



The Right Place

The Right Sunday



MAY 21, 2017

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TAN SRI **HITS** TOWN!



The president and founder of the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology Tan Sri Dr Lim Kok Wing was mobbed by excited students of the university when he arrived on campus on Thursday. See more pictures and stories on Page 4. (Courtesy Pics)



**'I WAS
FIRED FOR
REFUSING
TO HIRE
CHARLES'**

PAGE 6

WHY OLIVEIRA WAS **KIDNAPPED**

- Fight over plot revealed
- He was seen with gun pointed to his head

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CLARIFICATION

OLIVEIRA HAD A FIGHT WITH ASIAN BUSINESSMEN

STORIES BY
MLONDI MPANZA

Details have emerged of what is believed to be the real reason Matsapha businessman, Almor Oliveira has been kidnapped.

According to close sources that spoke to the Sunday Observer, the Portuguese property owner had a fight with Asian businessmen over a plot about a year ago which saw him allegedly destroying vehicles belonging to the car dealers with an excavator.

The bone of contention is alleged to be the lease of the plot belonging to Oliveira by an unknown individual who swindled the Asian businessmen as he claimed ownership for the plot only for the actual property owner to make this discovery a while later while checking on his properties.

Warehouse

Oliveira owns several warehouses around Matsapha which members of the public around the industrial area described as having a blue roof. Incensed by the discovery, Oliveira allegedly approached the businessmen and asked about their presence for which they explained to him that they had a lease agreement to use the property.

Ordered

However, Oliveira allegedly ordered the Asians to remove their cars from his plot and they refused, which then led to him bringing an excavator to forcefully remove the vehicles and in the process damaging some of the cars. In fact, sources who were interviewed on Wednesday who claim to have witnessed the incident, explained that the excavator crushed two of the vehicles until they could not be recognised in full view of the public.

This, they said, happened after Oliveira had left having had an altercation with an Asian businessman who had been selling their cars at the property.

"We were shocked when the incident happened whilst we ran around doing our duties. We never really got an explanation on what was happening except stand at a distance in amazement," said one source that preferred to comment on condition of anonymity.

In addition, the sources revealed that the Asians neither reported the matter to the police nor publicised it and it is for this reason that they believed the kidnapping of Oliveira could be linked to this incident.

The incident that took place over a year ago is suspected to be linked to Oliveira's kidnapping after he allegedly destroyed cars which were displayed for sale by the Asian businessman after they had been fraudulently leased a piece of land belonging to him without his knowledge.



This is what remains of two vehicles that were allegedly crushed by kidnapped businessman, Almor Oliveira after they had been displayed on his property without his knowledge. (Pics: Mloni Mpanza)



Some of the cars that are lying idle at Oliveira's property in Matsapha.

"Although it has been over a year since the incident took place but the morning we read about Oliveira's kidnapping in the local newspapers, our suspicions led us to the two incidences which we strongly believe are linked," explained the sources.

Also, during the visit where the import cars were displayed by the Asians, a couple of them were found by the entrance next to the debris of the crushed vehicles whilst another four were parked on the far corner in a state that looks as though they had been unattended for a lengthy period.

The cars next to the debris, according to the sources, were later stripped for parts after they had been deemed to be in a bad state as well after the

incident.

Oliveira was kidnapped on April 16, in one of his properties in Matsapha after he had attended a church service after which his vehicle was discovered abandoned with blood stains in the seats with a further broken mirror.

Crew

This newspaper was directed to another car dealer who worked on the far end of another property belonging to Oliveira who they alleged could be linked to the Asians whose vehicles were destroyed since some of the vehicles are said to have been moved to his side.

When this car dealer was approached and queried about where he used to run his business, he was quick to ask what had happened that led to

such a question, despite that this reporter had not revealed his identity. It was further noted that all his vehicles appeared to be in a bad state, one worse than that which is normally seen in the used vehicles sold by most dealers in Matsapha.

A mechanic was also seen who our sources revealed that he was asked by the Asian car dealer to work from his space just in case a customer had a challenge with a car bought from him he could quickly sort it out.

On the same plot, there were other vehicles which were said to have been moved from the lot being sold because their engines could not start, however, the reasons behind this could not be ascertained.

Oliveira was seen with gun on head

Sources close to this publication have revealed that employees from one of the companies along the same street where Oliveira was kidnapped saw him with men of Asian origin pointing a gun at him on the day he was allegedly kidnapped. The employees, however, do not

want to come with the information in fear for their lives after witnessing the incident which they took lightly until they learnt of the kidnapping incident the following morning.

When they witnessed the incident, the employees are alleged to have been running their chores as they pass by

Oliveira's properties daily as their company is located along the same street.

"I have spoken to a couple of people who have all shared that they saw men of Asian origin on the fateful day pointing a gun on the businessman, but elected not to involve themselves

in the sensitive matter which could threaten their lives," the source told this newspaper.

When the Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba was contacted with regards to such information, he said they were at an advanced stage with their investigations and wouldn't divulge who they have spoken to.

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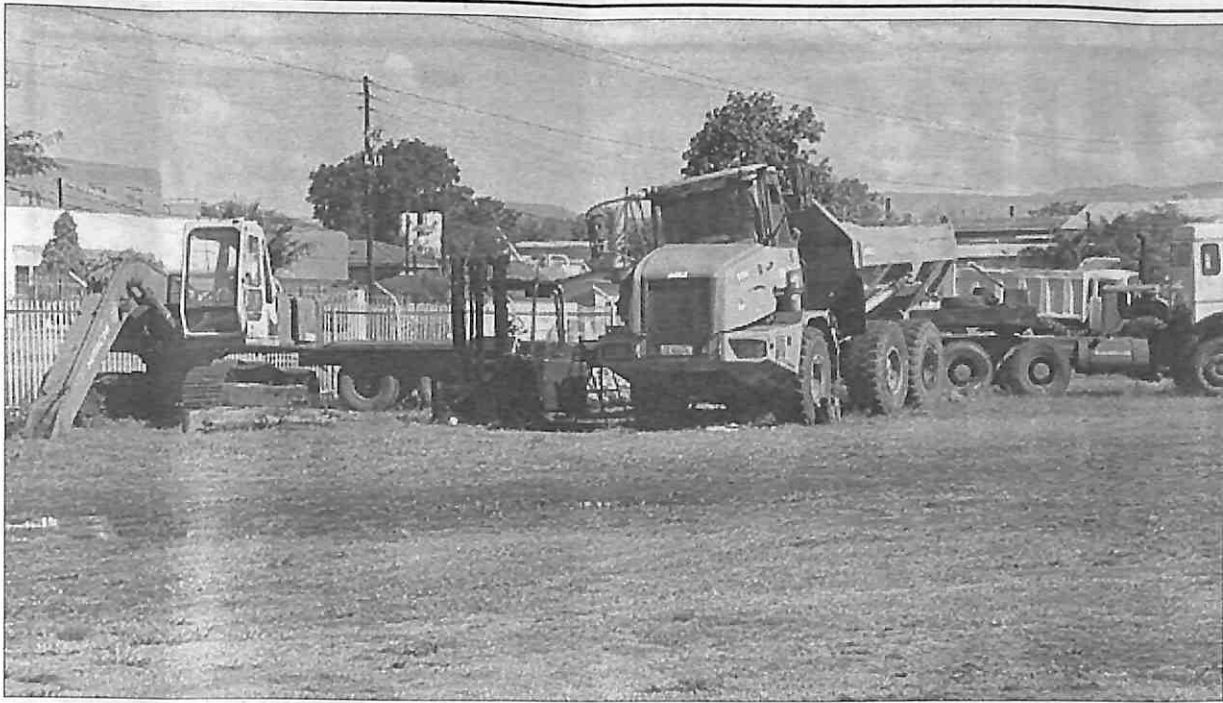
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Oliveira's machinery parked at his property where he allegedly destroyed two vehicles owned by Asian businessmen. He is said to have used one of the excavators to crush the cars.

36 days since Almor Oliveira was kidnapped

Today marks 36 days since Almor Oliveira was allegedly kidnapped from one of his company premises in a scuffle which left blood stains in his car, which was later found abandoned several hours after he was last seen.

The police have reportedly been working tirelessly to crack the case as they, from the onset, offered E150 000 as reward for information leading to finding the missing businessman. Over and above conventional investigating methods, the police requested the assistance from men of God to pray for them as was

witnessed last week at the Lobamba Police Station. During the said service, pastors prayed, not only for the businessman to be found but for the investigators to be guided in their quest.

Prayer

The prayer preceded a press conference where the National Commissioner Isaac Magagula revealed the arrest of two suspects with an additional person arrested a few days later. During another briefing on Friday, Magagula revealed there was a fourth suspect located in South Africa.

The suspects, an Asian couple, Ping

Ming of China and his wife Hau Dao of Vietnam have been charged with five counts and are currently remanded pending their bail application hearing on Friday.

Accused

The couple stands accused of the kidnapping and further charged with four counts for allegedly contravening the Arms and Ammunitions Act after being found in possession of a 9mm special revolver loaded with three live rounds of ammunition and Karatay 12 bore shotgun loaded with four rounds of live ammunition which they did not have a licence for.

They were arrested while at Ezulwini by the Lobamba police on April 28 and are allegedly linked to the kidnapping of the Portuguese property mogul.

Phones part of police investigations

As part of their investigations, the police have said that tracing cellphones was part of their investigations.

This was said by Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba in a brief interview after he had been asked if they had the resources and expertise to follow up on correspondences made via mobile gadgets when investigating a case.

The concern emanated from events of the past two weeks where the police told the Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi in the ongoing bail hearing

of the suspects in the Oliveira case that his wife Audilia had communicated with the kidnappers.

The kidnappers were alleged to have sent her a text message demanding E5 million ransom for the release of her husband who was kidnapped over a month ago after attending church.

Massage

The police further said Audilia replied to the message and pleaded with the suspects to give her time whilst she organises the money.

All these messages were allegedly found in a phone that was in the pos-

session of suspects, Ping Ming and his wife Hau Dao.

Another instance is that of the late chief justice's escort driver, policeman, Mduduzi 'Schaza' Matsebula who was reported to have gone missing until he was found murdered at Buka this past week. When Matsebula was last seen, he is said to have received a call from people presumed to be his friends late at night who invited him to a drinking spree around Mbabane.

However, that was the last time he was seen until he was found dead in a river bank at Buka.

Swaziland not on ILO agenda

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Regional Director Dr. Joni Musambayana has revealed that Swaziland is safe and not in this year's agenda.

However, he pointed out that should anything dramatic happen in the next two weeks, the country will then find itself back in the final agenda for the conference to be held next month in Geneva, Switzerland.

This follows a visit by a team that had come to assess the progress made in relation to the legislative reforms that the country was expected to address, after the kingdom was removed from the special paragraph last year.

The recommendations were that the country reviews: the Public Order Bill, the Suppression of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, the Public Service Bill, the Correctional Services Bill, as well as the Code of Good Practice on Protest and Industrial Action.

Musambayana said Swaziland did not appear in the preliminary list which had been brought this month which meant there were very slim chances of the country being on the final list that can put it on the agenda this year in the ILO conference.

He stated that for fairness sake, the country needed time to make the necessary changes hence may not appear this year and speculated that it may be on the agenda next year.

"We appreciate the efforts made by government and we gathered that there have been consultations between the worker's unions and authorities. In as far as the benchmarks are concerned, we understand that they are now before Senate but we are anxious to seeing them being passed into law," he said.

Asked on their findings on the status of the country as per ILO's review, the director said they were generally satisfied hence the country will not be in the agenda "unless something drastic" happens in the next two weeks.

On the other hand,

when the Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula was asked on the progress made so far in relation to the above issues, she stated that the country was working around the clock to meet them before the ILO conference.

She pointed out that the ministry had adhered to the administrative benchmarks and Parliament was working around the clock to ensure that the legislative process is concluded.

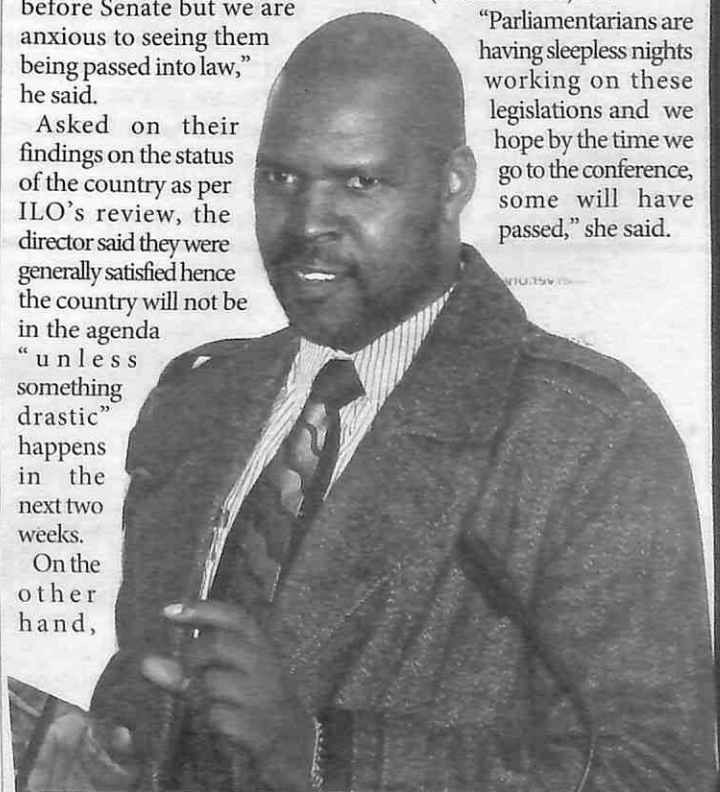
She highlighted that her ministry had completed the recommendation on the Code of Good Practice on Protest and Industrial Action and had also accepted and received the ILO finding mission which was in the country this month for a week. Magagula stated that this team had made its assessment in the progress made and was still going to compile a report on how the country had performed since the last conference, which was in June last year.

Highlighted

Adding, she highlighted that none of the four Bills had been passed into law but there was a chance that by the time of the conference some may have been passed as she said considerable progress has been made in two of these which passed the committee stage and now awaiting the committee of the whole House.

The minister stated that these were the Correctional Services Bill, which passed the Senate committee stage on Friday and the Public Service Bill which had passed the similar stage a week ago. Magagula stated that the deliberations were still going on at the portfolio committee level on both the Public Order Bill and the Suppression of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill.

"Parliamentarians are having sleepless nights working on these legislations and we hope by the time we go to the conference, some will have passed," she said.



ILO Regional Director Dr. Joni Musambanyana.



Sources said some of the cars were moved from where the businessman allegedly crushed two vehicles meant for sale. They alleged this was another of Oliveira's properties behind where he destroyed the vehicles.

UN HONOURS LIMKOKWING PRES, FOUNDER

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

The United Nations (UN) has honoured Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Lim Kok Wing, the founding President of Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (LUCT).

He has been honoured with an invitation to be a member of the World Federation of Friends of the UN, as well being awarded as the 'Salver of Honour,' in recognition of his outstanding work in providing global leadership in promoting peace and alleviation of poverty through the delivery of high quality education programmes throughout the world.

The UN has also honoured Tan Sri with the Global Leadership role with the organisation, a body made up of the world's most influential leaders and global network of Friends of the UN that supports principles and programmes of the UN and to assist in the formation and agenda of the organisation.

The university is also a certified member of the UN Academic Impact (UNAI) for its commitment to UN's 10 principles being valued also.

The UNAI is a global initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the UN in furthering the realisation of the purposes and mandate of the organisation through activities and research in a shared culture of intellectual social responsibility.

The principles are the commitment to the UN Charter, human rights, educational opportunity for all, higher education opportunity for every interested individual and capacity building in higher education systems.

Resolution

In addition is commitment to the global citizenship, peace and conflict resolution, addressing poverty, sustainability and the 'unlearning' of intolerance.

According to the Members of Council and Management of Limkokwing University Worldwide, the president



Limkokwing founder and President Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr Lim Kok Wing met with Princess Sikhanyiso during his visit. (Courtesy pics)



The United Nations has honoured the Limkokwing president with awards such as 'The Salver of Honour,' in recognition for his outstanding work in providing Global Leadership.

got the 'Salver of Honour' award for being an exemplary Malaysian that brings many countries honours with his creative expertise and innovative spirit in transformational education which today empowers the next generation of young people who will change the environment they live in and confidently compete in the globalised world.

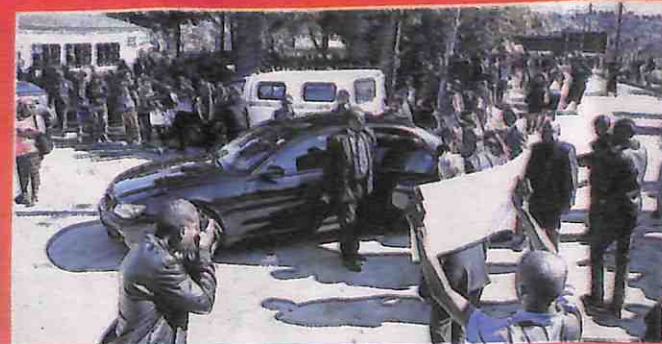
Also, Tan Sri's appointment as the first Technical, Vocational, Education and Training (TVET)

United Kingdom President has accelerated his transform Africa initiative which has had immense impact in the countries he sets up campuses where

he brought international quality education where it is most needed.

The Limkokwing president is further Malaysia's Goodwill Ambassador and Malaysia's first International Peace Ambassador which are recognitions by the Government of Malaysia for his role in fighting poverty, creating jobs, fostering business development and promoting peace.

Amongst his honours, the president is also the Malaysian Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and an advisor to the President of Sierra Leone, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma.



Students carried posters with messages welcoming the president to the campus where he met them and the SRC.

...Tan Sri hits town

The Limkokwing president, popularly referred to as 'Tan Sri,' has for the past four days been touring the country on a business visit.

This is according to the Swaziland University's Zakhe Mabuza who said the president arrived on Wednesday and is leaving today.

During his visit, Tan Sri has had meetings with His Majesty King Mswati III, Cabinet ministers and Limkokwing management. On Friday, he also met with Students' Representative Council of Limkokwing and students at the university campus in Sidvashini.

Having arrived on Wednesday, the founding president was seen attending the dispersing of the regiment by the King at Ngabweni Royal Residence where they had convened for the past six weeks, harvesting His Majesty's sorghum fields.

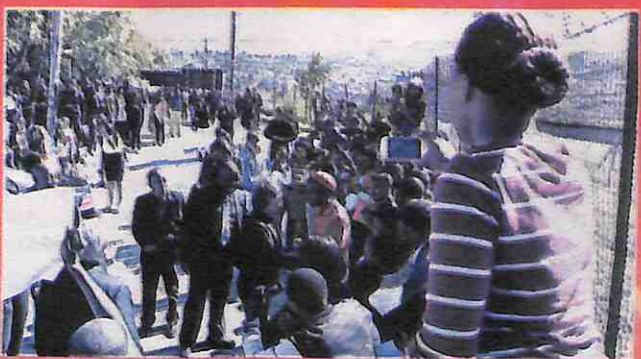
Meanwhile, Tan Sri has been tasked with the responsibility of setting up the SADC University of Transformation in the country which was launched by the

King during last year's SADC Summit staged in the country as the King took over the Chairmanship. After the announcement of the university by the King, Limkokwing promised that they will make sure to deliver the institution before this year's SADC Summit to be held in South Africa.

Identified

In fact, they promised to have the first intake of students prior to the 37th SADC Summit working with the government of Swaziland, with the facility still to be identified where the SADC University will be housed, according to our sister publication, the Swazi Observer daily of September 2, 2016.

Limkokwing's Professor Cedric Bell said the SADC University intended to offer training across the whole vista of key disciplines, germane to strategic goals of SADC, including but not restricted to governance, leadership, infrastructure, building, health care, skills enhancement, disaster management and food security.



The president exchanging pleasantries with Limkokwing students at as some captured the special moment.



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SIGOMBENI CHIEFDOM 'SLEEPING AT RA OFFICES'

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Manzini Regional Administrator (RA) Prince Gcokoma and Sigombeni Royal kraal said they were tired of the fighting over the position of the acting chief by two factions in the area.

The Prince said it was too early for Sigombeni chieftdom to be fighting for the chieftancy position as it has recently lost the head.

The RA revealed to the Sunday Observer that the factions had now made his offices their home as they alternate over the position of an acting chief with each party presenting its own candidate. He said a lot is not going well in the chieftdom following that it is currently not clear who is overseeing the area.

Appointed

He said traditionally there is usually an elder family member who is appointed while the chief is alive to work with the chief and then oversee the family and the area in the event the chief passes on till another is installed.

This he said was as a result of the councils' failure to meet and resolve their differences and appointing the

rightful person to be an acting chief following the death of Chief Lomngeletjane in May last year.

The RA revealed that he was now tired of summoning the factions to meet as he had now left it to both parties to find common ground and return to him in accord.

The Prince said the Emalangeni know their history and extended family therefore should meet and sort this matter.

Rightful

A senior Princess from the chieftdom Maphiase claimed that the family of the chief submitted and had registered the rightful candidate for the position of the acting chief being Phikisiwe on September 10, 2016 to the Regional administrator who refuses to acknowledge her.

According to her, Phikisiwe is the rightful acting chief of Sigombeni. She stated to her surprise, till this day he has failed to announce their candidate despite having instructed her (Maphiase) to write such two days after they had appointed her.

She claimed that chief Gcokoma had adopted a 'chameleon stand' by changing positions. She claimed chief Gcokoma was misleading the Sunday



Manzini RA
Prince Gcokoma.

Observer by denying knowledge of the appointment of Phikisiwe as acting chief by the family council.

She said this was so because they

later saw the candidate from the other faction being raised by the *Indvuna* while at the RA's offices in a newspaper article. She said this made her

boycott meetings summoned by the prince.

When asked on what grounds does her faction say Phikisiwe is the rightful candidate, she stated she belonged to the household of the late Chief Lomngeletjane and claimed that Phikisiwe had been nominated in a meeting of the family council.

Heir

She also mentioned the late chief was an heir to the chief having been born from Chief Msukusuku's Inkhosikati LaMalaza therefore it would be wrong for someone from another household to be an acting chief other than her sister.

She further revealed that the parties were at loggerheads saying that they didn't even want to meet which frustrated causing the squabbles as there has been a lot of fighting for the position. She mentioned that it was unfortunate that the case had not been amicable resolve in court.

Detail

Attempts to find a representative of the other faction proved futile by the time of compiling this report as the contact details of the rightful person to comment were not found.

The dispute over the installation of the acting chief of the Sigombeni has been going on since the passing away of the chief in May last year.

Since then there have been several wrangles within the factions which have led to them taking the matter to court where the matter is reportedly referred to the office of the attorney general.

No Kusile Breakfast Show after suspension of crew driver

...The show's presenters could not make it to the show after the designated driver for picking them up for the early morning show was allegedly suspended by Swazi TV with no alternative plan being put

BY MLONDI MPANZA

On Friday morning, viewers of Swazi TV were left shocked after the morning showing, Kusile Breakfast Show (KBS) was not aired.

This led to an outcry from some viewers who vented their frustration on Facebook and questioned why the show had not been aired when the Swaziland Television Authority (STVA) was putting pressure on TV owners to pay their TV licences.

According to sources, the reason behind this was that the show's presenters allegedly could not make it on time for the show that starts at 6am ending at 8am after the suspension of their driver without an alternative plan being put in place.

In efforts to correct this oversight, a call is alleged to have been made to one of the station's photo-journalist who was requested to stand-in for the driver and eventually took the presenters to work over an hour late upon which they found guests that had come for the show already at the station with no one telling them what was going on.

The driver was allegedly suspended a week ago after he was involved in an accident at Sidvashini whilst driving a company car where he was hit by a motorist. Although, he was not found to be on the wrong the driver is alleged to have been later discovered to have been under the influence of alcohol when the accident happened hence he has been suspended from work for 30 days pending his disciplinary hearing.

"I think there was a lack of communication on

who should pick the presenters up for work hence the confusion that happened. The guests were left stranded at Swazi TV offices and the sad part is that some of them came from as far as Nhlanguano and Hlathikhulu only to be turned back for such a mistake," said the source.

Efforts to contact the stations' Public Relations Officer, Nomcebo Mbhamali proved futile as her phone rang unanswered when called yesterday, after which Mncedisi Mayisela was also called and said he was not aware of the matter and referred questions to the Chief Executive Officer, Bongani 'Sigcok'siyancinca' Dlamini who also did not answer his phone.

Frustrated viewers expressed themselves on Facebook, the conversation was joined by a viewer who is assumed to be a Cabinet minister based on her pictures in the profile who said it was shocking this was happening yet they were expected to pay TV licences.

"Then we have to pay TV licences. They are undermining us. No excuse, no comment we are really taken for granted," she said.

Another viewer said that he had given up on the station a long time ago because it was led by people with no vision and had turned the station into a joke. The viewers said what was happening was unfortunate and the worse part was that on Thursday, instead of running news bulletins, Swazi TV had people advertise events.

This is even though the government supported students to do courses such as Film Production, Creative Multimedia and Broadcasting in one of the country's tertiary institutions who should be improving the government owned station but none of such was happening.

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'I WAS FIRED FOR NOT REINSTATING CHARLES NDLOVU'

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

Fired Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC) Board Chairman, Simon Mthunzi has let the cat out of the bag about his dismissal.

Although he claims there are many reasons behind his dismissal, he says one of these was that he declined to reinstate fired SPTC Manager Charles Ndlovu, who was an alleged ally of the Minister of Information, Communications and Technology Dumisani Ndlangamandla. In an interview with the Sunday Observer yesterday, he said he wanted to set the record straight about this after the minister did not provide any reasons why he had taken this decision reported by our sister publication, the *Swazi Observer* daily on Friday.

Mthunzi was reported to have been replaced by the former Chief Executive Officer of the Swaziland Industrial Development Corporation, Dr. Tambo Gina who was appointed a month ago.

Ndlovu, who held the position of Senior Manager Sales and Marketing, was fired after he had been charged for dishonesty following the leaking of documents about last year's Swazi Telecom Charity tournament voting process where he denied that they were in the care and custody of his department.

He was also charged with failure to secure the documents and to take remedial action. Although he was acquitted and discharged of all the charges, SPTC Managing Director Petros Dlamini later sought for a review in the manager's disciplinary hearing where he was subsequently fired despite that he had been found not guilty by the hearing.

Since Ndlovu's dismissal, Mthunzi told this newspaper that he has been receiving correspondences from the minister requesting him to reinstate

● In one of the meetings, the Minister of Information, Communications and Technology Dumisani Ndlangamandla, is alleged to have told the board he was going to replace Mthunzi after the minister was queried why his actions seemed to be anti-SPTC.



Sacked Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporation Board Chairman Simon Mthunzi.

the dismissed manager.

He said the last correspondence was in March where he told Ndlangamandla he will not do that since it was against the law.

Correspondences

"Ndlangamandla was careful with his correspondences in that he only called and never wrote anything supposedly to protect himself. He would beg me to reinstate Ndlovu, stating that I was the board chairman and had the power to overrule the decision taken against

the manager," alleged Mthunzi.

He further revealed that considering such developments, the board took a stand that they will not involve themselves in lower management issues as their duties were to look after the institution and hire or fire the MD only.

"Had I acted positively, maybe I would still be in the board," exclaimed the former Ka-Boyce principal as he added that the minister was wrong to claim he had the right to appoint and dismiss the board.

In fact, Mthunzi pointed out that the minister did not have a right to approach and beg him to join the board in the first place, only to fire him when he discovers he was an upright person.

This is because the dismissed board chairman alleges that his dismissal had to do with the fact that he was not the kind of person that Ndlangamandla thought he was, one that would be a puppet and do whatever he was ordered to, whether right or wrong.

Humiliation

Because of not complying with Ndlangamandla's orders, he said all he earns was a humiliation from the minister who has fired him with less than two months left on his three-year contract.

When the minister was sought for comment, he disputed these claims made by Mthunzi which he said he did not want to even entertain.

He explained that he had made it clear before that he will not entertain anything that has to do with Ndlovu because the latter was a resident of Ngudzeni in the Shiselweni region where Ndlangamandla was a Member of

...MINISTER BLOCKED BOARD FROM SEEING KING, PM

On another note, the former SPTC Board Chairman, Simon Mthunzi alleged that the minister has on several occasions blocked the board from seeking audience with His Majesty King Mswati III and the Prime Minister, Dr. Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini. Mthunzi said they made the efforts to see the authorities after noting that the minister seemed to be anti-SPTC judging from his stand on issues that touched on the corporation. "Whenever we tried to meet *labadzala* as SPTC, he would try and block us, as a result that hasn't happened up to date," alleged the former board chairman.

In one of the meetings, Mthunzi alleged that as the board they made this frustration known to the minister who did not take kindly to this despite that his actions spoke otherwise. Ndlangamandla is alleged to have 'exploded' in the meeting and told the board that he was going to replace the chairman and won't allow them to see the PM.

This was allegedly even though the premier had called for a meeting with the board following the decision to stall the negotiations to pull out of the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with Swazi

MTN.

However, the minister pointed out that he had appointed the board and they had to respect him and not go behind his back to see either the PM or King.

"All the board does is to make recommendations to the minister who then takes the decision and not tell him what to do," stated Ndlangamandla.

Authorities

He said, if that happened, the board should understand they would be going against the law as they cannot just decide they want to see authorities without him as the minister. Meanwhile, Mthunzi also said he regretted ever working with Ndlangamandla in his life.

Whilst he enjoyed working with the board and SPTC, he said the past two years have been terrible in as far as working with the minister is concerned.

He said he felt bad about what Ndlangamandla had done to him and did not wish this to happen to anyone.

He also pointed out that the minister did not have the right to appoint boards, as such prerogative rested with the Cabinet after he had made suggestions on the candidates he thought would fit in the board.

Parliament, and therefore, did not want to interfere.

Meanwhile, Ndlovu was fired last year at SPTC, a company which he had been a part for the past 14 years.

Reports

After reports of the leak of classified documents, Ndlovu was suspended together with Manager Telecentre Muntu Dlamini and Supervisor Telecentre Nomvuyo Dlamini after they were suspected to have been behind this, but the two managers were later cleared and he was left alone to face disciplinary proceedings.

The disciplinary hearing found him not guilty and acquitted him of all charges, but the SPTC MD felt that there had been irregular-

ities in the process and that warranted for a review.

One of the reasons forwarded by the MD before finding Ndlovu guilty and dismissing him was that the chairman's findings in the disciplinary hearing warranted summary dismissal due to irretrievable breakdown of the trust relationship between Ndlovu and the corporation. He also said he did not accept the findings of the chairman of the disciplinary tribunal because he did not apply his mind to the evidence brought before him. After several engagements between the corporation and Ndlovu's lawyers, the MD set aside all the not guilty verdicts issued by the chairman and found him guilty in all of them.

...Appointment of Gina at SPTC for transitional processes - Minister



Minister of Information, Communications and Technology Dumisani Ndlangamandla.

The Minister of Information, Communications and Technology Dumisani Ndlangamandla, has set the record straight on why he has appointed a new board chair at SPTC.

He says this is only a transitional step to ensure continuity when a new board is appointed in July after the elapse of the three year period held by the incumbent board.

This was after he had been asked what may have prompted the decision to replace the former Chairman Simon Mthunzi with Dr. Tambo Gina despite that the former's term was less than two months from end-

ing.

"Just as appointments are made by the minister, it is also at his discretion to make any changes where he seems fit," emphasised Ndlangamandla. He also made reference to the Public Enterprise Act on appointing boards which he said was clear on the fact that no member was allowed to have a term longer than three years, of which in this case Mthunzi was at the verge of completing his term.

Mthunzi was appointed by Ndlangamandla in July 2014 in the board consisting of himself as chair with Richard Sikhondze, Gibson

Hlophe, Junior Achievement's Nokukhanya Gamedze, Mhlabuhlangene Dlamini, Vumile Dlamini and Petros Dlamini, SPTC MD, also part of it.

Convene

Having been appointed a month ago, Gina was reported by our sister publication, the *Swazi Observer* daily on Friday to have already been introduced to the rest of the board and the executive team at the SPTC.

However, the former chief executive officer of the Swaziland Industrial Development Corporation (SIDC) is yet to convene his first board meeting as chair.

Unlike the rest of the board members, Ndlangamandla stated that the incoming chair's three-year term will not be elapsing in July and this was meant to ensure that by the time new members are appointed, he would have acquainted himself with the concept and what is happening in the board.

Mthunzi's replacement comes at a time when SPTC is going through turbulent times as the parastatal has been stopped from pulling out of a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with Swazi MTN that will allow it to venture into the mobile telephone industry.

CONFUSION OVER PS' SEAT IN SNYC BOARD

STORIES BY ZWELETHU
DLAMINI

There is confusion on the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Principal Secretary, Prince Mlayeto occupying a seat in the Swaziland National Youth Council (SNYC) board.

The confusion was confirmed by the PS and the Minister David Ngcamphalala who said he had even been to the Public Enterprise Unit (PEU) to seek clarity over the matter, whilst the PS referred this newspaper to the PEU Act.

The PEU Act only provides that, "the principal secretary in the ministry of finance or his representative shall be a full member of the governing body of each category A public enterprise," and, therefore, independent sources told this newspaper that the PS of youth sitting in the board might be against the legislation.

When sought for clarity, PEU Director

● The PEU Act only provisions that, "the principal secretary in the ministry of finance or his representative shall be a full member of the governing body of each category A public enterprise," and, therefore, independent sources told this newspaper that the PS of youth sitting in the board might be against the legislation.

Busangani Mkhalihi said that whilst the PEU Act only provided that the ministry of finance be represented in all the bodies of the 49 entities, the line PS has a right to be part of the board based on a separate piece of legislation establishing the entity.

However, she noted that in some bodies of these entities, the PS or his representative sits on the boards of the line ministry which she pointed out that there was nothing wrong with such and further mentioned that in some cases the PS could sit in more than one board.

Asked if this did not compromise corporate governance, the director

said it did not as the chairperson oversaw the board, therefore, they would resolve disputes among the board and the entity.

Disputes

She also said in case the board complained about the chairperson, then the minister will intervene as the chairperson reports to the minister not only on disputes but also on progress.

In an interview this past week, the minister said the PS's appointment to the board was done in accordance with a policy within the ministry that he found already in place when he took office.



Prince Mlayeto and Minister David Ngcamphalala.

Probed how the PS was expected to resolve disputes within the board if he also formed part of, he said this question came to his mind to and had also requested clarity on a similar issue on Monday from the PEU.

On the other hand, when drawn for comment on Thursday, Prince Mlayeto admitted that he was a member of the board as outlined by the Act and referred this newspaper to seek clarity from the director of PEU.

Further, sources who spoke to this newspaper revealed that there was no such legislation establishing the Swaziland National Youth Council, only a Bill which was still with the office of the attorney general.

This has, therefore, been interpreted by some members of the board as not appropriate for the PS to sit in the board in the absence of such legislation.

According to the source, some members are of the view that the PS should be represented by the director pending finalisation of the Bill. Asked about the presence of another piece of legislation establishing the entity, the Chairperson Fisiwe Vilane said she was only aware that SNYC was established by PEU Act and relied only on it. "All parastatals are established by the PEU Act that's basic, there is no other legislation that I am aware of", she said.

STILL NO SUBSTANTIVE CEO AT SNYC

Meanwhile, there is still no substantive chief executive officer at SNYC.

This is according to the board Chair, Fisiwe Vilane who said the process of recruiting a substantive CEO had not yet been concluded, pending the acceptance of the proposed contract by the Acting CEO, Makhosami Dlamini.

"We are at an advanced stage of appointing a CEO for the organisation. The board nominated a candidate for the position through the right structures and we got the approval through a Cabinet paper. The draft contract has been shared with the candidate and once signs and accepts it, such process will be complete," said the chair.

Similar sentiments were also shared by Dlamini who said he was acting on the position as there was no instrument that confirmed him as the substantive CEO.

This is despite the minister saying a substantive CEO had been appointed at SNYC a while ago.

Ngcamphalala said in as far as he was concerned, there was no acting CEO at SNYC since he approved the appointment of Dlamini.

Queried on what reasons could have led to Dlamini addressing himself as the act-



Acting CEO Makhosami Dlamini.

ing on the position, the minister maintained that he was a CEO, not acting as he said he had 'blessed' his appointment some time ago.

Effect

Further probed on the allegations that Dlamini may have not received an instrument to that effect, Ngcamphalala said he had done his part, only the board had to fulfil theirs.

