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5 STAR 'BIRDS' HIT 11



Swallows followers celebrating their victory during the SwaziBank Cup match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Swallows won 11 - 3. **FULL MATCH REPORT ON PAGE 39.** (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

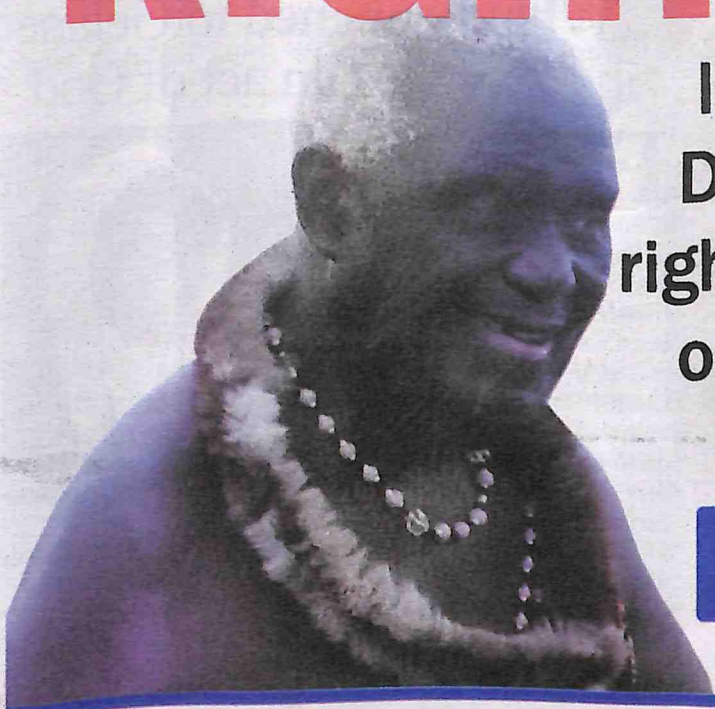


His Majesty King Mswati III greeting the throngs of people during the Baganu Ceremony held at Hlane yesterday. **READ MORE ON PAGE 4.** (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

GELANE WAS **RIGHT** - FONONO

In his latest interview Dube says Gelane was right that there are people out to usurp the King's powers.

STORY ON PAGE 2



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PLEASE HELP ME - ALLEGED WOMAN TRAFFICKER see page 6

CLARIFICATION

FONONO JUMPS TO GELANE'S SIDE

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

When Senate President Gelane Zwane made startling revelations that there were people who were usurping His Majesty King Mswati III's powers, she had the support of Fonono Dube, who has since revealed to this newspaper that he gave her his full backing.

Dube this week lifted the lid on the controversial statement by the Senate president, saying he was part of those who gave Zwane backing to make the claim in Parliament. According to Dube, there were indeed people who had stripped the King of his powers, referring to them as the government.

Warned

His sentiments are similar to those of the Senate president made during 2016's Parliament opening where she warned the King to guard against any elements that sought to use Parliament to take some of his powers.

The former Army Brigadier Commander and Border Restoration Committee (BRC) member, told this newspaper that he shared the same sentiments that the King has been stripped of his powers by the current government through the continued use of the 2005 Constitution.

Although the King told Sibaya that he would defend the Constitution, Dube claims the supreme law of the land was never endorsed by the Head of State.

Instead, he alleged that he only recognises the one left by King Sobhuza II in 1968.

Dube states that in as far as he is concerned, the rightful constitution was that of 1968 and he had

personally communicated this to the United Nations and further advised them not to accept the current one because it had not been endorsed.

He said this on Wednesday during an interview at the Tibiyo TakaNgwane offices in Ludzidzini where he added he had also told the King that he had been stripped of his powers and the constitution given to the UN.

"Having told him such, I then advised him not to sign it and as a result, the then minister of justice and constitutional affairs was sacked," explained Dube.

Therefore, he alleged that Zwane's remarks during the official opening of Parliament last year, are linked to this assertion.

Subsequent

Dube alleged that Zwane made the claim subsequent to a meeting he had had with her and Speaker Themba Msibi with whom he had shared the same information.

He also made reference to yet another visit by Zwane and a former minister whom he said came to him and introduced himself as a consultant who had come to seek advice on how mayors would work with chiefs since they were going to introduce the Local Government Bill in some areas under the leadership of chiefs.

The former King's advisor stated he was puzzled by such a statement from the minister in the presence of Zwane, who is also an acting chief, to the extent he even asked her if she viewed that as prop-

er as a traditional leader.

He also made reference to the case of former Chief Justice Michael Ramodibedi whom he said was given the King's powers, "Nawutsatsa sicagogwana ubhoce Mswati ngaso bese unika Ramodibedi emandla asati usuke utsi wentani," he wondered.

Angered

Further, he said such an act by the government had angered God as evident in the fact that the sun now rose from north to the south instead of east to west!

He added that, "Before the current prime minister was re-appointed into Parliament, I called him myself and showed him which constitution was the rightful one and he went back to report to the Cabinet but now I don't know what is happening."

During her remarks last year, Zwane said the

Westminster constitution, which was the core and substance of the country inherited at independence in 1968, had been removed from the country's constitutional dispensation and only the appearance, pomp and circumstances remain, as the past vividly shows.

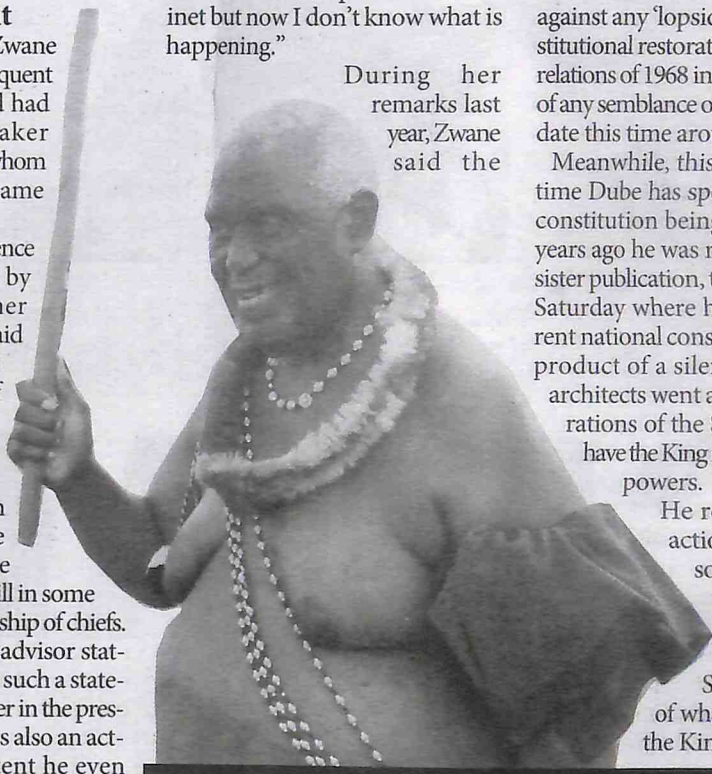
She said the constitution promulgated on July 26, 2005 provided that the executive authority of Swaziland vested in the King as head of state, however this was contradictory with the position of the prime minister which is defined as 'chairman of Cabinet and leader of government business in Parliament.'

Argument

It was for this argument that she then warned the King to, "guard against any 'lopsided' and unconstitutional restoration of the power relations of 1968 in the total absence of any semblance of a popular mandate this time around."

Meanwhile, this is not the first time Dube has spoken about the constitution being illegal as two years ago he was reported by our sister publication, the Observer on Saturday where he said the current national constitution was the product of a silent coup whose architects went against the aspirations of the Swazi nation to have the King retain his absolute powers.

He referred to such action as high treason which he said would have resulted in bloodshed if Swazis can be told of what happened to the King.



Fonono Dube.

Cabinet has no reason not to attend funerals

Controversial politician Fonono Dube is among the growing number of people who have questioned Cabinet's conspicuous absence during state funerals of two former Prime Ministers, Obedi Dlamini and Sotsha Dlamini.

In both funerals, only the Minister of Education Dr Phineas Dlamini attended, representing Cabinet. The rest could not be accounted for, save to speculate they had other 'pressing state duties'. However, in an interview on Wednesday, the day the Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane controversially remarked that attending a funeral was an individual's choice, Dube rubbished the Cabinet position, saying there was no reason they should not attend funerals, in particular the two.

He also rubbished the excuse that Cabinet ministers do not attend funerals because they will not be able to attend national events as due to Swazi law and Custom, people who have been in contact with a dead

person have to spend some time away from Their Majesties.

"They have their own reasons, but I do not want to entertain this belief of theirs. Besides, that's a baseless claim considering they have stripped the King of his powers so what's the use of not going to funerals?" he stated.

Dube said it was only people like him that could not attend funerals because they work directly with the King and may have to report to him at anytime, unlike the ministers who do not report directly to the King. For the better part of their term of office which commenced in 2013, ministers have been shying away from funerals with no proper reasons being given.

The failure by Cabinet to be fully represented at both state funerals made these look like a sham; and has been criticised by members of the public who have expressed that they expected government to be fully represented.

... What happened to Gelane in parly was an act of God

Fonono Dube believes that when Senate President Gelane Zwane froze in front of His Majesty King Mswati III during the opening of the Fourth Session of the 10th Parliament, it was not because she had been bewitched, but it was just an act of God for what the government has done to the King.

He said that was basically God communicating to them that what they were doing was wrong. He further said he had previously asked Zwane and Msibi what they wanted the King to say during the opening of Parliament knowing they had stripped him of his powers.

"When her own speech turned blank in front of her and she did not know what to say, that was an act of God and nothing near being bewitched. They know very well that what they are doing is



Senate President Gelane Zwane.

wrong as I have on a number of occasions made that clear to them," said Dube.

Zwane left guests during the opening astonished after she froze right at the salutation stage of her opening remarks and was saved by the intervention of the Speaker of the House of Assembly Themba Msibi who took over and read the speech on her behalf.

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SACU EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EXPLAINS VARYING RECEIPTS

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Following the 2017/2018 budget speech delivered by the minister of finance, the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) has encouraged the country to embrace industrialisation to increase revenue.

This was said by Executive Secretary Paulina Mbala Elago on Friday. Speaking from The Royal Villas, she said industrialisation would help the country reduce reliance on SACU receipts, of which the Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini said though there was an increase projected for the year, it was temporary.

According to the minister's speech, the projected amount is over E7 billion, an over 36 per cent increase from the ending financial year, which saw the country receiving E5.3 billion.

Varying

Explaining the varying receipts, Elago said, "The varying receipts are due to the duty collected which is to a large extent impacted by the performance of the global economy.

Added to this area are the commodity prices so we will always have a situation where the pool is affected by what happens in the global economic sphere."

She expanded and explained how the duties are then disbursed to the different countries. "The funds are not just put in the pool and then distributed."

She revealed that they work on the basis of trade data and used estimates which determine how much a country gets.

At the end of the financial year, the union then does the reconciliation of data on the basis of which the pool is then audited.

"After auditing, the final amount is then confirmed. It is on that basis that



His Majesty King Mswati III meeting with SACU Executive Secretary Paulina Mbala Elago.

we then go back and do the adjustments to be able to then tell whether, if we have, for example, given Swaziland E7 billion for the year and yet it happened that we collected more and therefore you should be given more, the addition is given next year."

She explained that if the country collects less than the estimate indicated such as after the country was given E7 billion whereas based on the actual collection, it turned out that it is E6.5 billion, then the E500 million will have to be deducted from the share that is calculated from the share estimated for the next year.

Deficit

"This is where sometimes we say there is a deficit in the pool and we say the country must pay back," she said just as the country has to pay back about E45 million this coming financial year as stated by the minister.

Elago, however, stated that the country will not pay back any amount as this would be carried over to the next year from where it would be deducted.

She explained that the revenue sharing formula has three components,

it has the customs component which relates to customs tariffs which are collected on trade imports and export.

There is also an excise component where there are excise duties levied on goods such as alcohol, tobacco and some other items.

There is also a development component which is meant to provide support to the smaller economies.

Proportionate

"That is normally based on the GDP. It is somewhat proportionate; the lower the GDP, the higher the development component. It is meant to support member states in their development. These are the three components and it tells you where the source of the funds come from.

She said she hoped the issues surrounding the review of the formula would be resolved in the next 18 months before she leaves office.

Elago said nothing had been completed because there was a lot of work that went into such a review. "I think, when the member states look at the revenue sharing formulae, no one wants to be worse off," she said, adding how they had to come up with a formula which benefitted countries in

much the same way as before.

"The council of ministers has agreed on a number of principals which will guide the discussions around the review and one of them has to do with the fact that no country should be worse off. Now that basically means if you are doing a review of that formula, you have to maintain that."

She also added how there were two differing views to the development fund with some calling for contributions to the fund to be taken from member states' shares whereas there are those who feel the shares cannot be used to finance the fund.

Elago said, "The fund is meant to support our industrialisation programmes because industrialisation is one of the six priorities heads of states agreed to. So the idea is we need to have a mechanism in place to finance our own industrialisation.

Sticky

So the development fund, or a financing mechanism for infrastructure and industrialisation, has been discussed and this is now again how do we structure the formula to either contribute or not contribute to the fund so it is one of the sticky issues."

She explained that the issue of industrialisation was meant to address how countries rely on their SACU receipts.

"It is meant to enhance industrial development and also increase productive capacity of member states so they attract investments, grow the economy, increase employment which will obviously contribute to a reduction in the level of reliance to SACU receipts. Off course it will take time looking at the structure of our economies. The focus on industrialisation and value addition and specifically on cross border value chains, this becomes important. It will take time and will not happen overnight."

Ashraff relieved to win case

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Businessman and Indonesian Consul Karem Ashraff has expressed his relief that his matter where he was seeking to have GIGATECH evicted from his property has been ruled in his favour.

He said he was excited that justice had prevailed in the matter, which had bothered him for seven years.

In the main matter, Ashraff was seeking an order to eject the company and its directors from his property.

Ashraff filed an urgent application where he sought to have GIGATECH Investments, a technology company together with its directors George Fetbia and King Collin, ejected from the property.

He made submissions before Judge Siphon Nkosi while led in evidence by his Lawyer Lindifa 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 that they wanted to secure a domicile where they would operate their business.

"They told me they had done business with the ministry of health and that 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 told the court in his last appearance.

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 did they reach such an agreement.

Agreement

This was after the directors had as having instructed their lawyer Sabelo 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 said what has now brought him to court was the fact that GIGATECH Investments and the two directors had not been paying for the property in question since they signed the lease agreement.

Although he has had no occasion to inspect the inside of the property of late, Ashraff said he noticed that the outside was in a dilapidated state and needed to be renovated, while the yard has overgrown grass all over.

The property in question is a three-bedroom house, and a servants quarters, which is adjacent the same plot.

Ashraff stated that Amani Family Trust in which he is a Trustee, has been paying rates to date while GIGATECH and the two have been contributing nothing.

He now wants the company and the two, who are also said to be using the servants' quarters as their home, while the three bedroom house is used as a business domicile, to be ejected forthwith, as a result he filed the application before court, seeking an order to that effect.



Businessman and Indonesian Consul Karem Ashraff.

You won't get salary because you went to the media, unpaid guard told

BY MLONDI MPANZA

It never rains but pours for 26-year-old security guard Boy-Boy Ndzinisa who has been told he will not be paid his already late salary because he had involved the media.

He was supposed to have received his monthly salary of E1 500 on February 11, 2017, but two weeks later, he hasn't been paid without any solid reason. Instead, his employer tells him he won't get his salary because he has involved the media, with his issue being reported in one of the daily publications a week ago after he had been found sleeping in a wheelbarrow in a fallen house with nothing to feed on.

Failure

This was after he had been locked out of his rented stick and mud room in Malkerns for failure to pay his monthly rent of E100 as a result of not being paid by his employer, a security company based in the capital, whose name cannot be revealed. Ndzinisa was told such when he called to follow up on his salary with

the company's managers after he had previously been promised to get his salary on February 17, which never happened and up to date his salary has not been paid despite that he still reports for work.

"I called the manager with the hope that he would sympathise with me in light of my situation having been locked out of my room. Instead he said he has been looking for me and wants to haul me for a disciplinary hearing for revealing company matters to the media," explained Ndzinisa.

Attend

At the time he made the call, the manager is alleged to have told Ndzinisa he was on his way to Nhlanguano to pay the dues for employees based in the Shiselweni region first and then attend to the rest of them in the other regions as well. He was told those around Mbabane should expect theirs on Thursday, however, his had to be collected by him from the head office so he could first be taken for disciplinary action which Ndzinisa does not intend doing as all he wants is salary and that's all.

In fact, after all the troubles he has gone through at the hands of the employer, he now wants out of the company because he believes their working relationship has been destroyed and they cannot work together anymore. The dispute between the two comes seven months after he joined the company subsequent to him leaving his home in Nhlanguano to look for a job so he could put food on the table for his girlfriend and two-year-old son. Further, after he was locked out of his flat, he could not bath or wash his clothes, let alone have anything to feed on since all his belongings had been locked inside his house by the landlord.

When the salaries were first delayed, the employer is said to have alleged he had not been paid by one of government's parastatals where the security company has a tender. In addition, Ndzinisa told this publication that he had now been allocated another flat, courtesy of requests made by community police to the landlord on his behalf subsequent to a visit by Swazi TV last week Friday. He said a

special arrangement was agreed on by the landlord and volunteers and after that he also had a visit from a volunteer who brought him a bag of rice and advised that he should contact her when the bag got finished so she could give her another one. Also, he said after the publication of his story, her girlfriend came all the way from Nhlanguano to check on him and now she could not go back because he had no money to give them for transport back home.

Assistance

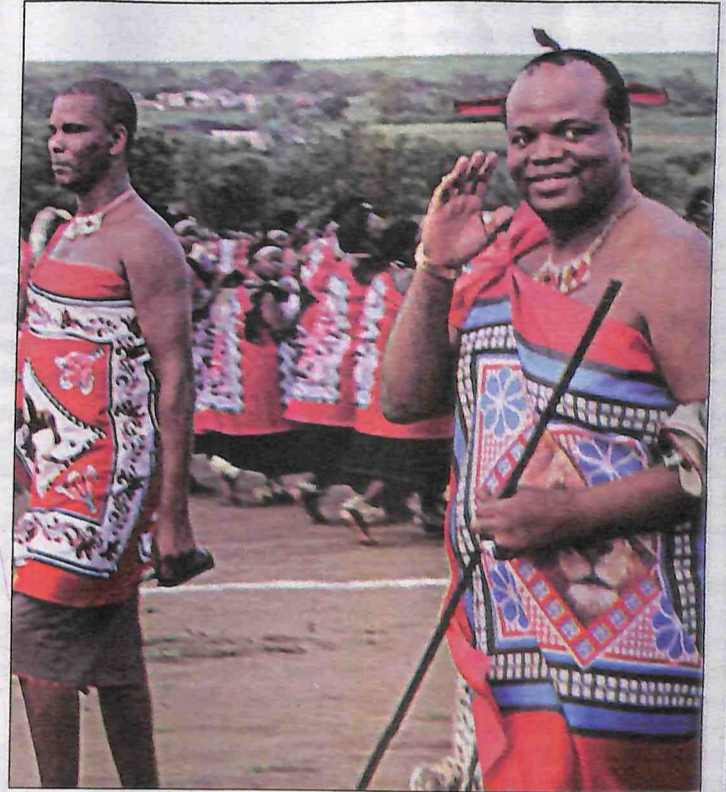
He also revealed he had decided to report his employer to the Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration Commission (CMAC) with the hope he would see justice on his matter. On another note, he revealed that together with his colleagues they had sought for the assistance of a private investigator who promised to come to their rescue, however, having a conversation with their employer in their presence he then changed tune after allegedly being promised a 'cold drink,' in the call that had been put on loudspeaker.



Pictures and copies sponsored by SPTC



Emakhosikati to His Majesty during yesterday's Buganu Festival at Hlane Royal Residence. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



His Majesty the King waves as he arrives at Hlane Royal Residence for the weekend's Buganu Festival.

NDMA STALL A HIT WITH LUTSANGO

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI

Lutsango and other members of the public frequented the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), with most wanting to know whether government would still continue assisting them with food aid.

Most of these members of *Lutsango* were reportedly from the drought stricken areas, and were curious to find out if the food distribution exercise by the agency was still going to be carried out, regardless of the change in weather patterns.

The agency had set up a stall at Hlane Royal Residence as part of the weekend's *Buganu* ceremony where they attended to hundreds of people who asked for clarity about the operations of the agency.

Communications Officer Ntabeni Msibi reported that most of the people (who were mainly members of the



Lutsango) who visited the stall were affected by the drought. He said by 5pm, they had attended to about 20

Lutsango in full swing at yesterday's event which carries on today.

groups of *Lutsango*. Msibi said they assured them that government would continue assisting the hard hit areas with food aid.

Stall

"Apparently, it was noted that most of the people who visited our stall were from the Lubombo and Shiselweni regions," said Msibi. Meanwhile, the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) stall was also reported to have been one of the most visited stall.

Communications Officer Mbonisi Bhembe who was found at the stall said most of the people who visited the stall wanted to know

whether the commission had plans aimed at empowering and encouraging women to take part in the upcoming elections slated for next year. Msibi said the *Lutsango* pointed out that one of the factors which contributed to the low number of women voted into Parliament was that they lacked resources to use during campaigning. The *Lutsango* was however informed that one does not need to have money for campaigning but instead, needs to have a clear vision for development of her constituency and the country.

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TIBIYO TAKA NGWANE

A NATION IN PROGRESS



Tibiyo Taka Ngwane is a Swazi Nation Organisation that has been at the core of the social, cultural and economic development of the people of the Kingdom of Eswatini since 1968. Established by King Sobhuza II through a Royal Charter at Independence in 1968, Tibiyo Taka Ngwane continues to complement the country's social and economic programmes through a number of activities, including diversified investment in key sectors of the economy, thereby stimulating the country's GDP.

This diverse and rich portfolio has resulted in the creation of sustainable jobs for thousands of Swazis, development and nurturing of key skills, the education of a great number of Swazi children through primary, secondary and tertiary levels, ensuring that hundreds of thousands of Swazis have the necessary education and skills to drive the economy.

Tibiyo Taka Ngwane believes that culture plays a significant role in driving social cohesion, fostering peace and restoring the nation's heritage and pride. As such, we continue to invest in sustaining the nation's cultural and traditional activities, including Incwala, Umhlanga, Buganu Festival and other traditional events, thus ensuring that all generations have a full understanding of what it really means to be Swazi.

Mission Statement

Tibiyo Taka Ngwane is a Swazi Nation Organisation that is at the core of the social, cultural and economic development of the people of Swaziland

Objectives of the organisation

- To complement Government in fostering economic independence and self-sufficiency
- To increase formal sector employment
- To increase income in the hands of citizens
- To earn and/or save foreign exchange
- To develop the rural communities of the Kingdom
- To foster and support the maintenance of Swazi tradition and cultural heritage
- To assist financially and materially in the education and training of citizens

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Family living in hardship

For the alleged trafficker's family, Nomsa Vilakati's arrest is one trouble too many.

On arrival at the homestead in Nkwene, fresh tyres were noted. The family revealed how they were visited by The Swaziland Red Cross- Baphalali.

"Her mother's hut had its roof blown away last Friday (during Cyclone Dineo)," her maternal grandmother, Fridah Mdluli said.

Her mother, a woman of few words, revealed that the situation was very bad as she was not only unemployed but would now have to fend for her granddaughter following Vilakati's arrest.

"We had to seek refuge in my parents' one roomed house and sleep with them," Ntombikayise Mdluli said.

She said it was an awkward situation as her daughter left the country with hopes of building her a house and was instead now in jail awaiting judgement on her case.

"She started saving money which she would send to her brother to make bricks for her," she said.

Pointing at a brand new but bent corrugated iron sheet, she said the stick and mud structure had recently been re-roofed using funds provided by Vilakati and they were hoping she would come up with enough money to complete a sound brick structure.

...father with disabilities

Faced with Nomsa Vilakati's arrest, her grandparents and mother cannot do anything for her. They have to deal with the daily struggle of looking after her disabled grandfather. Perched on a low bed, the elderly man would at times turn as though trying to find a comfortable position.

He only became alert to the conversation when he was asked questions concerning circumstances leading to him being disabled. He was unable to state the date of his accident and requested that his medical records be perused.

"He was run over by a truck laden with sugar in July last year," Thomas Mdluli's wife Fridah said.

The 64 year-old man was run over whilst crossing the road in order to get to the gardens where he was chairman of the farming association.

"The truck left him for dead and he was taken to Hlathikhulu Hospital where he was operated on as his legs had been mangled. He was released 10 days after the operation where he was amputated because he had been healthy, so his wounds healed fast," Fridah said.

She lamented that the accident had left her husband helpless as all he did was sit around and wait to be assisted whereas he was previously a productive man who provided for them through farming.

