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AS COUNTRY HEADS TO THE POLLS...

GIJA INVITES POLITICAL PARTIES FOR 2018 ELECTIONS

STORY ON PAGE 3

...says everyone is allowed to stand

ANGRY VENDORS STORM MANZINI COUNCIL, STAGE SIT-IN



TO THE STREETS: Angry street vendors yesterday took to the streets, singing political songs to demand review of recently introduced charges. MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 4



Ministers choose who to bury - Percy

PAGE 3



Inmates brought to court in an ambulance

PAGE 2

600 pupils grounded by rain

PAGE 3

SUPER SPECIALS



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E.&O.E.

CHEMICALS FOR ARMYWORM NOW AVAILABLE

By Gugu Simelane
Mbabane

CHEMICALS for fall armyworm are now available.

This was revealed by the Ministry of Agriculture Director of Research at the Malkerns Research Office Similo Mavimbela.

Mavimbela said chemicals for destroying and treating the presence of fall armyworm that have invaded farmers' maize fields are now available.

"There are three chemicals that are

available for the treatment of the fall armyworm. The chemicals include Emma, Steward and Methomyl. They are now available in local chemicals and pesticides suppliers", he said.

He said since fall armyworms are new in the South African region.

"The public should understand that there are different types of armyworms and that each different type requires different chemicals to treat it. In this case there had to be a specific research for these specific new kinds of armyworms and finally three chemicals to treat it have been developed in South

Africa. The chemical has been approved and it will be available from today (yesterday)", he said.

Mavimbela revealed there were three kinds of chemicals that have been developed and all will help in fighting the armyworms.

Decline

Mavimbela further said with the current rain downpour, they are expecting the presence of the armyworm to decline.

"Too much rainfall minimises the presence of armyworms, when there is too much rain the armyworm fall off

the plants and drown. Their lava also falls off and die. The current rain is actually working in our favour as it will greatly limit the armyworms presence in the maize and sorghum fields," he said.

Last week, the ministry of agriculture through the Principal Secretary Bongani Masuku announced the outbreak of the fall armyworm in Swaziland.

The presence of the armyworm was found in various places in the Lubombo and Manzini regions.

He said the pest had already started leaving a trail of destruction that is threatening food secu-

rity in the country with devastating impacts on maize and sorghum fields. Areas that had positively identified the pest were Crooks Plantation in Big Bend, where the pest had destroyed over 32 hectares of the maize plant, Lonhlupheko under KaLanga where it was destroying sorghum fields and in Lomahasha and Siphofaneni areas the pest has been spotted in maize fields.

Prior to the new found chemicals, farmers had been advised to use insecticides such as Methomyl, Celest 5 EC, Karate Zeon, Fastac, Decis Forte and other Pyrethroids.

INMATES BROUGHT TO COURT IN AMBULANCE

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

THE shortage of transport within government departments has exposed His Majesty's Correctional Services as some inmates were brought to the High Court in an Ambulance.

Packed and seated on the ambulance's stretchers, the inmates were seen jumping out of the ambulance as they came for their contested bail and urgent bail applications at the High Court last Friday.

They were ferried in a Correctional Services ambulance which under nor-

● Packed and seated on the ambulance's stretchers, the inmates were seen jumping out of the ambulance as they came for their contested bail and urgent bail applications at the High Court last Friday

mal circumstances is expected to carry out health related errands such as transporting inmates that are ill.

Transport

It was later gathered from some of the officers that there was no available transport to take the inmates to court and the only available option was to use the ambulance.

Not even a single inmate amongst

those that were brought by the ambulance was ill and all were later transported back to the Matsapha Correctional facility after their appearances in court.

Comment

An immediate comment could not be obtained from Correctional Services Communications Office, at least by the time this report was compiled.

MTN disburses E860 000 in multiple sponsorships

By Mandla Luphondvo
Mbabane

LAST week Swazi MTN disbursed E860 000 through a combination of initiatives on sponsorship, and on the corporate social responsibility side.

Through the direction of Board of Directors, Swazi MTN annually invests a portion of the profits made into community projects which have education, health or enterprise development as a strategic component.

This has been the case since the launch of MTN Foundation over ten years ago.

This gesture, in the words of Swazi MTN's Chief Executive Officer, Ambrose Dlamini, sets MTN apart as a true Swazi company. And this is not just a catchphrase with no seat in the auditorium of reality.

First in the shopping list of investments was an unprecedented contribution of E475 000 towards MTN SWAMA Music Awards 17 scheduled to take place in August this year.

Honoured by the country's Prime Minister, Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini, the gathering of artists, and music associations at Mahlahlekhuwini House, was such an exciting event on a day where the country expected Cyclone Dineo to land, and potentially leave a trail of destruction.

However, this was such a happy event filled with laughter triggered from all ends. Initially coming from the programme directors Lindokuhle Mthupha, and Mduduzi "Mdura" the comedian, joy permeated to the audience, and all speakers left the intimate crowd either



NOTHING BUT THE BEST: Swazi MTN Brand and Sponsorship Manager Fisiwe Vilane.

in stitches, or in picturesque Colgate smiles.

Following the official announcement of this sponsorship, nominations of artists in the 19 categories kicked off in earnest on Monday.

Abuzz

Already, social media is abuzz with multiple posts both from SWAMA and individual artists who are posting different updates to charm the public for votes. Who would have thought Swazi MTN would venture into music?

However, it would be important to indicate that Swazi MTN's marriage with musicians was long time coming.

Those familiar with Callertunez, a product by Swazi MTN which allows musicians' songs to be used as ring tones, at a fee, even a couple of local songs are doing rounds through this product.

It was initially gospel artists. Now the

envelope has been stretched to factor in secular music. As the public is warming up to this idea, this initiative has been doing well. And that was the music morsel.

The second initiative was an investment of E135 000 made by Swazi MTN last week to Mbabane Golf Club, the highest ever made in this sporting code. Fundamentally, this sponsorship seeks to entice more women into the sport, whilst simultaneously developing juniors in the same.

Popularity

To demonstrate its popularity, this tournament attracts golfers from as far as Mananga and Big Bend.

Swazi MTN Brand and Sponsorship Manager, Fisiwe Vilane, an upcoming golfer, promises better prizes, and different formats this year.

"This will make the game less predictable and exciting," she says.

The third investment made by Swazi MTN this past week was a E250 000 basketball sponsorship.

This sponsorship was received by the Chairperson of the Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council (SNSRC), Lawrence Mthethwa, who confessed that Swazi MTN is a credible partner, and indisputably the home of sports. In this instance too, basketball has received the biggest support in a long time.

Speaking during the launch of the sponsorship Swazi MTN Chief Executive Officer Ambrose Dlamini said the company note that basketball is one sport that is played, and enjoyed by people of all ages and gender. He further noted that it is the leading sport in advocat-



SUFI AW wants budget to decrease tax

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

TAX issues remain a problem to many people in the country and SUFI AW is of the view that the budget should consider addressing the reduction of taxes.

The Swaziland Union of Financial Institutions and Allied Workers (SUFI AW) issued this statement at a time when Minister for Finance Martin Dlamini is supposed to deliver a budget speech. The budget speech will be delivered on Friday in Parliament.

SUFI AW Secretary Jabulile Shiba said her organisation's pressing issue was tax.

The union wishes so much to have taxes decreased in the country. She said as an organisation in the finance sector, this has been negatively affecting them.

"We would like to see some downward adjustments in taxes, that is, both in PAYE and property transfer duty so as to facilitate property ownership and improve disposable income," Shiba said.

The secretary also said the country had been on the brink of a water disaster and should have learnt something from this experience. It would therefore be prudent to ensure that more funds were channeled to this area to increase the

capacity of the country's reservoirs and intensify on water harvesting systems.

Shiba said the time had come for the country to start generating its own power.

Currently, Swaziland entirely relies on South Africa's power generator Eskom to import electricity to the country.

Power

"We cannot leave out the importance of generating our own power. Another argument may be that this would be a big ask, but we would maintain that it is possible, all we need is to dream big and align our efforts to the dream," she said.

The financial institutions union also feels that education and health matters should also be given the utmost attention.

Shiba said health and education do not receive the necessary attention, the country's quest for becoming a developed country could remain a pipe dream. "We read on the media about the financial difficulties of our tertiary institutions and this can only mean that the quality of the education at that level will definitely be compromised.

This might be caused by the fact that we cannot compete for the best there is out there as the packages are not appealing," she said.

ing for gender equity as the sport avails to women, the same opportunities extended to their male counterparts.

"Basketball contributes to the creation of an environment where people across the sex bar enhance their social skills for the betterment of human relations," said Dlamini.

As we move towards the close of the month, Swazi MTN customers can look forward to lots of

excitement in the form of customer delights.

The customer delight initiative has seen some customers getting up to 25 megabytes, for providing feedback through other channels besides 922.

By the close of this month, some customers will be getting up to a 100 megabytes within the target of delighting about 15 000 customers this month.

CHIEF GIJA INVITES POLITICAL PARTIES FOR 2018 ELECTIONS

COVER STORY

Stories by Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

MEMBERS of political parties are free to register for the 2018 national elections and stand a chance to be voted into Parliament, Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) Chairman Chief Gija said.

It is understood that some political parties are currently working on strategies to take part in the national elections slated for next year.

This is said to have come as a result of failed attempts by the progressives to force government into changing from the Tinkhundla system of governance to a multi-party system. Chief Gija, however, emphasised that political parties will not be allowed to contest as organisations, but their members are free to contest as individuals in their respective constituencies. He said this during an interview where he was asked to give clarity on the commission's stand about progressives lobbying to take part in the elections. The EBC delegation was in Siteki yesterday to capacitate traditional leaders about the upcoming elections. Chief Gija stated that the regulations of the EBC allowed any Swazi citizen to partake in the elections as long as he or she has not contravened the laws guiding the elections. He said this did not only apply to progressives but to all organisations.

"It must be clear that for now, no organisation is allowed to contest for the elections, but their members are free to do so," said the chairperson.

On another note, Chief Gija highlighted that the capacitating process was very important in the elections as people need to be well informed about the kind of people they will be voting for. He said the EBC regarded tradition-

It must be clear that for now, no organisation is allowed to contest for the elections, but their members are free to do so

... 'Don't force people to vote for women against their will'

CHIEFS warned the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) delegation against encouraging the electorate to vote for women for gender balance reason.

The traditional leaders said this may be equal to interfering with the people's choices or rather channelling them into voting against their will but adhere to an order.

The issue of gender balance during elections became one of the critical concerns raised by the traditional leaders during a capacity building conference which was hosted by the EBC in Siteki yesterday.

Raising the issue was Chief Mdlaka Gamedze, who stated that the call by many organisations to vote for women may lead to interference with the people's choices.

Instead, Gamedze urged the EBC team to encourage the freedom to nominate or elect any member of the society without considering whether it is a male or female.

Gamedze said the electorate must be free to vote for candidates who they deem fit to develop their constituencies.

"People must not just vote for a woman just for gender balancing, but they must vote for her when she has proven that she has a clear vision for

al leaders as partners in this process as they also need to cooperate with the



the development of that area," said Gamedze.

Meanwhile, Chief Mvimbini Matse reported that some women were denied the opportunity to contest for the elections by their husbands. Matse said there have been instances where women were nominated during the first stage but later withdrew after their husbands instructed them to do so.

However, Matse said they would now work closely with the EBC to make sure that such incidents are not repeated in the future.

"As chiefs, we can assure that we will play our role to make sure every member of the society is free to exercise his or her right to vote or be voted for without being intimidated by anyone," said Matse.

officers who will be officiating during the elections.

Pupils walk out of class in protest

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

A group of Grade Six and Seven pupils at Machegwini Primary walked out of class after the principal announced there will be no sporting activities at the school this year.

Machegwini is a school situated nearer to Maguga Dam in the Northern Hhohho region. As the bigger boys in the higher grades walked away, the remaining pupils promised to take the matter to the ministry of education and training. According to reliable sources within the community, the school principal called an urgent meeting at the school assembly arena.

"Addressing the pupils together with the teachers, the principal announced that this year there will be no sports and pupils will only participate in cultural activities. The cultural activities include *sibhaca* and *ummisso*," said the source.

The announcement did not go down well with other pupils.

"Hell broke loose after they were dispersed to their different classrooms. The bigger boys in the high-

er grades left classes and went to the sports ground where they held a brief meeting which ended in songs," narrated the source.

Spectators at the bus rank were shocked to see primary pupils deserting classes.

Those who remained in class told their respective teachers that lessons will not continue since some of the pupils were not in class.

"Teachers went to the staffroom and left the pupils alone in class," said the source.

The school principal identified as Mr. Magongo went into his office and pretended as if there was nothing wrong going on around the school.

"A certain teacher male teacher went to the angry boys and reasoned with them. He told them resolving to riot will not solve the problem. He advised them to engage the principal."

However, the boys alleged that the school principal is arrogant and will not hear what they had to say.

The boys then promised to report the matter to the ministry as they felt it was wrong for the school principal to suspend sporting activities.

600 pupils stuck at home because of non-stop rains

Stories by Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

THE Nkomanzi River reached near-historic levels over the weekend, forcing over 600 school pupils to stay at home in the northern Hhohho region.

According to the ministry of natural resources and energy, the Nkomanzi River is now at a carrying capacity of 332 mm.

For the second week, some schools are closed in water-logged areas in Northern Hhohho.

Lufafa Primary, Ndeva schools, Nkomazi Primary and High as well as Zandondo schools were closed last Friday because of flooded and muddy roadways.

Conditions

The conditions made travelling to the schools unsafe for both the pupils and teachers.

"The river's water levels have been slowly rising," said some of the teachers, who are currently at home.

The conditions are extremely dangerous and pupils were warned to take extreme caution in these areas.

...Parents blame government

SOME of the parents of the affected schools blame government for neglecting schools in the rural areas.

According to Lindiwe Dlamini, most schools in the Hhohho region are in mountainous areas.

"Government never even comes to check the roads or build proper bridges for the communities in the

rural areas." The parents further accused the ministry of education and training of caring less about the wellness of pupils in rural areas and this contributes to poor results. "For example, inspectors only come once or never come at all." She said most rural schools are not given much attention compared to those in urban areas.

Musi records highest rain

MUSI in Mankayane recorded the highest rainfall from the rains that started on Monday and lasted until yesterday morning.

Musi recorded 8mm and this was the highest when compared to the rest of the country.

Musi was followed by the capital city of Swaziland (Mbabane) in the Hhohho region with a recording of 7mm while Nhlengano in the Shiselweni region came third with a rainfall recording of 6.4mm.

Jericho received average rains of 5.2mm.

According to information from the Swaziland Meteorological Services, Vuvulane, an area in the Lubombo region, very close to Mhlume, recorded very little rain followed by Mayiwane in the Hhohho Region.

Rainfall Data Recorded from Monday till yesterday morning

STATION	AMOUNT OF RAINFALL (mm)
MBABANE	7.0
MATSAPHA	1.6
PIGG'S PEAK	1.4
BIG BEND	1.2
VUVULANE	0.2
SIKHUPHE	-
SITEKI	-
JERICO	5.2
NDZEVANE	1.0
MOTI	2.0
LUBOVANE	1.0
NHLANGANO	6.4
MAYIWANE	0.6
MUSI	8.0
NYONYANE	2.0



Ministers choose who to bury - Percy

By Observer Reporter
Mbabane

CABINET ministers are not compelled to attend anyone's funeral.

This is according to Government's Spokesman Percy Simelane. This comes after our sister publication the Sunday Observer reported that cabinet ministers shunned former Prime Minister Sotsha Dlamini's memorial and funeral services.

The ministers also failed to attend the funeral of another former PM Obed Dlamini. This raised eyebrows among members of the public who held the view that ministers would attend in their numbers since these were state funerals. Apart from that, the glowing tributes they gave the two departed statesmen demanded they pay their last respects. That never happened.

"In this country, attending a funeral is voluntarily. No one, including ministers, owes anybody an explanation why he/she did not attend a funeral. My experience is that it all depends on what a person is occupied with or is expected to do around the funeral date," said be involved in around the funeral date. The Minister of Education and Training Simelane. The Minister of Education and Training Phineas Magagula was the only minister who attended both funerals representing government.

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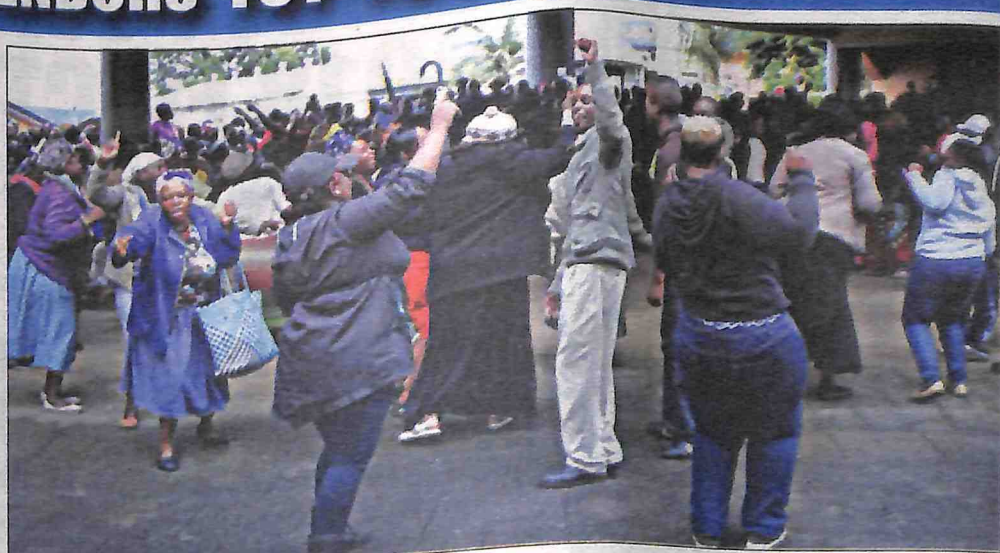
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MANZINI STREET VENDORS TOY-TOYI



WHO IS THE TOWN CLERK- Manzini Municipal Council CEO Lungile Dlamini with Manzini Mayor Khethokuhle Dlamini. Street vendors claimed they do not know the town clerk. The women vowed they will not go home until the mayor gives them a proper explanation why the municipality decided to increase rent for street vendors. (Pics: Sifiso Nhlabatsi)


TAKING OVER: Vendors littered the city's streets after the meeting.



HHAY HHAY: Street vendors protesting inside Manzini Municipality Council premises.



TO THE STREETS: Street vendors were singing and chanting political songs and slogans.



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VACANCY

Benefits Examiner

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the position of Benefits Examiner, which currently exists in our organization. The position reports to the Senior Legal Officer.

Job Summary

- Conducts next of kin meetings, identifies and allocates beneficiaries.
- Provision of excellent client service to deceased members' dependants.
- Adherence to statutory legislation and internal policies and procedures relating to pension administration.

Key responsibilities:

- Ensures adherence to processes, legislation and procedures related to distribution of death benefits and pension administration.
- Provides legislative advice during course of duty.
- Facilitates and coordinates next of kin meetings.
- Maintains accurate data capture and recording for distributions and meetings.
- Ensures information communicated to dependants is current, accurate and timeous.
- Prepares reports on distribution and unresolved disputes.

Qualifications and Experience:


- B degree in Law from a recognized institution.
- Minimum 3 years experience in a similar position.
- Experience in conflict resolution and mediation.

Knowledge/skills and personal attributes

- Excellent Interpersonal and Communications skills.
- Knowledge of Pension Administration, Retirement Funds Act 2005, Pensions Order no.13, 1993, Government General Orders and Constitution of the Kingdom of Swaziland.
- Computer proficiency in Ms Excel and Word.
- Report writing skills.
- Analytical, confidentiality, problem solving, listening and time management skills.
- High level of integrity and respect.

Applications and Closing date
Written applications accompanied by a detailed Curriculum Vitae, should be received not later than 28 February, 2017, before 16h00 addressed to:












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 Nkosingphile Dlamini (Upgrading): Maths. C; Bio. B; Phys Sci. B	 Temantfulini Mamba: Maths. A; Phys Sci. B	 Bongani Ndlela (Upgrading): Eng. C; Bio. A; Phys Sci. B	 Ernest T. Magongo Principal ready to welcome you

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THE AFTERMATH...DINEO LEAVES MBABANE ROADS MUDDY



WET: Motorists and pedestrians are having a tough time using the Pholinjane Road currently being upgraded next to former Mbabane Police Station, leading to Malunge. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



TRAFFIC JAM: A tractor driver negotiating his way through.



FAULTY: This car was stuck in the mud.

GREYSTONE PARTNERS

GREYSTONE PARTNERS LIMITED
Company Registration No. 74 of 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Greystone Partners Limited ("the Company" or "Greystone") will be held on Tuesday, 28 March 2017 at Mountain Inn Hotel, Princess Drive, Mbabane, Swaziland at 14h00, to consider and, if approved, to pass the following ordinary and special resolutions:-

RESOLUTION 1 (ORDINARY RESOLUTION):
PRESENTATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED THAT the audited financial statements of the Company (as approved by the Board of Directors of the Company) together with the reports of the Directors and Auditors therein for the year ended 30 September 2016, be and are hereby adopted.

RESOLUTION 2 (ORDINARY RESOLUTION):
AUDITORS' RE-APPOINTMENT AND REMUNERATION

The Board and audit committee have evaluated the performance of PricewaterhouseCoopers and recommend their reappointment as auditors of the company.

RESOLVED THAT PricewaterhouseCoopers ("PWC") be and are hereby re-appointed as auditors of the Company to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting, and THAT the directors be and are hereby authorized to fix the remuneration of the auditors for the past year.

RESOLUTION 3 (ORDINARY RESOLUTION):
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION 3.1: RESOLVED THAT Ms NK Mabuza, a director retiring by rotation in terms of the Company's Articles of Association, be and is hereby re-elected to the Company's board of directors.

RESOLUTION 3.2: RESOLVED THAT Mr AT Dlamini, a director retiring by rotation in terms of the Company's Articles of Association, be and is hereby re-elected to the Company's board of directors.

RESOLUTION 3.3: RESOLVED THAT Mr SS Msibi, a director retiring by rotation in terms of the Company's Articles of Association, be and is hereby re-elected to the Company's board of directors.

RESOLUTION 3.4: RESOLVED THAT Dr KD Dlamini, a director retiring by rotation in terms of the Company's Articles of Association, be and is hereby re-elected to the Company's board of directors.

RESOLUTION 4 (ORDINARY RESOLUTION):
CONTROL OF UNISSUED SHARES

RESOLVED THAT until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company, the unissued ordinary shares of the Company be and

are hereby placed under the control of the directors, to allot and issue to such person or persons and on such terms and conditions and at such times as the directors in their discretion may determine.

RESOLUTION 5: (SPECIAL RESOLUTION):
RENEWAL OF MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

RESOLVED by special resolution, THAT the Management Agreement and Addendum between Greystone Partners Limited and African Alliance Swaziland Limited is hereby renewed for a period of five years, with effect from 29 October 2017.

The purpose and effect of this special resolution is to allow Greystone's operations to continue in an uninterrupted and efficient manner.

In the event the Management Agreement is not renewed, Greystone will need to appoint employees or outsource the requisite functions to another service provider; this may result in considerable disruption to the company's business.

RESOLUTION 6 (SPECIAL RESOLUTION):
GENERAL REPURCHASES

The purpose of this special resolution is to generally approve, in terms of the provisions of the Companies Act, the acquisition by the company and/or a subsidiary of the company, of ordinary shares issued by it subject to the SSX Listings Requirements.

The effect of a share repurchase is generally to improve the returns to the remaining shareholders, as the profits made by the Company after such share repurchase are supported by a smaller capital base.

RESOLVED by special resolution, THAT the Company may, subject to the Companies Act of 2009 (Act 8 of 2009) and the Company's Articles of Association, repurchase ordinary shares issued by the Company, provided that this authority shall be valid only until the date of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company or for 15 (fifteen) months from the date of the resolution, whichever is the shorter, and may be varied by a special resolution at any general meeting of the Company at any time prior to the Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board
Registered Office:
2nd Floor, Nedbank Centre
Cnr Sishayi & Sozisa Roads
Mbabane
Swaziland

For and on behalf of:
Company Secretary
Date: 21 February 2017

Notes
A member entitled to attend and vote may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead. A proxy need not be a member of the Company.

Doc:12685



DIESEL-ELECTRIC

NOTICE

TO ALL OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS ON THE 1ST OF MARCH OUR MATSAPHA BRANCH WILL BE MOVING TO A NEW PREMISES NEXT TO NANDO'S OPPOSITE MICA IN MATSAPHA WITH ACCESSIBLE, SECURE AMPLE PARKING

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EBC HAS NO MONEY FOR VOTER EDUCATION

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

THE Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) is still struggling to raise money to finance the voter education exercise ahead of the 2018 national elections.

EBC Commissioner Princess Menzi said they were now at the mercy of Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Edgar Hillary.

Princess Menzi was telling voters of Kwaluseni Constituency who were complaining about the way EBC was conducting the education exercise. The Kwaluseni residents were not happy with the fact that EBC was not marketing the education exercise.

Initiative

The residents took turns in advising the commission that in the coming education exercises, it should market the initiative to attract more people to attend the voter education sessions.

A relatively small number of residents

attended the session last Saturday.

This was noted by the commissioners from EBC as well as the Kwaluseni residents.

Princess Menzi even told the residents that the poor turnout was a blessing in disguise. She made an example of the gospel of Christianity. She said it started with 12 people who were commissioned by Jesus to spread the gospel to the entire world. The gospel nowadays, the princess said, was heard by almost everyone in this world.

Agreed

The Kwaluseni residents agreed with what the commissioner said. But they felt the EBC should have at least put up a banner that would inform people of what it was doing.

"Even now, we are gathered here listening to your education.

How are we going to tell others if there are no brochures we are going to use to tell others about what you were talking about," one speaker was heard saying.

He said telling other people something by word of mouth will not be as effective

as giving them something written down. The residents said the marketing drive should be intensified because such exercises were very important.

In response to the concerns, Princess Menzi said the commission did not have money to carry out this mandate. She said even the budget they were using to conduct the elections was not allocated specifically for the commission.

Mandate

She said Minister Hillary even took money from the ministry of justice and constitutional affairs to ensure that EBC carried out its mandate of educating the Swazis about elections.

The princess blamed legislators for not calling for a good budget allocation for the EBC.

"The legislators are vocal in some issues but unfortunately not with the EBC, which makes it possible for them to go to Parliament.

"I urge them to consider calling upon government to also prioritise the interests of the EBC because this is an important commission that administers the process of building our government," she said.

Don't allow people to disturb elections, Chiefs told

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

THE Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) has asked traditional authorities to be vigilant and not allow organisations to persuade people not to take part in the 2018 elections.

EBC Commissioner Ncumbi Maziya said they had since learnt that some organisations disguised as human rights activists were planning to lobby people to boycott the elections. Maziya said traditional leaders must be wary of who visited their communities to hold meetings which have not been properly reported.

He highlighted that for now, only the EBC team would be visiting communities to educate the people about the upcoming elections. "Traditional leaders must report



DON'T: Commissioner Ncumbi Maziya addressing the gathering during the capacity building conference.

any individual or organisation which will be coming to the communities to deceive people and talking about rights not to partake in the elections," said Maziya.



ALL EARS: Some of the chiefs who attended the event.

ASHRAFF, LAWYER IN VERBAL CONFRONTATION

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

BUSINESSMAN and Indonesian Consul Kareem Ashraff and lawyer Sabelo Dlamini were involved in a verbal confrontation at the High Court.

The brief confrontation ensued immediately after High Court Judge Sipho Nkosi had adjourned for the day after a lengthy debate over dates for continuation of the civil matter involving Ashraff and GIGATECH Investments and its directors.

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

Submitted

It all started when lawyer Lindifa Mamba, who is representing Ashraff in the matter, submitted before court that his client is losing a lot of money as the directors and their company were in continued occupation of the said property without paying any cent.

Mamba had submitted that with the matter dragging for a long time, his client was being financially crippled; this after the respondent's lawyer Sabelo Dlamini had submitted that he did not have dates close by, since he is booked with appeals before the Supreme Court. This was when Dlamini also raised his concern to the effect that his clients are also losing thousands of Emalangeni as a result of the matter. This obviously did not go down well with Ashraff who immediately after Judge Nkosi had adjourned, went for Dlamini and verbally confronted him. "What thousands are you talking about here," a visibly fuming Ashraff queried. This, he asked while pointing at Dlamini and when they walked towards the door at Court D, Dlamini registered his discomfort as he told Ashraff that he did not like to be insulted. "I take offence at this and I do not like being insulted," Dlamini said.

Exchanging

As they walked towards the main exit at the High Court, they were still exchanging words while Mamba urged his client to walk away and they did as they got into their cars.

Ashraff has filed an urgent application where he seeks to have GIGATECH Investments, a technology company, together with its directors George Fetbia and King Collin, ejected from the property which is situated within the industrial hub of the kingdom. GIGATECH and its directors had entered into a lease agreement with Amani Family Trust in 2007, but have not been paying rentals.

Ashraff is a Trustee to Amani Family Trust, whose property is situated at the Matsapha Industrial site. He has already made submissions before High Court Judge Sipho Nkosi as he was led in evidence by his lawyer Mamba.

According to Ashraff, who owns a number of properties in the country,

he entered into a lease agreement with the two directors sometime in 2007 and they signed a two year lease which was renewable for a year in 2009. He said he got to know the directors through a friend who advised that the two were specialists in technological equipment and wanted to secure a domicile where they would operate their business.

"They told me they had done business with the ministry of health and they were to secure another business deal through a South African based company. Since I have assisted a number of people financially, I had no problem in assisting the two whom I offered my property for lease," Ashraff had submitted before court. When asked by his lawyer on whether they had agreed on the purchase of the property, Ashraff replied to the negative, stating that never at any stage had he reached such an agreement.

Agreement

This was after the directors had, as instructed by lawyer Dlamini, put it to Ashraff that he had in fact reached an agreement with the two to the effect that the money they would have spent in rentals would be almost equivalent to that of purchasing the property. However, Ashraff vehemently denied this stating there was no way he would have agreed to such. Giving evidence further, he told the court what has now brought him to court is the fact that GIGATECH Investments and the two directors have not been paying for the property in question since they signed the lease agreement. He said although he has not had occasion to inspect the inside of the property of late, he noticed that the outside is in a dilapidated state and needs renovations, while the yard now has overgrown grass all over. The matter is due for continuation as Ashraff is yet to be cross examined by the defence lawyer.

'Pirate taximen' give digital parking cold shoulder

By Gugu Simelane
Mbabane

ILLEGAL taximen stationed along the Betfusile and Gwamile Streets in Mbabane are giving the parking wardens a tough time as they refuse to pay according to the digital parking rules.

Monday was the first day of operation for the digital parking initiative in the city.

Parking wardens found along the Gwamile and Betfusile Streets said their work difficult as they did not want to pay the parking fees.

"It is so hard working with them. After the paid for time elapses, they refuse to pay again, claiming they services yet so they do not have the money to pay. They refuse to reason at all," said the parking warden, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The parking warden further said he also experienced an unruly customer who did not want to pay. "I had to call the office for back up and that's when the matter was resolved."

Municipal Council of Mbabane Public Relations Officer Lucky Tsabedze said the illegal taxi men have to pay for their parking or their cars would be clamped. "In fact all motorists who are unwilling to participate will be clamped and to release a clamped car is E100," he said.

LULA Parking Solutions Customer Service Officer Wandile Dlamini said their office received a few reports of some customers driving off without paying.

"We have had a few reports of glitches where some motorists chose to leave without paying the necessary fees, but the system will catch up with them.

The company will recover the money from these defaulters one way or the other. We encourage motorists to pay the due fees so that their debt does not catch up with them.

They should adopt the culture of paying for parking because in the near future, we will be using a system that does not require the use of parking wardens, but a motorist will need to be responsible and pay their parking at a designated parking paying point," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL CONSENT IN TERMS OF THE EZULWINI TOWN PLANNING SCHEME OF 2008

I, **TRENCHTOWN ROCK TRUST**, the owner of the property in question, hereby make a Public Notice in terms of Clause 1.5 of the 2008 Ezulwini Town Planning Scheme, that I wish to apply for SPECIAL CONSENT to establish a **GUEST HOUSE** on Plot **PORTION 181 of FARM 50 MAHLANGANISA TOWNSHIP, EZULWINI.**

Any one having an objection to this application may lodge their objections, in writing, with the Ezulwini Town Board at P.O. Box 344, Ezulwini, Swaziland not later than **14th March 2017**, that is, 21 days from the last publication of the Notice, namely, on **22nd February 2017.**



MANZINI NEWS

Read The Swazi Observer every Wednesday and get exciting news about Manzini...
...Interact with the Author on pro@mzcitycouncil.sz or 2505 2481 or 7611 4191



ANY POSITIVE CHANGE BETWEEN 2012 AND TODAY? MORE COUNCILLORS SPEAK

"HIGH MAST LIGHT INSTALLED, CRIME GOES DOWN IN MANGWANENI"

"WE have seen considerable change in my ward since 2012. Residents of Mangwaneni are over the moon about the high mast security light that has been installed therein.

The light has contributed significantly to the reduction of crime and all other sorts of unacceptable behaviour in the settlement. We are also happy that speed humps have been constructed along the Central Distributor road. We no longer have incidences wherein residents of Mangwaneni are knocked down by speeding vehicles whilst crossing the road. We have also managed to develop a good relationship with the Manzini North *Inkhundla*.