Of note, well-placed sources within the ministry revealed that Dlamini had refused to sign a contract following dis-

pute over his remuneration package and misrepresentation of facts about his time in the office as he served as the acting CEO.

"He is refusing to sign the contract that has been prepared for him as he argues that there was no true representation of facts pertaining to the time he started acting," the source alleged.

Sought for comment on this allegation, Dlamini refused to comment directing questions to the chairperson of the board.

MANAGING DIRECTOR: TOTAL SWAZILAND

TOTAL Swaziland is looking for a suitable candidate to fill the position of **MANAGING DIRECTOR**.

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General Management: to ensure the profitable operating of the affiliate

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- To initiate new business development axes for Total Swaziland
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- To be Total's representative in Swaziland
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For more information or to apply please email:
ms.tsa-recruitment@total.co.za before 26 May 2017.



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UNISWA lecturers' groundbreaking research on rodents

BY VUYILE DLAMINI

Two lecturers from the Biological Sciences Department at the University of Swaziland have made a groundbreaking research on rodents.

Themb'alilahlwa Mahlaba of the Biological Sciences Department at the University of Swaziland, together with Professor Ara Monadjem a colleague in the same department has been researching rodent management in the Lobamba area.

In 2007, together with colleagues from the University of Greenwich, National Museum of Namibia, Sokoine University (Tanzania) and Agricultural Research Council (South Africa) and the Durban Natural Science Museum (South Africa), Dr Mahlaba and Prof Monadjem embarked on a project named ECO-RAT which was aimed at ecologically friendly management of rats.

Through this project strategies to minimize rodent impacts in agricultural plantations and around the homestead were crafted, tested and applied with very positive results. The main tool in use here was a specially adapted rat trap which when applied at the right time and place markedly reduced rat numbers in around homesteads as well as in plantations. The only confounding factor here was availability of the traps as these are sold by only one company in South Africa and retailers in Swaziland do not stock this type of trap. In 2014 the team embarked on another project, STOPRATS – which aimed at stopping rodent impacts in and around homesteads and agricultural plantations. STOPRATS stands for Sustainable Technologies to Overcome Pest Rodents in Africa through Science. This time the team from ECORAT was joined by scientists from Madagascar and Sierra Leone.

Dr. Mahlaba and Prof. Monadjem were joined by Prof. Bob McCleery from the University of Florida and Prof. Steve Belmain from the



UNISWA Lecturer Themb'alilahlwa Mahlaba.

University of Greenwich, the University of Swaziland has links with both these institutions, in trying to find a cost effective way to reduce rat activity in homesteads. The starting point was exploring the impact of cats on rodent activity, and this was found to be ineffective. Further research revealed that dogs were also not effective in reducing rat activity. But a surprising finding was that the combination of cats and dogs drastically reduced rodent activity. Rat activity was determined by use of giving up densities. Rats will search for food and spend as much time in any area searching depending on food availability and how safe they feel in that area. Where they feel safe they will spend a lot of time eating large amounts of the food and the converse is also true. The food in this experiment was a mixture of 50 peanuts buried in sand in a lunch box. In homesteads with cats almost all the peanuts were eaten whereas in homesteads with cats and dogs very few peanuts were eaten if any. This finding is considered a major revelation and overturns traditionally held beliefs that cats are effective in managing rodents. The work done has been published in PLOS ONE (<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0171593>) which is an international journal that is highly regarded in the scientific community.

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Suitable candidates with relevant experience are invited to apply for a post as retail manager.

Duties to include the following:

- managing and motivating the team to increase sales and ensure efficiency;
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- using information technology to record sales figures, for data analysis and forward planning
- ensuring standards for quality;
- customer service

Applications must be emailed to info@destinygroup.co.sz or hand delivered at Destiny Group Mbabane.

Deadline for submission is 26 May 2017.

DOC:13668

UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL; MBA ALLIANCE LADIES TOLD

BY VUYILE DLAMINI

Married and unmarried young women were yesterday trained on how to unleash their potential in life and not let their background take them down.

This was during the first of its kind event titled, 'Unleashing your potential as a lady', was hosted by the Mbabane Alliance Church (MBAC), aimed at motivating married and unmarried women alike, to train their minds to use their strengths as women to unleash their potential, despite their backgrounds.

Speaking at the event held at the Mountain Inn, Alliance's Reverend Johannes Mazibuko said as grown women, they should now unleash a positive turnaround in every aspect of their lives.

Mazibuko referenced his remarks to a Bible verse taken from Job 8:7 which reads that, "And though you started with little, you will end with much."

He said that God knew why He wired ladies in the way He did. Mazibuko explained that it was time for women to realize that they had qualities that could be harnessed and lead them to successes throughout all spheres of their lives.

"One of the things that women can do to achieve this is through maintaining a positive self image, which will allow them to harness their own style and increase their self confidence," he said.

Mazibuko stated that removing negative thinking could allow them to make the right decisions and allow positive turnarounds in their lives.

He said women should take advantage of the treasures that the 21st Century holds and educate themselves every chance they get and should not allow past experiences and their backgrounds restrain them from reaching their full potential and should embrace the future and what it holds.

Further, those present during the breakfast meeting were encouraged to realise their potential in being pillars in the church and seek refuge in the Church and see it like a second home.

Mazibuko reminded the women of the verse from Job 8:7, that although they might have started off with nothing, if they heed the Word of God, they will end up with much more than they started with.

"Women should embrace the fact that they were created by God and should believe in Him and His Word. They were created with a purpose and should

● "Women should embrace the fact that they were created by God and should believe in Him and His Word. They were created with a purpose and should firstly, believe in what they want to do, act on that urge, seek relevant information and lastly, have the courage to implement their ideas"



Reverend Johannes Mazibuko addressing the ladies on how they can unleash their potential.



Pinky Sibandze, Memory Mhlanga and guest speaker Nombulelo Shongwe sharing a light moment during the breakfast meeting.

firstly, believe in what they want to do, act on that urge, seek relevant information and lastly, have the courage to implement those ideas. I encourage women, married, or unmarried, to walk tall and remove leashes such as sin, ignorance, past experiences and their upbringing. These leashes restrain their true potential and blind them to the future they are capable of. Ladies, please embrace the qualities that already exist in you that can allow help you to develop and

be successful in this world," Mazibuko concluded. Also speaking at the event, Nombulelo Shongwe relayed pertinent motivational business advice to women who were interested in starting their own businesses and she gave them advice on how to succeed as women in business.

The event was graced by prominent members of the Mbabane Alliance Church and guests from churches around the country.



A section of the guests listening attentively during the breakfast meeting yesterday.

PM SAYS THANK YOU

BY MBONGENI MBINGO

The Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini has told this newspaper that he received an overwhelming amount of support on his 75th birthday, which warmed his heart.

As such, the premier said he was extremely humbled by the love that people showed him on his special day, saying this was more than he had expected.

In a brief interview, the PM revealed he had so many messages of good wishes on his birthday and he could not read them all on the same day!

The prime minister is still in Taiwan for a medical operation, and therefore is six hours ahead of the local time zone, which meant that the messages started flowing in late in the night for him.

However, he said that he was going to find time to read all of the messages.

The PM's birthday was on Monday, May 15. In a special interview, the PM granted our sister paper, the Swazi Observer which was published on the day of his birthday, he said that he was excited at turning 75 years old and said that such a day reminded him of the commitment to maximise on each day.

Equally, he said a life of 75 years is split into three – ideally; the first 25 years growing and receiving an education, the next 25 years developing a career and family and the third 25 years building on that and sharing one's knowledge and experience with others.

As a result, the PM said he was in good



Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini.

shape. "The numbers have changed but, physically, the feeling has not," he states, adding, "one year more on the chart but one day only in the body. Nevertheless, I am very grateful for having reached this age and to have enjoyed so many years of good health." In a telephone interview, the prime minister stated that he was overwhelmed by such warmth and love shown by Swazis.

"Obviously, this also extends to having to appreciate one's achievements in life, such as family," he added, pointing out that he was proud that he had brought up his children the right way.

"That they are all educated, married,

have children and some have grandchildren means that we did something good to bring up our children," said the PM.

This year also marks 40 years in politics for the prime minister, having served as a back bencher in Parliament for six years, as minister for finance for eight years, executive director of the International Monetary Fund for four years, and on the King's Advisory Council for five years, and served as Prime Minister for a total of 17 years over four terms in office. He is now working on his two autobiographies, which he says focus on the inspiration in his life.



Some of the ladies enjoying the delicious breakfast served at the event.



Comrade Magagula, Phetsile Nxumalo and Nelsiwe Dlamini were dressed to the nines and took a picture after the event.



VACANCY: SOCIAL WORKER

SOS Children's Villages is an International Child Development non-profit organization that provides care for children at risk of losing, as well as those who have lost parental care. The Member Association of Swaziland is currently serving at least 3500 children and this is done through two methods; Family Based Care, as well as Family Strengthening. The association is currently functioning in the four national regions and aims to expand its coverage in order to meet the needs of more children.

Applications are invited for the following vacancies: **SOCIAL WORKER(2)**, one to be based in Mbabane and the other in Nhlangu. Both on two (2) year renewable contracts.

Main Purpose of the Job

S/he provides guidance, advice and support to children, community care givers and SOS Mothers in the form of psychosocial support. The Social Worker also ensures that the procedures for admission/departure of children into and from the SOS Children's Village Programmes are properly followed; this is conducted through structured assessments. S/he works closely with relevant officers to plan appropriate curriculum and development of each child. Lastly, the Social Worker facilitates psychosocial support camps for children and care givers, and offers expert knowledge to community based organizations.

Qualification

- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Psychology or equivalent
- Has worked in an NGO for a minimum of 3 years
- At least 3 years relevant work experience in psychosocial support
- Drivers Licence

Work Experience

- Experience in child admission and departure processes and procedures of children in alternative care
- Experience in working closely with State Welfare Authorities and other external bodies who may provide services in child welfare
- Experience in individual and group counselling; rural, semi-urban and urban communities members
- Knowledge in community development as well as child development issues
- Knowledge on child rights as per UN Guidelines
- Knowledge of the UN Guidelines on Alternative Care
- Knowledge on child rights as per the Swaziland National Legislation
- Experience in or knowledge of child protection issues policies and guidelines

Skills Requirement

- Excellent report writing skills
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; fluent in English and siSwati
- Ability to maintain confidential information
- Work under minimal supervision
- Critical thinker and complex problem solver
- Conflict resolution skills
- Excellent organisational and analytical skills
- Computer literate

If you are interested in the above post(s), please send a detailed CV and letter of application to: The National Human Resource Manager, SOS Children's Villages at Nhlalakhe Villiers Street opposite Cashbuild delivery site Manzini or fax application to 2505 8491 or email to: wendile.zwane@sos-swaziland.org. Enclose a detailed CV and names of two most recent referees. If you are not contacted within 10 days of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

Closing date for applications is 25th May 2017

DOC:13585



VACANCY - NATIONAL FOSTER CARE PROGRAMME MANAGER

SOS Children's Villages is an International Child Development non-profit organization that provides care for children at risk of losing, as well as those who have lost parental care. The Member Association of Swaziland is currently serving at least 3500 children and this is done through two methods; Family Based Care, as well as Family Strengthening. The association is currently functioning in the four national regions and aims to expand its coverage in order to meet the needs of more children. As part of our planned support to the Government of Swaziland in ensuring that "No Child Should Grow Up Alone", in 2015, SOS Children's Villages International launched the It Takes Campaign, a visionary global initiative to engage leading thinkers and philanthropists. Because it truly takes a village to raise a child, the It Takes Campaign is forging powerful alliances between families, communities, governments and private donors. One of our projects includes supporting a National Foster Care Programme for Swaziland. The project is anchored within the Social Welfare Department.

Applications are invited for the following vacancy based at the SOS Children's Villages National Office:

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE PROGRAMME MANAGER

The ideal candidate will be hired on a two (2) year renewable contract.

Basic Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor of Social Work Degree or related field. A Master's Degree will be an added advantage
- Minimum of 6 consecutive years of experience; recent experience working in a public child and social welfare setting is required;
- Experience working with the Government of Swaziland is an added advantage;
- National child and social welfare organizational experience required;
- International and Regional frameworks on women and children
- Knowledge of child or social welfare policies and practices issues and trends
- Advanced knowledge of Alternative/Foster Care practices
- Advanced project management skills including experience in managing diverse teams of technical and non-technical members to achieve common goal
- Experience in developing and delivering trainings/workshops/webinars, facilitation and public speaking to a variety of audiences

Competencies:

- Strong writing skills - ability to synthesize and write about complex child and social welfare issues
- Ability to share knowledge, learnings and experiences
- Ability to work with technical working group, teams of communities of practise as well as outside clients and vendors
- Proven project management and organizational skills
- Knowledge of and experience using websites and internet databases to find information
- Proficiency in MS Office Applications (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel)
- Proposal development experience

Personal Attributes:

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Strong analytical, problem-solving and decision making capabilities; identify existing or potential problems and recommend solutions
- Team player with the ability to work in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to multi-task with various projects and responsibilities
- Demonstrate outstanding level of professionalism in providing administrative and fiscal responsibilities
- Sound organizational ethics, including the protection of proprietary and confidential information

If you are interested in the above post(s), please send a detailed CV and letter of application to: The National Human Resource Manager, SOS Children's Villages at Nhlalakhe Villiers Street opposite Cashbuild delivery site Manzini or fax application to 2505 8491 or email to: wendile.zwane@sos-swaziland.org. Enclose a detailed CV and names of two most recent referees. If you are not contacted within 10 days of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful. Closing date for applications is 25th May 2017.

DOC:13584

GENDER SUPREMACY CAUSE FOR VIOLENCE

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

The need to seem superior to the other in relationships is one of the reasons behind the rise in the number of cases on women violence, according to the country's gender rights activists.

Their statement comes after the murder of South African, Karabo Mokoena allegedly by his boyfriend, an action that led to an outburst on social media where users posted under the hashtag, '#MenAreTrash'.

In just a week of these outbursts, a rise in women killings was reported in the neighbouring country and the gender activists who spoke to this publication blame this on the need to be in a commanding position and showing supremacy over the other gender.

Mokoena was allegedly murdered by his boyfriend Sandile Mantsöe, who poured her with acid, petrol and later burnt her body after an altercation between the couple on April 27.

Silindelo Nkosi, the Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA), Communications and Advocacy Officer, told this newspaper that analysed data of cases indicated that

...Gender activists say enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill is the only solution to this scourge, locally.



SWAGAA
Communications and
Advocacy
Officer
Silindelo
Nkosi.

the need to be in a commanding position and showing supremacy over the other was the main causal factor of abuse, especially in the case of physical abuse.

Having been earlier reported as missing, news of Mokoena's death spread like fire on social media and in turn led to an outburst from women who shared their experiences at the hands of men and why they hated men.

Nkosi said both physical and emotional abuse were the most common

forms of abuse, mostly leading to the death of women and this is simply attributed by the orthodox mindset of society that women are physically and emotionally weaker than men.

"There is no question that domestic violence directed against women is a serious and bigger problem, but domestic violence against men is also increasing gradually in Swaziland and neighbouring countries," added Nkosi.

She explained that the supremacy of men in the society made one believe

that they were not vulnerable to domestic violence, however, battering of men by their spouses and family members has become a concerning issue and is another form of domestic violence under purview of judiciary.

Compared to violence against women, she said violence against men is less frequent but it has already taken a deadly shape in some countries, Swaziland included. Men generally hold back their emotions and, therefore, an abused men is bound to negatively react to the abuse by killing his partner.

On the other hand, the Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) National Director Colani Hlatshwayo attributed the violence to the patriarchal society, discriminatory practices and harmful notions of gender stereotyping which she said were the root cause of the situation.

She said women have been relegated to minority status, both in social perceptions and in the legal framework.

"The reasons we see a greater num-

ber of cases reported is because of the shift in societal perceptions and the rising awareness on human rights and the constitution which have created an environment where the abuse of women is no longer accepted and normalised in society," she said.

Further, she said the rise in cases reported in the media ran in tandem with the stiffer sentences meted out on the offenders by the courts than ever before. In addition, Nkosi said it was unfortunate that the situation was present everywhere and the worst part is that it is intensifying right under everyone's watch at home, but people choose to play ignorant and pretend as if all is well.

She said it is happening in both rural and urban areas, cutting across all social classes, gender and age groups and by ignoring it, it is a legacy gradually being passed on from one generation to the next.

Hlatshwayo added that the truly ill-fated part about this situation was that it is not entirely new.

"It may seem as though the cases are rising but the country has experienced high levels of violence against women for a long time.

The societal perception is what has truly changed, women are no longer regarded as mere property and violence against women is no longer an accepted part of life.

The stories are now receiving the attention they deserve and only now is the general population starting to understand the extent of the problem," she said.

...ENACTING SODV BILL ONLY SOLUTION

Meanwhile, it has been re-emphasised that the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill is the only solution to this scourge in Swaziland.

Although, changing the collective perception of a country is a daunting task but changing the status quo would be a significant step forward in terms of addressing this matter, according to Hlatshwayo.

She said increasing the active representation of women in decision making in all sectors and at all levels, as well as the enactment of legislation that would protect the rights of women, must happen if this behaviour is to be stopped.

"Women have always been at a disadvantage when it comes to accessing fair justice and the enactment of pending leg-

islation as well as the amendment of gender discriminatory laws, are activities that must be undertaken by the country if we are to correct this horrible situation," she explained.

Lawmakers

The WLSA national director made it clear that when lawmakers, authority holders and finally the general populace can view women as human beings and individuals with capabilities and the right to dignity as enshrined in the Constitution, then the environment would experience a shift and the current damaging stereotypes permeating throughout society would be discarded.

Adding was SWAGAA's Nkosi who shared that the bill will protect citizens of the kingdom in that it gives effect to cer-

tain rights which are enshrined in the Constitution of Swaziland Act of 2005, including the right to equal protection by the law, the right to privacy, the right to protection from inhumane and degrading treatment.

The bill also seeks to strengthen and consolidate certain common law and statutory provisions so as to adequately provide for the successful dealing, in a non-discriminatory manner, with sexual offences and domestic violence and to provide adequate protection to complainants.

Lastly, it eliminates gender inequalities in relation to power and decision making and provides protection to women and children who are the most vulnerable group in society which has resulted in a high incidence of their discrimination and abuse.

Reporting of abuse cases applauded

On another note, Hlatshwayo has applauded the media for reporting about cases on violence.

Whilst she said the reporting of abuse against women may seem frightening at first as they reveal to the people parts of life they were unaware of, but they also serve as a sign of the societal shift taking place.

She stated that the reporting was making people aware of the true extent of the

problem as well as the real life consequences of abuse.

"The shock and revulsion are necessary as changing this damaging behaviour will require the concentrated efforts of us all," she said, before adding that the nation needs to realise that the struggle to end violence against women is not one for women alone but for all the citizens because the inaction of good men is just as bad as the actions of a bad man.

'Labour inspection department short-staffed'

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Labour Commissioner Siphosile Tsabedze, has attributed the challenges faced by the labour inspection department to being short-staffed.

He said this in a telephonic interview where he was responding to concerns raised by labour unions in our last publication which were to the effect that the ministry of labour and social security was neglecting this important responsibility.

If resources permitted, Tsabedze said, they would be doing inspections widely in the kingdom but this was not possible as there were fewer officers in this department hence the concerns.

"Whilst we have other challenges

such as transport but the main one is that of being short-staffed," he said, before adding that the number of inspectors remained the same whilst the businesses had increased significantly.

The commissioner pointed out that they were trying their best to rectify the problem by means of maximising on the little human resource they have, as well as trying to get more posts to increase the staff complement in the labour inspection department.

He also explained that the case of inspections was a complex one in that the logistics varied on a daily basis and, therefore, brought about the need for inspections to be done on a regular basis. At the present moment, he stated that they could hardly inspect

half of the companies yet if things were running smoothly, each company would have two visits yearly from inspectors to make sure workers were working under the expected conditions. Whilst they are currently engaged with the ministry of public service for the creation of more posts, Tsabedze said he could not commit on whether their talks would bear fruits or not but they were doing something as means of addressing this concern in the labour sector.

The concern about labour inspections has also been raised in Parliament by legislators where they complained to the Minister, Winnie Magagula that this function was not thoroughly being carried out as expected. Magagula responded to this by informing them that the ministry had

employed five more labour inspectors to intensify this function, according to our sister publication, the Swazi Observer daily dated March 17.

The minister also revealed that in the last financial year, the department had conducted 2 047 labour inspections and 110 factories inspections whilst a total of 119 labour compliance certificates were issued to employers.

On the other hand, the Amalgamated Trade Union of Swaziland (ATUSWA) and the Federation of Swaziland Trade Unions (FESWATU) shared similar sentiments as they both lamented the manner in which the government handled this function.

For one, they alleged that labour inspectors were paid by foreign businesspeople not to carry out inspec-

tions in their businesses and as a result the workers suffered as their working conditions remained the same despite that they had brought this to the department's attention.

The businesspeople who ran mostly textile firm in Matsapha are further alleged to be non-compliant to the country's labour laws and also made it seem like they were doing Swazis a favour by employing them.

Also, during their May Day celebrations, the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) raised the issue of labour inspections where they said the ministry of labour and social security has over the years failed to make effective inspections at the workplace to ensure that workers were being paid accordingly.

As a result, they revealed that they were now considering reporting the wages issue to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) when this year's congress is convened next month.

DON'T BEFRIEND POLITICIANS, BHEKI MAKHUBU WARNS JOURNALISTS

BY MLONDI MPANZA

The Nation Editor, Bheki Makhubu has warned the Namibian media not to befriend politicians if they are to remain ethical and professional in their journalistic work.

He issued this warning on Wednesday, during Namibia's belated World Press Freedom day, an event that was held in Windhoek where he was a guest speaker together with the country's President, Dr. Hage Geingob.

According to a Namibian publication, the New Era, Makhubu said there was a tendency among journalists and editors to befriend politicians which in the process compromised their work.

He said this in an interview with the Namibia Media Trust founder and first recipient of the Windhoek Declaration scroll Gwen Lister on journalism where he also shared how the media house editors had lost focus, 'which is to tell the story as it is and check facts to avoid false news before publishing.'

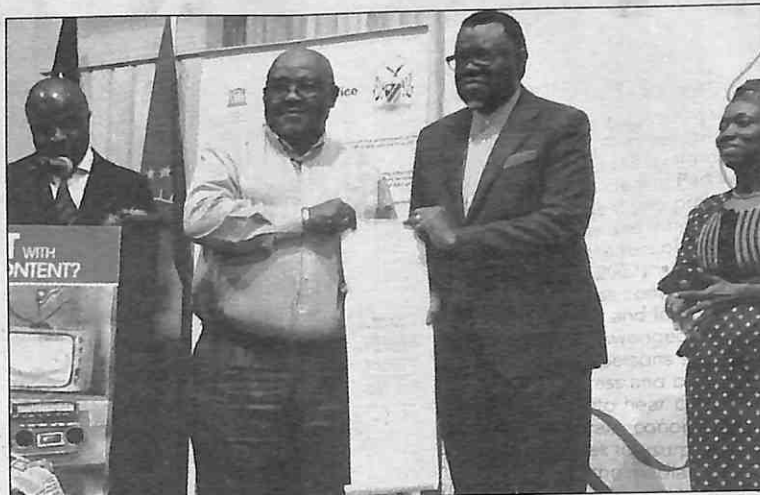
In March, 2014, Makhubu was arrested and further sentenced to two years in prison with Human Rights Lawyer, Thulani Maseko. This was after they had been found to have been in contempt of court after writing articles that criticised the conduct of erstwhile Chief Justice, Michael Ramodibedi who was later fired.

Makhubu went on to state that some journalists found themselves at the receiving end, getting calls from ministers, ending up not publishing stories about them.

He said scenarios went to the extent of tolerance by the journalists and in actual fact, "By being called a 'nice guy, 'you are actually a lousy guy," he remarked.

Notably, Makhubu has had a couple of altercations with some of the country's politicians who were critiquing the media in Swaziland only for him to give them a piece of his mind about how they were undermining the media over, 'a short term job that ends in a five-year period.'

Having spent 15 months behind bars, he said the freedom of the press



in Swaziland was not as vibrant as it was in Namibia as evident in his arrest.

Both Makhubu and Maseko wrote articles in The Nation, criticising the judiciary of Swaziland for its lack of impartiality and lack of independence.

They condemned the actions of Ramodibedi for ordering the arrest of a government vehicle inspector. Makhubu and Maseko were subsequently arrested and charged with two counts of contempt of court.

The duo argued that the arrest war-

rant was unconstitutional, unlawful, and irregular. They asserted that only a magistrate was authorised to issue an arrest warrant and not Justice Ramodibedi, a justice of the High Court.

Accordingly, Makhubu and Maseko filed an application contending their arrest was unconstitutional and unlawful. The case was heard in the High Court before Justice Mumcy Dlamini, who dismissed the arrest warrant and released them. In this regard, Makhubu

said the Swazi government is trying to dictate to people, including limiting their right of freedom of speech, which is enshrined in their Constitution. He applauded Namibia for celebrating the day in the presence of President Hage Geingob.

"It's different in Swaziland. Celebrating with your president here is a very good thing. Inviting a leader to a press event is not as easy as this," he reacted.

He further said the chief justice who had tried to silence him with a jail term "was corrupt and was getting drunk on the power he had".

"I started to pick up that he is corrupt and started writing about that. He arrested me because he refused someone legal representation and I told him I will write, I don't care who you are," he narrated.

On the issue of journalists being killed across the globe and Africa in particular, he said hostility towards the media is regarded as "fashionable".

He made reference to statements that are made by leaders about their hatred of the media which then reflected on the society hence they thought killing the media was normal. He also said many leaders, especially those who were in exile, tend to be resistant towards the media when contacted for comment, because they feel they are "doing us a favour".

2050 supplement

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PPPs IN RESEARCH NEEDED TO DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

BY SUNDAY OBSERVER
REPORTER

Public sector research institutions need to develop strategic partnerships with indigenous Swazi companies to drive technological innovation to ensure sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation, says Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC) Executive Director Dr Thula Dlamini.

Speaking on Wednesday during a seminar hosted by SEPARC in collaboration with the University of Swaziland (Faculty of Agriculture) at the Luyengo campus, he said this was particularly important following the establishment of the Royal Science and Technology Park, which should bring with it opportunities for public-private partnerships in research and Swaziland's knowledge economy.

University of Arkansas Professor Lawton Lanier Nalley, who was in the country to give a talk on endogenous growth in agriculture through technology parks, said research parks were important because they were a mechanism for the transfer of academic research findings, a source of knowledge spillovers, and a catalyst for national and regional economic growth.

Research

He said research parks also provide a two-way flow of knowledge between private and public research to solve common problems. "Public-private collaboration through investment in basic research can lead to improvements in productivity growth at industry and societal levels," he added.

Dr Nalley said as Swaziland starts to feel the benefits of the Royal Science and Technology Park, new opportunities would arise from both private and public sector research.

Furthermore, he noted that while private companies were after well-trained human capital, often at low market prices, public research institutions still needed to collaborate with the private sector for funding to derive maximum impact on national and regional economic growth.

The professor said given that one of the sectors of the Royal Science and Technology Park was biotechnology, which would play a more important role in feeding a growing global population, the challenge was that it requires both research and marketing capital for development and subsequent acceptance, hence both private and public participation were equally necessary.

"It is important to find out from the companies their needs,

"Public-private collaboration through investment in basic research can lead to improvements in productivity growth at industry and societal levels,"

as well as what their customers/clients need to inform the kind of research to conduct," he advised.

Citing examples, the professor said public-private partnerships had resulted in the Arkansas Research Park generating approximately \$55 million (about E729.3 million) of growth into the Arkansas economy annually, with the park having an economic impact of over \$500 million (about E6.63 billion) since it was built in 2003, due to public and private companies working together for common goals.

He further noted that such collaborations provided a win-win situation for both public and private institutions, through research papers for the former and market related data for the latter.

For instance, the professor illustrated, for every dollar/lilangeni companies spent on research, they would receive over 33% return on investment, as there were many facets of research that the public sector has a comparative advantage in, such as established research centres, large faculties, and cheap labour in the form of graduate students.

Advantage

Likewise, there are many facets of research that private sectors have a comparative advantage in, including capital, entrepreneurship, and intellectual property.

"Public institutions need to provide an incubator for innovation and information to feed to private institutions and in turn, the general population," he noted.

Furthermore, Dr Nalley said as public money was subject to continuous volatility, the relationship between private and public entities would only grow stronger.

He noted that one company or institution would never solve issues such as food insecurity, commodity price volatility due to climate change, drought adaptation, and public health but rather, it would take the collaboration of public institutions' expertise as well as private sector funding and marketing to address these issues.

In line with this thought, UNISWA's Professor Comfort Mndebele, who represented the faculty of agriculture's dean, said the Royal Science and Technology Park would offer public-private partnerships in

research and publication, teaching and learning, community engagement, entrepreneurship, and innovation – particularly in sustainable agricultural development.

He said the onus was now upon academia to think of scholarships in entrepreneurship and innovation that would complement each other to assist the public institutions in meeting the needs of both industry and the communities.

Professor Mndebele went on to applaud the University for collaborating with SEPARC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Swaziland in hosting Professor Nalley, who was accompanied by his colleagues, Dr Leslie Edgar and Professor Amy Farmer from the University of Arkansas.

Malkerns Research Station Chief Research Officer Similo Mavimbela, who gave a vote of thanks at the seminar, said Swaziland was indeed currently looking at forming linkages between the public and private sectors, especially following the establishment of the Royal Science and Technology Park.

"Swaziland's goal is to improve food security, job creation and economic growth; hence we need such institutions as the Royal Science and Technology Park because we need such platforms where we can identify both the public and private sectors' needs, as well as those of farmers and consumers.

We need platforms where we can engage industry and convince them that we have the human capacity to address their market needs and that there's no need for them to use external researchers," he added.

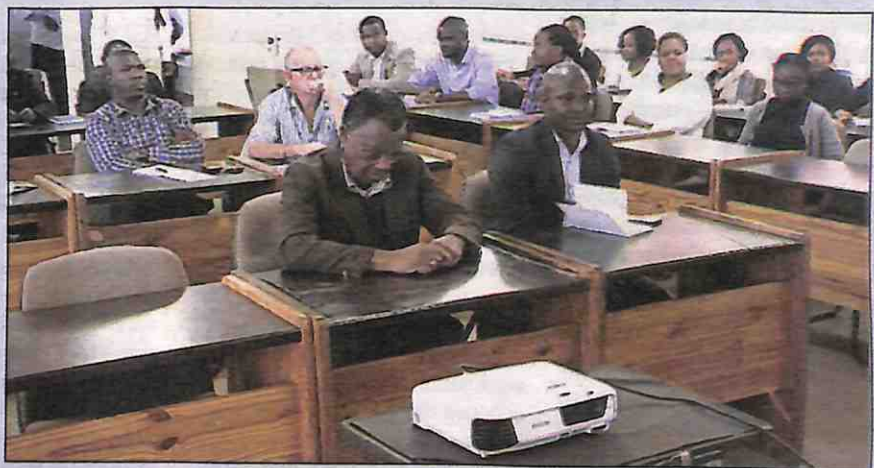
Collaborations

Adding, SEPARC's Dr Dlamini emphasised the need to focus on indigenous Swazi companies for collaborations because multi-national corporations, which are operating in the country, were a bit of a challenge since they usually rely on their headquarters located outside the country for their research and development needs.


Dr Dlamini was responding to a question posed by Dr Mcebisi Mkhwanazi who wanted to know what academia should do given that there was generally a lack of appetite in funding or even engaging in research and development by multi-national corporations in Swaziland.



UNISWA Professor Comfort Mndebele, Sikhumbuzo Mlipha and University of Arkansas Professor Lawton Lanier Nalley during a seminar hosted by SEPARC in collaboration with the University of Swaziland (Faculty of Agriculture) at the Luyengo campus.



A section of the people who attended the seminar.



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'SET-UP MINIMUM WAGE COMMISSION'

BY MLONDI MPANZA

With the ongoing debate about the National Minimum Wage, the first step towards addressing this issue is through the set-up of a Minimum Wage Commission.

This is according to Sibusiso Lushaba of the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) who said the responsibility of the commission would be to firstly set up an impact assessment study on the effects that minimum wage shall have on the economy as a whole.

He said institutions such as the ILO and the World Bank and other such institutions can be requested to offer professional assistance to the commission.

His sentiments are part of the ongoing calls by the country's labour unions to have the minimum wage placed at E3 500 in Swaziland which equates to E20 per hour.

During the Commemoration of Worker's Day on May, 1, the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) called for the introduction of the national minimum wage (NMW) equivalent to that of the neighbouring South Africa.

It was argued that this would help stimulate growth as workers could spend more as well as reduce inequality.

Lushaba said the Minimum Wage Commission would consist of representatives of government, business and workers. He made reference to Mauritius where he said that the Minimum Wage Commission is made up of twelve commissioners in total, three commissioners from workers, three commissioners from business and three commissioners from government, two labour economics



International Labour Organization

academics and the chairperson.

He said the country had policies which would be considered for design and implementation of the minimum wage that needed to be scrutinised as evident in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention 131 that outlines the following interrelated criteria to be considered in setting and adjusting the NMW.

These are the needs of workers and their families, taking into account the general level of wages in the country, the cost of living, social security benefits and the relative standards of living of other social groups and economic factors.

Goods

Further, he said, "There are a number of approaches that could be used after determining the appropriate minimum cost of living for a family of four people. This could be calculated by formulating a basket of basic goods and services that the family needs to survive each month. The basket could include costs for food, clothing, shelter, transport, health care, which the federation proposed E3 500 as sufficient for such a purpose."

From this figure, he explained that implementing the minimum wage could be done by indexing it to Growth Domestic Product

(GDP) as some countries like Brazil do, although there is an overwhelming consensus that in countries with high levels of unemployment like Swaziland the GDP is not an appropriate indicator, hence the NMW could be indexed to the cost of living.

Adding, this could be done by defining a set of goods and services that constitute a basic standard of living, measured on the basis of household rather than an individual and there must be consensus as to what constitutes the minimum level. A worker's needs approach must be adopted which takes into account food, housing, education, sanitation, leisure, clothing health and transport.

This can also be indexed to wage indicators such as average wage or median wage and this then depends on the country specific factors.

Lushaba said the ILO states that the NMW index converges on 39 to 40 per cent of the mean and 60 per cent of the median wage; therefore indexing to either the mean or the median depends on country specific factors.

"As previously explained the median wage in Swaziland is E1 600 so in order for the MW to reach E3 500 there will be a need to index the MW over 100 per cent of the median wage. In terms of

the mean wage, there is insufficient information since the labour force survey doesn't have an average income. Hypothetically the mean could be used," explained the secretary general.

He also said that there could also be workers that are excluded from the MW coverage, however such should be kept to a minimum and people or firms could apply for exemptions in the commission and such should be treated on a case by case basis. Application for exemptions should require supporting documentation which could be approved or denied pending further documentation or appealed.

International practice shows that low-wage workers are the most frequently excluded group of workers a practice which negates one of the key objectives of the NMW, and could further deepen wage inequality. Also, workers with disability are excluded on the basis of largely unsubstantiated belief that they are less productive, whilst the youth are also excluded often through the establishment of a subminimum wage which ranges from 60 to 90 per cent of the NMW. He concluded by pointing out that, in as much as they have proposed through Congress the setting up of a minimum wage commission, they should also be alive to the fact that there are three approaches to engagement with social partners on the matter.

Those are, the government decides without consulting with social partners and this happens in an arrangement where the government is pro poor, the government decides after consultation with a recommendation from social partners and lastly the NMW can be set up by a tripartite body and approved by the government.



Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Khulani Mamba.

Need anything from police, write letter: Journalist told

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Journalists who need data from the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) have been told to write a letter communicating their request.

This was said by the Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Khulani Mamba after this reporter had been turned away at the Police Headquarters where he had gone to seek for information on the past year's missing persons.

In a telephonic interview, Mamba said the letter should be directed to the registry department and state what the data would be used for. Until this development, journalists would get anything they needed from the police through calling Mamba or visiting the communications office at the Police Headquarters. Adding to this, the letter must bear a letterhead from the journalist's media house with their superiors justifying why that information was needed and why it should be shared with them. The registry department where this letter should be submitted is located at the Police Headquarters in Mbabane. During a visit to the Headquarters on Friday, officers found there expressed shock at this development, stating that this was new and was basically a way of refusing with the statistics. An officer who spoke on condition of anonymity said that they viewed this simply as a way of frustrating journalists as it would take a while to get the required information if such a process is now in place despite that they are always working on deadlines.

