had the first shot on goal in the eight minute courtesy of a long range strike from Nduduzo Sibiba, but his effort was well-saved by the Maritzburg keeper. The home side continued to pile on the pressure and came close to the opening goal in the 25th minute when Velemseni Ndwandwe met a pass from Knox Mutizwa, but he was thwarted by the Maritzburg keeper once again.

The away team offered very little in attack throughout the opening half, but did managing a stinging 18-yard shot on goal in the 39th minute thanks to Evans Rusike, but he saw his effort brilliantly saved by the Arrows keeper.

The half ended at 0-0.

Maritzburg came out a rejuvenated side at the start of the second half with Rusike breaking through on goal two minutes in, but he failed to beat Nkosingiphile Gumede in a one-on-one.

In the 55th minute some swift counter-attacking play by Arrows saw Kudakwashe Mahachi drive into the box

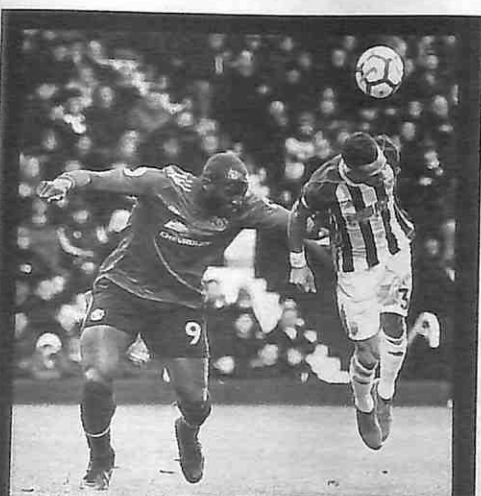
before unleashing a well-stuck shot, but he saw his effort cleared off the goal line.

Ten minutes later, Maritzburg were on the attack when Rusike met a cross from the left with a strong header, but his effort went just wide of the target.

The next decent effort on goal only came in the 81st minute when Siphelele Magubane unleashed a long range thunderbolt, but it sailed over the Maritzburg goal.

Both sides pushed hard for a winner in the dying minutes of the match, but neither could find the back of the net as the match ended goalless.

Soccer Laduma



Romelu Lukaku scores as United close the gap on Manchester City

MANCHESTER - If Jose Mourinho wants people to be more positive about Manchester United, he might like to have a word with Romelu Lukaku.

For the second time in five days the striker celebrated a goal by, well, not celebrating. He kept a straight face and his arms down by his sides as he was congratulated by his teammates.

It would be easy to say that Lukaku was keeping a lid on it out of respect to his old club West Bromwich Albion - where he spent a season on loan and famously scored a hat-trick against United in Sir Alex Ferguson's final game - were it not for the fact that he did exactly the same thing against Bournemouth on Wednesday night. Nor did it stop him indulging in a happy celebration routine with Jesse Lingard after the he had scored United's second goal.

Gareth Barry's late effort, his club's first goal in four games under new Manager Alan Pardew, set up a tense finish but United clung on to clinch a deserved victory that cuts Manchester City's lead at the top of the table down to a still daunting 11 points.

There is no doubt that City's exploits this season have cast a shadow over their neighbours whose more pragmatic approach under Mourinho will always suffer by comparison.

Daily Mail

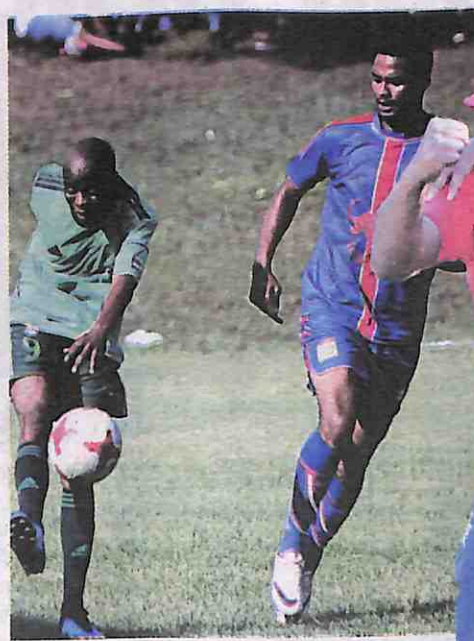
SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2017/18



MY BALL: Tambuti FC's Samkeliso Lushaba attempts to go past Mbabane Swallows' Stanley Umokoro during the Ingwenyama Cup match at Nsukuwansuku Stadium on Saturday. Swallows won 2-0. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



NO GO AREA: Swallows' Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze and Tambuti's Mpendulo Ngidi battling for the ball.