PLEASE HELP ME - ALLEGED WOMAN TRAFFICKER PLEADS

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Fearing fines reaching over E100 000 in the event she is found guilty of human trafficking, the Swazi woman detained in Newcastle has appealed to her impoverished family to assist her.

"We cannot even afford to go to Newcastle to see or attend her court hearings," her grandmother Friday Mdluli (64) said this past week while at Nkwene.

Nomsa Vilakati was arrested at the beginning of the month following a raid in Newcastle based Newrider Textile Factory (South Africa). She was arrested with four Chinese nationals, two of whom have ties with the country as they reportedly worked for two of the now defunct Texray subsidiaries.

With her bail having been denied last week Monday, the woman called her grandmother on Tuesday and related how she was at a loss as she feared she would have to spend time in prison in the event she gets fined. "She called me. My granddaughter sounded so dejected. She said the conditions she faced were daunting as she did not have a clue on how to overcome



Nomsa Vilakati, during happier times. Having assisted several Swazi find employment in Newcastle, she faces jail time in the event she is found guilty of trafficking 28 Swazis who were rescued in a Newcastle factory.

them," the elderly Mdluli said. Vilakati's maternal family was visited on Thursday to ascertain how her family was coping.

"She said she faces fines of about E100 000. Where would we get such an amount," Mdluli asked.

She said Vilakati was their hope

and breadwinner as she supplied the family with money on a monthly basis. "She arranged for one of my daughters to get a job in Newcastle. That daughter returned recently in order to have a baby, otherwise she anticipates going back to Newcastle because they were earning well," the old woman said.

She revealed how Vilakati assisted other members of the community.

"A lot of people from here went to Newcastle. Some of them returned because they found it hard," she said adding how she considered those who failed to withstand the hardships as lazy, "Some are still working in Newcastle as it is," she said oblivious of the fact that the firm was closed. Mdluli said the family was still trying to gather funds for one of her daughters attend the trial next month and take some things that Vilakati said she was in need of. "We don't understand why she was arrested. After all, she was helping other people who were in need of employment. How can that be wrong," she said. During the interview, Vilakati's mother, Ntombikayise Mdluli (47) sat quietly while cuddling her three year old daughter who is not aware of the troubles her mother is facing.



Ntombikayise Mdluli, mother to Nomsa Vilakati leading the way to their home which was left in this condition after the heavy rains that fell across the country during the time of Cyclone Dineo last week. Right: Fridah Mdluli, Vilakati's grandmother relating the family's ordeals. (Pics: Thembeke Dlamini)



We told her to stop recruiting co-workers

The Swazis who were allegedly trafficked to South Africa, though sympathising with Nomsa Vilakati, said they told her to stop accompanying their Chinese bosses to recruit more people locally.

"We spoke to her several times about getting more people because we knew how employees people would be disgruntled," the women alleged. Speaking through loud-speaker different women said Vilakati carried on despite the

warnings they gave her.

"She assumed we were jealous of her esteemed position as she was well liked by the bosses," they alleged. Adding, they explained that new recruits were usually taken for other departments as the machinist position which was the best paying one, did not experience as much turn over in the staff complement. "We had been at the factory for very long and were used to the factory way of life as it was demanding and called for one to

work very hard. However, new employees would assume they would get paid as we were and would be disappointed after getting little money and they would leave worse off than when they came. "We told her over and over again that what she was doing was not right and she translated our warning to be from jealousy. She did not really have a position in the factory as she was also a machinist like most of us and she got paid like us so she was not really a manager.

Questionable medical attention for trafficked Swazi

This past week saw some of the disgruntled Swazis questioning their status in South Africa following one of them being given expired medication after complaining of a skin rash.

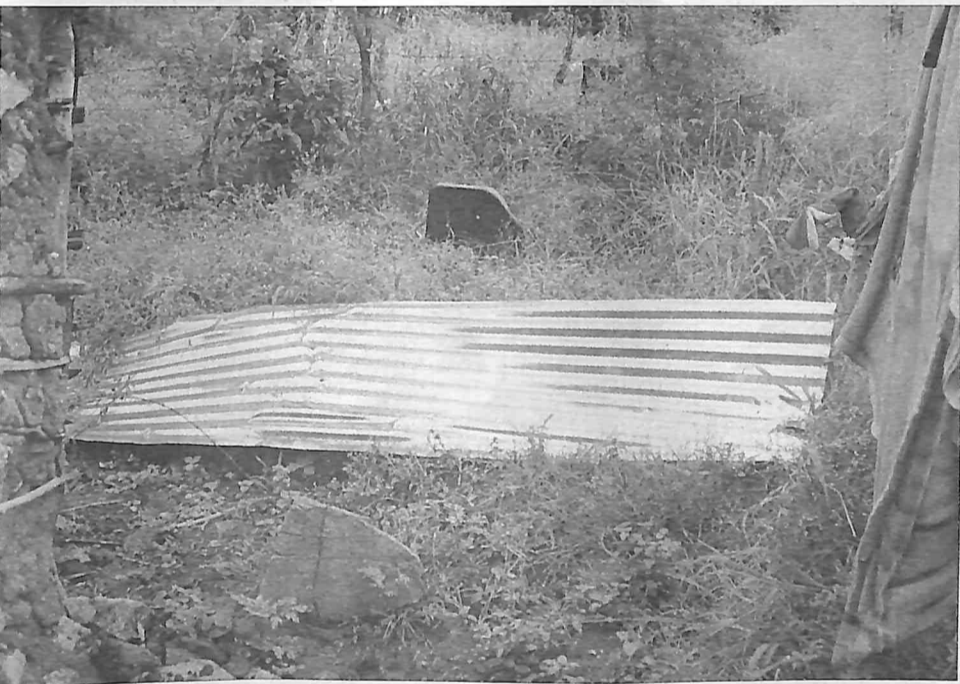
"Just look at the date of expiry date. Since we are held here, the sick person can't go to the clinic and instead has to use medication which expired in 2015," the women alleged.



Ntombikayise Mdluli with Vilakati's daughter. They now sleep on a mat (licansi) in her grandparent's bedroom after their house was destroyed by storms.



Vilakati's grandfather Thomas Mdluli is an invalid state after he was run over by a runaway truck last July.



Brand new corrugated iron sheeting which were funded by Nomsa during happier times were found strewn all over the yard, the aftermath of the recent storms.

Victims dejected, to stay another month

Having hoped to return to the country this past Friday, the victims of the alleged trafficking debacle yesterday revealed that they were told they would stay another month, presumably pending

the finalisation of their case. Called yesterday, the subdued women said they did not know when they would return having been told that they would stay for a whole month at their safe house. Their subdued demeanour

was contrary to the upbeat interview they had with this publication last week when they revealed plans to have them returned home on Friday. They had said they anticipated leaving the safe house on Friday to be reunited with their families.

She was helping people find employment- family insists

The family of the local woman accused of trafficking some of the 72 rescued victims is failing to understand reasons behind her arrest.

"All we know is that she was helping people from the

community find jobs and she has helped a lot of people over the years," stated the grandmother Vilakati of yet to be sentenced Vilakati who is alleged to have trafficked about 28 local women to Newcastle in South Africa

The location of the family was provided by one of the women who are in still in South Africa, living in a safe house pending their return to the country.

"She is from Nkwene," one of the women said during an interview.

She went on give detailed directions of where her family would be found.

EDCON condemns trafficking allegations

The victims of the alleged trafficking ring which was uncovered at a Newcastle Textile Factory revealed how they supplied several clothing retail outlets.

"The tags we sewed into clothes were for three retailers," the women said. Attempts to get in contact with the retailers to ascertain whether they were aware of the alleged trafficking scandal surrounding one of their suppliers hit a snag as only Edcon Group of companies responded to the Sunday Observer enquiries.

Speaking through their public relations Company, Edcon stated that they condemned any form of human rights violations.

Subcontracted

The company clarified that they did not have links to the textile factory while not refuting the possibility Newrider could have been subcontracted by one of their factory partners.

In the response to the email which was sent to the PR firm, the company stated, "In light of the recent alleged human trafficking incident in Newcastle involving foreign nationals, as reported by the Swazi Observer, Edcon would like to state

that it takes these matters very seriously and only supports ethical business practices."

The company said they were conducting internal investigations and they were able to confirm that the factory in question is not listed on Edcon's factory partner list.

"Edcon is also engaging its various vendor sub-contractors, design centres, producers and supply chain partners in the Newcastle area, to ensure there is current and continued compliance to the Social Accountability Standard (SA 8 000) that Edcon has aligned with," the response read.

Operation

Explaining operational processes, the company stated; "The bulk of Edcon's suppliers locally, are design centres and they in turn outsource the production to sub-contractors that they have sourced and chosen to partner with.

These sub-contractors have to be declared to Edcon as part of the Supplier Agreement they sign with Edcon and assess the production environments from a capacity, capability and compliance perspective. Edcon has a direct relationship with the suppliers but has no direct rela-

tionship with the sub-contractors." The company stated the suppliers who have selected them to manage their production are held fully accountable to manage Edcon's Compliance requirements as well as Edcon's production briefs with the sub-contractors directly.

Supplier

"In assessing the declared sub-contractors, Edcon will feedback areas of improvement and development to the Edcon supplier to manage directly with their sub-contractors. Should the sub-contractor not meet Edcon's requirements, Edcon will advise the supplier to stop dealing with the sub-contractor for Edcon production," the responses said.

Adding, the company said Edcon strived to act ethically and responsibly in matters of compliance and equally expected its business partners and their respective supply chains to do the same.

"Edcon condemns any form of human rights violations and will take strong action against any supply chain partners or sub-contractors who are involved in or perpetrate any type of human rights violations," they said.



SWAZILAND HOSPICE AT HOME
"SIKHONELA WENA"
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- Compiles monthly and quarterly financial reports as prescribed.
- Work closely with the Director on Finance and Compliance to facilitate audits
- Actively participates in proposal developments and budgets justifications for submission to donors
- Prepare periodic budget adjustments
- Is responsible for the Security functions, HR including other service providers.

Qualifications

- Degree in Accounting or equivalent
- 3-5 years accounting and Administration experience preferably in an NGO industry
- Clear understanding of Government Finance rules and regulations
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suit with advanced excel spreadsheet capability; and other accounting software

Applications can be delivered at the Hospice premises Matsapha or emailed to swdhospice@gmail.com / P.O. Box 23, Matsapha. Closing date for applications is March 2, 2017.

NQABA HAILED FOR CONTRIBUTING IN



The late businessman's widow, Futhi Dlamini being comforted by close relatives during the memorial held at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre yesterday. (Pics: Mloni Mpanza)

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

The late businessman, Nqaba Dlamini was yesterday praised for his contribution towards the development of Ezulwini town.

He was praised by mourners who had gathered at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre to celebrate his life after he passed away a week ago in a car accident in South Africa.

The mourners, who took turns in sharing their memorable moments with the late, said he had played a huge role in developing the rapidly growing town, which has become the most sought place to be by most people in the country. In fact, he was described as an opportunist who never wanted to be missed by any opportunity.

Apart from that, businessman and friend, Sthofeni Ginindza spoke on behalf of friends and described Dlamini as a special man who belonged in a number of organisations such as a health club and church club which he said many were probably not aware of.

"This is a sad day for us but I have found it appropriate to do what he would have loved to be done on this day, which is

He was praised by mourners who had gathered at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre to celebrate his life after he passed away a week ago in a car accident in South Africa



Swazi Observer Chairman and friend of Nqaba, Sthofeni Ginindza spoke on behalf of friends and shared his memorable experiences with the late.

celebrating his life and this is what I am going to do here as I share our journey together as friends," said Ginindza.

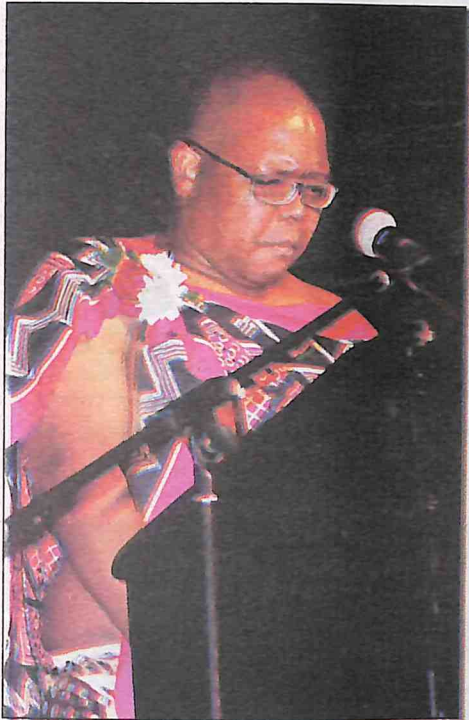
Club

He told of how they had come up with the health club with his late friend as he narrated that the idea came after Dlamini had struggled to go up the stairs to check on him in his office and found that the elevator was not working. It is from that incident that Ginindza suggested they train together and agreed

to jog from the Gables to Mahlanya and back.

He said in one instance, whilst exercising, Dlamini's trainers got damaged and instead of giving up he asked for another pair which he wore and continued until the end of their training and that was one element which he had, he never gave up easily.

Further, Ginindza said he had a lot of memorable times with Dlamini as friends and he had actually mediated in a number



Nathi Dlamini, a brother to the late shared how Nqaba used to unite their family when he made his remarks. RIGHT - Mbabane Swallows General Manager Sandile Zwane represented the team's supporters who had a few words to say during the departed supporter's memorial.



A section of the mourners closely following the proceedings.



Businessman Bongani Mamba was also among the many friends who attended the memorial service.

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EZULWINI TOWN DEVELOPMENT



Children of the late gesturing as their elder sister speaks on their behalf.

of cases which he managed to solve easily.

He added that they had nicknamed their friend, 'Donald,' for which Ginindza stated he was not sure whether the late had a vision that Donald Trump would one day be elected the President of the United States.

However, Dlamini and Trump did have similarities being the fact that both were in the property business.

He also revealed that last Sunday they had a farm breakfast as a

way of honouring their friend as this was his favourite as he would let them eat bacon and sausages whilst he had the farm breakfast.

The late's in-laws expressed their sadness about the loss, noting it was not long ago when they had taken their daughter and wife to the late to her marital home.

They said he was an unusual hero who always put his family first and played a major role in parenthood, however, that

huge responsibility was now left with his wife, Futhi despite that such was hard to do single-handedly.

The service was attended by the who's who of the football fraternity, amongst which was Mbabane Swallows' boss, Victor Gamedze since Nqaba was a staunch supporter of the team, Sandile Zwane and former Under Secretary in the Ministry of Sports, Youth and Culture Affairs, Maswazi Shongwe, to name a few.



The representative of Royalty making his remarks during the memorial yesterday. RIGHT - Daughter to the late businessman being comforted by a mourner during the memorial.



Swaziland National Housing Board's Chief Executive Officer Mduzuzi Dlamini was also part of those who attended the memorial, celebrating the late Nqaba's life.

...He united our family – Brother

Brother to the late, Nathi Dlamini told the mourners that Nqaba had played a major role in uniting their family.

"He united us as a family and spoke about the importance of staying as a unit," stated Nathi, who said he had been left with more questions than answers with regards to who would assume the responsibilities of his late brother.

He said it would be hard for any of them to do what Nqaba used to do as he had left a huge void in their family.

Nathi stated that now that his brother had left them, he

was praying to God that he gives them a long life to live, much more than he did with their brother.

Note

Adding, he said it was saddening to note that they were all dying and leaving their mother behind and now that they were bidding farewell to Nqaba, they were now reminded of another late brother, Sikhumbuzo, whom the former had filled his void.

On another note, the late's children said when they learnt of their father's demise, they died a thousand deaths because it was hard for them to believe

he was actually no more.

They went on to thank him for all the lessons he had shared with them which they now appreciate as they have realised these were all meant to prepare them for when he was no longer around.

Through his eldest daughter, they promised to keep his empire going and would make Bhubhudda Trust a successful entity and make him proud.

"Your endless shouting was always a sign to us that you had woken up and was healthy, however, we now have to deal with the fact that you are no more with us," they said.



Pastor David and Bonile Chaliyumba also came to bid farewell to the deceased businessman.



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 Bohlandwa Ndzimandze: Maths. B; Bio. B; Science. A; Geo. B;	 Ingrid Mkhwanazi (Upgrading): Eng. C; Maths. A; Acc. A	 Vakelo Choncho (Upgrading): Eng. A	 Fundile Mkhathshwa: Sis. C; Eng. C; Maths. B; Bio. B; Phys Sci. C; Re. C
 Nkongiphile Dlamini (Upgrading): Maths. C; Bio. B; Phys Sci. B	 Tomantlani Mamba: Maths. A; Phys Sci. B	 Bongani Ndlele (Upgrading): Eng. C; Bio. A; Phys Sci. B	 Ernest T. Mgongo Principal ready to welcome you

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SWAZIBANK CUSTOMERS GETS 'MANNA'

BY SICELI MAZIYA

A Swazi Bank system error during an upgrade has resulted to some customers receiving money they had not anticipated.

Having been made happy by the unexpected windfall, the customers were disappointed to have the amount deducted as soon as their salaries were deposited by their employers.

Clients of the bank who work in Big Bend have been receiving unexpected money ranging between E2 000 and E5 000, without having applied for any loan or advances.

The manna from Swazi Bank started mid-November till January.

Those interviewed by this newspaper confirmed having been 'lucky' to receive the windfall from the bank.

"I first heard some of my colleagues boasting about receiving manna from SwaziBank and when my turn came I was both shocked and happy. The money came at a time when I needed it and I couldn't believe it until I reached the ATM and found that the amount was real," confirmed one

customer.

An employee from a textile firm also confirmed receiving unexpected money, saying she was shocked at first. However, reality struck when the bank deducted the money she had received.

"I couldn't believe when I checked my statement from the ATM as it showed I had no money but when some of my friends said money had been deposited to theirs that's when I realised the money had been taken back by the bank. My challenge is that I needed that money to buy school uniforms and groceries for my household," she said.

Bongiwe* who was surprised to receive E5 000 unexpectedly said; "I'm always broke and when money availed itself, I duly used it as it was in my account. But what surprised me was that SwaziBank took all my salary without even informing me. The following month I also got another manna from the bank again, this time they took half of my salary and the following month all my money was deducted."

"I had savings with SwaziBank Sicalo Account and when I did my withdrawal, I was told I owed the bank. I was told to go to Matata SwaziBank branch," said another client, who refused to be named.

After spending the windfall, the bank customers were shocked to find large amounts of money deducted from their accounts, presumably to repay the money they got as 'gifts'.

What astounded the customers was they were allegedly not informed that the reversals would be effected and this shocked them as it was reversed during their pay days.

When the bank was contacted, they initially wanted more information from this publication in order to ascertain the extent of information in our possession.

Later, responding to a question-

naire, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Phesheya Vilakati explained that the error occurred during a systems upgrade and further assured that everything was back to normal.

"The affected customers knew that the funds were not meant for them. In short, they knew they were not

entitled to the funds mistakenly deposited into their accounts. The affected customers have been engaged and

suitable arrangements made to repay the money," Vilakati said.

When asked about the amount of money which was dispersed to customers during the error, Vilakati said; "Unfortunately, that is confidential operational information. But, we can indicate that the amount was small. Also we must state that there was no cyber-attack."

Vilakati further explained that the bank communicated with the affected customers who also understood that the money had to be paid back.

"In addition, the bank always teaches customers that if they notice an abnormality in their accounts, they must notify the bank," he said.

However, this explanation did not go down well with the Big Bend residents as they felt they were treated unfairly due to their lowly social status. "We never asked SwaziBank to deposit money into our accounts and for them to take the whole salary is unfair. What SwaziBank should have done was to acknowledge their mistake and negotiate with us on how we can repay the money. What we don't understand is; are they doing this because we are ignorant of the law and are uneducated factory workers?" complained a customer.

Vilakati, on the issue of deducting large amounts of money said, "The bank would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused but remains open to negotiation with any customer who feels adversely affected."



The Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini with Boy Scouts.

DPM GOES BACK IN TIME WITH BOY SCOUTS

BY SICELI MAZIYA

The Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini went down memory lane when he graced the Swaziland Scouts Movement Founder's Day event at Salem High School last week Saturday.

The DPM is still a member of the organisation and attended the campfire where he addressed boy scouts. The Scouts Founders Day is celebrated every year on the date of birth of the Founder of the Scouts Movement Lord Baden Powel on February 22. Local scouts celebrated their Day on the weekend of February 17-19.

"I joined scouting even before being appointed the country's DPM and I was unfortunate not to undergo the youth programme which is rich in skills that shape young people," commented the scouts leader about his involvement in the movement.

However, he still does not regret joining the movement at a later stage of his life, saying he had learned a lot regardless of when he joined. "I've

learned a lot of things about the bravery of the young people in tackling other peer pressure issues. I have seen how they help their own communities without complaining but with pride like tree planting sessions to reduce the dongas and soil erosion," he stated.

Addressing the scouts, he said they were lucky to have joined as young people. "You should continue serving as members because you are safe as young people in the scouts movement. The scouts movement teachings you receive from your leadership will one day be valuable without noticing," he added. Dlamini then reminded the scouts and their leaders of the responsibility of creating good and responsible global citizens. "The Scout Movement is a voluntary non-political educational movement for young people, open to all without distinction of gender, origin, race or creed," he emphasised. He further thanked parents and teachers for allowing young people to join and practice scouting as it promotes

good behaviour. "I'm sure the results of good behaviour are witnessed as they are taught on the basis of respect and trust". On behaviour and conduct, he stated; "Many young people transgress and later regret wasting their time, as scouts be wary of any disobedience because some regrets are coming with permanent scars that you cannot change even if you want to." In a later interview, the DPM revealed that he joined scouting because of the love for children and the youth in general. "Issues of young people and scouts are one of the key areas the African Union wants every state to invest in. Young people like all scouts should live a life of fulfillment, setting their own goals they can be proud of," added the DPM. He observed that scouts, through peer-to-peer leadership, supported by adults, embrace the same set of values illustrated in the Scouts Promise and Law. "All scouts groups follow a similar system of non-formal education suited to the unique aspects of their local community".

Driving to town proves too much for Mkhitsini folks

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Hopes of a first world Swaziland seem like a far-fetched dream for residents of little known Mkhitsini area who are struggling with access to better roads in the area.

The residents have to deal with the troubles of driving through a deadly and muddy hill on a daily basis whenever they want to connect with urban areas. Numerous efforts to address the issue of the bad roads, particularly the hill namely, 'Tjedze' through the help of the ministry of public works and transport, have all proven futile as it still remains a hurdle to drive up the hill.

This past week, the Sunday Observer paid a visit to the area where it proved a struggle to drive up the hill with one motorist found fixing his vehicle by the road side which had developed mechanical faults. When interviewed, he expressed his frustration at the challenges they faced driving up the hill, revealing that his car broke down because of the inaccessible roads in the area.

He pleaded with the government to do something for them because what has been done before proved to work only for a brief period and thereafter they went back to the same challenges.

Of note, a couple of years ago, employees from one of the contractors who were connecting electricity in the area lost their lives after the truck they were driving in lost control whilst driving up the dangerous hill.

The area's Bucopho Fuzi Mthethwa said it was unfortunate that they were faced with such a predicament that hampered not only their livelihood but also had an impact in as far as development was concerned.

He said they had tried to seek assistance from the ministry of public works who promised to add concrete in the strip from the foot of the hill until the top, however, from the look

of things this was delayed by financial constraints on the part of government.

"Seeing that the initial plan was not materialising, they have since promised to re-gravel the road, which of course will last for a short period, but at-least for that time we will manage to drive up safely as compared to what is happening at the moment," said Mthethwa.

He further revealed that at some point they tried engaging Inyatsi Construction at the time they were constructing the Yith'Abantu highway between Hlatikulu and Nhlanguano who were willing to assist them, although at a fee. However, efforts to collect money to raise the required fee from the residents proved futile as only a few managed to pay, he said.

On another note, in the interim, the residents have been trying to clear up the road on their own as they converged at the hill earlier this month and burned the rocks as means of creating an accessible hill.

Having done that, Mthethwa said the road had been cleared even though he emphasised there was need for a permanent solution to this.

On the other hand, a resident identified as 'Ngwenya' said with the current rains experienced driving up the hill was a challenge because of the rocks that had been uncovered by the rains hence whenever they burned the rocks, they tried to then cover them up with soil.

He said the only way they can be assisted is getting more soil to cover these rocks, something which they have been promised by the ministry of works; however they said they had an urgent assignment they had to see through first before they can attend to their cause.

"We met with them this week and hopefully they will soon be attending to us since all we need is to get the soil then that will make a difference," he said.

SENEGALESE FINALLY JETS HOME

had been stranded at KMIII Airport for two weeks

STORIES BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

It took an expose by this newspaper to bring to the fore the case of a foreigner who had spent weeks stranded at the King Mswati III International Airport, without any sort of hope he could be rescued.