The officer stated that this would be more so when the communications and the registry heads were not in office or attending a function somewhere just like on Friday afternoon when they were said to be out of the office.

Campaign

"Sorry, there is no one at the communications offices as you can see the lights are off they are in a forest fire campaign in the Shiselweni region. Since they are not here today being a Friday I do not think you can get the statistics this week as the officers at the registry might not be working tomorrow," said the officer. Speaking with this reporter, Mamba further said that he did not have such data at hand and would have to source it from another department which he said now required the reporter to write a letter and address it to the national commissioner requesting the statistics stating why the statistics are needed.

He highlighted that the last reporter to request such information was lucky as the directive was issued after she had been given such information. "They no longer want to issue this data unless you write a letter, they do not want, they are complaining. Write a letter to request that data and state why you need that data," he said. Mamba also highlighted that it was going to be a challenge for another journalist from the same publication to obtain similar statistics as the last journalist to make a similar request was from our sister publication and wondered how would this request be justified.

Swaziland harnessing demographic dividend through investments in youth

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

In line with the African Union's 2017 theme, Swaziland is also committed to transforming its large youth population into a development asset.

This year's theme, 'Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth' puts emphasis on previous decisions of the AU Assembly on youth empowerment which is envisaged to have far reaching implications that would enable Africa realise the aspirations and the goals of agenda 2063.

This was revealed during the validation meeting of the demographic report which was held by Swaziland government in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund on Thursday at the Royal Villas.

During the meeting it also transpired that Swaziland's unemployment

rate is among the highest in the sub Saharan Africa standing 22.5 per cent in overall work force and at 42.4 per cent among the youth (15-24) as of 2013 as stated in the state of the youth report of 2015. Various speakers noted that the high level of youth unemployment was a major concern for the country, if the country is to harness a demographic dividend.

Measures

It was also noted that if measures are not taken swiftly the country would face challenges associated with a growing and unemployed force of young people as the population bulge moves upward in the future. It was also noted that the dependency rate in the country is high as due to the absence of jobs in the market and low labour force as people start work late and exit early than in other countries.

One of the recommendations to

accelerate economic growth and job creation short term included establishment of friendly credit facilities or platforms to improve access to finance and general financial inclusion of young people. Another suggestion was improving access to the Youth Enterprise Fund and private sector credit facilities for the youth to increase access to business capital.

Report

Requested by the Sunday observer to give a summary of the findings of the Swaziland State of the Youth Report of 2015 Swaziland National Youth Acting CEO Makhosami Dlamini said the report indicated that unemployment was high among the youth which explained the high rate of young people living below the poverty line.

Dlamini highlighted that poverty was also a link to the high crime rate as evinced by the number of

youths in correctional services. When asked what the SNYC had done to deal with the challenges facing the youth in the country he pointed out that they had been able to establish Tinkhundla Youth Associations which he said were instrumental in sharing the state of the youth report to the youth and other stakeholders.

"We want the youth to have sustainable livelihoods so they cannot be dependent hence we want to make sure that they have a steady source of income either through self-employment or through employment," he said.

He also cited training and educating the youth on entrepreneurship, HIV/AIDS, sports and saving funds through youth cooperatives. Dlamini stated that as a council they had a challenge of lack of technical officers who would assist in the development of the youth.

RESIDENTS LEFT UNCOUNTED AS CENSUS ENDS

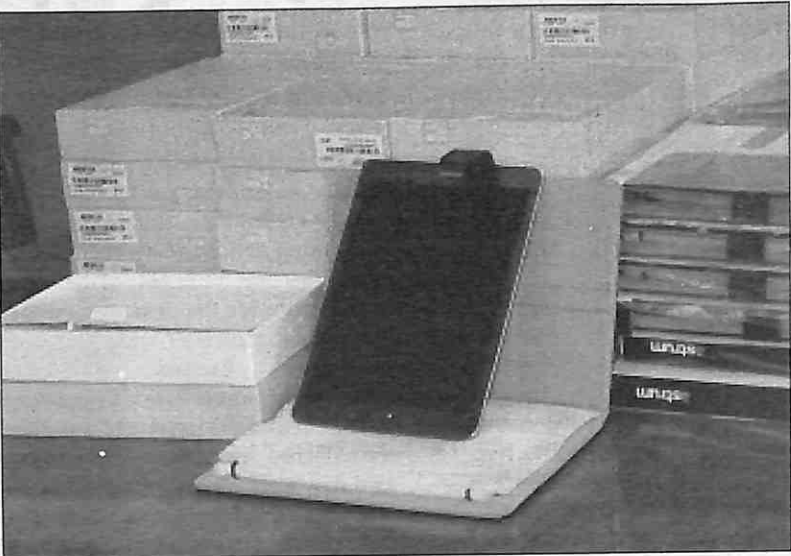
BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

An unknown number of residents were left uncounted in this year's population and housing census.

In a population census, everyone within the borders of the country is enumerated and this was also the goal of the Swaziland 2017 Population and Housing Census. However, not all the residents in the country were counted, despite the extension of dates for the census which was scheduled to end last Monday. The statistical office allowed those who had been left out by the closing day to indicate in the four-day window period by dialling the toll-free number (4444) so they would be counted too. Friday marked the last day of the window period census which will give new population figures.

According to the Central Statistical Office (CSO) Senior Statistician Hanson Dlamini, the following are some of the reasons that resulted in some people being left out in the census. These include: some were outside of the country during the census while some households were always locked throughout the period. These made it difficult as some could not be found, despite several revisits by the enumerators, even

● "The census night was on May 12/13. It is used as a reference point for this year's population and housing census as the population was updated based on the census night. After the census night, we also enumerated homeless and temporary or transit guests such as the hospitals, hotels, lodges and guest houses"



The equipment donated included 35 electronic tablets (pictured) and 4 Arc Geographic Information Systems (GIS) licences.

on the census night. It is used as a reference point for this year's population and housing census



as the population was updated based on the census night. After the census night, we also enumerated homeless and temporary or transit guests such as the hospitals, hotels, lodges and guest houses," he said.

Asked when the new population figures would be released, Dlamini speculated that the preliminary findings may come out around August this year. He also shared that the census is estimated to have cost in the region of E51.7 million, which was funded by government and development partners, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other UN agencies.

Gadgets

Some of the enumerators who had returned the gadgets on Friday revealed that not all the members of their enumeration areas were counted and reiterated the reasons stated by Dlamini. Some said they had been allocated more than 120 households hence they could to make revisits in the three days after the census night to do check-ups on the developments such as deaths and births.

The enumerators also revealed that data was then sourced from the hospitals and hotels, as some people may have not have slept

in their households on the census night.

When asked of some of the challenges that the team faced during the census, Dlamini cited the repeated visits to the households. He said the enumerators had to do revisits due to varied reasons such as household heads being not present during the day due to work related issues, high security (walls and dogs) in some households, especially in urban areas, hence making it difficult to access those households.

Dlamini also cited that some of the members found in the households could not give answers on certain questions pertaining to the missing members.

Enumeration began on April 29 and was scheduled to end on May 15. Enumeration was divided into two parts. The first being the main enumeration that lasted 14 days ended on Friday as it was declared to be the census night. This means the midnight of May 12 and 13 was the point of reference for this year's census.

The second part was the revision round that was scheduled to last three days, which was extended to seven days ending last Friday. For the past nine years, the country's official population was not known as statistics were only showing an estimated figure.

A snap survey by the Sunday Observer yesterday also confirmed that some people were still not counted. Most of the individuals interviewed said they worked long hours as they left their usual residence in the early hours of the morning and returned home late.

Taiwan pleads for WHO recognition

BY MLONDI MPANZA

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has been urged to acknowledge the Republic of China on Taiwan's contributions towards the international community.

Making this assertion was Taiwan's Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr. Chen Shih-chung in a statement released to the Sunday Observer where he said the recognition should be with respect to their input in areas of public health, disease prevention and the human right to health. The country has also managed to forge healthcare partnership



Taiwan's Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr. Chen Shih-chung.

ships with WHO member states.

The minister pointed out that Taiwan was capable of and willing to fulfil its responsibilities and collaborate with the WHO to deal with the challenges of disease control.

Therefore, he said the WHO should recognise the legitimacy and importance of Taiwan's participation in the WHO and its Assembly.

"To bridge the gap in the global disease prevention network, Taiwan needs the WHO but the WHO also needs Taiwan," said Shih-chung.

The minister, however, stated that one of the challenges they were facing was political obstruction which has resulted in Taiwan's often being refused attendance at technical meetings of the WHO.

Difficulties

This situation has created grave difficulties in Taiwan's efforts to collaborate with the international community on disease prevention, said the minister who added that they were disappointed that the WHO has failed to abide by its Constitution and ignored widespread support in the international community for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA).

Instead, he asserts that the WHO was bowing to political pressure from a certain member by excluding Taiwan from that body.

"The WHO is a professional, international health organisation. It is obliged to abide by the principles espoused

in its Constitution, particularly the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health for all people, regardless of race, religion, political belief, or economic or social condition. This right to health is the foundation underpinning the WHO's previous invitations to Taiwan to participate in the WHA and, on an equal basis, in WHO activities and technical meetings," added Shih-chung.

The minister made it clear that Taiwan was devastated by the 2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak which struck them at a time when they were not under the WHO.

Frontline

This saw many of their frontline healthcare workers being infected while caring for patients, and unfortunately some perished, including a nurse, then in her third trimester of pregnancy. Because of the situation, Shih-chung said several hospitals were closed, more than 151 000 people were quarantined at home, a travel advisory was issued and schools closed. "We paid a heavy price to learn that disease indeed respects no national borders and to recognise the importance of international collaboration in tackling the threat posed by infectious disease. At that time, Taiwan not being a WHO member, we did not receive timely information on the SARS virus and related disease control information," he shared.

At this time, Taiwan was dependent on the expertise generously shared by

the United States' Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on how to control the outbreak.

It was not until the SARS outbreak spread to Helping Hospital that the WHO finally dispatched experts to Taiwan and this was the first such assistance the organisation had provided to Taiwan in 31 years.

Therefore, he said SARS was a reminder to the WHO and the international community that they could not afford to leave Taiwan out in the cold and led them to ponder ways of bridging this gap in the global health network.

Post the SARS period, Taiwan's public health officials and experts have been invited to participate in WHO SARS conferences and following the issuance of the WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response guidance document, Taiwan established a national stockpile of influenza antiviral drugs in 2003, formulated a national influenza pandemic preparedness and response plan in 2005, and created a pre-pandemic stockpile of A/H5N1 vaccine for human use in 2007.

In addition, they have set up a three-tier preparedness plan that includes efforts by the central government, local governments, and healthcare institutions to maintain a 30-day stockpile of personal protective equipment.

They have also established a communicable disease control network, designating six pandemic response hospitals across Taiwan.



SA President Jacob Zuma ringing the bell to mark the official launch of the Indaba.



Zuma meeting local exhibitors at the Swaziland stand.

Minister congratulates STA

Minister of Tourism Christopher Gamedze has congratulated the Swaziland Tourism Authority on winning an award at the Tourism Indaba and urged them to scoop first position next year.

The local authority won silver in the stand category awards hosted by South African Tourism. The first position went to Mozambique, which was followed by Malawi in second position and Swaziland in third.

"The local team did us proud and this shows that they are committed to their work and dedicated to taking local tourism to another level of which we are proud," he said.

The minister noted that there

were over 23 countries who took part in this year's Indaba and many of these had wonderful stands but the country emerged position three in the SADC region category, something which he said was a great achievement.

Spirit

"Even the team spirit they displayed while at the Indaba proved that they have the same goal of flying the country's flag high which I must say they managed to achieve," he added.

The award ceremony was held on Wednesday evening and officiated by the CEO of South African Tourism Sisa Ntshona. The award was received by STA Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini on behalf of the authority.



Ukhozi FM Station Manager Bonga Mpanza meeting STA Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini before the live broadcast on Swaziland.

THUMBS UP FOR

STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU
TOURISM INDABA DURBAN.
COURTESY OF STA

The recently-ended Tourism Indaba 2017, which was attended by local industry players under the Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA) banner, was a great success according to the locals who exhibited at the Swaziland stand.

The delegation of 17 stakeholders in tourism sector was led by the Minister of Tourism Christopher Gamedze, who said the trip to Durban was a huge success. The minister said even at ministerial level, they had successful meetings which he said will soon bring results.

The minister revealed that the issue of the East3Route, which was suspended last year following the change of government in KZN Tourism, was discussed at length with his counterparts. Proposals were tabled by the new MEC Sihle Zikalala and his team.

"The ministers and representatives from the stakeholders opted to send the new proposal to the technical teams from all East3route members who are expected to table a report which will be discussed by the ministers in July where we will come out with a way forward," the minister said.

He added that he also attended another meeting on Tri-land issue, which is a partnership between Mpumalanga, Mozambique and Swaziland. He said there was no resolution on this meeting since the general feeling was that the final decision to be taken on East3route

● The delegation of 17 stakeholders in tourism sector was led by the Minister of Tourism Christopher Gamedze, who said the trip to Durban was a huge success



President Zuma joined by KZN provincial government leadership and ministers as they cut the ribbon during the official opening of the Tourism Indaba. This was at the KZN stand.

(Pics: Simon Shabangu)

will also influence the Tri-land.

"There was the feeling that the East3route and the Tri-land was doing almost the same thing hence the meeting felt it should first hear the finality of the East3 and then decide the next step on the Tri-land," the minister said.

Excited

Meanwhile some of the local exhibitors interviewed on the last day of the trade show dubbed, Africa's Top Travel Show, said they were excited about the success of this year's event, which they said was much improved from the previous year.

Swazi Trails Managing Director Darron

Raw said he received a lot of potential clients, further noting that a lot of tourists and tour operators are taking interest in adventure tourism which then creates a lot of demand. He said his challenge now is to go back to the drawing board and plan on how best they can meet the growing demand.

Forester's Arms Director Ruth Buck shared similar sentiments, stating that there was a huge traffic coming to the Swaziland stand, adding that the STA did an impressive job in setting up a good stand. She said there is great demand for Swaziland, noting that even the operators have realised the need for includ-



A view of the Swaziland stand where a number of exhibitors were based. RIGHT - Minister of Tourism Christopher Gamedze with Swazi Trails Managing Director Darron Raw.



Millions learn more about Swaziland on Ukhozi FM

Swaziland was put on the map as millions of listeners of South Africa's number one radio station, Ukhozi FM, hosted locals on their live studio broadcast of their programme called 'Ndiza Nathi Okhozi'.

The programme is co-hosted by S'bu and Mroza Buthelezi and produced by Thembeke Zondi. Its focus is education, career development, science and technology, small business development and tourism. Ukhozi is one of the many broadcasting mediums under the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).

The live studio show, also witnessed by the Station Manager Bonga Mpanza, saw a listenership of over seven million people following it live on radio and other social media platforms, includ-

ing a live broadcast on Instagram.

Nomsa Mabila, the STA Board Chairperson and some of the exhibitors who were all clad in traditional outfits, also formed part of the locals who were at the Ukhozi FM Studios for the live programme.

Attention

On this special programme, the attention was on tourism and culture since they were celebrating African culture and traditions. The delegation, which went to the studio, was led by Swaziland Tourism Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini. This is a daily programme that plays between 12-15pm, from Monday to Friday.

The station is the second biggest in Africa and the biggest in South Africa. The station commands a huge follow-

ing from many parts of the continent and also a sizable following in Swaziland, mainly in the Shiselweni region.

Dlamini was joined by Pinky Mahlalela, who is the PRO of Pigg's Peak Hotel and Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule, who is resident in Durban. The three were guests and were asked questions about the country and the Swazi culture. Among the things that the hosts wanted to know was food, culture and tourism.

The bishop was first to tell the listeners that the beauty of Swaziland was, among things, that Swaziland is a Christian country, especially because the country is a kingdom so it makes it easy for the people to understand issues related to the Kingdom Of God.

"On top of being blessed with the King, the country has low levels of crime,

TOURISM INDABA



STA Board Chairperson Nomsa Mabila with some of the local exhibitors at the ICC. RIGHT - STA Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini and Marketing Officer Melusi Dlamini displaying the silver award won by the local stand.



ing Swaziland in their itinerary.

She said she managed to make a lot of new contacts and also met with her existing clients and tour operators who reassured her of continued support.

Success

Siphiwe Simelane from Happy Valley said the three days spent in Durban were a great success saying that going home they need to now start doing follow ups and strengthen the relations, especially with the new clients and hope they will bring them more good business. She said they are also

looking forward to the good business that comes with MTN BushFire, noting that their hotel is already fully booked for next weekend. Patrick Ward of Mountain Inn also commended STA for the good stand and stated that they were constantly busy. He said they went home happy with the contacts they made during the three days. He said they engaged with their existing tour operator business friends on top of the new contacts they made. He said as a hotel if one is serious about business they should not ignore the Tourism Indaba

because of the many opportunities and the quality and calibre of business contacts received there. Thandeka Dlamini, Marketing Manager at Royal Villas, said they are expecting growth in business because they were able to make a lot of contacts. She said they also met new tour operators who bring a number of tourists from overseas right through the year. She said the operators are keen to work with them, stating that they just have to seal the deal and receive more tourists. She said to them this was the best Indaba ever.



The local delegation joined by Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule and Ukhozi Station Manager Bonga Mpanza and the hosts of the programme 'Ndiza Nathi'. This was after the live broadcast at Ukhozi FM Studios.



which makes it a safe place to be. In Swaziland you can even walk at night because the place is safe," he added.

Meanwhile, Bongani Dlamini told the listeners about tourist attractions in Swaziland,

including Umhlanga and the Lusekwaane which he said are meant to keep the youth on-check to ensure that they stay pure until they are old enough to marry.

Mahlalela, on the other hand, told the

listeners that the hotels in Swaziland now avail traditional food alongside the modern meals. She said traditional meals proved to be the healthiest hence they have seen the need to avail it to guests.

Organisers excited about success of Indaba

The organisers of the Indaba, which will continue to be hosted by Durban for the next five years, were equally thrilled by the success of the trade show.

This was the first time for President Jacob Zuma to be a guest and officially open the Indaba this year. This function has always been performed by the minister responsible.

In an interview with the Indaba Tourism Media, South African Tourism Chief Executive Officer Sisa Ntshona, praised this year's edition of Africa's Travel Indaba as a resounding success:

"This year was all about listening to the feedback from exhibitors and partners that resulted in some fundamental changes, to ensure the event stays fresh and relevant. These ranged from the show's updated diary system that provided more match-making and meeting opportunities to a brand-new INDABA app as the show's primary source of information about news, meetings and events," he said.

"Other event enhancements included the new Lap of Luxury pavilion, showcasing five-star products, and the Hidden Gems pavilion showcasing small tourism businesses. Hidden Gems was a pioneering initiative between the private sector and public sector aimed at accelerating inclusive growth in the tourism industry. The programme identified 90 quality tourism SMEs from all nine provinces, and helped get them market-ready before their sponsored participation at Africa's Travel Indaba. It proved to be a highly successful platform for them to meet and network with fellow exhibitors as well as travel buyers, and gain valuable exposure for their enterprises," Ntshona added.



South African Tourism Chief Executive Officer Sisa Ntshona.

KwaZulu-Natal's MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Sihle Zikalala, said: "We are thrilled that the province has won the bid to host Indaba for the next five years. This will give us an opportunity to further invest in the show and ensure that it continues to grow, thereby increasing its contribution to the province's GDP."

Furthermore, it will allow us the opportunity to engage tour operators to partner with us in growing intra-African travel into KwaZulu-Natal. We want to create an impactful tourism sector that will spread into our rural and township tourism economies as well," he noted.

Phillip Sithole, acting Deputy City Manager for eThekweni and head of Durban Tourism, stated: "It is evident that robust engagements need to take place between the public and private sector to grow tourism together."

Transformation in the tourism sector will also be high on the tourism agenda and we will ensure that emerging entrepreneurs are given the necessary resources and skills to develop new products and experiences for the city.

"We look forward to the innovation and transformation of Africa's Travel Indaba over the next five years" he said.



STA is presently hosting tour operators, bloggers and travel writers who are in the country to promote tourism establishments the country has. They will be visiting most of the tourist attractions. They were hosted to a welcome dinner at Mantenga Lodge on Friday evening.

Focus on SA scene

MANTASHE 'GEARING UP FOR TOP ANC POSITION'

JOHANNESBURG - ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe's bombshell announcement yesterday that he will step down at the party's December elective conference will deepen divisions and instability within the organisation.

Mantashe has shown his true colours as a long-time Jacob Zuma opponent, said Political Analyst Steven Friedman.

Another analyst, Ralph Mathekga, warned that the vacant secretary-general's chair would be filled by those loyal to Zuma and close to the Gupta family.

Speaking at an *imbizo* in Boksburg organised by the South African Communist Party (SACP) - and attended by various organisations, including the South African Council of Churches - Mantashe surprised many people with the announcement.

Although he would not say what his plans were, he remarked that the stress of sitting in the ANC's Luthuli House headquarters had become untenable.

"I am living stress. You can take it for 10 years, but you can't take it for 15 years."

His comments were made on the record, at a meeting where SACP and COSATU delegates called on President Jacob Zuma to resign.

Mantashe made straight-talking com-



ANC President Jacob Zuma and Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe.

ments about the "vulgarisation of the revolution".

"There is an attempt to vulgarise the monopoly capital debate; today vocabulary talks about white monopoly capital. It is vulgarisation of the revolution."

We then use that vulgarised terminology to deal with each other."

On corruption, he said, "there is no formula for dealing with corruption

other than arrest, prosecute and convict." He lamented the prevailing perception in the country that the ANC had abandoned its mantra of "Aluta continua", which has since been replaced with "the looting continues".

Friedman said it was puzzling that some thought Mantashe had sided with Zuma all along, when the opposite was true.

News24

Parliament concerned about slow pace of land reform

CAPE TOWN - From across the political spectrum, the slow pace of land reform was lamented.

Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti delivered his department's budget to the National Assembly on Friday.

He said research capacity is a problem, and to this end, the government is working toward transforming the Land Claims Commission to Chapter Nine institution.

"Land was taken from our people over centuries," he said.

He also framed the need for land reform within the National Development Plan, from which he quoted more than once. He also quoted Ché Guevara.

Nkwinti attacked poverty and said deprivation must be the first priority of a democratic government.

"Economic transformation is not for itself, but for changing the conditions of our people for the better."

He said the second phase of the land audit, determining the race and gender of land owners, needed to be completed, and it needed to be accurate.

"We keep talking about will-

ing buyer, willing seller. There is no such thing," he said, eliciting applause from the African National Congress benches.

He said the office of the Valuer-General, one of the few institutions of its sort in the world, will determine what was just and equitable compensation.

He also said his department was working with the department of water and sanitation to introduce a system where water rights were attached to land, not to individuals.

ANC MP Phumzile Ngwenya-Mabila said restitution was taking place slowly because of capacity constraints.

"To have land is not a privilege, it is a right," she said.

"People will not be free until land is returned to them." She also called for the land audit to be completed.

Several opposition MPs complained that the ANC government is not handing over title deeds to land reform beneficiaries.

Democratic Alliance MP Ken Robertson suggested his party was more serious about land reform, as they handed over title deeds where they govern.

News24

Protesters try to disrupt UP open day

PRETORIA - A small group of student protesters tried to disrupt the University of Pretoria (UP) open day yesterday morning.

Nehawu members postponed their protest earlier after a court interdict prevented them from protesting on the campus.

Students wielding placards talking

about rape culture in the residences and others about racism, tried to make their way into the Aula Auditorium where the UP Vice Chancellor Cheryl de la Rey was addressing prospective students and their parents.

The protesting students were barred from going into the auditorium, after they were told by security that only

prospective students and parents were allowed to attend the address.

A struggle ensued between the student protesters and security as security tried to take away their posters.

Several posters were destroyed in the clash and some taken.

These posters were returned to the protesters who then gathered out-

side the auditorium telling prospective students not to come to UP, making claims about sexual harassment and incidents of rape that is said to have occurred within the residences.

UP spokesperson Candice Jooste said, "protesters tried to disrupt proceedings at the University of Pretoria's Open Day but were quickly controlled by the police and campus security."

"We are disappointed that protesters chose to use this event, which is

supposed to be a day for prospective students and their families to get to know the University better, to raise their issues," said Jooste.

"The safety of students, staff and visitors is a priority and as such the Police will maintain a strong presence around the Hatfield campus." Jooste said the university takes all claims very serious and that all claims will be investigated.

News24

SACP expresses dissatisfaction with ANC

JOHANNESBURG - South African Communist Party (SACP) General Secretary Blade Nzimande says while there are several members of the African National Congress (ANC) who are dual members of the communist party, many are not proud of the governing party in its current state.

Nzimande was speaking at the SACP's *imbizo* in Boksburg on Friday.

The ANC's alliance partner says the gathering aimed to come up with solutions to get the country and the governing party out of a "crisis".

Several senior ANC leaders have criticised the SACP and Congress of South African Trade Unions for calling on President Jacob Zuma to step down, saying the alliance partners must focus on uniting their organi-

sations and stay out of the ANC's leadership battles.

"They're telling us not to talk about the ANC as if the ANC is private property. We have a claim to the ANC as communists, not because we're communists, because of the role we've played in building this organisation."

He says the state the ANC is in now doesn't make them proud of the movement.

"Those of us who are members of the ANC, it's our African National Congress. We are not very proud of how it looks at the moment."

ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe, who also addressed the *imbizo*, condemned his party for creating a space for criticism following "silly mistakes".

AFP

'You have left a huge hole in my heart'

JOHANNESBURG - "I love you Karabo, and I will always miss you. I don't know what life will be like without you, but always know that I love you, Karabo."

In a touching tribute to her little sister, an inconsolable Bontle Mokoena wept while she read out a heart-wrenching letter at the funeral of Karabo Mokoena in the Diepkloof Hall in Soweto on Friday.

Twenty-seven-year-old Bontle's bloodshot and swollen eyes focused on the letter as she asked everyone to bear with her while she forced her way through a letter written by Karabo, saying this was the hardest thing she had ever done.



According to Karabo's cousin, Boipelo Mokoena, the letter was written in 2015 by Karabo, and was addressed to her father, who apparently had never heard its contents until Friday

morning. The letter details Karabo's childhood life, mentioning how her family always made means for the family of five - oscillating between good and bad times. News24



SUNDAYOBSERVER AFRICA NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

'LESOTHO PM MOSISILI MUST SIGN ELECTION PLEDGE'

MASERU - The Christian Council of Lesotho has reportedly demanded that Prime Minister Pakalithi Mosisili and his deputy Mothetjoa Metsing sign a pledge to accept the outcome of the upcoming general election.

The mountain kingdom was set to go to the polls on June 3, nearly three months after Mosisili lost a confidence vote in parliament.

Mosisili of the Democratic Congress (DC) party had headed a coalition government since a snap election in 2015 that was



Lesotho Prime Minister Pakalithi Mosisili.

called in an effort to end the country's prolonged power

struggles.

According to SABC, at least

Lesotho



14 out of 30 registered political parties had already signed the pledge.

The pledge was brokered by churches in Lesotho and supported by the United Nations.

Bishop Mallane Taaso of the Anglican Church was quoted as saying that the pledge was aimed at ensuring post-election stability in the land locked African country.

"Look how good it is when brothers and sisters live in unity," Taaso was cited as saying.

News24

Macron vows to step up fight against Islamists

GAO - France will step up the fight against resurgent Islamist militants in north and west Africa and will work more closely with Germany to help the tinderbox region, President Emmanuel Macron said on his first trip outside Europe on Friday.

Visiting Mali days after taking office, Macron vowed to keep French troops in the Sahel region until there was "no more Islamist terrorism" there. He said operations would be escalated in response to signs that militant groups were regrouping and uniting.

"It is vital today that we speed up. Our armed forces are giving their all, but we must speed up" efforts to secure the Sahel, he told a news conference in Gao, Mali, where he held talks with President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and spoke to some of the 1,600 French soldiers based there.

Spurring economic development in the impoverished Sahel is also part of his strategy, he said. "We must win the war and win the peace at the same time."

Macron's early trip to Mali fulfilled a campaign promise, underlining the importance he places on combating militants in the Sahel whom he said could threaten Europe.

Reuters



French President Emmanuel Macron visits French troops in Africa's Sahel region in Gao.

Guinea Bissau leader orders parliament to reopen

BISSAU - Guinea Bissau's President Jose Mario Vaz dared his adversaries to open Parliament on Friday, threatening the administration of his own party after its failure to sit for more than a year.

The tiny west African state has been in the grip of a power struggle since August 2015, when Vaz sacked then premier Domingos Simoes Pereira, leader of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC).

A new prime minister, Umaro Sissoco Embaló, was sworn in last December but the PAIGC rejected him, accusing Vaz of breaching an agreement calling for a consensual choice.



"If you don't believe that this government has the majority required to vote through its programme, call parliament to sit," President Vaz said in a statement during a gathering in

Bissau.

The PAIGC no longer claims an absolute majority due to 15 rebel lawmakers among the 57 seats it has in the 102-seat assembly. AFP

'Mugabe' blocked adoption of SA rand'

HARARE - Zimbabwe's former finance minister Tendai Biti has reportedly disclosed how President Robert Mugabe blocked the adoption of the South African rand as the country's official currency in 2010.

According to News Day, Biti, now the leader of the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP), said Mugabe rejected proposals to adopt the rand, as he argued: "Why should we use another person's currency?"

Biti said this while addressing a financial market conference in Harare on Thursday.



Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe,

Ironically Mugabe's rejection of the rand came at a time when the southern African country was already using the US dollar and other currencies, including the SA rand.

System

Zimbabwe has been using a multi-currency system since 2009, to

combat hyperinflation. "The simple question from him [Mugabe] was: 'Why should we use another person's currency?' And I said but the United States dollar is another person's currency," Biti was quoted as saying.

News24

BRIEFS

Nigeria to process all tourist, business visas in two days

LAGOS - Nigeria will process all tourist and business visas within two days, the vice president's office said on Friday, as Africa's largest economy, mired in recession, tries to improve the ease of doing business in the country.

Applicants will be notified whether their visas will be issued or rejected within 48 hours, with the change to take immediate effect.

Reuters

World Bank approves \$600m in loans for Zambia

LUSAKA - The World Bank will lend Zambia \$600-million (R7.95-billion) under its International Development Assistance (IDA) programme over the next three years, the southern African nation's presidency said on Friday. Presidential spokesman Amos Chanda told journalists after World Bank Vice-president for Africa Makhtar Diop paid a courtesy call on President Edgar Lungu that \$150-million would come in direct support for the budget.

Reuters

AU seeks international help for forces fighting Kony's LRA

ADDIS ABABA - The African Union has called for international military support for soldiers in the Central African Republic fighting warlord Joseph Kony after the United States and Uganda said they would withdraw troops from the hunt for the insurgents.

In March, Washington said it would start pulling out its roughly 100 military personnel who have been providing the African forces tracking Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) with intelligence, logistics and other support, saying the insurgents had been weakened.

Reuters

Germans 'keen to invest in Zim, but want security, policy clarity

HARARE - Germany's ambassador to Zimbabwe has reportedly said that German businesses are playing a "wait-and-see game" before they can invest in the southern African country.

According to New Zimbabwe.com, Thorsten Hutter said that Germans were keen to invest in Zimbabwe, but wanted assurances about the security of their investment as well as clarity on policy.

News24

20 000 flee latest fighting in Central African Republic

BANGUI - Gunmen looted humanitarian compounds as fighting gripped the Central African Republic town of Bria while more than 20 000 people have fled to a nearby UN peacekeeping base, authorities said on Friday.

Concerns are mounting that sectarian violence is again spiraling out of control in the country, even in places that previously were spared during the conflict that began in late 2013.

At least 20 people have been killed and several dozen wounded since the unrest in Bria began on Tuesday, said the UN mission spokesperson Herve Verhoosel.

AFP

BRIEFS

Fired FBI chief Comey to testify publicly in Congress

WASHINGTON - James Comey, the former FBI chief whose firing by President Donald Trump has triggered uproar, has agreed to testify publicly about Russian interference in the 2016 elections, lawmakers announced Friday. "I hope that former Director Comey's testimony will help answer some of the questions that have arisen since Director Comey was so suddenly dismissed by the president," the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, Mark Warner, said in a statement.

AFP

Russia's Putin pledges to send food to Venezuela

CARACAS - Russia is pledging to send several thousand tons of wheat to Venezuela on a monthly basis, potentially helping alleviate the troubled South American country's food crisis and further tightening relations between the long-time allies.

In a telephone conversation on Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin told his Venezuelan counterpart that Russia is willing to begin delivering food and strengthen commercial ties, according to Venezuela's foreign ministry.

AP

'Help us stop scottish nationalists'

EDINBURGH - The leader of Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservatives in Scotland on Friday made a plea to supporters of Britain's opposition Labour Party to lend her their vote at next month's election to halt the march of the Scottish nationalists.

Scots rejected independence in 2014, but the Scottish National Party (SNP) says they should have a fresh choice as they voted to stay in the European Union last year, at odds with the United Kingdom's overall decision to leave.

EWN

North Korea says US has to roll back 'hostile policy' before talks

WASHINGTON - North Korea's deputy UN envoy said on Friday the United States needed to roll back its "hostile policy" toward the country before there could be talks as Washington raised concern that Pyongyang could be producing a chemical used in a nerve agent.

"As everybody knows, the Americans have gestured (toward) dialogue," North Korea's Deputy UN Ambassador, Kim In Ryong, told reporters on Friday. "But what is important is not words, but actions."

Reuters

Cambodian parties begin election campaign

PHNOM PENH - Cambodian parties yesterday launched campaigns for June 4 local elections against the backdrop of a political crackdown by Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has vowed to stay on after more than three decades in power. Hun Sen's main rival, opposition leader Kem Sokha, held a rally with tens of thousands of supporters in the capital, Phnom Penh. He promised to fight corruption and give more power to local authorities in the Southeast Asian country.

AFP



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

TRUMP STARTS FOREIGN TOUR IN SAUDI AS SCANDALS MOUNT AT HOME

RIYADH - US President Donald Trump landed in Saudi Arabia yesterday for the start of an eight-day foreign tour, taking his first steps on the world stage as scandals mount at home.

Trump can expect a warm welcome in Saudi Arabia where he is to meet King Salman and other senior royals - in sharp contrast to Washington where pressure is building over his team's alleged links to Moscow. Air Force One had barely taken off when it was announced that James Comey, the former FBI chief fired by Trump, had agreed to testify publicly about Russian interference in the US elections.

Reports also emerged that Trump had called Comey "a nut job" and that the FBI had identified a senior White House official as a "significant person of interest" in its



US President Donald Trump shakes hands with Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud (R) upon arrival at King Khalid International Airport. (AP)

probe of Russian meddling. A red carpet was rolled out and staircase rolled up to Air Force One after it landed at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh shortly before 09:50 (06:50 GMT).

Trump and his wife Melania, who dressed conservatively in black but did not cover her hair, walked side-by-side to the tarmac where they both shook hands with Saudi King Salman.

Trump was to hold talks with King Salman and the kingdom's two powerful crown princes later yesterday, before giving a speech on Islam to leaders of Muslim countries on Sunday.

Ties

For Riyadh the visit is an opportunity to rebuild ties with a key ally, which were strained under Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, who Sunni Arab Gulf states suspected of a tilt towards their Shiite regional rival Iran.

That, together with a more muted focus on human rights and the likely announcement of new arms deals, should please Washington's traditional Sunni Gulf allies.

"He's going to be tougher on Iran," said Philip Gordon, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. "He's not going to lecture them on democracy and human rights." AFP

Hassan Rouhani wins Iran's presidential election

TEHRAN - Iran's reformist President Hassan Rouhani has emphatically won the country's presidential election, according to official results, fending off a challenge by principlist rival, Ebrahim Raisi.

With nearly 40 million votes in Friday's hard-fought poll counted so far, Rouhani was leading the race with 56.88 per cent, the interior ministry said yesterday. Raisi, his closest rival, won 38.55 per cent of the vote.

Mostafa Mirsalim, a conservative, got 1.13 per cent, while reformist Mostafa Hashemitaba got 0.52 per cent.

The election was seen by many as a verdict on Rouhani's policy of opening up Iran to the world and his efforts to rebuild its stagnant economy.



Newsly-elected Iran's President Hassan Rouhani.

Rouhani swept into office four years ago on a promise to reduce Iran's international isolation.

Friday poll was the first since he negotiated a historic deal

with world powers in 2015 to curb the country's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief. *Al Jazeera*

Brazilian president accused of obstruction of justice

BRASILIA - Brazil's President Michel Temer faced new calls for his resignation on Friday after being accused of attempting to derail a massive corruption investigation known as "Car Wash."