CLEAR: Tambuti defender Sebenele Masuku clearing away the ball from Swallows' Felix Badenhorst.



WATCHING: Ngabisa and Khule with other Swallows followers.



PUSHING: Tambuti's Siboniso Ndzabandzaba being pushed by Swallows' Sandile Hlatshwako.



SWALLOWS BHOLA: Swallows supporters celebrating the team's first goal.

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CELEBRATION: Mbabane Swallows supporters cheering the players on.



IT'S INSIDE: Tambuti FC goalkeeper Thokozani Mkhulisi was well beaten by the shot from Felix Badenhorst.

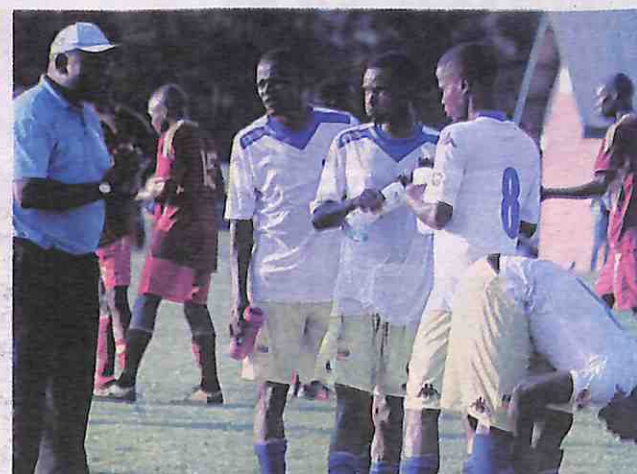
SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2017/18



ALMOST: Vovovo goalkeeper Machawe Dlamini diving unsuccessfully to save Young Buffaloes' Ndoda Mthethwa's header. Young Buffaloes won the game 1-0 at Killerney Stadium to advance to the quarterfinals of the Ingwenyama Cup yesterday. (Pics: Sabelo Majola)



SANDWICHED : Vovovo's Leon Manyisa negotiating his way past Young Buffaloes players.



PLAN B: Vovovo head coach Musa Mamba giving instructions to his charges.



GREAT SAVE: Vovovo's Machawe Dlamini making a save. (R) **GIVE WAY:** Sabella Mohammed and Dumsane Mdluli fighting for the ball.



BACK TO BACK: Buffaloes' Ndoda Mthethwa and Sphelele Ngwane vying for an aerial ball.



SUPPORTERS: A section of supporters following proceedings at Killerney Stadium.



HARD LUCK: Vovovo players in a sombre mood after the game.

NO GO AREA: Vovovo's Sibusiso Thwala protecting the ball.



AMATHOLE: Young Buffaloes players celebrating Ndoda Mthethwa's goal.



CLEAR SHOT: Vovovo's Mlungisi Dlamini distributing the ball away from Ndoda Mthethwa.

FOOTBALL TALK

All your latest WORLD FOOTBALL news

● Manchester United want to bring defender Jonny Evans back to Old Trafford, two and a half years after selling the 29-year-old to West Brom - but Manchester City and Arsenal are also interested. *(Sunday Mirror)*



● Juventus appear willing to sell defender Alex Sandro but Chelsea, who failed to sign the 26-year-old Brazil international in the summer, face competition from Manchester City, Manchester United and Paris St-Germain. *(Sunday Express)*

● Daniel Sturridge has been told he can leave Liverpool on loan next month by Manager Jurgen Klopp as the 28-year-old England striker looks to rescue a World Cup spot. *(Sun on Sunday)*

● Meanwhile, Klopp has ruled out RB Leipzig and Guinea midfielder Naby Keita, 22, joining the Reds in January. *(Daily Star Sunday)*

● Manchester United are weighing up making an offer of nearly £30m for Bordeaux's Brazilian winger Malcom, 20, in the January transfer window. *(Sunday Times - subscription required)*