However, once the story was published in last Sunday's issue, officials sprung to action.

The Senegalese, reportedly a football player who had been promised a lucrative contract and career in the country, finally got his wish to be assisted to return home.

He had been on a one-way ticket to Swaziland. However, his dream turned into a nightmare when he was met at the airport by police, who subsequently detained him as his paperwork turned out to be fraudulent.

But, on Thursday, Medi, as he is known, boarded an afternoon flight out of KMIII, his destination being that of his home. His flight, according to well placed sources, left at 2.10pm to South Africa where he was scheduled to take a connector to his home country.

This followed investigations and deliberations by different parties after speculations to the effect that he had been trafficked to the kingdom based on the fact that no one showed up to pick him up at the airport on his arrival. To compound his problem, Medi only spoke French, leaving the officials with no option but to rely on sign language.

THERE WAS COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN—XI MEN

XI Men team Manager Chicco Kunene yesterday confirmed knowledge of the matter of the Senegalese man who had spent two weeks stranded at the airport, apparently on the belief he was coming to join a football club in the country.

Kunene said there was communication breakdown between his team and Medi's agent. He disclosed that one of the team's players had been called by the police to assist in their investigations surrounding Medi.

"The player, whom I cannot name for ethical reasons, was called by the police two weeks after the guy had arrived. I accompanied him when he was taken for questioning by the police," he revealed.

According to the manager, Medi is a soccer player who was visiting the country legally to be registered after being informed by the locally based player and an agent in his home country.

Kunene said the player admitted having told Medi and the agent of an opportunity in the country and

It has been revealed that the football player's documents were authentic as he had initially applied for the visit to the country.

It was also established that in his application, the Senegalese had indicated that his purpose of visit was to join a football team if he passed trials. "According to the information I received since I was out of the country he is now back home," confirmed the Acting Chief Immigration Officer Makhosi Simelane yesterday.

He explained that Medi could not be allowed into the country on grounds that he did not have a return ticket as it was said to have been cancelled for being fraudulently obtained yet, according to the law, he should have a double ticket. Simelane further stated that upon arrival, Medi had no idea on his destination and the host did not show up to pick him up, which then forced the ministry to rely on the law enforcement since the police had the facility to keep him.

Simelane also confirmed that Medi had come to do trials with one of the teams in the country. He said he had been informed the name of the team was XI Men football club but would need to be in the office to verify the details.

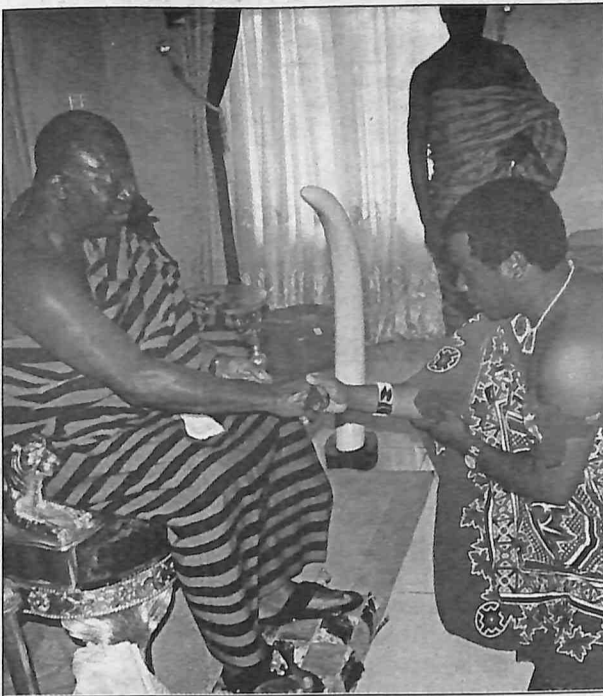
"The airline was supposed to open a case with Interpol which would then put him in the wanted list but that was not the case as it finally sorted out the issue and made it possible for the man to get home," he explained, regarding the detention of the player.

that he would have received a commission once Medi was signed by the team. However, this was supposed to be done between December 2016 and January 30 which was the deadline for registration but the agent delayed to buy Medi the ticket. "The player was unaware that the guy had arrived as he had informed the agent to stop bringing him in since the registration period has elapsed," he said. Kunene said had Medi arrived on time, he was going to be considered and he can still come again when reception is opened.

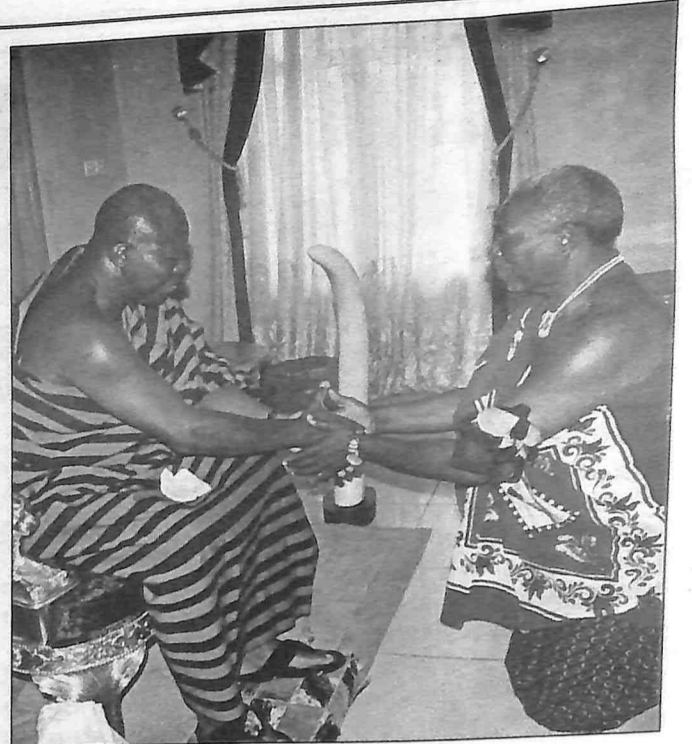
Airlink CEO Teddy Mavuso said he was not going to divulge much as they were not allowed to comment on an issue once the police got involved.

"The police have been handling the matter and they actually facilitated to ensure that the guy gets home," he said.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba said they wrote to the ministry of home affairs about the matter.



National Secretary Nhlanhla Dlamini pays allegiance to the president.



Prince Phuhlaphi meets the president.

KING CONGRATULATES GHANA PRESIDENT ON ELECTION

BY SUNDAY OBSERVER REPORTER

His Majesty King Mswati III recently sent a special envoy to congratulate recently inaugurated Republic of Ghana President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, on his victory in the 2016 election, and on his assumption of the highest office of the land. The envoy, led by Prince Phuhlaphi, consisted of Ludzidzini Council Secretary Chief Dambuza Lukhele as well as National Secretary Nhlanhla Dlamini.

The congratulatory message, which was conveyed to the president, assured the country's cooperation during his tenure.

The special envoy conveyed His Majesty's wishes that bilateral relations between the two countries grow from strength to strength, to the mutual benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

The King further extended his deepest condolences, through the president, to the Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asanteman and Ghana, on the passing of the Asantehemaa, Nana Afia Kobi Serwaa Ampem II.

In response, President Akufo-Addo thanked the King's envoy for his message, and used the opportunity to congratulate King Mswati III on his election as the Third Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union. He also congratulated His Majesty on his nomination as Chair of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), during the 28th African Union Summit which was held in Addis Ababa this past January, and assured the King of Ghana's



The Swazi envoy which was sent by His Majesty to congratulate the president on winning the elections.

support to help achieve a malaria-free Africa.

The president recounted how he, as Ghana's foreign Minister and Chairman of the AU Ministerial conclave in Swaziland, in 2005, together with his colleague AU foreign ministers drafted the Ezulwuni consensus, which called for a more representative and democratic Security Council.

The goal of the AU, as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus, was to be fully represented in all the decision-making organs of the UN, particularly in the Security Council, which is the principal decision-making organ of the UN in matters relating to international peace and security.

Full representation of Africa on the Security Council would mean having not less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership, including the right of veto; five non-permanent seats; and that the AU should be responsible for the selection of Africa's representatives on the Security Council.

Nearly 12 years later, President Akufo-Addo lamented the fact that little progress had been made since the drawing up of the Consensus in Swaziland.

He, thus, urged King Mswati III and his colleague African leaders to help in the advocacy towards the full realisation of this consensus.

(sourced citifmonline.com/Ghana)

King's Office representative Prince Phuhlaphi, Chief Dambuza Lukhele and Nhlanhla Dlamini with Ghananians after meeting the president.



EMPOWERMENT COCKTAIL

STORIES BY AYANDA DLAMINI

The women empowerment cocktail dinner hosted by SWAGAA and Ntentions Events was a success as women came in numbers, dressed to kill for the dialogue at Ramblas Restaurant in Mbabane on Friday.

The dinner started on the stipulated time 6:30pm with Tharlene Ntombini being the host for the night, and the programme went smoothly.

She welcomed distinguished guests, company representatives and laid out the programme to the attendees. Ntombini welcomed the first speaker of the night, the Executive Director of SWAGAA Cebile

Manzini-Henwood on stage. Henwood touched on how women and children are such vulnerable beings that are too often oppressed and abused. She mentioned that women needed to support each other to fight against abuse.

Supporting her statement, SWAGAA Communications Officer Slindelo Nkosi said the fundraising dinner would help more girls understand when they are being abused.

"We really appreciate such an approach and this will help the

girls to unite and come forth when they are being abused," she said. She went on expressing her excitement on seeing women coming together and supporting each other.

"We are so excited to see women coming together and this dialogue could give people the idea of how severe abuse can be," she said.

She urged women to come forth and report abuse cases.

"We are aware that there are more abuse cases but they are hidden," she stated.



Attendees at the women empowerment cocktail dinner hosted by SWAGAA and Ntentions Events at Ramblas Restaurant in Mbabane on Friday. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



SNYC Chairperson Fisiwe Vilane in a conversation with SWAGAA Executive Director Cebile Manzini-Henwood at the dinner. RIGHT - DJ Mix Smash and DJ Ntombs on the decks.



...Mandisa Mamba serenades guests

Mandisa stole the show with her performance as she thrilled attendees at the dinner. She performed 'Hello America', 'Fly' and 'Power'.

She gave her best as she left the guests pleading for more.

In-between her performance, she spoke about an encounter she had with a lady she met in the restroom. "The lady I met

briefly in the bathroom reminded me why we are here tonight and how it has nothing to do with me as an individual but everything to do with us women coming together and standing up with pride in support of one another," she said.

Mandisa performing 'Hello America'.



This pupil's school shirt is well washed and completely worn. RIGHT - With the zip having failed a long time ago, this pupil's hand-me-down jacket was sewn shut in order to keep it cosy.

Free education still costly

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Despite there being Free Primary Education and the Orphaned and Vulnerable Fund, it is still costly for some children to attend school.

"Children in this area make do with whatever uniform they can find and at times, these are well worn hand me downs," said Sigwe community member Nonhlanhla Dlamini. She said this after highlighting the plight of some children from the area who were dressed in not just well worn clothes but tattered uniforms held together by will.

FPE caters for children attending primary schools whereas the OVC fund caters for children in that category at high school level. Several of the children said they could not afford to have new uniforms as they were costly.

"I have been wearing this same uniform since Grade One," a Grade Six pupil said.

She said she had to wear a jersey all the time in order to hide the fact that the buttons fell off long ago.

"Even if it had buttons, I would not be able to close it," she said with a shy smile.

Another pupil said his shoes were bought second hand last year.

"They are torn right now, I



"My brother owned these shoes before me and they are still too big but I have to wear them because I will not be getting new ones." This is the story told by orphaned and vulnerable children who face numerous challenges in their quest to get an education. (Pics: Thembeke Dlamini)

have tried to sew them closed previously and I have run out of string."

Another revealed that the trouser he wore to school was handed down from his elder brothers. "I have never had a new uniform in all my years of schooling as I have to wear my older brother's clothes all the time.

He gets uniform which is in better condition from our better-off neighbour," he said. A parent, Sarah Dlamini, said her children had to make do with that which they have.

"If we don't get donations for

shoes, they have to wear the ones they have until they fall into pieces. We don't have money to buy clothes and new uniforms are certainly a luxury," she said.

While admitting that acquiring uniforms was difficult for economically disadvantaged pupils, Swaziland Principals Association (SWAPA) Vice President Welcome Mhlanga said there was something schools could do to mitigate this.

"A lot can be done by schools which will not necessarily cost them anything," he said.

He explained that teachers

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DINNER A SUCCESS

Enhle Lichfield having a light moment.



Nomile Hlatshwayo and Slindelo Nkosi upon arrival. RIGHT - Emma Florence and Gcinekile could not miss the dinner as they looked elegant.



Bandile Mahlangu and his partner Elethu Dlamini were pleasing to the eye. RIGHT - Host Tharlene Ntombini with her friends Crol Praat and Sabiie.



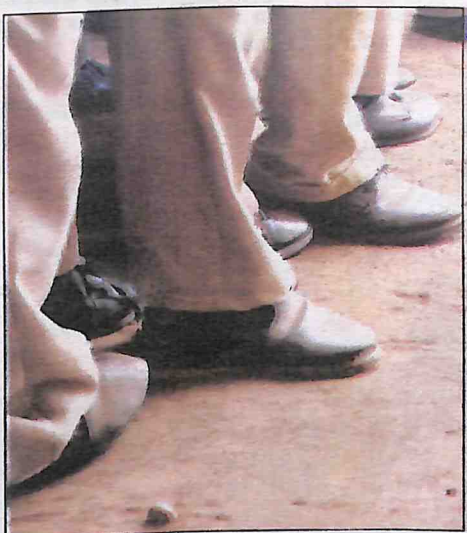
for orphans



If and when a child gets new shoes, they are usually the cheap ones which wear out before the first term ends.



These pupils have to make do with an assortment of shoes which they said they received from donation drives whereas the plastic bag with books in it is used as a school bag.



"I have never had a new uniform in all my years of schooling as I have to wear my older brother's clothes all the time. He gets uniform which is in better condition from our better-off neighbour"

could identify those who are in need and assist them in a lot of ways such as establishing a system that enables those who have left the school to donate it back to be used by pupils at the school. "On the other hand, the OVC fund could assist and include money for uniforms.

"Not all of it because we know that

schools have different uniform requirements, just the basics to enable pupils to look presentable and be in uniform like other children," he said.

Mhlanga further encouraged relatives of OVC to assist in every manner which will enable children to attend school unhindered. In response, the Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini said con-

cerns about lack of uniforms for OVC had not reached them.

"Even then, the OVC fund is for payment of school fees which enables those who were previously unable to attend school to attend," he said, adding that it should be taken as welfare and might not cover every need that the OVC experiences.



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STAND-OFF OVER FAULTY MERC SEES CAR PARKED FOR A YEAR

...Customer claims to have been sold car with mechanical faults which he has since fixed and wants these costs to be deducted from his outstanding balances, whilst the dealership denies ever selling a faulty car

BY MLONDI MPANZA

A client and a car dealership are in dispute over the sale of a Mercedes Benz worth E120 000 which later turned out to be faulty.

Raimundo Sendela Chambele bought the navy blue vehicle in 2014 from Elegant Investments in Matsapha and was not told the car had serious mechanical faults. However, less than a month after the delivery, he discovered the car had faults and had to take it for repairs in Piet Retief, South Africa.

This was only the first of many visits to Piet Retief as, according to records in possession of this publication, he ended up spending around E30 000 fixing the vehicle.

As a result of this, he ended up defaulting in his monthly payments for the vehicle which he had paid a deposit of E50 000 and was to pay the balance in monthly instalments of E17 500 thereafter.

His normal thinking behind this was that the costs of repairs would be deducted from the outstanding balance of E70 000 for the purchase.

However, Muhammed Ashafa hears none of this and Chambele has been receiving numerous calls from a lawyer whose identity will not be revealed claiming to be in possession of a court order giving him the right to repossess the said vehicle.

What is, however, mind boggling is that despite the numerous claims of a court order being issued against Chambele, he still hasn't been served with it two years later, nor has it been

seen by his lawyer, Thandeka Hlabangani.

In as far as I'm concerned, my client bought the vehicle not knowing it was faulty and upon discovery he informed the car dealership about this. An agreement was made that he should fix the car then the costs would be deducted from the outstanding balance. However, the dealership does not want to uphold this agreement, instead they claim to have a court order to repossess the vehicle which I have not seen up to date," said Hlabangani.

On the other hand, when Muhammed was contacted, he disputed that the car had any faults when he sold it before he later said sold second hand vehicles so they did not have much of a guarantee that they were in good condition. He said they

could not be compared to brand new vehicles, adding all he wanted was for his payment to be made.

Further, this newspaper was shown a communication that was written by Hlabangani to Muhammad dated October 22, 2014 requesting that a concession be made on the purchase price in light of the costs of repairs for the vehicle.

The letter states that, "Client advises that in less than a month on receiving the vehicle, he discovered that the motor vehicle was fraught with latent defects. Client further advises that the latent defects made it impossible for him to even use the aforesaid motor vehicle on the road."

It further states that as a result of this discovery, Chambele was forced to repair the motor vehicle to make it roadworthy and even be able to drive

it. For this, he spent a total sum of E35 800 but this communication was never responded to except for the claims of being in possession of a court order.

Currently, the vehicle is being kept at a police station as the aggrieved client waits for the said court order.

Meanwhile, the car dealership has also been accused of selling vehicles and then grab them back the moment a client fails to honour an instalment.

This accusation was made by a woman identified as Zodwa, who is related to Chambele, who said she had also bought a vehicle from the same dealership, only for it to be later taken back after she missed an instalment.

Faults

She said her vehicle also had faults and this was one of the reasons why she had defaulted in her payments because she was trying to communicate her frustrations.

She said she received a call from an individual claiming to be a messenger of a court and in possession of a court order to repossess the vehicle as she had failed to honour its instalments for four months. Subsequently, the vehicle was taken back despite the fact that she had already paid at least E35 000 for it with an additional E10 000 paid later being reversed back to her for the vehicle alleged to be worth E55 000.

Country to participate in Global Mentoring Walk

● It will be held on March 11th, in celebration of International Women's Day and is open to any woman from the age of 16 years and above

BY MLONDI MPANZA

The country is set to take part in the Global Mentoring Walk as means of celebrating the International Women's Day.

The walk will be held on March 11 and will be hosted by Vital Voices, an international organisation based in Washington DC.

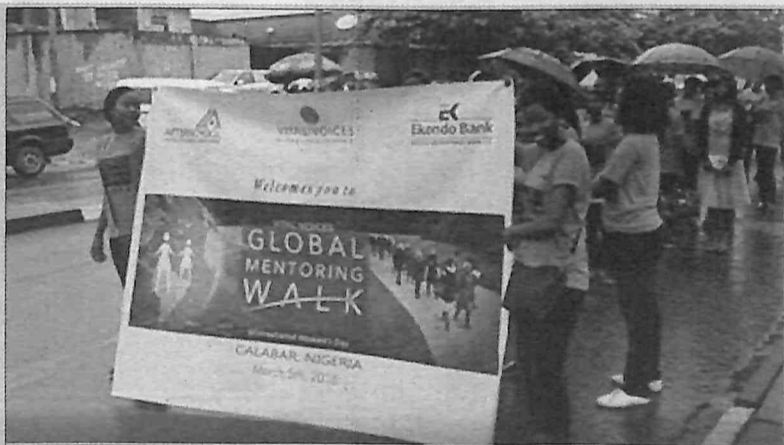
This was revealed in a statement released to this publication where the walk was said to be one of the most inspiring ways in which Vital Voices networks give back to their own communities and encourage women leaders to support and mentor younger women.

Last year, Flag Bearers organised 86 walks worldwide with over 14 000 women and girls participating which was double the number of participants from the year before.

For this year, there will 130 walks taking place in 62 countries around the world where thousands of women will be part of this global movement to commemorate International Women's Day.

Each year, key members of the Vital Voices serve as Mentoring Walk Flag Bearers and they lead the design and implementation of Mentoring Walk events in their communities.

While Flag Bearers tailor their walks to address pressing challenges in their local communities, each walk is designed to bring women together to provide mentorship, guidance and support, so that progress can be made



Women taking part in a Global Mentorship Walk in one of the African countries. (Sourced from internet)

even faster.

"The walk will be short and easy, suitable for all ladies (despite fitness levels) and will take place in Swaziland on Saturday, March 11," reads the statement.

Participation in the walk is free and any woman from the age of 16 and above may participate in this annual event organised by members of Vital Voices' Global Leadership Network, who convene established and emerging women leaders to walk together and form mentoring relationships.

International Women's Day is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political contributions of women around the world and serves as a call to action to close the gap between progress and potential, in order to accelerate gender parity globally.

According to information sourced from their website, Vital Voices' mission is to invest in women leaders who improve the world through identifying, investing in and bringing visibility to extraordinary women around the world by unleashing their leadership potential to transform lives and accelerate peace and prosperity in their communities.

This non-profit making organisation grew out of the United States of America government's successful Vital Voices Democracy Initiative. The Vital Voices Democracy Initiative was established in 1997 by then-First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright after the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing to promote the advancement of women as a US foreign policy goal.

Weather forecast not for the south

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

People in the southern parts of the country find no comfort in the weather forecast aired by different media in the country.

"There will be light drizzle..." this is the opening line after the news broadcast on the radio and you wonder for which places this drizzle will be for because we always miss out," Zanele Dlamini of Sigwe said this past week. She said the end of the news was always dreary for her as she still had to struggle to get water.

"With the anticipated normal to heavy rains this season, I even bought myself a large tank to harvest water instead of using buckets. I think I wasted my money because it has not risen above the quarter mark," she said disappointedly.

Her maize fields look golden brown as maize stalks do after harvest and look like they were chopped down after the cobs were harvested. "They did not even grow cobs. Having planted in November, the crop died in January and turned that colour," she said.

She stated how she was

disheartened to even cut them down because it reminded her of all her energy gone to waste. She revealed how there was a little bit of rain during the days when Cyclone Dineo was expected to make landfall in the country but it was too late to make a difference in her already failed crop. Another resident of the area, Solani Ntibane, said he was always disappointed to wait for the rains to reach their part of the country to no avail.

"It hasn't rained in this area. If it had rained, there would be greenery. Just look at the cracked ground. There is no hope here," he said, while pointing at his stunted sun scorched maize.

Very few *ligusha* plants could be seen growing out of the parched soil. "It is too few to even cook unless you gather it from other people's fields as well," Ntibane said, as he stood in the family field with his brother Chimbani.

"We haven't had rain in this area for the last three years. I paid E500 for water to be brought into the water tank in the family homestead and we have to really save it because I will not be able to buy some in a while," a resigned Ntibane said.



Brothers Chimbani and Solani Ntibane standing in their desolate fields which failed in Mconcwane. (Pic: Thembeke Dlamini)

ASIANS TELL THEIR STORIES

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Members of the Asian community based in Swaziland tell the same story, "We love the peaceful nature of the country."

They have been dumbfounded by the sudden turn of events which has seen them being ostracised and their status in the country questioned. "We want people to know that we are here to conduct peaceful business and to assist the country in every manner possible," several

said. Despite the modesty dictated by their Islamic religion, a few agreed to tell their stories of how they came to the country.

Those who declined cited religious beliefs which they said frowned on them being in the public eye.

I left Bangladesh because of political turmoil

I came to Swaziland in 2012 after leaving my country in disappointment after the elections which were won by the Bangladesh National Party.

The contending politicians were ladies and that was not the problem, the problem was my affiliation in the party.

Due to being a political activist, my mother called for me to

leave because I was not safe in my home country.

Since my uncle had been living in Swaziland for quite some time, I decided to live with him and I hope to return soon if politics change to my favour.

Active

I was very active in my party and I am now just a businessman. I haven't gone back home since I arrived here even though my uncle visits them regularly.

I currently work for my friend who owns the business.

I live with him and his family. Even though I make very little money, it is better than being at home for now with the current political climate and president.

I won't lie and say there is no money to be made at home because the population is very high. Most of us live here because differing personal problems which called

for us to leave our home.

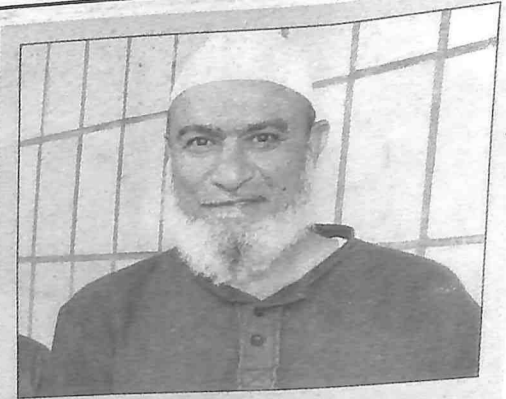
Yes, maybe some are here for business however, the same businesses which are found in Swaziland can strive better in Bangladesh.