Temer and a senior senator accused of corruption, Aécio Neves, were among those "who attempted to prevent the Car Wash investigations from advancing," Prosecutor General Rodrigo Janot wrote in a court filing released Friday.

The obstruction of justice accusation raised the stakes in

a crisis threatening to topple Temer barely a year after the centre-right politician took over from impeached leftist president Dilma Rousseff.

Earlier, authorities had released what they said was a secretly recorded conversation between Temer and a business executive in which the president is purported to have given his blessing to monthly payments of hush money to a jailed politician.

That politician -- former lower house speaker Eduardo Cunha -- is in prison after a "Car Wash"

judge convicted him of bribe-taking. The "Car Wash" investigation has upended Brazil with scores of politicians indicted or subject to probes into alleged bribe taking and embezzlement.

And Cunha, formerly one of the most powerful insiders in Congress, has long been rumoured to have threatened to spill secrets on other politicians to prosecutors.

Temer angrily denied any wrongdoing in a televised address on Thursday and rebutted mounting calls for his resignation.

Canada to be 'firm' in trade conflicts with US: Trudeau

OTTAWA - Prime Minister Justin Trudeau vowed a "firm" and unwavering defence of Canadian interests in the face of US trade attacks, he said Friday.

"We're going to continue to work very, very hard to defend Canada's interests," he said.

In late April, the United States imposed a duty on timber imported from Canada and threatened similar sanctions on Canadian dairy products.

Then on Thursday, the US Department of Commerce launched an investigation at the request of aerospace manufacturer Boeing into alleged dumping of aircraft built by its Canadian rival Bombardier, with Canadian government financial support, into the US market.

On all of these issues, "we will always be resolute and firm in how we stand up for Canadian interests," Trudeau said.

"On the issue of aeronautics, we will always defend Canada's companies... and Canada's workers."

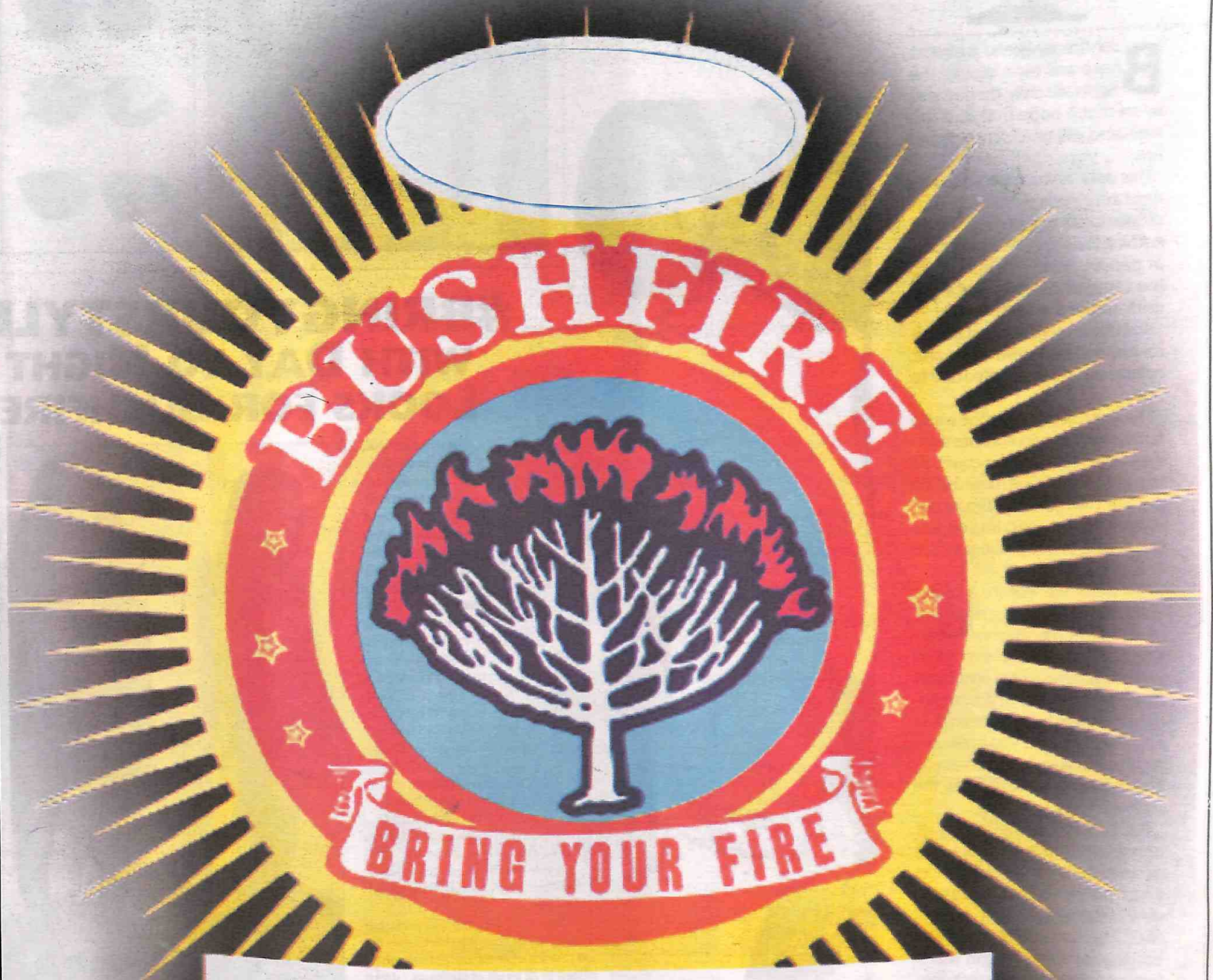
On Thursday, Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland threatened to cancel Ottawa's purchase of Boeing fighter jets if the US did not back off its attacks on Bombardier.

The same day, the US government formally launched the process to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement.

AFP

SundayObserver Scene

THE BUSHFIRE ISSUE



**THE FESTIVAL THAT
CHANGED THE WEATHER**

Scene



Vuyile N Dlamini

WRITER'S NOTE:



Bushfire weekend is almost here and even though the nights are chilly, the days give us so much hope that Bushfire weekend will be all sunshine and fun.

This only being my second edition I am privileged to profile one of Swaziland's biggest event. There's nothing like being in a large crowd of people, everyone dancing to the same beat and having a cool drink under the winter sun.

Bushfire is more than just a musical event. It is a festival of the arts, culture and music all rolled up into one.

The festival caters for the whole family, with age appropriate activities. The festival is the country's biggest festival, with over 26 000 people from around the world, attending last year. So you see, this is one event of the year not to be missed!

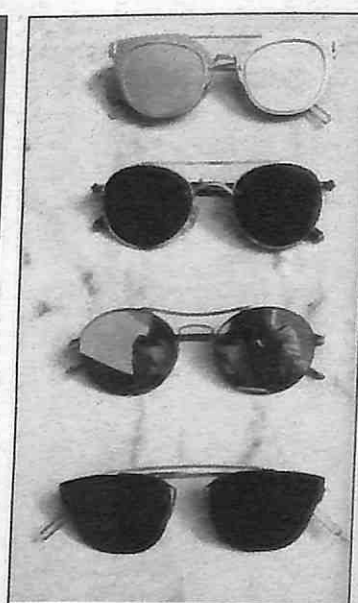
This week we feature a couple of statement stylish clothing items to complete your Bushfire weekend outfits, versatile enough so you are able to switch your outfit from day to night to accommodate the chilly winter evenings. In page two we show you a few winter staples to make sure that you look amazing while partying the weekend away.

The Bushfire Festival takes a lot of preparation in ensuring that people of all ages are catered for, which is why we show you a preview of the festival to get you psyched. We have a look at the latest developments for this year's festival and what's new that people can look forward to.

We also interview locals who have bought their tickets and are ready to have an exciting, vibey weekend. We speak to the three ladies who won the chance to perform on the MTN Bushfire Firefly Stage, an opportunity which has the potential to expose them to a greater audience than they had ever imagined in their career.

Big up to you ladies for harnessing your talents and good luck! We will be looking out for your performances!

Till next week,
Vuyie



#BRINGYOURSTYLE WITH DAY TO NIGHT LOOKS FOR BUSHFIRE

As a fashion maestro, your minimalist take on style needs to extend beyond the clothing items you wear, the accessories you pair with need to matter just as much. A preference for tiny detail over big statement pieces works well with the layers we all have to adorn to keep warm. We love this

playsuit from Tiwi's Closet, which you can wear on its own during the day, and of course throw a denim jacket on as soon as it starts to get a bit chilly.

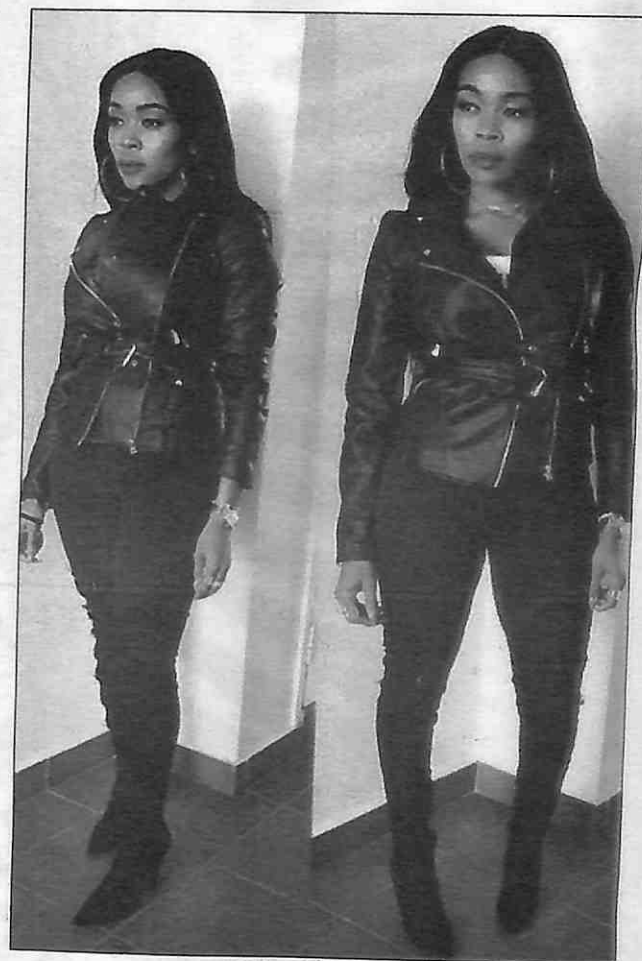
This, and the torn jeans and some stylish sneakers, and a festive head piece will add a sporty, casual feel to your look, while you dance the night away to the soothing sounds of Sands.

Trench coats and ribbed fabrics pair beautifully during the colder seasons. Do yourself a favour and get something ribbed in all kinds of clothings - dresses, jerseys, roll-necks, everything basically! You will definitely not regret it.

Trench coats, besides being warm enough, add that bit of swagger that makes dressing up for the festival, especially the nights, that much more fun, because if you're going to be making so much effort, it may as well be worth it, right?

Faux fur is a winter staple that always adds a snugness to any outfit.

Not only that, it just tends to look good. This cream faux fur half jacket pairs well with



a pair of white denim jeans and a crisp white shirt which will add a classy, and chilled feel to your look.

Wearing a black leather jacket is a classic move in winter and pairs very well with a black, or whichever colour, denim jean that you like. The versatility of the leather jacket allows you to pair it with jeans, more stylish with ripped jeans of any colour.

And who said sunnies are a no-no in winter? Sunnies add a sense of cool, whether it's summer or winter. Tip? Clear or multi coloured lenses during the Bushfire Festival will make you a winter fashion winner!

SOCIAL MEDIA WATCH



South African social media followers pulled the alarm about the gradual disappearance of young women and girls. As weeks have gone by, Swazi social media users have been flooding social pages in support of the trending topic #MenAreTrash. Just last year, local newspapers reported several cases in the country, of young women having gone missing and later found dead,

killed by their alleged lovers. The insidious reason behind many of these disappearances has proven quite frightful indeed as we're learning that the culprits are under our very own noses.

In response to the #MenAreTrash campaign, a young Swazi man's post inspired the idea that although men are the number one reason women feel unsafe, there is hope that there are men in our lives who are willing to stand up against women and children abusers and killers.

His post read: "I am trash because I've seen guys cheating on or disrespecting their women and felt no need to correct them. Men were called dogs not so long ago."

Instead of speaking to the ones that were the cause of such beliefs I said, "Not all" ... As a result, the dogs became trash and cheating became physical violence and murder.

I am trash because I know women in messed up relationships and I have never spoken out.

It became apparent to me that many women stay in broken relationships because there was no standard of love from men set in their lives, many because their fathers were emotionally unavailable if not physically (damn trash).

Trash

Men are in a better place to correct other men. If we don't we might as well be doing it ourselves. Men are trash. Let's do something about it."

Although we have a long way to go in ensuring a completely safe society, posts like the one above give women hope that one day we will live in world, where we do not have to endure catcalls and suggestive whistles at the bus rank anymore.



MEET YOUR FIREFLY WINNERS

LINDELWA 'LINDZ' DLAMINI:

How long have you been in the industry?

I have been singing since the age of four after being inspired by the late Brenda Fassie whom I also met when she came to perform in Swaziland. From then on, I grew up performing in front of crowds at birthday parties, weddings and funerals. I competed in many competitions; winning a few and have had opportunities to perform on big stages both in Swaziland, like Ms Teen Swaziland and State Theatre in Pretoria. I released my own single a year ago called "Fireball" which was then followed by a feature with Mr 505 (Tyrone Reid) called "Love is exhausted". I am currently working on new music which I am hoping to release this year.

Was your primary career aspiration to be a musician?

Music is my God-given talent and I have always known I wanted to sing and make a career out of it. However, education is very important to me. I have just recently completed my degree where I double majored in Communications & Media and Management in South Africa. Therefore, my career aspirations are to have a successful career in Communications and Media and to still be a musician.

How would you describe your experience performing and becoming a firefly winner?

My experience performing at the Firefly event was overwhelming and exciting especially because of the support I received. It was an amazing experience and opportunity that I wish I could relive. Winning made it even more special for me and I believe it's an amazing platform for upcoming artists, therefore I am grateful to God and to my awesome support



system at home in Swaziland, that I got this far.

What lessons have you learnt while performing there?

The lessons I learnt from performing at the event are to just be yourself, always give your performance your all, be creative and that each and everyone has something special that you could learn from to better yourself.

What does it mean for you to be on the line up for 2017 MTN Bushfire festival?

Being on the MTN bushfire line up to me, means I have a terrific opportunity to use this platform to expose myself whilst doing something I love most. It's a stage I have always wanted to be on and now I have the chance, so to me this is one of my many dreams that come

true.

What exciting plans do you have planned for the rest of 2017?

I am taking it a day at a time. Right now, I am in the middle of my Honours Degree in Communications & Media so I am excited that I will be completing at the end of the year. I also have plans to work on new music and to collaborate with local artists.

ZANELE 'SYMPHONY' CELE: How long have you been in the industry?

I have been singing since I was very young, but people got to know about Symphony in 2015 during the T55 competition.

Was your primary career aspiration to be a musician?

For me, it was never a matter of choice. I have never been in that place of aspiring to be a musician. I have been singing since I was a child, I grew into it and just kept on singing until my sound was heard.

How would you describe your experience performing and becoming a firefly winner?

It was quite interesting. We had a great audience and it was not hard to interact with the people, as they were very lively. Performing for a receptive crowd is always so refreshing. Winning was the icing on the cake. My name was called last and that got me so nervous but when I was finally announced a winner I was very happy.

What lessons have you learnt while performing there?

I keep to myself a lot so being there taught me so much about interacting with people. This is a people's industry so it really helped in overcoming my fear of crowds.

What does it mean for you to be on the line up for 2017 MTN Bushfire festival?

Being in the bushfire line up means a huge step further for my career. It also means someone out there believes in what I do, which I greatly appreciate.

What exciting plans do you have planned for the rest of 2017?

As some may know, I was in studio doing my single 'Sengikhona,' produced by Subjamz. The single will be released in a week or so. It took longer than I thought but we're almost there. As the year progresses I'll be making more music.

MANDISA MAMBA:

How long have you been in the industry?

A year and some months now.

Was your primary career aspiration to be a musician?

Yes

How would you describe your experience performing and becoming a firefly winner?

ing a firefly winner?

I would describe it as a life changing experience. It opened me up to so many opportunities in such a short space of time.

What lessons have you learnt while performing there?

I have learnt that you can never go wrong with a little faith and hope in your pocket. That, if you keep your head down and just do your part, God will always take care of everything else. And that hard work plus talent will lead you to success.

What does it mean for you to be on the line up for 2017 MTN Bushfire festival?

Being in the 2017 MTN Bushfire line up is more of a testimony than just an experience. At the beginning of the year, I gave God a list of experiences I wanted to have this year, and Bushfire was part of it. The crazy part is that it didn't look possible and so I let it go and decided I would work harder this year, then try again next year. But, of course, the angels are always working behind the scenes, and when I read about the Firefly competition, I knew it was God answering my prayers. So, to me, this means I am on the right path.

What exciting plans do you have planned for the rest of 2017?

I will be releasing my four track EP soon, titled 'Mandisa', which is a reflection of who I am, which is something reflected in my many personalities, something I struggled to embrace until I started using music to express myself.

The EP sound is very experimental and crosses genres and is a true reflection of my mixed personalities.

I have also used my life experiences as inspiration.

The creative process of 'Mandisa', has been quite the experience. I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with music veterans such as DJ Simza, Doctor P and Copsy.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE 2017 MTN BUSHFIRE FESTIVAL

Every year, more than 20 000 people gather together to experience what has been called one of the "Seven African music festivals you really have to see".

MTN Bushfire is Swaziland's internationally acclaimed music & arts festival that celebrates creative expression whilst promoting social responsibility, stimulating the economy and drawing talent and tourists from across Africa and around the world.

From the Kid Zone, an adventurous space for young fire starters to ignite their budding flames, the Handcraft & Design Marketplace, an experiential space where creative curiosity is inspired and revived, to the Global Food Village that presents a tantalising diversity of tastes from around the world, MTN Bushfire is a cultural immersion like no other.

The MTN Bushfire has four amazing stages that offer a great selection of artists and diverse performances to cater for everyone's preferences. The Main Stage is based out on the lawns and showcases the biggest international & continental artists to a pulsating crowd of thousands.

THE MAIN STAGE

The House on Fire Amphitheatre is an awe-inspiring performance area with a distinctly unique flavour, at its core, a sunken 'Afro-Shakespearean Globe Theatre' which houses a range of performances and you can visit this stage to explore some great emerging artists that are part of the MTN Bushfire line-up this year.

This stage is hosted in a renovated barn with a contemporary feel. Pallet furniture and a wood chip floor set the tone for a more intimate festival experience. Featuring a craft beer component and blackboard walls for impromptu expression this engaging open mic space adjoins the Green Zone featuring an organic café and solar solutions.

THE FIREFLY STAGE

On the edge of the festival grounds, the new Firefly stage features DJs, hip-hop and RNB artists. This MTN Bushfire stage is a high-energy environment which creates opportunity for rising performers.

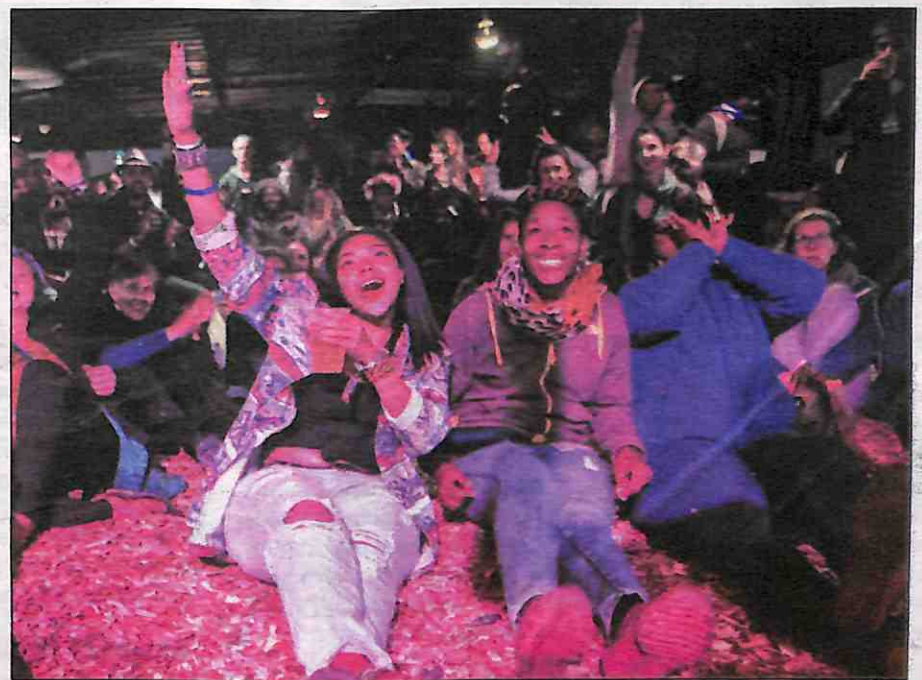
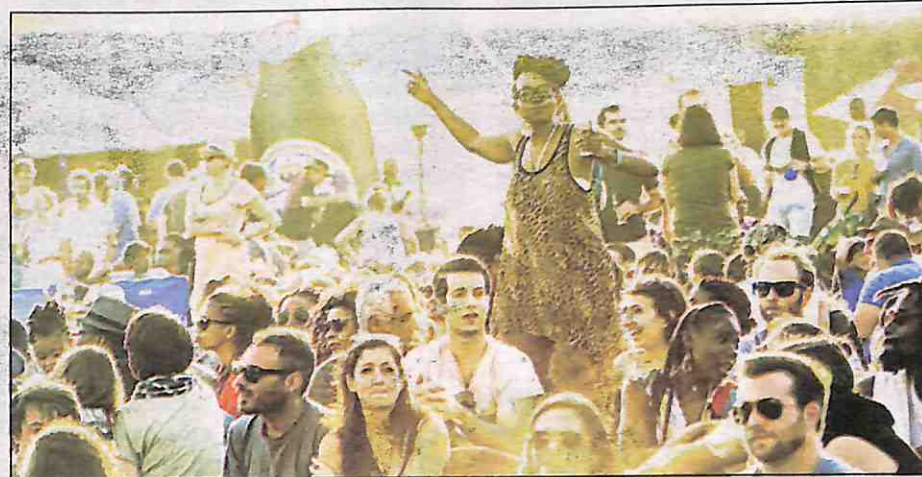
This stage will feature the likes of Symphony, Lindz and Mandisa, the Firefly winners who will showcase their talent and show us why they deserved to win their spot on the stage.

THE BACARDI STAGE

This stage is sponsored by the popular alcohol brand 'Bacardi', will serve as a platform for contemporary artists. The stage performances will be highlighted by Open Mic Sessions and the audience treated to craft beer while they are entranced by the beautiful music.

NEW EXECUTIVE DECK

For those who enjoy the finer things in life! Specially curated with premium comfort in mind, the MTN Bushfire Golden Lounge is an inspired space of experiential offerings with a fiery atmosphere that resonates with the overall festival aesthetic.



This year, MTN Bushfire festival brings more fire to Golden Lounge guests with extended raised deck space for better stage view from the comfort of your seat.

Also in this area, The Mandela's restaurant is complimented by an exciting new food option

as well as experiential lounges offering whisky and wine tasting.

Guests can also enjoy the use of new and improved restrooms as well as a rejuvenation room for those that might fancy beauty or massage treatments during the weekend.



80 Script real name Zolile Motsa – This Swazi hip hop maestro mastered his talent from the tender age of 16 and has gone on to be a huge success in Swaziland and beyond.

His carefully written rap lyrics make for an awe-inspiring listen, whether at home, in your car or even at work. He has shared the stage with the likes of Cassper Nyovest, Kwesta amongst others.

Bholoja (real name Mbongiseni Ngubane): Bholoja is one of Swaziland's musical and cultural gems. He uses his beautiful voice to sing in our native language, siSwati, and continues to unite this country in song. His voice has transcended beyond the borders and commands the respect it deserves.

DJ Mixmash: DJ Mixmash is one of the fastest growing brands locally and internationally. Mixmash broke into the music and entertainment scene in 2003 whilst still pursuing his studies at the University of Swaziland. He started music production from a campus dorm and slowly nurtured the skills of the industry through self-schooling. This is also the same period when he met another fellow producer, DJ Foster, whom he later teamed up with to form one of the first and all-time best local music brands; Swazi Pride.

Currently Mixmash is a household name demanded both in local and international entertainment scenes.

His skill and versatility to DJ for multi-age and multi-racial audiences has earned him a top spot in providing entertainment for both the Corporate and clubbing audience.

Dusty & Stones: Winners of Tihlabani Awards for best country group/artist for three consecutive years: 2009, 2010 and 2011, Dusty & Stones is made up of two talented country artists. Dusty is on lead & harmony vocals. He started playing guitar while still at the University of Swaziland & met S'phesihle

Nkwanyana. They teamed up & performed famous country duets. Stones is also on lead & harmony vocals. He started playing guitar in 2004 and got his first guitar lessons from his bandmate Dusty.

Flameboy Universe: This producer, rapper and electronic music artist has taken Swaziland by storm.

He shot to the top of SBIS's charts and remained there for 5 weeks last year – making

Scene

GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL BUSHFIRE FESTIVAL ACTS



ing him one of Swaziland's hottest artists.

Floewe: A Swazi Afro-sheen artist who is one of Swaziland's long standing gifted vocalists, with an alluring energy and charm in the most fascinating way. Floewe is a big thinker, overly passionate and emotional which makes her the artist she is today. With a current album titled *MAYIBUYE* that speaks to the heart and also touches on real life issues; gender-based violence and Woman empowerment.

Itallo Dlamini: Itallo Dlamini is a born and bred Swazi jazz artist. His musical journey began in his youth. He is forever indebted to his former school, Salesian, and the Band Master of the time Fr Hugh Boyle, for exposing him to a variety of musical instruments where he first fell in love with the brass instrument.

This is where he began taking music seriously. Itallo picked the trumpet and joined the junior school band at Form One (Grade Eight). Due to his talent and good command of the instrument, he was recruited to join the senior band and has never looked back ever since.

As he grew older, he was exposed to different kinds of music at the time, including jazz. His inclination and approach to music was greatly influenced by jazz legends including Hugh Masekela, Jonas Gwangwa, Miles Davis and many others who played brass instruments.

Later, while still at school, he formed his own group which tried to emulate the likes of



Dollar Brand (Abdullah Ibrahim), Kippie Moeketsi, The Crusaders and other South African greats. The group performed at school concerts and weddings, and allowed many to witness his gift in the game.

A lot of Swazis have also contributed in transforming his dream into a series of music projects.

Lodanda: Swazi Born traditional singer, Lodanda, has loved traditional dancing (*kugidza*) since her teenage years and she was one of the great traditional dancers at Pigg's Peak Central School, where she completed her primary education. As a proud Swazi girl, she participated in the reed dance nine times, where she enjoyed dancing.

Due to her traditional dancing talent, she received countless invitations to perform at Swazi traditional weddings (*Umtsimba*) where she was a marvel to watch. This is how the singer's passion for music was ignited and you will realise that all her work is based on traditional wedding songs.

Lodanda's music is 100 per cent undiluted pure Swazi music. It has a pure African vibe. Through her music, you will experience pure Swazi rhythm, pure Swazi voices and pure Swazi

tunes. Most of all, her songs tell you the

story of a Swazi woman in a dance.

Sands real name Sandziso Matsebula: Swaziland's own Sands has been celebrated from all corners of the country after his rise to fame with a collaboration with a local Hip Hop poet Qibho, on the track "*NtfombatanaLenhle*." He really made a name for himself in 2015 when his song *Vuma* was named BEST RADIO SONG of 2015 in Swaziland for the NACA (National Arts and Culture Awards Swaziland) – other accolades received by Sands included the Male Artist of the year for the NACA Awards (Swaziland).

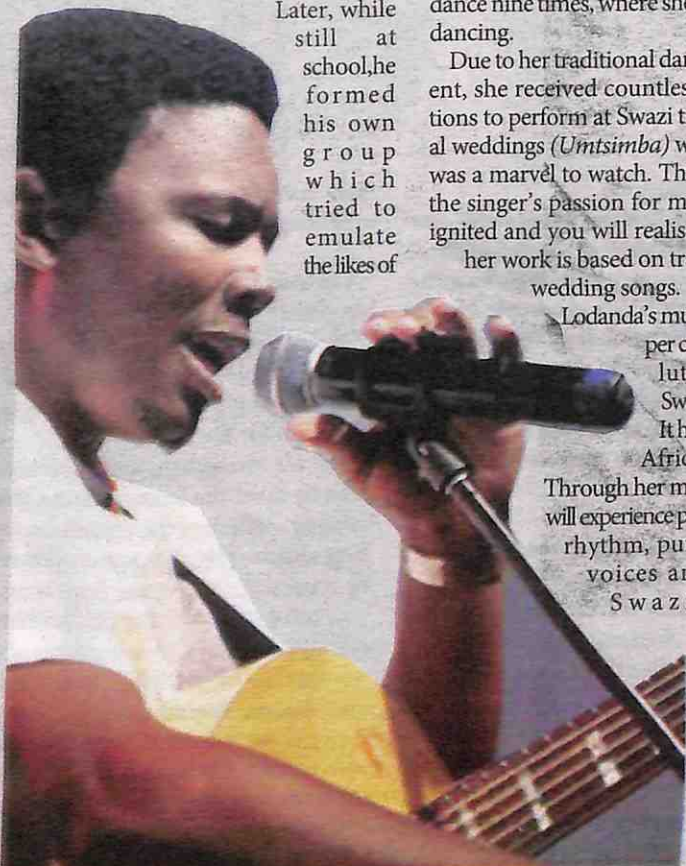
Siyingqaba: Mozaik The Producer is a gifted Sound Engineer, Producer and Performer with incredible song writing and rapping skills. KrTC of Hip Hop is an accomplished MC and performer with a bold presence and remarkable charisma. Together they are known as SIYINGQABA – which translates to "We are the Fortress" in English and are arguably the most illustrious hip hop duo in The Kingdom of Swaziland.

Shepard Brothers: Swaziland's best DJ, percussionist and fire acrobat/dancer trio, Shepard Brothers, has won the hearts of many supporters with their new style of performing House/Afro/Dance Music. Their explosive performance is said to be moving souls. The DJ will amaze you with his energy on the decks, Tribal Dance music selection, and

smooth mixing skills. On the other hand, the percussionist will also impress you with his sound, especially on the African Drums. His performance on the stage is heartfelt and his ability to read music enables him to work hand in hand with the DJ and fire dancer while they perform. Last but certainly not least, the Fire Acrobat/Dancer is known for his creativity of mixing dance together with fire and this

him the name 'Fire Ninja'. He will thrill you with his feast of burning fire equipment's and his dance moves that are always the crowd's favourite.

Swazi Reggae Legends: The Swazi Reggae legends are a combination of swazi afro reggae artists from different backgrounds, who have performed partially together locally and internationally. The music is versatile Reggae styles blended with afro beats. www.bushfire.com



Scene

RENAISSANCE OF CHORAL MUSIC GIANTS...

Could it be that a sleeping giant of choral music has found its feet again?

When Mbabane Methodist Choir triumphed in the recent Standard Bank Choral Music Championships last weekend in the large section, Royal Swazi Spa were celebrating their own triumph in the standard category.

It saw the Ezulwini Valley based choir (Royal Swazi Spa) winning E10 000 after emerging best in their section.

Last time out in the same choral music competitions, Royal Swazi Spa Choir saw this grand prize eluding them but this year they've shaken off that defeat and the results are there for all to see and marvel.

It is not in doubt that Royal Swazi Spa is amongst the country's finest choral music outfits. They've won back to back honours in choral music competitions (quadruple champions) to demonstrate their agility and ability. Their staying power and mettle is second to none as it were.

It was on May 7 when Royal Swazi Spa showed its quality and elegance by beating the likes of seasoned campaigners in Asihlabelele Choral Society to pocket the championship prize. Besides Asihlabelele, there were five other contenders in the standard category who felt the venomous strike by Royal Swazi in William Pitcher College, St Florence (previous winners), Lobamba Choral, Swaziland Mighty Voices and FTM Melodius Choirs.

But who is this Royal Swazi Spa outfit that has shown such deftness in triumphing when least expected of all the contesting groups?

Speaking to Thembinkosi Vilakati, Chairman of Royal Swazi Spa Choir, it is evident that this choral outfit is determined to rise to the top in silence. Well, just like a spinning and drifting car; which emits smoke for all to see its effect and force, Royal Swazi Spa lets their sweat and toil do the talking for them. His confidence and courage is telling in his voice as he states in no uncertain terms that choral music fanatics should expect from them.

Royal Swazi Spar Choir is based at the Ezulwini Valley of the Kingdom of Swaziland. It is an outfit that is known and loved locally and internationally. This choral music group was formed to entertain guests at the renowned hotel. But what started as the size of a pin head has grown into a force to reckon with in the choral music fraternity.

"The choir was formed in 1996 by the Royal Swazi Spa Hotel staff members to entertain hotel guests. Interest grew as children, family members and friends indicated desire to sing. The choir then joined the Swaziland Choral Music Competitions in 1998 in order to maintain and produce a good choral sound and technique.

Royal Swazi Spa Choir renders a rich repertoire of African folk, traditional songs and adeptly performs western music of great composers in the likes of WA Mozart, Joseph Haydn, GF Handel, G Verdi, JS Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Richard Wagner and many more," states Vilakati.

ROYAL SWAZI SPA CHOIR BACK, STRONGER



We are an evolving choir. We face so many challenges and we always stand up to face them. Do expect more this year!

We further engaged with the chairman as follows;

What makes you stand out from other choirs?

Through hard work, dedication and consistency, the choir has gained reputation for rendering good choral music. The choir is proud to groom its own to become a force to reckon with in the choral fraternity.

Any challenges experienced after formation

Migration of choristers for various reasons such as work, school, retirement, marriage, etc. Also economic meltdown affected sponsorship from the hotel management as they had to cut down on choir activities and sponsorship.

Further the transportation of choristers and inferiority of the choral Music in the country as some parents still cannot accept it as a sport for their

children.

Any top choristers produced over the years and where are they now?

We have produced the likes of Sibusiso Dlamini, who has been a soloist with Manzini Choir and now with His Majesty's Correctional Services, Mampimpiza, who has been a prominent bass soloist, and several choristers who sing in choirs in the large category.

Milestones achieved over the years?

We recently recorded our second CD at the SBIS studios, released in 2016. Not much yet! We have featured prominently in the top three (of choral music competitions) in the past 10 years and have won the Standard Bank Choral Music Competitions for four years in a row (2012-2015). So, we are the most consistent choir.

On winning this year's Standard Bank

Choral Champs.

Simplicity was our weapon that saw us winning this year's Standard Bank Choral Competitions. We chose the best western piece and a simple African piece so that we do both very well. We had little time (to prepare) and this helped us a lot. When our conductor had a predicament, we quickly moved with his help to find an immediate replacement.

Does it mean Royal Swazi Spa Choir has turned the corner?

We are an evolving choir. We face so many challenges and we always stand up to face them. Do expect more this year!

How prepared are you guys to compete at the Old Mutual National Choral Finals?

We are yet to start preparations for the upcoming NCF. The Standard

Bank competitions also prepared us in dealing with bel canto music.

Any long term goals of joining the big guns?

The composition of the choir is meant for an ensemble to entertain guests at the hotel hence the standard category is ideal for the hotel.

We are struggling with numbers even to meet the maximum for this category, which is the minimum for large section. The choir is overwhelmed by transport costs as the hotel transport cannot reach many places where our choristers live and we cannot add numbers to the available hotel transport means. Should a sponsor come forward, we will explore the large category idea! Once again, thanks Mr Chairman and all the best in your endeavours.

It is our pleasure; thank you.
(By Njabulo Dlamini)

TIT BITS...

I WAS KARABO, BUT BY THE GRACE OF GOD I SURVIVED

Presenter-turned-pastor Pushie Watson opened up about being in an "abusive" relationship when she was younger and how cases like Karabo Mokoena have helped intensify the awareness around violence against women.

Pastor Pushie is popularly known at 'Pushie Pushie' from 90s youth and music show Jam Alley. The influential minister has since reinvented her brand and became a pastor.

She opened up in an interview on The Great Escape, where she spoke about the abuse that she endured as a 21-year-old as they discussed the "sudden" attacks and killings of women



in the country.