● Manchester City have watched Augsburg's German left-back Philipp Max, 24, as they look for cover for injured France defender Benjamin Mendy. *(Mail on Sunday)*

● Everton Manager Sam Allardyce is targeting a reunion with Crystal Palace and Belgium striker Christian Benteke, 27, when the transfer window opens next month. *(Sunday Mirror)*

● And Allardyce will have to sacrifice a midfielder if Everton are to sign Sevilla's France international Steven Nzonzi, 29. *(Daily Star Sunday)*

● West Ham Manager David Moyes is ready to make a £15m bid for 27-year-old Bournemouth and Republic of Ireland midfielder Harry Arter. *(Sun on Sunday)*



● Southampton boss Mauricio Pellegrino has not ruled out selling Netherlands defender Virgil van Dijk 26, in January. *(Liverpool Echo)*

● Inter Milan and Barcelona are monitoring the situation of 27-year-old Manchester United and Netherlands defender Daley Blind. *(Calciomercato)*

● Arsenal and Chelsea are going head to head over 20-year-old Bayer Leverkusen's Jamaican winger Leon Bailey. *(Mirror)*

LEOPARD BRUSH ASIDE MADLENYA

By Sibusiso Masilela

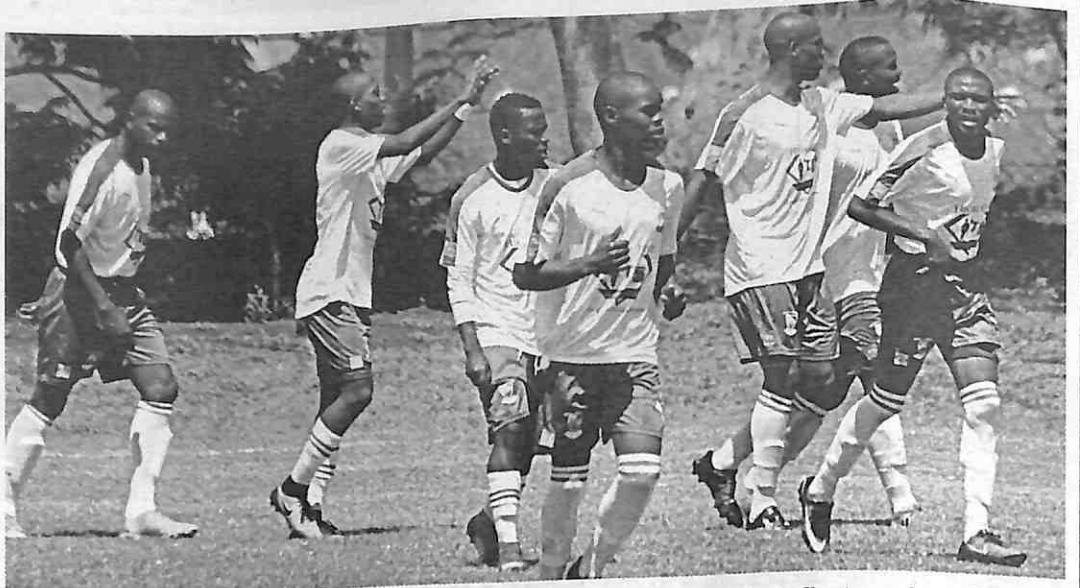
Madlenya..... (0)0
Royal Leopard..... (1)2

SOCCER - POLICE side Royal Leopard scored in each half to book a place in the quarterfinals of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup. 'Ingwemabalabala' needed goals from Lungelo Tsabedze and Siboniso 'Rocco' Malambe to brush aside Madlenya FC during a last 16 match played at the Mayaluka Stadium yesterday.

The Premier League side demonstrated experience over their National First Division opponents in front of over 500 football lovers, who watched the encounter.

Leopard drew first blood just two minutes into action through former Highlanders striker Lungelo, who against the run of play, slotted the ball home past Madlenya goalkeeper Mndeni Lukhele after the home side defenders were caught napping.

The goal was a stab in the heart for Madlenya as they were at the front foot but only to be denied by the brave goalkeeping from Leopard shot-stopper Phephisani Msibi in the opening minutes of the match. Msibi produced another great save when



INGWE MABALABALA: Royal Leopard players celebrating their first goal against Madlenya FC during the Ingwenyama Cup at Mayaluka Stadium yesterday. Leopard won 2-0. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

he tipped a Timothy Mathonsi dipping free kick over the bar for a fruitless corner.