As a result, we are expecting exciting *Inkhundla*-funded projects in our ward. I have also worked well with residents of Sterkstroom. I like the way they have improved in terms of attendance of ward meetings because it is only high attendance that will influence tarring of



the loop road which is currently a thorny issue. Residents of my ward are now clear about what Council does; which is a very good achievement. The youth has not been left behind. We had a number of girls from our ward forming a football team and participating in the recent Ayichakaze Intfombi Mayor's Cup. This helped keep our female youths from harm's way during the last festive season. The youth has also been capacitated on money-saving tips and how to start income generating projects. We have also seen the people who were formerly referred to as dumpsite scavengers being formalised, trained and made to make a living out of recycling at the municipal landfill. Most of these live in Mangwaneni. It would be a huge mistake not to recognise and appreciate the cooperation and support that we have received from the Royal Swaziland Police". **CLLR KHANYISILE MAMBA WARD 7 [STERKSTROOM AND MANGWANENI]**

"WANT TO SEE TRANSFORMATION? TAKE A DRIVE TO MADONSA"

"When I came in as a ward Councillor in 2012, residents had very little interest in Council activities such that they saw no value in attending ward meetings; even those that were organised by Council.

That is, however, history because as a community we now understand that if we don't have time for issues affecting our ward and the municipality nobody will. The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) has been a game changer on facilitated input from residents as to the projects they want their municipality to focus on. Our youth is now much more organised. Previously, they were not attending ward meetings yet the things that got to be discussed had a bearing on them in one way or another. They felt they were not accommodated in the ward meetings and, as such, issues discussed were not relevant to their needs. We now have a platform on social media where everyone is free to express their views. A number of gaps have been identified and we are



putting together programmes that will empower them(youth) in a significant way..... watch this space!

How can I forget to mention the world class roads at Madonsa? This infrastructure has changed the face of our beautiful ward.

On their return, those that left the country some few years ago were certain they were driving through Sandton. On another note, we are almost there with preparations for removal of the municipal pound. Very soon that will be history. Moreover, in a few years from now, gravel roads will be a thing of the past in our ward (beloved Extension 6 included)

It has really been an exciting five years and I thank all residents for their support. They have really propelled me to work hard for our ward. I am also grateful to God Almighty for giving me wisdom and favour throughout the journey".

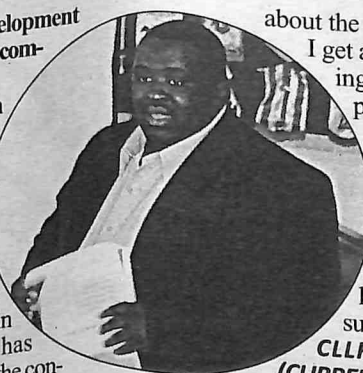
CLLR JABU SHIBA WARD 8. [MADONSA, THOMASDALE & EXTENSION 6]

"MKHOSI TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT HAS STARTED, PEOPLE ARE GETTING JOBS"

"I'm happy that the development of Mkhosi Township has commenced.

Clearance of the bush on site has contributed to a reduction in crime rate as it was always used as a hideout for criminals.

What is more exciting is that residents of my ward, particularly the youth, will soon benefit in terms of jobs. Council has made arrangements with the contractor for first preference to be given to them. I have also noted that residents are now clear



about the responsibilities of a Councillor. I get a lot of calls from them, informing me of things that are not happening properly in the ward and have always made it a point that they are addressed.

I really like that good spirit. In fact, my ward is doing well even in terms of rate payments. That is really commendable. I'd like to thank my ward for their support since 2012".

CLLR KHETHOKUHLE DLAMINI (CURRENT MAYOR). WARD 11. [EXTENSION 7 AND THE LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AREA BELOW TENBERGEN STREET]

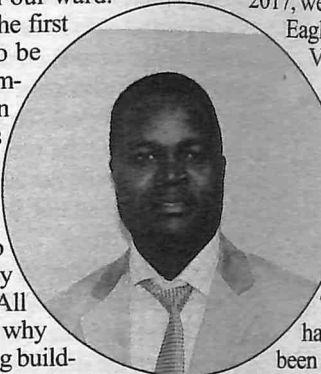
You will recall, dear reader, that last week Manzini News brought you an exciting review on positive change that has happened in the various municipal wards since 2012 when the

current ward Councillors assumed office. Last week we spoke to six ward Councillors. Let's hear what the last group of six have to say. *Enjoy the read...*

"HIGH MAST LIGHTS WELL MAINTAINED, BRIDGE CONSTRUCTED AT MASEKWENI"

"Moneni is well equipped with high mast lights and as such it is well lit at night. This helps reduce criminal activity in our ward.

Furthermore, Moneni was the first Manzini municipal ward to be empowered in the form of community-based contracting; an exciting component of Council's Local Economic Development programme. The LED project empowered residents in terms of job creation. It's so amazing what the Lord my God has done for our ward. All praise goes to Him. That is why we have faith that the existing building ban will also be lifted in due time. Just recently, residents of Masekwani woke up to a quality bridge that connects the area with Coates Valley and the rest of the city - thanks to assistance from the Manzini South *Inkhundla*.



In fact, my ward has a good working relationship with the *Inkhundla*. In or around April 2017, we are expecting rehabilitation of

Eagle road which cuts across Coates Valley into Moneni. It is currently pothole-riddled and unbearably bumpy but give it a few months; it will be one of the best roads in the municipality. We hope that the conflict that exists within Moneni will eventually come to an end because it is really retarding progress.

There is far more that we would have achieved by now had it not been for it. I really thank residents of

my ward for their support during my term as Councillor. I also hope and believe that I have not disappointed them". **CLLR HENRY KUNENE WARD 9 [MONENI, MASEKWENI, INYONI PARK]**

"NO MORE BUMPS NEAR MANHATTANS, GADGETS FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED"

"If truth be told, Manzini city centre is not the same.

There has been a lot of positive development in the last four years or so. Take a look at the beautiful buildings that have come up in the recent past. We really are grateful to the developers. We also no longer have "dongas" at the entrance to the Main Bus Rank. Buses now manoeuvre in smoothly. Members of the public will also recall the irritating bumps that used to exist on Ngwane street near Manhattans store. That is a thing of the past. Motorists are enjoying a smooth ride on this street, which is one of the main streets in the city. In fact, a large portion of Ngwane street was reconstructed about two or three years ago. Same with the stretch from the Riverstone Mall to KaKhoza location. That has really given a new meaning to the western entry or exit point to the city. Just take a drive past the only traffic circle in Manzini. You will be amazed at the way it has been upgraded. It's like you're already in the first world. The visually impaired are now able to move across streets without having to be assisted - thanks to the gadgets that have been installed on traffic lights during my term. All of this is a demon-



stration of progress in the city and that we care about people with disability. We have also constructed wheelchair ramps on most of the traffic intersections. The informal business sector has not been left behind. Proper vending stalls have been constructed at the President Centre - thanks to assistance from Nedbank. Informal traders have also been capacitated on entrepreneurial skills. We don't want them to remain informal traders forever but

wish to see them grow and compete in the formal business space.

We are also cognisant of the issues of congestion in the city centre. Just this coming Sunday, we will be converting one of our streets (a portion of Sandlane street) from a two-way to a one-way street. This is one of many interventions that are in the pipeline towards alleviation of traffic congestion in the city. Projects such as

upgrading of the Main Bus Rank, Manzini Market and development of the Manzini Regional Shopping Centre at the Old Trade Fair site are still alive within Council. We are working hard to have them delivered as soon as possible. I would like to encourage stakeholders to continue pushing me to work hard as their servant". **CLLR SIPHO MASUKU (ALSO DEPUTY MAYOR). WARD 12 [CITY CENTRE]**

"JACARANDA AVENUE HAS BEEN TARRED"

"Our beautiful and peaceful Coates Valley has recorded quite a number of great achievements since 2012 when I came in as

ward Councillor. Before then, the ever busy Jacaranda Avenue was a dirt road but today residents are driving on a high quality surfaced road. Same with the loop road which connects with Acacia road. The Coates Valley recreational park has also had a high mast light installed within it. The turnaround time in fixing of street lights has significantly improved. In addition, the night street cleansing programme of Council also touches a bit on Coates Valley, near Sydney Williams.



Attendance of ward meetings is also not as bad as it was at the beginning of my term in office. We have also seen a positive shift in residents' mindset towards development issues.

The constant engagement and communication has made them appreciate the success stories and setbacks experienced by Council. I'm also happy that Coates Valley residents participate actively in the Council's "Manzini News" Facebook page. It's a very active social media platform for communication with Council. I would encourage others to make use of it over and above the other means of communication". **CLLR AYANDA SIGUDLA WARD 10 [COATES VALLEY]**

COURT CLERK IN CORRUPTION SCANDAL

Stories by Sandile Nkambule
High Court

● He allegedly accepted E500 bribe to dispose of a court record in a drink-driving case



ving case he had come for.

Dlamini, according to Nxumalo, advised him there was a certain clerk who had helped a number of people who would assist him in that regard. This was after Nxumalo had stated he was financially crippled and would not afford whatever fine imposed on him at that time.

Deal

Dlamini then introduced the teacher to Mbekeni Dlamini whom he referred to as 'Two Shot' and that is when indeed they concluded the deal that Nxumalo was to pay E500 in order for Mbekeni to dispose of the court record.

"I was then arraigned and Magistrate Simelane convicted me and was given a fine option to pay E2 000, which was deferred to January 31 of the following year. That was before I went back to Dlamini to conclude the deal," Nxumalo said.

The teacher told the court, knowing he would only part with E500 instead of the E2 000, he concluded the deal in

the presence of both Dlamini William and Mbekeni.

However, after the deferment date had elapsed, Nxumalo said he was shocked when he received a call to the effect that he was wanted by the Nhlango police.

Before meeting the police, the teacher said he approached both Mbekeni and William enquiring on what had happened as regards the deal as he was now a wanted man but the two were not forthcoming with an explanation.

Seeing that time was not on his side, Nxumalo said he proceeded to the police station where he was informed that a warrant of arrest had been issued against him for failure to pay the fine imposed by the court.

"I was again taken to the Magistrate's Court, where I was questioned by prosecutor Bheki Mkhathjwa and further taken to Senior Magistrate Simelane, where I confessed to what had transpired between me, Mbekeni and William as regards the court record deal," Nxumalo said.

Subsequent to that, Nxumalo was charged with contempt of court for failure to pay the fine, convicted and sentenced to a fine of E100 and further ordered to pay the initial E2 000 fine for the drink-driving conviction.

He has now been made an accomplice witness in the charges of contravening the Prevention of Corruption Act.

...Prosecutor, cops foiled corruption scandal

TWO police officers attached to the Nhlango Magistrate's Court foiled the corruption scandal as they were vigilant enough to retrieve the stolen court record from the court clerk's jacket.

According to the police prosecutor Bheki Mkhathjwa, who ironically had prosecuted the teacher Mfanafuthi Nxumalo, the drink-driving case had been completed and the teacher had a deferred fine payment of E2 000 which was payable on January 31, 2011.

It was while they were in court with his colleague Majahonkhe Mthembu when suddenly Mthembu discovered the court record in the drink-driving case which had already been tempered with from Mthembu's jacket.

In fact, Mthembu gave damning evidence against the court clerk as he stated he was called upon to prosecute during remand hearings on the day in question and had no jacket to put on as per court procedure, hence he requested one from Mbekeni.

Indeed, Mbekeni offered his and he rushed to court, only to find that he had no pen with him

and that is when he checked from the pockets in Mbekeni's jackets as to whether he had a pen or not, but shockingly, came across the tempered court record.

By then prosecutor Mkhathjwa had also entered the courtroom and realised that Mthembu had made a find in the jacket and after the court had adjourned, Mkhathjwa went through the court record and discovered it was the case he had closed involving the teacher.

Copy

"I then took the record and rushed to the police station to make a copy of same since I did not want to use the very same office the court clerk was using for photocopying and we replaced the record in his jacket," Mkhathjwa said.

The two police prosecutors said they did this as they did not want to frighten off and insult the court clerk by accusing him of theft of the court record, but wanted to see what would happen when the deferment date for the payment of the fine elapsed.

Indeed, their instincts proved them right as the teacher did not make the fine payment on the stipulated date.

Looking
for
inner peace?



COP, WOMAN ALSO BUSTED ON CORRUPTION CHARGES

By Phesheya Kunene
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A police officer has been arrested together with a 56-year-old woman in connection with corruption crimes.

The offences were allegedly committed between 2009 and 2010 whereby criminal records of six ex-convicts were deleted.

The two suspects, Apollo Mabila (46) of Lomahasha and Elizabeth Matsebula (56) of Magwanyana were charged with contravening Section 21 (2) (a) as read with Section 35 (1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act 3 of 2006.

Matsebula was granted bail fixed at E5 000 after the court was told she was a sickly person. The court was told Matsebula regularly visits a doctor hence being in custody would worsen her situation.

The court was told she would avail herself for court sessions if given bail. It was also revealed she was intending to plead not guilty to the count she is implicated in.

According to the charge sheet, in the year

2009, Matsebula while in Mbabane, allegedly acted in furtherance of a common purpose with one Senzo Matsenjwa, a police officer, and did unlawfully offer an advantage for the benefit of Phumlani Shabalala, an ex-convict, which caused the accused person to act in an illegal, dishonest and unauthorised manner that amounted to a violation of a legal duty wherein Matsebula allegedly deleted the criminal record of the said Shabalala.

On the other hand, Mabila was accused of committing a similar offence between year 2010 and 2012. It is alleged

he made E7 000 through the bribes he took from the people he helped deleting their criminal records.

The police officer is alleged to have taken E1 500 from Michael Silindza in 2011 to delete his criminal record. He further helped Thulani Sifundza delete his criminal record. It is alleged he did this

in 2010.

He allegedly demanded a similar amount



from Philani Masilela while working with Lucky Matsenjwa to delete the criminal record of the ex-convict.

Moreover, it is alleged Vusi Motsa was made to pay E3 000 to delete the criminal record of Awandze Motsa. Mabila is accused of further demanding E1 000 from Awandze Motsa whilst in Matsapha.

In court, Mabila was not given bail, instead he was told to approach the High Court if he intended to apply for bail.

They were remanded in custody until March 2.

Inyanga caught with two python skins

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

A 59-year-old traditional healer from Mpofu has been arrested after being found in the possession of two python skins inside her consulting room (Indumba).

Ntando Mhlanga was granted E5 000 bail by the Pigg's Peak Magistrate Simangele Mbatha after she was found in the possession of two python skins. The skins were found inside her consulting room, according to Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court records that were made available. The discovery was made in the early hours of Monday morning at Mpofu by a police officer who quickly made the arrest.

Mhlanga pleaded guilty to the wrongful possession of the two snake skins and requested bail from presiding Pigg's Peak Magistrate Simangele Mbatha. Mhlanga was granted bail fixed at E5 000 after her request in court.



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PUBLIC NOTICE/ SATISO

DEATH GRATUITY DISTRIBUTION BY PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION FUND

The Public Service Pensions Fund invites the following deceased members' families to meetings to be held at the following scheduled times and dates at the Pensions Building, along Mhlambanyatsi Road. Family members are requested to bring certified copies of the following: proof of identity, death certificate, birth certificates, marriage certificate(s) and any other relevant documents.

Lihovisi letemhlala phansi (PSPF) licela tihlobo tanaba labalandzelako kutsi tivele enhloko hhovisi ngalamalanga netikhatsi letilandzelako.

Tiyacelwa kutsi tiphatse sitifiketi sekufa semufi, titifiketi tekutalwa tebantwana bemufi, titifiketi tekutsatsana, nabomatise bebuve (P.I.N.) ID nato tonkhe tincwadzi letingasita.

The following deceased members' families are invited to attend a meeting on the following dates:

MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2017

Name of Deceased	Ministry	Empl. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Dlamini Sithando Brian	Police	5292947	16.01.2017	09h00
2. Dladla-Nkambule Zanele M.	Education	10007998	05.01.2017	09h45
3. Zikalala Sikhumbuzo Moken	Defence	2561525	31.01.2017	10h30
4. Mnisi Busi Agnes	Health	9994737	30.01.2017	11h15
5. Maseko Stanley Nhlanhla	Police	4758695	03.01.2017	12h00
6. Dlamini Lewis Mbonengani	Defence	4695134	19.01.2017	14h15

TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2017

Name of Deceased	Ministry	Empl. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Nyoni-Bhembe Zine F.	Education	4837473	16.01.2017	09h00
2. Dlamini Vusi Jaha	Education	8736525	18.01.2017	09h45
3. Msibi Thandanani Rosemary	Housing	6525075	24.01.2017	10h30
4. Mabila Phineas Mahloba	Education	8173777	20.01.2017	11h15
5. Dlamini Lomalangeni Ruth	Education	4457057	19.01.2017	12h00

WEDNESDAY 01 MARCH 2017

Name of Deceased	Ministry	Empl. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Lushaba Mbongeni Fana	Education	6523901	04.01.2017	09h00
2. Maseko Hlobile Fortune	Education	5292253	23.01.2017	09h45
3. Makhubu-Dlamini Sibongile	Health	2504191	26.01.2017	10h30
4. Dlamini Nondumiso Sindi	Justice	300383900	02.02.2017	11h15
5. Mamba-Dlamini Thoko F.	Health	4500492	25.01.2017	12h00

For more information please contact Nothando Dlamini at 2404-8740/3 or our Toll Free Number 8002401 (order # 010199)



SWAZILAND ELECTRICITY COMPANY (SEC)
Head Office, Elovatsini House, Mhlambanyatsi Road
P.O. Box 258 Mbabane 1100,
Tel: 2409 4000, Fax: 2404 2335
www.sec.co.sz Toll Free: 800 9900
Energy for the Future

TENDER INVITATION

TENDER NO.25 OF 2016/17 FOR CLEANING SERVICES FOR ALL SEC SITES IN SWAZILAND

1.0 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Local reputable and suitably qualified Cleaning Service Providers are invited to submit proposals for the provision of cleaning services at SEC Sites in Swaziland.

2.0 RFP DOCUMENT AND SPECIFICATIONS

A detailed RFP document is available at a non-refundable fee of E250-00 payable at the SEC service center, Corporate Place, Mbabane. The RFP can be collected from the Commercial Services Department as per the address below:

Commercial Services Department
Swaziland Electricity Company, Elovatsini House
Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane, Swaziland

3.0 CLOSING DATE

The closing date for purchasing the RFP document shall be **22nd of February 2017** at 3pm, which shall be followed by a compulsory pre-tender meeting on the **23rd of February 2017** at 10 am, meeting room 1, Head Office. Purchasing of the RFP document will not be allowed on the day of the pre-tender meeting.

4.0 METHOD OF SUBMISSION

A signed and sealed tender clearly marked on an envelope "Secretary to the Tender Committee, Tender No.25 of 2016/17 for SEC Manzini Regional Offices and Conference Center Canteen Services" should be deposited in the tender box situated at the SEC Head Office, Elovatsini Building. If posted it is to be ensured that the submission reaches the SEC on or before the closing date marked for the attention of the "Secretary to the Tender Committee, Tender No.25 of 2016/2017".

5.0 ENQUIRIES:

In the event that there are any enquiries on this tender, they must be directed to The Commercial Services Manager at telephone no. 24094000, fax no. 2404 1470 or e-mail address ephraim.kunene@sec.co.sz.

MY OWN FAMILY CONSPIRING TO OUST ME – CHIEF GASAWANGWANE

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangano

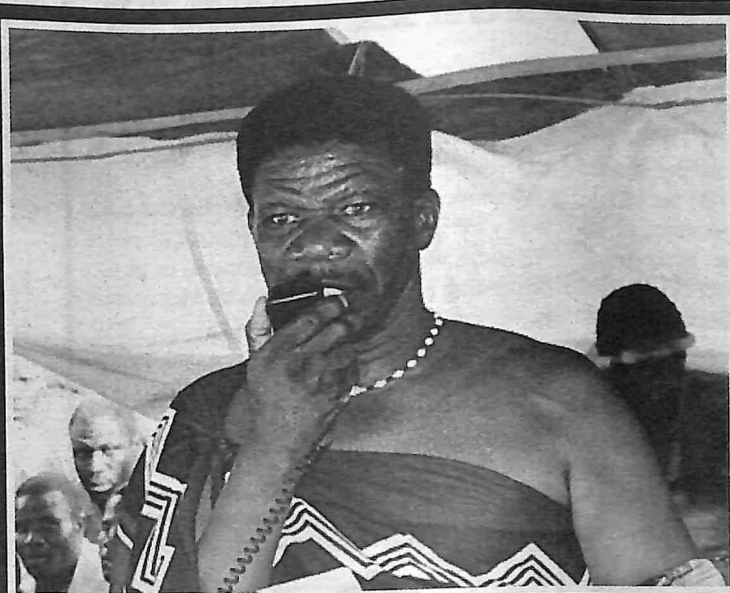
“BAFUNA kungiketula kangangoba sebayengisho eMakhosini kuyongibonga,” said under-fire Lavumisa Chief GasawaNgwane, referring to reports that he was wanted out by residents of the area.

In an interview, Chief GasawaNgwane said close family members, including those who were instrumental in his appointment, were determined to ‘dethrone’ him.

He accused some of the members within the ruling family of not being different from ‘Judas Iscariot’ as they were itching to see him removed as chief.

It has since transpired that an important family meeting strictly for ‘Emalangen’ of Lavumisa is planned for this Sunday at Qomintaba, the main royal residence. It is alleged sparks will fly during this meeting as close family members will voice out their misgivings and displeasure at the way GasawaNgwane was running the ‘show’ as chief.

Others have preferred to refer to the family meeting as ‘kukhipha linyeva’.



UNDER-FIRE: Lavumisa Chief GasawaNgwane.

GasawaNgwane said it was an open secret that some of his brothers and sisters who should be supporting him as leader of the area were plotting for his downfall.

He said they were all out to throw him into the lion’s den. He suspected they (family) already had a candidate in mind to replace him.

He said judging by the manner the family was doing things, a replacement was already known to them hence they had the guts of going to

BakaNgwane to ‘thank him’.

He said not long ago, he learned of a group of close to 10 family members who went behind his back and approached BakaNgwane to ask that he should be removed.

He said he was aware of all those who were orchestrating his removal. He said the last trip the family made to the authorities concerning the conflict was on January 31.

He had been part of that meeting and they were advised to go back and

sort out their differences as a family. He said it was bad that the matter ended up being reported to the country’s authorities as no one from the family had alerted him about that decision.

“Ngavele ngeva nje kutsi sebangale bangakangivalelisi noma bangatise. Baketfu laba bangihamba ngemuva bayongibonga ema-Khosini elive,” said the chief.

Removed

Chief GasawaNgwane said thanking him meant his siblings had gone to seek elders of the land to have him removed. He said, however, that plan did not work as the country’s authorities advised the family to go back and find a lasting solution to the differences they had.

“Unfortunately for them, the plan to have me removed never worked as all those who had tried to stab me in the back were told that we should at meet in the family main house (endlini kagogo) and thrash out all the misunderstandings we had as a family, instead of having me removed,” he said.

The chief said what was amazing was that some of those who were at the forefront of the plot to remove him were the same family members who were instrumental in his appointment.

“Ngabekwa ngabo kutsi ngibe ngunholi. Sengiyamangala kutsi ngibo futsi lesebangihamba ngemuva,” said the chief, sounding bitter.

The chief said he had not expected his brothers and sisters to be the ones betraying him as they should have at least called him and advised him what really needed to be done. He relied on them for advice even on issues where he had failed in his duties.

Authorities

“I thank the country’s authorities for the advice that we must meet as a family and sort out our differences. That’s why we are now calling on all our family members to a meeting on Sunday, where we will thrash out the problems engulfing the area.

We are going to start with a prayer before we engage on the discussions. It’s my prayer and wish that we come up with a solution and bury all our differences so that we work together as a family in leading this community,” said GasawaNgwane.

He emphasised that what was agreed during the meeting with Labadzala on January 31 would top the agenda during the family meeting.

“Onkhe Emalangen’i aka Lavumisa ayahlangana ngeLisontfo kutaban-gulapho sivunulisana khona,” said GasawaNgwane.

Meanwhile, a close family member also confirmed that they did report their ‘brother’ to Labadzala but they did not go there with the plan of ‘dethroning’ him. “All we wanted was to be called to the main house (endlini kagogo) as per the resolution taken in our last meeting with the elders of the country on January 31,” said a family member.

How elections are conducted...

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

AS the 2018 National Elections draw closer, the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) has now started educating the public about how elections are conducted.

Below are some of the steps highlighted on how the elections are conducted. These were articulated by EBC’s Zikodze Khumalo during a voter education exercise held at Kwaluseni Constituency last Saturday.

STAGE ONE: REGISTRATIONS

- Registrations that are done by EBC in every chiefdom in the country.
- The registration is done to know the people who will be participating in elections. This is where people who will vote are determined. The same goes for those who will be voted for.
- Identity (ID) cards are required for registration. If there are no ID cards, drivers’ licences, birth certificates, or community elders (imisumpe) can be used to register a citizen.
- Only Swazis above 18 years are allowed to register. People who are non-Swazis should have stayed in the country for five years or more to be eligible for registration. They should also be above 18 years.
- A person registers only once. If a person registers more than once, that becomes a crime.
- Mentally-challenged people, people who await death sentence, and those who have a history of rigging elections are not allowed to register for elections.
- People should clearly state the polling

station at which they will vote during elections. That is done at registration. Polling stations can include royal kraals (imiphakatsi), schools, or any other public institutions.

STAGE TWO: REGISTRATION LIST RELEASED

- The EBC releases the list of people who have registered for elections.
- People should then go to places where they registered to check if they were properly registered.
- This is done to make necessary corrections. These can be particulars of registered people and the polling stations at which they would be voting.
- Voter ID cards are issued after corrections had been made.
- People can also check if their neighbours had been properly registered.
- People should also be on the lookout for unfamiliar people in case there are people who may want to rig elections.

STAGE THREE: NOMINATIONS

- Nominations take place at chiefdoms.
- This is an activity where people who will stand for elections are chosen.
- Nominations are convened by a royal kraal head (indvuna).
- Presiding officer from EBC chairs the nomination process.
- Only registered people are eligible to nominate or to be nominated. Voters IDs used to prove registration. Chiefs are not allowed to be nominated.
- A chiefdom will only nominate between three to 20 candidates to stand for primary elections.
- Each person nominated should be support-

ed by at least 10 people to be eligible to stand for primary elections.

- Nominees who are supported by at least 10 people would have pictures of them taken to be put on a ballot paper.
- Ballot papers are used by voters to vote (by putting a cross on the picture of the nominee, which will be on the ballot paper) for their favourite candidate.
- Nominees are vetted. That is when they are checked if they are clear in many aspects. This include being tax-cleared, having no fingerprints taken in less than a year.
- Finger prints are taken to avoid voting for someone who is still out on bail because such a person might end up being sentenced.

STAGE FOUR: PRIMARY ELECTIONS

- Primary elections are done at chiefdoms.
- Only registered people are eligible to elect during primary elections.
- Only people who are successful during nominations are eligible stand for primary elections.
- People only vote at polling stations they specified during registration.
- Polling stations open from 7am to 5pm.
- Only people who are inside polling stations at 5pm are allowed to continue voting.
- Each voter is given a ballot paper, which has all the pictures of the persons who are nominated
- On that ballot paper, each voter will put a cross only on the picture of the person he or she is voting for.
- If a cross is not put on the picture of that person, that vote will not be counted.
- Only one person from each chiefdom wins primary elections.

STAGE FIVE: CAMPAIGN

- The EBC then allows primary elections winners to campaign for secondary elections.
- This is done to allow a candidate from a chiefdom to go to campaign in other chiefdoms under his or her constituency.
- Candidates are expected to go to Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) to declare assets they will use to campaign.
- Agents (Bogalajane) are allowed to entice people to vote for certain candidates.
- The EBC declares when it is time to stop campaigning.

STAGE SIX: SECONDARY ELECTIONS

- Secondary elections are done at constituency level.
- Only people who registered for elections are eligible to vote at secondary elections.
- Only people who win primary elections are eligible to stand for secondary elections.
- Observers from the international community are also allowed to observe how elections are going on.
- Voters are also expected to go to their specified polling stations to vote.
- Polling stations open from 7am to 5pm.
- Only people who are inside polling stations at 5pm are allowed to continue voting.
- Each voter is given a ballot paper, which has all the pictures of the persons who won primary elections
- On that ballot paper, each voter will put a cross only on the picture of the person he or she is voting for.
- If a cross is not put on the picture of that person, that vote will not be counted.
- Only one person from each constituency wins secondary elections.
- After 5pm, votes are taken to constituencies to be counted.
- Winners of secondary elections are then declared. That is how they become Members of Parliament (MPs).

AIDS deaths decrease by 1 000 in Swaziland

Stories by Mbono Mdluli
Ezulwini

SWAZILAND has made a significant progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS as the number of AIDS deaths has decreased by more than 1 000.

The number of people who were infected by the disease in 2013 was at 4 053.

In 2016, the number had decreased to 3 034.

This means in three years, the country has managed to decrease the HIV and AIDS death rate by 1 019.

New infections have also decreased from 11 402 in 2013 to 8 461 in 2016.

National Emergency Response Council on HIV and AIDS (NERCHA) Director Khanya Mabuza said even though this was a significant progress, the country still had a lot to do in terms of fighting HIV and AIDS.

He said these discoveries were made by NERCHA in conjunction with Parliament.

NERCHA was providing technical assistance to parliamentarians as they were coming up with the strategic plan.

Mabuza was speaking on Monday during the launch of Parliament's Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS (2017-2020), held at Royal Swazi Convention Centre in Ezulwini.

He noted that the country still had challenges in addressing men on the



POSING: Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini (front row, centre) surrounded by Parliament presiding officers with Parliament's national and international stakeholders in the fight against HIV and AIDS. This was during the launch of the Swaziland Parliament HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (2017 -- 2020), which took place on Monday at Royal Swazi Convention Centre in Ezulwini. (Pics: Mbono Mdluli)

importance of testing.

"Men are still a challenge because they do not test, they have a high viral load, and they have sexual intercourse with younger girls," Mabuza said.

Such challenges, according to Mabuza, were also confirmed by the parliamentarians and they agreed these had to be addressed.

The challenges included the fact that Swaziland now has many people living with HIV and AIDS than in 2013.

In 2013, 210 548 people were living with HIV yet in 2016, the number had risen to 226 920.

"The legislators were startled by such revelations. They did not understand

why such was happening when the country was making a seemingly good progress in the fight against the disease," Mabuza said.

Mabuza, however, explained why such a thing was happening.

He clarified that the attitude the country had towards people living with HIV was positive.

He said in other societies, people living with HIV had higher chances of dying within a short space of time because treatment programmes were not in place and were not encouraged.

Swaziland, Mabuza said, was different to those countries because such programmes were present in Swaziland.

Parliament played a significant role in enacting legislations that would encourage people to make use of such programmes.

Mabuza's sentiments were also echoed by Deputy Senate President Ngomuyayona Gamedze.

He said Parliament should pride itself in breaking the record of becoming the first one in SADC to launch an HIV and AIDS strategic plan.

He then thanked government for making sure that Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART) was always available even though government has financial challenges.



ATTENTIVE: MPs Bambumuti Sithole (Ludzeludze), Joseph Souza (Lugongolweni), Mthokozisi Kunene (Shiselweni II), and Titus Thwala (Zombodze Emuva) during the start of the event.

Somntongo MP praises Parliament for fighting HIV

"**PARLIAMENT** can also be applauded for making Swaziland fight HIV and AIDS in a more progressive manner," said Somntongo MP Sandile Nxumalo during the launch of parliament's strategic plan on HIV and AIDS (2017-2020).

Nxumalo was speaking as the Chairperson of the HIV and AIDS Sessional Committee in the House Assembly.

He said in coming up with such a plan, Parliament was showing a commitment from government in trying to eradicate the pandemic.

This, according to the MP, was an unprecedented move by Parliament.

Nxumalo said the Swazi Parliament was the first to come up with the plan in the SADC region.

He said in coming up with the strategic plan, they had to sit down as legislators and review the literature on the same subject matter.

This was done through researching on projects of a similar nature that had

been done before.

A SWOT analysis was then done after the literature review. This was done by looking at the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing parliament in the fight against the disease. The lawmakers also engaged in consultative workshops with key stakeholders in the fight against the disease. Validation and consensus building was also done by the legislators before the finalisation took place, just before the launch.

Nxumalo said Parliament had strengths in the fight against HIV. One of them was that the Parliament was one of the first in coming up with such a plan. Another strength for Parliament was that it enacted laws in response to the fight against HIV, like forming NERCHA in 2003.

The august House also played an oversight role on appropriated budgets, including those received from donors. The problem facing lawmakers, accord-

ing to Nxumalo, were that the legislators were not well capacitated to play an oversight role on HIV. He also said there were limited resources to support Parliament HIV and AIDS response.

There was also no action plan on sessional committees. He said the action plans were important because they were the ones that would ensure their strategic plan was implemented.

The fight against HIV also presented opportunities to legislators. One of them was agribusiness. This should be done to increase the availability of food to the Swazis.

This would enable those living with HIV to have food supplements for their treatment. Another opportunity, according to Nxumalo, was positive world prospects in discovering HIV vaccine and cure.

Threats included multiple concurrent sexual practice, decline in SACU revenue, increased donor fatigue in supporting HIV and drought.

250 000 children now on FPE

THE introduction of free primary education (FPE) has been helpful to a significant number of children as 250 000 now benefit from the programme.

This has been viewed by efforts of Parliament in response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, which left many children parentless.