It's something I have always wanted, says #UthandoNeSthembu star

Musa Mseleku on polygamy

"I think it's just awareness. I think it's always been going on. I remem-

ber being that 21-year-old girl that was being dragged by my hair up the stairs and being beaten and being told 'I'll slash your face so that you never become famous.' I was Karabo, but by the grace of God, I survived," she said.

Pushie added that no one has the right to judge Karabo or women like her. She added that gender based violence is not new but it has been thrust into the spotlight because women are now using their voices to raise awareness.

"There's always been threats towards women and children but we had no voice, we were silent because the same people we would go to complain to would protect the people who were attacking us. We couldn't speak out," she said.

'Drunk calls and unprofessional stuff' - Cassper's super sweet shout out to Nadia Nakai

Pushie spoke out and asked women to support and help each other move out of potentially dangerous situations. She said stories like Karabos



remind her how it could have been her.

Karabo Mokoena was found dead on April 29. Her charred remains were found in a ditch behind a park in Lyndhurst. Her boyfriend has since been arrested in connection to her murder.

Kardashians to launch magazine

The Kardashians are reportedly planning to publish their own magazine. The reality TV family are said to be close to signing a deal with American Media Inc. - who cur-

rently own numerous publications, including Star, National Enquirer and Shape - for their own print media outlet, which would feature heavy involvement from sisters Kim, Khloe and

Kourtney and their mother Kris Jenner, though an independent editor would be appointed. It is believed the magazine could launch this spring. www.independent.co.uk

was discovered and that her son, mother, assistant and bodyguards were all also home at the time that the incident took place.

Law enforcement sources tell the outlet that the man gained access to Amber's home by breaking one of her kitchen windows and going through her pantry.

E! Online



Céline Dion to Perform "My Heart Will Go On" at 2017 Billboard Music Awards

The 2017 Billboard Music Awards are shaping up to be a real heart-of-the-ocean style affair.

Two decades after "My Heart Will Go On" propelled the Titanic soundtrack to record heights, Céline Dion will be performing the Oscar- and Grammy-winning song live at the BBMs, taking place May 21 in Las Vegas.

"This song means a lot to me, and it has played such a huge role in my career," Dion said in a statement Monday. "It's a great honor to have the opportunity to perform it on the Billboard Music Awards' international stage, in celebration of the film's 20th anniversary."

E! Online

Zac Efron Will Star as One of the Most Notorious and Terrifying Serial Killers of All Time

How's this for some bone-chilling casting news?

Zac Efron has been cast as infamous serial killer Ted Bundy in an upcoming psychological thriller, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The film is titled Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile, and will be told from the perspective of Bundy's long-time girlfriend, Elizabeth Kloepfer.

True crime fanatics will remember Kloepfer as the one who turned Bundy into authorities, though she continued to date him despite her growing suspicion that Bundy was involved in the disappearances of multiple young women in the 1970s.

E! Online

Steve Harvey's ex-wife suing him for \$60m

Steve Harvey is reportedly being sued by his second ex-wife, Mary Shackelford, for \$60m.

According to court documents obtained by TMZ Shackelford claims her life has been a struggle since the couple's divorce was finalised in 2005, and has pushed her to turn to self-medication in an effort to deal with the aftermath of the separation. Amongst several things Shackelford in suing Harvey for, child endangerment, torture, conspiracy against rights, and intentional infliction of emotional distress and breach of contract are listed. E! News reports the court lawsuit also states "soul murderer" and is described as being "achieved by a combination of torture, deprivation and brainwashing."

The lawsuit was filed on Wednesday by a woman who says she is Mary's civil rights activist.

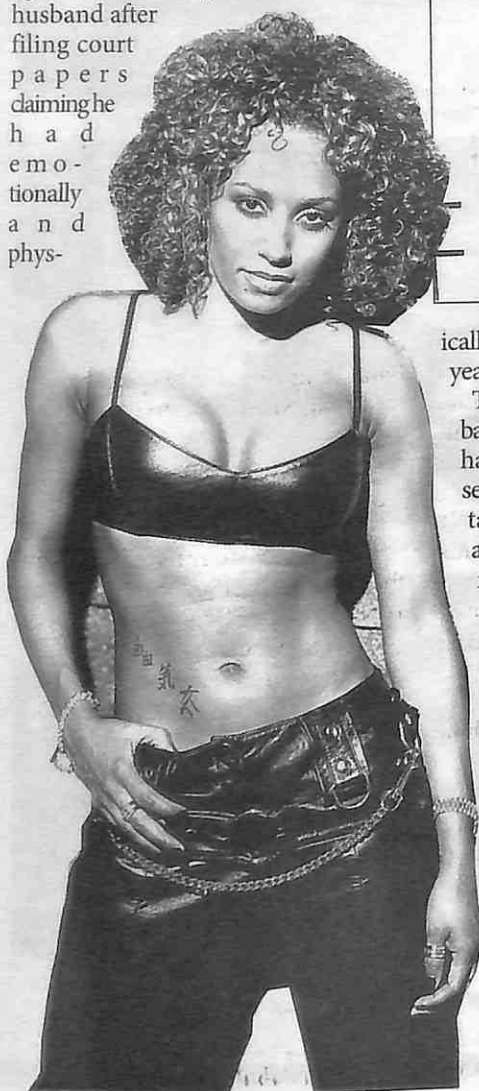
Steve Harvey has not yet commented on the lawsuit.

Channel24

Spice Girl Mel B granted restraining order

The couple married in 2007 and have a five year-old daughter. Brown has two other children from previous relationships.

It has been granted a restraining order against her estranged husband after filing court papers claiming he had emotionally and physically



ically abused her for much of their 10-year marriage.

The British singer, 41, said her husband, TV producer Stephen Belafonte, had beaten her and destroyed her self-esteem, threatening to leak a sex tape to the media if she left him, according to court documents filed in Los Angeles Superior Court to support her request for a restraining order.

In the court documents, Brown detailed incidents dating back to 2007, when she claimed Belafonte slammed her onto the floor and began choking her on the night of her finale for the TV show Dancing with the Stars.

In 2012, she said a jealous Belafonte punched her in the face and split her lip as she was about to tape a segment with R&B singer Usher for the TV show The X Factor, according to the court documents.

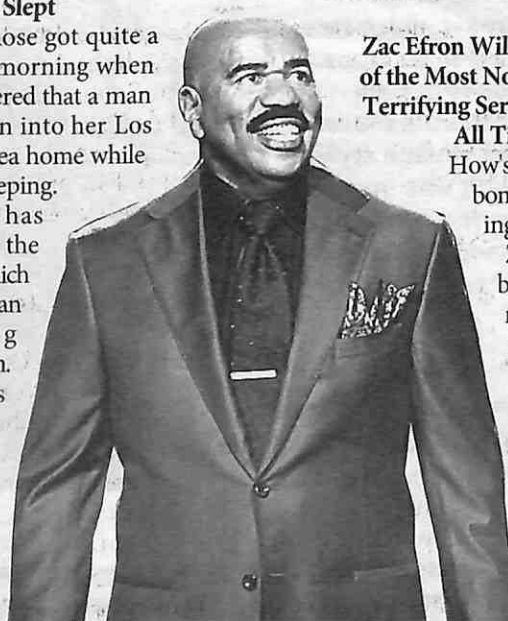
www.independent.co.uk

Amber Rose Victim of 4-Hour Home Invasion While She Slept

Amber Rose got quite a scare this morning when she discovered that a man had broken into her Los Angeles-area home while she was sleeping.

E! News has confirmed the incident, which is currently an ongoing investigation.

TMZ is reporting that the suspect was in her home for four hours before he



THE GROUNDER'S MARKET



Masai Shuka material styled handbags, handmade by Senamile Mohammed were on display at the market.



Makaziwe Mhlophe assisting Tiwi Gondwe select perfect sun shades.



Tiwi Gondwe from 'Tiwi's Closet' posing next to her displayed merchandise. The items on display were perfect for a Bushfire look.



Temazulu Dlamini at The Grounder's Market which was held at the Upper Deck Parking, Corporate Place. Her vintage styled outfit was inspired by items in her grandmother's closet.

Princess, of 'Prida's Collection, showcasing her all pink outfit.



Revamped Deja Vu Cocktail lounge



Complementary white couches give the Deja Vu cocktail lounge a new feel.



DJs were captured on the decks last week as it officially opened.



The site inside fit for queens.



Revelers enjoying themselves.



Fun lovers having a great time at the new lounge.

SUNDAY COMMENT

Where are the people disappearing to?

Today marks as the 36th day since businessman Almor Oliveira was reported missing.

We can never even begin to imagine what his family must be going through, and to them this has been 36 days of hell, especially with the said contact from the kidnappers demanding a ransom.

Frankly, the cops have looked rather jittery and incompetent when dealing with the case.

It is shocking if not downright scandalous that in this day and age, when technology reigns supreme, we have a police force that will fail to trace phone calls and messages!

It's appalling, screams gross ineptitude in the force and is in fact alarming to us as a nation that something is wrong.

The distressing revelation of the disturbing statistics that 164 people have gone missing in the country in just five months is dreadful and frightening.

It leads to the question - how safe are we in the country?

What's more worrying is that we pay so many people for our security, but they are proving to be failing, dismally!

They always get the lion's share of the cake in the budget, but the populace is not getting their money's worth.

Again, it leads to the thought that maybe nurses and teachers are making a valid point that security forces are inflaming the wage bill; yet do not benefit the nation.

Each and every year we hear of promotions and recruits in the forces and yet with all the manpower and equipment in the world, they are failing to keep a population of about 1.2 million people safe.

We should be concerned and demand answers. The statistics are shocking and it's high time we stop with the reactive mindset that kills this country and be proactive for once by dealing with this.

Isaac Magagula must answer to us on why he is getting thousands of Emalangenis for television shows that will blow his horn when we expect that things like investing in the right personnel and equipment would be the priority.

Again this further authenticates claims that the recruitment processes aren't getting the right personnel because they are simply done to window dress backdoor deals that benefit the highest bidder.

Oliveira's case has just opened our eyes to the lack of skill in the security forces and it's about time we call for action because evidently people are vanishing into thin air on a daily basis and yet that seems to be the least of worries for the police.

Analysis & opinion



BY MBONGENI MBINGO

CRIPPLING OUR HEALTH SYSTEM

It is difficult to make sense of the crisis coming out of the ministry of health, in particular, the shortage of drugs in hospital that now threatens to ground the national health care system.

In the past week, nurses went on a go slow, in an attempt to highlight the plight of both the nursing profession and as well patients in hospitals who are turned away because there are no drugs. It turns out that the public is directed to pharmacies for medicines, which obviously comes at a cost.

Government owes suppliers about E236m for drugs, which has forced the suppliers to withhold the drugs for as long as they have not been paid.

This of course is a serious crisis, and brings to the fore the challenge we are faced with when it comes to priorities and obviously procurement. We cannot afford to default on healthcare and cannot afford to place areas ahead of medical supplies. Add to that list education, which too is a priority for government. This then means there has to be urgency each time these two issues are placed on the agenda, so the fact that we are defaulting on medical supplies and now running seriously short of drugs is not just scandalous, but it is really disappointing.

To put things into proper context, the ministry of health handed out E360m to the Good Shepherd Hospital, before the minister could appoint a board of directors. This generous donation was handed over to the hospital in July last year. Two weeks ago, the minister finally put in place the board of directors—nine months and some weeks later—to, among other things, supervise the management of the hospital and ensure that the subvention is used efficiently.

Reckless

No matter how you look at this, this is reckless and shocking from both the minister and her Principal Secretary, Dr Simon Zwane. Perhaps it is even uncharacteristic of Dr Zwane, but that is beside the point. The crux of the matter will be on the efficiencies of the ministries and the officials who are tasked with ensuring accountability for such spending.

It is essential that we underscore that such an amount of money being 'given away' without putting in place measures to ensure it is safely utilised and accounted for, should be understood as corruption; this especially in the current economy of this country. If we now bring into the equation the issue of the shortage of drugs, plus the concerns raised by nurses, you get to appreciate that the ministry, in not government, is at fault at not prioritising the issues of the healthcare. One would not want to



● This I raise because there is rampant corruption in this country, more-so in the civil service. This cancer is draining this country of the little it manages to raise, as more and more people are coming up with skelems of enriching themselves at the taxpayers' expense.

suggest that it is not important to ensure the Good Shepherd Hospital project was concluded, and that the employees were confirmed into the civil service, for which the E360m was budgeted and allocated. However, it raises a lot of questions how this was executed; the absence of a board to oversee this means we can all expect that it will be mismanaged. We can expect that next year we will be dealing with lame excuses over how the money was spent.

Draining

This I raise because there is rampant corruption in this country, more-so in the civil service. This cancer is draining this country of the little it manages to raise, as more and more people are coming up with skelems of enriching themselves at the taxpayers' expense. Principal secretaries are tasked with the duty of ensuring that processes are followed, and that government funds are directed where they should be—where they are budgeted for. They are also responsible for ensuring there is accountability for projects.

I am actually reminded of that controversial statement by the former finance minister, Majosi Sithole who once famously revealed that this country bleeds E80 million a month to corruption. This statement sent shockwaves throughout the country, and rightly so. What was missed was the magnitude of the corruption and how this builds up over the years.

If we were losing this much to cor-

ruption per month, then we can obviously start throwing around the figures now to come to the conclusion that since then, it has become worse, and in fact institutionalised.

That is what is frightening about how the ministry can then throw away E360m without necessarily attempting to ensure there will be someone responsible for it. This for me is dangerously reckless of the ministry and in an ideal world, the stuff for which people lose their jobs. I will not bother to go down that route.

Corruption

What I do believe we need to question is the state at which our healthcare is now—in an intensive care unit, while the ministry can act this recklessly. The question will obviously be and should be, what else goes on that we have not picked up? But more importantly, given this rampant corruption within government one is left with a lot of questions relating to the procurement of drugs and the figure that is being brandished as being outstanding for the supply of drugs.

What also concerned me was how patients are being directed towards pharmacies as though everyone can afford the medicines being prescribed for them. Knowing how things operate, who can rule out if there isn't any corruption there, and as well since we now have so many of these pharmacies? Who is to tell if there isn't any commission for the amount of people referred to pharmacies by

doctors and nurses? Who is to rule out if there isn't more to the shortage of the drugs than just making sure there is business directed elsewhere?

At the end of the day, however, what bothers me, even for a second, is how the ministry appears to be dragging its feet in the case of the funds owed for drugs. That patients will be turned back at hospitals for shortage of drugs is a scandal in itself. That it has been happening for weeks is atrocious. It is unforgivable from the ministry, whose priority is to ensure a healthy functioning medical system.

We can't also be making healthcare expensive, it is just inhumane. What we need is to ensure service delivery that caters for the poor. To make healthcare the exclusive preserve of the privileged is a violation on many fronts.

This is also typical of the politicians who only get to raise matters in Parliament because they affect them directly or personally. On Friday, the MPs were at it again jumping up and down in their show of arrogance; one complaining he had lost a relative due to the shortage of drugs while another related how he had been directed to get his medication from a pharmacy, as if they are more important than the public.

People have been dying due to the shortage of drugs. People have been buying their medication from pharmacies. No one was saying and doing anything.

Reality

Now suddenly, MPs think this is an important matter because their relatives are dying? It is obvious that MPs are not in touch with reality, and attach significance to their borrowed status. In actual fact, it is their job to know of these things from their constituency—first hand. Had they been any relevant to the people, they would have seen the signs from the onset. As I pointed out in the beginning, I am struggling with this healthcare crisis; because not only does it point to the government misplaced priorities, but it is evident that people have turned a blind eye to the plight of the poor—the first being the ministry. It is hard not to fault the personnel whose duty is to ensure efficiency in the health care, and whose duty it is to wave the flag the moment the signs are pointing towards a crisis.

It seems to me that we are headed for a disaster.



THE NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE DEBATE IN SWAZILAND

Worker representatives represented in the Labour Tripartite structures, have called for consideration for establishing a National Minimum Wage of Three Thousand Five Hundred Emalangeni (E3 500) in Swaziland. It is imperative that, as the social partners, engage on this proposal, they, and the nation at large, critically and truthfully scrutinise a number of principles and ask key questions in the context of the Swaziland economy.

Questions such as the basis for this proposal in the context of the currently legislated Wages Councils of various sectors of the economy; what informs the proposal; what is the size of the workforce that will be 'entitled' to the proposed minimum wage; how will the proposed minimum wage be funded; what is the expected return on productivity for the minimum wage; can government, as the largest single employer, afford to pay a minimum wage of this magnitude; what will be the effect on the overall unemployment level, currently at 42 per cent.

It is a fact that in Swaziland, as compared to other countries in the region, the businesses in the private sector are already under pressure; the economy is contracting and government owes the private sector millions of Emalangeni for services rendered in the past 12 months. Added to this, Swaziland has the highest costs of

doing business in terms of inputs such as electricity and telecommunication. Swaziland's ranking in the World Economic Forum Index of 'The Ease Of Doing Business Index' fell in 2016 and Foreign Direct Investment fell by almost 50 per cent in the same year. Truth is, businesses in Swaziland are struggling to rise above such challenges whilst trying to improve the Swazi economy through substantial job creation initiatives.

The debate by the Tripartite Social Partners should therefore not only focus on the interests of those who are already in gainful employment but should also consider the impact that this will have on the ones seeking employment.

It is the view of the Voice of Business that a National Minimum Wage in Swaziland will generate more 'heat' than 'light' by misrepresenting the difficult choices faced by any policy-maker who is concerned about poverty alleviation and welfare inequalities within the economy.

Until there is full understanding, at a national level, of what the implications and impact of a National Minimum Wage will be, the Voice of Business would urge the social partners not to rush on this matter. The Voice of Business fully supports the requesting social partner that a full and detailed research needs to be undertaken before a proposal of this nature could be

considered for implementation. What may well be a well-intentioned initiative could possibly have devastating negative consequences on the Swaziland economy, and the ability for Swaziland to create jobs and attract investment.

Arguing for a high national minimum wage floor, even if phased-in, to the Voice of Business, seems to entail what might be called 'unemployment denialism'; that is, the denial that poverty in Swaziland is primarily the result of massive unemployment and the assertion instead that the high poverty levels are due primarily to low wages (as is the case in Brazil and the USA). How true is that? To calculate a proposed minimum wage from a 'median wage' based on the wages of the low percentage of people that have jobs is to blithely ignore the zero wages of the 42 per cent of Swazis who are unemployed.

The Voice of Business contends that, in order to start to eliminate low wages and (as the cause of low wages rather than their consequence) low investment, low productivity and low employment, we should put the horse before the cart by raising the levels of investment in the productive sectors of the Swazi economy, taking into consideration the fact that Swaziland currently lags hopelessly behind its peers in the SADC region. When played correctly, high investment, high productivity and

high employment can be accompanied by higher wages. This would require a significant restructuring of the Swazi economy. Therefore, the implementation of a minimum wage should be an integral part of a package of a far-reaching industrial policy, and other interventions as well as the re-orientation of the country's macro-economic policy. These are neither short-term nor quick-fix remedies. This restructuring can be achieved by building upon sectors in which productivity can be advanced at levels that pay decent wages.

For uncompetitive sectors, improvements in productivity through improved efficiency and innovation are needed together with a possible reorientation to move away from producing cheap goods towards higher value-added and niche products. Expanding domestic markets, boosted by higher wage income, could underpin economies of scale and productivity increases, while local industry, in an era of fast production cycles, could leverage its proximity to the continent's major retailers to increase exports. In this vision for the economy, tradable sectors that can sustain higher wages would be promoted.

For this to be achieved, it is critical to have a nuanced government policy that would provide the necessary incentives and regulation combined with direct investment in skills, research and development

and world-class infrastructure, as well as a stable, corruption and crime-free environment. Abandoning restrictive macroeconomic policies is essential to support such a programme. This means lower and regulated interest rates, preferential financing for chosen industries, and limiting financial market speculation.

The mere possibility of unprecedented consumption-led employment growth hardly seems to warrant setting a national minimum at a level that has a high probability of destroying jobs in sectors such as agriculture, destroying entire sectors such as textile and reducing the possibility that labour-intensive sectors could grow in future. Minimum wages present one of the most difficult choices to any policy-maker concerned with poverty, inequality and unemployment. It demands careful analysis and nuanced policy interventions – not a blanket approach to a very complex matter with high risks of unintended and perverse consequences.

In conclusion, it must be understood that the Voice of Business is not advocating for the reinforcement of a low-wage regime, but rather, a well-designed restructuring policy package to stimulate investment and productivity, which supports the growth of employment in the relevant sectors, thereby establishing a high-wage growth path for the economy.

MINIMISING POST-HARVEST LOSSES IN MAIZE



**NOKWANDA
DLAMINI-
MASUKU**

ON THE
GRAIN



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CO.SZ

Last week, the National Maize Corporation introduced to the Swazi Nation, Post-Harvest Handling for dry, red speckled sugar beans.

It was said that their main objective is to provide advice on how best the crop can be handled and preserved for Swaziland's grain market, the National Maize Corporation (NMC).

Minimising post-harvest losses is one of the crucial things a farmer needs to ensure to achieve optimum benefits in maize production. Today, NMC would like to advise Swazi farmers on better methods of minimising maize grain losses after harvesting. This will ensure that the maize grain sold to NMC, yields better income and further services other communities, thus addressing the issues of food insecurity in the country.

Reducing post-harvest losses could be a sustainable solution towards increasing food availability, eliminating hunger and

improved farmers' livelihoods. Maize as a staple food, accounts for maximum postharvest losses. As much as 50% – 60% maize grains can be lost during the storage stage due to the lack of technical efficiency. This article provides an idea of some practices to minimise maize post-harvest losses.

Maize grain losses can broadly be attributed to weight loss due to spoilage, quality loss, nutritional loss, seed viability loss and commercial loss, in this particular instance we will focus on loss due to spoilage. A significant amount of produce is lost in post-harvest operations due to lack of knowledge, inadequate technology and/or poor storage infrastructure. During the crop transition from farm to consumer, it undergoes several processes such as harvesting, transportation, shelling, cleaning, drying and storage. During this movement, the crop is lost due to several factors such as improper handling, inefficient processing facilities, biodegradation due to microorganisms, insects, etc.

Harvesting

Harvesting is considered as the first step in the grain supply chain and is a critical operation in deciding the overall crop quality. Mostly, maize harvesting in Swaziland is performed manually using hand cutting tools such as sickles, knives, slashers and cutters. This is a highly labour intensive and slow process. It is in large scale production where the crop is harvested using combine harvesters, particularly now that NMC has this service to provide to Swazi farmers. A large amount of losses

occurs before or during the harvesting process, if it is not performed at adequate crop maturity and moisture content. Too early harvesting of crop at high moisture content increases the drying period and cost, making it susceptible to mould growth, insect infestation and resulting in a high amount of broken grains whereas leaving the matured crop un-harvested results in high shattering losses, exposure to birds and rodents and losses due to natural calamities such as rain and hailstorms. Large scale growers experience heavy harvesting losses due to delayed harvesting because of a lack in adequate harvesting equipment.

Maize Cob Storage and Drying

The maize cobs are usually harvested with the grain at high moisture content to minimise the shattering losses in the field and dried as soon as possible to reduce moisture level (below 13%), which is safe moisture content for long-term storage to maintain the crop quality. If maize is not properly dried, it will be more susceptible to insect and fungal attacks.

The farmer is, therefore, expected to store his/her cob in an acceptable condition, that will prolong and keep the grain sound and without fungal and insect damage. It is very important that the farmer constructs a proper storage structure for his/her maize cob. Natural drying or sun drying is a traditional and economical practice for drying the harvested crop, and is the most popular method in the country. Sometimes, the whole crop without threshing is left in the field only for drying. Sun drying is

weather dependent, slow, and causes large losses. Grains lying in the open for sun drying are eaten by birds, rodents and insects. It also easily gets contaminated by other foreign materials. Unseasonal rains or cloudier weather may restrict proper drying, and the crop is stored at high moisture, which leads to high losses due to mold growth.

Threshing and Cleaning

The purpose of the threshing process is to detach the grain from the panicles. The process is achieved through rubbing, stripping, or impact action, or using a combination of these actions. Manual threshing is the most common practice in Swaziland. Grain spillage, incomplete separation of the grain from chaff, grain breakage due to excessive striking, are some of the major reasons for losses during the threshing process. Delay in threshing after harvesting of crop is a major contributing factor in loss of both quantity and quality of the grain, as a result exposure to atmosphere, and is susceptible to rodents, birds, and insect attack, especially the weevil.

The cleaning process is performed after the threshing to separate whole grains from broken grains and other foreign materials, such as straw, stones, sand, chaff, and weed seed. Screening/sifting is another common method of cleaning, which can be performed either manually or mechanically. Inadequately cleaned grains can increase the insect infestation and mould growth during storage and add unwanted taste and colour. A large amount of grains are lost as

spillage during this operation.

Grain Storage

Grain storage plays a vital role in the food supply chain. In most cases, maize is grown seasonally and after shelling the maize grain is stored in grain storage tanks. This may be either for short or long periods as food reserves, and sometimes as seeds for the following season. Swazis used to utilise indigenous storage structures, which are rare to find at the present times. The indigenous storage structures were made of locally available materials (grass, wood, mud etc.) without any scientific design, and could not guarantee enough protection of crops. The most commonly used grain storage facilities presently are metal grain tanks. A farmer must ensure that his/her metal tank is well riveted and well connected at every seam or joint. This is to ensure proper fumigation that allows no gas escape. Avoid tank damage during transportation from manufacturers to the farm by tying it tightly and cushion every part that is in contact with the truck or vehicle. This minimises heavy losses as a result of damages by grain weevils.

We hope that the information provided above will be of use to all farmers and we wish farmers an excellent harvesting season. Should the services of NMC's combine harvester be required, NMC will gladly open doors to communication regarding the same; just as the same communication lines with regards to storage facilities are now open to farmers.

MIND THAT
ERROR

ADIDI UYO



The grammatical error known as pronoun-antecedent disagreement, otherwise referred to as faulty pronoun reference, is one that requires of us a combined sense of logic and mathematics to apprehend, analyse, or amend.

So, if you have this combined sense, you can readily see what is wrong with the following sentence.

"It is rare that someone just over 30 years old can write such a captivating account of their life, and reflect so thoughtfully on how his very chequered past has moulded him into the person he is today." This is the sole sentence of the second paragraph of an article with the title, "A classic, tragic, South African tale," in The Sunday Independent of January 22, 2017.

For purposes of context, the 30-year old person referred to in the sentence is Trevor Noah, the South African comedian who now hosts The Daily Show, a programme that parodies the news on Comedy Central. And the book in which he captured his chequered past is Born A Crime.

Here are the elements that are involved in the grammatical calculation of the aforementioned sentence: "someone," "their," "his," and "person." The first element, "someone," is an indefinite pronoun, and it is singular. But look at the pronoun which is used to refer to it, thereafter: It is "their." This is wrong, because it is plural and does not agree in number with its preceding pronoun, "someone," which is singular in number. Can you see the mathematics and logic of it?

Before you can say, "Gee," here comes yet another pronoun, "his." Now, in terms of number, things have shifted, again! The pronoun, "their" is plural, whereas the pronoun, "his," is singular: yet another disagreement. Finally, and gratefully, things shift back to where the sentence started, a common noun whose number is singular: "person."

We need to revise the sentence so that the pronoun that is used to refer to the pronoun that precedes it agrees with it, thus: "It is rare that someone just over 30 years old can write such a captivating account of HIS life, and reflect so thoughtfully on how his very chequered past has moulded him into the person he is today."

Grammar is interwoven with logic, a twin brother of mathematics. So, if you do not put on your thinking cap when you are constructing a sentence – if you don't let your reasoning guide your fingers, so to say – you are bound to commit many errors, of which errors of agreement are perhaps the greatest manifestation.

PRONOUN-ANTECEDENT
DISAGREEMENT

● Grammar is interwoven with logic, a twin brother of mathematics. So, if you do not put on your thinking cap when you are constructing a sentence – if you don't let your reasoning guide your fingers, so to say – you are bound to commit many errors, of which errors of agreement are perhaps the greatest manifestation.



See if you can place your finger on the element that is causing the disagreement in the following sentence. "This belief results partly from Swazi cultural history, when in the old days a person 'smelled out' by 'witch-finders' was presumed guilty even if they knew nothing about their 'crimes' (the assumption being that their body was being used by an evil spirit) but, as the evil spirit's 'vessel,' they had to pay the price of death for such an accusation, anyway." This is the third sentence of the first paragraph of the second editorial in the Times of Swaziland, January 21, 2013.

Quickly, let's point out the pivotal element of concern in that sentence: "person." You can see that what follows this common noun, that is, the pronoun that is used to refer to it thereafter is "their." But this is not correct, because "person" is singular in number, whereas "their" is plural in number. Therefore, the two are in disagreement.

The sentence may be amended, thus: "This belief results partly from Swazi cultural history, when in the old days a person 'smelled out' by 'witch-finders' was presumed guilty even if HE knew nothing about HIS

'crimes' (the assumption being that HIS body was being used by an evil spirit) but, as the evil spirit's 'vessel,' HE had to pay the price of death for such an accusation, anyway." Quite a breath-taking sentence, you would agree! "A beacon of excellence" is the title of the first editorial in The Star of April 23, 2015. Its opening sentence reads, thus: "The term 'role model' is often bestowed on anyone who has achieved even modest success in their chosen careers."

If any word should leap at you from that sentence, that word must be "their." This pronoun, which is plural in number, is supposed to be referring to the indefinite pronoun, "anyone," which is singular. The mathematics of the sentence, as you can see, does not work out fine: Plural and singular do not agree in number, so the sentence is in error – a disagreement between an antecedent and its pronoun.

The sentence stands to be corrected, thus: "The term 'role model' is often bestowed on anyone who has achieved even modest success in HIS chosen career." The sentence may also be amended, thus: "The term 'role model' is often bestowed on

PEOPLE who HAVE achieved even modest success in their chosen careers."

Here is a pronoun-antecedent disagreement, PAD, for short, of a different kind. So far, what we have seen is the disagreement deriving from number. But PAD may also derive from the case or the gender of a pronoun. Let's try to see what the problem is with a sentence taken from a piece in the Times of Swaziland SUNDAY, November 9, 2014. It was titled, 'I JUST WANTED SEX' – with the rider: "Minister says this is the main reason she got married." It reads: "She referred to sex as 'kulala' and asked the women if they understood what he meant by that."

If you cannot readily apprehend the culprit in that sentence, let me point it out to you. It is the fourth to the last word, the pronoun, "he." When we inflect pronouns, the inflection may be based on number, gender, or case. Gender may be man/male or woman/female. In the nominative case, these are "he" and "she," respectively. Now, look at the sentence under our spotlight here. It begins with the pronoun, "she," and nowhere in the sentence do we find a male. So, where does the pronoun,

"he," towards the end of the sentence come from? Something is definitely amiss: there is a disagreement between the last pronoun in the sentence, "he," and its antecedent, the first pronoun, "she."

A commentary in The Star of October 25, 2016 was titled, "Our country is in a leadership crisis." Its opening sentence reads, thus: "If there ever was a doubt that the nation is facing a leadership crisis, events surrounding the charging of Finance Minister Pravin Gordham has put paid to them."

The disagreement in that sentence is a bit difficult to apprehend, but it becomes easy to find once you pinpoint the two elements that are supposed to be in agreement. And these, of course, are "doubt" and "them." The former, which is the antecedent noun in the sentence, is singular in number, whereas, the latter, which is the pronoun supposed to referring to the noun, is plural. This cannot be so.

Having apprehended the culprit in the sentence, we may correct it in this way: "If there ever was a doubt that the nation is facing a leadership crisis, events surrounding the charging of Finance Minister Pravin Gordham have put paid to IT."

One question that often boggles my mind is: "What makes a writer lose sight of the nominal element he or she started a sentence with and lets him or her shift its form later in the sentence? Of course, the factors responsible for shifts in focus, such as the ones that cause pronoun-antecedent disagreement, are not really different from those responsible for committing errors, generally. The most prominent factors methinks are carelessness, ignorance, and haste. If you can find a pronoun-antecedent disagreement in the following sentence, try to determine which of those three factors is responsible for it. The sentence comes from a commentary in the City Press of July 20, 2014, titled, "Shaking the Stem to get to the fruit." And it reads: "The only person at the SABC not lying about their qualification is Thato Sikwane."

#BRINGYOURFIRE WITH THE DUPS E50 000 GOLD COVER



It is yet another exciting month for us as we have many activities taking place and promotions lined up for our customers.

With the Mother's Day hype ticked off the list, today is the day all roads lead to this year's edition of the Dups Mafutseni Cycling Classic.

We would like to thank all cyclists taking part in it and wish everyone all the best. Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to all our partners for the support they have rendered to make this event a success. We would also like

to encourage those that have never participated to consider doing so and start preparing for next year's race. Sport is a good way to spend time and network with other people. Should you meet our cyclists today, please show them some love and courtesy!

The next show on everyone's lips is the 11th edition of the MTN Bushfire Festival. We will not be left out of the excitement, and would also want three of our valued customers to be a part of it.

We are currently running a promotion where people stand a chance to win one of three Bushfire tickets (One golden lounge and two day tickets) when they register for the Dups Dignified E50 000 Gold Cover.

To register for the policy and stand a chance to win the tickets, all you have to do is sms FUN to 6464. We will get

back to you for registration and automatically enter your name for the competition.

Upon joining, you would be encouraged to pay premiums for three months or more, or make payments via debit order or stop order. That would place you in good stead for the Bushfire tickets. You would need to be above 18 years of age to be a part of the promotion.

Among the many benefits that come with the Gold Cover campaign is the convenience of our consultants going over to sign up the customer.

Upon signing, the customer will get a dedicated relationship manager to assist him/her whenever they need any help regarding their policy or in the event that they need to make a claim.

In the event that someone covered

by the E50 000 policy passes on, we will go to the client or beneficiary to collect documents in order to start processing the claim. This claim will be paid within 24 hours of collecting the documents.

The competition for the Bushfire tickets closes on May 24 2017, but you may still come to us to register for the Dups Dignified E50 000 funeral policy and still enjoy the benefits mentioned above.

With only a few days to go before the extravaganza, excitement is in the air all around.

Don't miss out on it; sms FUN to 6464 to be in line to win yourself a ticket for the memorable event. Dups has the sole discretion to exclude any person from participating in the promotion without any obligation to furnish any notice and/or reason.

We will have Dups staff members at Mafutseni today and will bring our fire to Malkerns for the Bushfire Festival

this week. Please visit our stall to find out about all our products and services.

Our stall has always been a hit with the herbal remedies from our herbal shop. With winter setting in, you would do well to stock up on remedies for the small winter niggles from our stall. You can even register for a policy at the festival without the need to physically come to our offices as we have a mobile office.

We hope everyone enjoys the music, food and everything the show has to offer, all in a safe way.

Please give us a call on 2505 2028 to find out all about our Gold Cover promotion.

You can also send queries to info@dupsgroup.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter @dupsinsurance or pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlangano, Mbabane, Pigg's Peak and Siteki.



**NOKUKHANYA
GAMEDZE**

JA BOARD CHAIR

WHY I BECAME AN ENTREPRENEUR

What I find most inspiring in life is listening to real life stories of people who went out there and took a chance, which ended up becoming their lives greatest success.

This is because if you find such stories relatable, they can provide moti-

vation for one to be encouraged to chase their own dreams.

As we strive to create more youth entrepreneurs at JA Swaziland, I have

met inspiring young people who against all odds, persevered and became entrepreneurs in their own right.

Today we get to meet four young

entrepreneurs who shared their stories as to why they became entrepreneurs. These are young people who are JA Alumni and are currently

involved in the JA/FNB project. They have inspiring reasons as to why they became entrepreneurs to which they took their time to share with us.

Blessing Dlamini: "A lot of people believe that there should be a spark or some form of motivation to become an entrepreneur, however for me, that was not the case. Looking at my life today, I believe I became an entrepreneur simply because God gave me the talent and wisdom to become an entrepreneur."

To take you back a little bit, I became an entrepreneur back in high school while studying at Swazi National when I enrolled for prevocational education.

I had two options to choose from in the prevocational education stream; which were agriculture and business. Instinctively, I joined the business



stream as I had this mentality that I wanted to create my own employment.

Not long before that, the JA company programme was introduced in our school and I grabbed this opportunity to become a young entrepreneur in school. From there on, I was unstoppable.

Skills

Today I own my own grocery shop and I am also looking into running a local non-governmental organisation that will focus on offering prevocational skills to young people.