The on loan Young Buffaloes midfielder Mathonsi once again tested Msibi from a dead ball situation in the 18th minute but the agile Sihlangu goal-minder was at it again, saving the hard shot for another fruitless corner kick.

At this stage of the match, Leopard dominated possession but failed to create clear cut chances

The match went to the break with Leopard leading 1-0.

The second half saw Leopard resorting to tactical discipline, allowing Madlenya the lion's share of ball possession. The Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane-led side finished the job deep in the

second half as they scored the second goal through skipper Siboniso 'Rocco' Malambe in the 77th minute.

The defender headed home a well floated Bonginkhosi Dlamini cross. Madlenya's dream of making it through to the next stage was eventually shattered as Leopard thwarted everything at the back, to emerge victorious with a healthy 2-0 win.

It is important to grind results - 'Nuro'

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - ROYAL Leopard coach Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane says it is important to grind out results in cup competitions.

'Nuro' said this soon after watching his side beat Madlenya FC 2-0 during the Ingwenyama Cup last 16 match played at the Mayaluka Stadium yesterday.

"It is very important to fight for results in such competitions where beautiful goals do not matter that much. In a cup competition, you just have to win and proceed to the next stage. The end result is more important."

He said he was happy with the way his players maintained shape throughout the match.

"We managed to stick to our game plan, which was to allow them to come at us and catch them on the counter. It really worked well for us as managed to wrap up the match easily," he said.

Ntibane said he was happy with the win.

"It was not easy, I must say, but the win is what we wanted and we got it."

The coach also said they would now prepare for their quarterfinals using their next two Premier League matches. "We will not relax but continue pushing hard in all competitions. Our focus will now shift to our next league outing against Mweni Pirates where we still need to work hard," he said.

'Nuro' said they wanted to improve in the league standings.

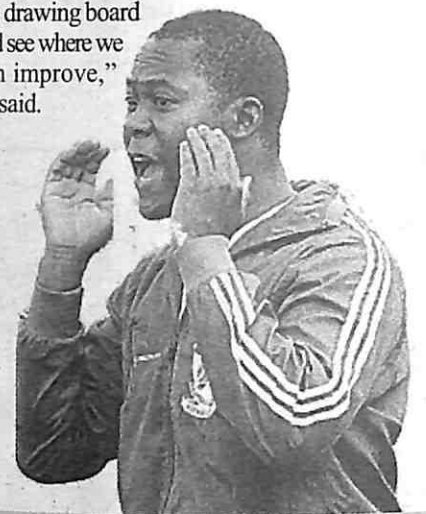
"We are not in a good position and our aim is to win all our games and improve on the log standings."

Meanwhile, his Madlenya counterpart William Gamedze said he was happy with his team's performance despite the loss.

"We tried our best but we couldn't cope with the tempo of the match imposed by the opposition. We also conceded an early goal which killed our momentum in the first half. We will now go back to the league to fight for the honours."

He said the good thing was that they were able to pick some positives from this encounter.

"It was a learning curve for my players and we will now go back to the drawing board and see where we can improve," he said.



FIGHT FOR RESULTS: Royal Leopard coach Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane,

Local athletes shine in SA Summer Series race

By Sibusiso Masilela

ATHLETICS - TWO local athletes; Thandaza Zwane and Andile Lusenga excelled in the Summer Series race held at the Green Point Stadium, Cape Town, on Saturday.

The two finished in the top three bracket in the 200m heat race that also featured several South Africa athletics clubs.

Correctional star Zwane came first in his 100m heat clocking 10.78s ahead of South Africa's Wayde Domingo, who came second at 11.72s. On the other hand, Lusenga

finished third in his 100m heat after clocking 11.03s.

Thandaza went on to win the 200m race where he clocked 21.28s and further beat his personal best of 21.19s. Lusenga came third in the same race where he clocked 21.82s.

Athletics Association of Swaziland Secretary Thoba Mazibuko said they were happy with the performance of the two athletes.

"We are quite pleased with the progress of the two athletes at international level where they continue to improve. We encourage them to continue working hard and we will give them the necessary support in

order to succeed," he said.