The parents were killed by the dreadful disease.

Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini said Parliament continued to play a very positive role in fighting the disease.

He said there had been landmark contributions by Parliament in this 'war.' They included the passing of the Free Primary Education Act of 2010 that enabled government to introduce free primary education for all children.

The FPE Act, 2010, the premier said, replaced and upgraded the previous bursary scheme that had addressed serious problem of hunger and high school

dropout rates relating to OVC.

"Under the state-funded primary education, which included the school feeding programme, the number of children educated and fed rose from 80 000 to 250 000. Some support is also provided to OVC in secondary education," Dlamini said. He said evidence from the education census showed that over 70 per cent of those children completed the primary education cycle, with a transition rate from Grade Seven to Form One above 90 per cent.

Dlamini also commended Parliament for providing the broader, holistic care for all children extended to the promulgation of the Children's Protection Welfare Act of 2012. Elderly grants (*imali yabo gogo*) were introduced upon seeing that the senior citizens were becoming primary caregivers to their grand children after the children of the senior citizens had died due to AIDS.



COMMITTED: Workers from NERCHA, UN, Mothers to Mothers, and SWAGAA. They are; Ngobile Maseko, Thembi Gama, Sibongile Maseko, Nuha Ceesay, Allen Waligo, Nokwazi Mathabela, and Silindelo Nkosi.



ALSO THERE: MPs Mbalekelwa Ndwandwe (Mhlangatane), Njabulo Mabuza (Kubuta), and Gundwane Gamedze (Siphofaneni) were also present.

UN gives thumbs up to Parliament of Swaziland

IT is important to come up with a long term plan to fight HIV as this can protect countries from dying from the disease.

UNAIDS Country Representative: Swaziland Tim Rwabuhemba said without urgent and long term action, the epidemic would continue to take an unacceptable toll of death and suffering in countries and communities in the world, including Swaziland.

Rwabuhemba said Parliament had come up with the strategic plan at the right time.

He commended the lawmakers for coming up with concrete strategies that would contribute to helping the country in ending AIDS. The director said they supported the country's dream of ending AIDS by 2022.

"As the UN, we commend this vision and wish to renew our continued support to the government of Swaziland and all stakeholders working together to realise His Majesty King Mswati III's vision of an AIDS free Swaziland by 2022."

Maloma donates E90 000 pump to Sigwe farmers

Stories by Thembeke Dlamini
Sigwe

THE perpetual dry conditions, which direly affect the southern parts of the country, has seen Prince Sicalo sourcing a water pump to be used by Ndunayithini community farmers.

The presentation of the water pipe worth about E90 000 was made on Monday by Maloma Colliery Chief Executive Officer Jacobus du Plessis, though his representative Processing Manager Thubelihle Skonela.

The event took place at the community garden which is used by Ndunayithini Farmer's Association (NFA) to meet the community's basic food needs.

Accepting the donation on behalf of the prince, Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini said, "On seeing the poverty which is synonymous with this drought stricken area, the prince saw it fit to go around and look for donations on behalf of the farmers who were at a loss after the Ngwavuma River ran dry," he said.

The DPM said the land on which the gardens are situated was sought by the prince from the area's chief, Gasa waNgwane, and it bore the hope of the area as the farmers, who are mostly women.



OVER TO YOU: The DPM Paul Dlamini, who stood in for Prince Sicalo, handing over the pump to Bongani Ngcamphalala while Maloma Colliery management and the area's MP David Ngcamphalala look on.

"We trust that the work of the women will not go to waste with the availability of the pump which will ensure water being available at all times," he said, adding how the expectation was that the whole community benefits from the gardens and will hence reduce dependency on food handouts.

He called for preservation of farming lands as was demarcated by Prince Tsekwane of the area to ensure food sustainability at all costs.

"The land in this area is rich, all that is needed is water, let us conserve it," he said.

Expressing gratitude on behalf of the farmers, NFA Chairperson Bongani

Ngcamphalala said the farm was an important necessity after the gardens failed due to excessive heat and lack of water.

Efforts

"This will ensure that farmers' efforts in watering the gardens does not go to waste as it has been a hassle for them to first dig the river bed and source water. It must be mentioned that in the absence of a flowing river, the farmers have been using too much time getting water from the river making their gardening initiative a labour intensive one with little returns," Ngcamphalala said, adding how the prince's servitude had left them over-



WOMEN FARMERS: Some of the farmers who will benefit from the pump which will be dug and assembled into the Ngwavuma River, enabling supply even during drought situations. (Pics: Thembeke Dlamini)

whelmed with gratitude as he had not only visited them during their desolation, but had seen their needs and acted on them at every turn.

He added how it was the last time they would have failed crops due to lack of water.

"Never again will we see failed crops due to lack of water. Next time you all come here, you will find it all green," he said.

Ngcamphalala highlighted that the short green vegetation was deceptive as it gave the first impression that the area had sufficient rainfall.

"Truth be told, the first time the Ngwavuma River flowed was this past weekend. Had you visited last Wednesday, you would have been shocked at the desperate situation because people were still digging in the sand looking for water," the chair-

man said.

Presenting the donation on behalf of his CEO, Skonela said the river was their life-source as a mine as it affected their employees.

"It is still shocking that the river, which we know to be one of the bigger rivers the country has, is still empty," he said.

He stated how they worked well with Ndunayithini community where some of their employees come from and after having workers ask to take water home from work, they noted that the drought was not yet over in the area, Skonela said.

Breaking down the costs of the pump, he said the components thereof cost over E26 000 and installing it deep into the river as well as ensuring that water reached the garden's water tanks will cost E90 000.

TOTAL constructs Matjeni Neighbourhood Care Point

RESIDENTS of Matjeni now have a solid structure from whence orphaned and vulnerable children are fed.

This was after TOTAL Swaziland facilitated the construction of a building which will now also be a site for a monthly mobile clinic.

Revealing how the company came about to build the structure, Territory Manager Sindisile Horton said she was going past the building during one of their corporate social responsibility programmes when she noted a run down building with a lot of children.

"When I heard that it was a Neighbourhood Care Point, I was shocked as I feared it would topple over at anytime and hurt the children it is supposed to assist," she said during the official handover of the building to the community.



KIND HEARTED: Total Swaziland Territory Manager Sindisile Horton making her remarks.

Horton explained that she had been to the area to deliver materials for women sewing associations, a project they funded, when she saw the dire need and despite not having the man-

date to commit the company to another project, she motivated for its initiation and they partnered with teachers affiliated to Heroes in Education who sacrificed their weekends to ensure



COMPLETE: The Neighbourhood Care Point which was presented to the Matjeni community on Monday funded by Total Swaziland and built by Heroes in Teaching.

that the building was completed. She pleaded with the residents to take care of the building and ensure it benefits the community for generations to come. On the other hand, the Deputy Prime

Minister Paul Dlamini said the donation by TOTAL was indication that the company realised how the future of the country and their existence as fuel retailers was dependent on them.

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DISCIPLINED: Inkhosikati LaMatsebula emphasised the importance of discipline by parents to children.



MY TAKE: Matsapha Municipality CEO Gciniwe Fakudze also had something to say.



PRIZE GALORE: Inkhosikati LaMatsebula with Senior Inspector in SiSwati Celiwe Mohamed presenting a gift to a representative of one of the schools that participated in the Mother Tongue Day celebrations hosted by Macmillan. (Pics: Sifiso Nhlabatsi)

Bhologja, Sands hailed for priding themselves in SiSwati

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

LOCAL artists Mbongiseni Ngubane and Sandziso 'Sandz' Matsebula have been hailed as individuals who pride themselves in their mother language.

During the Mother Tongue Day celebrations at Esibayeni Lodge on Monday, pupils who attended the event when making their presentations expressed how the two artists have even gone to perform at international events and sang in SiSwati.

The pupils said it was so sad that when they speak SiSwati at school they were punished.

The celebrations were graced by Inkhosikati LaMatsebula. Meanwhile, Macmillan Managing

Director Busisiwe Simelane hailed Inkhosikati LaMatsebula for showing support in the promotion of SiSwati language. She noted that Macmillan had spent many years promoting the mother tongue.

Simelane said seeing Inkhosikati LaMatsebula coming to support the Mother Tongue Day celebrations gave them hope and as Macmillan they could see the way forward.

She said a time must come whereby even computers recognise SiSwati language.

The director stated that currently when one writes a word in SiSwati, the computer would underline it and mark it as a misspelt word.

Simelane said by 2022, it would be much better if computers could recognise SiSwati words and auto complete them while the user is still typing in information.

Inkhosikati urges parents to work with teachers

INKHOSIKATI LaMatsebula advised parents to work hand-in-hand with teachers in instilling positive discipline to children.

She was speaking during the Mother Tongue Day Celebrations at Esibayeni Lodge.

She said every child had a right to get education. The Inkhosikati said there were rights and responsibilities but it seemed people were sticking to rights and ignoring responsibilities of the child.

She stated that pupils must pride themselves in their mother tongue; adding it is about time that the government looked closely at the SiSwati syllabus.

The inkhosikati was thankful for the initiatives introduced at schools that allow pupils to learn more about their mother tongue.

Speaking about discipline, the inkhosikati said nowadays government has introduced positive discipline and wondered whether this was really working.

She made an example whereby pupils in a school around Lobamba area were found playing in the yard while others were busy learning.

When the teacher asked what was happening, she said nothing could be done to the pupils as they do as they pleased.

The inkhosikati said at the end of the day, those pupils would fail. She stated that government said there should be no failures and this meant that passing marks would be decreased just to accommodate failures.

She said she is not saying teachers should inflict injuries on children but must instil discipline.

The inkhosikati said it was about time people go back and look where it went wrong. She stated that there were regulations on how many strokes could be administered to a child.

She then presented E5 000 to pupils who made presentations on the day.



IN FULL ATTENDANCE: Pupils who attended the event.



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1. SENIOR ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN/ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

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1. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING
2. PROFESSOR/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE
3. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION
4. TEACHING ASSISTANT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL NURSING
5. TEACHING ASSISTANT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NURSING
6. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION
7. LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION
8. PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING
9. LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING (Communications Engineering)
10. PROFESSOR/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
11. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
12. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
13. LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
14. LEGAL CLINIC PRINCIPAL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW
15. SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

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NORTHERN HHOHHO NEWS

Pigg's Peak Office

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...With

Sizwe Dlamini



Hunger looming for 700 kaNdeva residents

ABOUT 700 residents of Ndeva may face hunger and have pleaded with the ministry of agriculture to continue subsidising farmers with farming inputs.

Bucopho of Ndeva Johanne Mncina said that even though the area of Ndeva was actually small in terms of overall size, it still needed government to continue providing aid to the farmers who have been working diligently to provide for their families and the surrounding communities.

"We are pleading with government to continue subsidising farmers with bags of fertiliser and seeds. This programme has allowed a lot of farmers

of the area to be self-sufficient. We are very happy to report that since the programme started, about 40 farmers in the area have managed to have a good harvest," said Mncina.

The programme was introduced in 2014 by government and required a willing participant farmer to pay the sum of E2 000 to government through the ministry of agriculture.

Participating

After the payment, the participating farmer would then be provided with six bags of fertiliser and 25 bags of seeds of their choice.

However, late last year, government said it would reconsider and revise the

programme.

"The deal with government was very good and we are grateful for all the support that the ministry of agriculture has given us, but unfortunately we were told by a representative of the ministry of agriculture late last year that the programme might be terminated.

"This has put farmers in a predicament as the aid was helping us provide food not only for ourselves but also for the surrounding areas.

We feel bad about this and hope that government continues this aid programme as we will have no other place to turn to should the aid stop," said Mncina.

Plant pomegranate - Hhohho RA

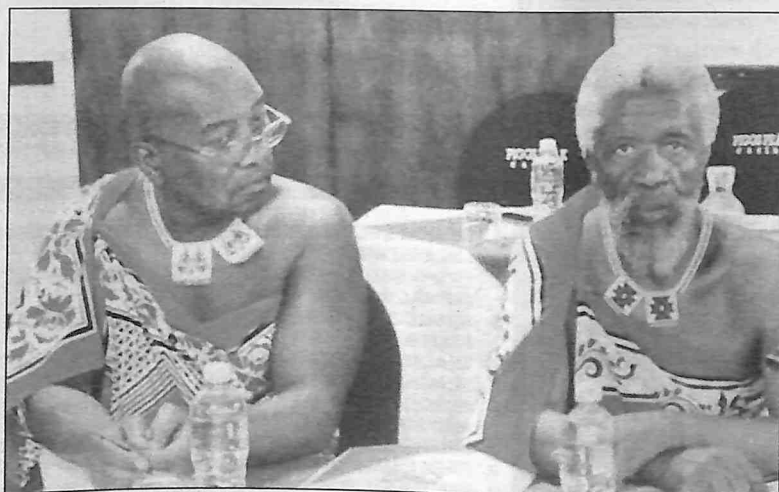
HHOHHO Regional Administrator (RA) Prince Tshekedi implored residents of Hhohho to plant pomegranate trees in the area as they possess healing properties.

He was making his opening remarks at the recently concluded consultative meeting on civic education for traditional leaders in front of 120 invited guests that included chiefs as well as other distinguished traditional leaders held at the Pigg's Peak Hotel last Thursday.

"I have travelled and would like to inform all of you gathered here today that planting pomegranate trees is a very good and sustainable practise that will bring great rewards," he said.

He added that His Majesty King Mswati III is a gifted leader who reintroduced the people of Northern Hhohho to the pomegranate fruit when he donated seeds of the tree to be planted outside the Lihananadza Health Care Centre way back in April, 2016.

"Northern Hhohho has been lucky to



BE PRODUCTIVE: Hhohho RA Prince Tshekedi next to Chairperson of the Elections and Boundaries Commission Chief Gija Dlamini at the Pigg's Peak Hotel.

have seen the King donate the seeds of his very special tree to our health care centre that is located in Pigg's Peak. I therefore implore farmers in Hhohho to consider planting the tree as its fruits

have healing properties. I also believe that the tree will have no problem growing in the area of Hhohho as it possesses a very suitable farming climate," he said.

Bus conductor, friend fined E4 000 for stealing car jack, spanner

A bus conductor and his unemployed friend have been fined E4 000 for breaking into a car and stealing a carjack and spanner worth E500.

The Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court heard how bus conductor, Banele Shongwe and Victor Kunene were both arrested after they found a parked car and stole the lumber jack and spanner worth E500.

The incident happened at Buhleni on Monday.

Both men were arrested by community policeman who forwarded the gentlemen to the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) after the arrest.

Shongwe said he was not guilty of the crime of theft but was in fact guilty of assisting his friend Kunene who is unemployed and required cash quickly to sort his family problems.

"I did not steal the items in question, I merely told Kunene who is unemployed that I can help him hide the

items so that we can sell them and make quick cash.

"I knew that the police were patrolling the area," said Shongwe.

The co-accused Kunene said he did not break into the car, but found the car open thus he took the items as they were in plain sight.

Pigg's Peak Magistrate Simangele Mbatha sentenced both men to six months in a correctional facility if they both failed to pay the E2 000 fine each.

Pupils remain at home as Dineo intensifies

AS Cyclone Dineo continues, close to 300 high school pupils from Geza and Nkamazi could not go to school.

Some parents also failed to go to work as the Mzimnene River overflowed leading to wide spread fears of drowning in Hhohho.

Cyclone Dineo caused the Mzimnene River to overflow thus almost half of the high school children from Ekubongeni High School failed to attend classes on Friday.

Deputy Principal Godolwemagenge Magagula said they tried to encourage pupils to come back to school, but some of them have been afraid to do so as the Mzimnene River has

been overflowing.

"The pupils are afraid of either being stuck at the school thus not being able to go to their homes or being swept away by the bad river currents and drowning.

We have a lot of pupils coming from areas like Nkamazi and Geza and other surrounding areas, these pupils pass through the river to school but unfortunately due to the heavy rains we have seen a dwindling number of pupils making their way to school," said Magagula. He said classes have been disturbed at the high school due to this situation.

Magagula said this has been a serious inconvenience for the school administration.

Stick, mud house dwellers affected mostly

CYCLONE Dineo has affected stick and mud house dwellers. National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) Communications Manager Sethabile Sibisi said the affected people were a priority and were currently receiving emergency shelter assistance from the NDMA.

"We have seen that the most affected structures were those of

stick and mud houses, thus we are currently providing aid to these families that number about 18 homes," said Sibisi.

NDMA has provided tents, food as well as blankets while they continue to dissect the situation.

"We have provided tents to the affected people, blankets and as another emergency measure we provided food parcels to the affected families," said Sibisi.



AFFECTED: Stick and mud structures were the most affected by Cyclone Dineo in Hhohho.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY WANT PERMANENT SEATS IN PARLY

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

PEOPLE with disabilities want to occupy at least two seats in Parliament.

They noted that as the country geared towards the upcoming 2018 national elections, it is still hard for them to be elected to Parliament.

Federation of Organisations of People with Disabilities in Swaziland (FODSWA) members, during a consultative meeting with the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) at The George Hotel last Friday, said there would be need for permanent seats for disabled people at the Senate and House of Assembly, respectively.

They said Members of Parliament (MPs) did not take interest of the disabled seriously because they were



CONCENTRATION: President of the Federation of Organisations of People with Disabilities in Swaziland (FODSWA) Mandla Methula listening to a presentation by EBC's Mbonisi Bhembe during the meeting. (Pics: Sifiso Nhlabatsi)

considered a minority.

The office of the deputy prime min-

ister (DPM) was applauded for the work it does for disabled people, but

members of FODSWA lamented that it was sad because the DPM's office seemed to be not getting support as it is working alone.

The members made an example of the upcoming budget speech which would be delivered by the minister of finance on Friday.

They said it was sad because people living with disabilities did not have an input as stakeholders in the national budget.

Swaziland Epilepsy Organisation (SEO) Director Mbusomuni Mahlalela said there would be need for people with disabilities to be given permanent seats in Parliament. Fikile Mabuza, who is one of the people living with disability, said they must be given a chance to nominate someone to represent them in Parliament.

Mabuza said expecting other mem-

bers of the public to vote for people with disabilities in the different constituencies will not help because as people with disabilities they were not accepted in their communities.

Mabuza said it is even hard to get support for a disabled person if that person is trying to start a business. She said people do not support them because they are disabled. Mabuza suggested that people living with disabilities must run for elections and nominate each other in the different regions. She stated that it is not usual for a full bodied person to nominate a disabled person to run for Parliament. One speaker pointed out that as people with disabilities they are looked down upon at their communities, which is something that results to them moving to towns where they reside.

Meanwhile, EBC Communications Officer Mbonisi Bhembe assured the concerned parties that the reason for the consultative meetings and the studies conducted by EBC is to ensure the interests of the minorities are taken into consideration before the upcoming 2018 elections.

'Govt must provide braille ballot papers for elections'

FODSWA President Mandla Methula has recommended that government must consider coming up with a braille ballot papers for the upcoming 2018 elections.

Methula said the blind and visually-impaired voters must be able to cast their votes in the upcoming local elections without any help.

That would be possible if the braille ballot papers would be introduced.

During the meeting, the visually impaired raised their concern regarding the secrecy of their votes.

Mbonisi Bhembe stated that the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Blind SA and the South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB) introduced the braille ballot paper during South Africa's last elections.

He said even Swaziland consid-

ered such a move.

Bhembe admitted that currently the secrecy of a visually impaired person's vote was compromised because whenever that person goes to vote he or she is advised to come with a relative who would help that person during the voting process and the presiding officer will mark for the visually impaired person.

Killing of people with albinism condemned by EBC

AS the country prepares for the 2018 elections, EBC together with people with disabilities, have condemned the ritual killing of people living with albinism.

Nqaba Tsela said it was a norm around election time for people with albinism to be targeted by candidates who wanted to win elections.

Tsela warned that those who killed people with albinism for ritual purposes must know that such was a crime and would never work for them. Tsela further asked the EBC on what measures they have put in place to ensure that such does not happen.

Meanwhile, EBC Communications Officer Mbonisi Bhembe said the commission had a tough stance against such practices.

He said ritual killings were common in Swaziland, and elsewhere in

Africa, with 'muti' practitioners using limbs or body parts as amulet.

In the past, people with albinism as well as epileptics have been specifically targeted, prompting the police to set up registries.

Bhembe blamed witchdoctors who mislead people into believing that

using human body parts will help them win seats to Parliament or have luck.

Bhembe stated that as a nation, brethren should pray such does not happen and those who engage in these practices do not succeed.

Another meeting with on the cards

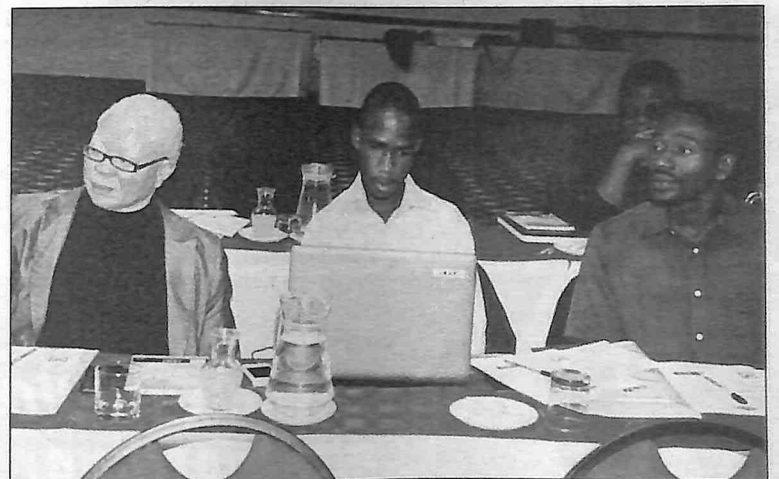
EBC will host another consultative meeting with FODSWA.

This came after FODSWA President Mandla Methula revealed during last Friday's consultative meeting that as President of FODSWA, he was not informed about the meeting on time. Methula told EBC officers it would be improper for him to state he was representing FODSWA or the meet-

ing was between FODSWA and the EBC as it was being said on the day.

Methula told the officials they did not follow the proper channels during the invitation.

EBC officers admitted the mistake on their part and they promised to organise another meeting where FODSWA would be formally invited.



IN ATTENDANCE: Stukie Motsa, Phiwokwakhe Gamedze and Nqaba Tsela were also part of the consultative meeting between EBC and FODSWA members.



TAKING NOTES: EBC officers Nomvula Dlamini, Nandi Mhlanga, Zethu Nxumalo and Mlamuli Shabangu hard at work.

Man fined E7 000 for assaulting another with a pickaxe

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

A man from Buhleni has been sentenced to seven years in a correctional facility after assaulting another man on the shoulder with a pickaxe.

Zwelithini Dlamini (29) was sentenced to seven years in a correction-

...Dlamini had already paid a bail of E3 000 in September, 2015 and was out of custody

al facility if he failed to pay a fine of E7 000 after he assaulted Sikhumbuso Kunene with a pickaxe on the back of the left shoulder.

The incident happened near Buhleni Filling Station two years ago.

Dlamini had already paid a bail of E3 000 in September 2015 and was

out of custody.

Dlamini said he did not intend assaulting Kunene, but had to protect himself after an altercation.

"I was trying to protect myself, that is why I went to my car and grabbed the pickaxe. I was trying my best to avoid the confrontation," said Dlamini.

Pigg's Peak Magistrate Simangele Mbatha disputed Dlamini's claim and said he assaulted Kunene who had first thrown a coke bottle at him.

"You only assaulted Kunene after he threw a coke bottle in your direction."

"It is then that you went to your car

and grabbed the pickaxe and swung it at Dlamini thus hurting the back of his left shoulder," said the magistrate. "You are very lucky as I am not charging you with the crime of attempted murder. Your sentence will be wholly suspended for a period of two years and will also include the E3 000 bail you paid earlier thus you have to pay another E2 000 for your freedom," said Mbatha.

16 NATIONAL NEWS

COURT ALLOWS SEX STARVED HUSBY TO KICK WIFE OUT

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

A husband has finally been granted divorce from his wife after

being denied conjugal rights for almost 10 years.

A dejected Thokozani Ngozo approached Manzini Principal Magistrate David Khumalo seek-

ing the magistrate to end his marriage which was rocked by adulterous affairs ever since 2008.

Narrating his ordeal in court, Ngozo said he married his wife in June, 2004 at the Manzini District Commissioner (DC) offices. He said they married through the Civil Rights marriage. Ngozo told the court that soon after getting married the two moved to Matsapha Police camp where they stayed together and had two children. Ngozo told the court that ever since they married, his wife just went cold and showed signs that she no longer loved him.

He said when his wife got employed

in 2008, she started numerous adulterous affairs, and she was not even ashamed that he knew some of the people she was involved with.

Ngozo made a long list of the men whom he alleged had an affair with his wife. He told the court that he wanted a divorce because since 2008 he has been denied conjugal rights; "*kangembesa ingubo wagcina nga 2008 Nkosiye kantolo*," Ngozo stated in vernacular.

He said this was a clear sign that there was no love in their marriage. Ngozo stated that at one point in time while he was relaxing alone at their rented



JUSTICE: Manzini Principal Magistrate David Khumalo.

flat, his wife's secret lover came over and made his way in as he also had a spare key. Though he did not give details of what happened thereafter, he did indicate that this proved to him that his wife was cheating on him.

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DOC 12785

Hubby made to pick up wife at secret lover's place

THOKOZANI Ngozo told the court that what made things worse was that his wife also had an affair with one Mncedisi Mthimkhulu who lived at Ngwane Park.

He said when he went home for weekends, his wife would invite Mthimkhulu over to their rented flat.

Ngozo said at times his wife would go to Ngwane Park to her secret lover's place while he was at home. He said he would then get a call from his wife

asking him to pick her up on Monday morning before he went to work.

Happened

Ngozo said this was sad because on Mondays he would be with their two children and they would see him picking up their mother from another man's house.

He said this happened on several occasions. He said there was an incident whereby his wife emerged from Mthimkhulu's house wearing nothing

but *lihiya* and a T-shirt and this confirmed that even though he never saw the two having sex, his allegations that they were sleeping together were somehow true.

Ngozo said whilst all this was happening he had been patient hoping that everything would get back to normal and they would live happily with his wife. After all the submissions were heard the principal magistrate granted Ngozo the degree of divorce.



JUBILEE WORSHIP HOUSE INTERNATIONAL

PRESENTS

2 WEEKS REVIVALS

THEME:

John 1:29

Behold the lamb that takes away the sin of the world



Apostle Vincent (Shotgun) Simelane
Host



Apostle Zachariah Msetfwa
V.O.C Director
AEC Madonsa
Guest



Guest Humphrey Netshifhehe
(Ignite Ministries Petrolia)

VENUE: Ngwane Park
(ka-Shali, Emkhweni)

DATE: 20 February - 5 March 2017

TIME: 6.00 PM - 9.00 PM

MON - SUN

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Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy

ADVERTISEMENT FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT TOWARDS ISO 17025 ACCREDITATION OF THE FUEL TESTING LABORATORY
EOI NUMBER: 10 of 2017/2018

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy now invites qualified firms to express their interest in providing consultancy services for the implementation support towards ISO 17025 accreditation of the fuel testing laboratory. The Expression of Interest document can be obtained at Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy, Mbabane, Swaziland, after producing a receipt of payment of E300 (three hundred Emalangeni), from Mbabane Revenue Office (non-refundable). Firms may associate to enhance their qualifications.

- The key requirements for the staff of the firm to be involved in service are: Minimum bachelors degree in science or engineering, minimum 5 years experience in consulting for establishing and/or Support implementing Management systems according to ISO/IEC 17025 for testing and calibration laboratories, must have at least 5 years technical working experience in an ISO 17025 Accredited Petroleum Testing Laboratory and combined 5 years experience as a lead and technical assessor in a petroleum field.
- The key requirements for the firm to be involved in service are: Must have been in similar business for the past three years.

The evaluation will follow the Public Procurement Regulations, 2008, be competitive and result in a 'short listing' of firms. Following this process, it is the intention to invite the short listed firms to provide proposals for the requested services.

The Expression of Interest should be deposited in the Treasury Tender Box situated at Treasury Building, MBABANE at the latest by 3rd March 2017, at 9 am. Late applications will not be considered. The envelope must be clearly marked: "Expression of Interest for consultancy services for the implementation support towards ISO 17025 accreditation of the Fuel Testing Laboratory", "The Secretary to National Tender Board, Treasury Building, MBABANE", "EOI No.10 of 2017/2018". Failure to mark the envelope clearly and accurately may result in rejection of the application.

The following documents must be attached to the Expression of Interest: copies of current Tax Clearance Certificates and Trading Licence, Form J, Form C and the E 300 receipt.

Requests for clarifications, which must be in writing, should be addressed to the following: Principal Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy, P.O.Box 57, Mbabane.

WINNIE T. STEWART (MRS.)
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY.



FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...



IN NUMBERS: One billion rising is a global mass call to action to end violence against women and 17 February the citizens of Swaziland answered that call.

1 BILLION RISING REVOLUTION

MEN and women, young and old, poor and rich, employed and unemployed: gathered together in their numbers at Millennium Park to take a stand and have their voices heard. Neither the threat of a cyclone nor early morning torrential rains could dampen the spirit of the people and put a halt on the revolution.

This day proved beyond a doubt the changing mind-sets and growing acceptance of women as productive and contributing members of society. The march and subsequent dialogue was graced by the presence of a few thousand people which further proved to be a powerful narrative

ONE BILLION RISING IS A GLOBAL MASS CALL TO ACTION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

... on the 17th February the citizens of Swaziland answered that call

beyond being an undeniably effective demonstration of solidarity.

The people of this country stood as one against a worldview which divides humanity into simplistic separate categories. The diverse group present on that day acted as a beacon of light, urging the entire nation to break down stereotypes and protect all her citizens.

A fresh start based on equity and the adherence to human rights are the guiding values of the Swazi Constitution. 17th February 2017, was an indication of the people's readiness to adapt these principles as more than just a theory but a way of life. Men, women and children travelled from the farthest corners of the country to show their support for a society guided by principles of fairness and equality.

The many signs displayed throughout the crowd of vibrant and energetic revolutionists loudly proclaiming their demands and challenges was an inspirational sight unparalleled by any other.

Empowered

The empowered people of this country projected their voices for all to hear without fear, with fortitude and enthusiasm. Songs of strength, female empowerment and women's rights reverberated throughout the streets as the march progressed towards its final destination; Bosco Youth Centre.

At the venue officials from various levels of government, representatives from civil society, international embassies and community based organisations voiced their support for the end of exploitation towards women

and girls through solidarity of the people. They all unanimously stated their feelings of pride and encouragement for the Swazi people to continue their active involvement in the running of the country as this country belongs to all Swazis. Swaziland is a traditional country with a rich culture and history yet on this day we displayed a spirit of acceptance for modern inclusive principles over archaic, discriminatory attitudes.

The people of this nation led by example, proving that the laws and guiding policies of this country were not entirely dependent on authority holders but incumbent upon every one of us to ensure our protection under the law. Awareness and knowledge of the law remains the only method through which citizens of this

country can navigate the social climate to ensure they enjoy full access and protection of their human rights.

There is an intrinsic link between the informal and formal sector on various levels- social, political, economic cultural and legal.

Any weakness or violation of one has an undeniable ripple effect on the others, with women as the most vulnerable meaning that they experience the most profound impact.

On Friday, the nation demonstrated an understanding of this concept as they all assembled in solidarity demanding change. Women and girls world over have been advocating for equality and protection, on this day the people of Swaziland heeded that call. The revolution has only just begun.

HOW TO FIND US:

MANAGING EDITOR:

Mbongeni Mbingo
e-mail: mbingo@observer.org.sz
Cell: 7602 9564

P.O. Box A385, Swazi Plaza,
Mbabane, Betfusile Street
Tel: 2404 4437, 2404 4436, 2404 9600,
2404 9797, 2404 0706
Email: info@observer.org.sz
Website: www.observer.org.sz

NHLANGANO OFFICE

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

EDITORIAL CONTACTS

EDITOR: Thulani Thwala - 7605 0985 editor@observer.org.sz
NEWS EDITOR: Kenneth Dlamini - 7607 0035 newseditor@observer.org.sz
SPORTS EDITOR: Mphikeleli Msibi - 7605 8044 sports@observer.org.sz
BUSINESS SENIOR REPORTER: Mangoba Makhubu - 7670 4606 business@observer.org.sz
ENTERTAINMENT SNR REPORTER: Nomfundo Sifundza - 7675 1649 entertainment@observer.org.sz
SENIOR SUB EDITOR: Paradise Mamba - 7603 5639 subeditor@observer.org.sz

PIGG'S PEAK OFFICE

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



Swazi Observer

MARKETING MANAGER

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

CIRCULATION OFFICER

NKOSINATHI METHLA (76125136)
circulation@observer.org.sz

MANZINI OFFICE

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

SITEKI OFFICE

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ON THIS DAY

...FEBRUARY 22

1630 - Quadequine introduced popcorn to English colonists at their first Thanksgiving dinner.

1784 - "Empress of China", a US merchant ship, left New York City for the Far East.

1819 - Spain ceded Florida to the United States.

1855 - The US Congress voted to appropriate \$200 000 for continuance of the work on the Washington Monument. The next morning the resolution was tabled and it would be 21 years before the Congress would vote on funds again. Work was continued by the Know-Nothing Party in charge of the project.

1859 - US President Buchanan approved the Act of February 22, 1859, which incorporated the Washington National Monument Society "for the purpose of completing the erection now in progress of a great National Monument to the memory of Washington at the seat of the Federal Government."

1860 - Organised baseball's first game was played in San Francisco, CA.