For me, entrepreneurship is no longer a choice, it is my life style and I would like to see more young people who will believe in themselves so much to create their own employment like I did."

Majaha Mamba: "I never thought in my life I would ever be an entrepreneur or rather develop so much love for entrepreneurship."

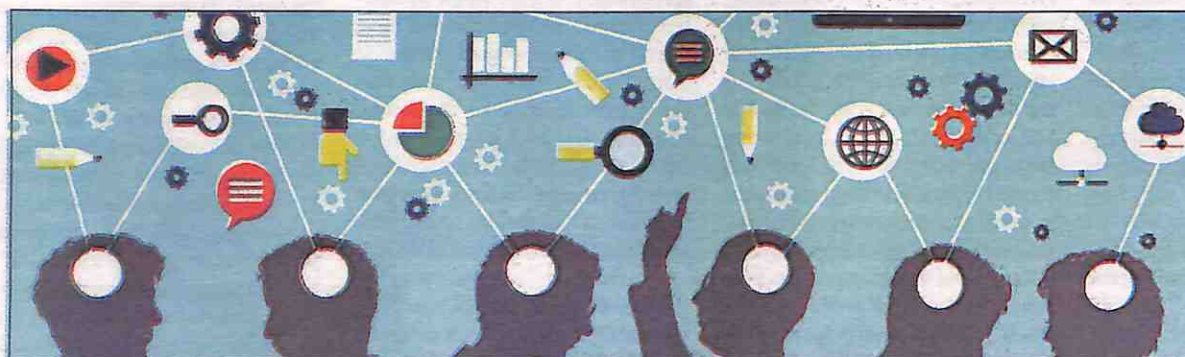
I did not become an entrepreneur voluntarily but it was because of my under privileged background. When I had just finished Form Three, there were no funds for me to continue my education. I had to find means to finance my education whilst also learning. To my advantage, JA was introduced in 2014 at Matsela Nazarene High where I was enrolled.

I joined their programmes. As the programme continued, I got interested in starting up and running a business for survival purposes and also help fund my education. Through doing errands in my area on weekends, I managed to raise capital which I then used to



buy clothes in Durban and sell them locally.

This business enabled me to cover up my tuition fees until I completed. Having completed, I started up a fish and chips business and eventually ventured into the agri business and produced beans. I partnered with Smiling Through Company who assisted me make a large produce. Today, I am able to foresee a future for myself because I have seen the value of working hard to start your own business."



Ndumiso Fakudze: "Just like every child, when I grew up all I wanted was to be in one of the most popular professions such as becoming a nurse, teacher or a soldier."

In 2014, while I was a part of the JA in school programme, I had a change of heart as I recognised that entrepreneurship is a career

option on its own and just as demanding as any other career.

Process

I specifically appreciated the JA company programme which outlined a step by step process into becoming an entrepreneur.

The practicals I received convinced me that I could actually tailor my energies into becoming

entrepreneur myself.

In 2015, while I was doing my Form Five, I then started conducting my own market research into the businesses within my vicinity and I saw the need to venture into printing, designing and embroidery business which I still run up to today.

As hard as it is to be an entre-

preneur, I am still one because I believe nothing ever comes easy in this life.

I am much happier knowing that the work I put in will eventually create my own legacy that I can one day leave to my children. For me that is the reason why I am convinced that I will die an entrepreneur."



'IF #MENARETRASH, WE MAKE THEM SO'

Nosipho Dlamini and
Tom Churchyard

Last week we heard the tragic news about Karabo Mokoena, a 22-year-old South African socialite who was burnt and murdered, allegedly by her boyfriend, Sandile Mantsoe.

She was laid to rest on Friday in Johannesburg. Since her death, reactions from Africans all over the continent have bombarded social media feeds and the opinion columns of national newspapers. Women are angry, and rightly so. The only reaction to such a barbaric act should be real, tangible rage. Expressing their repugnance towards the perpetrator, and creating the platform for other women to share



personal stories of threat and violence and abuse at the hands of men has led to the hash-

tag #MenAreTrash.

Karabo's story and the stories voiced since

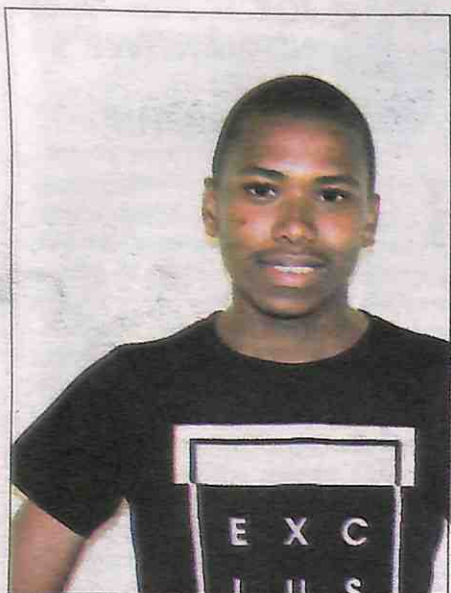
are harrowing examples of the extent that violence, and especially sexual violence against women and girls, has become normalised in our society. In Swaziland and the region, hardly a day passes without a horrific story of sexual assault or intimate partner or family abuse.

It is easy therefore, to fall into generalisations, to paint this issue with a broad brush and call all men trash.

But, like all things in life, this issue is more nuanced, more subtle than this simplistic narrative, where all men are uncaring monstrosities, and all women survivors.

Whilst its intention is admirable, the #MenAreTrash hashtag is a distraction, an impossible narrative that isolates and ostracises men and polarises rather than harmonises the brave voices who are screaming about the socialisation of violence.

Almost all social development interventions



Samkeliso Hlatjwako: "I decided to become an entrepreneur because of the love and passion I have for it."

I became an entrepreneur because I believe I have the unique ability of identifying opportunities and providing profitable solutions for them.

It almost sounds unbelievable to think that I became an entrepreneur as early as Form Three through selling scones in my school.

The sales I made inspired me to open a bank account and start saving the proceeds I made.

When I finished my high school, my father gave me access to land that is almost a hectare, which I utilise to plant a variety of vegetables depending on the season.

It is a viable business that I am able to make a living on currently. I am still looking into ways I can develop my business skills so as to diversify my produce. I do however believe that as long as we have to eat, I will stay in business."

CONCLUSION

The circumstances for becoming an entrepreneur can vary, perhaps you were able to identify with some of these young people today.

My thinking is that, do not have an excuse for staying at home as a young person and let the most productive years of your life pass you by.

Find your niche and go out there and prove that you can be among the best in entrepreneurship.

JA Swaziland is always looking for ways in which we can assist you to become your ultimate best in what you do.



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BY BONGANI DLAMINI
STA Marketing Manager
Email: mm@tourismauthority.org.sz



A WONDERFUL WAY TO CELEBRATE AFRICA MONTH

Africa's Travel INDABA 2017 has been deemed an outstanding success as the show saw high-quality buyers from across the world meeting high-quality exhibitors from across the African continent, showcasing a variety of tourism products and services.

This resulted in more than 20 000 confirmed meetings being held over the three show days – an increase of over 20 per cent compared to last year's figure.

There were a number of exciting developments at this year's event, held at Durban's Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, including the rebranding and renaming of Africa's premier travel trade show to Africa's Travel INDABA. The new positioning fully reflects the ownership of the trade show by the entire African travel industry and re-emphasises our countries' commitment to furthering tourism and economic development on the continent.

This year's INDABA attracted about 7 000 delegates, including African and international buyers, as well as more than 1 000 exhibiting businesses from 18 African countries showcasing a diverse array of travel and tourism offerings. Swaziland's contingent, which was led by the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Christopher Gamedze, consisted of 18 industry players and several others who opted to be walkabout marketers. A total of 692 registered media representatives attended the show, an eight per cent increase from 2016. Most of these took time to visit the Swaziland stand, and some expressed interest to sample our destination as hosted media. The value we get from media coverage by global publications and travel writers is invaluable, while cost effective as opposed to direct advertising on the same platforms.

INDABA's African focus was reinforced by South Africa's President Jacob Zuma who, in officially opening this year's show last Tuesday,

referred to it as "a wonderful way to celebrate Africa Month and to showcase the beauty of our continent." President Zuma also announced that following a comprehensive bid process, Tourism KwaZulu-Natal and Durban had been awarded rights to host Africa's Travel INDABA for the next five years. Several Swazi exhibitors expressed contentment with attending Indaba, despite the fact that it was facing competition from the World Travel Market show, whose home is Cape Town. Ruth Buck, Director at Foresters Arms, said

it would be even more beneficial if all industry players attended both shows as they attract top end buyers. In addition, the trade show's first ever Business Opportunity Networking Day (BONDay) session for exhibitors took place on Monday May 15.

It allowed the sharing of international best practice in the area of marketing and communications for the benefit of exhibitors, who were also given a platform to network and interact.

Also, at Indaba 2017 was the revival of collaborative destina-

tion marketing among Swaziland, Mpumalanga province, and Mozambique when the three met a Russian delegation from Ural Association of Tourism for networking purposes.

This arrangement rides on the wave of a memorandum of understanding between Mpumalanga Tourism and Ural.

INDABA ended on a high note for us with the Swaziland stand winning a silver award under Best Stand: Southern Africa category. This is the second time in a row we are achieving such recognition.



target women and children, because of the vulnerabilities imposed on them by men. We are greatly excluding men in the equation. It is easier to say #MenAreTrash, than to look at why they are so.

For years, we have been telling ourselves a story, a narrative where men are strong and silent and invulnerable, and women are weak, dependent and emotional, ready to be swept along, and ultimately mistreated, by a dominating lover, or immoral father.

This is no bedtime fairy-tale, hastily conjured by a tired mother. These gender roles are centuries in the making, deep-rooted in our cultural perceptions of who and what we should and can be, and passed on to our children from the very moment we buy the first toys for our new-born children.

Will it be a spaceship or a baby-doll? Such narratives are reductive, offensive and immense-

ly damaging to our understanding of gender roles.

Of course, it is difficult to be angry at everyone, at a faceless society. But society should be held accountable for how men conduct themselves because we are the ones responsible for how these men are brought up.

We need to make a more conscious effort towards writing new narratives, which challenge the blue/pink polarities we peddle to our children.

Men are socialised towards such acts by the allowances we create for them. 'Boys will be boys', we say when a fight breaks out, when we find that stash of pornography or when a teenager is too forward with his romantic advances. But a man is how he is because of the environment he is interacting with.

Our culture, which we love and defend so much, is birthing these toxic masculinities in

men and then feigns surprise by their beastly actions.

Every Eight hours, a woman is killed by her lover or ex-lover or someone with whom she has chosen to have intimate relations. One in four women will experience domestic violence by a spouse or a past spouse whilst seven million children, both boys and girls, grow up in homes of domestic violence. They are socialised at a very young age into thinking that beating someone is acceptable, even necessary and into thinking that a woman's domain is only in the kitchen and the bedroom.

The symptoms are battery, rape, abuse, harassment and coercion, but the wound is our notion of masculinity and the abuse of patriarchal privilege permitted by a simplistic society. And the cure?

We need to tell new stories, to write new narratives, new concepts of what is acceptable for



men and women in today's (and tomorrow's) world.

We need to hold that mirror close to our face, to radically rethink how we perpetuate violence through the familiar, comfortable narratives we live by every day.



BY Comfort Mabuza

I am quite aware that there are still few good and courageous men out there. I am also equally convinced though that there seems to be disturbing reports of men being abused by women, we certainly are having a crisis here. Imagine having to feed kids you never fathered, a topic for another day.

I am equally aware that some men have been made sponsors of children they never sired. I am also aware of men who continue trying to meet their obligations but do not have the economic muscle to make ends meet, but hey cheer-up mate for trying. But for our provocative article today allow me dear reader to address myself to the 'male' species who should be showing love, care and support to their families and earn the right to be called men. No men has a right to violate women's rights.

MEN IT'S TIME TO MATURE

We are definitely sick and tired that men are still associated with abuse issues and are now called "#Trash" because of their wayward behaviour that has left many wounded and bleeding women folks. The damage and carnage caused by men who never grow up proving their masculinity by playing women as if they are soccer balls in the name of love and sexual gratification is a great shame.

Changing women like they were a pair of socks, hurting them in the process as if they do not deserve human dignity is an indictment and a violation of women's rights and dignity.

Not only are men playing women as toys, they even celebrate deflowering them. How long will men continue as if this barbaric behaviour is civilised, this lowers men's dignity as loving and caring people. No sane men should take pride in hurting women, walking around proudly and not being ashamed of such barbaric behaviour is lowering dignity of manhood.

Sexual molestation in the name of love is a violation of the greatest order and such maniac tendencies must be condemned because it displays that one is mentally unstable. We should stop such madness and help men to grow up.

Real men do not treat women so cheaply, instead they set good examples by being role models for their own sons who are looking up to them.

Give us a break- change such unwelcome barbaric behaviour and take charge of your own sexuality department sirs.

Inganwa or Lisoka - man with numeral sex partners cannot be celebrated in this time and age with so many health hazards we are exposing ourselves to. Give us a break you uncultured men by growing up and become matured.

Real men learn how to manage and control their sexual desires and

MEN WHO NEVER GROW UP - GREAT VIOLATORS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

● We are definitely sick and tired that men are still associated with abuse issues and are now called "#Trash" because of their wayward behaviour that has left many wounded and bleeding women folks.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS

they see women as equal partners in development who must be treated with dignity. They remain in control of their own sexuality and do not walk aimlessly sleeping around like nobody's business. Manage your sexuality mate!

ITS PERSONAL HEALTH MATTERS

We have been bombarded with numerous messages that men are now exposed and finding it acceptable to have 101 sexual partners. We have been further warned that even if one was using sexual protection, still it certainly not 'cool' to be sleeping around proving your manhood. Let us be very brunt with truth here, poorly managed sexuality relationships shows itself as one's mental health imbalances.

Matters of sex are sensuality matters and you actually are joined in the spirit and mentally connected with whomever you sleep with. In short, one becomes part of a network with so many other sexual partners in that web, and let us not be beating around the bush here, you are exposing your mind and feelings of your love life to be unsatisfied and that cripple your mental health which cannot be resolved overnight.

When one considers that to sleep with so many partners you are actually connected to their world, surely in the long run you become a fanatic because you will start comparing people's sexual behaviours. We are standing up today to declare that most failed relations boils down to failure to satisfaction sexually.

You can go on defending yourself that you are extra-strong, but the undeniable reality is that you are weak because you are showing deficiencies of failing to get satisfaction with one partner, and that will eventually lead to a crisis mode where you will never enjoy making love and commit to one person.

In a nut shell, therefore, it is no longer a matter of sexually transmitted infections that you must guard against, but your mental health is totally confused and imbalanced by this wayward behaviour.

Stop abusing yourself and those sexual partners whom you are violating.

Can't you realise the untold irreparable harm you are causing to these people who themselves deserves to be treated better than merely sex objects?

BAD BEHAVIOUR BROODS WORSE ACTIONS

In my other life, I am a theologian and indeed a spiritual therapist. When we analyse human behaviour patterns, they could as well be reduced into three important components namely, mental, sexual and physical. Human behavioural patterns are influenced by the lifestyles we tend to prefer as adults in these components.

Directly or indirectly, people's character and behaviour patterns are shaped and moulded by those we look up to as role models. The point I am trying to make here being that, men must be good role models for boys.

In human behavioural terms, we tend to shape their views about acceptable behaviour. This wayward behaviour displayed by men who never grow up, ends up creating so much harm to up and coming younger men.

Falsehood that says real men must have concurrent sexual partners to prove their manhood and sleep around like nobody's business is totally unacceptable. We are further affirming that becoming fathers of so many illegitimate children is a norm.

Producing such distorted views as acceptable men's behaviour is just irresponsible wayward behaviour that must be condemned with strongest terms ever. Ushering animal basic instincts and law of the jungle will end up causing so much harm and sexual abuse through concurrent partners.

In the end, we are destroying valuable norms and values of what constitutes what should be acceptable men's behaviour.

We should be instilling a value system that says respect your body and treat women with dignity. Messing around other people's lives sexually is a barbaric inhumane behaviour not even acceptable in the wilderness. Stop this madness - *bulwane mosi lobu!*

MEN ARE LEADERS SHOW THE WAY

At the end of the day, men are supposed to lead by example showing what is family behavioural system. *Ubuntu* philosophy is inherently built in character regeneration, where values and norms are inculcated through wisdom shared and nurtured by other fellowmen.

Men must be given life skills as part of a desired socialisation process, where responsibilities of caring and protection for families form the basis of what constitutes good morals. That protective mode comes with the unique experience of men becoming protectors and providers of families. We certainly cannot afford to destroy a God-given mandate of fatherhood. True men protect their families from all kinds of abusive tendencies and are a shield protecting theirs first. Such protective mindset illustrates that there are bigger challenges and attacks against the institution of the family, men must take the lead in showing society that there is value in maintenance of healthy homes. We stand at the cross roads where issues of morality is fast degenerating, and then we blame it to socialisation process brought about by westernisation.

We are saying there is value in bringing about stability in our homes because once there is peace and harmony then we can be guaranteed that society is being positively influenced as part of ushering that which set us as unique part of creation. *Buntfu* creates a desired value system of living together in peace and harmony.

POSITIVE VIEW

Rather than belittling our women folks, we begin to look at them as our mothers and sisters who are equally part of bringing about stability in homes and communities. It certainly starts when we embrace the reality that men and women possess attributes that would make this world a better one. We are helping with moral regeneration and ushering hope in the midst of all the hopelessness around what we desperately need are responsible men charting the maze in making this world a better place.



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

Happy Africa Day on May 25th; this column is still dedicated to African renaissance education. Hence today, am educating by reflecting on my journey in African renaissance activism.

This year July 31st marks 21 years since completing spiritual mentorship with Dr Steven Hlophe (PhD), at the Right Brain Institute in Montreal, Canada, where the journey of unearthing my spiritual gifts, began. This journey of immersion into faith, passion, self-discovery, trials, tribulations, selflessness and sacrifice, with cash flow challenges' and negative experiences. Thus, propelling my standing firmly as an African renaissance activist, rewriting major tenets of history and researching on indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems.

This spiritual journey and activism required, being placed between a rock and a hard place, by critically thinking my formidable foundation. A mission and calling of rattling cages within western religion and education, which were part of my formidable foundation. As western religion and education resulted in numerous significant achievement within my family and environment, academically. This journey tested my resilience when standing firmly, critically thinking western religion and education. The two foundational basis for my financial and emotional upbringing and support, by unapologetically stating how they require rethinking thinking.

Indigenous Prophecy

A year after completing my spiritual mentoring programme, experienced spiritual visitation of Jesus Christ, whilst working in Manzini City Council.

Jesus Christ's image engraved on the wall in my room with crown of thorns, encircled within fresh red roses. The strong sweet smell of roses lasted for days, affirming how I had been chosen for a mission and calling. A mission and calling affirmed by God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, an encounter resonating within my soul.

This was overwhelming, hence, joined the Manzini Catholic St Anna women on their pilgrimage to where the Virgin Mary had appeared to little children in Kiev. After moving to Pretoria, experienced the spiritual visitation of the Virgin Mary, and then was a regular pilgrim at the Ngome Catholic Centre.

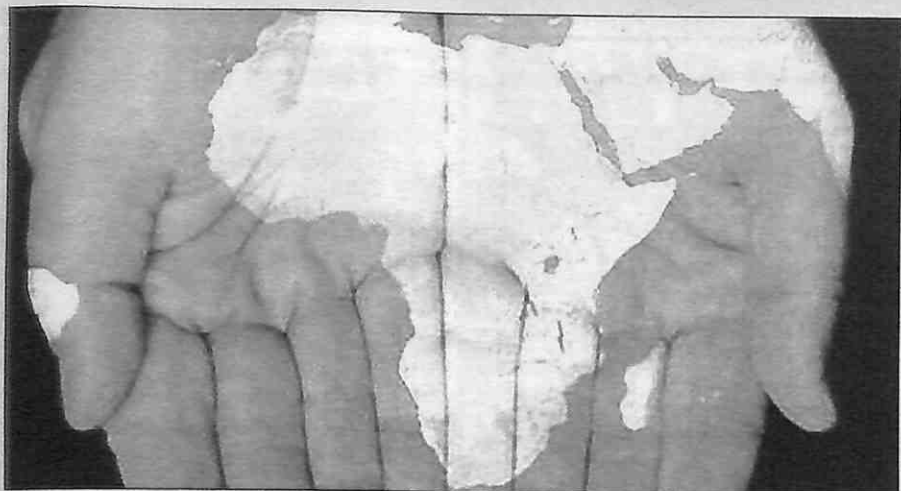
These spiritual visitations affirm why I unapologetically state that I am an indigenous prophet, *LaZidze* in incarnate and an African Renaissance activist. This is supported by the Catholic African Bible (p1186): 'Prophetic inspiration from the Spirit is at work in all ages and all cultures; it is present not just in those who speak and act explicitly in the name of Jesus. So we need to acknowledge that we who accept Christianity have no monopoly of the Spirit.'

After all, the same Spirit has been at work in the world since the beginning of time, long before the church existed. The Spirit is now at work silently and anonymously even in those places in Africa where Jesus is unknown. Those who limit prophecy and inspiration to Christians are guilty of a kind of fundamentalism, and unfortunately may never learn what the Spirit teaches us also through people outside the church.'

This affirming statement continues to be my source of inspiration in my African renaissance activism utilising indigenous prophecy to rewrite major tenets of history.

Thus enabling critical thinking on roles of the Bible and church within the current materialism and fragmenting of identity and culture. Rooted within the contexts of being affirmed on serving God by Jesus Christ and Virgin Mary through spiritual visitations. This makes me unapologetic to those who think I am mad, evil,

AFRICAN RENAISSANCE ACTIVISM



satanic and demonic. Evidently these vile and myopic statements affirm lack of spiritual visitations from Jesus Christ and Virgin Mary, to propel their spiritual journey. They are captives to the kind of fundamentalism explicated by the Catholic African Bible, which I was liberated from by spiritual visitations of Jesus Christ and Virgin Mary. Thus, rooting researching and rewriting major tenets of history anchoring 'Christianity has no monopoly of the Spirit.... which has been at work since the beginning to time, long before the church existed.'

God's Diversity

When applying critical thinking: if Christianity has no monopoly over Spirit, then Christianity has no monopoly over God. My major preoccupation in my African renaissance activism, hence the preference of God, the Supreme Being, God, beyond humanity's understanding, thus challenging our acceptance of His diversity. This spiritual challenge, humanity, was brought

to earth to experience God the embodiment of diversity. As religions come from God to evoke earthly souls with consciousness on His diversity. All religions are humanity's rites of passage towards accepting and embracing God's diversity as no religion has monopoly. When embarking on African renaissance activism, we humbly accept and embrace all religions as reflecting God's diversity.

African Renaissance activism requires God, the source of inspiration, through being spiritually devoted towards missions and callings. Thus, suppressing egocentricity of proclaiming knowledge of God, personally spiritually humbled by accepting God is a Supreme Being, therefore, greater than I. Evidently who am I to possess knowledge of God, the Supreme Being, inherently my responsibility is embracing God within humanity, thus, embracing those born within their religions. They daily teach us how we cannot have monopoly over God, thus, inspiring us with faith and passion to embrace them. Faith that surpasses all understanding, for God's diversity is a lifetime spiritual journey that we are on earth to experience. My spiritual encounter with Jesus and the Virgin Mary affirmed Christianity as my birth rites, this does not go into my ego, such that, I disrespect and disregard God's diversity. Disrespecting and disregarding God's

diversity to me would result in the greatest sin, I would be ashamed and unwilling to face God upon my death. However, am ready and willing to face God upon death and say 'God I loved, embraced and accepted humanity from all religions, gender, race and sexual orientation, thus accepting your diversity on earth, God. If this was my sin, then God I am not worthy to wear your golden crown of eternal blessing.' Hence in my African Renaissance activism I embrace God's diversity, for I am prepared to experience hell for this, if it is a sin.

Conclusion

In conclusion, African Renaissance activism of rewriting major tenets of history, research indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems and transforming universities from ivory tower into civic space. My mission and calling rooted within the Catholic African Bible: "The major task of every prophet in contemporary Africa is

one of discernment-not just in personal but especially in public issues in the social, political and cultural fields. Africa's prophets are reading 'the signs of the times'; challenging oppressive systems and those who abuse power; criticising obsolete structures and ways of behaviour in church and society; expressing solidarity with the vulnerable; consoling the marginalised and outcast; empowering the poor to be agents of their own advancement; reconciling oppressors and victims; working to make Africa's ancient cultures more meaningful and relevant; creating an Africa whose rich diversity of culture, gender, race and gifts is respected and honoured."

God will judge me and not grant my golden crown, if I fail on this mission and calling. Hence I sit in churches listening to sermons and gossips negating my spirituality, and ask which God they serve with their utterances. As my mission and calling is written within the Catholic African Bible, as an African renaissance activist I work for God, and does not extort humanity moneys for materialism or to finance opulent lifestyles. Thus, over the past 10 years have been laughing stock for financial failure, whilst fulfilling my spirituality. As opposed to shameful facing God for extorting poor people, financing materialism and opulent lifestyles.

This affirming statement continues to be my source of inspiration in my African renaissance activism utilising indigenous prophecy to rewrite major tenets of history.

THE RED PEN



Phila Dlamini Vilakati

Last week I spent most of the periods in my English classes doing Orals- catching up with my kids. I love the first few days of school.

We talked about how we spent the holidays, we talked about our responsibilities at home and at school, we also renewed our class ground rules and goals. It is a standard norm in my classes that when the term begins and ends, we have a self-introspection.

One of my pupils, Jack Mabaso, introduced to us, a peculiar book called; 'The Slam Book'. He wrote down the names of everyone in the class, including Miss Phila (apparently that's me). He circulated the book amongst us and we each had to write down the good, the bad and the ugly about the entire class. In this we learnt a whole lot of descriptive words and also got to find out what people think, and how they feel about you.

I made an interesting discovery during this exercise. Your birth order says a lot about you. I know my pupils, I know them very well. I know who is a first child, middle and last. I know the 'only child'. Jack himself, is the eldest and a prince of order. As the leader of the pack; firstborns often tend to be reliable, conscientious, structured, cautious and controlling. I see this with my pupils all the time. It came out in the Slam Book.

Best

Firstborns bask in their parents' presence, which may explain why they sometimes act like mini-adults. Firstborns are diligent and want to be the best at everything they do. They are usually perfectionists, well organized and critical children. They excel at winning hearts of their elders even without trying. Firstborns easily get along with (and can tolerate) people from all spheres of life.

Oldest children are the best kind of children. But, of course, I'm biased because I'm an eldest child myself. If you have the good fortune of loving/ dating/ marrying one of us, congrats to you, good sir! You're in for a fun ride.

Just buckle your seat belt first and pay attention to the traits. I so happened to marry a first-born, so I understand him like I understand myself. Coincidentally I have quite a number of good friends who are either a first born or an only child.

Firstborns tend to score higher on IQ tests and typically get more education than their siblings.

Research suggests that firstborns are more highly motivated to achieve.

They also tend to walk and talk earlier than later-borns, thus are usually just ahead of others in most things. Statistics show that firstborns often fill positions of higher authority or achievement.

Of the first 23 American astronauts sent into outer space, 21 were first-borns and the 2 were 'only children'.

As firstborns, our parents gave us every opportunity in the world and fawned over us.

They took more baby photos of us and were more careful the first time around with us, so we're used to being treated a little special. Life, and all its hardships, have a way of chipping away at this perceived "specialness" but still, we got more attention than the rest of our siblings and it's something that sticks with us forever.

Our parents praised our every move and yes, I know, they really should've cut back

FIRSTBORN SYNDROME

on that a bit. But as a result of this, we like to be patted on the back and given gold stars when we've done something positive. We like to be praised, therefore we achieve. It's almost an addiction. Apologies to younger siblings everywhere who have to live up to their oldest siblings.

As first-borns we take initiative. It's just what we do. If something needs to be accomplished anywhere, we will do it. We are great organisers of large groups. We can do this with our eyes shut. As a child, I was responsible for my younger siblings before and after school. My mother was a strict disciplinarian; I got spanked whenever they got out of line as I was 'supposed' to be watching them.

Famous firstborns include Oprah Winfrey, Hillary Clinton, George W. Bush, Harrison Ford, Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Chuck Norris, Sylvester Stallone and Ben Affleck.

'ONLY CHILDREN' have similar traits as the firstborns. Being the only child is a unique position in a family. Without any siblings to compete with, the only child monopolises his parents' attention and resources, not just for a short period of time like the firstborn but forever. In effect, this makes an only child something like a "super-firstborn". Only children tend to be mature for their age, they are perfectionists, diligent and make very good leaders too. They are also academically successful, self-confident, logical and organised, not usually street smart and afraid of disorder.

Famous only children include Tiger Woods, Alicia Keys, Shane West and Jada Pinkette Smith.

Attention

Middle kids, on the other hand, often feel left out. Since parental attention is usually devoted to the beloved firstborn or baby of the family; the hierarchical floundering leads these children to make a mark among their peers.

They tend to be loud and somewhat rebellious. They grow to be extremely independent and are best at dealing with conflict. They make many friends and are relaxed and diplomatic most of the time. They may often strive to be seen and heard because of background and have a tendency of bullying others without noticing that they are bullies. Interestingly, middle born children tend to leave home relatively earlier than their siblings.

Famous middle children are Donald Trump, Elijah Wood, Bill Gates, Martin Luther King Jr, Cindy Crawford, Emily Bronte and Princess Dianna.

Then we have the babies of the family. As children, they love the spotlight and will wrestle it away from others if need be. Because last-born children view their older siblings as bigger, faster and smarter they may attempt to differentiate themselves by being silly.

Qualities of a last born include manipulative, charming, attention seekers, tenacious, and affectionate. They may also be disorganised and too dependent. They have a relatively low self-esteem and are easily disappointed.

They need good mentors.

Famous youngest siblings include Prince Harry, Eddie Murphy, Whoopi Goldberg, Danny DeVito, Drew Carey, Jim Carey, Steve Martin, Hugh Grant, Johnny Depp and Charlie Chaplin.

The order in which we're born is outside our control but it plays a significant part in our personality and sometimes even our success or direction in life. CAN YOU RELATE?

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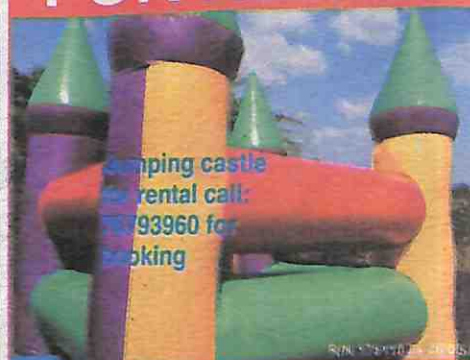
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God is changing changers to change the world
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Main service 10:00am - 1:00pm

Contact: 76638622/76471717
Host: Pastor N.T. Dlamini

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76180775

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Contacts: 2505 6419 / 7650 3140

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CONTACTS
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Thursdays - Mid-week Service 6:30-8:00pm
Sundays - Teachings 9:30-10:30am

Main Service 10:30am - 1pm

Mbabane Branch:
Tuesdays - Prayer 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Sundays - Service 10am - 1pm

MBABANE FREE EVANGELICAL ASSEMBLIES

Sunday Bible study 9:30 am - 10:30am

Main Service 10:30am - 1:00pm

Wednesdays Prayer 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Mondays Couples 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Mbabane FEA Church next to Build N, Contacts: 24045807/76572977
Email: mbabanefea@swazi.net

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Mondays Prayer 6:00pm-7:30pm
Wednesdays 6:00pm-7:30pm
Saturdays Youth 3:00pm
Sundays Women 9:00am-10:30am
Sunday School 9:30am-10:30am
Main Service 10:30am - 1:00pm

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CONTACT 7605 3160

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Every Monday
Prayer: 18:00hrs - 20:00hrs

Last Tuesdays of the Month
Family Fellowship: 18:00hrs - 20:00hrs

Every Friday
Youth Services: 18:00hrs - 20:00hrs

Venue: Evangelical Church Nhlango Church Hall, Opposite Nhlango Central Primary School

Contacts
22075 020/7603 6628

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Fridays
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Saturday
Women 2:00pm-3:30pm

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English Service 8:30am-10:30am
Siswati Service 11:00am-1:00pm

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NEYMAR 'SHOULD JOIN MAN UTD, ESCAPE BEING IN MESSI'S SHADOW'

BARCELONA - Neymar's father and advisor has reportedly told the player he will forever be in Lionel Messi's shadow if he stays at Barcelona.

The Brazil superstar has been widely linked with a move to Manchester United, with Jose Mourinho's side reportedly considering whether to activate his £178million buy-out clause.

Under the terms of his contract at Barcelona, which currently runs until 2021, Neymar's buy-out clause will increase to £200m the next year and £212m for the final three years – so it may be more 'prudent' for United to strike a deal now.

While Neymar recently said he wanted to stay at Barcelona and continue his fruitful attacking partnership with Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez, that has not stopped the player being persistently linked with a move.

And Spanish outlet Diario Gol claim Neymar's father says the Argentinian is a problem though.

They suggest he has told his son that he will always be in Messi's shadow as long as he stays at Barcelona.

And it further claims that a move to Manchester United would be 'the perfect remedy' and playing at Old Trafford would see the Brazilian firmly established as the club's talisman.

However, the story does not quote Neymar's father directly, so cannot



Barcelona superstars Neymar and Messi.

be entirely trusted as reliable.

And a £178million move to Old Trafford still looks unlikely at this stage.

Speaking about his future recently, Neymar said, "I want to be here at

Barcelona and that's why I renewed. "I'm happy with everything I've done for the club.

"And I'm happy with my teammates. I feel at home."

TEAMTALK

Xavi: Rabiot could play for Barcelona

PARIS - Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Adrien Rabiot could play for Barcelona, according to Xavi, a legend of the Catalan club.

Rabiot has impressed in France this season but reports in the local media suggest that he is uneasy with the tactics of head coach Unai Emery. However, he is seen as a pillar of PSG's project for the future and will not be allowed to depart.

Even if there is little chance of the 22-year-old playing at Camp Nou immediately, the World Cup winner believes the Frenchman could follow in his footsteps.

"He could play for Barcelona no problem and he would adapt without a problem," Xavi explained to

Le Parisien.

"He knows how to organise the play, defend, dribble attack. He's a complete player, just as much when he has the ball as when he does not."

Rabiot has spent seven years with PSG, and during that time has often flirted with the potential of departing the club, with Arsenal among the Premier League sides linked with him in the past.

Goal.com



Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Adrien Rabiot.

Cape Town City can win the PSL title next season

CAPE TOWN - Cape Town City captain Lebogang Manyama admits they will have their work cut out next season following their successful campaign.

"We have to improve firstly from the previous season. I wouldn't say it was a tough season because not many people knew what to expect from us. So, we surprised many people," Manyama told Goal.

The 26-year-old forward, who is a major favourite for this season's PSL Player of the Year award, believes that they lost matches at the wrong time.

"Unfortunately, we lost at the wrong time so it's a learning curve, but its good we have improved. Hopefully, we can go one better next season," he said.

The Citizens have managed to qualify for next year's CAF Confederations Cup by earning a top-three finish in their first year of existence.