I hope to return in about two years time and get married if I can.

Hope

I currently don't have a girlfriend and I don't intend to have a Swazi one either as I hope to get married to a Muslim woman from my home country.

I don't have sexual relations because it is forbidden in my country and religion to violate a woman. The only sexual relations I will have are with my wife.



Gajaria Hafizer Abdul Rahim.

'I love Swaziland, the peaceful atmosphere'

Gajaria Hafizer Abdul Rahim from South Africa had his birthday this past Thursday and he said living in the country was the best gift he could give to himself.

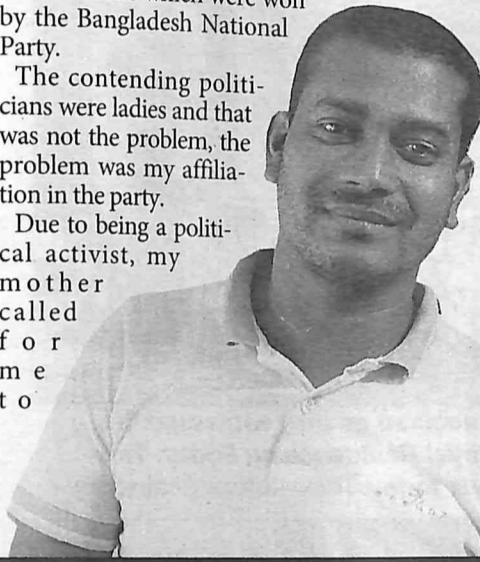
He said the country was peaceful and was in line with his religion.

"I am South African. My grandfather lived and worked in South Africa even though we are originally from India. My wife stays in Durban," he said.

Assured

He assured that he was in the country legally as he brought up his work permit without being asked about his status. Explaining the reason behind running to fetch his papers even after he was assured that the interview was not about his immigration status in the country, he said he wanted to show that he had all the right papers and had not come to Swaziland to make trouble. "You can take pictures of my papers," he said.

"We have heard people saying we are here illegally, that is not the case as we are respectful of the country and are here because the country has always been welcoming to us," he said. Looking at his iPhone fondly, he said Rahim said his brother in law came to Swaziland before him and he followed because he heard only good things about Swaziland and has been here ever since.



I fell in love with Swaziland

"I only knew about South Africa and when I got there, I heard about Swaziland and I fell in love when I got here," Ashfap Ahmed said.

He said he left his home country, Pakistan in 2009 due to the armed conflicts which made the country economically unstable, in order to find means of taking care of his family.

Having first intended to live in South Africa where he established a business, he then heard about Swaziland and decided to cross the border into the country.

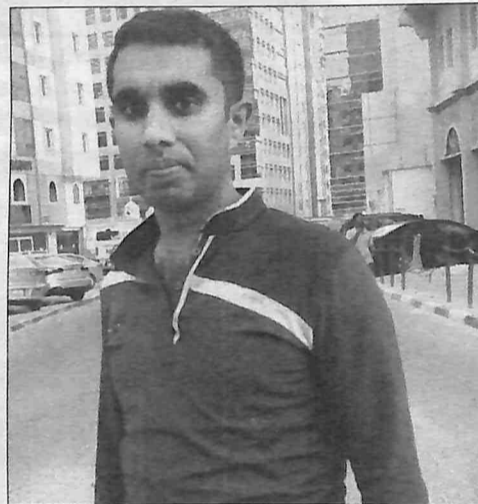
"I did not have family here and all I knew was that the country had lovely people and was peaceful. This is what I needed after

the turmoil in my country," he said.

Ahmed is well known at Buhleni and surrounding areas as he operates a retail outlet trading under the style, *Makhelwane*. He also attends traditional ceremonies clad as a warrior as he was initiated a few years ago and is known as *Umbutfo Hlakaniphile*.

"I loved Swaziland immediately and I learnt the language as fast as I could because when you love a country, you conform to its standards," he said.

His friend, Shahbaz Akram told a similar story. The Mbabane based businessman said he arrived in Swaziland in 1998 after first running a business in South Africa. "When I heard about Swaziland, I immedi-



Ashfap Ahmed.

ately packed my bags and left because South Africa has too much crime and violence," he said. Having established himself as a businessman situated at the Mbabane Industrial Site, he said his family visited him often and spent as much time as they wanted in the country as it was safe and welcoming for them.

Family of man electrocuted in December still awaiting answers

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Though their son's body was laid to rest early in January after a post mortem was done because his controversial death on 24 December, 2016, the family of Njabulo Simelane is still awaiting answers on whose negligence resulted in the loss of their loved one.

The thought of his anguish will never leave the minds of his family, but for closure, the family wants to get answers of what really transpired on the day their son was electrocuted. Simelane was not supposed to work on the day he met his tragic death. He hoped he would be home with his family as he had been assigned as small task.

His grandmother Dumsile Simelane said they were still in the dark on what actually took place and what actions they were going to take on the issue, but firstly, they needed

explanations.

"We don't know what really happened. What we know is that Njabulo had sent some of his men to go and check if the electricity was switched off or not. However, an official of the Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) is said to have arrived at the scene and found the employees doing nothing.

He reportedly switched off the electricity and started shouting at Simelane, asking why he was not attending to the fault.

It is then that Simelane decided to climb up the pole to attend to the electric fault that had been reported.

According to gogo Simelane, he was discovered electrocuted when the men he had sent earlier returned.

The same sentiments were shared by his elder sister Zandi Simelane who said the subcontractors always work under supervision of an SEC official who is responsible to switch off the main power supply before

work is to resume and switch it on again once they are done.

"They don't touch anything electric without the supervision of the SEC official. Only the official from SEC does that, and in this case he was asked by Njabulo's supervisor if he had switched off the power supply and he said yes when they asked him again after Njabulo's death he said he had switched off the previous day," related his sister, questioning the version of the official.

Fanie Tsabedze who was working with Simelane on the day also shared a similar version as he reiterated the words of the Simelane family.

"The SEC car arrived soon after us, hearing the sound of a step ladder we returned because we were resting in a bushy area. As we were 100 metres away from the area where the incident happened, where two workers were putting a step ladder to the pole. The SEC workers were there when it happened," he explained.



Lucky to be alive, some of Njabulo's workmates from MS Property Development.

According to Kunene it was the same official who had been authorised to do the switching on the day that made the mistake after successfully following the procedure in the other areas.

"We started in the morning where we were also fixing some fallen lines around Lobamba. Later he asked us to re-string the broken conductor. He told us that the jumpers were broken meaning that line was off," he said.

Tsabedze also stated that his colleague simply followed the command and stepped on the ladder

while some went to verify if indeed the power cables were broken only to find him already electrocuted when they returned.

According to Tsabedze, it was the red cable that claimed Simelane's life as it had power while the yellow cable which needed the fixing was switched off together with the blue one.

Efforts to get comments from the Swaziland Electricity Company failed as several calls made to the spokesperson were not responded to during the week, nor was an emailed questionnaire acknowledged.

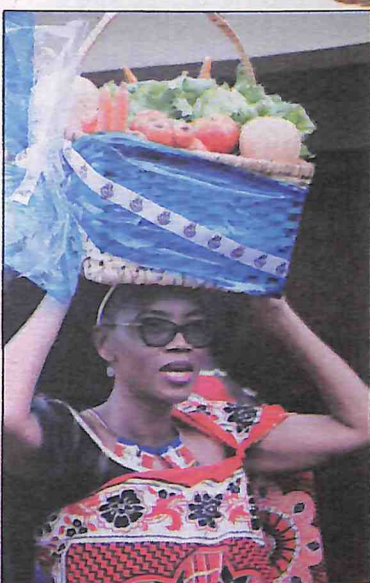
Buganu Festival 2017



Pictures and copies sponsored by SPTC



Her Majesty Indlovukazi joined by Balondolozis and Emakhosikatis as they witnessed the delivery of buganu by thousands of Lutsango at Hlane Royal Residence on Friday. This marked the beginning of the Buganu Festival which ends today. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Minister Jabulile Mashwama leading the way for the departments under her ministry.



Temcwasho Simelane in a jubilant mood as she brought goodies for Her Majesty.



The ministry of health Lutsango also joined the festivities.



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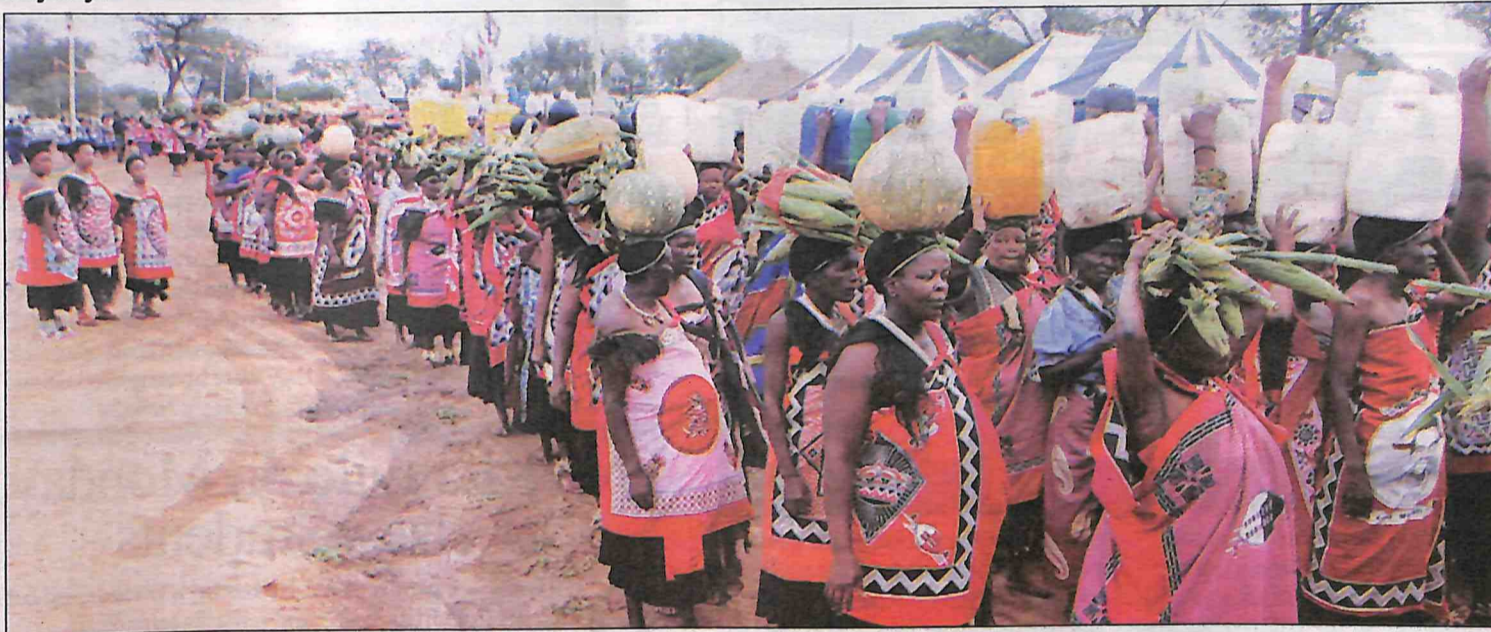
Lutsango from SNPF also came through with gifts for Her Majesty.



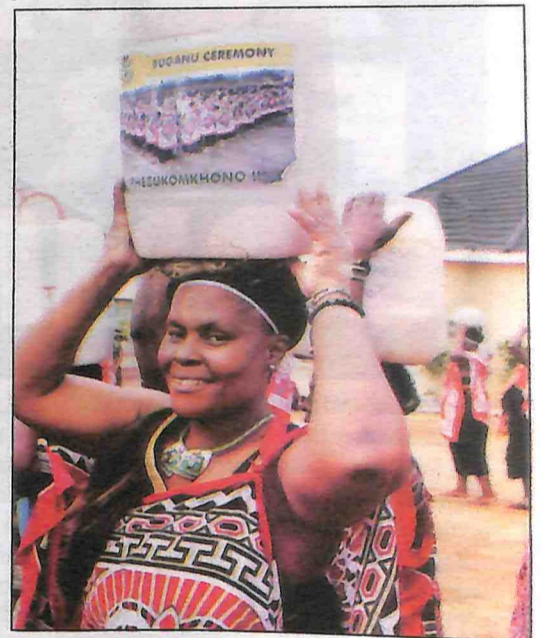
Part of the many different goodies brought before Her Majesty.



Macmillan MD Busi Simelane who is SNCAC Board Chairperson also joined the throngs of Lutsango.



Lutsango came from near and far to deliver goodies to Her Majesty.



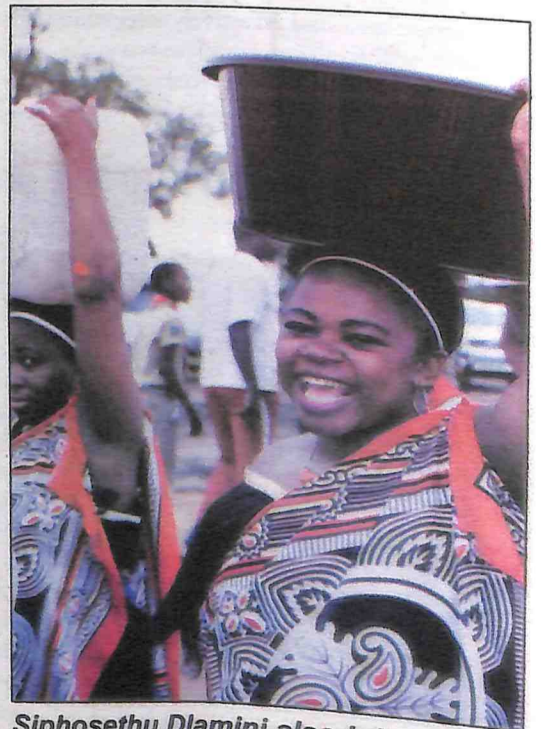
Jabu Tsabedze from HMCS was also among the many who came through.



Students from IDM Botswana joined by leadership from local and Botswana institutions posing for a photo after entertaining Her Majesty.



SNCAC Lutsango doing what they do best as they danced before Her Majesty.



Siphosethu Dlamini also joined Lutsango.



Lutsango delivering different goodies for the festival.

Focus on SA scene



ZUMA CALLS FOR CALM IN COMMUNITIES

JOHANNESBURG – President Jacob Zuma called for calm following Friday's march against crime in Pretoria that resulted in locals and immigrants clashing.

Zuma urged communities to work with law enforcement.

The president also cautioned against labelling the fight against crime as xenophobic, saying South Africans can never be accused of xenophobia as the country hosted more of immigrants than Europe and had effectively integrated them within all communities across the country, including townships. "The community frustrations are sparked by

high levels of criminal activities particularly drugs trafficking, under-age prostitution and human trafficking which are impacting on the youth negatively and are alleged to be perpetuated by the foreign nationals. "But the march in Pretoria today, which was also attended by foreign nationals, was anti-crime not anti-foreigners and we appeal to all the marchers to protest within the confines of the law. No destruction of property, no burning and barricading of roads, violence or killing of people would ever be tolerated and the law will take its course," he said. The president also said he had convened a meeting with

ministers in the justice, crime prevention and security cluster. "We also want to warn foreign nationals to live and operate within our laws and know that they will be brought to book if they commit any crime within the Republic," the president said. President Zuma appealed to political leaders to refrain from making reckless and irresponsible statements that have the potential of fuelling tensions between South Africans and foreign-nationals. "We urge unity among both our citizens and non-nationals in the fight against crime," the president concluded.

eNCA

Molefe's swearing-in as ANC MP was ill-advised - SACP



Newly sworn ANC MP Brian Molefe.

JOHANNESBURG - Former Eskom CEO Brian Molefe's swearing-in as an MP was ill-advised and clumsily-handled, the SACP said.

There was confusion over which African National Congress branch he was a member of, and the haste with which the move was made raised questions, said South African Communist Party First Deputy Secretary, Jeremy Cronin. The tripartite alliance partner said it was never consulted on his nomination to Parliament. Different ANC branches in Gauteng and North West claimed him as a member. Other members within the same North West branch claimed he was not on their books. "If we were consulted, we would have said it is a very ill-advised move, even for

Mr Molefe himself." Cronin said the honourable thing for Molefe to have done would have been to decline the position. This would have allowed for a cooling-off period after his stint at Eskom, or to be cleared from the findings in Public Protector Thuli Madonsela's State of Capture report. Madonsela found Molefe made several calls to a member of the Gupta family and visited their Saxonwold, Johannesburg, compound on numerous occasions. She suggested the family had unduly benefited from Eskom's coal contracts. "It's not good for him either. He enters into the parliamentary space, perhaps with other intentions, as well as under this deep, dark cloud."

News24

'Government must stop criminalising foreigners'

JOHANNESBURG – The African Diaspora Forum (ADF) called on the government to stop making statements that criminalise people from other African countries, amid fears that Friday's xenophobic attacks in Tshwane could spread to other parts of South Africa.

ADF spokesperson Johnson Adeke told News24 yesterday that President Jacob Zuma's comments on Friday that government cannot ignore claims that foreigners might be linked to crime did not help to calm the situation.

"We have been criminalised by government institutions that are supposed to protect us," he said as ADF field workers helped with an inventory of destroyed properties, and counted how many people have been injured and displaced in attacks in Mamelodi, Atteridgeville and Rosettenville since the violence started two weeks ago.

In a statement on Friday, Zuma said: "We cannot close our eyes to the concerns of the communities that most of the crimes, such as drug dealing, prostitu-

tion, and human trafficking are allegedly perpetuated by foreign nationals."

Statements such as these simply single out and stereotype migrants, he said.

The ADF had written to Johannesburg Mayor Herman Mashaba, to Zuma, and other government institutions warning them that trouble was brewing after Mashaba's statement that he would remove "illegal foreigners" from Johannesburg, but to no avail.

Adeke said many of the houses torched in Rosettenville, south of Johannesburg, by people who accused the residents of running drug houses and brothels, were not all owned by migrants.

"It is a stereotype. There were drugs in South Africa before Nigerians came here. The man who lost [his] cars in Rosettenville was not dealing in drugs. The drug issues in Manenberg in Cape Town – those are not Nigerians living there," he said. On February 11, at least 10 houses were torched in Rosettenville, amid claims that they were housing brothels and drug dealers. News24

Free Khanyile on Monday, or else - Students

DURBAN - A group of students in Durban has given the National Prosecuting Authority until tomorrow to release student activist Bonginkosi Khanyile.

The Free Bonginkosi Khanyile campaign held a march in Durban.

Church leaders also joined the march, pledging to support the cause.

Students called on the NPA to investigate allegations of political interference in Khanyile's case. They have handed a memorandum to the NPA after two failed attempts to have him released on bail.

Khanyile was arrested in September on several charges related to the Fees Must Fall protests.

He has been twice denied bail and remains behind bars.

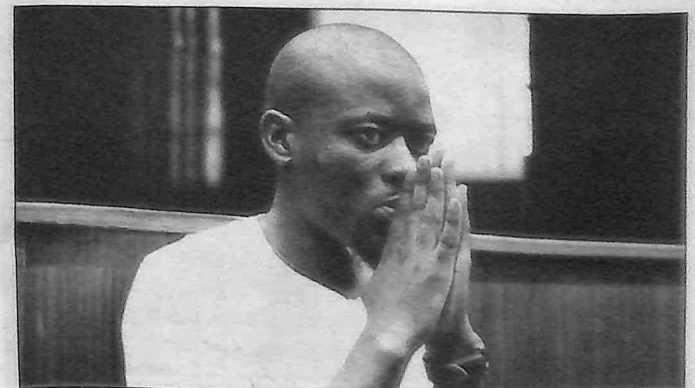
Student activist Sthembiso Ka-Shandu says, "Government is trying to make sure he doesn't get freedom. It's because they are very scared of the ideas that Bonginkosi Khanyile carries."

The march was peaceful – but students say their patience is wearing thin.

Sunill Prithipal from the NPA says, "I want to confirm receipt of this memorandum on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions in KwaZulu-Natal. This memorandum will be forwarded to her office and we will look into your concerns."

Khanyile is due back in court next week.

eNCA



#FeesMustFall activist Bonginkosi Khanyile.



SUNDAYOBSERVER AFRICA NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

THOUSANDS GATHER FOR MUGABE'S 93RD BIRTHDAY PARTY

MATOBO - Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, who turned 93 this week, celebrated his birthday yesterday with a lavish party attended by thousands of loyalists outside the second city of Bulawayo.

The ruling ZANU-PF party hosted the event for Mugabe, who has held power since 1980 during a reign marked by repression of dissent, vote-rigging and the country's economic collapse.

Now the world's oldest national leader, his actual birthday on Tuesday, has been celebrated in a week-long extravaganza with state media filled with tributes and praise.

The annual party - reported to cost up to \$1m - includes a multi-course feast and vast birthday cakes, angering many Zimbabweans as the country endures severe food shortages.

Holding the event at a school in



Matobo has also riled locals as it is close to where many victims of Mugabe's deadly crackdown on dissidents in the early 1980s are thought to be buried. At least 20 000 people are believed to have been killed in the massacres by North Korean-trained Zimbabwean troops, according to rights groups. "This should not be

a place for celebration," Mbuso Fuzwayo, spokesperson for the Bulawayo-based campaign group Ibhethu Likazulu, told AFP.

"The whole area is a crime scene where the bones of victims of the massacres are buried."

Mugabe gave a faltering television interview this week, vowing to remain in power, despite

growing signs of frailty.

During the pre-recorded birthday broadcast, Mugabe paused at length between sentences and spoke with his eyes barely open.

"The call to step down must come from my party," he said.

"If I feel I can't do it any more, I will say so to my party so they relieve me. But for now, I think I can't say so." The state-owned Herald newspaper on Tuesday published a 24-page supplement of congratulatory messages from government departments and regime loyalists.

Local ZANU-PF party activist Sibongile Ndiweni described hosting of the party as "a blessing". "It's an honour and privilege to have such a luminary icon celebrating with us," he said.

"President Mugabe is a national president who has the right to have an event wherever he feels like."

Reuters

UN chief urges Burundi parties to participate in peace talks

NAIROBI - The United Nations has called on political parties in Burundi to commit fully to peace talks to resolve a two-year old political crisis in the east African nation.

Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza's government said earlier this month it would not attend the talks led by the East African Community (EAC) aimed at ending the crisis sparked by his decision to run for a third term in office. "I urge all Burundian stakeholders to place their country's interests above their own and to commit in good faith and without preconditions to a truly inclusive and credible EAC-led dialogue," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said. (AP)

Czech FM to press Sudan to free jailed missionary

PRAGUE - Czech Foreign Minister Lubomir Zaoralek will travel to Sudan today to try to free a Czech Christian aid worker sentenced to 24 years in prison on charges, including spying and inciting hatred.

"Petr Jasek's release is a priority for Minister Zaoralek," the ministry said in a statement on Friday.

The 53-year-old missionary, a member of a small Protestant Czech church called Cirkev Bratrska, had gone to Sudan to help local Christians, according to Czech media reports.

Sudanese authorities arrested him in December 2015, saying he entered the country "illegally" from neighbouring South Sudan and went to the state of South Kordofan.

In January, a Sudanese court found him guilty of entering the

country without a visa, spying, taking pictures of military installations and inciting hatred, according to his lawyer.

The Czech foreign ministry said at the time it was convinced that the verdict was not backed by facts. Zaoralek will meet with his Sudanese counterpart Ibrahim Ghandour and Parliament Speaker Ibrahim Ahmed Omer while in the Sudanese capital Khartoum.

Release International, an organisation helping persecuted Christians worldwide, said last month that Jasek was detained along with three Sudanese men after helping to finance the medical treatment of a student from Darfur who was burned during a rally.

"Sudanese officials accuse Petr Jasek and three Sudanese men of funding rebel movements in areas



Czech Foreign Minister Lubomir Zaoralek.

such as South Kordofan and Darfur," it said.

AFP

Egypt's Christians flee Sinai, amid Islamic State killing spree

ISMAILIA - Christian families and students fled Egypt's North Sinai province in droves on Friday after Islamic State killed the seventh member of their community in just three weeks.

A Reuters reporter saw 25 families gathered with their belongings in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia's Evangelical Church and church officials said 100 families, out of around 160 in North Sinai, were fleeing. More than 200 students studying in Arish, the province's

capital, have also left.

Seven Christians have been killed in Arish between Jan. 30 and Thursday. Islamic State, which is waging an insurgency there, claimed responsibility for the killings, five of which were shootings. One man was beheaded and another set on fire.

"I am not going to wait for death," Rami Mina, who left Arish on Friday morning, said by telephone. "I shut down my restaurant and got out of there. These people are ruth-

less."