1865 - In the US, Tennessee adopted a new constitution that abolished slavery.

1879 - In Utica, NY, Frank W. Woolworth opened his first five and 10-cent store.

1885 - The Washington Monument was officially dedicated in Washington, DC. It opened to the public in 1889.

1892 - "Lady Windermere's Fan", by Oscar Wilde, was first performed.

1920 - The first dog race track to use an imitation rabbit opened in Emeryville, CA.

1923 - The first successful chinchilla farm opened in Los Angeles, CA. It was the first farm of its kind in the US

1924 - US President Calvin Coolidge delivered the first presidential radio broadcast from the White House.

1954 - ABC radio's popular "Breakfast Club" programme was simulcast on TV for the first time.

1969 - Barbara Jo Rubin became the first woman to win a US thoroughbred horse race.

1973 - The US and Communist China agreed to establish liaison offices.

1984 - The US Census Bureau statistics showed that the state of Alaska was the fastest growing state of the decade with an increase in population of 19.2 per cent.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

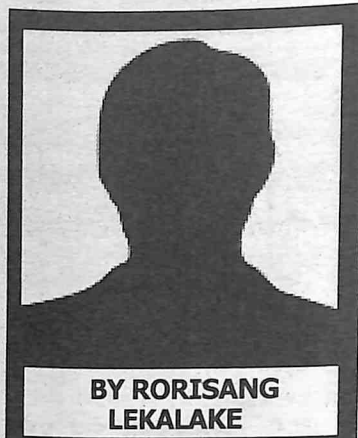


George Washington (Politician) - February 22 1732 (Died 1799) - 67 years old



Baby Kaely (Rapper) - February 22 2005 - 12 years old

WHY OPPOSITION PARTIES IN SA STRUGGLE TO WIN POWER



BY RORISANG LEKALAKE

OVER the last three decades there's been some progress towards institutionalising multiparty democracy in sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite that elections in the region rarely result in changes of government.

A recent survey by Afrobarometer – a non-partisan African research network – sheds some light on why this is the case.

The survey, which involved 9 500 interviews conducted in 2014/2015 in Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, found widespread support for multiparty politics.

But the results also show that opposition parties face major obstacles to winning majority support. These include the fact that they aren't trusted as much as governing parties and that very often they aren't seen as a viable alternative to the dominant ruling party.

All five countries are governed by parties that emerged from liberation movements and have been in power for decades since independence. Although some of these incumbents have lost some electoral support in recent years, opposition support has not been high enough to unseat them.

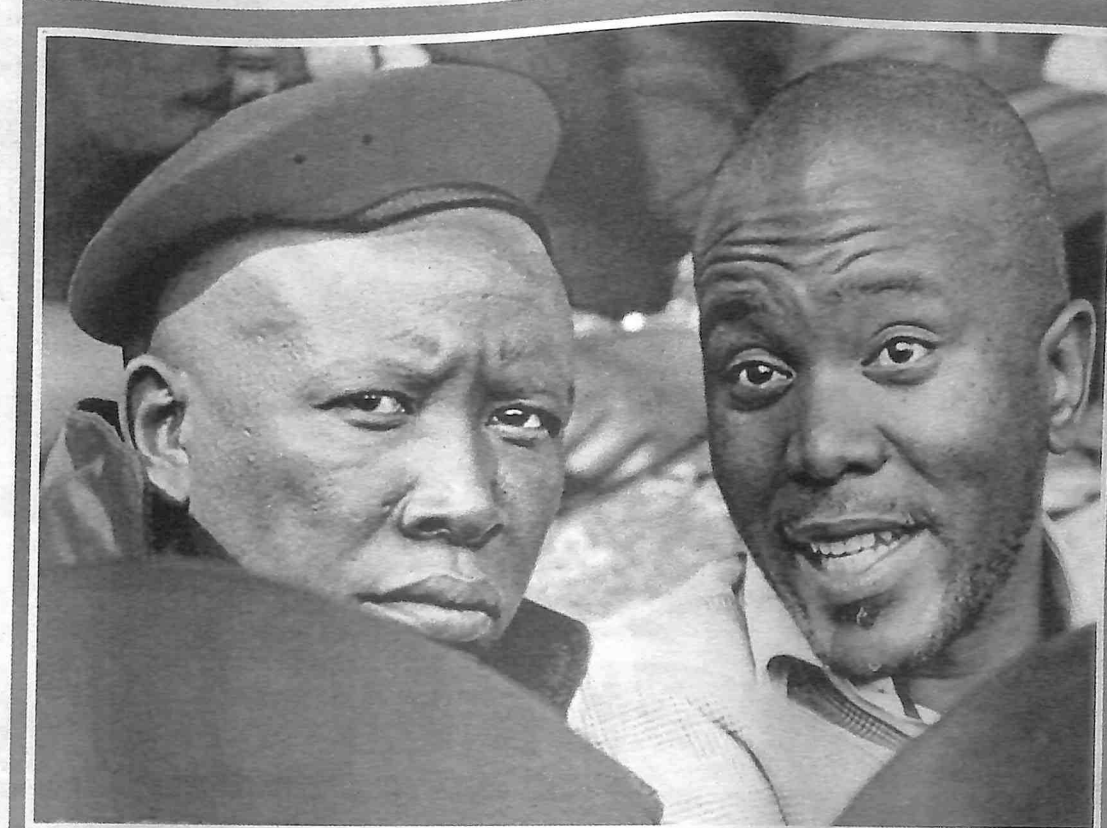
THE TRUST QUESTION

The latest findings mirror the results of a survey in 36 African countries in 2014/2015 which found that opposition parties had the lowest levels of popular trust among 12 types of institutions and leaders. While trust in ruling parties was 46 per cent, it was only 35 per cent for opposition parties.

This was an improvement over the situation more than a decade earlier when trust levels in opposition parties was much lower.

In Namibia and Mozambique levels of trust in opposition parties were found to be at the highest levels ever. But in Zimbabwe trust in the political opposition declined sharply after 2008/2009. Similarly, the proportion of Zimbabweans who said they felt "close to" an opposition party dropped from 45 per cent in 2009 to 19 per cent in 2014.

This dramatic reversal of fortune provides an important lesson for opposition parties in the other four countries. First, the opposition Movement for Democratic Change,



LEADERSHIP: EFF Leader Julius Malema and DA Leader, Mmusi Maimane.

led by Morgan Tsvangirai, was unable to leverage its role in stabilising the country when it was part of the Government of National Unity (GNU).

Secondly, infighting and increasing fractionalisation may have further shaped public opinion about its viability as a party.

UNEQUAL

There's a much more lopsided distribution of power and resources for opposition parties in countries with dominant governing parties than for those in competitive party systems. This, coupled with a lack of governance experience, makes it difficult for opposition parties to be seen as credible alternatives.

Take the example of Botswana. The Botswana Democratic Party, in power since independence in 1966, is the region's most enduring dominant party. It has even adopted the slogan "There is still no alternative".

Although the party has been able to maintain a majority of parliamentary seats, its share of the popular vote declined to 46.7 per cent in 2014, the lowest level of any of

the dominant parties in the region.

Afrobarometer's 2014 survey, which took place a few months before the election, showed that 44 per cent of Botswana agreed that the political opposition presented a viable alternative vision and plan for the country.

In Botswana's "winner-takes-all" electoral system, a large part of the opposition's success in the 2014 election was due to three parties forming a coalition - the Umbrella

for Democratic Change (UDC). This reduced vote splitting. A recent decision to expand the coalition to include the country's remaining major opposition party, the Botswana Congress Party, has led to speculation about the chance of an opposition electoral victory in 2019.

Similarly, in South Africa, the opposition's strong showing in the 2016 local elections has bolstered its optimism about its prospects in the 2019 national and provincial

polls.

This success suggests that confidence in the political opposition may have grown since the 2015 Afrobarometer survey.

It could also reflect widespread dissatisfaction with the governing

African National Congress and political institutions, leaders and performance on a range of key policy areas.

But public dissatisfaction with government performance doesn't necessarily translate into perceptions that opposition parties could do a better job.

This is particularly so in South Africa and Zimbabwe. While eight in 10 citizens in the two countries report poor government performance on their top policy priority (unemployment, only 37 per cent say that another political party could solve the problem).

ROLE OF OPPOSITION PARTIES

What role should opposition parties play?

Only a minority of citizens in the five southern African countries with dominant parties agree that the opposition's primary role should be to monitor and criticise the government in order to hold it accountable.

This is true even among respondents who are opposition party supporters. In South Africa there's even been a decline since 2008/2009 in support for opposition parties playing a "watchdog" role.

This suggests that opposition parties might put off potential voters if they are seen to be constantly criticising the ruling party rather than contributing to the country's development. Opposition parties might do better if they highlight their policy platforms and gain citizen confidence in their plans and capabilities.

This is a crucial insight for opposition parties in the region as it runs counter to the opposition's conventional role in Western democracies. *Sowetanlive*

HAPPY 93RD BIRTHDAY MR PRESIDENT:

... Why some
Zimbabweans
still love
Mugabe

HARARE - It's not just loyal Zimbabwean state media who enthusiastically wished President Robert Mugabe a happy 93rd birthday yesterday.

There are still Zimbabweans - and not just in the rural areas - who support AND idolise Mugabe (though there's little doubt a bit of vote-rigging always helps win an election).

As one Zimbabwean tweeted this weekend: "There are many people who vote for ZANU WILLINGLY. Please deal." So why, after years of economic hardship and international isolation, do some still love the man that critics accuse of turning the southern African country into a basket-case?

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS:

● POWERFUL LEGACY

Like him or hate him, Mugabe played a key role in freeing Zimbabwe from colonial power in 1980. It's a victory he often likes to remind locals often ("Zimbabwe will never be a colony again" etc etc). His story resonates well beyond Zimbabwe's borders, which is why he also gets a lot of support when he travels on the continent.

Stressing the One-freedom-the-country line is "chapter one in How to be a Dictator", Jeffrey Smith of @VanguardAfrica told News24. There are some signs that the younger generation in Zimbabwe is becoming increasingly disillusioned with the "debt" Mugabe and other war vets claim they're still owed nearly 40

years after the war for independence (As @BuildZimbabwe urged on Monday: "Don't let your loyalty become slavery. Reject the status quo"). On the other hand, legacies win elections. Higher education minister @profjnmoyo argued along these lines at the weekend.

● HE GIVES ZIMBABWEANS THINGS

It was Grace who got tongues wagging over last week's donations at her Buhera rally of shoes, soap and cooking oil, all allegedly confiscated by the state ZIMRA revenue authority from traders. Former finance minister @BitiTendai fumed: "It is illegal for ZANU and the obnoxious Grace to capture goods seized by ZIMRA meant for customs rummage sales and distribute same at rallies." (Ruling party MP Psychology Maziwa did something similar earlier this month, plastering the promise "Rice! Rice! Rice!" over flyers advertising his rally in his Highfield West constituency). But giving out free stuff is just what Mugabe's been doing on a grander scale for years.

Farms. Company shares. Thing is, many of those things you can only access if you're a slogan-shouting member of the party.

● THERE'S NO VIABLE OPPOSITION

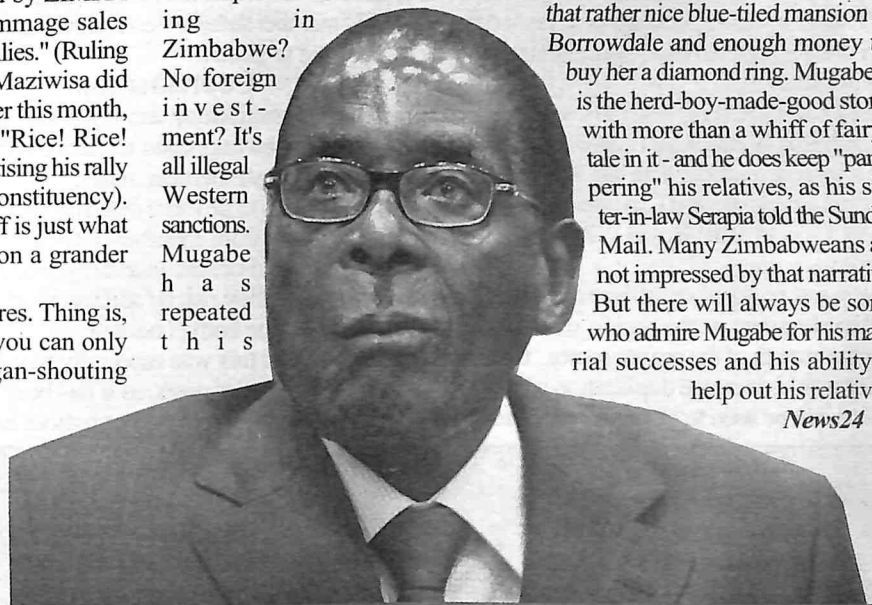
Perhaps there was in 2008 when Movement For Democratic Change leader Morgan Tsvangirai won the first round of

polls. But since then, Tsvangirai's popularity has plummeted. Let's be honest: who wants to be aligned to someone who keeps losing?

There's also no "acceptable" opposition to Mugabe within his party, as the president himself confirmed this weekend. "The majority of people feel there is no replacement," he said in a birthday interview. Possible replacement Emmerson Mnangagwa has never had the crowd-pulling charisma and the skill with words that Mugabe has, though he's undoubtedly feared. As for Grace, another possible successor... enough said.

● GOT HIS SCAPEGOATS SORTED

Companies closing in Zimbabwe? No foreign investment? It's all illegal Western sanctions. Mugabe has repeated this



BIRTHDAY BOY: Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe.

mantra for the last 16 years. He's had state media repeat it endlessly too, which is why a number of Zimbabweans still echo this line. Never mind that these have been targeted EU and US sanctions and that a deliberate decision not to invest or grant money does not fall into the official definition of a sanction imposed by one country upon another.

● HE'S MADE IT

His wife may have claimed that he's the poorest president on earth two years ago - but Mugabe does have that rather nice blue-tiled mansion in Borrowdale and enough money to buy her a diamond ring. Mugabe's is the herd-boy-made-good story with more than a whiff of fairy-tale in it - and he does keep "pampering" his relatives, as his sister-in-law Serapia told the Sunday Mail. Many Zimbabweans are not impressed by that narrative. But there will always be some who admire Mugabe for his material successes and his ability to help out his relatives.

News24

Replacing finance minister or his deputy would carry a heavy cost

Co-Pierre Georg,
University of Cape Town

MANY see the decision by South Africa's governing African National Congress (ANC) to send the disgraced former CEO of the power utility Eskom to Parliament as the precursor to another attack on the National Treasury and to remove Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan.

The decision to give Brian Molefe a seat in the country's Parliament has led to widespread speculation that he is being positioned for a Cabinet post - either as finance minister or as deputy finance minister. While some commentators believe that President Jacob Zuma has his sights set on appointing Molefe as finance minister, others argue that the real target is Deputy Minister Mcebisi Jonas.

The deputy minister blew the whistle on an alleged bribery attempt by a member of the Gupta family which

is at the centre of a political storm, amid allegations that it has attempted to exert undue influence on Zuma.

Either way, there is no doubt that Molefe's appointment to either position would cause substantial turmoil in the country's financial system and cost South Africa billions of rand.

THE COST OF THE RAND TAKING A KNOCK

South Africa would take a massive economic blow because its currency would depreciate dramatically. The rand fell through the floor the last time Zuma made a misbegotten attempt to install one of his cronies at the helm of the National Treasury in December 2015.

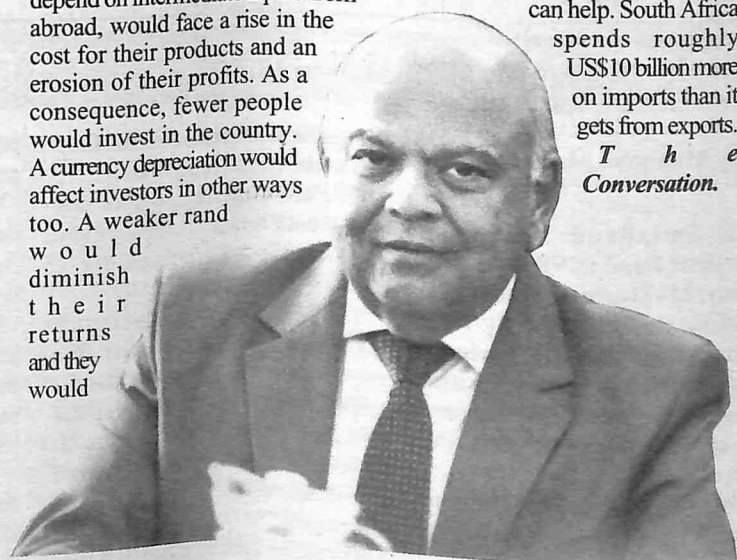
This should worry South Africans. The country's current account deficit in the third quarter of 2016 was 4.1%. This means that the sum of imports and external debt - borrowing from abroad - is larger than the sum of its exports and lending abroad. Mineral products, machinery and chemical products alone constitute more than 50% of South Africa's imports.

A weaker rand would make these more expensive since the country would have to pay more rand per dollar value. This means that prices for everything from consumer products to transportation would go up. South African firms, which often depend on intermediate inputs from abroad, would face a rise in the cost for their products and an erosion of their profits. As a consequence, fewer people would invest in the country. A currency depreciation would affect investors in other ways too. A weaker rand would diminish their returns and they would

therefore be more likely to look for investment opportunities elsewhere. Not only will they stop investing, they would also likely unwind their existing positions. This in turn would drain liquidity from the financial system, making banks less likely to provide new loans for businesses. The knock on effect would be lower growth and higher unemployment.

It is difficult to put a number on the impact of a sudden depreciation of the rand. But some simple back-of-the-envelope calculations can help. South Africa spends roughly US\$10 billion more on imports than it gets from exports.

The Conversation.



WANTED OUT: SA Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan.

Wit & Wisdom

● "Let your personality be your profit and not your punishment." - Amit Kalantri.

● "Always remember that you have been called worse things by better people." - Shannon L. Alder

● "It is not that I object to the work, mind you; I like work: it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours. I love to keep it by me: the idea of getting rid of it nearly breaks my heart." - Jerome K. Jerome

● "Sometimes you can't agree with people because you would both be wrong." - Shannon L. Alder

● "question the status quo; rebuke the existing rules, though it may be at the discomfort of the masses. They may, however, come to a later realisation that it was really worth it and you may now have the status quo" - Ernest Agyemang Yeboah

● "Never speak unless you can improve upon the stupidity of people's silence." - Shannon L. Alder

● "I moved out of my head office and went out of my mind." - Benny Bellamacina, *Little Luigi: A Musical Adventure*

● "When I battle wits with Jarod Kintz I always feel like I need to take my brain out to give him a transplant. Bad part is we don't have any." - Will Advise, *Nothing is here*

● "I wonder now how we got by when you weren't here."

● "I have no doubt the devastation was widespread, the suffering universal."

● "Indeed, it was the Dark Ages in the annals of Mrs. Dawlish's house. Ignorance was thick on the ground, and unenlightenment befogged all the windows." - Sherry Thomas

● "if you can't acquaint an opponent with reason, you must acquaint his head with the sidewalk." - Lee Child, *Never Go Back*

● "If you've brains it's better than beauty - brains last, beauty doesn't." - L.M. Montgomery, *Emily of New Moon*

● "A true leader leads for the sake of love and his knowledge of the path, a bad leader redirects his followers to the path of destruction." - Michael Bassey Johnson

● "The height of cleverness is in one's ability to be very clever without seeming clever at all." - Criss Jami, *Killosophy*

● "Well, enough of this introspection. It's depressing, quite frankly." - Sol Luckman

● "They seek him here. They seek him there. Those Frenchies seek him everywhere. Is he in Heaven? Or is he in Hell? That damned, illusive pimpinel." - Sir Peter Blackney

● "I should think a dead language would be rather boring, socially speaking." - Sol Luckman

● "It was rather too late in the day to set about being simple-minded and ignorant." - Jane Austen

BUSINESS UPDATE

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CONTACTS

Manqoba Makhubu
(7670 4606)
business@observer.org.sz
Linda Dlamini
(7844 2025)
Tel: 2404 9600/1
Fax: 2404 5503
2404 6463

VITALS

Prime Rate	10.75%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	8.2%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.25%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E11.80 per litre
Replacement	E11.85 per litre
Diesel	E11.70 per litre
Paraffin	E 7.95 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 21 FEB 2017

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	13.0316	13.0816
British Pound/SZL	16.2237	16.2859
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.6840	8.7134
Swiss France/SZL	12.9681	13.0062
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2510	1.2584
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.9991	10.0388
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.9228	9.9601
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	13.7946	13.8475
Gold	1,233.4000	
Oil	54.7900	

For more information contact:
Standard Bank Global Markets Department
Direct Lines: +268 2404 1543 / 1544
Email: gmswaziland@stanbic.com



Standard Bank

SACU MEMBERS NEED TO HARMONISE BORDER CONTROL POLICIES

By Linda Dlamini

THERE is need to harmonise all the border control policies amongst the different Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) member states to promote regional trade.

Ministry of Commerce Industry and Trade International Trade Department Senior Trade Policy Analyst Mluleki Dlamini said currently, SACU does not have common policies and furthermore the regional bloc does not have common institutions.

Dlamini was speaking yesterday during a workshop organised by the Global Economic Governance Africa in conjunction with the Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce (FSE&CC) held at the Royal Villas in Ezulwini yesterday.

"The supra regional organisations would aid trade development in the region which is critical for the growth of the private sector. Common policies would decrease duplication of processes which can be seen to be barriers to trade," he

said.

Dlamini said another fact worth noting was that SACU trade only applies to goods and not services.

"This is something worth looking into as there are numerous services which are conducted in the various countries which are not included under SACU," he said.

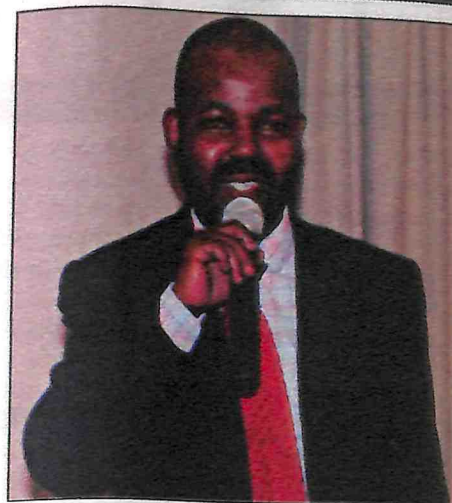
He was responding to a question asked from the floor to ascertain the level of trade amongst SACU member states when it comes to services as opposed to goods.

Coordination

He said coordination amongst the member states should be improved to increase the level of trade amongst member states.

"There needs to be more discussions amongst policy makers from member states at a regional level so as to ensure members concerns are articulated so they can be addressed within the structures of the body," he said.

Dlamini said this was especially true when it came to the border posts, as it has been identified that the different boarder policies amongst



SUBMISSION: Ministry of Commerce Industry and Trade International Trade Department Senior Trade Policy Analyst Mluleki Dlamini making his submission on behalf of the ministry. (Pics: Linda Dlamini)

member states was a significant barrier to trade.

He noted the duplication of costs at the border posts were amongst the main problems of cross border trade barriers.

"An example to this is that, you find that in one country a certain regulation is mandatory and everyone has to abide by it, however in the neighbouring country you find that the regulation is voluntary and it's up to the firm owner to decide to adhere to it," he said.

Dlamini said this causes confusion for the private sector whereas they are the sector which should be driving trade amongst states.



ATTENTIVE: Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce (FSE&CC) Chief Executive Officer Bonsiwe Ntando (left) and FSE&CC Trade and Business Coordinator Musa Maseko listening to the proceedings.



QUESTION: GEG Africa Project Director Nomfundo Ngwenya asking a question during the workshop.

BUDGET 2017: MINISTER HAS TO PROVIDE MINING SECTOR PATH

By Manqoba Makhubu

THE Swaziland National Provident Fund (SNPF) hopes that the 2017 budget speech will build on the base laid by His Majesty during his 2017 Speech from the Throne with regards to maximising mining legislations to create a competitive environment.

Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini is expected to deliver his budget speech this Friday.

SNPF General Manager Business Development and Finance

Langalakhe Dlamini said the fund has a keen interest in mining.

"We are targeting sectors that will create massive employment opportunities and mining is one of them.

"His Majesty covered this during his speech from the Throne. We are now waiting for government's response and I hope the minister will give a way forward," he said.

Mineral commodities being worked on include coal, iron ore, gold and diamonds.

Secondly, Dlamini said they also hope for tax incentives for start-up companies, especially those

who will target the manufacturing sector.

"This can come in handy as manufacturing has the capacity to create significant jobs for Swazis," he said.

Adding, he said they were also keen to hear the minister address the issue of energy, especially renewable energy as they were also considering tapping into that space.

"And one expectation, which is our major expectation, is to hear if government will provide money for the conversion of the fund into a pension fund. That can help us do more with regards to growing

the economy," he said.

Last year, SNPF made an undertaking to invest 50 per cent locally before the end of this year.

Dlamini said they willingly decided to go down this way to create balance and protect the economy.

"We intentionally and consciously say we will invest 50 per cent by end of next year in Swaziland, because we are now saying as much as we want good returns and diversification, but the pressure is at its highest at this point when you look at all the people who don't have jobs who are out there," he said.

'SACU states need to focus on value addition'

Stories by Linda Dlamini

VALUE addition should be a key initiative for Southern African Customs Union (SACU) member states economic development.

This is according to DNA Economics Economist Yash Ramkolowan.

He was speaking yesterday during a workshop organised by the Global Economic Governance Africa in conjunction with the Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce (FSE&CC) held at the Royal Villas in Ezulwini.

He said businesses should not just look at exporting to the largest economy in the regional trading bloc.

Ramkolowan said it has been observed that Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS) relied too much on exporting just primary products.

"There should be more value addition on the primary products, especially in the manufacturing sector," he said.

Ramkolowan said BLNS countries should be more geared towards trading with each other as the different states have various comparative advantages when it comes to value addition.



"The development of value chain amongst SACU states is important to economic growth of the BLNS countries," he said.

Ramkolowan said the regional bloc has some challenges which have to be addressed, particularly when it comes to issues of inter-regional trade.

The economist further noted that most firms of BLNS states were export oriented which was a reflection of the small domestic market in the BLNS states.

Value

"Where value addition occurs, the finished goods invariably are destined for the South African market," he said.

Ramkolowan said the little intra-BLNS trade reflects South Africa's relative market size within the SACU market and this should be changed to foster economic development amongst the states.

The economist said one notable exception to the export of finished goods to South Africa was a Botswana cable firm which export large vol-

umes to Namibia.

"The lack of specific domestic skills necessary for firms to expand and export has been identified as a constraint to increased intra-BLNS trade," he said.

Ramkolowan said another constraint was transport and logistics of trade.

"The quality of the road network between some SACU states is poor and as a result transportation becomes a problem. The limited cross border rail capacity of SACU states also limits the volume of trade which countries may embark upon," he said.

PRESENTING:

DNA

Economics

economist

Yash

Ramkolowan making his presentation. (Pic: Linda Dlamini)



NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT FUND - ECONOMIST

A Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Development Fund can play a critical role in the funding of regional economic infrastructure and trade related reforms.

DNA Economics economist Yash Ramkolowan said the fund could likely increase the number and feasibility of investment projects that could emerge to take advantage of improvements to the regional business environment.

The Global Economic Governance (GEG) programme was established in 2003 to foster research and debate into how global markets and institutions can better serve the needs of people in developing countries.

Ramkolowan was speaking yesterday at a workshop organised by the Global Economic Governance Africa in conjunction with the Federation of Swaziland Employer and Chamber of Commerce (FSE&CC) held at the Royal Villas.

The workshop was themed, 'Trade Facilitation in SACU: The Role of a Regional Development Fund.'

Ramkolowan said any fund needs to take into account the clear trade offs for each member state.

Knowledge

He said currently, according to his knowledge, no such fund had been initiated or was in the pipeline.

"Key issues for member states to discuss with regards to the development fund include how such a fund would be funded. Also what implications would it have on the

member states SACU revenues," he said.

Ramkolowan said the development fund would likely be of great value for the SACU integration to Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS) businesses in most sectors.

Customs

Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) Manager-Border Operations Precious Chauya, representing the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) secretariat, said the SACU secretariat has developed the regional customs modernisation programme which was being implemented with the technical assistance from the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and financial support from the Swedish International Development Corporation Agency.

"Another programme being pursued by the secretariat is the customs to business partnership," she said.

Chauya said the partnership's objective was to strengthen customs to business partnerships with all stakeholders both regionally and nationally.

She said transport was important to regional trade and as a result the secretariat has a transport programme to increase improve transport.

"The programme is currently under review to link it with the trade facilitation agenda of the regional customs union. The secretariat is further committed to support negotiation and implementation of trade agreements which SACU member states sign with third parties," she said.

INVESTING IN OIL RESERVE GOOD, BUT...

By Manqoba Makhubu

ONE of the issues that the Swaziland Fuel Retailers Association (SFRA) hopes to hear Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini address during his 2017 budget speech are the final logistics of the Strategic Oil Reserve.

During his last budget speech, the minister said the reserve facility would ensure supply of fuel for 90 days in the event the country experiences fuel shortages.

He said relocation of households and construction of support infrastructure such as roads were at an advanced stage.

"That was a valid call. But, the remaining question is who will run the reserve?" asked SFRA Chairman Sean Stewart.

He said there was a need for a reputable company to run the reserve.

"We often give tenders to people who are fly-by-nights. This project deserves to be run by a reputable and reliable company due to its significance," he said.

He said the better option was to link with South Africa, "this can be a better option compared to getting people who are many miles away. We always get unknowns to do things for us and they come back to bite us at the end."

The country came to a near scare of fuel supply in August last year following a strike of about 15 000 workers affiliated to the Chemical, Energy, Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers Union (CEPPWAWU).

The ministry of natural resources and energy had to call an urgent meeting with petrol companies to receive an update on petrol supplies for the country.

It is said the strategic oil reserve was meant to cushion the country against such shocks.

Meanwhile, the chairman said another issue that required to be revised was the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA).

"We are trying to be tax compliant, but I think the way tax payment has been handled needs to be reviewed," said Stewart.

On another note, Stewart said though the country has a potential to be self-sufficient with regards to food supply, it has remained a net importer of even maize.

"Maybe we need to find reasons why people are reluctant to plant enough produce. Honestly, we should be doing better than this," he said.

BUDGET 2017: Consumers expect govt's intervention on energy

By Manqoba Makhubu

CONSUMERS hope that government will intervene in the energy crisis currently facing the country.

Sharing his expectations of the 2017 Budget Speech to be tabled by Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini on Friday, Swaziland Consumer Forum's (SWACOF) Mandla Ntshakala said consumers' confidence on the economy has declined, amid increasing basic commodity prices like electricity and petrol.

"We expect government's intervention, especially on the two basic resources; water and electricity. Otherwise, going forward the situation looks bad. Consequently, we expect prices of other commodities to shoot up in the near term, hence the minister should address this issue during his budget speech," said Ntshakala.

During his last budget speech, the minister of finance noted that electricity cost and supply was a primary concern to all businesses and households. He further made an undertaking that government was committed to finding a lasting

solution to this challenge.

However, recently, the Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) was granted a 15 per cent tariff increase by the regulator, Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority (SERA). On the other hand, the price of petrol has also hiked by 80 cents per litre.

Hike

Responding to the recent hike of these commodities, economists have projected goods prices to soar going forward due to the weighting of these resources in the economy.

Therefore, Ntshakala said it was of interest to the consumer, how the minister will address

this subject during his budget speech.

With the country showing signs of recovery from the drought, Ntshakala said it would be also critical for government to invest in agriculture, especially towards water harvesting and the support of small scale farmers.

"The drought has taught us a tough lesson. We need to find ways to harvest and store the little water we are getting for now," he said.

Adding, he said the country has a huge potential to produce enough food to sustain itself other than heavy reliance on imports.

He said, therefore, the budget

has to reflect on how government could intervene and encourage maximum use of available resources like farms that are either lying idle or less utilised.

On the other hand, due to reduced disposable income, Ntshakala said consumers were also eagerly waiting to hear government's final stance on the issue of top up fees.

"The Free Primary Education (FPE) was a perfect route taken by government, whilst we still expect the administration to invest in FPE, the settlement on top-up fees remains challenging. Should the costs initially come back to consumers, then they will be under a lot of burden."

ALL EYES ON HIM: Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini.



SHOPRITE CHANGES GROWTH COMPASS AS STEINHOFF TALKS FAIL

JOHANNESBURG - Shoprite Holdings [JSE:SHP] will focus on expansion outside Africa after talks with Steinhoff International Holdings to create the continent's biggest retailer fell apart.

"To sustain our growth, we are constantly investigating the potential of new markets, not only in Africa but also on other continents," newly appointed Chief Executive Officer Pieter Engelbrecht said in a statement yesterday.

The Cape Town-based company has 2 653 stores across Africa, and said profit rose 11 per cent to R2.44bn in the six months through December.

The shares rose as much as five per cent in Johannesburg after soaring 8.6 per cent on Monday when the plan to merge with Steinhoff was abandoned. That's the biggest two-day gain on an intraday basis for more than decade.

Shoprite is up 14 per cent this year, valuing Africa's biggest supermarket operator at R112bn.

The company boosted profit as poorer South Africans struggling with high

● Shoprite also stepped up marketing activity, discounts and cost controls, while lessening the impact of a widespread drought on food inflation by subsidising basic foods, the company said



unemployment and inflation shopped at its cheaper Usave stores, the best performer among the retailer's three super-market brands.