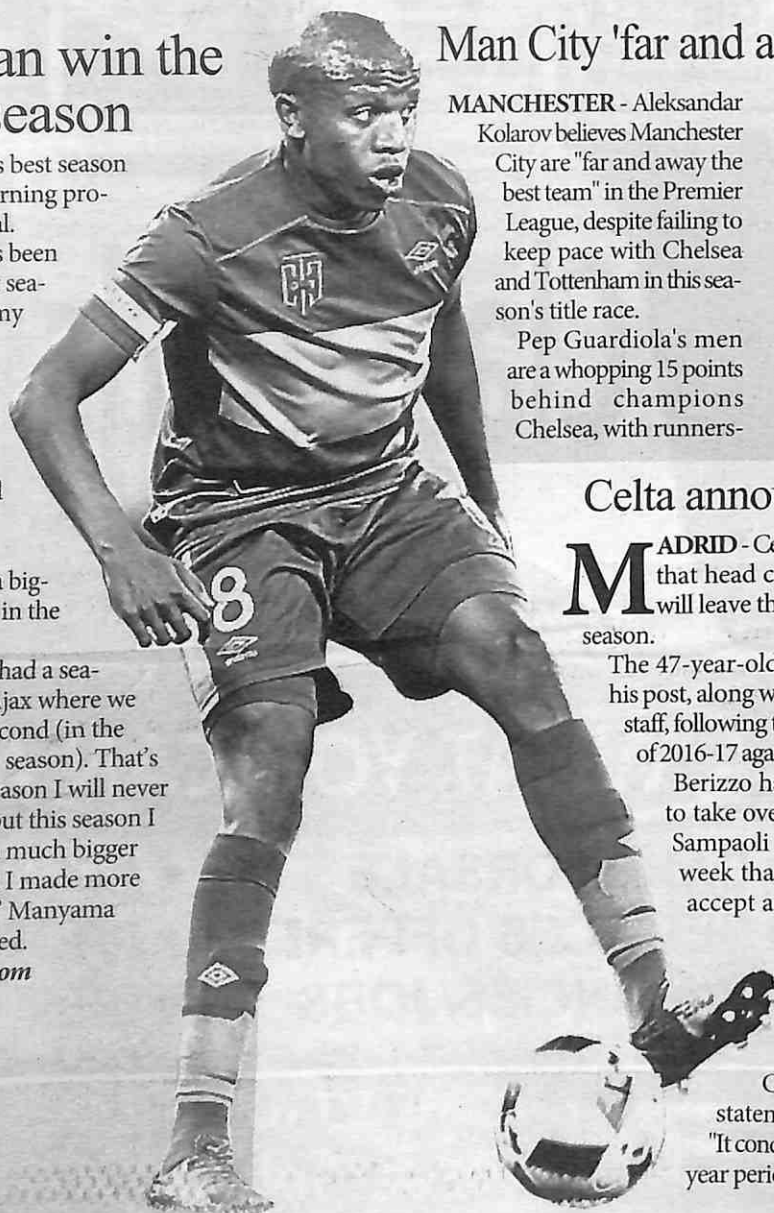
Manyama who won the club's Player of the Year award on Friday, admits this has

been his best season since turning professional.

"It has been the best season of my career based on how I contributed to the team, I played a bigger role in the team.

"But I had a season at Ajax where we came second (in the 2010/11 season). That's also a season I will never forget, but this season I played a much bigger role and I made more impact," Manyama concluded.

Goal.com



Man City 'far and away' the Premier League's best - Kolarov

MANCHESTER - Aleksandar Kolarov believes Manchester City are "far and away the best team" in the Premier League, despite failing to keep pace with Chelsea and Tottenham in this season's title race.

Pep Guardiola's men are a whopping 15 points behind champions Chelsea, with runners-

up Tottenham eight points clear of third-place City ahead of the last game of the season.

City are not yet guaranteed Champions League football for next season, with Guardiola ending a season trophyless for the first time in his managerial career, but Kolarov is adamant they are better than anyone in the division.

"We are far and away the best team in the league," Kolarov told Sky

Sports. "If you do not win trophies at our club it is probably not a great season but we have improved a lot. We are a much better team even now from the start of the season.

"We are going to be there to win trophies again and I'm sure we are going to win. "The main target for this club is to win domestic trophies and of course win the Champions League.

Goal.com

Celta announce Berizzo exit amid reports of Sevilla

MADRID - Celta Vigo have announced that head coach Eduardo Berizzo will leave the club at the end of the season.

The 47-year-old is to step down from his post, along with his main backroom staff, following their final La Liga match of 2016-17 against Real Sociedad today.

Berizzo has been heavily tipped to take over at Sevilla, with Jorge Sampaoli having confirmed this week that he would be keen to accept an offer to become the

new head coach of Argentina.

"Eduardo Berizzo and his technical team will not continue at Celta next season," a Celta statement confirmed.

"It concludes a wonderful three-year period of continued growth

in the sporting, social and institutional aspect and three seasons in which a dream has been pursued that not only fuelled excitement and hope but was rooted in the soul of 'celtismo'.

"Eduardo Berizzo left a notable footprint as a player now another, deeper one as a coach, one of the best, without doubt, in the history of Celta.

"The club can only show its gratitude for his commitment, his application and the passion he has put into his work during this period."

Berizzo, who spent four years with Celta as a player, took charge at Balaidos in 2014 after Luis Enrique left for Barcelona.

They finished eighth in his first season and sixth in 2015-16, thereby securing qualification for the Europa League.

Celta's league form has suffered this term due to their European commitments, with the Galicians sitting in 13th place with one game to go, but they did reach the semi-finals of the Europa League, where they narrowly lost to Manchester United.

Goal.com

Alonso Indy finds comfort zone

WASHINGTON - Formula One star Fernando Alonso has made a fast adjustment to Indy Cars and driving around in circles as the Spaniard prepared for weekend qualifying at the 101st Indianapolis 500.

The 35-year-old McLaren racer, the F1 champion in 2005 and 2006, is skipping this year's Monaco Grand Prix, a race he won twice, to compete on the famed 2.5-mile (4km) Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval in the May 28 classic.

Changes

"The more laps I do, the better I feel," Alonso said. "Have been good learning days for me. It's still very new for many of the things that are happening out there, but every lap I feel better in the car, able to feel the setup changes a little bit."

It doesn't hurt that his Honda-powered entry is among six for Andretti

Autosport, a lineup that includes defending Indy 500 champion Alexander Rossi, his US compatriots Marco Andretti and Ryan Hunter-Reay and Japan's Takuma Sato.

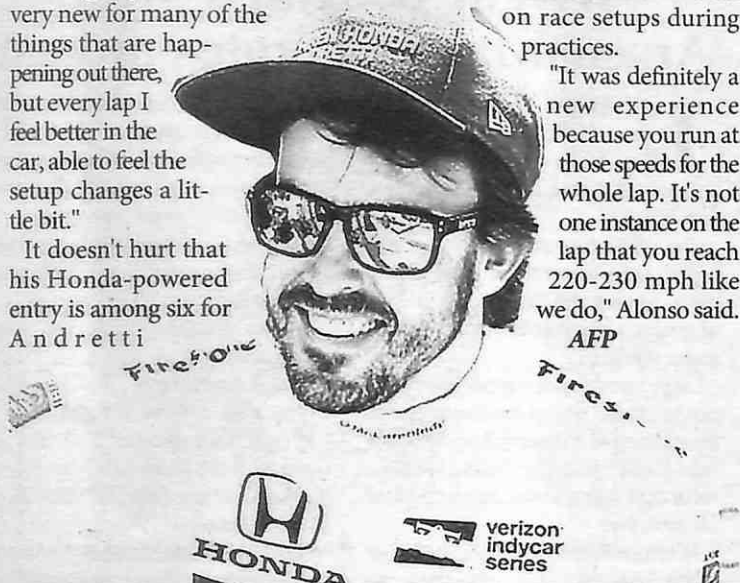
"We are six drivers in our team with a lot of experience," Alonso said. "We share. I keep learning also from them. On traffic, it was very good to organise these runs with the team. They take care of me. I felt that. So I will try to keep learning."

Focus

Alonso surpassed 231mph (371.7 km/h) on Friday before rain arrived as the team tested aerodynamics for time trials after a focus on race setups during practices.

"It was definitely a new experience because you run at those speeds for the whole lap. It's not one instance on the lap that you reach 220-230 mph like we do," Alonso said.

AFP



Formula One star Fernando Alonso has made a fast adjustment.

LEBRON LIGHTS UP THE GARDEN AS CAVS CRUSH CELTICS

BOSTON - LeBron James lit up Boston's TD Garden with a stellar display as the Cleveland Cavaliers crushed the Celtics 130-86 to race to a 2-0 lead in the NBA Eastern Conference Finals on Friday.

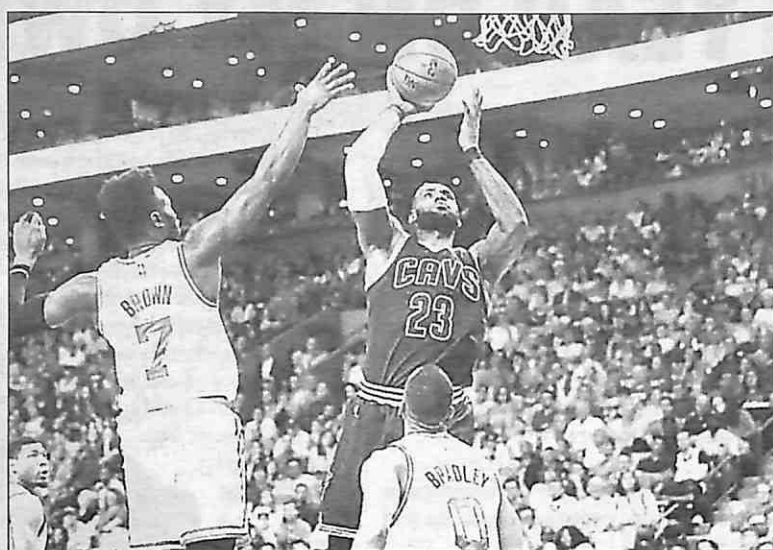
James racked up 30 points, four rebounds and seven assists before he was withdrawn at the end of the third quarter but the game was over as a contest long before his departure as the Cavs took a tight hold on the best-of-seven series.

The reigning NBA champions poured in 72 first-half points to lead Boston by 41 at the intermission, the biggest post-season halftime lead since the shot clock was introduced.

"He's playing at an unbelievable level. He's really setting the tone for us early in the games," Cavs coach Tyrone Lue told reporters.

"He's able to get out in transition, getting to the basket, and when he's getting his three-point shot, you're in for a long night."

The Celtics had no answer to James, who amassed 22 in the first half, driving



when the lanes were open and dropping jump shots when they were not.

On the defensive end, he had four steals and three blocks.

"When we're blitzing and rotating and scrambling, he's the best we can have on the back line," Lue explained.

"His chase-down blocks, the one he

had on Avery (Bradley) was unbelievable. They're game-changers for us."

Kevin Love chipped in with 21 points and 12 rebounds as the Cavs secured a 10th straight post-season win, and there appears little to suggest the Celtics can find a way to stop them when the series shifts to Cleveland for Game Three today. **Reuters**

McIlroy withdraws from PGA Championship

LONDON - Rory McIlroy on Friday withdrew from next week's prestigious PGA Championship at Wentworth, England, because of a nagging rib injury.

The 28-year-old four-time major champion, who only returned to action last week from a month off following his wedding, missed five weeks earlier in the season because of the injury and aggravated it at last week's Players Championship.

"Having had a reaction to my earlier

rib injury, I have been advised to take a conservative approach to my recovery which unfortunately means I have to withdraw from the PGA Championship next week," the Northern Irishman said in a statement on the EPGA website.

"It's a disappointing decision to have to make, but I have to ensure I make a full recovery."

"I will now continue the process of preparing my game for the US Open and the rest of the season."

AFP



De Kock shakes off the cobwebs bashing a century

HOVE - Quinton de Kock shook off almost two months of inactivity by hammering a century in South Africa's one-day tour match against Sussex at Hove on Friday.

De Kock, who had been out of action since the last week of March with a finger injury, drilled 104 off 78 balls before retiring. He hit five fours and seven sixes.

That helped a weakened batting line-up - Hashim Amla was rested, AB de Villiers sat out with a respiratory infection, and Faf du Plessis is getting over a shoulder problem - reach 289/4 in the 32 overs the innings was reduced to by rain. Sussex replied with 223/9, earning the visitors victory by 66 runs. Wayne Parnell, who opened the batting with De Kock in Amla's absence, clipped 61 off 42 balls.

The first-wicket stand swelled to 121 off 88 balls before Parnell was trapped in front by a blast

from South Africa's recent past - Kolpak kid Stiaan van Zyl.

JP Duminy then faced 46 deliveries for his 68, his first half-century at any level and in any format in 15 completed innings.

Kagiso Rabada bowled Chris Nash with the second ball of Sussex's reply, and they were 87/4 after 12 overs with Van Zyl's wicket amid the debris for 16.

Number three Harry Finch stood firm into the 26th over for his 62, the home side's only half-century. Rabada, Keshav Maharaj and Andile Phehlukwayo took two wickets each.

But South Africa won't be happy that Rabada, Parnell, Dwaine Pretorius, Morne Morkel, Maharaj and Phehlukwayo all conceded more than a run a ball.

They will have a chance to make amends in another tour match, against Northamptonshire, today. **TMG Digital/TMG Sport**



Ex-Bok Cornal Hendricks ecstatic to play again

JOHANNESBURG - There was a time when Cornal Hendricks had the rugby world at his feet before it was all taken away from him.

The Beachcomber World Club 10s in Mauritius offers the former Springbok wing a chance at rugby glory again after two years on the sidelines after being diagnosed with a rare heart condition.

Hendricks, 29, will line up for the Africa Pacific Dragons in the elite eight-team competition to be staged at Mauritius' Anjalay Stadium on June 17 and 18.

After a barrage of tests and second and third opinions, Hendricks has been cleared to play at the highest level, but the ordeal of the last two years has been difficult for the elegant wing.

"I'm over the worst now after the setback," Hendricks says. "For a long time I could hardly sleep at night, not because I was hungry and couldn't pay my bills, but because I know there is nothing wrong with me and no one would give me a chance. It was so frustrating."

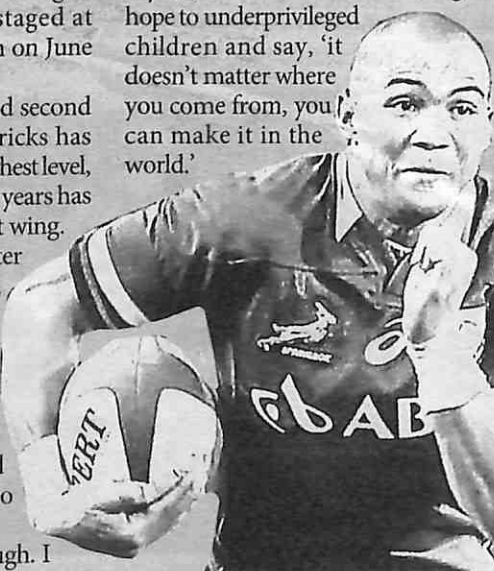
"My faith pulled me through. I

stay fit and I believe that I will get another chance to play at the highest level again."

"I look at a guy like (Southern Kings wing) Alshaun Bock, and take inspiration. He made his Super Rugby debut at 34, but he never gave up."

Hope

"I come from a disadvantaged area and I tell people I work with in my foundation that I not only play for myself, but for them. I want to give hope to underprivileged children and say, 'it doesn't matter where you come from, you can make it in the world.'"



"I just want to get back in the game because something that worries me is that I don't want to waste my God-given talent."

"I have a breakthrough again in Mauritius to show my worth. Time is running out. I'm not getting any younger. There have been times I wanted to give up and throw the towel in. But the desire to be on the field is still burning inside me and I can't let it go."

Exciting

The Bulls and Cheetahs are confirmed as two of the eight elite professional teams for the third staging of the tournament.

South African Dave Wessels will bring his exciting Western Force squad to the Indian Ocean Island next month to defend the title they won in 2016 while the Brumbies are Australia's other entrants.

The combined Africa Pacific Dragons will have the Springboks' most capped Test player Victor Matfield on their coaching staff while Japan's Kubota Spears, who are making their debut, are coached by South African Frans Ludeke.

TMG Digital/TMG Sport



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



'I WON'T HAVE ANOTHER YEAR ON MY OWN - CONTE

LONDON - Chelsea manager Antonio Conte has confessed that he has been lonely at times over the course of his stay at Stamford Bridge – but he has pledged to stay in charge of the Premier League champions.

The Italian arrived in England last summer, and though he has enjoyed great success on the field, he had been linked with a move back to his homeland with Inter. However, he will take steps over the summer to cure any homesickness that he may well.

Win

"My objective is to lay the foundations so Chelsea can continue to win," he told La Repubblica.

"This is already a big club, but it's inconsistent. They won the Champions League, then went out in the first round. They won the Premier League and then finished 10th. Chelsea need to find stability at the top.

"It's not all happiness and light. The arrival was, but the journey wasn't. With my wife Elisabetta in January we decided that Vittoria would finish school in Turin, even if she was already registered to start in London.

"However, if I am to stay, then they will come and stay with me. It will be a great opportunity for my daughter to live in a foreign country. I'll tell you one thing for sure, I won't have another year on my

own.

"The 47-year-old is pleased with how his professional life has gone over the course of the last year, although he admits that the adaption was a two-way process.

"The guys accepted new methods: very intense training sessions, the diet, the video analysis and importance of details. I feel fortified. I remain narrow-minded in my work, but I am more flexible. I learned to turn a blind eye to certain things, like players eating scrambled eggs before a game... You have to accept the traditions of a country," he said.

"You also need to speak the language, out of respect. I had studied it at school, but had a two-week intensive course. Learning English felt like climbing a mountain: with strong motivation, nothing... surmountable."

Initially, the Blues seemed to have some

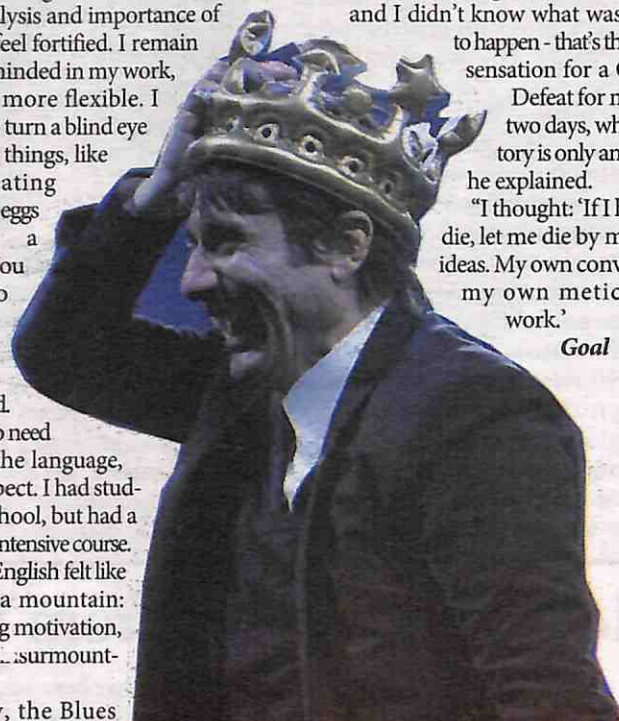
trouble adapting to their new manager, and he admits that he was troubled by losses against Liverpool and Arsenal, which prompted a change of his thinking as he thereafter adopted his favoured 3-4-3 system.

"The team would go out on to the park and I didn't know what was going to happen – that's the worst sensation for a Coach.

Defeat for me lasts two days, while victory is only an hour," he explained.

"I thought: 'If I have to die, let me die by my own ideas. My own conviction, my own meticulous work.'"

Goal



Chelsea Manager Antonio Conte.

Kane wants to reach 100 Premier League goals next season

LONDON - Tottenham star Harry Kane has set his sights on a century of Premier League goals as he closes in on this season's Golden Boot.

Kane scored four goals in Tottenham's 6-1 drubbing of fallen champions Leicester City on Thursday, to move into pole position in the race for the Premier League's leading scorer.

The 23-year-old England international improved to 26 goals – two clear of Everton's Romelu Lukaku with one match remaining.

Kane has already turned his attention to 2017-18, targeting 100 goals as he currently sits on 75 Premier League strikes.

Season

"I think I said to someone the other day it would be great if I can get to that 100 club by the end of next season," Kane said.

"I am on 75 in the league and if there is another season like this then hopefully I can get to the 100. It would be a fantastic achievement.

"I think there were three games I did not score in [at the start of the season] and then I went on a good run.

"The biggest thing I'm proud of is that I had two big injuries and was out for 11 weeks so to still be there at the top of the Premier League and to score 30-plus goals [across all competitions] is a big achievement. Hopefully next season I can get off in the first game, get a couple of goals and go from there."

Tottenham close out their season at relegated Hull City.

Goal

John Terry awarded title belt by WWE superstar Triple H

LONDON - Hanging a Premier League medal around your neck is a moment to be proud of, but John Terry has gone a step further with his very own title belt!

Terry is set to leave the Blues after today's clash with Sunderland at Stamford Bridge having starred for almost two decades at the west London club.

And with Antonio Conte's men already crowned Premier League champions, the last game of the season will resemble a testimonial for the Chelsea stalwart more than a competitive fixture. Celebrations kicked off early for the Chelsea defender with a special gift from World Wrestling

Entertainment superstar Triple H, who presented Terry with a belt commemorating his title success.

"Congratulations to John Terry and Chelsea for winning the Premier League," the wrestler wrote on his Twitter account, alongside photos of the star holding up his memento. The belt has been specially made for the 36-year-old, and boasts the Chelsea badge on the side as well as the legend World Heavyweight Champion.

Terry has never been averse to a scrap on the field, but we are more likely to see him continue his career elsewhere in the Premier League than in the ring with the rest of the WWE crew. Goal



John Terry.



Wright 'delighted' with Arsenal fans' Emirates protest

LONDON - Arsenal legend Ian Wright has backed Gunners fans for 'voting with their feet' and boycotting the club's game against Sunderland.

The attendance at the Emirates was significantly lower than usual for the game against the Black Cats, plenty of empty seats visible at the 60,000-seater stadium.

Large numbers of supporters opted not to attend the game in protest at the running of the north London club, who could finish the season without securing Champions League football for next year.

As uncertainty looms over the future of the club, Wright, who won the Premier League and two FA Cups with Arsenal, said he was pleased with the fans' action.

"What Arsenal fans have been through

in the last 20 years and in the last 10 in particular is mediocrity," the former striker told BBC Radio Five Live. "They have been through that and they're used to more than that.

"But they've taken it because they believe that something will happen and that something will change.

"It hasn't happened and now what we're seeing is almost a civil war amongst Arsenal fans; you've got the 'Wenger Ins' and the 'Wenger Outs'."

Wright continued: "The fact is, Arsenal don't know where they are in respect of the fans and what they feel right now.

"They want success and they can't see it coming. They're not hearing anything from the board, they're not hearing anything from the manager and they're just there, paying the money." Goal

Guardiola hits out at FA diving ban

MANCHESTER - Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola feels there is no need to take retrospective action against diving and believes making video technology available to referees should have been a bigger priority for the Football Association (FA).

The FA announced this week that a panel will review television footage starting from the 2017-18 campaign in an attempt to erase diving from the game, with players found guilty of diving likely to face bans of up to two matches.

Premier League Managers Sam Allardyce and Paul Clement have spoken out against the move, with Guardiola now joining them.

"I think diving is not the most important thing to improve. There are many other things we can improve," Guardiola stated at a news conference. "Everybody makes mistakes. Are we going to review the referees? No. It sometimes happens. The referees, the referees they know every-

thing. They are the bosses in those terms. I adapt to the rules, the federation, FIFA, UEFA, what they do for football. It does not matter what I say. My influence and my opinion do not count. Whatever they decide, we are going to accept and we are going to accept the bans and the cases.

"The technology will help the referees to be fairer about what happens in the



Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola.

game to make fewer mistakes because there are a lot of mistakes. Football today is quicker, it is faster. Before referees arrive to see a situation, the players are much, much faster, that is why they need technology.

"There are mistakes but not because the referees are bad. The players used to run six kilometres a game, now it is 12 kilometres. It is double. Today we have to be better prepared. The referees do not have to improve, it is just that the game is quicker."

Goal



Pirates reportedly join race for winger Mahlasela

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates have reportedly expressed their interest in Bloemfontein Celtic midfielder Kabelo Mahlasela.

The dribbling wizard has had his breakthrough season in the Premier Soccer League (PSL) - featuring in 20 league matches thus far.

His exploits for Phunya Sele Sele are said to have attracted interest from PSL sides Platinum Stars and Maritzburg United.

But The Citizen source close to Celtic has revealed that the Buccaneers have also inquired about the Mahlasela's services.

"Pirates have inquired about his availability," the source said.

"They want him back because they feel that he has earned enough experience to add value to the team," the source concluded.

The 26-year-old winger has spent most of his career in the National First Division (NFD) on-loan from Pirates after graduating from the club's academy.

Mahlasela turned out for Roses United, Sivutsa Stars and Royal Eagles in the NFD, before joining Celtic on a permanent deal prior to the 2015/16 season.

He still has one more season left on his Phunya Sele Sele contract. *Goal*

Hunt promises to continue promoting youth at Bidvest Wits

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits coach Gavin Hunt has re-emphasised the importance of bringing through exciting young players and has promised to promote three more players "next week".

Wits' youth academy have had an array of young stars that have come through the ranks and made their mark in the PSL in recent seasons. With a massive focus on grooming prospects himself, Hunt has brought through the likes of Benni McCarthy, Phumlani Ntshangase, Ben Motshwari and more recently Phakamani Mahlambi and Reeve Frosler, both of whom he handed first team debuts to.

Mahlambi and Frosler played integral parts in the Clever Boys' first ever Absa Premiership title victory this season, with the club refusing to release the duo for Amajita duty at the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in South Korea prior confirming their success. The record four-time league-winning coach has since argued that the recent criticism from SAFA, over the club's reluctance to release their players, was unwarranted and has reiterated his backing for young talents at the club. *Goal*

Bidvest Wits coach Gavin Hunt.

MOTAUNG RESISTS TEMPTATION TO GO ON SIGNING SPREE

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs Chairman Kaizer Motaung has protected the club's interests ahead of the transfer window excitement, and explains the difficulty of the South African market.

Chiefs supporters have been critical of the club's signings in recent seasons, airing their frustrations on social platforms that the quality of players coming in is not up

to scratch.

Having gone a second successive season without any silverware for the first time in 20 years, calls have once again been made for the club's management to delve into the transfer market ahead of next season.

However, Motaung has argued that the club cannot go into the market simply to add more numbers after another poor season, but says they will first evaluate the cur-

rent squad before identifying areas that need strengthening.

"We'll obviously go into the market depending on the requirements. You don't just go into the market because it's end of the season," defends Motaung.

"Everything should go according to your plan; what you want to achieve in the next season, where you want to plug the gaps and which areas you want to address."

The esteemed football boss also lambasts the South African transfer market for inflating players' value based on their suitors, and suggests perhaps adopting the European strategy of a transparent evaluation into players' worth in future.

"Unfortunately we have a serious problem in South Africa because our markets are skewed - a player could be worth R500 000 tonight and once somebody hears that Chiefs is interested then they talk R5million," he adds.

"That's the nature of the game unless, maybe, we do it like in Europe, where the value of players is transparent and everybody knows, and every month there is a proper evaluation of players [worth]."

"At the moment the playing fields are not even when it comes to the market."

Cape Town City need a few new faces - Eric Tinkler

CAPETOWN - Cape Town City have experienced a Premier Soccer League (PSL) campaign to remember and after securing a top three berth, they may still pip Mamelodi Sundowns to the post for the coveted CAF Champions League spot.

Despite the Citizens' recent success, coach Eric Tinkler has already expressed his plans for next season. The coach has stated that he will bring in several new faces as he looks to bolster his squad and reinvigorate the competition within the team.

"There are obviously a few new faces that need to come on board, but not just because of Africa,"

Tinkler told Times Media.

"This season we were a bit of an unknown quantity but teams now come a lot more prepared defensively to play us."

"We are not going to be an unknown quantity next season - people are going to be seeing us as a serious threat so we need to ensure we obviously bring in quality players that will give us a lot of depth in the

squad. Because again you are going to see a very congested season with the (2018 Russia) World Cup," Tinkler added.

"The way you remind our players (that they need to improve) is by the players that you bring in, that's the harsh reality."

"I felt this season that we had a few players who didn't really have anybody pushing them and you can go into a bit of a comfort zone."

"But next season we want to ensure we don't have that. And when you are bringing in quality to your team, that also lifts the spirits and morale and confidence of the squad to say, 'Hang on, we mean business,'" he said.

"Bringing in those two was very important, because you are bringing a 'name', but also quality and that is important for the morale of the team," Tinkler concluded. *Goal*



Eric Tinkler.

Mathe has no thoughts of retiring

JOHANNESBURG - Platinum Stars' veteran Solomon Mathe sees no reason why he can't play into his 40s after marking his 37th birthday with a man-of-the-match display against Kaizer Chiefs on Wednesday.

Mathe, who made his PSL debut 12 years ago, also scored in the 2-0 win over Chiefs with a header at Royal Bafokeng Stadium, and has no thoughts of retiring anytime soon despite his advancing years. Mathe told his club's website: "I feel like I can carry on for the next five years. I am fresh. With the technical team that we have, they allow senior players to have more rest and our training programme is good. Even the way they treat seniors, I think I can play three to five more years."

The central midfielder revealed coach Cavin Johnson had a feeling he would

get on the scoresheet in Rustenburg.

"Before the game, someone said let's sing for Solly but the coach said no. The coach said Solly is going to score for us and then we will sing for him. And it happened that way. I was so happy."

Mathe was naturally pleased to get one over Amakhosi and help Dikwena rise to 10th in the standings with one more league fixture left against SuperSport United at Lucas Moripe Stadium on May 27.

"I am happy that we won against Chiefs. We have been doing well lately. Credit should go to the guys for the efforts they put in. The technical team also planned well. We knew that if we let them have possession, they would punish us. So we did well. We created more chances than them."

'I hope Polokwane City allow me to join Pirates soon'

POLOKWANE - Polokwane City striker Thobani Mncwango has broken his silence about his proposed move to Orlando Pirates.

The lanky forward was suspended by the Polokwane management after he discussed Pirates' interest in his services in the media three months ago.

Mncwango recently resumed training with Rise and Shine, but he is yet to make his first competitive appearance for the club since February 2017.

"I hope they will allow me to leave at the end of the season. We haven't spoken about it, but I hope they will cede to my request," Mncwango told Isolezwe.

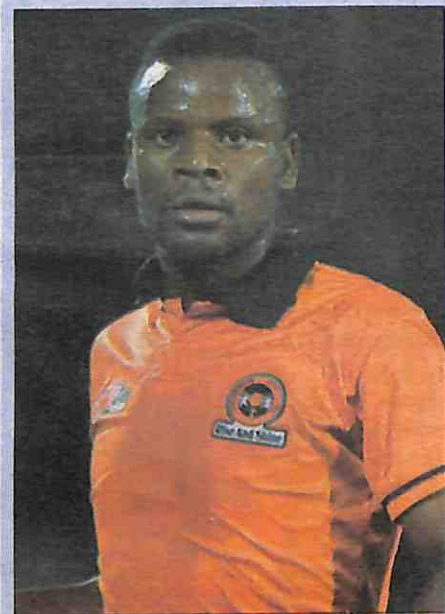
"I know Pirates are still interested and at some point it looked like they (City) would allow me to join them in January but it didn't happen," he said.

"It's been a month and I have accepted my situation. I give everything at training but I know I will not be played," Mncwango continued.

"It is not a nice situation to be in for a player but I have told myself that I must let it play itself out," he concluded.

The former Baroka FC forward's Rise and Shine contract is reportedly due to expire at the end of the 2017/18 campaign.

It remains to be seen whether Polokwane will agree to sell Mncwango to Pirates during the upcoming Transfer Window. *Goal*



Polokwane City striker Thobani Mncwango.

WEEKEND FIXTURES

TODAY

Italian Serie A

15:00	Genoa	vs	Torino
15:00	Udinese	vs	Sampdoria
15:00	Juventus	vs	Crotone
15:00	Milan	vs	Bologna
15:00	Empoli	vs	Atalanta
15:00	Sassuolo	vs	Cagliari
20:45	Lazio	vs	Internazionale

Nedbank Cup

15:00	Golden Arrows	vs	Orlando Pirates
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Premier League

16:00	Hull City	vs	Tottenham Hotspur
16:00	Swansea City	vs	West Bromwich
16:00	Southampton	vs	Stoke City
16:00	Arsenal	vs	Everton
16:00	Chelsea	vs	Sunderland
16:00	Liverpool	vs	Middlesbrough
16:00	Manchester United	vs	Crystal Palace
16:00	Leicester City	vs	AFC Bournemouth
16:00	Burnley	vs	West Ham United
16:00	Watford	vs	Manchester City

Spanish La Liga

16:45	Celta de Vigo	vs	Real Sociedad
16:45	Valencia	vs	Villarreal
16:45	Atlético Madrid	vs	Athletic Club
20:00	Málaga	vs	Real Madrid
20:00	Barcelona	vs	Eibar

SZCZESNY: LEAVING ARSENAL THE BEST THING THAT HAPPENED

ROME - Wojciech Szczesny believes leaving Arsenal was the 'greatest decision of his career' and has thanked Roma for allowing him to 'grow' as a goalkeeper.

The Pole, often maligned during his time in the Premier League at Arsenal, has restored his reputation on the back of a successful two-year loan stint with the Serie A giants.

But with his loan deal with the Giallorossi set to expire once again, the player's future is once again under the spotlight.

Whatever next though, Szczesny believes his game has developed following his decision to leave Arsenal.

"I could have stayed in an envi-

ronment that was going negatively for me. Instead the opportunity that came gave me a fresh start," Szczesny told The Guardian.

"You get a new perspective.

You get new coaches and

influences. You learn new

drills. You do new things.

Now I am very happy that it

happened, even if the first

impression was that I might

be out of Arsenal,

which was

very

painful.

Now I

think

it was

probably the best thing that could have happened to me."

Szczesny feels he's currently in the best form of his career and whatever happens next, he wants to ensure he continues to develop.

Worse

"The one thing I want to do is make sure I don't stay still... I was quite still for five years - sometimes I played better, sometimes worse, sometimes phenomenal, sometimes rubbish," Szczesny added.

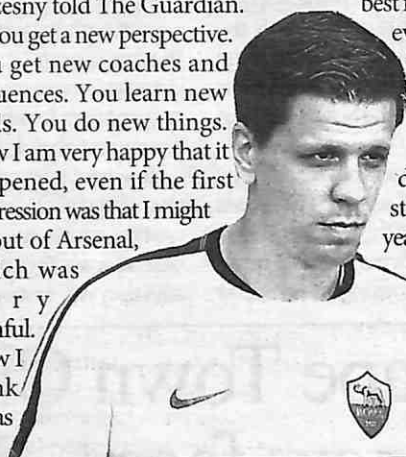
"You take steps forward and

backwards. It is not very good for your head if you go up and down and up and down. I want to try to keep going up, with my quality and with decisions I make.

"I am 27, the best I have ever been, I still have room to improve and I want to make sure that room doesn't stay empty. I want to go into that room. It feels like a big moment."

Speaking of his time with Roma, the Poland keeper continued; "the biggest thing I have taken away from these two years at Roma is the fact I grew as a goalkeeper. It's just raising your levels, your standards. I absorbed a bigger knowledge of football, the tactical side of the game."

Team Talk



Title Madrid's to lose - Zidane

MADRID - Real Madrid have all they can ask for with just one La Liga game of the season to go and that is the destiny of the title in their own hands, coach Zinedine Zidane said yesterday.

Madrid lead Barcelona by three points at the top of the table and just need to avoid defeat at Malaga today to be assured of a first La Liga title in five years.

Barca need to beat Eibar at home to have any chance of leapfrogging their fierce rivals.

Important

"It is in our hands which is important for us," said Zidane.

"There is just one game to go and we have worked very hard to get to where we want to be.

"We deserve to be in the position we are just now."

Zidane is unusually expected to name the same side that started a 4-1 win at Celta Vigo on Wednesday.

Vital

However, a vital part of Madrid's success this season has been the depth of their squad as Zidane has managed to keep many of his most important

players fresh by rotating heavily throughout the season.

And he hailed the contribution of every player in his squad.

Spectacular

"Watching what they do on the pitch, this squad is spectacular.

"They are all very good. That has been the key, that they are all important.

"Those that have played less have been at the same level as those that have played the most and, in a 60-game season that is very difficult physically, that has been important." AFP

Real Madrid
Coach
Zinedine
Zidane.



SIMEONE TO HOLD TALKS ON ATLETICO FUTURE NEXT WEEK

MADRID - Atletico Madrid head coach Diego Simeone says he will hold talks tomorrow to clarify his future with the club.

The 47-year-old has expressed a desire to coach Inter in future and has been heavily linked with a move to San Siro; rumours which have intensified since Stefano Pioli was sacked on May 9.

The former Argentina international suggested at a recent media event for the 2017 Audi Cup that he would be in charge of Atletico when that pre-season competition begins in August.

Speak

However, Simeone says he will speak with CEO Miguel Angel Gil Marin and technical director Andrea Berta

before announcing any decision.

"We're finishing the season and I'm sure that, on Monday (tomorrow), Miguel, Andrea and I will meet to look at what we can expect in the

future and of course to look for what the best would be for the club and for everyone," he told a news conference.