Sectarian attacks occur often in Egypt but are usually confined to home burning, crop razing, attacks on churches, and forced displacement. Arish residents said militants circulated death lists online and on the streets, warning Christians to leave or die.

"My father is the second name on their list; anyone Christian they put on the list," Munir Adel, a vegetable seller who fled on Friday, said as he huddled with four fam-

ily members at the Evangelical Church, waiting for church officials to find them a place to stay.

Adel's parents did not leave Arish because of their old age, he said. "They could be killed at any moment."

Islamic State released a video last Sunday threatening Egypt's Christians and vowing to escalate a campaign against them after it bombed a chapel adjoining Cairo's St Mark's Cathedral, the seat of the Coptic papacy, in December, killing 28 people. (News24)

BRIEFS

CAMEROONIANS FLEEING BOKO HARAM DESPERATE FOR FOOD

Kolofata - Homeless and hungry, Fadi is a young widow from Cameroon who was forced by Boko Haram's brutal insurgency to flee her village near the Nigerian border. But despite all she has suffered, and even in the relative safety of a camp for displaced people, she doesn't have enough food. "We just want to eat. If you can please help us," begs the 17-year-old, after barely surviving Boko Haram's violence in the Lake Chad region - the focus of a donor conference in Norway on Friday.

AFP

1 KILLED AS BANDITS RAID LIVESTOCK IN DROUGHT-PLAGUED KENYA

NAIROBI - Kenyan police say an official has been killed by livestock bandits in the volatile Rift Valley county of Baringo, where a drought has increased cattle rustling. A police report says about 30 bandits on Friday killed the government-appointed administration chief in the western region when they raided Chepkew village and stole an unknown number of goats. Police say the chief and police reservists were ambushed as they tried to pursue the bandits.

AP

EGYPT MORE THAN DOUBLES FOREIGN VISITORS' VISA COSTS

CAIRO - Egyptian airport officials say that authorities are more than doubling the cost of entry visas for foreign visitors starting next week.

The officials said on Friday that foreigners will have to pay \$60 per visa, up from \$25 and \$70 for multiple entry visas.

They added that banks and tour agencies received a notification from the foreign ministry about the new price hike, which will go into effect on Wednesday.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to speak to the press.

AP

NIGERIA VP COMES OUT OF THE SHADOWS WITH PRESIDENT BUHARI AWAY

LAGOS - Nigeria's Vice President Yemi Osinbajo seems to have been everywhere while his boss is away. He even conducted a spot check on the public toilets at Lagos international airport.

The clear aim, it seems, is to give the impression of business as usual while President Muhammadu Buhari is nearly 5 000km away in London on medical leave.

The government appears keen to avoid the impression of a political vacuum, as happened in 2010 when president Umaru Yar'Adua fell ill and later died while being treated abroad.

AFP

GABON OIL WORKERS TO PERSIST WITH STRIKE AS SOME OUTPUT RESUMES

LIBREVILLE - Some oil production from fields in Gabon resumed on Friday despite a continuing strike by workers, although output remained severely constrained.

Gabon's government sent soldiers to retake control centres at Maurel et Prom Gabon SA's Onal and Coucal oilfields, it said in a statement. AFP

BRIEFS

GERMAN SECRET POLICE
SPIED ON GLOBAL MEDIA

BERLIN - Germany's foreign intelligence service BND long spied on journalists of the BBC, The New York Times, Reuters and other media, news weekly Der Spiegel reported on Friday. Media rights group Reporters Without Borders labelled the alleged surveillance "a monstrous attack on press freedom", voiced fears the eavesdropping was continuing and said it was planning legal action, according to Der Spiegel. The magazine, which has worked extensively with US fugitive intelligence contractor Edward Snowden and has reported on US and German espionage scandals, cited only documents it had seen. AFP

RUSSIA WILL VETO SYRIA
SANCTIONS OVER
CHEMICAL WEAPONS

NEW YORK - Russia said on Friday it will use its veto to block a proposed UN resolution drafted by the United States, France and Britain that would impose sanctions on Syria for the use of chemical weapons. "I just explained our position very clearly to our partners. If it is tabled we will veto it," Russian Deputy Ambassador Vladimir Safonkov told reporters following a closed-door meeting of the Security Council. The United States, France and Britain are pushing for a vote early next week on the proposed resolution that would slap sanctions on Syrians deemed responsible for chemical attacks in the nearly six-year war. AFP

IRAN'S ENRICHED URANIUM
STOCK ROUGHLY HALF
AMOUNT ALLOWED

VIENNA - Iran has roughly half the enriched uranium allowed under a deal with major powers, the UN nuclear watchdog said on Friday, after large amounts were made officially unrecoverable, excluding them from the total. The agreement that the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia reached with Iran in 2015 restricts Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions against the Islamic Republic. The restrictions include limiting the level of purity to which Iran can enrich uranium, and capping its stock of low-enriched uranium at roughly 203kg, a cap that Iran had recently come close to. AFP

TURKISH PM SEEKS VOTES
FOR 'STRONG, STABLE'
TURKEY IN APRIL
REFERENDUM

ANKARA - Turkey's prime minister called on the public yesterday to back constitutional change that would greatly strengthen President Tayyip Erdogan's powers, portraying the reform as a vote for stability at the start of campaigning ahead of an April referendum.

Thousands of ruling AK Party members waved Turkish flags and rallying songs resounded round a sports arena in the capital as Prime Minister Binali Yildirim handed out red carnations after briefly addressing thousands gathered outside. "There is a rising voice from the town squares: for a strong Turkey, for lasting stability our decision is..." Yildirim called out, eliciting the repeated shouted response "Yes" from the multitude unable to enter the packed arena. REUTERS



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

TRUMP BLASTS THE
FBI OVER LEAKS

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump took the unusual step on Friday of publicly criticising the FBI, saying it was failing to stop national security leaks to the media, even from within the agency.

The Republican's rebuke, posted on Twitter and Facebook, comes with his administration on the defensive against allegations of improper links to Russia, with several investigations into the matter under way on Capitol Hill and at the FBI.

Accusations against Trump and his cohorts have come from news reports based on unnamed government sources.

"The FBI is totally unable to stop the national security 'leakers' that have permeated our government

for a long time," Trump said.

"They can't even find the leakers within the FBI itself. Classified information is being given to media that could have a devastating effect on US FIND NOW."

The social media posts from Trump, a voracious consumer of cable news, came as CNN was airing a story on how the FBI rejected a recent White House request to publicly deny news reports about alleged communications between Trump associates and potential Russian spies during the 2016 presidential campaign.

CNN's report was based on "multiple unnamed US officials briefed on the matter".

A White House official told CNN the request to the FBI came only after the agency indicated the news



US President Donald Trump.

reports were not accurate.

US intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia interfered in the

2016 presidential campaign to tip the result in Trump's favour.

AFP

Muhammad Ali's son detained at
US airport over Muslim identity

WASHINGTON - A son of boxing legend Muhammad Ali was held for questioning for two hours at a Florida airport upon returning from Jamaica because of his Arabic-sounding name, US media reported late Friday.

Muhammad Ali Jr, 44, who was born in Philadelphia and has a US passport, was travelling with his mother Khalilah Camacho-Ali, the late sports icon's second wife, friend and lawyer Chris Mancini told the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mancini told the newspaper that both were held for questioning on

the Fort Lauderdale International Airport on February 7 because of their Arabic-sounding names.

Camacho-Ali however was released after she showed US Customs agents a photo of herself with her ex-husband.

Ali Jr however had no such photo -- and according to Mancini was held for nearly two hours and repeatedly asked "Where did you get your name from?" and "Are you Muslim?"

When he said that he - like his father - was a Muslim, the agents asked further probing questions.

"To the Ali family, it's crystal clear that this is directly linked to Mr.

Trump's efforts to ban Muslims from the United States," Mancini told the Courier-Journal, a reference to President Donald Trump's late January executive order imposing a 90-day entry ban for citizens of seven Muslim majority countries. The travel ban has since been halted by a US Federal Court.

Mancini said that he and the Ali family are trying to find out how many other people were stopped for similar questioning, and are considering a federal lawsuit.

Airport and Customs officials did not answer queries from the newspaper about the case.

Merkel ally calls for Europe to retaliate

BERLIN - Europe should impose punitive tariffs on imports from the United States if President Donald Trump acts to shield US industries from foreign competitors, a senior ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in a newspaper interview.

Trump has already formally withdrawn the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, distancing America from its Asian allies, and vowed to renegotiate the US free-trade deal with Canada and Mexico.

The tycoon-turned-president has also threatened German carmakers with a border tax of 35 per cent on vehicles imported into the US market, saying such a levy would help create more jobs on American soil.

"If Donald Trump imposes punitive tariffs on German and European products, then Europe should also impose punitive tariffs on US products," Volker Kauder, parliamen-

...if Trump imposes trade tariffs



German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

tary Floor Leader of Merkel's conservatives, told the Funke media group in an interview published yesterday.

"We cannot accept everything," Mr Kauder added.

He said German officials would have to remind "our friends in Washington" that trade wars in the past had already shown that both

sides only lost from such measures. "We just have to say calmly and with self-confidence: If Trump carries out what he said, then Europe must react," Mr Kauder said.

The German Government has vowed to protect global free trade after Trump threatened protectionist measures and his top adviser on trade accused Germany of exploiting a weak Euro to boost exports.

German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel has suggested that the European Union should refocus its economic policy toward Asia, should the Trump administration pursue protectionism.

In a sign of already shifting trade flows, China became Germany's most important trading partner for the first time in 2016, overtaking the United States, which fell back to third place behind France, data showed on Friday.

Telegraph

Israel to deny visas
to 'biased' Human
Rights Watch

JERUSALEM - Israel will stop issuing work visas to Human Rights Watch foreign staff, the NGO said on Friday, with the Jewish state accusing the group of being "fundamentally biased" against it.

The New York-based watchdog, which has written critical reports about the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, applied months ago for a visa for its Israel and Palestine Director, American citizen Omar Shakir.

On February 20, Israeli authorities informed it the request had been rejected because HRW is "not a real human rights group", the group said in a statement.

Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon confirmed the decision to AFP.

HRW, he said, had "demonstrated time and again it is a fundamentally biased and anti-Israeli organisation with a clear hostile agenda".

However, Nahshon said the ban on Shakir could be lifted. It "could be reconsidered if the organisation appeals against the decision to the interior ministry", he said. Nahshon also said that HRW was not banned and its Israeli and Palestinian employees would still be permitted to work in Israel and issue reports. "But why should we give working visas to people whose only purpose is to besmirch us and attack us?" he asked.

Israel's government, seen as the most right-wing in the country's history, has been accused of putting pressure on both international and local rights organisations. AFP

Sunday Observer Scene

ENTERTAINMENT ISSUE



Lungelo Nkambule

WRITER'S NOTE:



Today we are marking the last Sunday of the lover's month, February; I must say it has been a good month despite Cyclone Dineo's unpleasant behaviour in some areas, the journey continues.

Coming back to our Issue this week, we are celebrating the entertainment industry. Local talent has definitely been on the up. Artists are investing in their talents; they are improving their craft, taking it to the world. We need to support them because they entertain us in all aspects. Without our artist, the country would be such a bore.

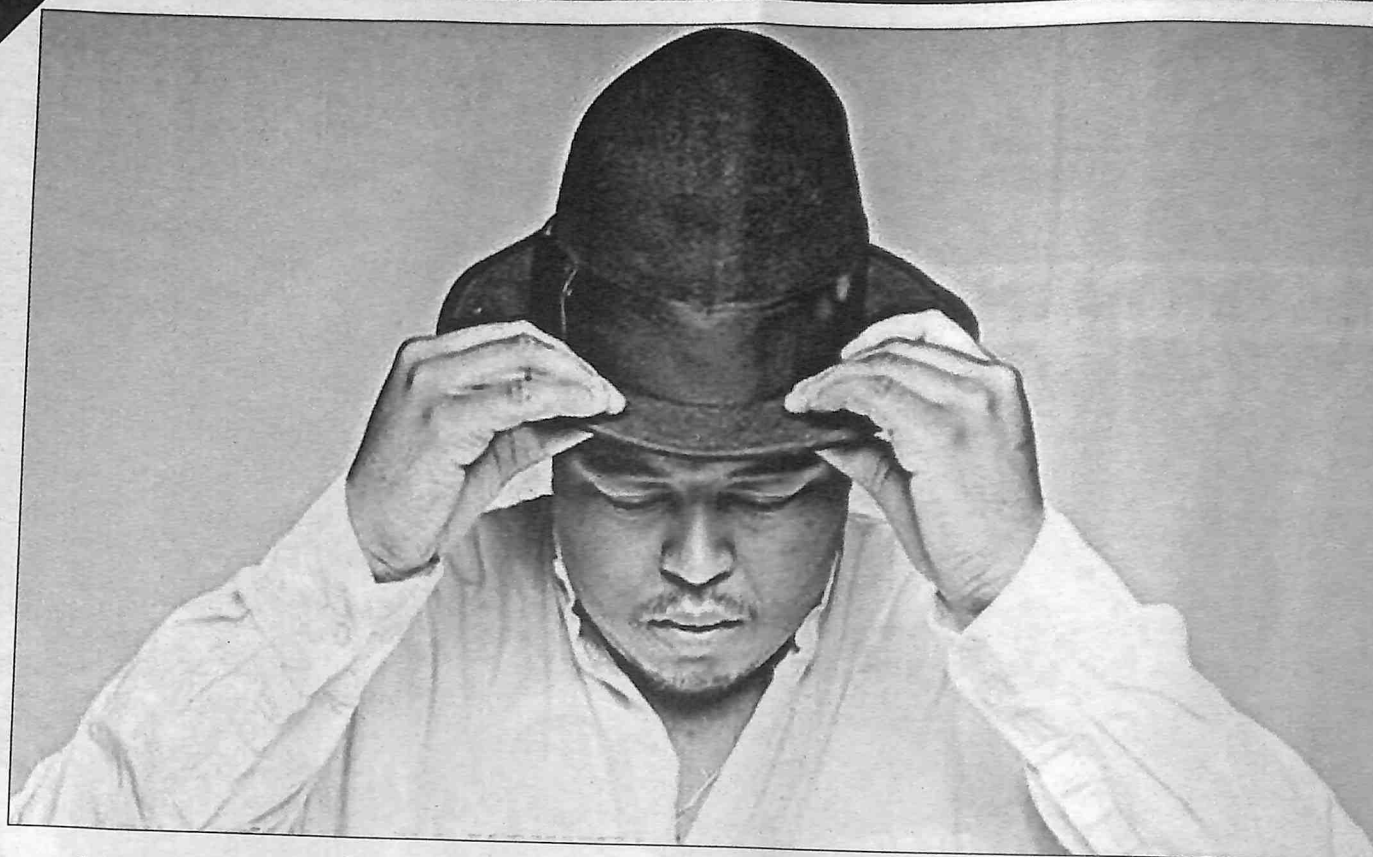
It is about time artists get appreciated fairly for the work they put in, hence today we have the MTN SWAMA Awards committee who will be affirming the worthy talents. These are the pioneers of entertainment in the country - we have seen their work and they are ready to redeem the tarnished image of award events in the country. These fantastic individuals have been supporting the local music industry in the past, and one cannot acknowledge enough, the work they have done to boost the morale in the industry.

Judging from the work they have done in the past, I believe they are FIT for the job. What I like about the team, is that they communicate proactively and make time for humour. As much as humour might not be such an obvious factor in the effectiveness of a team, it actually inspires trust. Indulge more on Page 4 and 5 about these pioneers of entertainment.

On our fashion section today, we have a few tips for matured men and the importance of looking good. Guys, putting more thought into your appearance is one of the easiest ways to improve your social prospects and the way people see you.

They say it falls under the category of non-verbal communication. It's not that your social life will be a lost cause if you don't look perfect, but if you slack off with your appearance then you're making things harder than they have to be. Get a few tips on the opposite page.

Till next week



This Friday, Swaziland will be graced by one of the best five musicians in Southern Africa. I call this guy a music genius.

He is not just your average hip hop artist rather he makes music for the heart. He released his debut album, *Artiifact* late last year and it's a great work of art.

This will be his second appearance in the country following his performance during the 2015 edition of the Hipnotk festival. This visit to the country is part of his *Artiifact* tour and the show will be held at Swaziland hottest club De Ja Vu which is headed by the godfather of entertainment in our country - the one and only Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane

Zwane confirmed the show and invited fun revellers to come in their numbers to the show.

"Yes, it's all true. Anatii will surely be in the Kingdom on the third for the show and everyone knows that he is an expert at what he does. It's the first hip-hop show in the country this year, and we invite everyone to come for the show. We are lucky that he chose us to be part of the tour, so fans should come and have a blast," he said.

Supporting acts on the night will include Standstill Mafia's Ncwiki, the legendary DJ Wicked and Trippy king 20 just to mention a few. Patrons will have to part with E100 for the general tickets and E250 for the VIP.

Here's more about Anatii

Anatii real name is Anathi Mnyango, born in the small town of Bisho in the Eastern Cape, it was clear early on that Anatii's songwriting skills were those of a 21st century prodigy whose musical creations were borderless in appeal. Growing up as part of South Africa's "Born Free" generation was integral in shaping the sound that would come to define the artist.

As South Africa became a melting pot of culture, like many

young people, Anatii became exposed and was influenced by an array of musical styles, leaving him spoilt for choice when deriving inspiration for a new sound that would fuse international standards with an indigenous African resonance.

At the age of 16, he managed to take this new sound from his home studio in Johannesburg to the top of Urban music charts by producing and writing the 2009/10 smash hit "When It Rains" for popular hip-hop artist L-Tido. Though this was Anatii's first hit, two South African musical icons had already spotted his potential.

Anatii's producing abilities and songwriting skills were commissioned by legendary Grammy Award-winning composer Lebo

M on four songs produced for the 2009 Coca-Cola "Summer Yama Summahh" compilation album and in 2009, at the tender age of 16, he was granted the opportunity by the co-producer of the *Lion King*, to co-produce one of the title tracks used during the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup opening ceremony.

The second co-sign came from respected singer or songwriter and music teacher RJ Benjamin who noticed that Anatii had the tools to become an outstanding vocalist. After a few meetings, RJ undertook to personally groom Anatii's voice for super-stardom. The hours of vocal training came through on the song "Lookin' where his voice shines effortlessly against a thumping, club-

ready beat.

Not allowing the early attention distract him from the bigger picture, Anatii has always remained focused with his eye on making a global impact. At the age of 18 he took his destiny as a musician of international repute into his own hands by securing collaboration with a renowned US producer and hit-maker on a song to be released later this year, in anticipation of his debut album "Electronic Bushman".

The video for his first single "Thunder Thighs" debuted in late March 2012, making the young hit maker trend on Twitter, twice in one day. This is just the beginning for a name that is sure to leave a lasting impression on the international music scene.

ANATII TO 'LIGHT' UP 2017





Siswati now compulsory in schools

What! That was my first reaction when I heard about Siswati being made compulsory in all schools, and I think it is wrong. Then a day later, I heard about the whole thing being a directive by the United Nations

Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisations (UNESCO), but I still didn't get it.

Parents pay their money, hard earned for that matter, and now they can't have a choice as to what language they want their children to learn?

Let me get one thing clear here,

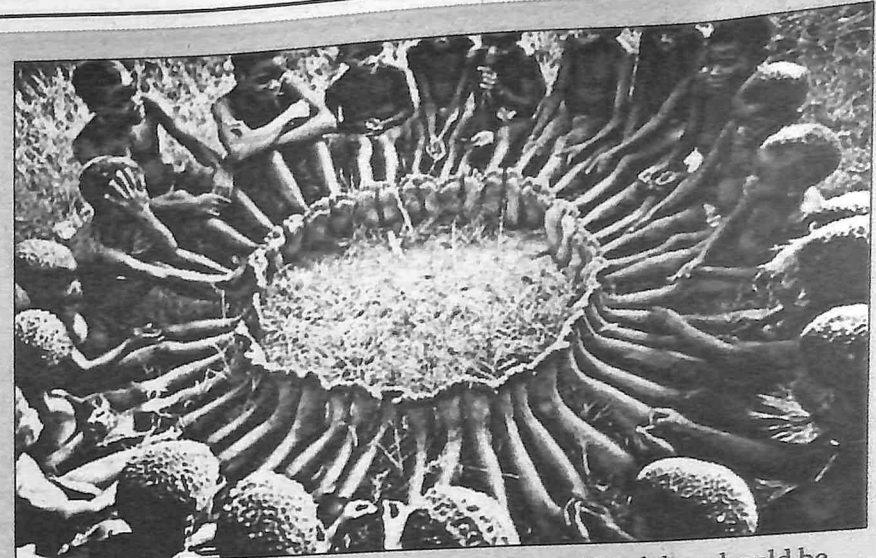
lest I get misinterpreted. I am not saying it's good for children to speak foreign languages such that they can't even speak their own language as that's the parent's choice.

Some parents, whether we like it or not, are moulding international students.

They are more focused on making international citizens, and yet the vernacular language will not help them.

If parents don't want their children to learn Siswati, they should be given the choice to choose.

Just this week, we were laughing in a family meeting when we realised that all the ten-year and younger children in the family can't speak English - to such a point that they can't even greet in the language, and that's not a problem because it's what their parents have chosen.



None of them are liming their children to the country shored.

In fact, they want them out of the country.

The parents have chosen to focus on producing citizens who will take

over the world and they should be allowed to.

This comes after a few weeks after the religious education thing, and there's only one conclusion - education is now dictated by government.

MEN'S FASHION TIPS WITH YANDIE

LOOKING GOOD IS A REQUIREMENT...

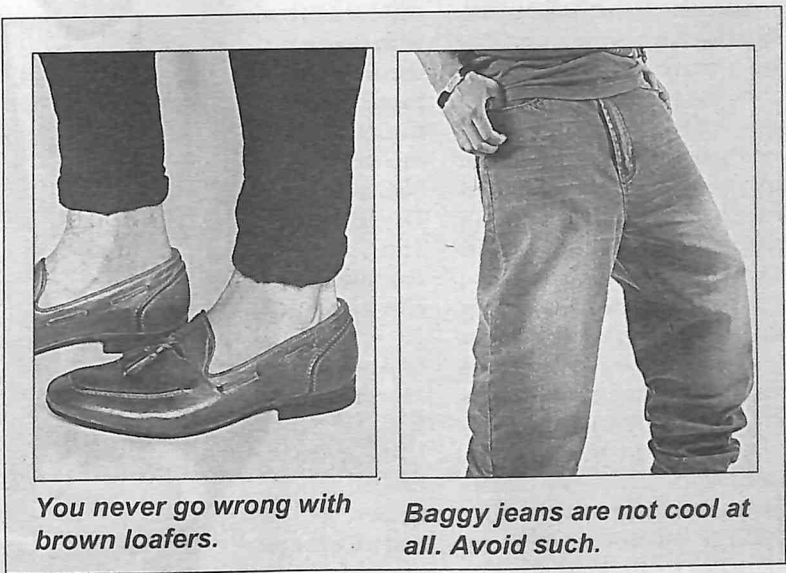
Looking good should be a necessity, don't just wake up and grab anything you just come across.

Have time; pick the best outfit for the day. It's easy; you just need to decide whether you're going for a formal look or casual one.

'Looking good is a form of good manners' - that's my favourite quote by Tom Ford.

It inspires me every day when I dress up for the day. You just want to make a better first impression on people you meet in everyday life.

This week I have a few tips for you men, get inspired gents:



You never go wrong with brown loafers.

Baggy jeans are not cool at all. Avoid such.

Don't dress like a boy, dress like a 'Grown-Up'

It's a fact, many men approach their casual style from the wrong angle; they aim to look youthful and it's not good at all. Imagine a 40 year old man sagging his pants, it's not attractive hence the ladies will always go looking for mature guys and leave youngsters with their sagged pants and dirty Chuck Taylors.

If you want to look well-dressed, you should always aim to look mature.

They say maturity is an attractive quality in men.

Maturity, after all, is what separates the men from the boys. Maturity shows masculinity and commands respect, and it's a quality you want people to see in you.

That doesn't mean you have to dress like your dad. It doesn't mean you have to dress old. It just means you have to avoid portraying yourself as a teenager.

Avoid funny Tees with funny memes

Wearing a funny tee is basically like being the guy that makes the same joke over and over again. It might be funny the first time you see the T-shirt, but it gets old fast. Also, avoid anything with slogans. You want to avoid looking like someone who hasn't grown up or stuck in his past.

You want stop looking like a boy, and dress like a man.

You might also consider wearing polo shirts or casual shirts. Just because you're dressing casual doesn't mean you can't wear a collar. And a simple white shirt looks great with a pair of dark blue jeans.

Avoid baggy jeans

Who still wears baggy jeans in 2017? Come on guys. Anyways, I blame our shopping outlets though,

because the stock is still there and the truth is they are making money out of making you look horrible.