Shoprite also stepped up marketing activity, discounts and cost controls, while lessening the impact of a widespread drought on food inflation by sub-

sidising basic foods, the company said.

"We have structured the business to contend efficiently and profitably under market conditions such as those prevailing currently," Engelbrecht said.

"The second half of the year has started well for us and we are confident this trend will continue." *Fin24*

More than 10million international tourists visit SA

JOHANNESBURG - More than 10 million international tourists visited South Africa in 2016, 13 per cent more than in 2015, the ministry of tourism said on Monday.

"This is well over the global average growth rate for the period. It is estimated that about 1.2 billion international tourists travelled the world in 2016, representing growth of 3.9 per cent on 2015," the department said in a statement.

"In South Africa, the role of tourism in the balance of payments has become increasingly important. In 2015, tourism's trade balance with the rest of the world was R36 billion, according to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). This is a major stabilising force for the national current account."

The department said the differing travel patterns and behaviours of the various travel mar-

kets sustain a large and diverse sector of businesses across South Africa.

Tourism Minister Derek Hanekom commended all the people who are working hard in the private and public sectors to develop and promote tourism, and to provide visitors with excellent service and memorable experiences.

Arrivals

"The spectacular growth in tourist arrivals indicates that the close collaboration between various government departments, between the Department of Tourism and industry, and between suppliers and service providers on the ground has paid off," he said.

"We have done well to capitalise on our status as a value for money destination, offering an array of experiences for all tourist markets."

ANA

I'm not indispensable - Gordhan

exchange for business concessions. *Bloomberg*

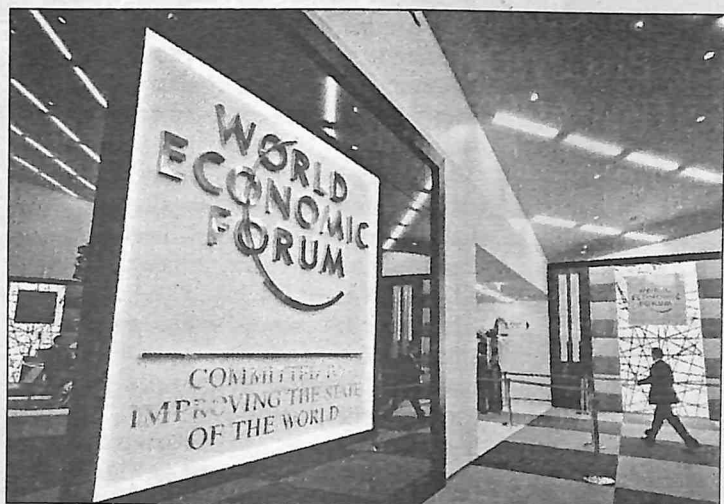
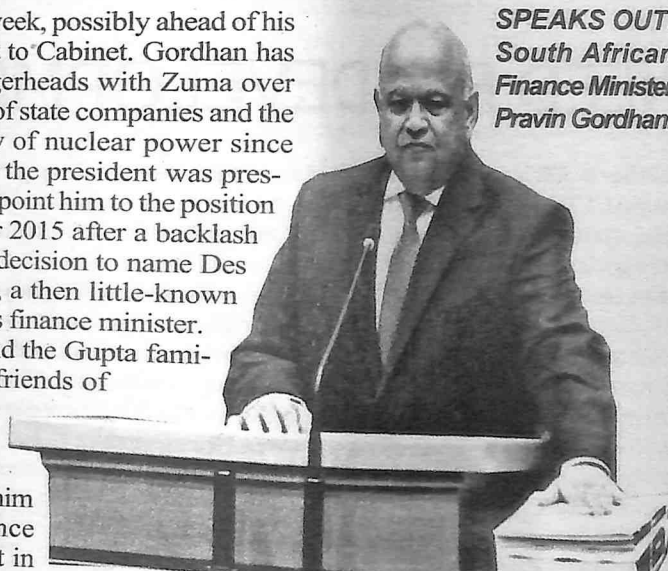
JOHANNESBURG - South African Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan said he is "not indispensable" as he prepares to present the annual budget, following almost a year of speculation that he might lose his job.

"We are just humble civil servants," Gordhan said in an interview with broadcaster eNCA on Monday after being asked about rumours that he and his deputy Mcebisi Jonas may be replaced by President Jacob Zuma. Gordhan will give his full-year budget speech today in Cape Town.

Speculation that Gordhan may be fired has been renewed by an announcement that the ruling party will install Brian Molefe, the former chief executive officer of the state power utility, as a law-

maker this week, possibly ahead of his appointment to Cabinet. Gordhan has been at loggerheads with Zuma over the running of state companies and the affordability of nuclear power since shortly after the president was pressured to reappoint him to the position in December 2015 after a backlash caused by a decision to name Des van Rooyen, a then little-known lawmaker, as finance minister. Jonas has said the Gupta family, who are friends of Zuma and in business with the president's son, offered him the top finance ministry post in

SPEAKS OUT:
South African Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan.



WEF Africa to focus on inclusive growth

JOHANNESBURG - The 27th World Economic Forum on Africa will take place in Durban in May.

With prospects for growth and development in Sub-Saharan Africa for 2017 very much a mixed bag, the 27th World Economic Forum (WEF) on Africa taking place in Durban in May will seek to define strategies and actions to restore the region on a path towards a sustainable, prosperous and inclusive future.

In a statement on Monday, WEF said the Sub-Saharan region accounted for some of the world's fastest growing economies, but was also home to countries whose "commodity-dependent economies have struggled to adapt to structural downturns in prices".

It said the purpose of the May 3-5 meeting would be to convene leaders from across all stakeholder groups to define strategies and actions to restore the whole region on its path towards a sustainable, prosperous and inclusive future.

"Africa has a historic opportunity to shift the trajectory of its development by avoiding the excesses and mistakes made by countries in advanced parts of the world. But its success will depend on creating

new models of growth that provide equality of opportunity to everyone and allow innovation to flourish," said Elsie Kanza, Head of Africa for WEF.

In addition to advancing the concept of inclusive growth, many other issues critical to Africa's long-term development are set to be covered in the meeting's programme, including education, skills and employment, entrepreneurship, energy, infrastructure and development finance, combating, adapting to and building resilience against climate change, and science, technology and innovation.

Over 900 participants are expected at WEF Africa, including forum member companies, representatives from government, international organisations, civil society, academia, media and the arts.

The co-chairs of WEF Africa are Winnie Byanyima, the Executive Director of Oxfam International; Siyabonga Gama, Group CEO of Transnet; Frédéric Lemoine, Chairperson of the executive board of Wendel; Rich Lesser, Global CEO and President of Boston Consulting Group, and Ulrich Spiesshofer, President and CEO of ABB. - *African News Agency*

Donkey skins valued at over R2m found in 'smelly' Gauteng warehouse

JOHANNESBURG - Gauteng police have discovered hundreds of donkey skins in a major bust on Johannesburg's West Rand after an intelligence-led operation between the Stock Theft and National Crime Intelligence units.

The police said the donkey skins discovered on a smallholding in the Brandvlei area near Randfontein were valued at around R2.25 million.

"The police received a tip-off about a smelly warehouse at portion 26 Brandvlei, both units acted upon the given information which led them to the discovery of a large number of animal skins stuffed in a store room," said police spokesperson Constable Lucky Matome.

"During preliminary investigation, it was established that the store room was leased to a foreign national who was not found at the premises.



"It is alleged that the donkeys could have been illegally slaughtered for their skins," he said.

Matome said police were investigating two cases under different stock theft laws.

In January, The Times reported about two big busts regarding the slaughtering of donkeys for their skins. Ashley Ness, an inspector at the Highveld Horse Care Unit, and

her team were instrumental in a bust on January 16 which saw nearly 3 500 donkeys skins, believed to be destined for China, recovered in a warehouse in Benoni on Johannesburg's East Rand.

Shortly after, the NSPCA were responsible for a bust in Olifantshoek in the Northern Cape where nearly 500 donkey carcasses were found in a field. *Sowetan*

World News

GIVE TRUMP TIME - MUGABE

HARARE - US President Donald Trump has earned an unlikely admirer in Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe.

Speaking on state television on the eve of his 93rd birthday yesterday, Mugabe said he never wanted a Clinton presidency and Trump should be given time.

"Give him time. Trump may

even re-look the sanctions on Zimbabwe," Mugabe said.

Mugabe said former president Barack Obama's "arrogance" was the reason why Zimbabwe is still under targeted sanctions.

"We are now just under sanctions imposed not by Donald Trump but by Obama. What arrogance is that?"

He said he agreed with Trump's stance of "America for Americans" saying it was also "Zimbabwe for Zimbabweans".

The US Congress passed the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act in 2001, effectively banning Mugabe and his allies from travelling to the US.



GIVE HIM TIME:
Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe.

Sanctions were also passed on companies linked to his regime. *timeslive*

'TIRED' MUGABE SHOWS HIS AGE IN BIRTHDAY INTERVIEW

HARARE - Eyes closed, frequently fumbling for the right word: this was President Robert Mugabe finally showing his 93 years.

In a sunlit room at State House in Harare, Mugabe has given his usual long interview to mark his birthday - but the longtime leader's masterful speaking style was mostly absent.

The first part of the interview was broadcast on state ZBC television on Monday night. "She is a very strong character, eh?" Mugabe said of his wife Grace. There's growing speculation Grace is being groomed to succeed her husband.

The president told interviewer Tazzen Mandizvidza that Grace was "very much accepted by the people". For the first 15 minutes, Mugabe spoke extremely quietly - perhaps not in a mutter, but certainly in a very tired voice. As the interview wore on, there were moments where he spoke more strongly. But there were long pauses as his voice fizzled out. *NEWS24*



VERY VERY UNUSUAL: Shoppers were left stunned when a man rode a horse into a supermarket to pick up his groceries. The rider atop the creature was spotted trotting down the aisles and browsing the deli counter at The Spar supermarket in Jeffrey's Bay, Eastern Cape, South Africa. Bemused shopper Alistair Smith, managed to capture the jaw-dropping moment on camera before the horseman was chased out of the shop by the store manager. (AP)

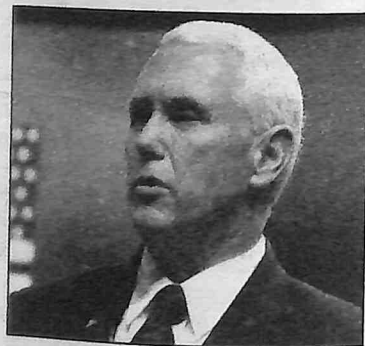
Trump committed to Europe - Pence

BRUSSELS - US Vice President Mike Pence sought to reassure nervous Europeans on Monday of Donald Trump's strong commitment to transatlantic ties as he met EU chiefs, amid anti-Trump protests.

Capping a European trip aimed at allaying EU fears the new US president might abandon them, Pence said Washington's support remained "steadfast and enduring".

"Today it is my privilege on behalf of President Trump to express the strong commitment of the United States to continued cooperation and partnership with the European Union," Pence said after talks with EU President Donald Tusk in Brussels.

Pence pledged the United States would keep working with Europe to boost the world's two biggest economies, fight terrorism and defend eastern EU



SUPPORT: US Vice President Mike Pence.

states against Russian encroachment. Trump's criticism of NATO as "obsolete," his praise for Britain's decision to leave the EU and prediction that others would follow, plus his apparent tilt to Russian President Vladimir Putin have all unnerved US allies. *AFP*

'DUTERTE ORDERED DEATH SQUAD HITS'

MANILA - Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte operated a "death squad" while mayor of Davao city, giving cash and orders for police and assassins to murder criminals, according to a former policeman who said he was involved in the clandestine killings.

In remarks contradicting his earlier denial of the existence of such a "death squad", Arturo Lascanas said he was one of the ringleaders of the group that began operating when Duterte became mayor of the southern Philippine city in 1988. Duterte has repeatedly denied

involvement in vigilantism or summary executions, either as president or during his total of 22 years as Davao mayor.

His police chief has denied there was ever a death squad in Davao, describing it as fiction created by the media.

On Monday, Lascanas asserted that the Davao death squad was no myth and he was one of those who carried out secret killings of drug dealers and criminals at Duterte's behest.

"It is true, the Davao death squad, or DDS, really exists," Lascanas told reporters at the Senate in Manila, the capital. *Reuters*

BRIEFS

Egypt court confirms death sentences

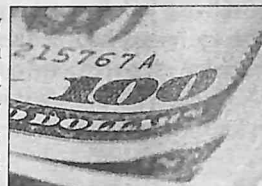
CAIRO - An Egyptian court upheld on Monday death sentences against 10 people convicted over rioting that claimed 74 lives at a stadium in Port Said in 2012, judicial and security officials said. The ruling by the Court of Cassation, which is final, excluded an 11th defendant who remains at large after his death penalty was also confirmed in June 2015 by another court. The court also upheld sentences of life imprisonment for 10 people and five years for 12 others, including Port Said's security chief at the time, said the officials who requested anonymity as they are unauthorised to speak to the media. Monday's ruling was welcomed by relatives of those who died in the rioting, who celebrated outside the court in Cairo. *AFP*

Angola prepares for life after dos Santos

ANGOLA - Angola is following a pattern of gradual democratisation but those hoping for rapid and even radical political change will be disappointed. After sending signals of his plans to retire from politics for nearly a year, Angola's President, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the second-longest-ruling leader in Africa, announced earlier this month that he will step down at the end of his current mandate and not run in August elections. That will bring an end to a presidency that began in 1979, when Jimmy Carter was in the White House. The transition from dos Santos' rule is the most significant political event in Angola since its independence from Portugal in 1974, and comes at a time of deep economic and social crisis in the oil-rich country. *AllAfrica*

N.York pays \$3m to molested boy's family

ALBANY - New York is paying \$3m to the family of a developmentally disabled boy repeatedly molested



by a staffer at a state-managed group home. The case highlighted systemic problems in the care of the disabled, including a lack of staff supervision and training. The former staffer, Stephen DeProspero, is now in prison. DeProspero said in legal documents that the state home had been a "predator's dream" because of the lax supervision of workers. According to the legal documents, DeProspero photographed and filmed himself molesting the boy at least six times from 2005 to 2008, with some of the abuse occurring in open areas. *AP*

'Arms trade is flourishing'

HELSINKI - A Swedish think tank says the global arms trade has steadily increased in volume the past five years, propelled by an almost doubling of arms imports in the Middle East and strong growth in demand in Asia. Five countries - United States, Russia, China, France, Germany - accounted for 74 per cent of the total arms exports. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said on Monday that Asia and Oceania accounted for 43 per cent of global arms imports in 2012-16, with India being the largest importer accounting for 43 per cent of all imports. *AP*

2 000 IS fighters defending west Mosul

IRAQ - An estimated 2 000 IS fighters are left in west Mosul to defend their bastion against a massive offensive by the Iraqi security forces, a senior US intelligence official said on Monday. "There's about 2 000 remaining," the official told reporters on condition of anonymity during a trip to Iraq by the new Pentagon chief, Jim Mattis. The estimate, which the US-led coalition supporting Iraqi forces, gave before the October 17 launch of a huge operation on Mosul was that the city was defended by 5 000 to 7 000 jihadists. The coalition has not provided figures but it has said that the four-month-old campaign on Mosul had inflicted heavy casualties on IS. *AFP*

Focus on SA scene

Nigeria calls on AU to intervene in SA xenophobic attacks

ABUJA - Nigeria on Monday urged the African Union to step in to stop what it said were "xenophobic attacks" on its citizens and other Africans in South Africa.

The Nigerian presidency said there was a need for the continental body to "intervene urgently," claiming in the last two years "about 116" Nigerians had been killed, including 20 last year.

"This is unacceptable to the people and government of Nigeria," a senior presidential aide on foreign affairs, Abike Dabiri-Erewa, said in an emailed statement.

There was no independent verification of the claimed number of deaths, which may have been the result of wider criminal activities rather than anti-immigrant sentiment.

According to the Nigerian Union in South Africa, there are about 800 000 Nigerians in South Africa, many of them living in Johannesburg.

Foreign owned shops in Atteridgeville, Pretoria West, were looted on Monday evening. This is the latest in attacks on foreigner nationals in the city after



violence flared up over the weekend.

Community members looted stores and burned down homes of suspected drug dealers and brothels on Saturday.

The Mamelodi Concerned Residents have organised a march against foreign nationals, set for Friday.

They say government has prioritised the employment of foreigners ahead of locals, the hijacking of buildings and alleged drug dealing by foreigners. Dabiri-Erewa renewed Abuja's

call on the government in Pretoria to take "decisive and definite measures" to protect Nigerian citizens and other Africans in South Africa.

She said there was credible information that more attacks were being planned for today and tomorrow.

Nigeria has met senior South African officials, including the resident high commissioner, to protest against the attacks on its citizens.

AFP

Student expectations low on Gordhan budget speech

JOHANNESBURG - As South Africa prepares for Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan's budget speech today, with fears of possible increases in interest rates, student groups say they expect little.

"We don't have any expectations," said Sthemiso Ndlovu, Secretary-General of the South African Union of Students.

"The budget speech will have to be in line with what the president presented during the State of the Nation Address, and the president failed to give us a framework of how to implement free education." "In all honesty, we are not expecting anything and our hopes won't be high," he said. "We are planning

now on how to respond to the speech."

Ndlovu said students believed the government was not taking calls for free, quality, decolonised education seriously as they didn't see any plans or frameworks to implement the demands.

Demands for changes to the higher education system have increased since #FeesMustFall protests began in 2015 and disrupted a large part of the 2016 academic year.

Kuhlekonke Ntuli, SRC President of the Howard College campus at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, said the SRC remained clear about its position of allowing all students to register, although many were unable to afford fees.

"We still believe free education is a call that must be made." Students wanted to know when and how that would be possible, she said.

Sowetan

BUDGET TALK: Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan.

Ramaphosa should be next ANC president, case closed - Mthembu

JOHANNESBURG - Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa should naturally become African National Congress (ANC) leader when Jacob Zuma's term comes to an end.

This is according to the ruling party's Chief Whip in Parliament Jackson Mthembu who reportedly threw his weight behind Ramaphosa.

In an exclusive interview with Bloomberg, Mthembu said it is common knowledge that a deputy naturally becomes the president. Ramaphosa is in the race for the ANC leadership with the former Africa Union Commission chairperson and President Zuma's ex-wife Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and ANC Chairperson Baleka Mbete. Although Dlamini-Zuma

has not officially declared her interest in leading the ANC, she said African countries should be encouraged to not overlook women when considering presidents.

"We want in Africa, that we should have women presidents. At the moment we have one from Liberia, her two-term ends in October this year, which will mean we go back where only men are leading. We encourage African countries to also consider women to become presidents so that it's mixed," said Dlamini-Zuma.

President Jacob Zuma has also said the ANC has been ready for a woman president. "It is no longer a discussion in the ANC whether a woman can take a high leadership position or not," *sowetan*

HILLBROW FAMILY OF FIVE GUNNED DOWN

JOHANNESBURG - A family of five was gunned down in Hillbrow, in downtown Johannesburg on Monday.

Gauteng police, who have launched a manhunt for the suspects, said three women and two children were shot at approximately 8pm.

Police said the motive for the multiple murders is unknown and are pleading to anyone who might have any information that can lead

to the arrest of the suspect or suspects to please contact them.

"It is alleged that the suspect or suspects entered the residence of the victims and shot all the deceased on their upper bodies," said Captain Mavela Masondo.

"The motive for this gruesome murder is unknown and police are investigating five cases of murder."

eNCA

Drive foreigners out - New political party

JOHANNESBURG - A new political party with virulent anti-foreign national sentiment, has been launched by a budding Pretoria politician.

The South African First party was founded and registered with the Independent Electoral Commission in December by Mario Khumalo.

It wants to drive foreign nationals out of South Africa, seal the country's borders to protect the nation from crime, drugs, and prostitution and ensure that only locals benefit from scant economic opportunities.

The 37-year-old is explicit about his anti-foreign sentiments, blaming millions of foreign nationals in South Africa for the country's social and economic problems.

"We are not xenophobic but we work in the interest of South Africans. It is about national identity and pride. There is no nationality called African.

You are either South African, Angolan or Ethiopian. My (identity document) states that I am a South African, not African," he said.

Khumalo, who grew up in the US, said according to his research, there were more than 13-million foreign nationals living in South Africa.

He said there were more than five million Zimbabweans, 5.6 million Malawians and 3.2 million Nigerians in the country.

"Now add Mozambicans, Pakistanis, Congolese. It cannot be," he said.

He said the presence of so many foreign nationals in South Africa was causing suffering and creating social and economic problems.

Khumalo said foreign nationals had jobs while locals were unemployed.

Foreigners occupied flats in cities and hijacked buildings where they sold drugs and ran brothels.

Timeslive

'PRASA must impose 'severe' consequences to avoid accidents'

JOHANNESBURG - The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) should impose "severe" consequence management measures following a head-on collision between two passenger trains at the Rosslyn station during peak hour on Monday evening, Transport Minister Dipuo Peters said.

"The Railway Safety Regulator must conduct a thorough inspection of the collision scene, call witnesses and produce a report and recommendations to ensure that proper action is taken at the conclusion of the investigation," Peters said in a statement yesterday.

PRASA was also urged to take immediate measures to improve safety and reliability of trains.

Peters wanted the agency to also put severe consequence management measures in place and ensure that such incidents did not happen again.

Peters apologised for the inconveniences that might have been caused. Bus services were commissioned to transport commuters between Winterset, Rosslyn and De Wildt train stations, she said. Metrorail

spokesperson Lillian Mofokeng earlier told News24 that the final figure on the number of people injured was currently 216.

Mofokeng said 177 commuters were walk-ins, while 38 of the total number were treated for minor to moderate injuries.

One commuter is in a serious, but not critical, condition. The driver of one of the trains is also in a critical condition. The injured commuters were taken to Kgabo Clinic, Odi Hospital, Dr George Mukhari Hospital, Kalafong Hospital, Tshwane District Hospital and Akasia Hospital.

Mofokeng said the train service for Ga-Rankuwa commuters has been restored. De Wildt trains are using a single line between Rosslyn and De Wildt stations. Train delays of approximately 40 minutes can be expected in that corridor.

"A board of inquiry will be instituted to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the cause of the accident and circumstances around it in order to prevent future occurrences," Mofokeng said.

News24



NEXT BETTER MAN: Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Russian Instagram queen who risked her life dangling from 1 000ft-high

● Viki Odintcova leaned out into thin air while on top of the Cayan Tower in Dubai
● Russian model lent backwards over the huge drop held only by her assistant's hand
● Many fans were stunned she performed the stunt without any safety equipment
● Police in Dubai later forced her to sign a statement vowing to never do it again

DUBAI - A Russian Instagram model, who risked her life dangling from a 1 000ft-high Dubai skyscraper for a photoshoot, has been forced to sign a statement vowing to never do it again.

Viki Odintcova, 23, was held up only by the hand of a male assistant as she leaned out into thin air from the 1 004-foot tall Cayan Tower in Dubai in a bid to get the perfect Instagram shot.

The Russian model first tilted backwards over the huge drop, before dangling high above the ground from the arm of her bearded helper.

Her video and photos went viral and brought the attention of the local police, who dragged her into custody. Major General Halil Ibragim Al-Mansuri, of the Dubai Police, told The Sun: "The actions of the Russian woman put her life at risk."

Despite the telling off, Ms Odintcova said the police should have thanked her for highlighting safety issues at the Cayan Tower. The Instagram queen, who has more than three

...for the perfect shot is dragged before police to vow never to do it again

SOME DANGER: Viki Odintcova posed for the death-defying photoshoot on top of one of the world's tallest skyscrapers.



secret safety equipment,

million followers on social media, admitted that she was a bit nervous before the stunt.

"I still cannot believe that I did it. Every time I watch this video, my palms get sweaty," said the St Petersburg-based beauty.

Ms Odintcova posted the video on her social media page where it quickly went viral.

The model is a big proponent of a healthy lifestyle and has said she takes her fitness very seriously. Many of her fans were stunned she performed the stunt without any safety equipment. If she did use any

it's certainly well hidden from the naked eye.

Some pointed out that she would not have had a chance of surviving if anything had gone wrong.

Daily Mail



Vacancies

Background

Baylor College of Medicine Children's foundation Swaziland (BCMSF- SD) in partnership with SNAP is seeking to fill two positions to support the national scale-up of the U-Report platform. This is a free communication platform that will enable adolescents, youth and their caregivers to share and receive information on health issues they care about in their communities, encourage citizen-led development and create positive change.

1.STATE REGISTERED NURSE MIDWIFE (1 POSITION)

Reporting to the Ministry of Health Pediatric HIV/AIDS Focal Person at SNAP through the Baylor Swaziland Programs Manager, the nurse will be responsible for addressing adolescents' needs via U-Report, Teen Clubs, Challenge Clinic and also providing support in psychosocial issues of health.

Responsibilities:

- Maintain the public U-report platform, including sending out poll questions, responding to U-Reporters questions and concerns and directing incoming messages to appropriate partners
- In collaboration with other stakeholders, develop and solicit content for the U-report platform and partners
- Timely responding to treatment issues and concerns raised by U-Reporters
- Provide on-going counseling for all children and caregivers who test HIV and TB positive
- Empower Care givers of children infected with HIV and TB with knowledge and skills to support the infected child/adolescent.
- Maintain good, accurate, comprehensive and vigilant documentation in line with clinic/organization and project requirements.
- Meet project timelines and targets
- Facilitate initiation of ART or/and TB treatment to patients who are eligible.
- Carry out project related duties as assigned.
- Prepare periodic reports for MOH through SNAP

Other Duties and responsibilities:

- Assesses plans, develop and evaluates individual treatment plans for all patients.
- Assists caregivers of pediatric patients to cope with the burden of HIV and TB treatment through support group meetings.
- Provide training of health care workers and the general community.

Requirements

- Degree in General Nursing and Midwifery with community health/med-surgical major
- Must have a NARTIS Certification
- Experience in project management
- A minimum of 2- 3 years experience in clinical work with HIV and TB prevention, treatment and counseling of children and their families
- Experience working with youth groups and civil society organizations
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Fluency in oral and written English and SiSwati
- Technologically savvy
- Willingness to work on a flexible schedule (which may include occasional evenings and weekends to accommodate the schedule of young people during the school year)

Skills:

- Ability to work as a highly cooperative member of a team.
- Ability to manage time and other resources.
- Ability to function with mature judgment, tact, and ensuring the Baylor Swaziland and BIPAI policies and procedures are consistently complied with at all times.
- Maintenance of strict confidentiality and professional etiquette to sensitive client information.
- Ability to work with minimum supervision

2.SOCIAL WORKER (1 POSITION)

Reporting to the Ministry of Health Pediatric HIV/AIDS Focal Person at SNAP through the Baylor Swaziland Programs Manager, the social worker will be mainly responsible for addressing adolescents' needs via U-Report, Teen Clubs, Challenge Clinic and also providing psychosocial support.

Responsibilities:

- Maintain the public U-report platform, including sending out poll questions, responding to U-Reporters questions and concerns and directing incoming messages to appropriate partners
- In collaboration with other stakeholders, develop and solicit content for the U-report platform and partners
- Provide on-going counseling for all children and caregivers who test HIV and TB positive
- Timely responding to issues and concerns raised by U-Reporters.
- Maintain good, accurate, comprehensive and vigilant documentation in line with clinic/organization and project requirements.
- Meet project timelines and targets
- Facilitate initiation of ART or/and TB treatment to patients who are eligible.
- Carry out project related duties as assigned.
- Keep the MOH abreast with progress and issues that will inform adolescent health programming.

Other Duties and responsibilities:

- Assesses plans, develops and evaluates individual treatment plans for all patients.
- Assists caregivers of pediatric patients to cope with the burden of HIV and TB treatment through support group meetings.
- Provides training of health care workers and the general community.

Requirements

- Degree in Social Work from a recognized institution
- Experience in project management
- A minimum of 2- 3 years' experience in counseling of children and their families
- Experience working with youth groups and civil society organizations
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Fluency in oral and written English and SiSwati
- Technologically savvy
- Willingness to work on a flexible schedule (which may include occasional evenings and weekends to accommodate the schedule of young people during the school year)

Skills:

- Ability to work as a highly cooperative member of a team.
- Ability to manage time and other resources.
- Ability to function with mature judgment, tact, and ensuring the Baylor Swaziland and BIPAI policies and procedures are consistently complied with at all times.
- Maintenance of strict confidentiality and professional etiquette to sensitive client information.
- Ability to work with minimum supervision

Applications

Application Letter addressed to the Executive Director, Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation- Swaziland, P.O. Box 110, Mbabane should be submitted to the Finance and Administration Manager at Cnr. Somhlolo and Sigwili Street, Kent Road, Mbabane or by e-mail to: emasinga@baylorswaziland.org.sz. All applications should be accompanied by a cover letter, CV and copies of certified certificates. Faxed applications will not be accepted. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Deadline: February 28, 2017.

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THASA 'FINALLY' SECURES OFFICE SPACE

By Nomfundo Sifundza

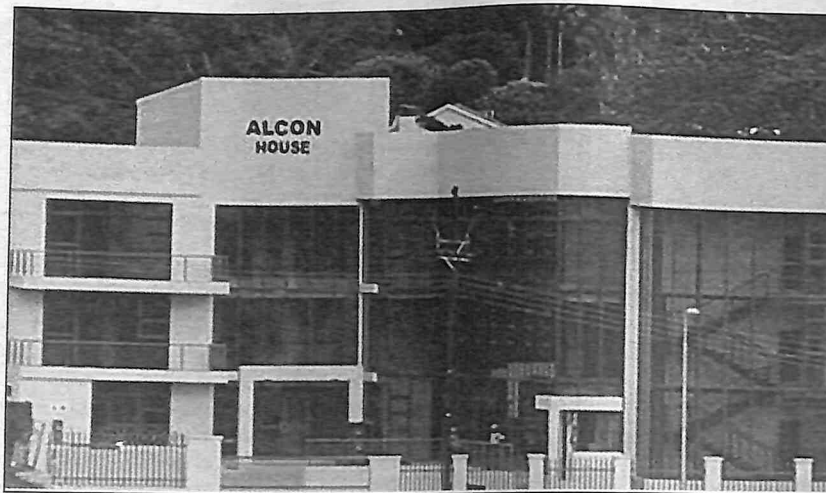
THASA Group Holdings - the holding company of Thasa Booking Agency and Management, under the directorship of Thabo Sishwashwa, has officially announced their move to new premises at The Alcon House in Manzini opposite Womens and Children's Hospital.

The entity, that was once good friends with Swazi Jive and even shared the same office space, were left without a roof over their heads last year when director of the latter (Swazi Jive) chucked them out.

"We decided to move to Alcon House in order to be accessible to our prospective clients hailing from the east and southern parts of the country. We were also attracted by their business ethics, offering and vision which showed an alignment with our business vision," Sishwashwa said.

The entity has also shared more about one of its long lasting partners Senzumnotho Group founded by Cebisa Gama. The two companies have been in partnership for a while and now decided to make it official.

Senzumnotho is known for being one of the fastest growing forex trading enti-



NEW HOME: Thasa Group Holdings - the holding company offices-are now based at the Alcon House in Manzini opposite Women and Children's Hospital.

ties the country has.

Asked on why Senzumnotho decided to join hands with Thasa, Gama said; "our partnership with Thasa goes way back, to a time when our companies were non-existent and we're excited to reconnect with them formally this time around. We hope to have a fruitful working relationship with them."

Thasa is also looking forward to working with more talents and artists in 2017 to ensure they are making a difference in Swaziland and in other regions as the

entity has recently signed a South African act they will be unveiling at their media launch on March 13. Sishwashwa stated words that motivate him daily were 'It is true, trust the process, be aware you are not perfect but keep your eyes on the ball and keep going. When mistakes are made, do what you can to mend the errors.'

"We will be having events that will be open to the public to educate them about entertainment, investing, distribution and more," he concluded.

Skeel releases 'Sitelingi' video

By Ayanda Dlamini

IT has been greener on gospel rap star Sakhile 'Skeel' Simelane's side as he recently released his second video 'Sitelingi,' where he features music producer and singer, M.Seth.

According to the gospel star, the track itself was inspired by a four part

series ethnology he did on identity and it was called 'Finding Me More'. "The aim of the video is to embrace your own identity and stop emulating other people's lives."

"The name 'Sitelingi' basically implies that we are each living our own 'movies'."

The whole idea is to star in your own creations as everyone else is either a co-star, or an extra," he added.

'Skeel' is pleased about the public's reaction of the music video. "I feel really good though it was long overdue, especially because the song itself did rather well for itself in downloads and listenership," he said.

The music videos shows upcoming local stars and musician such as Moyannic, Jurie, Mdura, TK, Marcus, Lyrikal Busta, DJ Lady Zee, Nwika and TDT. He did his first video 'Temptations Remix' with M.Seth, Switch and Wesley.

The gospel rap star 'Skeel' made his impressive debut performance on SABC 2's Gospel Classics show two weeks ago, making Swazis proud at the rate of locals penetrating the South African music industry.

The new Tall Tree Talent Management signee performed a song called 'Gelekece' in Siswati lyrics with former Joyous Celebration bassist Bheka Mthethwa.

This saw his fans posting on social network platforms about his extraordinary performance.



WE GROWING CHIEF: Sakhile 'Skeel' Simelane and M.Seth.

TMS taking over world stage

By Phumelele Mkhonta

IT has barely been three months into the year but Top Models Swaziland (TMS) is getting busy by the day, taking over the ramp in African stages.