Change

"The bases here are solid. We've had six years of competing in an incredible way, with a change of stadium that will force us to take action to bring even more success." Sunday's final La-Liga match of the

season against Athletic Bilbao will be the last played at Vicente Calderon, with Atletico moving into their new 70,000-seater Wanda Metropolitano Stadium for next term.

Simeone, who spent two spells with Atleti as a player before returning as coach in 2011, hopes the fans provide a fitting end to life at the old ground.

Acceptance

"My memories as a player are amazing," he said. "I came here and I found an acceptance among the fans long before I started to give things to the club and to the team.

"Both as a footballer and a coach, the Calderon has been a place that will stay in the history of my life.

"The stadium will be amazing. The fans will be able to experience the last LaLiga game, although for me the last important game at the Calderon has already happened, which was the Champions League semi-final where we were knocked out but beat Real Madrid."

Goal



Diego Simeone.

Allegri urges Juventus to end Scudetto race

ROME - Massimiliano Allegri has urged Juventus to bring an end to the Serie A title race once and for all against Crotone today.

The reigning champions needed only a point in their last outing against Roma to guarantee a sixth title in a row, but a 3-1 defeat forced them to postpone the celebrations.

With the Coppa Italia in the bag after Wednesday's 2-0 win over Lazio and a Champions League final to come against Real Madrid on June 3, Allegri wants the second part of a possible treble to be secured.

"We must win the Scudetto tomorrow," he said in a news conference yesterday. "We come out of the Coppa final with an amazing result as nobody had ever won three in a row, and that has given us great strength to go forward."

"The team had two good training sessions. Today will see a great performance and it will be the one that wins the Scudetto."

"Crotone have put together 17 points in their last seven games, I think 10 points from four away fixtures, they have conceded very few goals and are extremely dangerous on the counter-attack."

"The team has to play calmly but also with the determination we saw after the de-

feat to Roma. I told the boys that we're sick of the sight of each other, so let's win the Scudetto and have some time off!"

Sami Khedira has been recalled to the matchday squad after missing the last two games with a thigh muscle injury, but Allegri says the Germany international will not feature.

Paulo Dybala and Claudio Marchisio are both to be included in a strong starting line-up, however.

Allegri explained, "Paulo Dybala is fine. We'll have (Gianluigi) Buffon in goal, Dani Alves, (Leonardo) Bonucci, (Giorgio) Chiellini and Alex Sandro in defence. Claudio Marchisio recovered well from the final and he will play."

Injury

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Claudio Marchisio recovered well from the final and he will play. Goal



Massimiliano Allegri.

SUPERSPORT SECURE NEDBANK CUP FINAL SPOT

EAST LONDON - SuperSport United advanced to the Nedbank Cup final, after defeating Chippa United 4-2 on penalties yesterday evening.

The Chilli Boys enjoyed a lot of possession in the opening 10 minutes although most of their passes were made in the middle of the park.

SuperSport, on the other hand, were quite content to sit back and allow Chippa to dictate the play, but Stuart Baxter's charges struggled to create chances of their own as the half went on.

The first chance of the game eventually arrived after 27 minutes when Sandile Zuke pounced a poor back pass, surged into the box but sent his lob wide of the upright.

Dan Malesela was not too pleased with his side's display and reacted with a substitution, as Xolani Mdaki made



SuperSport United advanced to the Nedbank Cup final, after defeating Chippa United 4-2 on penalties yesterday evening.

way for Siyabonga Ngubane in the 35th minute.

The home side did end the first half on a stronger note in terms of possession, although chances were hard to come by, much to the frustration of the

supporters, who expressed their dissatisfaction. Baxter opted for a double change at the start of the second half as Mandla Masango and Bradley Grobler replaced Thabo Mnyamane and Teboho Mokoena.

After a quiet opening to the half, SuperSport should have broken the deadlock after 64 minutes when Jeremy Brockie's pass found Thuso Phala, who blazed over the crossbar from 12-yards out. **Goal**

Man U, Liverpool make enquiries for Bakayoko

PARIS - Manchester United and Liverpool have made enquiries for Chelsea target Tiemoue Bakayoko.

The Monaco midfielder is expected to move to Stamford Bridge as the Premier League champions prepare a £40million offer for the 22-year-old.

However, United, Liverpool and Paris St Germain have all made enquiries via his representatives. The France international would be interested in a move to Old Trafford should he fail to reach an agreement with Chelsea.

Like many of Europe's elite clubs, United have taken a keen interest in Monaco's squad with Bernardo Silva, Fabinho and Kylian Mbappe also on their summer wishlist.

Chelsea's Nemanja Matic is another option for United's midfield while a move for Eric Dier at Tottenham has been discussed but deemed unlikely. Monaco's 23-year-old Brazilian Fabinho is also wanted by Manchester City while Real Madrid have pushed for Mbappe.

Monaco have already lined up Youri Tielemans from Anderlecht as a replacement for Bakayoko.

They are also offering contract extensions to Radamel Falcao and Mbappe. **Daily Mail**

Lallana backs Klopp to deliver for Liverpool in summer transfer market

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool playmaker Adam Lallana believes Manager Jurgen Klopp boasts the credentials and personality to attract high-quality players to the Merseyside club this summer.

The 31-time England international is confident that German Klopp's pulling power will prove decisive in negotiations with potential new team-mates, and Lallana has also admitted that the Reds lacked strength in depth this term. 'Getting in the top four certainly enhances our chances of attracting top names,' 29-year-old Lallana told the Liverpool Echo.

'There's a really good core in the squad here so it's about building around it. We trust the boss, the recruitment staff and the owners. I am sure the funds are there and the manager will have his targets.

'I'm convinced that if the manager meets a player then he'll have a great chance of getting him. He's got that ability to charm a player and makes you feel that you want to play for him. It's a good asset for Liverpool to have going into the summer.

Competition

'A bit of extra competition never hurt anyone. I think it will improve all of us. No disrespect, but strength in depth this season has possibly been an area which can be improved on. Certain injuries hurt us. Missing Danny Ings this season was a huge blow.' Liverpool's final game of the Premier League season is against Middlesbrough at Anfield today afternoon. Sitting in fourth position with 73 points, Arsenal are in fifth with 72, so a victory will secure Liverpool a Champions League place. **Daily Mail**

Arsenal £1bn takeover offer by Usmanov rejected

LONDON - Arsenal owner Stan Kroenke rejected Alisher Usmanov's £1 billion takeover offer because he wants to remain in control of the club long term and is determined to restore Arsenal to being Premier League champions, as well as making them a force in Europe.

Sources close to Kroenke have said that the money he would have made isn't an issue as he wants to see the club grow and wants to oversee future success.

Usmanov, a metals magnate who owns 30 per cent of Arsenal, made the offer earlier this month and though there has been no formal response, it is understood that Kroenke, who controls a 67 per cent stake, has rejected it.

Controlling

When Kroenke originally took a controlling stake in the club in 2011 it was valued at £731m, and Usmanov's offer valued it at £1.54bn but despite the increase, Kroenke wants to stay, which will mean overseeing the succession to Arsene Wenger in the next few years.

Usmanov has been a long-established critic of the leadership of Arsenal, arguing that the club needs investment to compete with the likes of Manchester

United and Manchester City for the most expensive players.

He believes Kroenke has been happy to keep the status quo of ever-rising profits from Wenger delivering Champions League football for 20 years.

Dissatisfaction

He also has tapped into a growing dissatisfaction with the Kroenke era among Arsenal fans, many of whom see him as an absentee owner.

The executive leadership of the club will be brought into sharp focus this week, with the failure to confirm Arsene Wenger as manager for next season and the uncertainty surrounding the future Mesut Ozil and Alexis Sanchez,

combined with the probable failure to make the Champions League for the first time since 1998.

Daily Mail



Sidelined Manchester United star Ibrahimovic still making a splash

MANCHESTER - Zlatan Ibrahimovic insists he is ready for Manchester United's appearance in the Europa League final - but he will probably have to towel off first.

Ibrahimovic will be a spectator when United take on Ajax in Stockholm next week, with the former Sweden great missing out on an appearance in his homeland after rupturing his right anterior cruciate ligament during the quarter-final second leg victory over Anderlecht.

On Friday, United Manager Jose Mourinho confirmed the 35-year-

old would travel with his team-mates to watch the game, having returned to England earlier in the week following knee surgery in the United States. And Ibrahimovic posted a short video on his Instagram page captioned 'Ready for the final', showing him walking in a swimming pool wearing a United training top as part of his rehabilitation.

Ibrahimovic topped the Old Trafford scoring charts with 28 goals in 46 appearances this season but his future is in limbo due to the long-term nature of his injury and the fact his one-year deal is set to expire. **Goal**

Robben stars as champions bid farewell to Lahm, Alonso

MUNICH - Bayern Munich bade farewell to Philipp Lahm and Xabi Alonso in fitting fashion with a 4-1 win over Freiburg on the final day of the Bundesliga season.

Arjen Robben, Arturo Vidal, Franck Ribery and Joshua Kimmich sealed a 25th win of the season for the champions and ensured they went a whole league campaign without defeat at the Allianz Arena for the first time since 2008.

The match was largely a tribute act to club captain Lahm and Alonso, however, who played their final matches before retiring from respective glittering careers. Past greats of the club were presented to the crowd prior to kick-off before Lahm, ahead of his 517th



Former Germany captain Lahm, 33, and 35-year-old Alonso hanging up their boots at the end of this season after glittering careers at the top of the game. Between them the pair have won 39 major trophies and ahead of Bayern's final league game against Freiburg yesterday, Alonso and Lahm were given a fitting send off by the club and their supporters.

Daily Mail

appearance for Bayern, was granted a special tribute involving flowers, a golf

bag and a mosaic in the stands with the message 'from a child of our own to a

legend of our club'. It was Alonso who produced the first telling contribution

of the two, however, setting up Robben to cut in from the right and rifle home.

Freiburg still had a top-five finish up for grabs and missed good chances through Mike Frantz, Janik Haberer and Nils Petersen before Vidal struck 17 minutes from time.

Former Bayern man Petersen struck his 19th Bundesliga goal as a substitute to set a new record, but Carlo Ancelotti's side were not to be denied as Alonso and Lahm were replaced in the closing stages to a rapturous reception before Ribery bundled home a stoppage-time third and Kimmich - tipped to be either retiring great's heir in the team - nodded in to round off the party.

Bayern, sporting their new home kit, started like a team eager to mark the occasion with a result to match and they took the lead with only four minutes on the clock. **Goal**

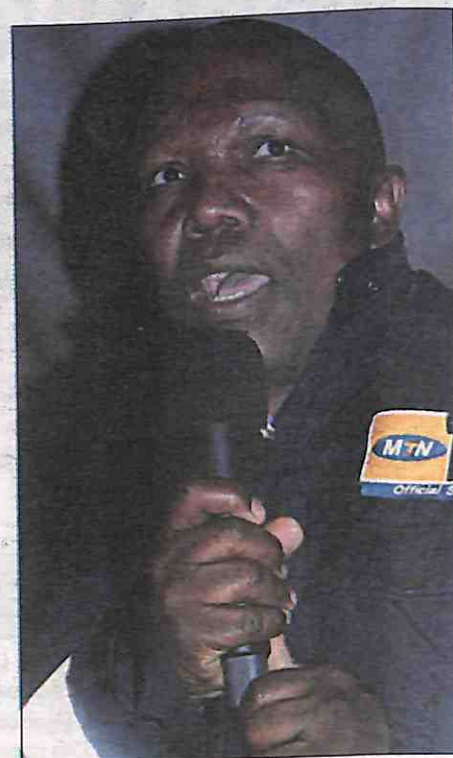
MANANA LAID TO REST



PLS team PROS led by Sandile Gwebu and Frank Hurube carrying the late Mbabane Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana's casket who was laid to rest at Mbasheni in Northern Hhohho yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



Mbabane Swallows boss Victor Gamedze flanked by Lawrence 'Lolo' Mthethwa and Robert Magongo.



PLS executive member Peter 'Touch' Magagula also shared a few words.



Supporters carrying Manana's casket on their way to the grave yard.



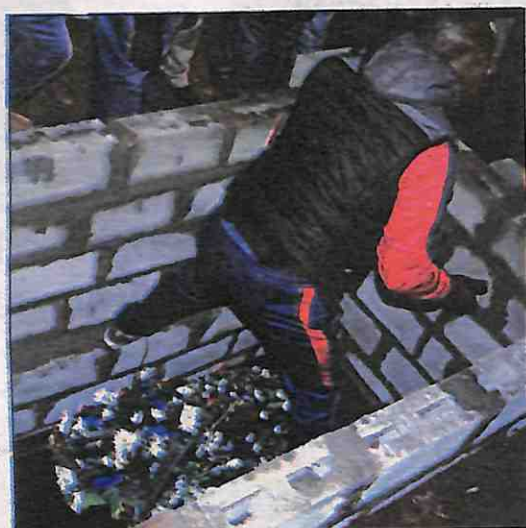
Mbabane Swallows players and officials who attended Manana's vigil and funeral.



Swallows General Manager Sandile Zwane and Ettiene Massoye comforting the team's coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.



A Swallows fan being comforted by others.



Manana's resting place.



Mbabane Swallows captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze speaking on behalf of the players.



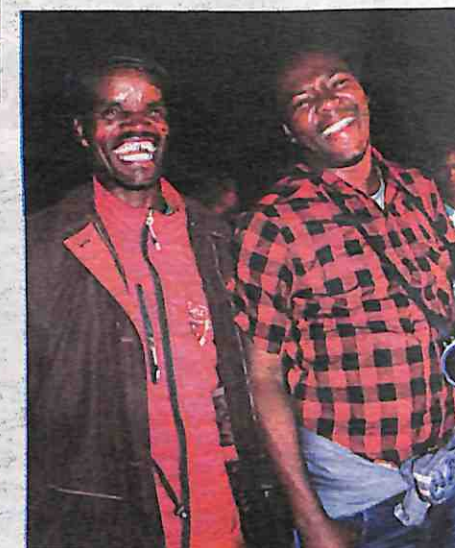
Some of Swallows supporters who paid last respect to Manana.



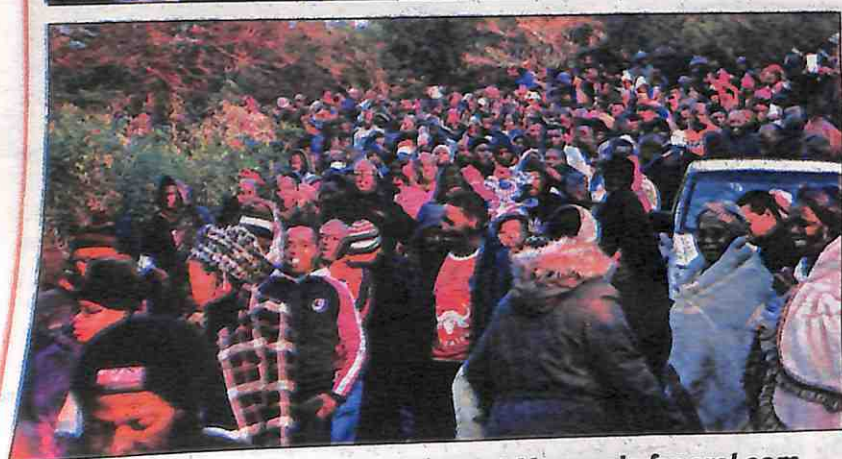
PLS employees, Momo, Nomalungelo Gama, Philile Matsebula and Ncamsile Mkhonta were also present.



Soccer fans at the Manana's vigil.



Manzini Wanderers fan Sidumo Ngwenya with Mbabane Swallows counterpart Mxolisi Matsebula.



The over 2 000 people who attended Manana's funeral coming from the grave yard.



Blowing of vuvuzelas was the order of the night.



MTN Premier League 2016/17

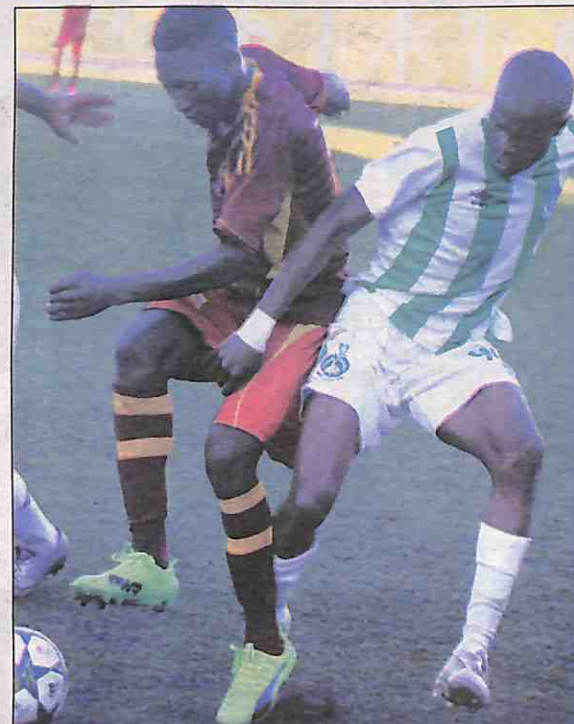
PICTURES



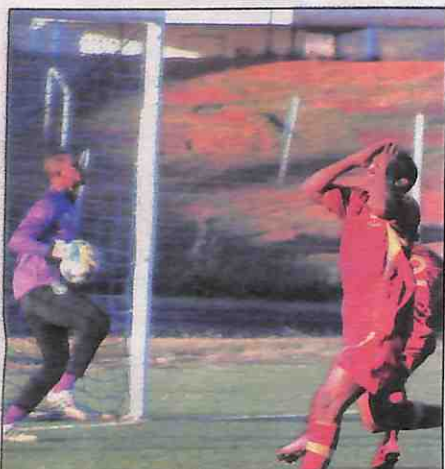
Green Mamba's Banele Mdluli shielding the ball from Young Buffaloes' Sifiso Mazibuko. Green Mamba triumphed 1-0 over Buffaloes at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday in their last game of the MTN Premier League this season. (Pics: Sabelo Majola)



Buffaloes defender Mndeni Mamba trying to go past Green Mamba's Musa Dlamini.



Musa Dlamini fighting for the ball with Buffaloes' Sifiso Mazibuko.



Ndoda Mthethwa reacts after missing a scoring chance.



Young Buffaloes' Phiwa Dlamini celebrates after his header went in but it didn't count as he was ruled off-side.



Green Mamba's Phiwa Dlamini controlling the ball.



Green Mamba's Banele Dlamini trying to block Ndoda Mthethwa.



Green Mamba's Banele Dlamini clearing the ball as Ndoda Mthethwa closes in.



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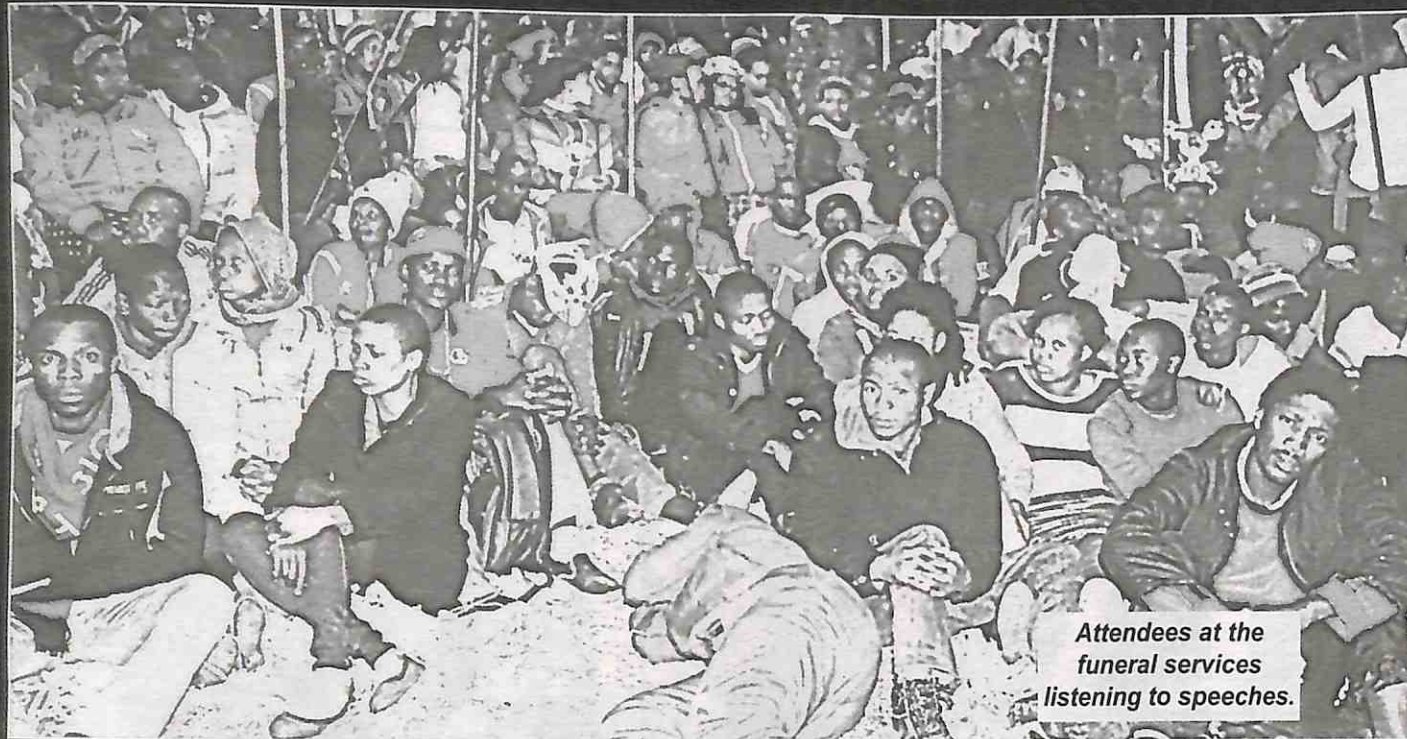
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Attendees at the funeral services listening to speeches.

OVER 2 000 CELEBRATE SIBUSISO MANANA'S LIFE

STORIES BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – Over 2 000 mourners paid their last respect to deceased Mbabane Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana who was laid to rest yesterday. These included the team's sup-

porters who came in numbers to celebrate the life of the avid administrator who passed away while admitted at the Mbabane Government Hospital two weeks ago.

Refused

The supporters, who refused to let emotions get the better of

them, were joined by supporters from other teams, officials and some Premier League players danced, sang and chanted the team's celebratory songs throughout the night vigil held in Mbasheni in Northern Hhohho.

The supporters blew their 'vuvuzelas' during the vigil and the

funeral, shouting the late CEO's well known sayings *nalena siyayafuna, sakha buhlungu* which was amongst many other trademark comments ahead of cup finals.

The funeral was also attended by officials from other teams and sports organisations.

Emotional 'Koki' promises CAF success to honour Manana's memory

SOCCER – Mbabane Swallows Head Coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati says they will do all in their power to win their upcoming games to honour the CEO Sibusiso Manana.

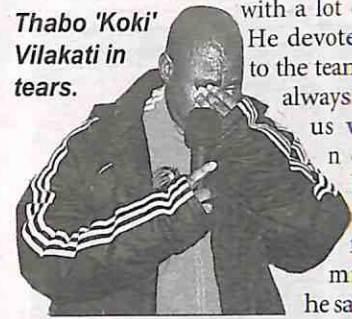
Making his remarks during the morning service yesterday, Vilakati who was overcome by emotions described Manana as a fighter and a pillar of the team. He said it was their wish to honour him with success in the ongoing CAF Confederation Cup.

"We are going to do our level best to win our remaining games in his memory. He hated to see the team lose games and that is why we need to win at all times. He was our pillar who ensured that a lot of things especially administrative issues were always in place. He never liked violence and always found ways to solve issues amicably. We will forever miss him for the role he played in the team," he said.

Meanwhile, the team's captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze described Manana as a father figure to them.

"He was everything to us and helped us with a lot of things. He devoted his life to the team and was always there for us when we needed him. We will forever miss him," he said.

Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati in tears.



He was our mentor - Former 'Birds' players

SOCCER – His memory will not live only with the current generation of Mbabane Swallows but with former players of the team who served under his reign.

Some of the players who had a stint with the team said during the funeral that they were also saddened by his death. They stated that the departed CEO played a huge role in their football careers even after leaving the team.

The late Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana's memory still lives with some of the team players who also paid their last respect to the late award-winning administrator.

THIS IS WHAT THEY SAID;

Fabrice Mopina (Tambuti): "He was a great man who played a key role in bringing me to Swaziland. He always encouraged me to always work hard in order to improve in the game. I will forever cherish the moments I shared with him."

Mohammed Sabela (Highlanders): "He was a father figure to us and loved us equally when I was at Swallows. He always wished the best for every player and was not selfish. He was an outgoing person and may his soul rest in peace."

Mbongeni Motsa (Red Lions): "He was my mentor and was always there for me in my football career. We come from the same area and he would always guide me."

Manana family to plant tree in honour of Victor, Swallows

SOCCER – The late Mbabane Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana's family has pledged to plant a citrus tree in honour of Chairman Victor Gamedze and the team.

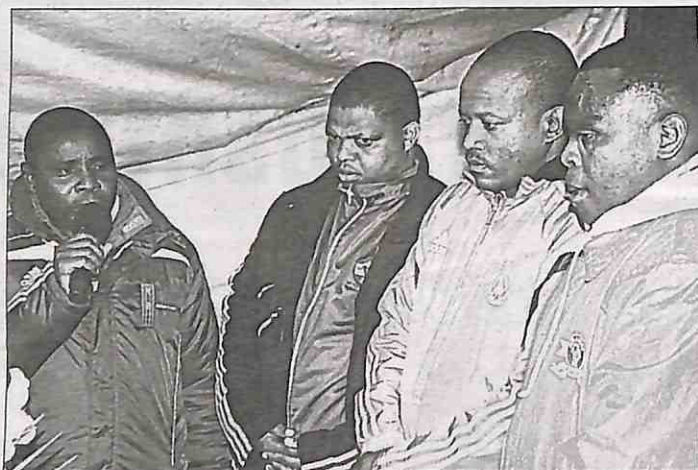
The deceased's uncle identified as Babe Dvuba said the tree would be a token of appreciation to Gamedze and the team for what they did for the deceased.

"We are very grateful to Gamedze and the team for every-

thing they have done for our child.

"This tree will blossom and we want them to always come here to collect the fruits. Swallows will forever be close to our hearts and we wish them the best of luck in all the games they are still going to play," he said.

Gamedze pledged an over E200 000 payout to the late official's family, which he said was to express gratitude to Manana for his loyalty to the team.



Royal Leopard PRO Frank Hurube introducing his colleagues, Sandile Gwebu (Young Buffaloes), Thami Phakathi (Green Mamba) and Comfort Shongwe (Red Lions).



Swallows supporters singing and dancing at the grave yard.

Manana was a national asset - Sports and Rec

SOCCER – The Swaziland National Sports & Recreation Council has joined the nation in mourning the death of Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana.

The Chairman of the Council Lawrence 'Lolo' Mthethwa said Manana's death was a loss not just to Mbabane Swallows but to the nation.

Condolences

"We would like to extend our sincere condolences to the nation following the death of Manana

who was an asset to local football. He has left a legacy in the sport where he played a huge role and will be forever missed," he said.

Expressed

Mthethwa was also joined by the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) representative in Sonnyboy Mabuza and Premier League of Swaziland executive member Peter 'Touch' Magagula who also expressed sadness following the death of the CEO.

MTN LEAGUE GRAND CLOSING ON THURSDAY

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SOCCER - Struggling Mbabane side Mbabane Highlanders will have their fate decided on Thursday. This will be during the much anticipated MTN League closing, where the black and white outfit will play traditional rivals Mbabane Swallows in a must win clash.

Highlanders will have to ensure they beat the league champions when they meet at the Somhlolo National Stadium and pray that their nearest challengers in the relegation battle Red Lions and Tambuti, who ironically play against each other, falter to save the black and white side from the dire situation that befell them three seasons ago.

According to a fixture released by Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati yesterday, the derby will be preceded by a clash pitting police side Royal Leopard against hub giants Manzini Wanderers at 1pm. Tambuti against Red Lions

...Mbabane Highlanders will face rivals Mbabane Swallows in must win clash at the Somhlolo National Stadium



Mbabane Highlanders will have their fate decided on Thursday.

will, on the other hand, face-off at the King Sobhuza Memorial Stadium in Nhlanguano.

Vilakati highlighted that they had to settle for the holiday as there was no other suitable date on which the games would be played.

"After so many considerations, it was decided that the game be played on the holiday because the coming weekends

will be busy," he said.

He urged supporters to be at their best behaviour and also accept whatever result on the day.

Great

"Supporters should come in great numbers to witness the last games of the season. We appeal that they behave as violent behaviour compromises the organisation when negotiating with sponsors."

THE FIXTURE

Thursday at Somhlolo National Stadium

Leopard vs Wanderers 1pm

Highlanders vs Swallows 3pm

Thursday at King Sobhuza Memorial Stadium

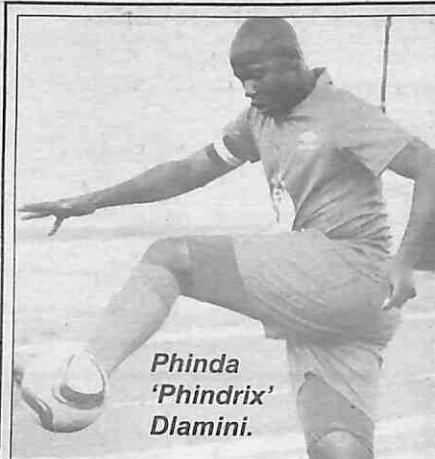
Tambuti vs Red Lions 3pm

MTN Premier League log

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1. Mbabane Swallows	21	18	3	0	55	14	41	57
2. Young Buffaloes	22	10	7	5	25	19	6	37
3. Moneni	22	9	8	5	33	25	8	35
4. Manzini Wanderers	21	8	9	4	31	20	11	33
5. Royal Leopards	21	10	3	8	27	25	2	33
6. Manzini Sundowns	22	8	9	5	24	23	1	33
7. Green Mamba	22	8	5	9	31	23	8	29
8. Midas City	22	5	10	7	25	28	-3	25
9. Tambuti	21	6	3	12	23	36	-13	21
10. Red Lions	21	6	3	12	22	43	-21	21
11. Mbabane Highlanders	21	4	7	10	27	35	-8	19
12. Manzini Sea Birds	22	1	5	16	14	46	-32	8

"Also the sitting arrangement remains the same where Mbabane Highlanders will use the stand on the left hand side of the royal box and Mbabane Swallows that on the right hand side.

Manzini Wanderers and Royal Leopard will use the West and East stands, respectively," he said. Also worth noting is that this will be Swallows' second game in a space of two days as they will lock horns with South African Absa Premiership side Platinum Stars in a CAF Confederation clash at Somhlolo on Tuesday.



Phinda's lone goal hands Green Mamba victory

BY SABELO MAJOLA

Young Buffaloes (0)0
Green Mamba (1)1

SOCCER - A 17th minute strike from Phinda 'Phindrix' Dlamini handed Green Mamba maximum points against Young Buffaloes at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

Although the result had no impact for either side on the log table, Green Mamba needed it the most for morale boost as they endured a dull season.

The Correctional Services side remains seventh in the log with 29 points while Young Buffaloes have secured the runners-up spot with 37 points. Phinda made sure to drive his side to victory after pouncing on the ball from a Samkelo Gumbi free kick. The goal separated the two sides going to the break. The second half saw both sides creating clear cut chances but failing to convert. Green Mamba captain Musa Dlamini navigated his way past the opposition defence and came face to face with Nhlanhla Gwebu at the poles but his right foot strike let him down as the ball went wide.

Ndoda Mthethwa was set by Mzwandile Nkonyane with a clean pass in the box but his shot was off the target in the hour mark. Phiwa Dlamini's header in the 71st minute did find the back of the net but it was ruled offside. Phinda almost went away with foul play two minutes from time when his header went in but the referee noted that he used his hand for aid and he was shown a yellow card. The final score was 1-0 in, marking a third win for Harries 'Madze' Bulunga who took charge of the team six months ago.

TEAMS

YOUNG BUFFALOES - Nhlanhla, Samkeliso, Mndeni, Sihlangu, Thabo, Nkosing'phile, Wandile, Ndoda, Mzwandile, Sifiso, Phiwa
GREEN MAMBA - Siyabonga, Thabo, Samkelo, Banele, Khumalo, Phinda, Mxolisi, Njabulo, Phinda, Banele, Musa

'Madze' cites lack of winning mentality in his charges

BY SABELO MAJOLA

SOCCER - Green Mamba head coach Harries 'Madze' Bulunga has lamented the lack of belief and winning mentality among his charges.

Bulunga made his remarks during a post-match interview after his side's triumph 1-0 over Young Buffaloes at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Having taken charge of the Correctional Services side six months ago, Bulunga said he was working on instilling assertiveness and a winning mentality on his players.

"It was not a good season for the team hence the win today (yesterday) went a long way in boosting the

players' confidence, we needed it more than Buffaloes did to restore pride in the team. The material is there but the players lack self-belief and a winning mentality," he said.

He said they would sign a few players in their quest to do well next season. Meanwhile, Young Buffaloes mentor Dominic Kunene said he was content with the squad he has as the team will be headed for the CAF Confederation Cup next season.

"The squad is solid and we have depth so I'm not worried about the task ahead. I have a good team," he said. He said he was happy with his side's achievements and labelled the season as 'great'.



Volleyball teams listening during a presentation by the sponsors of the tournament. This was during a tournament played at the Bosco Skills Centre yesterday. (Courtesy pic)

HC3 sponsored volleyball tournament a success

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

VOLLEYBALL - The Swaziland National Volleyball Association (SNVA) tournament bankrolled by HC3 and the Manzini Municipality was a huge success.

The male teams' tournament was played at the Bosco Skills Centre in Manzini, a venue that was sponsored the municipality.

Seven teams competed for the gold medal. The teams were also taken through a presentation by the HC3 on male circum-

cision and other health related. The Health Communication Capacity Collaborative (HC3) is USAID's flagship social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) project.

Teams RSP, USDF, Correctional and Lomahasha qualified for the knockout stages of the tournament, whose finals were played last night.

Vice-President of the Swaziland Volleyball Association Erick Zwane described the games as successful and thanked all teams for their participation and

dedication.

"The games were successful. All teams showed up and gave it their all hence we would like to thank them very much for their contribution towards making the tournament a success."

Zwane also thanked the sponsor HC3 for its kind gesture of bankrolling the tourney. "Once again, I would like to take this opportunity and thank the sponsor HC3 for their kind gesture towards the volleyball sport in the country. All in all, it's been a great tournament," he said.

Wanderers through to Women FA Cup final

BY SABELO MAJOLA

Wanderers.....0(2)

Leopard.....0(0)

SOCCER - Manzini Wanderers Ladies recorded a 2-0 over Royal Leopard to reach the finals of the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) FAWomen Cup Finals.

The game was played at the Technical Centre yesterday.

The league champions scored two second half goals to edge the police side and book a place in the finals of the tournament which was won by army outfit Young Buffaloes last season.

The maroon and white outfit are looking to double their silverware this season, adding to the already

secured league title. They will face the winner between Mbabane Swallows and Young Buffaloes.

Buffaloes thrashed Kappa Ladies 10-1 yesterday in the quarterfinals replay.

This was a replay match following the cancellation of their game last weekend. The game was cancelled just 10 minutes before full time on grounds that it was dark.

Women Football Association executive member Hopewell Matsebula said all was going well in the tournament. "Women football is progressing very well and we are happy to see this tournament growing bigger each year," he said. The semi-finals between defending champions Buffaloes and Swallows will be played at the Technical Centre on Thursday starting at 2pm and finals on Sunday.

RESULTS



Yesterday
NEDBANK CUP
Chippa United
Penalties

0-0
2-4

SuperSport United

FIXTURES

Today
NEDBANK CUP

15:00 Golden Arrows

v Orlando Pirates

PREMIER LEAGUE

16:00 Hull City

v Tottenham Hotspur

16:00 Swansea City

v West Bromwich Albion

16:00 Southampton

v Stoke City

16:00 Arsenal

v Everton

16:00 Chelsea

v Sunderland

16:00 Liverpool

v Middlesbrough

16:00 Manchester United

v Crystal Palace

16:00 Leicester City

v AFC Bournemouth

16:00 Burnley

v West Ham

16:00 Watford

v Manchester City

SundayObserver SPORTING

May 21, 2017



9

FULL STORY ON PAGE A3



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MTN LEAGUE GRAND CLOSING ON THURSDAY

...Mbabane Highlanders' fate to be decided on Ascension Day

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**26 - 28
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