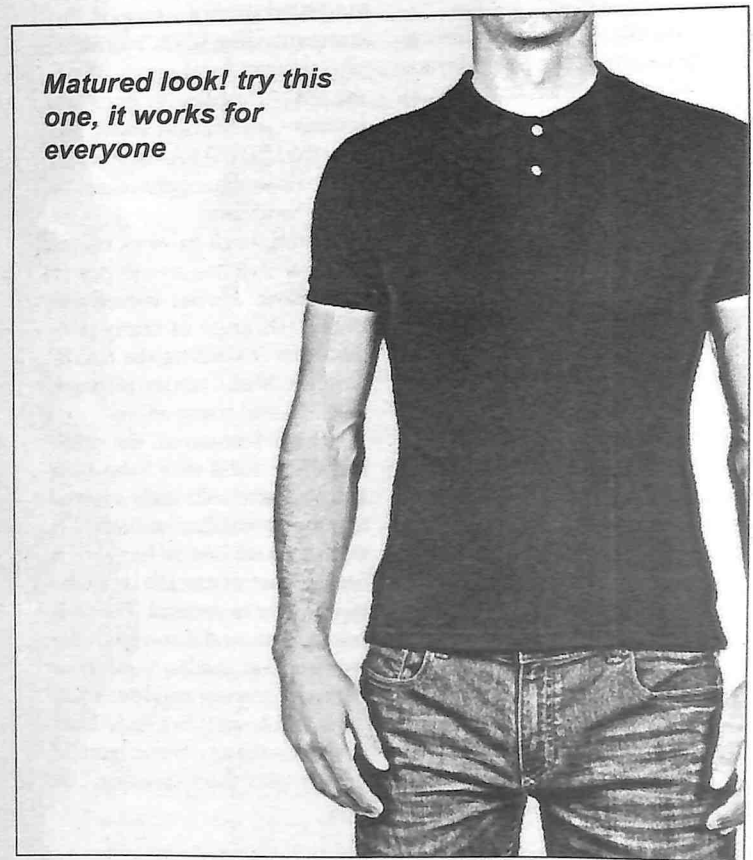
Pulling up your jeans every two seconds can be tiring.

So just get the memo and join the slim fit club. Keep your jeans simple. Go for a straight or slim clean, dark-blue pair that fits like it was made for you. Believe me; you'll look tremendous.

Class up your footwear (Because ladies notice)

Your dirty sneakers or Chuck Taylors will ruin an otherwise excellent outfit. You'll want to replace them with something more dignified. Never think people don't notice your shoes. They notice. Especially women.

Wear a pair of brown leather loafers instead of your sneakers, You'll look sharper. You can try desert boots which look more fash-



Matured look! try this one, it works for everyone

ionable than sneakers, but aren't as dressy as loafers. They're perfect for casual wear, and they're super comfortable.

Ignore trends

When trying to figure out how to dress well, men often look towards the fashion world for help. They look to see what's trendy. But the fashion world is only good for men obsessed with fashion. If you're just a regular guy looking to become a better dresser, knowing what's trendy won't help you.

Let's be honest, some of these trends are not good at all and we look like crowners when we follow these trends.

Focus on getting classic clothes that will look good all year round. Focus on timeless pieces that will still be stylish ten years from now. Focus on looking classy and stylish

before you worry about looking trendy. Fashionistas say 'Trendy done wrong often turns out tacky, after all.'

So work on your style sense with timeless wardrobe essentials that never go out of fashion. Focus on mastering the basics of men's styles, and you'll be a better dresser before you know it.

Stop trying too hard, keep it simple

Many men shoot themselves in the foot by trying too hard to dress better.

They hear they should wear accessories, and they end up wearing a gazillion bracelets and necklaces. Or they hear they should wear colour and they end up looking like a bag of skittles with legs.

Yes, you stand out, but not in the way you want.

Till next week.

THE PIONEERS OF

The entertainment industry is on another level in the country as artists are making waves in all dimensions, even hoisting the country's flag beyond our borders, thus being celebrated, with their craft finally recognised. It was about time they are appreciated

for the work they put in, and a million "thanks" to Swazi MTN for bankrolling the Swaziland Arts and Music Association (SWAMA) awards, and the SWAMA executive for involving the right people to be the brains behind the prestigious inaugural awards.

As SCENE, we have decided to profile the team members behind the awards who are ready to redeem the tarnished image of awards events in the country.

Dear readers, these are the pioneers of entertainment in the country - we have seen their work, their successful, presti-

gious, remarkable events and their passion is sooo overwhelming. All members of the MTN SWAMA Music Awards Organising Committee are renowned people who, in their own rights, are active in the arts industry in one way or another. Here is the full team;

COVER STORY

MHLONISHWA MOTSA

(EVENTS DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY TO THE COMMITTEE)

This is the events organising guru. He is one guy who is crazy about music and its development.

He has also hosted a number of events such as the MTN Joyous Celebration shows, Night of Legends, and artists benefit concerts. He has been involved in the SADC Summit, Miss Cultural Heritage, NAC2016 Gospel Awards, the list is endless.

He believes the entertainment industry needs people who are committed, not part-timers.

"I am glad to work with this committee because their passion and commitment is what the art sector needs at the moment.

Entertainment in Swaziland has improved a great deal and this is evident through the talent we export internationally. I believe the world was never ready for what we can produce as Swazis and this is coming as a shock to everyone. Entertainment has improved and we are steadily starting to compete internationally," he states.

As Swazis, he adds, we should be loyal and support our local

artists as no one will ever appreciate what they do if we don't. "I was close to tears when I contemplated about the support that companies like MTN Swaziland are giving to local artists - from the MTN Bushfire, to the MTN Joyous Celebration show and now the MTN SWAMA Awards. This shows true patriotism by MTN Swaziland."

Coming back to work ethics, Mhlonishwa has always been a team player. He has worked with Larry Mhlanga in many productions including the SADC Summit, Miss Cultural Heritage, NACAs and many more.

"I have known all the other members for a very long-time and we have indirectly worked together with 'Zox' at the MTN Bushfire and 'Lindz' has always been a part of my life in all the gigs I have organised. Penny is just a genius and if you know the word social media, you know Penny. I respect and love these guys and I wouldn't have liked to work with any better team in this project than this one," he says.

"The world has never been ready for what we can produce as Swaziland."



MELUSI 'ZOX' DLAMINI (THE CHAIRMAN)

Allow SCENE to call him the entertainment genius. Yes, he is the man who invited Top Billing to the country.

He has always been involved in the business side of the entertainment industry behind the scenes. 'Zox' has been involved in events for a long time but prefers his work to speak for itself.

He is the owner of #LoyalToLocal hashtag. He believes being loyal to what you support is more important.

"We have amazing talent in the arts sector locally, it's just that people haven't been paying attention. It's only now that we have realised, and this is because we are making waves internationally.

Those who are making waves were born with those talents.

We should have nurtured those talents from a very early age, but there's no use crying over spilt milk, so we have to celebrate that we are finally getting there."

"In terms of entertainment, we have always been at par with our neighbours for a very long time now. You will remember the famous 24-hour parties hosted by SwaziBoy only now they are being hosted in South Africa. We did those 10 years ago man! Not to mention the MTN Bush Fire Festival and gospel events hosted by local companies. The

production there has always been at the top."

Projects

Zox have worked with almost everyone in the team. He has worked with Larry in many projects and

"We promise nothing but the best awards show ever."

Jordy was part of the Mr Swaziland team when he was the director.

Legacy

"Every supporter of Swazi music has worked with Lindz! I worked with Penny on the Siyinqaba Legacy concert themed 'the movie' on National Flag Day last year and I have always wanted to work with Mhlonishwa Motsa," he says.

"We appreciate the support we have been getting from the president of SWAMA,

the management at MTN, the artists and music lovers at large. The team is already on top of things and the public has been amazing.

We welcome all constructive criticism and urge the public to

continue supporting Swazi music."



JORDY SHIBA (MTN'S REPRESENTATIVE/ MEMBER)

"It is really encouraging to see corporates recognising and investing ahead of the curve in local talent."

It's a matter of one closing and one opens up under new management or a different name but not entirely new.

"Local talent has come of age. Like every day you get to hear raves about local music which drives you to listen to new talent. The X factor is the quality of the music being produced; it is matching the best in the international scene. It is really encouraging to see corporates recognising and

investing ahead of the curve in local talent; in the form of these MTN SWAMA Awards and the likes of Sibebe Friday Night Live, to mention a few," he shares.

He has worked with Zox, Lindz and Larry on the last Mr Swaziland pageant. "I have also worked with Penny in the social media space; supporting some of the social media corporate pages I have been involved with," he says.

He is not only an eye candy for a few, but an individual with the drive to work hard and is also motivated to succeed in every way.

It shows in everything he does. He is a true extrovert - a baller, golfer, and entertainment guru. He is that guy who organised Miller parties, remember those? Anyways, Jordy has been involved in many events and projects such as; Fashion Shows, Basketball tournament, Sibebe Friday Night Live (SFNL), Mr Swaziland 2015 and University of Swaziland beauty pageants.

Jordy believes the number of entertainers has drastically increased in the country, but this is not the same for the entertainment establishments.

ENTERTAINMENT

LARRY 'MASTERMIND' MHLANGA (HEAD OF PRODUCTION)

Larry is an accomplished and successful choreographer, percussionist, thespian, and talent producer. His career in the arts industry spans for well over two decades.

He is a dynamic, determined, organised and innovative man with excellent and diverse abilities, a credible work-experience and self-motivated character.

He has choreographed Mr Swaziland, Miss Swaziland, and Miss Cultural Heritage for four years in a row and the T55 grand finale.

He is the founding director for the following major shows; LOL with Macford, SICFEST, So you Think you Can Dance/Rap, MTN Rhymes. Guys, the list is just endless.

Growing

He believes that entertainment in Swaziland is still growing and it has taken a turn in the past five years as Swazi artists can now compete in any platform in the world.

"We are breaking new ground in all different genres of arts and other countries have enjoyed what we are doing now," he says.

According to Larry, local talent is there, they know what they want but they lack the HOW part of the arts business.

"If we can have workshops whereby both the corporate and artists come together discuss how these two can complement each other, we can reach great lengths."

Sponsorship

This big sponsorship from MTN for the awards means one foot into the artists dream of success," he says.

He has worked with everyone in the team as it is composed of influential players in the arts industry.

"Mhlonishwa and I have worked together on many projects, including the SADC Summit entertainment team

"If we can have workshops whereby both the corporate and artists come together discuss how these two can complement each other, we can reach great lengths."



and Miss Cultural Heritage 2016/17."

"With Lindelwa, we work together at Tall Tree as she is managed there. Jordy and I are working together with MTN Rhymes and Laughter.

With Penny, we are currently working together for the Swaziland

International Comedy Festival whilst with Melusi, we worked together when he was the director for Mr Swaziland where I was choreographing that event," he shares.

PENNY BOUWER (SOCIAL MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS)

Penny Bouwer, affectionately known as Penny B's love and passion for the arts and music space started from a very tender age. Her first memory of being a hit with the magic musical wand was her first concert experience, which was the Nelson Mandela 80th celebration in Durban. "Attending the Nelson Mandela 80th Birthday Concert in Durban (1998) afforded me the opportunity to meet my then favourite boy band, DruHill, which was an experience that perplexed me, and I knew right away that it's what I was destined to be."

Her responsibility within the MTN SWAMA Music Awards build up is to generate a good marketing strategy to ensure that each and every one with interest in the awards is kept up to date and attended to. She believes the entertainment industry will improve when locals start learning of the talent that Swazis have, and not rely on international trends to guide what is acceptable.

She has worked with two members on the team. "I have had the privilege of working with 'Zox', who I have admired for many years for his tenacity and drive to push local arts. I had the opportunity of working with him in 2016 when we drove the Siyinqaba Show on 25th April, Swaziland National Flag Day. Working on promoting the vet-

erans of the industry, KrTC and Mozaik," she says.

"I've also recently been blessed with the opportunity of working with Larry Mhlanga on promoting the first ever Swaziland International Comedy Festival. The respect and appreciation I have for Larry can go on for days. He's done immense development for our arts industry and holds successes that need to be celebrated," she states.

Coming back to entertainment industry, Penny believes the country at large needs more technical engineers, producers, promoters, and closet musicians to come out of hiding, as well as government support.

What needs to be fixed is the quality and standard of music and this requires money. "It's hard, it's painful to see when you know and have heard a musician give it their all but they are not supported by their own people. It can be emotionally damaging and degrading to the artist, reducing their drive to make more music. So they give up, and stop trying to be the best in their field. Yet they have the material," she says.

"What happens when a small fish gets thrown into the ocean? It gets munched! Why subject our artists to that by sending them across our borders to try find their place in the music world, because 'international' means better opportunity? Let's support and share them here at home, and move together as a shoal of fish and take them internationally together," she says.

LINDELWA 'LINDZ' MAFA (MUSIC AND ARTIST MANAGER)

Lindz Mafa, the ambassador of Swazi music. There's a lot we can say about Lindz when it comes to the entertainment industry. First and foremost, she is a people's person and team player.

"I am a team player who respects people's talents. I always believe it is those talents put together (in a team) where what we once was thought to be impossible, becomes possible," she says. She believes Swazi artists need capacity building workshops and business development training in order to make a meaningful living out of their art. "Swazi talent is amazing and abundant! We have seen in recent years the proliferation of recording studios and artists who benchmark their quality with international standards.

Honestly, I genuinely think we are now at par with South Africa in terms of talent and production. However, as already alluded to earlier, we lack formal structures aimed at promoting the arts. For instance, we do not have a music licensing body as yet in the country,



making tracking and subsequent certification of albums quite impossible. We do not have formal music distribution mechanisms. We do not have professional CD pressing com-

panies in the country. We still do not pay royalties to artists," she states.

She has worked with all the members in various projects, some of which include T55 Talent Search, Shine Talent Search, various promotions and road shows, among many other events. "Working with them was quite easy as each person know their strength, and believe in the power of a collective as opposed to being individualistic," she says.

"Allow me to wish all the deserving artists well in this inaugural #MTNSWAMA Music Awards initiative. We pledge absolute transparency, professionalism, and accountability. We also thank Swazi MTN for believing in our vision, and we promise them, in reciprocal, that they will get value for money from this great and historic initiative. Thank you," she concludes.



MTN SWAMA AWARDS

VIEWS ON
#LOYALTOLOCAL

As a nation, it is important to support local artists because, without local support, the art they make would cease to make the impact it could make. When we support the local artist community, we are supporting all of our respective creative freedom. Once artists are able to express themselves creatively and freely, beautiful art is made that can be admired by the community and the world. Melusi Zox Dlamini came up with #LoyalToLocal hashtag and it is trending on Social Media especially tweeter.

Here are some entertainers and local fans; who expressed their views in supporting local and on the new MTN SWAMA Awards.

Muzi 'MozaikThe Producer' Ngwenya

Support Local, for me it means first preference must be given to local products or services. Obviously does not mean things like quality and excellence do not matter, they do, so, in the event that a Swazi products or services is on the table, first preference must be given to us.

I'm pretty sure everybody knows how talented Swazis are, even South Africa and many parts of Africa know that. What we now need to learn to do is attach value for that talent. And that starts with respecting what we do and those we do it with. And that respect can be translated into many different forms, but, if we do this right, our children will never have to worry, ever. Grab a chair and enjoy.

MTN SWAMA Committee...

What I can say about the MTN SWAMA Committee is that I am sure they are more than capable of doing a great job at realising a successful awards show as a whole. What I think though is that a sit down with Key Industry players (record label executives and festival owners) should happen, preferably sooner than later and maybe make suggestions about what we feel can grow the industry better. I feel the awards are meant to benefit the industry, so, if the affected players aren't involved, certain aspects of it

will not get addressed.

Khulekani 'Karly B' Mamba

I usually say 'I will not be bullied into supporting something because it's local. I want to support local because it is GOOD and be proud of it because it's SWAZI'. In as much as we advocate for the consumption of local products (be it in entertainment or any other industries), we still have a task to ensure equally acceptable quality standards in whatever is presented to the people.

MTN SWAMA Committee...

It is really encouraging to see how MTN is committed to supporting entertainment oriented initiatives. The success of projects like The MTN Bushfire Festival, The MTN Joyous Celebration and MTN Rhymes and Laughter among others can be attributed to MTN as a corporate partner, now comes The MTN SWAMA AWARDS. We are truly humbled by such a gesture. I would like to believe that the selection of the MTN SWAMA Awards committee was not just random, careful consideration of expertise and experience among other things remains vital. The team has to understand that how they handle this project will determine future corporate involvement in arts related projects; they need to acknowledge that the awards are bigger than them. Otherwise, I believe in them and I hope they will seek God's wisdom as they embark on such a task.

Melusi 'Melz' Dlamini

Supporting local talent to me is the underlying value in realising vision 2022. This is simple, we can only attain the status we require and want so much if we uplift the economy and the morale of this country, this begins with boosting each industry in the country.

We need to support our artists and musicians; we need to boost their morale so they get the Swazi flag flying high outside our borders with pride.

There is so much variety and that means more can come out from Swaziland, one cannot only focus on the Music, but the entertainment scene is such an array in the sense that one has quite a lot to say about it. However it is sad-denning that we are not marketing them, we are not making use of our beautiful culture of being a peace loving people, we have comedians, we have dancers, we also have socialites who are just pure entertainers in the local scene, but we are not cultivating a culture of local support.

In short we are lacking behind in a very sad way, in comparison to the rest of the world, not because the local entertainment scene is dead, but because we are lopsided as a people that we would rather be talking about 'Bonang', instead of talking about 'UrgalZee'.

We would rather be talking about 'Emtee', instead of talking about 'IllaPENboy', we would rather talking about 'Mabala Noise', instead of talking about Swazi Jive, we would rather be talking about Durban July instead of talking about our very own shows in the country.

The MTN SWAMA Committee...

These are fantastic people, they have been seen to support the local music industry in the past, and one cannot acknowledge enough the work they have done to boost the morale in the industry. Look at Mhlanga, he has do so much to empower them through television programmes, look at Mafa, she is has done more to empower them through the local radio platforms. The chairperson is the cherry on top as he has done work that would have taken a normal Swazi 10 years in only a short space of time in marketing the Brand Swaziland. Mr Zox is a magnate when it comes to the love and support he has for Brand Swaziland, One can only expect

more from them.

Thembeke 'TBK' Ndlangamandla

Within the last five- ten years local talent has definitely been on the up and up. People are investing in their talents, they are improving their craft, taking it to the world, producing music that everyone wants to listen to, poetry that moves the soul and jokes that keep us laughing, amazing images - it's fantastic really.

The MTN SWAMA committee ...

The SWAMA committee will deliver a good show. I think the committee is made of people who have been involved with the industry for some time, people who have been involved in award shows before and people who have made us fall in love with local music. I believe the team has enough experience both subjectively and objectively to do good here!

Mduduzi 'Mdura' Dlamini

I am a huge advocate of the 'support local'. For me it means rallying behind our local hardworking and talented artists who are putting themselves and their work out there.

What's more important is quality work.

It's all about helping them build and promote their work...of course it should be work worth promoting.

The industry is still growing, slowly but surely people are learning to respect and acknowledge the entertainment industry in the country and that is the same case in neighbouring Botswana, Namibia and Mozambique with South Africa being the only exception where their industry is at a more advanced or developed stage.

The MTN

SWAMMA awards committee..

They are an experienced team. They are much organised and they have been in the industry for quite some time and not to mention they have a dedicated team that has dedicated most of their lives in the development of the arts in the country. My expectations would be a well organised award show that meets international standard.

Nathi Gule

To me it means support your country's talent and skills, purchase from local service providers before considering beyond the borders, assist in their development and growth. It is basically a call saying don't look down on your own, because there are top quality products and services in Swaziland as well. For example sometimes you find shows in Swaziland being hosted with sound systems and stages fetched from outside the country yet we have so many sound and stage service companies here. Perhaps such a statement should go beyond words and be an enforceable policy or law that ensures that we seek services outside Swaziland only after proving that we failed to find the same quality here. Then we could be walking the talk. The entertainment scene is not as vibrant as it could be due to many factors. We are lagging behind in terms of out-of-the box ideas for shows.

MTN SWAMA Awards Committee..

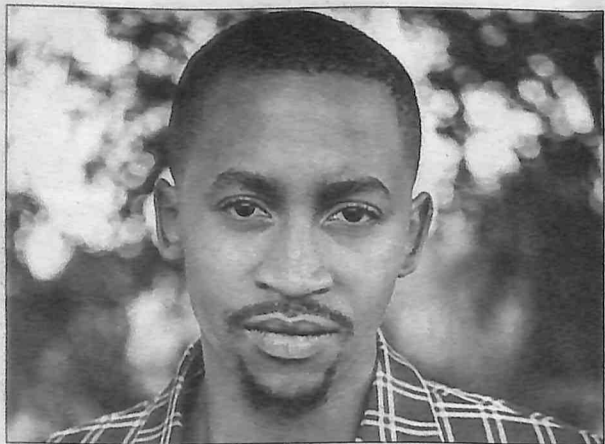
I do not follow much on who is in which arts events committee, my only wish when there are such functions is that the sponsors and most importantly the public gets their deserved value for time, money and investment. If the committee has been fairly chosen and seen to be fit to make those two parties happy, I'm happy. My expectations would be for the committee to put the public before themselves and put in the hours, research extensively, even travel to benchmark latest trends so they instil public confidence in the next awards by hosting an excellent event. From a glance at the few familiar faces I saw them I'm sure they will try their best to achieve that.

By Ayanda Dlamini



NEWS . GOSSIP . ENTERTAINMENT

TITBITS



TIGI VIDEO NUMBER FIVE ON CHANNEL O

The most negatively criticised video has climbed to number five on Channel O's most played videos.

It doesn't stop there;

the audio version is now the second most played video in the whole of South Africa. A round of applause to Sands and team better yet a standing ovation, wherever you are dear readers take a bow for this dynam-



...SIC Fest launched, Bushfire around the corner

Oh there is too much to look forward to.

The comedy festival rolls over three days. Three days of uncontrollable

laughter, yes.

It can only get better than the ambassadors one man shows last year.

Mdura has proved why he was chosen as first, the ambassador of the

Savannah Comics Choice Awards (mind you, that is international level), he is a Standard Bank brand ambassador and baaam also the SIC Fest ambas-



...Phakama DJ" - King tells Dj Mbo

This serves as the highlight of the 2017 music industry.

The year has only started but as you and yours can tell it looks like it is going to be a great year.

When the head of the country, the Chairman of the SADC region, the one and only King Mswati 111 says "Phakama DJ" to a song that helped the country cross over to 2017, we can only fall to our knees and cry "Bayethe, Wena Waphakathi."



It would be great however for her already solid brand if she sang her own songs. The Whitney Houstons have been well heard, they are on record even.

The former T55 talent search finalist was part of the surprise acts at the MTN Rhymes and Laughter Mbabane Campus and as always, she stole the show. She never forgets to sing her heart out which gets endless shouts of encore. It would be great however for her already

solid brand if she sang her own songs. The Whitney Houstons have been well heard, they are on record even.

Powerful

Only her songs are missing or the least Swazi composed songs from her powerful vocals would do great.



Wrestling villain Ivan Koloff dead at 74



Ivan Koloff, aka The Russian Bear who wrestled to fame for years as a supreme villain, has died. Rick Flair posted the news last Saturday morning. The 74-year-old Koloff had been battling liver cancer.

Koloff was a former WWF World Heavyweight champion who fought the likes of Bruno Sammartino, Superstar Billy Graham and Bob Backlund.

He was especially big in the 80's as Ronald Reagan, challenged Russia on the world stage.

The news came just one day after WWE Hall of Famer George "The Animal" Steele died from kidney failure.

Koloff's sister had started a Go Fund Me page to help pay for Ivan's medical expenses. *TMZ*



...Kylie Jenner looks sexy for business meet

Kylie Jenner's business attire will get any exec to bend over backwards...and every other direction she wants.

Paps got Kylie leaving a meeting in Beverly Hills, where she looked smokin' hot in a low cut dress or ingerie --

with strappy stilettos to complete the ensemble.

MTO

HAPPY HUMP DAY

LAUNCH GALLERY

Behind the
Scene

FARAI'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Prince Majaha poses with his fan Bongwiwe.



Farai toasting with Prince Majaha, Sebe and South African Minister of Small Business Development Lindiwe Zulu at his celebration on Saturday. The event was held at Happy Valley Hotel in Zulwini. (Pics; Ayanda Dlamini)



UrGal Zee was on point as she was simple yet classy.



Kodak moment for Prince Majaha, Minister Zulu and Farai.



Atsinimalangeni Dlamini could not miss Farai's birthday celebration.



(C) Jay Crew's Njobo Dlamini receiving his certificate of appreciation from Prince Majaha and Farai.