According to Top Model Swaziland Director Mbalenhle Manana, some of her models have been called up for casting at the annual Tshwane Fashion Festival, which is hosted by Retro Vintage Collection, based in Pretoria, South Africa. The handful models will be casting this weekend.

In the same breath, 12 TMS

models will form part of the Mpumalanga Fashion and Design Week, slated for this weekend at Secunda.

Also, TMS male models, Sonke Kunene and Sandile 'Pluto' Mkhulisi, have been invited to the third annual Fashion Without Borders in Gaborone, in April. "I am also under negotiations with an international deal that will raise my agency's bar," said Manana, adding she would reveal the developments later once the deal is sealed.

"The models are ready to nail it at Secunda runway as they have been rehearsing. These are proud moments for the agency and we are committed in going international," she said.

TMS male models, Sonke Kunene and Sandile 'Pluto' Mkhulisi have been invited to the third annual Fashion Without Borders in Gaborone, in April.

Sharon Maziya for empowerment show

By Ayanda Dlamini

PROMINENT motivational speaker Sharon Maziya will co-host an empowerment show, 'Seven Keys to the top,' on Friday.

She will be sharing the stage with YALI fellow and Life coach Wandile 'Warawara' Hlatshwayo and comedian Dr Shakes at Happy Valley Hotel.

Maziya will be speaking on how to maximise one's potential, women in leadership and her seven keys to the top. Wandile will treating the topic on how to pursue one's professional goals, seven keys needed for success in the corporate world and his Taiwan study experience. "It would be nice for people to come through and have a great time. 'Warawara' will largely cover how to pursue one's professional goals and his Taiwanese experience, while I will focus on maximising your potential and encourage women to aim for the top," Maziya said.

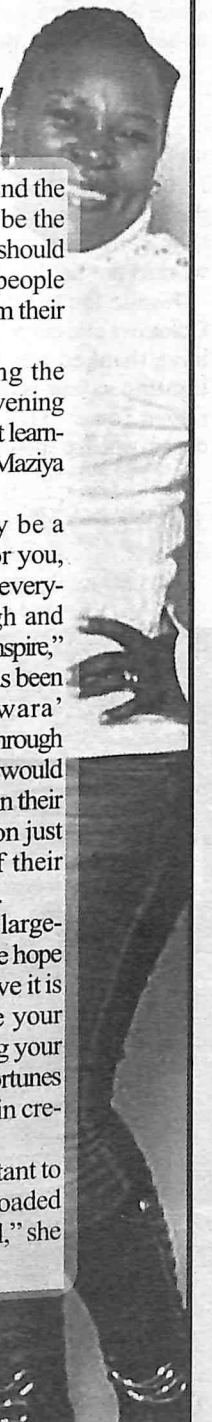
She will also remind the ladies that they can be the best they can be and should not allow negative people to obstruct them from their vision.

"We are promising the nation an exciting evening filled with laughter but learning at the same time," Maziya said.

"It will definitely be a worthwhile event for you, hence we encourage everyone to come through and experience it. Live to inspire," she added. Maziya has been invited by 'Warawara' Hlatshwayo to come through to speak to those who would appreciate guidance in their own spheres of life on just making the most of their God given potential.

"My messages are largely inspirational, to give hope and direction. I believe it is important to change your mindset, stop wasting your time about your misfortunes but invest your time in creating fortunes."

"It's always important to remember you are loaded with infinite potential," she said.





THE TEAM: Suzan Esteves, Temaswati Dlamini, Mdura, Larry Mhlanga, Nonkululeko Ndlangamandla, Sijabulile Vilakati and Dinky Dlamini. This was at the Swaziland International Comedy Festival launch held at Sibane Hotel on Monday. (Pics: Majaha Nkonyane)

SIC FESTIVAL LAUNCHED IN STYLE

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE Swaziland International Comedy Festival 'SIC Fest' was officially launched on Monday at Sibane Hotel.

The inaugural of the SIC Fest was made possible by Tall Tree Talent Management under the directorship of Larry Mhlanga who has had a good run in making events of high standard a success.

Present at the launch were representatives from the Swaziland Arts and Music association (SWAMA), sponsor representatives from Carson and Mazda and the Chief Executive Officer of the Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture (SNCAC) Stanley Dlamini.

The



FUNNY GUYS: Sakhile Simelane, Nduduzo Nkonyane Mcee the comedian and Dr Shakes posing for a picture.

Invited guests were treated to a teaser of what would take place on the weekend of April 27 to 29 in the three different venues with each day dubbed according to the comedians on the line-up.

"For example, the stage dubbed 'Rib Crackers' is not meant for under 18s so parents are requested to leave their children at home for this one", Festival Ambassador, Comedian Mduduzi Mdura Dlamini said.

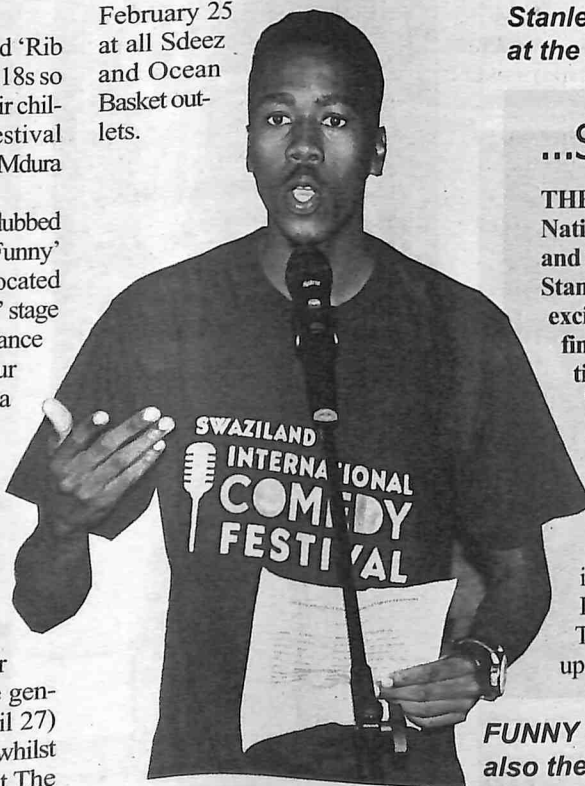
The other two shows have been dubbed the 'Just for Laughs' and 'Deadly Funny' respectively and they will be allocated to vernacular. "The Deadly Funny" stage is an indigenous comedy performance that celebrates the unique humour of indigenous language," Mdura added.

The Just for Laughs (Juste pour Rire) stage is slated for the festival kick off, April 27 at House on Fire. This stage is sponsored by the Alliance Francaise de Mbabane.

Each evening will be followed by an after party dubbed 'Laughter Party' which will be open to the general public from 10pm. The April 27 party will be held at House on Fire whilst on Friday the party will be held at The

Gables Pub & Grill, and Saturday evening at SoFresh Lounge in Manzini.

Tickets to the history making comedy festival would officially be made available on February 25 at all Sdeez and Ocean Basket outlets.



FUNNY GUY: Mdura speaking at the event, he was also the MC for the night.



BROTHERHOOD: Menzi Makhanya with Mdura at Sibane Hotel.



HAPPY PEOPLE: Zaza Dlamini, Theminkosi Mthethwa, Fisiwe Vilane and Lindelwa Mafa.



IN MY VIEW: SNCAC CEO Stanley Dlamini speaking at the launch.



POSE: Mandy Ginindza posing for a picture at the launch, she will also be part of the line-up for the festival.

...SNCAC pledges financial support

THE CEO of the Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture (SNCAC) Stanley Dlamini aroused excitement as he pledged to financially support initiatives from Tall Tree Talent Management.

Dlamini challenged stable managers to work towards promoting the Swazi artists than themselves in their programmes. Dlamini instructed Tall Tree to draw up a plan, set up dates, a budget and sub-

mit all these to his office for perusal. He then promised his office would foot the bill and promote art in all four regions of the country.

"We would like to thank everyone that came through to this launch as we are all gathered in the name of comedy. We appreciate what Larry Mhlanga is doing with Tall Tree as he promotes the artists more than his image. I would also love to thank corporate leaders present here today who continually help the arts to thrive," he said.

IN HER ELEMENT: Symphony captured singing during the launch.



LIMKOKWING MAKES GLOBAL STATEMENT

By Observer Reporter

MALAYSIA'S University of the Future, the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology put on a slightly different show once again practicing its innovative approach to education.

Attended by a warm community of fashion educators, the jet-set glamorous designers and supportive young creatives made it a full house with friends standing at the historic and luxurious Freemasons Hall, laiden with marble, stained glass, wrought iron and angular patterns.

Founded by living design legend Tan Sri Datuk Seri Paduka Dr Lim Kok Wing, the homegrown brand is now in 14 countries delivering its programmes.

Collection

"This collection should represent where we come from," Creative Director and University Vice President of Talent Development and Brand Creativity Dato' Tiffanee Marie Lim said.

"Limkokwing is a very unique network.

"There is no way we could pass up the chance to say something about how we live and exchange ideas."

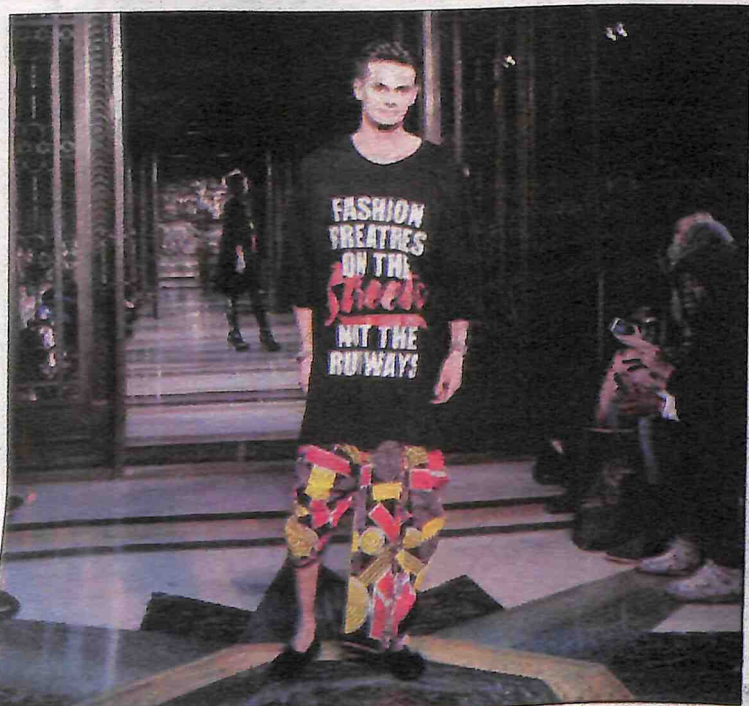
Embassies of Malaysia, Monaco, China and Swaziland sat amongst former stu-

dents of the school, living and working in London as graduates modelled on the catwalk as well.

Spotted in the crowd were representatives from The Times, Farfetch.com, The Royal Society of Art, Mayfair Times, and a team of four from Vice Paris.

Show

A bold yet very wearable show featured a mixture of fabrics and modernised techniques of the far east and Southern Africa where there are Limkokwing posts, and music reflecting the same as it was a cohesive journey through Malaysia, Indonesia, China, India, Mongolia, Iran, the Middle East, Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, West



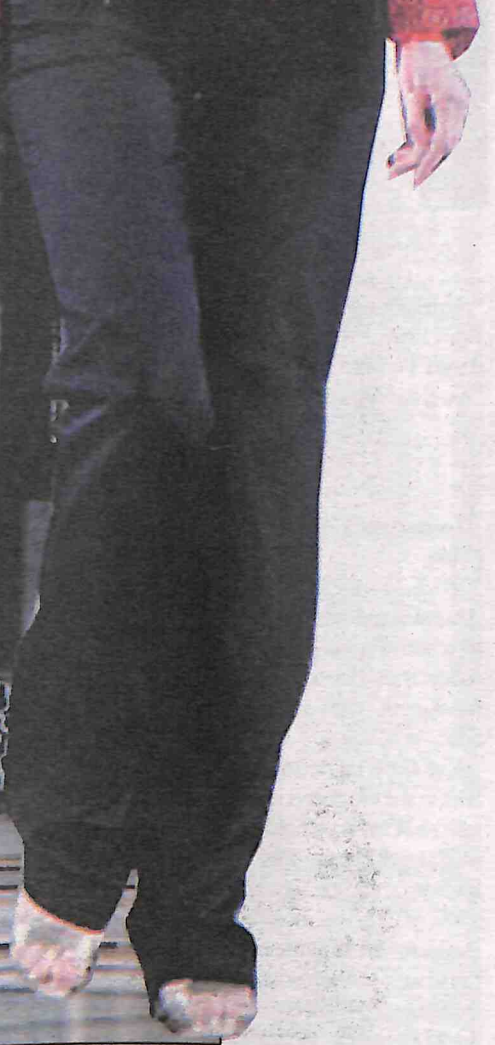


"There is no way we would pass up the chance to say something about how we live and exchange ideas." A bold yet very wearable show featured a mixture of fabrics and modernised techniques of the far east and Southern Africa

AT LONDON FASHION WEEK

Africa and others. A team of six from the Faculty of Fashion and Lifestyle Creativity in Malaysia worked with those at the London campus to organise the event, which was held in partnership with Toni & Guy, label m and Kryolan Make Up.

With a track record of producing high profile fashion events in the world's fashion capitals; - London, Paris, Jakarta and Osaka, the Faculty of Fashion and Lifestyle Creativity at Limkokwing University is amongst the most dynamic places to train for a career in the international fashion industry worth billions of dollars worldwide.



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- Only original cuttings of the Swazi Observer will be accepted
- The judge's decision is final

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NEWS

KING'S
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HIGHLIGHTS



BIG LITTLE LIES

Today 20:30 | M-Net (101)
'S1/E1 - Somebody's Dead'. Shailene Woodley joins Oscar winners Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon for a subversive,

darkly comic drama about three mothers whose apparently perfect lives unravel - to the point of murder.



AMERICAN PICKERS

Tomorrow 17:10 | HISTORICAL (186)
S9/E1 - Like Father, Like Daughter'. A retired auctioneer

and his daughter have haggling in their blood, as Mike eyes up a long-sought after 1930s Cord convertible.

THE SON I NEVER KNEW

Tomorrow 17:10 | Telemundo (118)

"S1/E24 - 1/24". Loreto gives Antonio and Manuel the order to search Francisco's home, but when they do, all they find is marijuana. They take his car to analyse it.

The time has come for TLC fans to see the gorgeous and ever-talented Carissa Cupido in action in the premiere TLC's Most Extreme which looks back at some of the most incredible TLC moments and characters, taking fans back to the most gripping, exciting and thrilling clips from the TLC archive. Watch the video to see Carissa as she talks about



the moment she was crowned TLC's Next Great Presenter and also see how Thando Thabethe and Lee Hobbs, VP of Brand and Content for Discovery Networks CEEMEA, reacted to the news of Carissa's win:

Tomorrow 20:55 | TLC Entertainment (135)

The time has come for TLC fans to see the gorgeous and ever-talented Carissa Cupido in action in the premiere TLC's Most Extreme which looks back at some of the most incredible TLC moments and characters, taking fans back to the most gripping, exciting and thrilling clips from the TLC archive.

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TLC'S MOST EXTREME

CEEMEA, reacted to the news of Carissa's win:

Join her as she takes us all down memory lane. One thing is certain - there is certainly nothing ordinary about the shows coming back.

BIG BROTHER NAIJA: GIFTY TAKES A BOW

AFTER 28 days, Gifty has emerged the fourth evictee from the Big Brother Naija competition putting to an end her dream of clinching the ultimate prize of 25 million naira and an SUV.

Gifty who was up for possible eviction with fellow housemates, Thin Tall Tony (TTT) and Marvis, was asked to exit the Big Brother Naija house at the live eviction show on Sunday. Her exit was greeted with silence as she hurriedly said goodbye to the other housemates and left.

Following the announcement of her eviction, BBNaija show host, Ebuka Obi-Uchendu, revealed that Gifty secured only 25.65 per cent of the votes while Marvis and TTT had 42.27 per cent and 32.08 per cent respectively.

While speaking with Ebuka, a rather calm Gifty guessed that Bisola, TBoss and TTT may have nominated her but was surprised when Ebuka said Efe and Kemen actually nominated her. About her romance in the house, she said, "the kissing part was a game". BBNaija fans watched her on and off romance with former housemate, Soma and following his eviction, she moved on quickly and found solace in the arms of Bally whom she said she considered "as a brother".

Gifty, who was tagged the most controversial housemate, on her Instagram account @officialgifypowers expressed herself freely in the aftermath of the eviction.

She wrote: "Greetings to all families and friends... just want to use this opportunity to say a big great thank you to everyone who got my back.

"With or without you voting for me just know I still love you and know say nothing spoil.

"God bless una hustle oo cuz e no easy..okwa chukwu#BBNAIJA2017 #itsjustGOD #NEVERGIVEUP."

Meanwhile, at the start of the show, Ebuka revealed yet another twist from big brother. This time three housemates would be selected randomly to come on stage with him to take part in a 'high stakes' game. The three nominated housemates, the fake housemates (Jon and Ese) and Bally (because he has the green advantage card) did not qualify to take part. The random selection saw Bisola, Bassey and TBoss up for the quiz.

The game, according to Ebuka, had some amazing rewards on offer as well as another big advantage. If the housemates answered their questions correctly, they would get to pick from the 'win bin' that had rewards such as immunity from nominations for the week ahead as well as a traditional Nigerian feast of the winner's choice. In addition, the lucky housemate could win a PayPorte shopping voucher worth 200 000 Naira and a 300 000 Naira in

cash, a bowl of ice cream, 28 BBNaija to shop for luxury items during the coming week or a slab of chocolate. However, if the housemates answer their questions incorrectly they would pick from the 'lose bin' that had a penalty of automatic nomination for the week ahead. They could also have to do a whole host of tasks in the house such as sweeping duties for the week, become the joker for the whole of the next day. As if that was not enough, Ebuka informed them that they would have to wash dishes for a full day and they could not receive any messages from home.

Choice

At the end of the game, Bisola got her answer correctly and won immunity from nomination next week. Bassey won a traditional Nigerian dish of his choice but unfortunately, TBoss didn't get her question right and so she had to pick from the lose bin. She learned that she had to wash the dishes in the house for the next week!

As always, the eviction show gets spiced up with an artiste performance. This week, hip-hop artiste, Ice Prince took to the stage and performed two



tracks off his "Jos To The World" album. He also performed alongside Tanzanian artiste, Vanessa Mdee.

The housemates would soon move quickly from the eviction hammer as they prepare for another round of nominations on Monday, 20 February.

All the action can also be followed on Big Brother Naija social media fan pages with the hashtag #BBNaija on Twitter @BBNaija, Instagram @BigBrotherNaija2017 and Facebook www.facebook.com/bigbrothernaija

Big Brother Naija reality show is aired 24/7 in 45 countries from Nigeria through East, West and Southern Africa on DStv channel 198 and GOtv channel 29. Big Brother Naija is sponsored by PayPorte, your preferred online retail store.

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International
Celebrity News

Amber, Wiz throw son star-studded birthday party

LOS ANGELES - Turning four certainly isn't a bore for Amber Rose and Wiz Khalifa's son.

As Sebastian celebrated another birthday this President's Day weekend, both mom and dad decided to come together and throw a star-studded party.

According to Amber's Instagram stories, guests were treated to an afternoon filled with bounce houses, face painting, dancing and Spiderman.

Lamar Odom, Blac Chyna, Tom Arnold and Basketball Wives Los Angeles star Evelyn Lozada were just some of the familiar faces in attendance for



BIRTHDAY BOY: Sebastian.

the Sunday afternoon gathering. Not only did they walk the red carpet together, but the exes also kissed for the cameras.

Ultimately, the Amber Rose Show host set the record straight days later on Instagram.

"Wiz and I are family and we will be family for the rest of our lives for Sebastian," she shared online. *Eonline*

J.L. admits she has a thing for Harry Styles

LOS ANGELES - Jennifer Lopez is crushing on Harry Styles!

The singer and actress sat down on The Ellen Show yesterday and had a little fun while playing a game of "Who'd You Rather." When given the choice between the One Direction singer



MY CRUSH: Jennifer Lopez and Harry Styles.

and stars like Nick Jonas, Zac Efron, Brad Pitt and more, she chose Styles

every time. The only time she ventured away from Styles was for Lenny Kravitz and Leonardo DiCaprio.

However, by the end of the game, Ellen DeGeneres had decided Styles was J.Lo's ultimate "boyfriend."

"Oh, he's my boyfriend?!" Lopez laughed. "He's a little bit young for me!"

Speaking of age, the 'Shades of Blue' star took a moment to shut down all the people who claim she only dates younger men. *Showbiz*

Lauryn Hill becomes a grandmother at 41

LOS ANGELES - Singer Lauryn Hill has become a grandmother.

The 41-year-old's oldest son Zion Marley, 19, and his girlfriend welcomed their son Zephaniah into the world over the weekend.

Proud grandfather Rohan Marley, the son of reggae legend Bob Marley, took to social media to celebrate the baby's



PROUD DAD: Zion Marley and son.

arrival.

And the 44-year-old captioned a snap he reposted from his son's private account with a passage from the Bible saying: 'In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.'

Zion also gushed about his new arrival in a snap, saying: "If there EVER was a question who I do it for... #myson (sic)." *MailOnline*

Paris Hilton dating Chris Zylka

NEW YORK - Paris Hilton is more than happy with Lucy Hale's "Leftovers."

The reality TV star-turned-businesswoman/DJ is dating 'The Leftovers' hottie Chris Zylka, who previously dated the 'Pretty Little Liars' star. The two were first seen cozying up together while celebrating Hilton's 36th birthday party in New York



DATING: Paris Hilton and Chris Zylka.

last Thursday, before arriving at LAX hand-in-hand over the weekend.

Hilton confirmed to TooFab that the two were very much an item on Sunday night at 2017 Hollywood Beauty Awards. "Never been happier," she responded as she got into her car.

Paris also said Kim Kardashian looked "gorgeous" as a blonde in her birthday shoutout to Hilton. *TMZ*

SA Celebrity News

Emtee repaying Ambitouz by sticking around

JOHANNESBURG - Ambitouz Entertainment might be losing artists faster than an Orlando Pirates leak goals, but the label's Emtee says he is staying put!

Emtee's future was thrown into the spotlight after three of the label's artists Fifi Cooper, A Reece and B3nchmarq announced their departure from the label on Friday.

As fans blew up social media pages with questions over whether



STAYING: Emtee.

he would be following the trio out of the door, Emtee told TshisaLIVE he would be loyal to the label.

"Hell Naw! I ain't leaving Ambitouz. I'm living good!," Emtee said.

The 'Roll Up' rapper said he was unaware of what was happening at the label and was only concerned with his own loyalty to the company that "took a chance" on him. *Timeslive*

'I've been victimised for taking a stand'

JOHANNESBURG

- TV personality Lerato Kganyago is gatvol of entertainers being exploited by the industry because they refuse to stand up for themselves.

Lerato, who has previously tweeted her frustration with the way people in the entertainment industry are treated, took to social



EXPLOITED: Lerato Kganyago.

media recently to vent her frustration at the exploitation.

Responding to a tweet about people who stand up for themselves in the creative industry, Lerato said those who take a stand were often labelled 'a diva' or "attention seeker". She went on to claim that many in the industry "don't have (the) balls" to speak up, and that it led to many of them being exploit-

ed. *Timeslive*

Zahara's wedding 'on hold' for the moment

JOHANNESBURG - Zahara confirmed her engagement to Umhlobo Wenene DJ Amaza Ntshanga, whom she has been dating for over four years, in mid-2016.

She has tried to keep details about her upcoming nuptials out of the public eye but confirmed to TshisaLIVE that the wedding has been put on hold for "various reasons." She explained that much to her fiancé's disappointment, her busy schedule and plans for the



NOT NOW: Zahara.

year have forced her to slow down on her wedding preparations. "I would rather plan my own wedding because I think I know what I want and what I love. But with everything else that is going on — like my performances and working on my album — I may need to get a wedding planner even though I really would not prefer that," Zahara said.

The singer estimated that the white wedding might only take place around August and has revealed that Top Billing has offered to help her because they want to cover it. *Drum*

Happy with my career - Kelly Khumalo

JOHANNESBURG - Afro-pop songbird and actress Kelly Khumalo has avoided speaking publicly about her private life, preferring to concentrate on her craft.

Famed for her raunchy stage performances, the songstress is buoyant about how people have warmed up to her e.tv soapie Rhythm City character Sunay, as well as her music.

"People love Sunay, every now and then I'm asked when am I returning to Rhythm City and because the soapie is my other home, I'm welcome to go back. It's not planned. I've had a six-year break from the soapie concentrating on my

music," says Khumalo.

"I need to strike a balance between the two crafts. After 13 years in the industry, my music comes first. Acting demands a lot of time but I'm happy my record company Mabala Noise and my fans understand that when I'm not working on an album, I'm on set, shooting."

Khumalo has been nominated in the Best Female Album category for the 2017 Metro FM Music Awards to be held in Durban on Saturday. *SundayWorld*



HAPPY: Kelly Khumalo.

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY

Mpiyakhe starts his mission of tracking down Sunday. The Zungu wives struggle to trust Zama being at the homestead. Lt. Mkhize makes a surprising discovery when she visits Mpiyakhe.

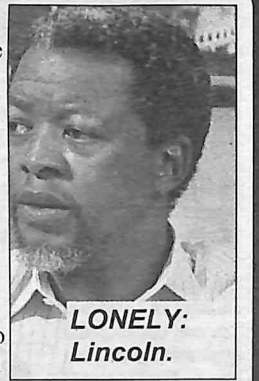


IN A MISSION: Mpiyakhe.

ISIDINGO

TODAY

Nikiwe throws herself under the bus for Lincoln. Kgothalo and Tyson's love still stands a chance but is Tyson over Angie? Zukisa learns the shocking truth behind the photo of the woman in Matlala's room.



LONELY: Lincoln.

Muvhango

TODAY

Nonny gives Busi a good idea about how to kickstart her new career path. Matshidiso has got her hands full with Mudi. Thandaza discovers what Katlego has been up to and calls her father.



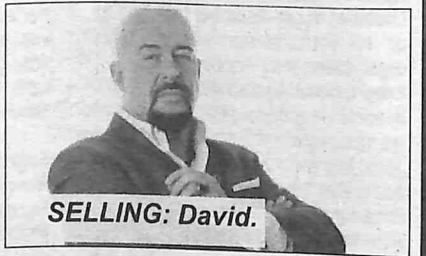
CAUGHT: Katlego.

RHYTHM CITY

TODAY

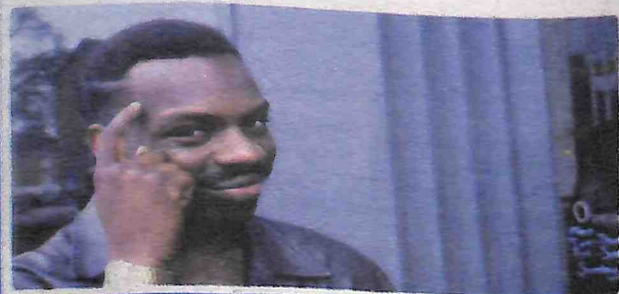
SELLING: David.

David sells Flavia down the river for his own freedom. Niki tries to encourage Toolkit to understand her plight. Niki fights for Bash's innocence. Bash tells the cops the truth but Nox lies. Emmanuel is angry at the Khuses.



@SirVincentLM

It's called "The Mall" because instead of going to one store, you're going to "Them All"



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19

Your energies are high this morning and your accomplishments are many. The first consideration for today will be to break away from the mental thinking that you cannot do some task in the workplace. This is a productive time to be with others and to work together. You may be the one asked to follow through on a particular job. This is where your talents will shine—you can do it! Your management and directional abilities are in high focus. You may find that even a promotion is possible now—if it is what you want.



Aquarius

January 20 – February 18

You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others but may have to exercise patience when others do not show you the same courtesy. A jealous person has the means to open the door of opportunity for you to grow financially. Consider drawing up a short-term contract—then this jealous person will not feel as threatened. You will make a difference, in not only business improvements, but also financial improvements for yourself.



Pisces

February 19 – March 20

Talk and the exchange of information take on a big part of your day. Authority figures are actually asking your opinion and giving you respect. Unreliable information has haunted your search for answers to many questions this month. Now is the time you will easily find the guidance for which you have been searching. Check out any answers you find; just because they sound right, does not necessarily mean that they are right.



Aries

March 21 – April 19

You may cause people to grow distant and indifferent when you forget or ignore their feelings or needs. This could come from your concentration at work and your determination to advance. Recognize this tendency and try and create a balance in your daily activities. Your drive to climb the ladder of success is commendable and you may be realising some rewards for your hard work.



Taurus

April 20 – May 20

Obstacles to self-discipline or to your sense of organisation may appear today. You could be frustrated by someone in this regard. Authorities and red tape may stand between you and your goals. You and your friends will find some time to enjoy this afternoon together. Perhaps some contact sports or music will be the object of your activities.



Gemini

May 21 – June 21

The past has created a wise, talented and well-balanced you that excels at this time. You are more able to see things clearly at this time and not be taken in by other people's creative stories. Your choices about most things these days tend to be more positive than in the past. Ambitious



schemes and the pursuit of success and status take on a high priority.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

You are most persuasive with others when you want to make a point or give an example. The circumstances are a natural for self-expression. You are energised. This is one of the best times to work in teams and accomplish much. You may be sought after as just the person for a leadership type of job.



Leo

July 23 – August 22

There are long-standing issues that are ready to end soon. One way you can continue to move forward in a positive way is to let go of some past difficulties. This is a good time to come to grips with the past—understand, accept and give it a sense of closure. You can be very lucky with gambling today. Sorry, this does not mean money gambling.



Virgo

August 23 – September 22

A customer or someone else from outside the business staff may try your patience at times. Do not allow those feathers of yours to be ruffled—this person is not angry for the reasons you think. As a busy, active person, your attitude toward solving any problem is usually to end difficulties quickly and move on—today could be a bit different. You will want to kick back this afternoon and have fun with your friends.



Libra

September 23 – October 23

You will find that you are appreciated for your psychological insight while dealing with the public. This can be extremely helpful when working in many types of professions. When you can sell a product that was previously unknown or talk a co-worker into helping you with some difficult work, you are in command. It will not be long before you will be looking at some advancement in your profession.



Scorpio

October 24 – November 21

People have important subjects about which to communicate. When you come in to work you may become frustrated, but not for long. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most spontaneous. Why not enjoy some time out-of-doors during the noon break and walk or just look in the store windows?—weather permitting, of course.



Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

Figuring out how to organise projects and people becomes a topic of special interest at this time. Opinions are not enough for you: authority or evidence must back them and above all they must have practical appeal and purpose. This could be a period of intense study and thought. Two people arguing in the workplace today could become uncomfortable—if you try to intervene, you could make the problem worse.



BABY BLUES

HI, WE'RE HERE FOR WREN McPHERSON'S APPOINTMENT.



MY OTHER KIDS WILL HAVE TO WAIT OUT HERE FOR US.



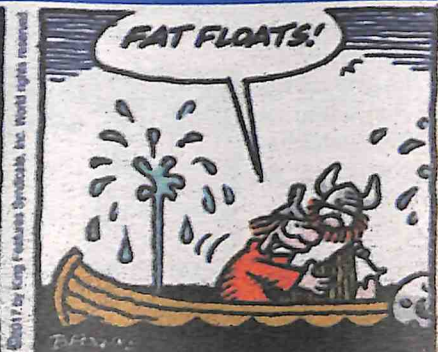
PLAY AREA? I WAS GOING TO SAY "HOLDING CELL..."



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PUZZLE CHOICE

FOOD & DRINK

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, forwards or backwards.

OPBPPPELKCIPVOTATOP
WRAEEKEPRESERVEPUOS
AGASMALAMAAPIAFEEBS
BRNTCCNSPCBCPCCNPE
VRTCGAAHVPTHE TRMLNI
MZEYPETNILTEOEORIN
VGWABMTRDEVNACTMWWA
NRIDDVPUEYEMLTAAARC
ETEDALAMRAMRUATLETH
KNOINOQLVKCCAEETAVO
CPINEAPPLEELRGTRATC
ITIADOSEPCLYEUUEEOE
HABSNAEBREEBBCCSCCC
CPCAEIKOOCEFAFJASHN
LRONNLZVGGVBIURYKWE
EIFOKAJHGABSI RRWME
MCFLLVNSRAHCOULPVL
OOEEIARAGCETPVIGAJE
NTEMMCHEMOORHSUMDPV

PUZZLE CHOICE

APPLE, APRICOT, BANANA, BEANS, BEEF, BEER, BREAD, BUTTER, CABBAGE, CAKE, CANDY, CARROT, CEREAL, CHEESE, CHICKEN, CHOCOLATE, COFFEE, COOKIE, CREAM, EGGS, FISH, JUICE, LEMON, LETTUCE, MARMALADE, MELON, MILK,

MUSHROOM, ONION, ORANGE, PASTA, PEACH, PEAR, PEAS, PICKLE, PINEAPPLE, POTATO, PRESERVE, RICE, SODA, SOUP, SPINACH, STEW, SUGAR, SYRUP, TOMATO, TREACLE, TURKEY, WATER, WINE.

LOL

Laughing Out Loud

GOOD GENES

A teacher was going through her genetics lesson with her third grade class. Smiling broadly, she pointed to her beautiful

dimples and asked, "What trait do you think I passed on to my children?" One student called out, "Wrinkles!"