On another note, the AAS will host its Annual General Meeting next Saturday at the Olymp Africa Centre starting at 10am.

"We are encouraging clubs to attend the meeting in their numbers so that we can discuss ways of improving the sport," Mazibuko said.

HAPPY: Athletics Association of Swaziland Secretary Thoba Mazibuko.



Wanderers avoid Tinyosi 'sting'

By Sibusiso Masilela

Tinyosi..... (1)1
Wanderers..... (1)2

SOCCER - MANZINI Wanderers neutralised the Tinyosi 'sting' to book a place in the quarterfinals of the Ingwenyama Cup.

This comes after the hub giants' 2-1 win over the First Division side during a tension filled last 16 Ingwenyama Cup encounter played at the Mayaluka Stadium yesterday.

The crowd pullers gave their supporters hopes of silverware with a spirited performance against the stubborn opposition, who died with

their boots on.

Tinyosi were able to frustrate Wanderers.

The 'Weslians' experience paid dividend as early as the 17th minute when they took the lead through their trusted servant Kola Aladeon, who produced a sublime strike.

The Nigerian star rounded off the opposition goalkeeper Vusi Ginindza to score on an empty net after receiving a good pass from his international compatriot Mike Dombo, who sliced his way through before setting Aladeon.

However, the Lobamba based side refused to take it lying down as they deservedly levelled matters in the 27th through the diminutive Simphiwe Makama, who struck a stunning 25 yards free kick that beat Romanus Igidimba hands down between the

Wanderers goal.

Tinyosi nearly took the lead in the 34th minute but their striker failed to beat the advancing Romanus on a one-on-one situation, much to the relief of the visiting crowd.

The match went to the break with the two teams locked at 1-1, allowing both sides to regenerate better ideas.

Wanderers came out with more aggression as they forced desperate defending from the opponents with some counter attacking football.

The Nyanga Hlophe-led troops then wrapped up the match in the hour mark through a powerful header from skipper Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya, who buried home a Junior Simelane corner kick.

This goal brought some life to the

Wanderers supporters, who were involved in an off the field fracas before the start of the second half where they wanted to skin alive an unidentified Tinyosi official.

The said official was rescued by police and some Wanderers marshals. Wanderers then resorted to some resolute defending to avoid an upset in the country's richest knockout competition. They were able to hold on until the final whistle.

Teams:

Tinyosi - Vusi, Seabonkhe, Msimisi, Mangaliso, Steven, Njabulo, Mzwandile, Bongumenzi, Simphiwe (Fana), Mukelo (Gule)

Wanderers - Romanus, Lihle, Menzi, Machado, Sihle, Lwazi, William (Sifiso), Maphosa, Kola (Lungelo), Junior, Dombo, Allie

Ndoda sends Buffaloes through

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - STRIKER Ndoda Mthethwa powered in a second half header to inspire Young Buffaloes to a 1-0 victory over Vovovo in an SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup last 16 match yesterday.

The win at the Killarney Sports Ground in Pigg's Peak where Buffaloes extended their unbeaten run this season to 18 matches. The match got off to a slow start with both sides struggling to deal with the uneven pitch.

Buffaloes were the first to threaten, with striker Phiwayinkhosi Dlamini rattling the crossbar with a ferocious shot which hit the underside of the bar and went back to play in the 25th minute.

Eventful

Dlamini found an opening again in the 34th minute but his header went straight to Vovovo goalkeeper Machawe Dlamini.

That chance proved to be last of a less than eventful first stanza as the match went into the break goalless.

Buffaloes upped the tempo in the beginning of the second half, with Mthethwa's shot tipped over the bar by Vovovo keeper Dlamini two minutes into the restart. Vovovo were flirting with danger and had to clear a goalbound effort off the line in the 50th minute as Buffaloes kept on piling the pressure.

Six minutes later, Buffaloes finally found their opener when Mthethwa rose highest to meet a cross from the left and headed in to put his side 1-0 up.

From that moment on, last season's beaten finalists in this competition, looked to protect their slender advantage.

Vovovo resorted to powering long balls forward but Buffaloes repeatedly dealt well with the challenge and almost found a second in the 82nd minute when, Wandile Shabangu, free inside the box, headed over from an inviting Linda Mkhonta freekick.