THE RED PEN



Phila Dlamini Vilakati

The moment of truth

People hate the truth. Luckily the truth doesn't care. The truth is like a lion; you don't have to defend it. Let it loose. It will defend itself.

The Moment of Truth is actually an American game show, where contestants must tell the truth during a lie detector test. I think the person who created this show actually intended to squeeze out confessions in exchange for money. \$500,000 to be precise. Wouldn't you tell the truth? I certainly would. In any case to confess is healthy. In fact it's the best thing to do in any situation because reality is: there are three things in life that can never ever be long hidden—the sun, the moon, and the truth. So either way the truth will always come out.

Anyway, let's play. Promise to give true answers, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Don't worry it's not as serious as it sounds, it's only a game! Amazingly, there is only one letter difference between TRUTH and TRUST. I will let you be the judge to that concept. Growing up, I would occasionally find myself in trouble. In fact, for some reason I always got caught for whatever stupid act I committed. My mother would drum it into my head that I should be truthful. No matter what kind of trouble I was in; I had to apologise and confess. She said 'for every good reason there is to lie, there is a better reason to tell the truth'.

Do enjoy our very own 'The Moment of Truth' episode...

As a student; do you hate school? Have ever cheated in an exam? Do you take money from your parents without them knowing about it? Are you more comfortable around friends that you know are not as attractive as you are? Would you stay up to watch a TV program you know you are not supposed to watch? Have you ever told your parents you quit doing something when you really haven't? Remember to answer with utmost honesty, it is a self-analysis. It will help you reflect on where you are in various aspects of life.

Now let's move on to some adult stuff. Politics. Suppose you had a face to face meeting with the Minister of Education, tell him if you were happy with the headline 'DON'T CLOSE SCHOOLS...' explain how you felt with the directive that was communicated by him, in response to the uncertainty that had been caused by reports of tropical Cyclone Dineo. Express how you feel about the issue of 'passports' to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

State if you are proud of MP Marwick Khumalo who was announced the newest member of IPU in Geneva late last year. The answers need not always be eye-popping, for instance, I was proud of MP Marwick. I am upset though, he hasn't tried to fix the road going to Entjakabili. My old man complains daily. While still on politics, do note that, the further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those that speak it—George Orwell—author of Animal Farm.

Let's move on with our game. Here are some questions dealing with law. Have you ever flirted with a policeman to get out of paying a ticket? Did you knowingly commit a traffic offense in the past week? Have you done anything illegal in the past year? On honesty; have you ever promised to give money to charity but then never did? Or just simply promised to assist someone but did not. Have you ever fallen asleep in church?

On relationships; look at your partner in the eye and tell them if you sometimes delete text messages from your phone because they would be upset to see such. State if you secretly wish your partner would lose weight? Convey how you would enjoy life more if you were still single. Do you think it's ever ok to pretend to be single? In The Moment of Truth you would also have to tell your boss in the face if you are not where you are supposed to be; if you don't like your job and think he is a bully. That's just how the game goes.

It's a good game. You kind of examine your own conscious thoughts and feelings. It is a humbling process. It's essential to find out why you think, say and do certain things, then, better yourself.

WHATEVER YOU DO, ALWAYS GIVE IT 100%. UNLESS YOU ARE DONATING BLOOD!

Analysis & opinion



BY MBONGENI MBINGO

TARIFF HIKE IS AS UNREALISTIC AS IT IS NECESSARY

● SEC and its executives can't sit in the boardroom and argue that they are a good company, declaring some (reduced, of course) profits, while they are charging such a high tariff to do this.

I know that everyone has probably had their say, but I must admit that a full fortnight into the proposed electricity increase, granted by the Swaziland Energy Regulator Authority, it still doesn't sit well with me—and to be honest, it sends shivers down my spine.

No, it is not that I don't accept the reasoning behind the regulator's decision to allow such a big increase—and the regulator has been gracious enough to expand this explanation or justification to the Swaziland Editors Forum subsequent to the pronouncement of the news that it was okay with a 15 per cent tariff increase. And I must admit I get where they are coming from.

I sat at that meeting and listened to the chief executive officer explaining the decision, and what the regulator draws on to get to that position. After throwing about big figures and some industry jargon, I accepted that the regulator obviously left itself with little choice but to grant the increase. At the end of the day, they are entitled to have arrived at this conclusion, but for me the regulator is there for a reason, and that it must first and foremost not allow itself to be drawn into a position where it accepts that the most drastic of decisions has to be taken because the utility has no choice.

I had long ago convinced myself that the utility will always propose dreamy figures, and that the regulator's job is to find ways in which the tariff proposed will stay within justifiable position—or affordable, as their mission is.

But, 15 per cent is hardly affordable. It has a huge impact on a lot

of things, not least commodities, and obviously will result in poverty shooting up alongside the inflation. The regulator, in one fell swoop, has just driven the cost of living very high—and all this because it believes that there was nothing else it could do. I really do not accept this.

Towards the end of the meeting with editors, I asked the CEO, Vusi Mkhumane if he felt personally, that the 15 per cent was okay to grant, for consumers.

He waffled a bit, but in the end, he said he found it okay. That to me was the point of departure, and I have been thinking since what his response means to the broader context of granting that high a figure for an increase in electricity tariffs. I would have gladly accepted a response that said he thought it was ridiculously high, but there was little or nothing the regulator could do given the circumstances.

This in my view would have at least showed that he is someone who understands the situation on the ground. His response tells me otherwise.

What compounded this view was his further assessment that a lot of people get subsidised electricity in this country and that in his opinion, these should not be because they

can afford it. I think it was a careless comment. Of course some executives get subsidised everything, just as well as they get car allowances and lots of other perks. These would never justify that the cost or price of all of these things should therefore be hiked because largely people can afford fuel, or that they can afford bread at a higher cost (and I am properly stretching this).

However, the point is that, especially with the tariff hike, it is linked to so many other commodities that it is inevitable, whether or not there are people who can afford to put on their lights all night and day, the increase then impacts on a cost of living.

Ultimately, what this does is that it drives up poverty, and then we have a serious situation where electricity becomes a luxury.

Mkhumane further defended their decision by saying that in their view, the alternative to not granting the 15 per cent hike would have been frightening, in that we would have had to live with load shedding for the most part. A sense in me says, in much the same way, the Swaziland Electricity Company would have been forced to cut down on some of its ambitious projects for this particular year, while it juggled con-

taining the use of electricity, to allow it to operate within its means. After all, we are facing the reality that a lot many people will not afford electricity anyway, so what then in the future when there are less people spending on this?

SEC and its executives can't sit in the boardroom and argue that they are a good company, declaring some (reduced, of course) profits, while they are charging such a high tariff to do this.

They must also experience operating within the means, and come out stronger.

In any case, we are going to have so much rain this year, and that already counts for something, if we are made to believe the utility wants to produce its own. In my head, Mkhumane and his team of experts would have done pretty well to grant a lower tariff increase, and then leave the option of granting an increase in the course of the year if things got terribly bad.

But then, this option will hardly be considered if the regulator believes people can afford a 15 per cent hike. I am already shivering at the thought of next year's increase. Anyway, like I said, this doesn't sit well with me.

It leaves me feeling that SERA is not in touch with reality.

RIGHT TO RESPOND

In the Features Section of the Sunday Observer of February 19, 2017, our attention was drawn to an article written by the Federation of Swaziland Employers & Chamber of Commerce (FSE & CC) titled

"Has the Royal Swaziland Police become another Revenue Authority?" The gist of the said article is raising concerns about the manner the Police organisation discharges one of its key mandates, in particular, the Traffic operations on the country's roads and highways.

The Federation laments the staging of what they construe as frequent and ubiquitous roadblocks on the roads especially during peak hours, stating that these operations are now perceived as an incessant revenue collection drive by the police, which yields no tangible benefit to the primary objectives of enhancing safety and security. What a knowledgeable and deeply

RE: Perception that the police are another revenue authority

appreciative of the concerns from the Federation which are a valuable feedback to us, we cannot help however, not to raise the point that it is precisely perceptions and sentiments of this nature, which have the propensity of causing antagonism or infusing a spirit of hostility on the part of the public towards the police. As such, it would be neater if comments of this kind are made cognisant of their delicacy and sensitivity and the likely ramifications they may have in Police public relations.

In response to the question posed in the article in subject, we wish to state emphatically, that as a Police Service we are not a revenue collection entity nor do we harbour any desires of becoming one. Our sole priority still primarily remains preventing/fighting crime and reducing the scourge of accidents on the roads.

Revenue collection for the Police is merely an auxiliary function that

is occasioned by the broader nature of our law enforcement responsibilities. This is a fact we always impress with the requisite resonance across the rank and file of our organisation.

We have noted the assertion by the Federation that spot fines on the roads have had the regrettable effect of becoming a cost driver in the production of goods and services. We must say, this concerns us a great deal as we are aware of the wide-ranging negative implications such may have on the broader socio-economic value chain, in particular, through raising the consumer price index.

Accordingly, and as judiciously suggested by the Federation, we will continue to strive for striking the right balance between the interests of law enforcement on the one hand and those of the broader society on the other. After all, we are essentially servants of the public and subscribe to the philosophy of

policing with the consent and approval of the public. We are cognisant however, of the thin line we must continuously straddle in striking that "right balance" given all the dynamics in the policing landscape. In a nutshell, we have taken note of the concerns raised by our valued stakeholders and will re-emphasise to traffic practitioners on the need for balancing the scales between public safety and economics. We must state that the Police leadership is also not for the idea that roadblocks be staged during peak hours but such an ideal, is often militated by the intelligence at hand. Nonetheless, we appreciate the resonant appeal to always strive for prudence and to undertake a stringent cost benefit analysis before the staging of roadblocks taking into account all salient factors and circumstances.

Emmanuel Sula Dlamini (DNCP) Staff Officer To NatCom



GOOD NEWS FOR SWAZILAND EXPORTERS: WORLD TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT COME'S INTO FORCE

The World Trade Organisation's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which seeks to ease customs norms, has come into effect from February 23, 2017 with two-thirds of the member states, including Swaziland, ratifying the pact.

The agreement is a broad series of trade facilitation reforms spread out over a gamut of trade issues across the areas of transparency and predictability of trading across borders. It aims to create a less discriminatory business environment. It also includes faster clearance procedures, enhanced conditions for freedom of transit for goods improvements, improved appeal rights for traders as well as reduced fees and formalities connected with the import and export of goods.

Ratified by 112 nations out of 164, which is more than two-thirds of all member nations, the TFA will ease trade processes, bring down barriers to trade and enhance the capacity of the developing world to better engage with the global trading network. The TFA, which has been ratified by the country, will also give a boost to the global trade, which has been impacted due to slowdown in the world economy. It has come at a time when Swaziland's efforts to improve exports are gaining momentum. Full implementation of the pact is forecast to slash members' trade costs by an average of 14.3 per cent, with developing countries having the most to gain. It is in this vein that the voice of business in Swaziland welcomes the entry into force of the trade facilitation agreement as a huge step forward in making trade around the world cheaper, easier and faster. The entry into force of this agreement opens up opportunities for traders but there is a lot that the country still needs to do to comply.

WAGES SETTLEMENT REPORT 2015/2016

The Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce conducts a Wages Settlement

	10.25%	14.75%	10.50%	10.08%	10.40%	9.70%	10%	10.80%	11%
	10.25%	5.60%	12.30%	5%	11%	9.00%	7.30%	10.00%	9.00%
	10.25%	7.25%	7.80%	2.13%	10.16%	7.50%	6.40%	4.26%	7.56%
	5.7%	5.20%	7.70%	5.00%	8.00%	6.50%	7.50%	5.00%	3.40%
	8%	7.90%	8.10%	7.50%	9%	7%	7.70%	7.80%	7%
	5%	7%	4.3%	7.75%	5.5	6.5	--	5.8	6.5
	6.7%	6%	--	7.1%	6%	--	--	6.5%	--

Wage increment table for the past seven (7) years within the different sectors in Swaziland.

Survey annually for all the different economic sectors in the country. In this survey, a number of companies are selected to establish the average increment for the year (2016/2017); the effective date and the reason or factors leading to the increment. The rationale for this survey is to give guidance to businesses about the current wage trends in the different industries. Furthermore, it provides a useful negotiating reference for companies which are still to negotiate wages.

This year, the companies that were contacted were not entirely willing to give this information and the numbers are still not satisfactory given the membership subscription in each sector. It is respectfully submitted that this information is for the use and benefit of all members in order to have some insight into how other similarly placed organisations settle

wage demands. It is vital therefore that contacted companies be open and provide the requested data for a much more inclusive and widely accepted end product.

As companies prepare for wage negotiations, it is very important that they gather all relevant information, which will impact on overall strategy, simplify the collective bargaining process and avoid unnecessary delays. Members of the business community willing to participate in the survey can contact our Industrial Relations Department at 2404 0768 or 7699 5985.

World Economic Forum Survey 2017

The World Economic Forum in partnership with the Federation of Swaziland Employers & Chamber of Commerce (FSE&CC) is in the process

of conducting the Executive Opinion Survey 2017 in Swaziland beginning this month. The goal of the report is to provide a benchmark business leaders and policy makers to identify obstacles to improved competitiveness, thus stimulating discussion on the best strategies and policies for overcoming them.

Swaziland first participated in the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report in 2010. FSE&CC as a partner to the World Economic Forum Institute, administers the Executive Opinion Survey in Swaziland, which is used in the Global Competitiveness Report to calculate the country's Global Competitiveness Index.

The country was not among the countries that participated in last year's survey and, therefore, could not be ranked.

The last time Swaziland participated in the survey it was ranked 128 out of 140 economies which was a decline of one rank from the previous year at that time.

According to the Global Competitiveness Index Report, Swaziland's economy is still in transition between the factor-driven stage and the efficiency-driven stage.

The survey has started for the year 2017 and members of the business community are kindly urged to take part in this very important exercise. The questionnaire is to be filled in by any person in the top 3 management positions and is readily available at the FSE&CC offices. The survey runs from February to April.

For more information on these surveys, members of the business community are requested to contact the FSE&CC at their earliest convenience.



NTFONJENI DLAMINI

This past week I have been thinking about the practicality of what the Bible says in the book of **Philippians 4:4**.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." I have spent a considerable amount of time thinking and asking myself a number of questions concerning what this verse says. Some of these questions included: Is it possible for one to be happy or joyful at all times? How can I be happy whilst going through difficulty?

What if all odds are against me? I kept on thinking and couldn't find accurate answers to these questions. However, eventually it occurred to me that since the Bible tells us to rejoice ALWAYS, then it means; being happy or joyful at all times is very possible and practical. Therefore, in today's article, I want to tackle this issue: Is it possible to be happy at all times?

Happiness is one of the most essential and cherished human desires. Everyone wishes to be happy - young or old. Many get into marriages, in pursuit of happiness. Some go to nightclubs, in order to be happy, some invest in very expensive inanimate objects in a quest to derive happiness from those objects. Others find happiness by associating themselves with a person they admire.

However, in spite of all these efforts, happiness seems to be very elusive to a lot of people. At times, the very things that make one happy turn to be the source of pain later.

However, I want to point out that the ten-

dency to always derive happiness from external factors is the main culprit that causes many people to be so unhappy in life. It is possible to be happy at all times, just as the Bible encourages us. In order to remain happy at all times, you must cease to derive happiness from other people or material things. Happiness is not something that someone gives to you, but it is a state of mind that is created from within. It is not dependent on circumstances.

Nothing and no one was created to make you happy. You are the only person responsible for your own happiness.

Therefore, don't bring people or certain things into your life because you think they will make you happy. Strive to be happy even when there are no people or material things around because, happiness is independent of circumstances.

I like what Lao Tzu says: "If you look others for happiness, you will never be fulfilled. If your happiness depends on money, you will never be happy yourself. Be content with what you have; rejoice in the way things are. When you realize there is nothing lacking, the world belongs to you." Yes, external factors such as people, money and other material things will never make you happy. Start off with being happy with who you are.

Appreciate yourself; appreciate

Always be happy, joyful

Being optimistic isn't always being happy. It's taking what the world throws at you and saying 'I'm not going to let this get me down!'

the fact that you are alive. Then move on to appreciate the family that you have, then your job (even when some may openly look down upon it).

As you do all these, you are creating a sense of gratitude within you and that gratitude will bring you happiness.

In order to be happy at all times, avoid harbouring feelings of regret about your past. All the experiences that you went through in the past happened for a reason and help to make you a better person. Tell yourself that through those experiences, you learned very valuable and life transforming

lessons. Furthermore, don't be afraid of making mistakes. You can't live your life in fear of what can go wrong.

You just need to go out and live your life to the fullest and know that you'll be happy, even if something doesn't go the way that you had planned it to.

Avoid spending your day with a dejected and an anxious attitude. You should never allow feelings of despair and helplessness to overwhelm you.

Always strive to be happy because, happiness brings the best out people. Happiness and good health go hand-in-hand. **Proverbs**

17:22 tells us that: "Being cheerful keeps you healthy. It is slow death to be gloomy all the time."

Therefore, being happy is medicine on its own.

When things have not worked out the way that you had planned them to be, naturally you will be disappointed; but quickly pick yourself up and determine that you will be happy even when things are not happening your way. Remain happy even when people forsake you.

Your happiness does not come from anyone or anything. It comes from within you. It is your responsibility to be happy always.

MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



“What is the importance of a country’s economy?” is the title of an article in the Swazi Observer of February 23, 2017. Fault me for waxing hyperbolic, but this is an article which may be referred to as a cornucopia of fused sentences.

Most of our review today is devoted to examining the fused sentences in the aforementioned article, but we shall begin with our unfinished business from last week. The following is the sentence which we had requested you to examine, so that we could compare notes today: “It is all good and well and to be frank justified to demand and expect infrastructural change and politics which work for us but when all is said and done; is our unity as a people where it should be?”

To be sure, the fused sentence is construction in which two or more independent clauses, in other words, two or more sentences, are joined or run together without any punctuation mark separating them. That is why it is also called the run-on sentence or the run-together sentence.

By and large, as you already know, the fused sentence may be corrected by adopting one of three options. Option 1 involves using the full stop, followed by a capital letter, to separate the independent clauses; Option 2 involves using a semicolon to separate the independent clauses; and Option 3 involves using the comma, followed by a coordinating conjunction, to separate the independent clauses.

The fused sentence under our spotlight may be corrected by adopting Option 1, as follows: “It is all well and good to demand and expect infrastructural change and politics which works for us. But, when all is said and done, is our unity as a people where it should be?”

I do not know how the correction above compares with yours – that is, if you did heed my request to examine that fused sentence yourself – but I am sure you can see the difference between the revised and the original version. So without further ado, let’s move on to the article that we had mentioned at the beginning.

We say that the piece is a cornucopia of fused sentences because the error features in it four times. The first fused sentence is the one that opens the article’s fifth paragraph. It reads, thus: “There are a number of factors contributing to this massive gender disproportion yet the most commonly cited by informal workers themselves is the widespread acceptance of the patriarchal system of governance.”

We can readily see what is wrong with that sentence when we remember the essential point in the definition of the error known as the fused

A CORNUCOPIA OF FUSED SENTENCES



sentence, to wit: the absence of any punctuation mark separating two or more independent clauses. An independent clause is a sentence. We say that when a writer’s sentence sense is active, he or she knows when a sentence begins and when a sentence ends, and he or she would, accordingly, insert the appropriate punctuation mark at that point.

A close look at the aforementioned sentence would tell us that the word, “disproportion,” completes a thought, and that the construction needs to be stopped or paused right there. That’s right. This very group of words indeed makes a sentence. To be exact, it makes a simple sentence, going by the syntactic criterion of structure.

The sentence therefore needs to be on its own. But if we want to change its structure from the simple type to another type, then, we need to use an appropriate mark of punctuation to connect them. Otherwise, we would run afoul of the error called fused sentence.

Having separated the first independent clause from the second, we may revise the sentence using any of the three suggested principal options for correcting the fused sentence. This is how we have chosen to revise it: “There are numerous factors that contribute to this massive gender disproportion. But the one most commonly cited by informal workers themselves is the widespread

acceptance of the patriarchal system of governance.”

If you read the original sentence and its revised version very carefully, you would find that some other elements or parts of the former have also been amended. We shall however not dwell on them, here, for they are not the matter of concern.

The second fused sentence in the article is its ninth paragraph. It reads, thus: “These are the women who feed families and educate children yet these roles are barely recognised and there are major policy gaps that leave women in the informal sector unheeded, unprotected and prone to exploitation.”

Hmm, wait a minute! Looking backward and forward, I find something very peculiar about all the four fused sentences in the article: They all have the coordinating conjunction, “yet,” and also lack a punctuation mark before the conjunction. That makes a very interesting pattern, doesn’t it? And that also makes correcting the sentences rather easy, methinks.

So, let’s get down to revising the second fused sentence. The first thing we can say is that the group of words before the coordinating conjunction, “yet,” is indeed an independent clause, that is, a sentence.

This means that a full stop is warranted at this point.

But, lo, this is not as easy as the first

fused sentence! You see, there are actually three independent clauses that have been run together in this sentence.

The first and second independent clauses are joined by “yet,” and the second and third independent clauses are joined by “and.”

To tell you the truth, the problem with this sentence is more than that of fusion. There is also the problem of disunity among the thoughts that make up the three independent clauses which have been fused into one sentence. In other words, the sentence is not cohesive.

But here is one way we may revise the sentence.

“These are the women who feed families and educate children, yet the roles they play are barely recognised. Besides, there are major policy gaps that leave women in the informal sector neglected, unprotected and exploited.”

Let us quickly say something concerning the second fused sentence in the article under our spotlight. Whenever a sentence is fused, and the sentences that are fused lack cohesion, it needs a surgical operation of various degrees to have it corrected.

On to the third fused sentence which reads, thus: “When policies are made, they affect a large number of institutions, entrepreneurs, employees and communities yet they are unlikely to have been consulted.”

As we had mentioned earlier, this fused sentence has an independent clause that is connected to another with the coordinating conjunction, “yet,” which is not preceded by a punctuation mark. There is something about the second independent clause, though, that makes it quirky, for want of a better word!

This is how we have chosen to revise the sentence: “When policies are made, they affect a large number of institutions, entrepreneurs, employees and communities. Yet these entities are barely consulted.”

The last in our cornucopia of fused sentences is the following: “There were a number of challenges each worth their article resulting from this meeting, ranging from high property rental costs to unhygienic conditions yet the one challenge unanimously agreed upon was the lack of government intervention.”

To this fused sentence, we offer this revision which we urge you to compare with the original.

It is a surgical operation of a moderate degree: “There were a number of challenges that were identified at this meeting, each of them worth an article. The challenges ranged from minor ones, such as high property rental costs, to major ones, such as unhygienic conditions. Yet the one challenge that was unanimously agreed upon was the lack of government intervention.”

Dups Properties will help weather your distress



It has been a few wet days in the country with many places receiving heavy rains. The panic that was precipitated by near-empty dams has slowly dissolved.

Farmers have something to rejoice over because their livestock will not starve as there will be an abundance of pastures.

Rains are indeed a blessing. However, when you have an event at your homestead, like a funeral or a wedding, you find yourself crossing fingers and praying that it does not rain for fear of peo-

ple being uncomfortable. Our weather patterns are sometimes characterized by extremities. Even when it is not raining, the heat can be unrelenting.

Dups can help you minimise that discomfort by providing you with tents, which our skilled personnel can even assist with erecting.

Responsible

These can be obtained from Dups Properties, which is a branch of Dups Holdings responsible for service provision. Any kind of service you might need that is associated with household maintenance, you will be able to obtain it from Dups Properties.

Although Cyclone Dineo did not come with the anticipated ferocity, which we are thankful for, it did cause some degree of damage in some places of the country.

Some buildings were destroyed, silt

continues to build up, causing blockages of drains and pipes, properties are overgrown, the list is endless. Should you find yourself in need of plumbing, carpentry repairs, tiling, clearing up your homestead, and any other maintenance services, remember to call on Dups Properties. Our carpentry workshop not only does repairs, but also makes exquisite furniture custom-made to your specifications.

Diseases

Although the rains usually bring joy, they can also bring diseases if waste is not properly disposed of. At big family or social gatherings and construction sites people sometimes end up using the bush and other undesignated places as toilets.

When the rains come down, they can wash the waste to sources where some people fetch water for drinking and household purposes, and that can cause an outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases. Dups Properties has mobile flushable and pit

toilets that you can rent at a reasonable cost.

The flushable toilets are the ones with an installed cistern, while the pit ones are a shelter that is placed around a pit that has been dug on the ground.

We also rent out concrete mixers, welding machines, flood lights, and catering equipment. Our services are available to Dups funeral policy holders as well as the general public, but in order to enjoy considerable rewards, it would be best to have a funeral policy.

Dups clients are entitled to a loyalty card and upon swiping of that card, can get as much as up to 10% discount on some of our products and services. You would also be able to get discounts with other Dups Holdings subsidiary companies.