USELESS FACTS

1. When you tie a noose, the rope is wrapped twelve times around because it's the same length as a person's head.
2. Hummingbirds are the only animals that can fly backwards.
3. A cat's jaw cannot move sideways.
4. If you yelled for eight

years, seven months and six days you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee. (Hardly seems worth it)

5. If you passed gas consistently for six years and nine months, enough gas is produced to create the energy of an atomic bomb.

BRAinteasers

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's brainteasers

1. Name all the numbers from one – 100, which have the letter 'A' in their spellings?

Answer: None!

2. It took 20 000 workers to build the Taj Mahal in 20 years. How many workers would be required to build it in 10 years?

Answer: Sorry, the Taj

Mahal cannot be built again.

Today's brainteasers

1. Which one is correct? "Penguins flies" or "A Penguin flies"

2. My neighbour Bob is a blacksmith. He is 45 years old, seven ft. tall, and eats all the time. Guess what does he weigh?

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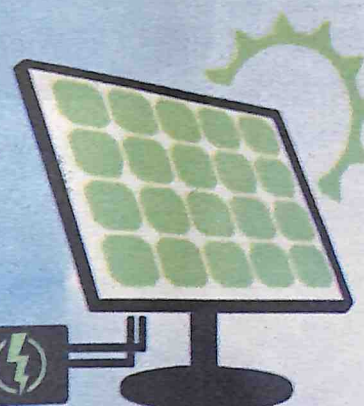


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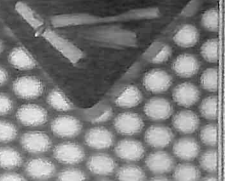
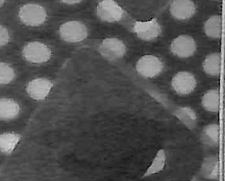
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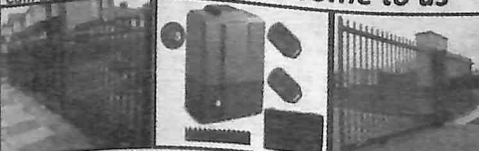
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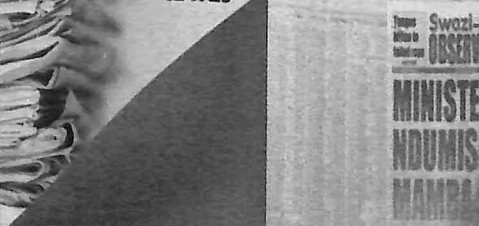


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'Very angry' Messi didn't celebrate Barcelona winner

BARCELONA - Lionel Messi did not celebrate his late penalty winner against Leganes because he was left 'very angry' by media criticism, according to his national team Manager Edgardo Bauza.

Messi was criticised in the press for his ineffectual display at Paris Saint-Germain, during which he lost possession in midfield to Marco Verratti resulting in the French side's second goal.

He was back among the goals last Sunday though as he bagged a brace in Barcelona's narrow victory at home to relegation-threatened Leganes.

However he gave a muted response to his late penalty winner which took Barcelona to within a point of leaders Real

Madrid, with Madrid having two games in hand.

And Argentina Boss Bauza believes his lack of celebration was in

...because he was 'reacting to criticism', insists Argentina Boss Edgardo Bauza

response to the criticism he received over the past week.

Bauza told Joga Bonito via FourFourTwo: 'I think he reacted to the criticism he may have received after PSG.

'I noticed he was very angry when he scored the goals.' Messi

reversed his short-lived retirement from international football in September this year and has since scored twice for Argentina.

He had announced his retirement after he missed a penalty in the shootout of Argentina's Copa America final loss earlier this year. Barcelona's next game is this Sunday at fourth-placed Atletico Madrid.

It could be their last-ever match at the Atletico's Vicente Calderon Stadium - which will be demolished at the end of the season.

DAILY MAIL

ANGRY MAN: Messi failed to register a smile as he was mobbed by team-mates Neymar and Denis Suarez.



ARSENAL END MINNOWS SUTTON'S DREAM CUP RUN

LONDON - Arsenal forward Theo Walcott scored his landmark 100th goal for the club in a 2-0 win at Sutton United in the FA Cup on Monday as they safely negotiated the minefield of a visit to the minor league team and secured a place in the quarter-finals.

The England striker reached his century after the break, adding to a first-half strike from Lucas Perez, as the Premier League giants were relieved to put their recent woes behind them and end the National League club's fairy-tale run.

Arsene Wenger's men, determined not to entertain the concept of a Cup giant-killing, forgot their European troubles and coped with an artificial pitch in a ramshackle south London ground to beat, but not to overwhelm, the courageous fifth-tier dreamers.

Sutton had fantasised about pulling off the greatest cup upset of all in front of 5 000 fans and hosting a sixth-round tie with fellow National League club Lincoln City, who are the first minor league side to reach the last eight in 103 years.

Yet Sutton's chances of emulating Lincoln's sensational win at Premier League Burnley last Saturday were effectively extinguished once Arsenal's Spanish



BATTLE: Arsenal's Theo Walcott in action against Sutton United's Jamie Collins in a FA Cup Fifth Round match at The Borough Sports Ground.

striker Lucas broke the deadlock in the 26th minute with a left-foot curler.

Walcott killed the tie with a slickly-worked team goal in the 55th minute but Sutton refused to bow out quietly, creating several good chances and seeing their best player, Roarie Deacon, smash a fierce shot against the bar. It was not enough though to stop a slightly under-strength Arsenal side from easing towards a home date with Lincoln as they seek to win the FA Cup for a record 13th time. Reuters

RABADA FETCHES BIG PRICE TAG

...as Tahir goes unsold in IPL auction

JOHANNESBURG - Proteas fast bowler Kagiso Rabada was bought by the Delhi Daredevils for just under R10m at the Indian Premier League auction on Monday.

Rabada was bought by the Daredevils for R9.8m after a bidding war with the Kings XI Punjab.

The 21-year-old was the third most expensive foreign player at the auction, behind England duo of all-rounder Ben Stokes (R26m) and fast

bowler Tymal Mills (R23m).

Rabada is South Africa's number one Test bowler and at number five in the world rankings. It will be Rabada's first season in the IPL.

Imran Tahir, meanwhile, bizarrely went unsold at the auction. The spinner holds top spot in the bowling world rankings in both T20 and One Day Internationals.

The IPL runs from April 5 to May 21.

African News Agency

CELEBRATES: South African cricketer Kagiso Rabada celebrating a wicket of Bangladesh cricketer Litton Das during the second One Day International match between Bangladesh and South Africa at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka.



Federer wants Rafa as Laver Cup doubles partner

PRAGUE - Roger Federer revealed on Monday he wants to join forces in doubles with arch-rival Rafael Nadal at the inaugural Laver Cup this year.

The Swiss tennis great made the confession at the unveiling of the new tournament scheduled for Prague in September which will pit a Bjorn Borg-captained European team against John McEnroe's rest of the world.

Federer, who beat Nadal in an epic five-set Australian Open final last month, admitted on Monday: 'I've always wanted to play with Rafa... just because our rivalry has been so special.

'I've seen his wicked forehand

go past me too often!'

The new addition to the tennis calendar is named after Rod Laver, the last man to achieve the calendar Grand Slam in 1969.

'Rod Laver wants us to represent our part of the world with pride and play our best and win for our team-mates. We will play to our best possibilities,' Federer, 35, told the media launch in Prague.

Federer, the world number nine, is due to figure with sixth-ranked Nadal at the September 22-24 event.

The Laver Cup will be held every year except in an Olympic season, with four matches each

day - three in singles, one in doubles.

Each team comprises of six players - four based on the ATP singles rankings after Wimbledon and two picks by the captains, Borg and McEnroe.

AFP

Mashaba optimistic despite Labour Court ruling

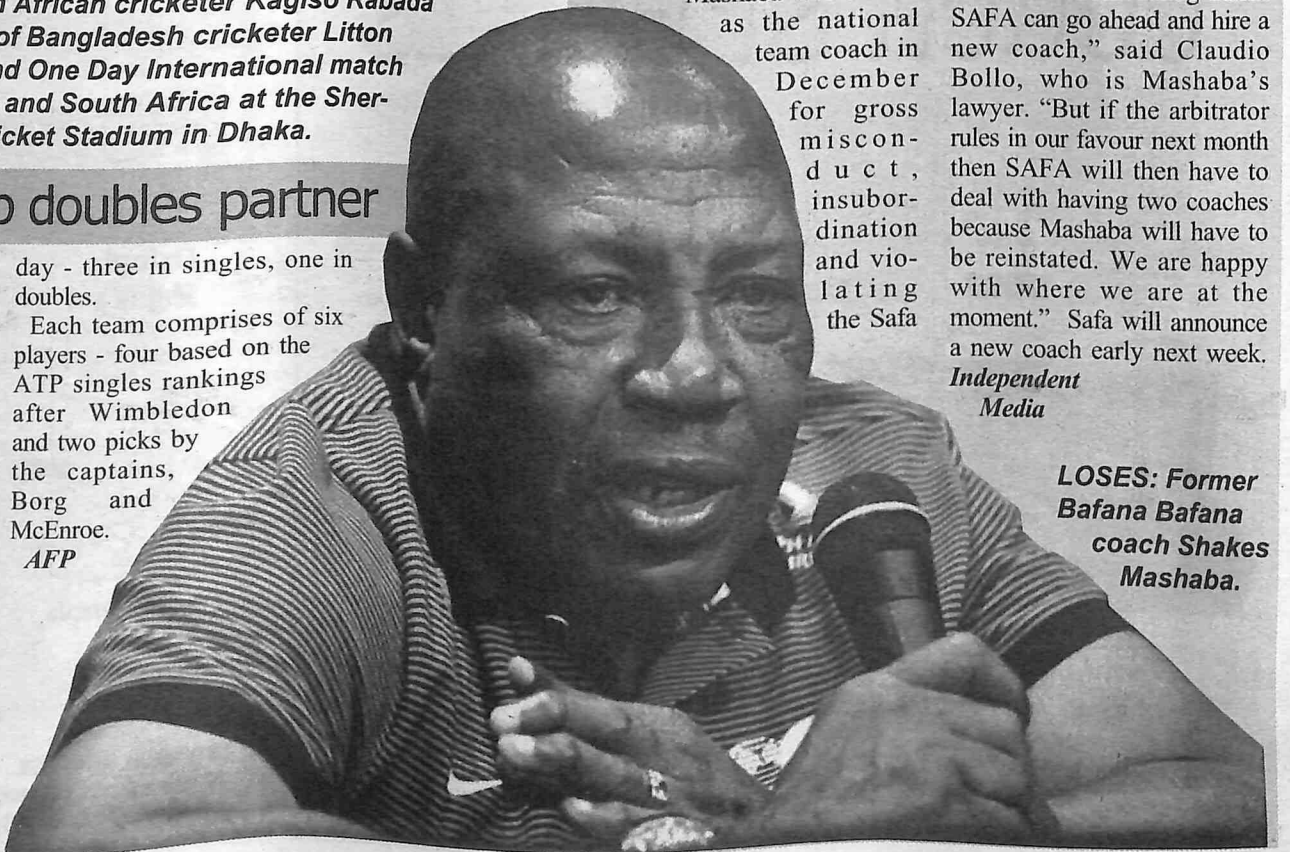
JOHANNESBURG - Despite the Labour Court dismissing former Bafana Bafana coach Shakes Mashaba's desperate attempt to stop Safa, his former employers, from hiring his replacement at the end of this month, the 66-year-old's legal representative said they were delighted that yesterday's ruling had no bearing on the arbitration case set for March 7, 8 and 9.

Mashaba was sacked as the national team coach in December for gross misconduct, insubordination and violating the Safa

communication policy, but he maintains he was unfairly dismissed. The two parties could not agree on a settlement on February 7, with the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration referring the matter to arbitration, where Mashaba's fate will be sealed once and for all, putting an end to the drawn out saga. 'We are happy that we are still going ahead with the arbitration next month. What the Labour Court ruling meant SAFA can go ahead and hire a new coach,' said Claudio Bollo, who is Mashaba's lawyer. 'But if the arbitrator rules in our favour next month then SAFA will then have to deal with having two coaches because Mashaba will have to be reinstated. We are happy with where we are at the moment.' Safa will announce a new coach early next week.

Independent Media

LOSES: Former Bafana Bafana coach Shakes Mashaba.



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Leicester must not lose at Sevilla - Ron-Robert Zieler

LONDON - Leicester City goalkeeper Ron-Robert Zieler has warned his team that they must avoid defeat in Sevilla in the first leg of their last-16 tie tonight to have any hope of avoiding a premature exit from the Champions League.

Leicester finished top of their group and conceded just one goal in their first five games but are struggling in the Premier League, where they sit a point and a place above the relegation zone.

Sevilla, on the other hand, are third in La Liga, behind Real Madrid and Barcelona, and also boast a better European pedigree than Leicester, having won the Europa League for the past three years in a row.

"It's a big game," Zieler told Leicester's official website.

"We did really well in the group stages. It's a very tough game ahead of us. We're one of only 16 teams left in Europe and Sevilla have done fantastic over the last couple of years.

"The first leg is very important. Let's put it this way - you shouldn't lose. If we can get a draw, even a win, it would be fantastic for the second leg."

In addition to their Premier League woes, Leicester were knocked out of the FA Cup by third-tier Millwall on Saturday, and Zieler said he hoped playing in the Champions League would help his team-mates get their minds off their domestic struggles.

"It feels a long time ago since the last Champions League game because we've had the FA Cup and a lot of Premier League games," added the 28-year-old, who

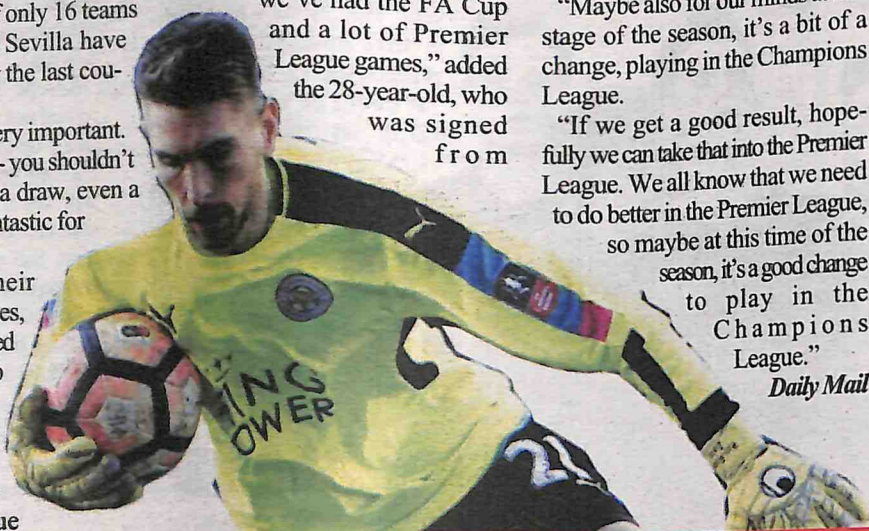
was signed from

Germany's Hannover 96 in July last year.

"Maybe also for our minds at this stage of the season, it's a bit of a change, playing in the Champions League.

"If we get a good result, hopefully we can take that into the Premier League. We all know that we need to do better in the Premier League, so maybe at this time of the season, it's a good change to play in the Champions League."

Daily Mail



MUST NOT: Leicester City goalkeeper Ron-Robert Zieler.

FIXTURES

UEFA Champions League

21:45	Porto	v	Juventus
21:45	Sevilla	v	Leicester City

UEFA Europa League

19:00	Fenerbahçe	v	Krasnodar
19:00	Saint-Étienne	v	Manchester United
19:00	Schalke 04	v	PAOK

'Dybala reads the game like one of the greats'

MILAN - The attacker continues to impress with his displays, and while his team-mate expects him to go far, he feels he should be left to develop in peace.

Gonzalo Higuain has tipped Juventus team-mate Paulo Dybala to become one of the best players in the world. The Argentine has a lot of hype to live up to after his impressive performances led to a big move to Juventus. Dybala, 23, scored 19 Serie A goals in his first season at the Turin side and has seven in 18 in the competition this term.

Higuain, who joined Juve ahead of the current campaign from Napoli for a fee of €90 million, is enjoying featuring beside his compatriot and hailed him as a special player.

"He can read the game very well," Higuain told La Stampa. "In fact, he sees football just like the greats do, even though he is very young.

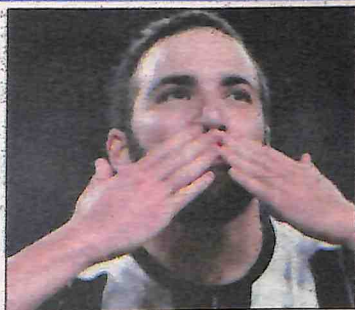
"I hate comparisons, so I will say that Dybala must become Dybala. He has the potential to be among the best in the world. But you have to leave him alone." Higuain has scored 22 goals in 33 games in all competitions already for the Bianconeri and he is amazed by the mentality that surrounds the club. "Winning is not important, it is the only thing that matters: it is not a little phrase, but the clearest example of the essence of this team," he added. "Playing at the Juventus Stadium is spectacular. Before entering the field of view photos of Platini, Baggio, Zidane, Del Piero and you say: 'in the same shirt, can I not give my best?'"

"At 29 I have found mental tranquility in my life, both in work and outside of it. I am playing in a team that will fight for the Champions League and I have found a beautiful city, where I love to wander." Goal

'I know Juventus can go all the way in Champions League'

MILAN - Experiencing no regrets over leaving Napoli, the Argentine is preparing to try and go all the way in the Champions League with his current side.

Gonzalo Higuain believes Juventus are capable of winning the Champions League this season and is adamant he made the right choice in leaving Napoli. Juve reached the final of the prestigious competition in 2014-15, losing 3-1 to Barcelona in Berlin, while Higuain is yet to win the tournament, having left Real Madrid for Napoli at the start



I KNOW: Gonzalo Higuain.

of the season in which Carlo Ancelotti finally guided Los Blancos to the

club's long-awaited 10th European Cup success.

The Bianconeri parted with a huge sum, approximately €90 million, in July to lure Higuain away from Stadio San Paolo as they seek to go one better on the big stage.

And the Argentine striker feels Massimiliano Allegri's team has what it takes to triumph in Cardiff on June 3, with a round-of-16 tie against Porto their next obstacle. "We can win the Champions League, but we have to be calm," Higuain told La Stampa ahead of the first

leg at Estadio do Dragao tonight. "I know we're a strong team and I know we can get to the end. So we have to start that journey away at Porto."

Higuain incurred the wrath of Napoli's passionate supporters by swapping the Partenopei for Turin, but the forward has no qualms about the merits of the switch.

"Playing with the best players makes you improve, it's logical," he said. "Whoever you are, you can always learn."

Goal

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UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Champions League football could return to terrestrial TV

ZURICH - Champions League football could be set for a return to terrestrial TV in the UK with Channel 4 lining up a partnership option in

the next rights auction, according to reports.

The Daily Telegraph claims the network are interested in potentially sub-

letting certain fixtures from BT Sport, should the broadcaster keep the rights when they are awarded next month.

Channel 4 are said to be looking into

the possibility of acquiring one game per matchweek for the three-year contract period.

BT will once again compete with Sky

Sports for the majority of coverage, though ITV are reportedly keen to regain the 17 games each season lost when BT took the entire package with an £897million bid three years ago.

Channel 4 has not been routinely involved in football broadcasting since their foray into Serie A during the 1990s.

However, having acquired the rights to this summer's Women's European Championship, it seems the sport is returning to its agenda.

The channel recently lost horse racing TV rights to ITV and Formula One rights to Sky - with that deal beginning in 2019, roughly the same time that the next Champions League contract kicks in. BT Sport signed their bumper rights agreement with UEFA in November 2013 but, despite agreeing to show several key fixtures free-to-air on BT Showcase, ratings have not been as high as had been hoped.

That deal included the rights for the Europa League - the continent's second-tier competition - and began at the start of last season.

ITV can show free-to-air highlights until 2018. *Daily Mail*

Mourinho eyeing changes for St Etienne 2nd leg

LONDON - Jose Mourinho will likely ring the changes again as Manchester United look to wrap up their progress to the Europa League last 16 away to Saint-Etienne tonight.

A Zlatan Ibrahimovic hat-trick led them to a 3-0 victory in last week's Old Trafford first leg and barring an alarming meltdown, the English giants should comfortably see out the second leg in France.

Mourinho made seven changes to his side for Sunday's FA Cup victory over Blackburn and will likely keep his squad rotating with the English League Cup final against Southampton to come this Sunday.

Just juggling his team enough to keep it fresh for every match is keeping Mourinho busy.

United would play at least 65 matches this season if they reached the Europa League and FA Cup finals as well as the League Cup.

"I have to play Saint-Etienne, I have to play the (League Cup) final, I have to play, hopefully, another game in the Europa League, I have to fight for a top-four position in the Premier League. So I have so many things to think about," the Portuguese coach said after his side beat Blackburn 2-1. *AFP*

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Matsatsantsa out to stretch unbeaten run

TSHWANE - SuperSport United will look to extend their unbeaten run in the PSL when they host Maritzburg United at the Lucas Moripe Stadium in Tshwane this evening. Kick-off is at 19h30.

Matsatsantsa are coming off a 2-1 home win over Madagascar's Elgeco Plus in the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary round second-leg clash over the weekend.

Jeremy Brockie opened the scoring for Matsatsantsa in the first-half, while Fagrie Lakay snatched the winning goal for the home side in the second-half.

Before facing Plus, they had played to a goal-less draw with Free State Stars in their last league game which was played last week Wednesday.

As a result SuperSport have been unbeaten in 15 league matches. Since losing to Platinum Stars at the beginning of the season, they have registered seven wins and eight draws.

SuperSport find themselves placed fourth on the league standings with 29 points from 16 matches. They are four points behind log leaders Kaizer Chiefs, who have played 18 games.

Brockie is still Matsatsantsa's key player upfront. The New Zealand-born forward will be hoping to inspire Stuart Baxter's side to victory against Maritzburg.

Beaten

Meanwhile, the Team of Choice were beaten 2-1 by Kaizer Chiefs at home in their last league game which was played a fortnight ago. Mohau Mokate equalised for Maritzburg with 15 minutes left, but the visitors went on to score the winning goal in the late stages of the game. The defeat ended the Team of Choice's six match unbeaten run in the league. They recorded three draws and three wins after losing to Cape Town City last November.

Maritzburg find themselves placed ninth on the league standings with 20 points from 17 games. They are only behind eighth-placed Chippa United on goal-difference.

Evans Rusike remains the Team of Choice's talisman. The Zimbabwean striker will be hoping to end his scoring drought against SuperSport and help Roger De Sa's side win.

In head-to-head stats, SuperSport And Maritzburg have met 21 times since the 2005/06 campaign. Matsatsantsa have dominated this fixture winning 11 compared to two for the Team of Choice, while eight games have been drawn. SuperSport beat Maritzburg 1-0 in the first round league game thanks to Thuso Phah's goal in Pietermaritzburg five months ago. *Goal*

BAYERN DEFENDS ANCELOTTI FOR MIDDLE-FINGER GESTURE

MUNICH - Bayern Munich has defended coach Carlo Ancelotti for raising his middle finger to Hertha Berlin fans after supposedly being spit at following a dramatic 1-1 draw in the



DEFENDED: Bayern Munich coach Carlo Ancelotti.

Bundesliga.

Bayern says "basically we find the human reaction of Carlo Ancelotti with the gesture to be emotionally understandable after the nasty spitting attack."

Robert Lewandowski's injury-time equaliser for Bayern last Saturday prompted altercations

between Bayern and Hertha players in a heated atmosphere at the Olympic Stadium.

Investigation

The German soccer federation ended its investigation into the matter after Ancelotti agreed to pay 5 000 euros (\$5 300) to its foundation for social work.

In 2014, Norbert Duetzel, then-coach of second-division club Union Berlin, was fined 3,500 euros for raising his middle finger in a 4-1 loss at home against 1860 Munich. *AP*

Chiefs quartet sign contract extensions

JOHANNESBURG - Tsepo Masilela, Lucky Baloyi, Kgotso Moleko and Sphiwe Tshabalala have all had their contracts extended by Kaizer Chiefs.

Tshabalala, who is into his 10th year with the Soweto giants, had an option on his existing contract by the club taken up and the 32-year-old could still be with the team for at least another two seasons.

"Both parties agreed to tie the knot for a further one-year from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, with an attachment for another renewal option," the club stated on their website.

The 31-year-old Masilela, who joined Chiefs in 2012, has been

(25) and right-back Moleko (27) both be at the club until at least June 2019

after agreeing to two-year extension

deals. The Glamour Boys are also hoping that two key players agree shortly to extending their stay with the team. "Talks with midfield kingpins George Maluleka and Willard Katsande are ongoing and details of any progress will be conveyed via the team's communications channels."

Teamtalk



given a one-year contract extension with an option to renew, tying him down until at least 30 June 2018.

Central midfielder Baloyi

CONTRACT EXTENDED: Sphiwe Tshabalala

Ajax Cape Town Vs Kaizer Chiefs at Athlone Stadium could be postponed

CAPE TOWN - Ajax Cape Town's clash with Kaizer Chiefs on Saturday is in doubt due to safety concerns around staging the match at Athlone Stadium.

With Cape Town Stadium unavailable, Ajax initially looked to move the fixture to Durban's Moses Mabhida Stadium, but this booking has since expired.

The Urban Warriors subsequently planned to entertain Chiefs at Athlone, but there is resistance from stakeholders.

Ajax Boss Ari Efstathiou told a

press conference today that a meeting will be held at 10am tomorrow to decide whether the match goes ahead.

"Firstly: Every team wants to play at home. Moving the match to Durban would not be of financial gain. It would cost us more," Efstathiou said, as quoted on the club's official Twitter account.

"The issue with Athlone Stadium is that we averaged 35 000 fans for our games versus Kaizer Chiefs in past few seasons.

"Playing at Athlone, we can only

issue 17 500 tickets, 3 000 complimentary. Take into consideration that it is at the end of the month.

"Kaizer Chiefs are top of the log. Following various priority meetings it has been deemed unsafe to play Athlone.

Played

"If the PSL and Stakeholders give us the go ahead, the match will be played at Athlone Stadium this Saturday.

"There will be a priority meeting held at 10am on Wednesday (today) if stakeholders say 'good to go' the

game will be played at Athlone.

"At this stage we can't say if the game will go ahead this Saturday.

"As a result of our delay to give Moses Mabhida an answer, we have lost our booking to play the game in Durban this Saturday.

Supply

"Due to the rugby and the Ultra Music Festival, SAPS can only supply 60 personnel for outside the stadium 400 security guards inside.

"We have been in contact with both the Chairman and CEO of the PSL.

"It is very difficult for us to give a comment at this moment. We can't give you an answer until we have something in writing. A positive response tomorrow, we will start selling tickets on Wednesday (today)." *kickoff*



LEARNT ON HEARD WAY: Eden Hazard.

I've learnt from my mistakes - Hazard

LONDON - Eden Hazard says he is enjoying his "best moment" with Chelsea having rediscovered his form after a below-par 2015/16 season.

The Belgian play-maker was woefully below his best as Chelsea endured a torrid campaign under the beleaguered Jose Mourinho where they eventually finished 10th.

Having been named Premier League Player of the Season and PFA Players' Player of the Year in 2014/15 as the Blues claimed top-flight honours, by his own admission, Hazard revealed he was "not good enough" last time around.

However, under Antonio Conte this term, he is a man reborn.

The 26-year-old has been outstanding so far this season, weighing in with 10 goals in 24 Premier League appearances to help Chelsea to an eight-point gap at the top of the table. Speaking ahead of his side's league tie with Swansea City on Saturday, he said: "Last season everyone knows I was not good enough. "But you learn from your mistakes. I gave everything to come back and now I am in my level. "So I started this season well - fit, with no injuries and it is better to play when you are ready. I want to enjoy being on the pitch. So this is the key. "It is always difficult to come back after a bad season, but the boss changed something and tried to give us more confidence. "This is the best moment for me at this club since I've been here. I'm happy." *AFP*

Gyimah explains decision behind leaving Pirates

JOHANNESBURG - Former Orlando Pirates defender Edwin Gyimah has spoken about his departure from the club after parting ways with the Soweto giants.

Gyimah parted ways with the Buccaneers last week, as confirmed by the club on their official website. The 25-year-old told Ghanaian media that his decision to leave Pirates was influenced by his wish to go and play overseas.

"There was no problem with the team. It was my decision to leave. I took this decision because I have been here (South Africa) for long.

"I just wanted to go somewhere else, explore and showcase my talent there too. I don't want to stay in one place for a long time. It was just about the club and I agreeing because that was the only way I could leave South Africa.

"I have been wanting to go and when the opportunity came, I pushed for it. I wrote a letter to the club even before I left to the Ghana camp for the Nations Cup.

"When I came to South Africa, I had targeted moving to Europe after two years but the clubs I played for never wanted to let me go because they needed my service," Gyimah has been quoted as saying.