That miss would count for little, however, as Buffaloes held on to advance to the quarterfinals of the competition.

Teams:

Vovovo - M. Dlamini, Msibi, Ngwane, M. Dlamini, Mkhontfo, Nkonyane, Mavimbela, Manyisa (Kunene), Mohammed, Tfwala (Mncedisi Dlamini), Tsabedze

Buffaloes - Gwebu, Mkhonta, Maseko, Shabangu, Mamba, Mkhwanazi, M. Dlamini, Mtsetfwa (Ngwenya), Mkhabela (Mazibuko), P. Dlamini, Mdluli.



LAST EIGHT NOW: Wanderers players celebrating a goal against Tinyosi during the last 16 Ingwenyama Cup encounter played at the Mayaluka Stadium yesterday. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

Refs should do some self-introspection - Musa Mamba

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - VOVVO coach Musa Mamba challenged referees to do some self-introspection after his side's 1-0 defeat to Young Buffaloes in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup last 16 yesterday.

Local referees have been in the spotlight recently with several coaches in the Premier League repeatedly bemoaning the match officials' performances.

Mamba was the latest to voice his concerns after his side bowed out of the Ingwenyama Cup at the Killarney Sports Ground yesterday afternoon in a match that was officiated by experienced referee

Smanga Nhleko.

"I think our referees should do some self-introspection. Teams are investing a lot. What coaches are always complaining about, I see but I'm not the rightful person to actually criticise them. But they should do some self-introspection, it's not going well, that's what I can say," he said.

Young Buffaloes coach Dominic

Kunene, meanwhile, bemoaned the state of the Killarney pitch while praising his players for grinding out the result.

"The surface was difficult which is why we stopped building out from the back. But we had spoken about it so we expected it.

So I think the players adapted well, worked hard and stuck to the game plan," he said.

Talent the villain as Red Lions crash out

Stories by Sabelo Majola

Citizens..... (0)0
Red Lions..... (0)0
(Citizens won 4-3 on penalties)

SOCCER - AFTER missing several games while away in South Africa, Talent Maphosa was the villain as he missed a penalty that cost Red Lions a spot in the last eight.

Red Lions held National First Division leaders Mbabane Citizens to a barren draw in a last 16 Ingwenyama Cup clash played at Killarney Sports Ground yesterday. The match went straight to penalties as per the rules

and regulations of the tournament and the visitors were made to hold their breath after SA born Thami Zulu missed the first penalty.

Red Lions heaved a sigh of relief after Citizens' Vusi Hlanze also missed their fourth penalty as the two sides were level again with one spare kick for both. It was former Red Lions player Senzo Dlamini, who took the last penalty for Citizens and was able to score, putting his team on the advantage.

Then Maphosa stepped up for Red Lions only for his kick to be saved by Citizens keeper Sandile 'Onyango' Dlamini.

Coming to the match, Citizens had the chance to wrap the game in normal time but Mancoba Vilakati demon-

strated a 'how not to score' syndrome when he received a clinical pass from Vusi Hlanze in the box but missed from close range.

Red Lions' closest chance at goal came in the last minute of the game through Mthokozisi Hlatjwako, who let fly a stunning shot at the edge of the box but Citizens goalkeeper Sandile Dlamini made a superb to keep his team in the match.

Both teams failed to score until the referee blew the final whistle and the match went straight into penalties.

Citizens and Milling Hotspurs are the only NFD sides to have made the cut to the top eight of the tournament and the victory for Citizens stretched their unbeaten run to 14 in all competitions this season.

Citizens' focus on gaining promotion

SOCCER - DESPITE making it to the quarterfinals of the Ingwenyama Cup tournament, Mbabane Citizens' main focus is gaining promotion to the Premier League at the end of the season.

This was revealed by the team's head coach Herbert Maruwa after his side knocked Red Lions out of the tournament yesterday.

The Zimbabwe-born mentor said making it to the last eight of the competition was a bonus for them as the main priority was gaining promotion to elite league next season. "I am very happy we managed to beat Red Lions and I believe

we could have wrapped the game in 90 minutes. However, our main focus is not in the tournament but on gaining promotion to the elite league," he said.

The Zimbabwean is yet to lose a match since joining the NFD side and the team has gone 12 games unbeaten in the league campaign.

On the other hand, his counterpart Red Lions coach Mlamuli 'Sputla' Zwane said his players fared well in the first half but they were sloppy in the second stanza.

"Penalties are a dice but well done to Citizens; they put up a good showing," he said.

WEEKEND RESULTS

SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP

| | | |
|----------|-----|-------------------|
| Tinyosi | 1-2 | Manzini Wanderers |
| Madlenya | 0-2 | Royal Leopard |
| Tambuti | 0-2 | Mbabane Swallows |
| Vovovo | 0-1 | Young Buffaloes |
| Citizens | 0-0 | Red Lions |

(Citizens won 4-3 after penalties)

| | | |
|------------------|-----|---------------------|
| Milling Hotspurs | 1-0 | Mbabane Highlanders |
| Green Mamba | 2-2 | Moneni Pirates |

(Mamba won 6-5 after penalties)

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|
| Hlatikulu Tycoons | 2-2 | Manzini Sundowns |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|

(Sundowns won 5-3 after penalties)

ABSA Premiership

| | | |
|------------------|-----|---------------------|
| Baroka FC | 3-1 | SuperSport United |
| Golden Arrows | 0-0 | Maritzburg United |
| Kaizer Chiefs | 1-0 | Ajax Cape Town |
| Bidvest Wits | 0-1 | Platinum Stars |
| Free State Stars | 2-1 | Orlando Pirates |
| Chippa United | 0-1 | Polokwane City |
| Sundowns | 4-1 | Bloemfontein Celtic |

PREMIER LEAGUE

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|-------------------|
| West Bromwich | 1-2 | Manchester United |
| AFC Bournemouth | 0-4 | Liverpool |
| Manchester City | 4-1 | Tottenham Hotspur |
| Stoke City | 0-3 | West Ham United |
| Chelsea | 1-0 | Southampton |
| Brighton & Hove | 0-0 | Burnley |
| Arsenal | 1-0 | Newcastle United |
| Watford | 1-4 | Huddersfield Town |
| Leicester City | 0-3 | Crystal Palace |

ITALIAN SERIE A

| | | |
|----------------|-----|----------|
| Bologna | 0-3 | Juventus |
| Fiorentina | 0-0 | Genoa |
| Sampdoria | 0-1 | Sassuolo |
| Crotone | 1-0 | Chievo |
| Hellas Verona | 3-0 | Milan |
| Roma | 1-0 | Cagliari |
| Torino | 1-3 | Napoli |
| Internazionale | 1-3 | Udinese |

SPANISH LA LIGA

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|------------------|
| Celta de Vigo | 0-1 | Villarreal |
| Girona | 1-0 | Getafe |
| Atlético Madrid | 1-0 | Deportivo Alavés |
| Eibar | 2-1 | Valencia |
| Athletic Club | 0-0 | Real Sociedad |

BUNDESLIGA

| | | |
|---------------------|-----|------------------|
| Hannover 96 | 4-4 | Bayer Leverkusen |
| Borussia Dortmund | 2-1 | Hoffenheim |
| Eintracht Frankfurt | 2-2 | Schalke 04 |
| Köln | 1-0 | Wolfsburg |
| Werder Bremen | 2-2 | Mainz 05 |
| Stuttgart | 0-1 | Bayern München |
| Augsburg | 3-3 | Freiburg |

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MONDAY DECEMBER 18, 2017



JOY AND PAIN IN INGWENYAMA CUP...

EIGHT LEFT STANDING



By Mphikeleli Msibi
Sports Editor

SOCCER - AFTER a dramatic Saturday of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup matches, normal service resumed yesterday as three Premier League sides advanced to the last eight of the competition.

Manzini Wanderers headlined yesterday's list of victors, with the Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe-led charges surviving a mini scare to edge National First Division side Tinyosi 2-1. Goals from trusted striker Kola Aladeon and skipper Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya at the Mayaluka Stadium in Big Bend ensured Wanderers' safe passage to the last eight.

In the preceding match at Mayaluka, Royal Leopard also joined the last eight party, beating First Division side Madlenya United 2-0, thanks to strikes from Lungelo Tsabedze and Siboniso 'Rocco' Malambe. At the Killamey Sports Ground in Pigg's Peak, Young Buffaloes were made to work for it but eventually downed fellow Premier League side Vovovo 1-0, courtesy of a Ndoda Mthethwa header.