Soccerladuma

LOGS

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MTN Premier League log

Position	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Mbabane Swallows	16	16	0	0	44	7	37	48
Young Buffaloes	16	8	6	2	20	12	8	30
Royal Leopards	16	8	3	5	22	19	3	27
Moneni Pirates	16	7	5	4	23	21	2	26
Marconi Wanderers	16	6	6	4	25	17	8	24
Green Mamba	16	6	3	7	17	13	4	21
Marconi Sundowns	16	5	6	5	17	20	-3	21
Midas City	16	4	7	5	20	22	-2	19
Mbabane Highlanders	16	3	4	7	20	27	-7	14
Tamboti	16	4	2	10	13	27	-14	14
Red Lions	16	3	3	10	17	37	-20	12
Sea Birds	16	1	4	11	12	30	-18	7

National First Division log:

Position	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Matsapha United	16	12	2	2	41	11	30	38
Maleni Chiefs	16	11	1	4	37	10	27	37
Vovovo	16	9	4	3	27	16	11	30
Madlenya	16	8	6	2	22	17	5	26
Mbabane Citizens	16	8	7	1	24	22	2	25
Hlabathi Tyoons	16	6	8	2	19	37	-18	20
Amolanda	16	6	9	1	18	27	-9	19
Sikhalo	16	5	9	2	16	20	-4	17
Bad Boys	16	4	6	6	17	29	-12	17
Hub Sundowns	16	4	8	4	17	21	-4	16
City Warriors	16	3	9	3	15	29	-14	13
Ludzidzid Brothers	16	3	9	4	15	33	-18	13

PLS reserve League

Position	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Midas City	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Royal Leopards	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
M. Pirates	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
M. Wanderers	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
M. Sundowns	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Green Mamba	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
M. Swallows	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Y. Buffaloes	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Tamboti	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Red Lions	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Highlanders	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Sea Birds	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0

Esibayeni Lodge E200 000 League

Position	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Young Buffaloes	17	13	1	3	47	11	36	42
Green Mamba	17	13	4	0	59	20	39	39
Marconi Wanderers	17	13	2	2	49	13	36	38
Mbabane Swallows	16	10	3	3	38	12	26	33
Royal Leopards	17	10	5	2	41	17	24	32
Mbabane Highlanders	16	5	3	7	21	17	4	22
Tamboti	17	5	9	3	20	34	-14	17
Marconi Sundowns	16	3	10	3	16	23	-7	15
Sea Birds	17	4	11	2	17	34	-17	14
Red Lions	17	4	8	4	18	42	-24	14
Moneni Pirates	17	2	10	5	22	49	-27	10
Midas City	16	1	13	2	12	64	-52	5

SWAZI Trac Hhohho Super League

Position	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Tinyosi	16	13	3	0	44	10	34	42
Swazi Sun	16	10	2	4	39	23	16	32
PMT	16	9	5	2	28	15	13	32
Burning Spear	16	7	4	5	23	18	5	25
Sibovini	16	7	4	5	21	16	5	25
Vizards	16	5	5	6	19	21	-2	20
Vusweni Killers	16	6	2	8	20	30	-10	20
Umbelobele	16	5	4	7	19	24	-5	19
Mv. Invaders	15	4	2	9	20	34	-14	14
Sibuyeni	14	3	4	7	13	18	-5	13
Billy Ocean	15	4	1	10	17	28	-11	13
Gordon Stars	16	2	2	12	13	39	-26	8

Northern Zone

Position	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Celtics	16	12	3	1	36	16	20	39
Horo	16	11	3	2	31	15	16	36
Black Swallows	16	9	1	6	25	18	7	28
Pachanga	16	8	3	5	19	16	3	27
Muma	16	6	7	3	24	15	9	25
Manchester	16	6	6	4	23	19	4	24
Vitumbes	16	5	6	5	17	15	2	21
Ndlatlami	16	4	3	9	20	29	-9	15
Nkomojani	16	3	5	8	16	20	-4	14
N. Swallows	16	3	3	10	13	30	-17	12
Ndava Galaxy	16	3	3	10	16	35	-19	12
M. Arsenal	16	2	4	10	13	24	-11	10

Manda Mahewu Mbabane League E55 000

Position	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Imbume	19	12	4	3	32	17	15	35
Pet O Gold	19	10	5	4	27	18	9	35
Double Action	19	9	7	3	36	25	11	34
Answale	19	9	6	4	37	32	5	33
FC Vial Stars	19	10	2	7	35	32	3	32
Corporation	19	8	7	4	45	30	15	31
Sandia	19	7	9	3	39	31	8	30
Pine Valley	19	6	7	6	27	20	7	25
Mbabane Celtics	19	7	3	9	27	28	-1	24
Mbabane Arsenal	19	5	8	6	30	28	2	23
Real Tec	19	4	11	4	30	31	-1	23
Thembelile	19	2	12	5	19	24	-5	18
Vari Cosmos	19	3	9	7	31	44	-13	18
White City	19	5	1	13	25	44	-19	16
Flying Stars	19	3	5	11	32	49	-17	14
Marzana	19	2	4	13	24	45	-21	10

B. Division

Position	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Super sport	21	17	1	3	61	18	43	52
Junior Aces	21	15	3	3	77	22	55	48
Interstars	21	14	4	3	55	14	41	46
Mpolweni	21	12	4	5	43	26	17	40
Dankies	20	12	3	5	53	25	28	39
Classic	21	12	3	6	51	25	26	39
Mphahali	21	12	2	7	43	30	13	38
Freestyle	21	11	2	8	51	41	10	35
Lusoli	21	9	7	5	40	35	5	34
Mbabane United	21	10	3	7	44	30	14	33
Junction	21	7	3	11	33	40	-7	24
National Rangers	20	6	6	8	32	42	-10	24
Mangwaneni	21	7	2	12	36	41	-5	23
Walters	21	6	3	12	28	46	-18	21
Royal Dynamos	21	5	2	14	28	46	-18	17
Never Die	20	2	5	13	19	54	-35	11
Movers	20	1	3	16	17	97	-80	6
Mantsholo	21	0	2	19	20	99	-79	2

FUTIS Nkhaba Regional League

Position	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Ngwenya United	17	12	5	0	43	13	30	41
Nkoyoyo	17	11	4	2	35	12	23	37
Shooting Stars	17	9	7	1	37	14	23	34
Dribbling Stars	17	9	4	4	24	14	10	31
Barcelona F.C.	17	8	3	6	27	21	6	27
Crocodiles	17	7	5	5	28	19	9	26
Majolani	17	7	5	5	25	23	2	26
Molshane	17	7	1	8	28	35	-7	22
Manyisa United	17	6	4	7	23	35	-12	22
Bafana	17	6	2	9	19	28	-9	20
Super Stars	17	4	6	7	23	27	-4	18
Marisburg	17	3	3	10	16	23	-7	12
Mhlosheni	17	4	0	13	17	42	-25	12
Atletico	17	2	0	15	22	31	-9	6

POTS Construction Sigangeni League

Position	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Kupheleni	20	14	5	1	56	16	40	47
SD Civils Man U	19	13	3	3	45	10	35	42
Nitsetse	21	12	5	4	37	17	20	41
Real United	21	9	8	4	42	24	18	35
Cannibals	21	10	5	6	35	22	13	35
Villa Sport	21	9	7	5	37	24	13	34
U. Eagles	21	9	7	5	34	22	12	34
Real Touch	21	10	3	8	41	36	5	33
M. Celtics	21	8	8	5	36	28	8	32
Community	20	9	3	7	32	22	10	30
Nationals	21	7	8	6	32	29	-2	29
Young Heroes	21	6	6	9	25	35	-10	24
Kangaroo	19	7	3	9	33	55	-22	24
Express	21	6	5	10	30	33	-3	23
Sigangeni	21	5	5	11	18	36	-18	20
Total Xi	21	2	9	10	28	44	-16	15
Chiefs	21	2	4	15	14	59	-45	10
Young Fighters	21	0	5	16	12	74	-62	5

Bakhanyisele Mabulala & MP Menzi Dlamini Maphalaleni League

Position	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manchester	21	19	1	1	57	15	42	58
Young Lovers	21	14	5	2	57	19	38	47
Junior Stars	20	14	2	4	48	22	26	44
XI Experience	21	12	6	3	49	25	24	42
Blue Birds	21	10	8	3	39	17	22	38
Hotspurs	21	11	4	6	52	35	17	37
Young Stars	21	8	8	5	39	30	9	32
Luvuvu	21	10	2	9	38	41	-3	32
Umkhokha	21	8	4	9	37	42	-5	28
Professionals	20	7	6	7	28	23	5	27
Rangers	21	5	4	12	25	32	-7	19
Killers	21	4	5	12	29	45	-16	17
Barcelona F.C.	21	4	4	13	25	62	-37	16
Thuluzobona	21	2	5	14	16	56	-40	11
IKhulungwane	21	2	3	15	19	45	-26	9
Liselesele	21	2	3	16	15	45	-30	9

Maphalaleni Western Stream

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Happy Fighters	16	14	1	1	42	12	30	43
Early Sunset	16	13	2	1	34	8	26	41
Hill Stars	15	11	3	1	18	3	15	36
Love & Peace	16	7	4	5	19	12	7	25
Lunkanka	16	5	4	7	14	16	-2	19
Rollers	16	5	4	7	14	17	-3	19
City Birds	15	5	2	8	17	13	4	17
Demjy	16	4	5	7	22	25	-3	17
Classic	16	4	2	10	18	23	-5	14
Botswana United	16	3	5	8	16	22	-6	14
Botswana United	16	3	3	10	8	31	-23	12
Police	16	2	3	11	12	51	-39	9

#YELELE | SWAZIBANK CUP 2017

PICTURES



THE BIG CHEQUE: SwaziBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele presenting the E2.4M cheque to PLS Chairman Victor Gamedze and FA CEO Frederick Mngomezulu during the SwaziBank Cup 2017 launch at Summerfield Botanical Garden on Monday. The tournament kicks off this coming weekend. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)



AT STAKE: The teams will be battling for the prestigious SwaziBank Cup.



YELELE: Manzini Nazarene choir pupils posing for a group picture. This was during the launch of the 14th edition of the SwaziBank tournament which was held at the Summerfield Botanical Gardens on Monday. (Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)



UNVEILED: SwaziBank Cup 2017 slogan.



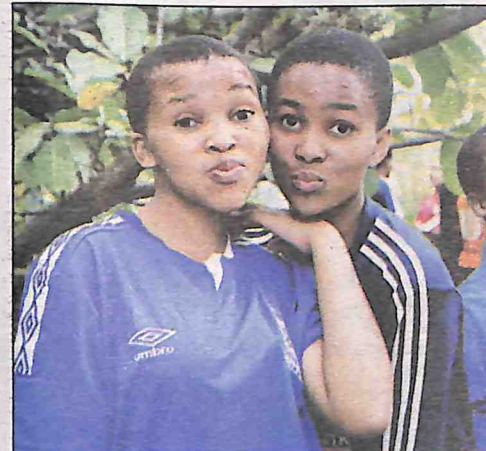
CHILLED: Some of the guests listening attentively to the speeches.



IN SONG: Manzini Nazarene conductor busy at work with the pupils.



BEAT GUY: This young man was responsible for the beat in the choir.



KODAK: These pupils were part of the Manzini Nazarene choir.



ITS ALL ABOUT FOOTBALL: One of the pupils juggling a ball whilst the choir renders a song.



BEAUTY QUEENS: Miss Tourism Swaziland Nadia Nascimento and newly crowned Miss Freshers (Kwaluseni) following proceedings.



AT YOUR SERVICE: A waiter attending to guests whilst the Manzini Nazarene choir renders a song.



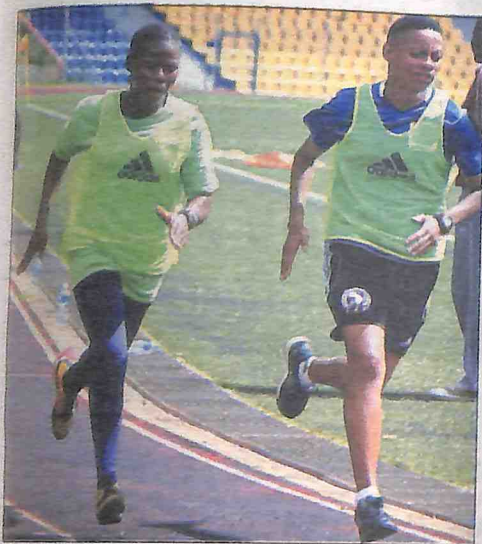
REFEREES FITNESS TEST



FULL SPRINT: Referees' instructor Dumsane Hadebe monitoring female referees during the fitness test at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday. (Pics: Sabelo Majola)



STILL GOT IT: Some of the referees pictured doing laps around the stadium.



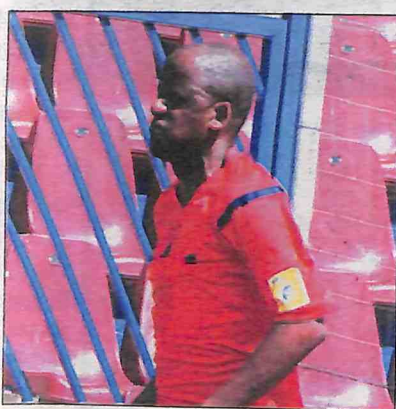
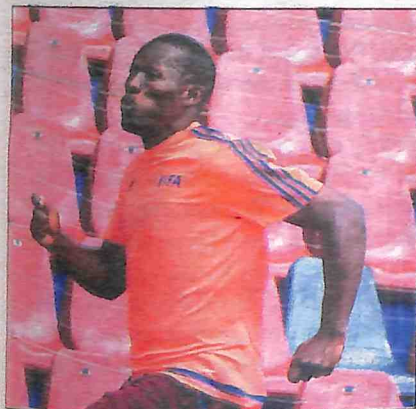
EFFORTLESS: Nothando Mathonsi with Letticia Viena during the fitness test.



SWEATING IT OUT: Referees doing laps around the pitch.



FOR THE LOVE OF REFEREEING: Wandile Magagula sweating it out during the test.



TOUGH: Phinda Ndzimandze and Senior referee Simanga Nhleko's facial expressions show the intensity of the fitness tests



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENGAGEMENT OF SUPERSIGNS TO MANAGE RETAIL ADVERTISING SIGNS

As per the Urban Government Act 8 of 1969 the Municipal Council of Mbabane awarded **SUPER SIGNS** the sole right to manage and erect retail advertising signs in the Mbabane urban area. Individuals or Companies that would like to erect any retail advertising signs should contact Super Signs using the following contact details:

SUPER SIGNS MBABANE

Telephone: 2404 7197
Office: Office number 6 (ground floor)
Four Ways Building

To this effect, Council together with Super Signs shall remove all signs erected within the City of Mbabane without permission from Super Signs or the Municipal Council of Mbabane. These signs will be removed and confiscated by Council by the 31st March 2017.

All signs that were erected with permission from Council but have outstanding permit fees will also be brought down and confiscated by Council if payment for these signs is not received by the 31st March 2017.

The public is advised to contact **Super Signs** on 2404 7197 or the City Planner on 24097051/2409 7010 for further information on retail advertising and advertising within the City of Mbabane.

Tel: 2505 6683
Cell: 7632 9881
Email: exclusivefurniture@swazi.net

EXCLUSIVE FURNITURE

Hyatt Centre - Shop #1
Mapheka Str. - Manzini,
Opp G.M Motors



Swinging Coucon



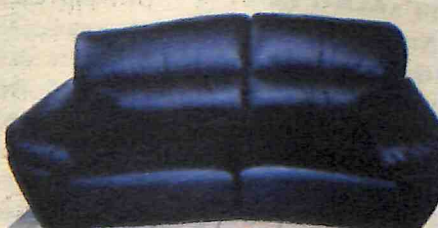
Meeting roundtable



Leather lounge suit



8 Seater Dining table



Leather sleeper couch

football talk

all your latest world football news

● Manchester City want more than £20m for keeper Joe Hart, who is on loan at Torino, and will allow the 29-year-old to join one of their top-six rivals. *(Times - subscription required)*



● Tottenham midfielder Moussa Sissoko, 27, could move to AC Milan in the summer, despite only joining Spurs five months ago for a club record £30m transfer fee. *(Daily Mirror)*

● Spurs have joined Everton and Southampton in the race to sign Hull City defender Harry Maguire, 23. *(Daily Star)*

● Chelsea and Manchester City both want Monaco midfielder Thomas Lemar, 21. *(L'Equipe, via Talksport)*

● Manchester City defender Nicolas Otamendi, 29, could be set for a move to Real Madrid. *(AS)*

● Tottenham expect Schalke to make 22-year-old midfielder Nabil Bentaleb's loan move to Germany permanent for a £16m fee in the summer. *(Evening Standard)*

● Arsenal striker Lucas Perez does not want to leave, despite reports the 28-year-old was unhappy at a lack of playing time. *(Daily Star)*

● Monaco midfielder Fabinho, 23, is open to a move to the Premier League with his father saying the family have a "soft spot" for Manchester City. *(Daily Mail)*



● Southampton's Cedric Soares, 25, is among the right-backs being watched by Barcelona. *(Daily Telegraph)*

● West Ham plan to increase their offer for Saint-Etienne defender Kevin Malcuit to £10m after having two bids for him rejected in January. *(Sun)*

● Galatasaray's Portuguese winger Bruma wants to join Manchester United, but the 22-year-old former Real Sociedad loanee is also keen on a return to La Liga. *(Turkish-Football.com, via Daily Express)*

● Tottenham want 16-year-old Fulham left-back Ryan Sessegnon. *(Daily Mail)*

● Liverpool and Manchester United both want Bordeaux forward Malcom, 19, but the teenager is interested in a move to Sevilla. *(Goal - in Brazilian)*

● Former West Brom Manager Alan Irvine is one of the names in the frame for the managerial vacancy at Rangers. *(Daily Express)*

● Monaco Manager Leonardo Jardim is interested in managing in the Premier League. *(Daily Mirror)*

'Buffs' wallop City to keep momentum in Under-17 league

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER – ARMY side Young Buffaloes crushed struggling capital city side Midas City 4-0 to consolidate their top spot in the E200 000 Esibayeni Lodge Under-17 League.

'Amathole Ezinyathi' showed no mercy for the hapless Midas City, who have been struggling since the start of the league.

After this result, Midas City find themselves rooted at the bottom of the league, only managing to collect five points in 17 games.

Buffaloes are on the opposite end, topping the log standings with 42 points having lost only one match.

Also recording a high scoring win was Police side Royal Leopard, who walloped Fairview based side Red Lions 4-0. The win puts 'Ingwe

Mabalabala' on 32 points as they are fifth on the log while 'Emabhubesi' are languishing on 10th spot with 14 points.

Correctional Services side Green Mamba also beat Manzini Sea Birds 4-0.

Leaders

The convincing win put them on second spot on the log, and they now trail the log leaders by three points.

Crowd pullers Manzini Wanderers managed to narrowly win 1-0 against a determined Manzini Sundowns in a hub derby match to claim the bragging rights. Sundowns showed a much better performance in the field of play than in their last past three outings, but still need to improve as they are on position eight on the log, 27 points behind the log leaders.

Mbabane Highlanders shared spoils with Tambuti after playing to a goalless stalemate.

THE FULL RESULTS:

Buffaloes	4	Midas City	0
Leopard	4	Red Lions	1
Sundowns	0	Wanderers	1
Green Mamba	4	Sea Birds	0
Swallows	2	Pirates	0
Highlanders	0	Tambuti	0

LOG

	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	PTS
Young Buffaloes	17	13	1	3	47	11	36
Green Mamba	17	13	4	0	59	20	39
Manzini Wanderers	17	13	2	2	49	13	38
Mbabane Swallows	16	10	3	3	38	12	33
Royal Leopard	17	10	5	2	41	17	32
Mbabane Highlanders	16	5	3	7	21	17	22
Tambuti	17	5	9	3	20	34	14
Manzini Sundowns	16	3	10	3	16	23	15
Sea Birds	17	4	11	2	17	34	14
Red Lions	17	4	8	4	18	42	14
Moneni Pirates	17	2	10	5	22	49	10
Midas City	16	1	13	2	12	64	5

Way Inn on course for MRPA Zonal League qualification

By Sibusiso Masilela

POOL – GIANTS Way Inn are on course of qualifying for the inaugural Manzini Zonal Pool Association League to kick-off next season.

The Malkerns based side is currently sitting at the top of the log with 45 points following their 20-3 victory in over Bhunya 2 last Saturday. This was during the Western zone encounter. Correctional Services side France occupy the second spot with 37 points after brushing aside Nicks 16-9 to maintain their hopes of making it through to the new league.

Mankayane also had a great weekend after winning against Bhunya, beating their neighbours 16-9 to maintain their spot in the top four. Manzini Regional Pool Association Chairman Muntu Dlamini confirmed the results yesterday. "We are impressed with the standard of the league since the second round resumed where teams continue to show high level of competitiveness. We are looking forward to exciting games next weekend," he said.

RESULTS:

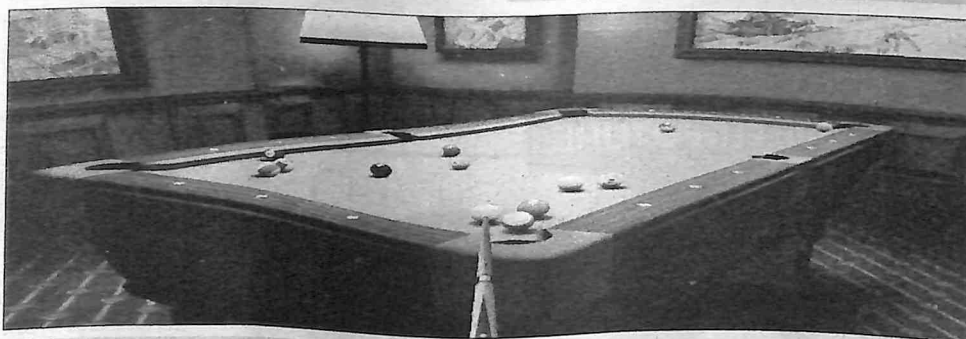
France	16	Nicks	9
Way Inn	20	Bhunya	23
Mankayane	16	Bhunya	9

THE LOGS:

Team	P	W	L	FF	FA	FD	Points
Way Inn	13	13	0	225	100	125	45
France	13	9	4	203	122	81	37
Mankayane	13	9	4	189	136	53	34
Anka Eagles	11	7	4	171	103	68	29
Bhunya	13	7	6	157	168	-11	26
Nicks Pool Club	14	7	7	164	186	-22	25
Macembe	11	6	5	143	132	11	24
Stairs	13	3	10	121	188	-67	15
Bhunya 2	12	1	11	114	186	-72	8
Suns of Kings	11	0	11	78	197	-119	5

CENTRAL ZONE

Team	P	W	L	FF	FA	FD	Points
Police College	7	7	0	113	62	51	24
Figaredo	8	7	1	111	89	22	22
L. Tigers	8	5	3	110	90	20	19
Scandza	7	4	3	95	80	15	17
Uni-K	8	3	5	93	107	-14	13
Garrison	8	3	3	90	110	-20	13
Bel Air	3	3	0	54	21	33	12
L.Lions	8	2	6	92	118	-26	11
Figaredo	5	9	1	5	93	132	-39
George	3	1	2	36	39	-3	4
Gundwini	3	0	3	14	61	-47	0



Zithande duo gets top 10 finishes in SA race

By Sabelo Majola

ATHLETICS – ZITHANDE Athletics Club duo Blessing Kunene and Ntokozo Mamba managed a top 10 finish in the recently held Assegai race held in Piet Retief, South Africa on Saturday.

Mamba crossed the finish line after clocking 2:54 hours while Kunene clocked 2:58 hours.

These are the same athletes, who obtained silver medals in the Comrades Marathon last year.

A total of 13 athletes from the team participated in the race while Bongani Malinga took part in the half marathon.

Zithande founder Nsizwa Thwala congratulated the athletes for their achievement.

Achieved

He said the achieved the objective which was to finish they race and improve on their previous records. "The significance for us in the race was clocking good finishing time and we achieved that. We will continue to work hard and improve our finishing time in future races," he said.

SSA ropes in AAS in schools athletics

By Sibusiso Masilela

ATHLETICS – THE Swaziland Sports Association (SSA) has roped in the Athletics Association of Swaziland (AAS) to conduct this year's schools athletics competitions.

This means that the national body will be responsible for selecting the COSASA Games bound athletes, who will represent the country in Zimbabwe in August.

SSA Public Relations Officer Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini confirmed the developments when contacted yesterday.

"This year's competition will be controlled by ASS to try and improve the standard of the sport in the country. We believe the national association will help us achieve our main goal. We encourage schools to start preparing for the games and further attend the athletics workshop that will start tomorrow until Friday at the Mphophoma Training Centre in Malkerns. This is where we will be discussing ways on how we can improve the sport," he said.

Dlamini further stated the National Championships will be held this month at a venue yet to be announced.

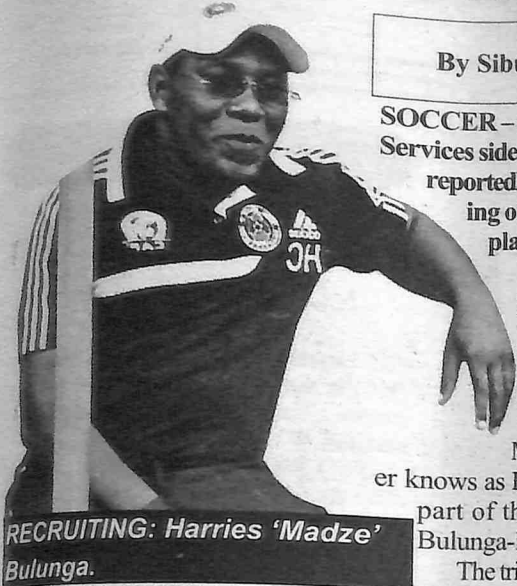
"We are hoping to see a high level of competitiveness as we want to see athletes improving from their last year performance. We further urge the children to refrain from alcohol and display a high level of professionalism during the games," he said.

The race also served as the Two Oceans and Comrades Marathon qualifier which means all the team's athletes, who participated have qualified for the two popular South African marathons. Both Kunene and Mamba will have a seedling in the two races by virtue of finishing in the top 10.

LIST OF THE ZITHANDE RUNNERS:

Ntokozo Mamba, Blessing Kunene, Samukelisiwe Nxumalo, Nsizwa Thwala (Stanlib), Sibonisane Dlamini, Zipho Dube, Badzelisiwe Dlamini, Bethusile Simelane, Nomalungelo Hlophe, Bethusile Magongo, Bongane Malinga.

Green Mamba sign three international players



By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – CORRECTIONAL Services side Green Mamba have reportedly completed the signing of three international players.

The new signees comprise of two South African players, including a playmaker identified as 'Bizzah', a striker and a Mozambique-born player known as Bonny, who are now part of the Harries 'Madze' Bulunga-led charges. The trio is expected to make

their debut during the 2017 SwaziBank Cup where 'Inyoka Eluhlahlaza' will take on National First Division side, City Warriors.

The players are said to have impressed the technical bench after spending several weeks training with the green and white outfit.

Contingent

They have joined the team's international contingent made of the South African pair of goalkeeper Japter Merese and Pethego Maebelo, who both joined the team last season.

The team's Chief Executive Officer Thamie Phakathi said they were currently assessing several inter-

nationals when contacted about the matter.

"There are some international players who are being assessed by the team, but we are still working on several logistics regarding their signing. We hope to conclude everything before the end of the week," he said.

These players will fill the void left by Zimbabwean midfielder Blessing Sande, who joined Red Lions in the January transfer window and lanky South African shot-stopper Bhuti Khoza, who is now under the books of Witbank Spurs in the South African National First Division League.

Ex-Wanderers striker Zabo fails Polish trials

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – FORMER Manzini Wanderers striker Danny Zabo has reportedly failed trials with an unnamed Poland team where he was trying his luck last month.

The Ivorian player, who was released by the 'Weslians' during the December / January transfer window, has since returned to his native country to keep himself fit until the end of the season.

A source close to the matter confirmed that the player failed to make a move to Europe.

"He has failed to make it through to Poland after spending three weeks in that country where he failed to impress an unnamed team from the Polish Premier League. He has since returned to his country where he is now playing his trade," the source said.

Meanwhile, the player's agent identified as Allen was diplomatic in his responses when quizzed about the matter yesterday.

"The player arrived late where he found the Polish transfer window closed due to a delay of his visa. However, he did train with the team for three weeks. We are hoping to finalise something in the next transfer window and the player is now in Ivory Coast where he will get game time," he said.

Zabo failed to score a single goal during his five-month stint with the hub giants before he was shown the exit door, together with the Zimbabwean pair of Tafandwa Javarani and Tawana Chikore.

SOGCA complains of SUCSA's aloofness to associations

Stories by Sibusiso Dlamini

SPORTS – THE Swaziland Olympics and Commonwealth Games Association (SOGCA) has raised concern over the running of games by SUCSA without consulting associations.

This was voiced out by SOGCA CEO Muriel Hofer during the Swaziland National Basketball League (SNBL) Annual General Meeting at Olmp Africa Centre on Sunday.

"We have noticed that SUCSA is running their games without involving the associations who are the mother bodies to the respective sporting codes. Yet, the associations know best on how to run the sport, and SUCSA needs to consult with them first.

How then are we going to have a national team from them because as far as we know, we don't know

anything about them? This needs to be fixed because we are about good governance as we know it delivers good results."

Hofer said this after SNBL Executive Secretary Mandla Shongwe answered a question on development, telling members the SNBL had a none existent relationship with SUCSA.

"Honestly, we don't have an existing relationship with SUCSA and I don't know how they go about without consulting us, but because Muriel is here, maybe she can shed some light."



NOT HAPPY: SOGCA CEO Muriel Hofer.

Thereafter, Hofer then responded by raising the concern.

Meanwhile, executive member Michelle encouraged each and every member of the SNBL to come with innovative methods for the development of the sport. The only lady in the executive passionately talked about development, saying: "The issue of college basketball is very important and we all have to play a part in building it,

because the sport won't develop without the nurturing of the youngsters.

So please, I urge all members to think about it, and submit their ideas to the executive," she said, to a massive round of applause from all present.

SUCSA Chairman Hamilton 'Waga Waga' Nxumalo disputed the claims, saying they always consulted with associations before games.

"Those claims aren't true, because we always consult with associations because we recognise they are the mother bodies in their respective sporting codes. Just now, we had our athletics competition and the Swaziland Athletics Association (SSA) was the one running the show. Even for the intervarsity games, in football we consult with the PLS and they help us with things like referees and so forth," he said.

...Executive considering other venues for league games

SPORTS – Swaziland National Basketball League (SNBL) President Nhlanhla Maphanga says the new leadership is considering playing the games in more than one venue.

The only venue the league has

been using for their game has been the Mavuso Sports Emporium.

Contemplating

"We are also contemplating on having the league games played in more than one venue.

"This is because of the spon-

sorship as some of the games will have to run together.

"We can't do that with one venue. Maybe, we can use the Kwaluseni Court or something, but we just want to find a long lasting solution to the problem." He said

This was the newly appointed executive's first AGM, and they seemed upbeat, especially after the launch of the E250 000 sponsorship for the league by the country's sole mobile network provider, Swazi MTN.

SNSRC convenes workshops for all associations

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SPORTS – THE Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council (SNSRC), in conjunction with the Swaziland Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (SOCGA), has convened a Capacity Building Workshop for all sports associations.

The two-day workshop will be held at the OlympAfrica Sports Development Centre, starting on

Saturday until Sunday.

The SNSRC Media Officer Dumisani Ntiwane said the main purpose of the workshop was to share with the national sports associations the SNSRC and SOGCA policies and procedures for 2017 to 2020.

"It is so crucial for our sports associations to attend the workshop because so many issues will be discussed. Apart from the policies and procedures and the 2017/18 annual requirements, associations will also be taught on a number of topics.

"These include recognition requirements; grant funding, SNSRC and SOGCA programmes, strategic plans and annual operational planning. Other topics to be covered include strategic plans and annual operational planning, policies pertaining to international participation, hosting of international events membership and coach developments; National Sports Awards rule book and the multi-sports games," said Ntiwane.

He disclosed that each national sport association was expected to

send the secretary general and the treasurer to the workshop. However, in the event one of the two is not able to make it, the particular association can send an executive member.

"National sports associations are at liberty to send an additional official to the workshop at their own cost of E300 per delegate, payable to SOGCA.

"Participants will receive a pen and stationery. Breakfast and lunch will also be catered for," Ntiwane said.

Taiwan Fund for Children partners with SOGCA in physical education

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SPORTS – THE Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF), which runs community projects for children, has partnered with the Swaziland Olympic & Commonwealth Games Association through the OlympAfrica Outreach Programme.

They will be conducting training in nine schools every Wednesday and Friday, starting today.

According to a press release sent by SOGCA Chief Executive Officer Muriel Hofer, the teachers will undergo training that will cover both theory and practical aspects of physical activities.

"They will be preparing for the 2017 Sports Bonanza Festival to be held in July," reads part of the statement.

About the event:

The training prior to the event uses sport as a tool to teach and train children on moral values such as honesty, teamwork, fair play and respect, among others.

It also increases emotional, mental and physical development, and also creates teamwork and social interaction, regardless of their family

The modified activities for the event are games used for children to understand skills such as French cricket, rope skipping, obstacle course, target shooting, target throwing, cup games, egg race, wood ball, Futbolnet.

The schools:

- Mahlangatja Methodist Primary
- Beaconskop Primary
- Tsawela Methodist Primary
- Matseni primary
- Mabahhu Catholic Primary
- Egugwini Primary
- Manyonyaneni Primary
- Ekuthuleni AEC Primary
- Nokuthula Alliance Primary.

Tonight
Sevilla v Leicester City 21:45
Porto v Juventus 21:45



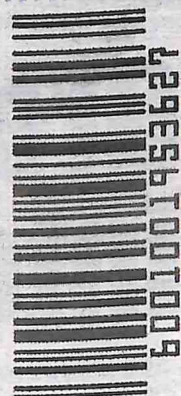
Tonight
SuperSport United v Maritzburg United 19:30
Bidvest Wits v Baroka FC 19:30

Results
Platinum Stars 1 - 2 Mamelodi Sundowns

SWAZI OBSERVER Sport

IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

Wednesday February 22, 2017



'Birds' left out in #Yebelele grand opening

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER - IN what will be the first of its kind, SwaziBank Cup defending champions Mbabane Swallows will not be part of this year's grand opening to be played at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.

According to the fixture released by the tournament's Management Committee Secretary Pat Vilakati, the red and white glamour side will be in action on Saturday at the Somhlolo National Stadium where they will take on National First

Division side Ludzeldzwe Brothers. The match will come after that of Manzini Sundowns, who will take on Southern Hhohho Super League side Tinyosi FC.

Unfold

Of note is that most of the matches will be played on Saturday and there will be no games on Friday. The National First Division humdinger between Mbabane Citizens and Matsapha United will unfold at the Prince of Wales Ground.

Fans from the remote areas such as Big Bend, Tambankulu and Nhlanguano have not been left in the football fiesta as double-headers will take place in three venues such as the Mayaluka Stadium, Tambankulu Stadium and the King Sobhuza II Memorial

Stadium. The games will end on Sunday with a triple-header slated for the Somhlolo National Stadium where two crowd pullers in Manzini Wanderers and Mbabane Highlanders will be in action against Northern Hhohho Super League side 19 Celts and Hlatikulu Tycoons, respectively. Moneni Pirates will also be part of the action on Sunday where they will take on cross town rivals Bad Boys. Fans will pay different entrance fees during the round of 32 matches as a single header will cost E10 and E20 for a double header. The fee will, however, inflate in the triple-header where supporters will have to part with E30 to watch the #Yebelele matches.

The Full fixture:

Saturday		
Mayaluka Stadium		
City Warriors	vs	Green Mamba 1:30pm
Ubombo Flyers	vs	Young Buffaloes 3:30pm
King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium		
KoNtshingila United	vs	Sea Birds 1:30pm
All Nations	vs	Tambuti 3:30pm
Manzini Club Stadium		
Stumbo XI	vs	Vovovo 1:30pm
Sisonke	vs	Malanti Chiefs 3:30pm
Prince of Wales Stadium		
Mbabane Citizens	vs	Matsapha United 3pm
Mavuso Sports Centre		
Hub Sundowns	vs	Madlenya 1:30pm
Amalanda	vs	Royal Leopard 3:30pm
Tambankulu Stadium		
Tambankulu Callies	vs	Red Lions 1:30pm
Sikhalo Se Africa	vs	Midas City 3:30pm
Somhlolo National Stadium		
Tinyosi fc	vs	M. Sundowns 1:30pm
L. Brothers	vs	M. Swallows 3:30pm
Sunday		
Somhlolo National Stadium		
19 Celts	vs	M. Wanderers 12noon
Bad Boys	vs	Moneni Pirates 2pm
H. Tycoons	vs	M. Highlanders 4pm



Tevez not happy in China

BEIJING - Tecarlos Tevez is not happy in China and Boca Juniors are planning a return for the Argentinian, according to reports.

Leading Argentinian newspaper Ole splashed on a story that the former Manchester City striker is struggling with

life in the Far East.

Chinese Super League club Shanghai Shenhua signed Tevez, 32, in December for £10million and made him the world's best paid player. Tevez earns around £615,000-a-week and will earn around £64million over the two year period he is due to be in China.

But the money does not seem to be making the former Manchester United forward happy.

The Sun

Racial abuse leaves player in tears

RIO DE JANEIRO - Partizan Belgrade midfielder Everton Luiz left the field in floods of tears after being racially abused throughout their match against local rivals Rad.

Every time Luiz, 28, touched the ball spectators reportedly made monkey noises aimed at the Brazilian ace.

Before the end of the game, Rad fans unveiled a vile banner insulting Luiz and causing the match to be halted. The match referee and stewards made

public messages telling fans to stop their sick behaviour but they were ignored.

And on the final whistle, Luiz made a one-fingered gesture at the rival fans who had to be restrained by police.

The Sun