GOAL: Vovovo goalkeeper Machawe Dlamini diving unsuccessfully to save Young Buffaloes' Ndoda Mthethwa's header. Young Buffaloes won the game 1-0 at Killarney Sports Ground to advance to the quarterfinals of the Ingwenyama Cup yesterday.

(Pic: Sabelo Majola)

Struggling Premier League side Red Lions were the biggest casualties of the day, losing out 4-3 on penalties to first Division pacesetters Mbabane Citizens.

ed Lions joined Moneni Pirates, Tambuti and Mbabane Highlanders as the Premier League casualties of the round of 16.

Highlanders' shock exit at the hands of giant killers Milling Hotspurs on Saturday stunned the local football fraternity. Milling had knocked out Matsapha United in the round of 32 in the previous weekend and their

match with Highlanders looked destined to be decided on penalties until substitute Lungelo Nyoni scored an injury time winner to stun the crowd at the King Sobhuza II Stadium and send the 'Black Bull' crashing out. Milling's status as giant killers is now firmly secured.

Hopes

Meanwhile, defending champions Mbabane Swallows made lightwork of Tambuti, beating them 2-0 and in the meantime keeping hopes of a third straight Ingwenyama Cup crown alive. Green Mamba's match

with Pirates was one of three decided on penalties this past weekend. Caleb Ngwenya's Mamba emerged victorious, winning 6-5 on penalties.

Manzini Sundowns were also given a run for their money by First Division side Hlatikulu Tycoons, who twice came from behind and forced the match to penalties where Sundowns kept their nerves to win 5-3.

So we have eight left standing now. The action will resume next year and it sure promises to get more and more exciting. Buckle up!

MID-WEEK FIXTURES

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE

Tomorrow at Mayaluka Stadium

| | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------|--------|
| Tambuti | vs | Highlanders | 6:30pm |
| Green Mamba | vs | Matsapha | 8:30pm |

On Wednesday at Mavuso Sports Centre

| | | | |
|-------------|----|----------------|--------|
| M. Sundowns | vs | Swallows | 6:30pm |
| Leopard | vs | Moneni Pirates | 8:30pm |

On Wednesday at Somhlolo National Stadium

| | | | |
|-----------|----|----------------|--------|
| Buffaloes | vs | Wanderers | 6:30pm |
| Red Lions | vs | Malanti Chiefs | 8:30pm |

On Wednesday at Prince of Wales

| | | | |
|------------|----|--------|-----|
| Midas City | vs | Vovovo | 4pm |
|------------|----|--------|-----|

'Downs' Melusi top of Ingwenyama Cup scorer's chart

By Sabelo Majola

SOCCER - MANZINI Sundowns goal poacher Melusi Mkhwanazi is at the top of the Ingwenyama Cup scorer's chart with four goals.

Mkhwanazi scored a brace when his side edged Hub Sundowns in the last 32 games and the youngster visited the net twice yet again when they

knocked Hlatikulu Tycoons out of the tournament in the last 16 games played over the weekend.

The tournament's Top Goal scorer stands to pocket a sum of E10 000 while last year's winner Mfanufikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze will not be defending the award as his side Mbabane Highlanders were eliminated by Milling Hotspurs on Saturday.

A number of players have

scored two goals, including Young Buffaloes' Ndoda Mthethwa and Manzini Wanderers' Kola Aladeon and they have a chance to surpass Mkhwanazi as their teams made it to the quarterfinals of the tournament.

A total of 65 goals have been scored so far in the tournament with 48 scored in the opening games while a total 17 were scored in the last 16 games.

THE LIST OF THE SCORERS:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| FOUR GOALS - | Melusi Mkhwanazi (Sundowns) |
| TWO GOALS - | Ndoda Mthethwa (Buffaloes) |
| | Kola Aladeon (Wanderers) |
| | Samkeliso Dlamini (Citizens) |
| | Mfanufikile Ndzimandze (Highlanders) |
| | Fabrice Mopina (Tambuti) |
| | Mathokoza Thwala (Leopard) |
| | Maswazi Dlamini (Tinyosi) |
| | Boy Dube (Tycoons) |
| | Sabbela Mohammed (Vovovo) |