We would also like to remind you of the ongoing promotion where you stand a chance to win the holiday of a lifetime in the form of a cruise for two. All you have to do is register for the Dups Dignified

E50 000 Funeral Cover. The funeral plan covers up to six children up to the age of 22.

These can be your own, legally adopted or stepchildren. If they are students, they can be covered up to the age of 26. There is no age limit if the child is mentally or physically handicapped and fully dependent on the policy holder.

Promotion

New clients taking up the cover and existing ones will be included in the draw. This promotion runs until 30 June 2017.

Get in touch with us on 2505 2028 if you have any services you would like from Dups Properties, or if you would like to get more details on the Gold Benefits promotion. You can also pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlanguano, Mbabane, Pigg’s Peak and Siteki. Alternatively, you can send queries to info@dups-group.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter @dupsinsurance.



**NOKUKHANYA
GAMEDZE**

JA BOARD CHAIR

JA regional Champions posing with Matsapha Municipality CEO Gciniwe Fakudze during the 2016 National Expo Competition.

Introduction

It is such an achievement for JA Swaziland to note that a decade has gone by since the establishment of Junior Achievement Swaziland. Naturally, such a milestone prompts actions of self-introspection as to whether notable progress has been made over the 10-year period. It also challenges one to look at ways in which things can be improved in order to gain the much-needed impact.

At JA Swaziland, we have been so proud of our milestones such as winning the regional company of the year competition for four years out of the six of its existence. Today however, I would like to highlight more on our intended areas of improvement that we have identified and seek to improve this year and beyond. During the following weeks, we shall have a series of columns that will look at each area of development in details.

Economics for Success Programme

The first program that we wish to expand is the Economics for Success Programme (EFS). Currently this programme gives financial literacy education through a series of activities that Form Two learners engage in for only six hours. Our focus now is to ensure that the learners get to have a practical element where they can experience saving in a bank set up as early as possible in their lives. We seek to partner with the Bankers Association where we can introduce banking to the school youth.

JA Swaziland aims to not only focus on the banking set up but also introduce saving through cooperatives to in school youth. Cooperatives will introduce the concept of saving in a group set-up to young people and also set in motion the idea of expanding saved money through changing interest to their colleagues when they have requested soft loans from the saving scheme. In this way, the EFS programme will have long lasting effects in the lives of young people, that in the long run will create the desired impact which entails establishing coffers for young people that will assist in establishing businesses in the future.

JA Company Programme

The JA Company Programme which introduces practical entrepreneurship education to young people will also introduce a new element this financial year.

The mini in school companies will no longer liquidate at the end of 15 weeks. Instead of young

HOW FAR WE HAVE COME, CHANGES WE WILL IMPLEMENT



JA regional Champions posing with Matsapha Municipality CEO Gciniwe Fakudze during the 2016 National Expo Competition.

people producing a liquidation report that is accessed by judges towards the national expo competition, an end of year progress report will now be forwarded to JA Swaziland. Our aim is that at Form Five level, we request a minimum of two hours weekly which will be dedicated towards running the business.

We have recently introduced price monies that young people enjoy during the National Expo competition. The mandate of proving this financial support is that the money is reinvested back into the business. We therefore cannot allow that money to go to an already liquidated business. It has to go into a business that will utilise it. This way we will ensure that the young people do not lose their business ideas hence can be able to work on them after high school where they will be transferred to our out of school programme which works collaboratively with the Business Development Services Department. This department then looks at

ways of expanding the already existing business through guidance and looking into funding opportunities for our young people.

Out of school Youth Programme

The Out of School Youth Programme this year will focus on three key areas. The first key area is the development of JA Alumni businesses through a partnership with First National Bank Foundation.

The mandate of this partnership is to assist JA Swaziland reach out to the alumni and provide further assistance post the high school level. This project will make sure that we do not lose the in school businesses as they will be taken through the out of school youth programme and developed through it.

The second area of focus will be formulating a partnership with vocational institutions to ensure that the skills that the young people gain in the vocational institutions are utilised in start-

ing businesses that will thrive. MTN Swaziland is already on board providing financial support that will ensure that this programme runs smoothly for 60 young people from vocational institutions.

The final area of focus for this programme will be focusing on community development. The Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) has allocated resources that will be utilised in training out of school youth around the Mhlume area. It is their way of giving back to the community and provide support to the youth by equipping them with entrepreneurship skills that will sustain their livelihood.

Conclusion

While we have experienced so many victories for the past 10 years which has also positioned us as a preferred partner in youth entrepreneurship issues, our judgment is not clouded, we have realised that we can do better than

Maize diseases and their management

Farming in this day and age is no easy feat. Nothing is as clear cut as it should be and today's farmer faces challenge after challenge.

The country and the SADC region in general has still not completely come out of a bad drought, the worst seen in over 30 decades. We are just about coming out of this with the recent rains and have landed onto new challenges. The struggle is nowhere near over but the National Maize Corporation (NMC) through her Farmer Development Division continues to look for the different ways to support the local farmers as they go through their day-to-day paces. Below is some

advice on maize diseases and their management brought to you by NMC's Farmer Development Unit.

Maize diseases are of paramount importance to farmers because they damage plants and plant products on which humans depend on for food.

The kinds and amounts of losses caused by maize diseases vary with the seed type, the pathogen, the locality, the environment and the control measures practiced and combinations of these factors.

The following are the most common maize diseases affecting maize growers in the country.

1. Downy Mildew

This group of pathogens constitutes one of the most important factors limiting maize production in the country.

This maize disease is caused by a fungi species and its growth is promoted by warm and humid conditions. Plant starts showing distinct yellow streaks.

A downy white mould may appear on the yellow affected leaf areas. As the plant grows it becomes elongated and thin. At tasselling the tassel may be malformed becoming leafy. As a result no cobs are formed or when formed cobs have abnormal size.

Control


At Planting use seed treatment like ApronXL

2. Maize Streak Virus (MSV)

The virus is transmitted by Cicadulina spp. Leafhoppers'. Cicadulina mbila is the most prevalent vector, and will transmit the virus for most of its life after feeding on an infected plant.

Early disease symptoms begin within a week after infection and consist of very small, round, scattered spots in the youngest leaves.

The number of spots increases with plant growth; they enlarge parallel to the leaf veins. Severe infection causes stunting, plant will not develop cobs and plants can die prematurely. Many cereals crops and wild grasses serve as reservoirs of the virus and vectors.



**NOKWANDA
DLAMINI-
MASUKU**

ON THE
GRAIN

EMAIL:
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SZ
WWW.NMC.
CO SZ



what we have accomplished. Building on to the next ten years with this foundation that we have laid and shared with you, we believe that we are about to get into the next phase of growth for our institution where thousands of young people will realise their entrepreneurial ambition and join forces with government in curbing unemployment. Our newly formulated direction that we are to operate from has clearly fused the practical elements that will ensure that our programmes have the desired effect. Our focus with our in school programmes has also changed, we want each school to experience the full JA step by step programming activities. We want young people who 3 years from now, will have experienced the full JA dose and we believe they will be a living testimony of how JA transforms young lives.



TOURISM & TRAVEL
 BY BONGANI DLAMINI
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In consuming places, the adage that familiarity dulls one's sense of wonderment holds true.

This is more so for locals who because of their daily interactions with their environment tend to take its beauty and splendour for granted.

We continue to realise through our "friends from outside the boarders that Swaziland continues to be one of the "out of the ordinary destinations", and there is much to be applauded about the kingdom. Nadia Krige, a travel writer at Traveller24; one of South Africa's leading travel news site was extremely humbled to be hosted by the Swaziland Tourism Authority and went on to share the following post with thousands of readers back home on her trip to Swaziland:

"I'm writing this from the legendary Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino in Swaziland and it feels like I've stepped straight into a Wes Anderson film.

Apart from the physical features, - mint green trimmings in the bedrooms, a hairdryer that looks like a cream-coloured pay phone of sorts mounted in the bathroom and a pristinely kept lawn rolling down into a mysterious pine forest outside - the impeccable, delightfully old-fashioned, straight-backed, stiffly-starched-white-collar sort of service, instantly put me in mind of Anderson's vividly-imagined Grand Budapest Hotel.

Had we really stepped back in time 40 or 50 years, as it felt on arrival, I suspect we might have encountered a slightly more bustling Saturday night lobby scene than we did.

During the height of conservative Apartheid rule, Pigg's Peak used to be a popular spot for thrill-seeking South Africans, as gambling (in the then South Africa) was a big, illegal no-no.

Thus slot machines and the promise of unknown riches succeeded in drawing scores of Transvalers across the border on an annual basis.

Since casinos are now a dime a dozen back home and gambling is no longer considered an altogether wicked pursuit, this draw-card no longer holds any weight for the post stamp sized kingdom, however, as I've found out in the past 48-hours, a thousand other adventures await.

CONSUMING PLACES: IMPRESSIONS OF A TRAVEL WRITER ON SWAZILAND



These are a few of my first impressions: The people are really welcoming.

We hadn't even quite crossed the Oshoek/Ngwenya border when the staff of the Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA) office next door to passport control came rushing out to greet us.

Attendants

One man had a big camera in hand and immediately lined us up for a photograph, explaining that he was a journalist for a local paper and wanted to interview us. Between the border post and the petrol station just a few metres down the road we were welcomed to Swaziland at least 20 times. By everyone from passers-by to petrol attendants to policemen standing close by.

A day later we found ourselves being spontaneously invited to witness a traditional ceremony where a young bride-to-be was officially introduced to the womenfolk among her new in-laws.

We had been in the rural area of Nsangwini to look at 4 000-year-old bushmen rock paintings, when a local woman spotted us and thought it the perfect opportunity to intro-

duce us to some of their tradition. Apart from being friendly, the Swazi people are also extremely proud of their culture and heritage, still observing age-old rituals and ceremonies.

Things are kept very tidy. While we haven't visited Mbabane or any of the surrounding urban areas as yet, what we've seen so far is astoundingly tidy - no litter, well maintained roads and pristine accommodation everywhere we've been so far. Beautiful views... EVERYWHERE! Seriously! Driving through Swaziland is a feast for the eyes. Gently swaying grasslands rise into rolling hills, which give way to majestic folded peaks that turn various shades of blue as they stretch off way beyond the horizon.

In the rural areas, neatly kept homesteads, each with its own corn field and some with perfectly aligned vegetable gardens, speak of a simple, but good life (most houses have electricity and water).

Then there are the dams and waterfalls, pine forests and granite boulders just strewn about. No matter where you stand in Swaziland, a 360 degree turn will bestow upon you breath-taking views all round.

Although connectivity in some areas is patchy, we suggest you invest instead in a Swaziland MTN sim card if you are going to be spending some few days in Swaziland - it costs about R15 and there are no RICA requirements like you'd find in South Africa.

This is the adventure capital of Southern Africa. We hadn't even been in the country for an hour, when we were already off on our first adventure: the Malolotja Canopy Tour.

Consisting of 10 slides and one suspension bridge, this zip line tour is well worth the money (R595 per person), the drive and the border post queue with spectacular views all round and experienced, fun-loving guides helping you along the way.

Less than 24 hours later, it was time for the next - a two-hour outride on horseback from Hawane resort, through grasslands, over a busy tarred road, along a perfectly still dam and back again. Next, we're off to play paintball and then... who knows? If adventure is what you want, Swaziland will give it to you... generously!"

Control

Cultivars possessing resistance are available in the country. Avoid planting before early October or after mid-December. Keep the maize field and surrounding border free of grass and weeds. Remove infected maize stalk from the field or bury burn them. Plant in moist soil that is tilled well to improve uniform germination.

3. Common Rust

This is another fungal disease caused by Puccinia sorghi pathogen. It thrives in warm and moist conditions while dry and a hot condition slows down or stops its development. The disease usually appears at the Knee-high stage or at tasselling. Cinnamon-brown, powdery circular-to-elongated pustules (blister-like growths) occur on any aboveground plant tissue, but especially on both surfaces of the leaves.

Pustules become dark brown to black late in the growing season. Spreads by windblown spores and typically progresses as maize matures in late summer if conditions are persistently wet

and cool. Disease lesions reduce functional leaf area and photosynthesis thus fewer sugars are produced, so plant uses stalk carbohydrates to help fill kernels. This causes stalk to be weakened and stalk rot potential increases.

Control

Cultivars possessing resistance are available in the country. For seed production and susceptible cultivars of maize, two to three spray applications of the fungicide zineb are recommended.

4. Grey Leaf Spot (GLS)

It's another disease caused by the fungus Cercospora zeae-maydis. The disease growth is promoted by warm and humid conditions. Lesions begin as small, regular, elongated brown-gray necrotic spots growing parallel to the veins. Minimum tillage practices have been associated with an increased incidence of GLS.

Development is favoured by extended periods of leaf wetness and cloudy conditions, and can result in severe leaf senescence following flower-

ing and in poor grain fill.

Control

Cultivars possessing resistance are available in the country. Moisture on leaf surfaces is important throughout the disease cycle but efforts should be made to avoid practices that extend dew periods.

Therefore, irrigation should not be scheduled during late afternoon or early evening, especially after outbreaks have already occurred. Other cultural practices appear to have little effect on gray leaf spot development. Fungicides are important for grey leaf spot control.

5. Maize Smut

Maize smut is a disease caused by the pathogenic plant fungus Ustilago maydis. Smut can cause significant economic damage in dry, hot maize growing areas, as well as in mid hill zones and under temperate conditions.

The infection is systemic: the fungus penetrates the seedlings and grows inside the plant without showing symptoms, until the tasselling and sill-

ing stages.

The most conspicuous symptoms are (a) abnormal development of the tassels, which become malformed and overgrown; (b) black masses of spores that develop inside individual male florets; and (c) masses of black spores in place of the normal ear, leaving the vascular bundles exposed and shredded. The smutted ear develops no grains.

Control

Maize varieties that are resistant to common smut are widely available and offer the most cost-effective and practical means of disease management.

Avoiding mechanical damage to plants will reduce plant injury, which is the primary means of infection by the fungi.

A well-balanced fertilizer regime will reduce disease severity.

High levels of nitrogen fertilisation increase disease severity, although application of phosphorus reduces disease incidence. Look out for more advice from our farm development unity



BY Comfort Mabuza

IS SWAZILAND STILL ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE VISION 2022?

On Friday, the money man Minister Martin G Dlamini who carries the national purse, finally presented this year's budget.

This follows shortly after the wise words from the Throne, the King has already thundered, and his wisdom cannot be questioned but we all in agreement should shout Bayethe Mbangazitha! In about four years' time this country will be reaching its milestone in realising the national dream, vision 2022. I am not a prophet of doom, but it suffices to raise critical issues that are quite pertinent needing a swift speed like lightning to resolve without delay. It calls for highly determined citizenry that is empowered to strategically deliver with an enabled visionary leadership that we can become champions of transformation. Achieving what His Majesty in his wisdom has called that we labour in ensuring that we become the first world by 2022, is a mammoth task. Committed servants of this nation must not disappoint but deliver. Our country should become every investors choice and prosperous nation for us all. We should be responsible citizens who are forever determined to take it upon ourselves to rise up to this challenge. Contributing to nation building initiative and help leave a legacy for the next generation is on our shoulders. Herein under are some issues for our reflection after this year's budget speech.

Food Security Challenges

Driving through the middle and high veld respectively one is optimistic as the fields are green promising a bumper harvest, but not so with the low veld.

As I drove through the low veld over the weekend, on an assignment in Lavumisa, Kwa-Qomintaba, and my heart sank when looked at the ir poor crops and such disparities are not encouraging at all, we certainly have another national disaster looming ahead. The fertile low veld is lying uncultivated with no water supply.

If this government has a vision for sustainable development, it should come up with well-crafted strategies of how to turn things around, how it plans to feed this nation, by investing on more dams for irrigation purposes. Like sugar cane grown commercially that brings good returns from foreign earnings, why can't this be the case with other commercial crops, which can meet the food security needs?

The ministry of agriculture seems to be running short of ideas, and they aren't proactive enough. We cannot stand tall and proud as a nation if we continue living on hand-



The ministry of agriculture should be invigorating a new breed of farmers to address food security issues and how this can be realised. UNISWA Luyengo Campus should not just produce mere graduates for the sake of flooding the unemployable graduates who cannot utilise learnt skills in agri-bussiness. We are failing dismally in invigorating sustainable agriculture initiatives to ensure food security. Access to food is fundamental human rights matter.

Access to health Care

The recently launched health facilities to be built in the Northern part-Ka-Hhohho are sweet music to our ears. It seems our international friends are coming to the party to ensure access to such facilities. Well, while the North is celebrating, as a Southerner -Yith' Abantu, I am equally calling for equitable health development agenda in all regions. Back to the issue at hand, it is about making health care a top national priority and a very critical one for that matter. The fact that we have so many people shows beyond any reasonable doubt ours is not a healthy nation at all. Sick people are a drain to the economy as they become a huge burden to the national budget. The huge amounts spent on sustaining sickly persons are a huge expense. A health nation is a productive nation and somehow we need to ensure that people are cautious about what they eat and the lifestyles they live. There are already incurable diseases that of great concern and are proving a nightmare to the health sector and yet we still need to ensure that with the limited national resources we ought to ensure that people access health facilities.

Health facilities should not be impossible to access and people should not to travel long distances before they can get medical attention. Health centres should be given all necessary equipment, medicine and personnel so ensure that the citizens are not turned back or referred to hospitals that are far away. Access to health is fundamental Human rights issue and this cannot be overemphasised.

Some clinics and health centres are not adequately replenished with needed medicine and drugs, as for specialised medical attention, it so pathetic to say the least. Government should as a matter of principle subsidises health care so that it remains accessible, as for the exorbitant fees charged in private clinics that become a nightmare for the ordinary citizens.

Assess to Education

There is a difference between putting children through school and ensuring that proper learning is happening and what is offered is not quality education.

While we in the past, applauded the efforts for ensuring that at least education at primary schools is accessed by all and is now compulsory.

I have since engaged several Head teachers who are a stressed lot, because students are being pushed to come to school, and yet no attention is given to the ages. How does a 21 year old child enrol for Grade Seven when their peers will be finishing tertiary education by then? It is perhaps prudent that the Minister of Education and Training re-visit the criterion to admit these grown-up children at this level of education. Also teachers must be enough and reasonable to deliver quality education.

To hear overcrowding of up to 50 -60 children being lumped together in one class, is killing quality education and should be addressed urgently. It is perhaps time the whole education system is evaluated; we seem to be producing more academic education with less emphasis on pre-vocational skills like building and technical subjects. So it should not just be a merely routine to go through formal education but it should also embrace other approaches that aimed at meeting the market demands. Access to education is a human rights matter.

Social Security Grants

At the heart of the national budget should be a clear indication of social security services. In our context the elderly grants (bógogo

nabomkhulu) cannot be taken lightly.

Not only do they need them, but there are also lives that are heavily depended on the same. The elderly often find themselves as care givers for their grand children who are dumped in their homes for several reasons, and they end up being a heavy burden to them. Whatever the rationale government advances for keeping such grants so low, one wonders how we expect them to live on such small grant. We hope that it is true that a sizable increase will be given out this coming financial year. I know there will be counter claims that government have no budgetary line to sustain this, but surely they have immensely contributed to what Swaziland is today. While we applaud the government for ensuring that free primary education is accessible, we still need to address other obtaining needs these children battle with daily. Basic things like food and shelter remains critical and there must be an attempt to ensure that they live comfortably. One hopes that today's article will ignite our shared resolve to work towards meeting the set agenda for vision 2022. Let us not disappoint the King. Social security services are part of fundamental rights agenda.

Access to Justice

I am really disturbed that so many prisoners are at the remand centres with no sense of urgency to have their matters resolved or brought to finality. It is a violation of people's rights to be incarcerated forever without your matter being brought to finality. The recent case of Empowerment fund and Job creation that was looted in a broad day light has been on-going for years. Some of the suspects were kept waiting until they eventually died. Do we really need this kid of justice?

I have no space to narrate on the plight of those in remand centres, whose cases are not seeing the light of the day even as we speak. Keeping people in custody and remand centres forever without trails is a violation of their rights and we must ensure that justice is not delayed.



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

Inyandzaleyo, the chant during One Billion Rising Revolution and Women and the Law (WLSA) march on February 17th 2017, as part of V-Day.

As an active participant at this significant march, we sang songs on how women and girls are dying in the hands of loved one. What intrigued me was the respectful lyrics sung, with messages focused on raising awareness on the flight of women and children. During the march, school children and diverse Swazi women and youth participated, what an adrenaline charged experience. The leading lady of the march, was the only elected Member of Parliament, *Make Esther Dlamini*, LaMthethwa our national pride as women of this kingdom. Women participating used their voices, raising awareness in Manzini city, at strategic points and they were visible and heard. This was the V-day for listening to Swazi women, the youth and children expressing their collective wish to end of sexual offence and domestic violence. Evidently this march called for the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence bill into an Act of Parliament. This was followed by the Women's Dialogue, where participants were welcome by representative from Regional Administrator and Manzini Mayor.

Exploitation of Women and Girls

One Billion Rising Revolution, Africa Region Coordinator, Ms Colani Hlatjwako explained this is part of the global campaign seeking to end violence against women and girls. Hence *Inyandzaleyo's* theme 'Solidarity against the Exploitation of Women and Girls,' due to global increase in suppression and exploitation. *Inyandzaleyo* march led by women and men leaders, indicates how the struggle against exploitation of women and girls is not unique to Swaziland. However, this day was humbling to see the support of leaders from all levels of this country, affirming how women and children are important citizens of Swaziland. We call for rise and reclaim our power, whilst calling for the protection of rights of women and girls. Such that women and girls do not lose hope, as hope will enable them to rise above all adversities. This women's dialogue attended by international guest who support Swaziland even though we are known for peace. However, there can be no peace if women and girls are exploited, hence we call for the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence bill to be enacted.

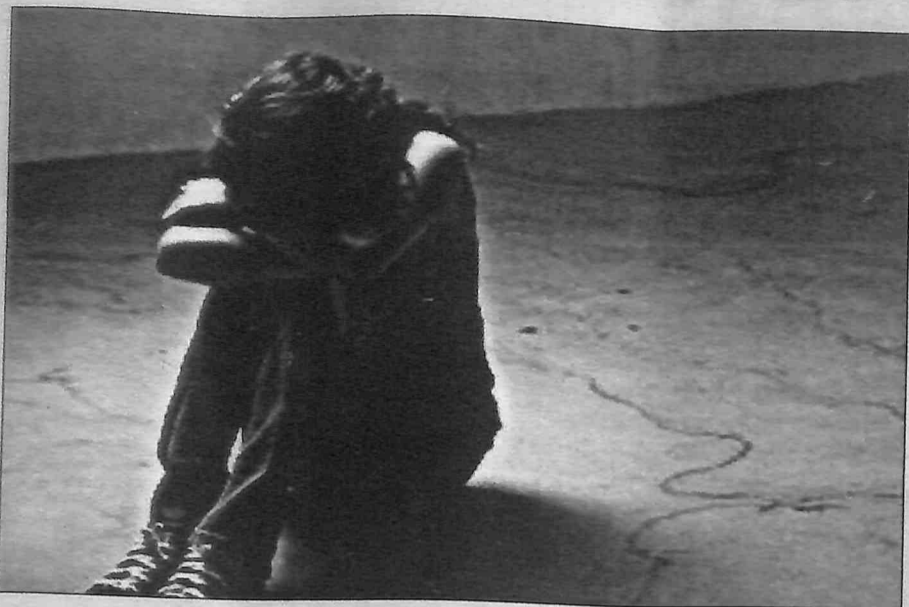
Ms Colani Hlatjwako, called for the rise of women into leadership positions, equal rights in employment. As current employment demographics do not reflect that Swaziland has more women than men. She called for the rise of women in informal sector, the rise of girls with equal rights and opportunities, and rise of women in parliament. The chairperson of WLSA board, represented by *Make Poppy Khoza*, explained how WLSA's purpose is protection of women within the law.

Thus protection of rights, support in legal conflicts, hence they are grateful for the appointment of Colani Hlatjwako as the Africa Region Coordination of One Billion Rising. WLSA is also grateful to the participation of only elected woman member of parliament, *Make Esther Dlamini*.

The question remains, how long will she continue to be alone or will there be other women? On the exploitation of women and girls, WLSA acknowledges how daily the media reports on abuse of women and girls.

However they also read on the success rate of girls in the Form Three and Five results as published by the media, acknowledging future bright stars. Such as Nompilo Dlamini from Dvokolwako

INYANDZALEYO!



who wishes to be a medical doctor, and many other girls who deserve to be protected.

Solidarity with Women and Girls

Lutsango Lwaka Ngwane representative, *Make Tfofi Mdluli*, LaTfwala, thanked WLSA for championing the protection of women and girls. Particularly for implementing the broad based strategy of connecting and ensuring grassroots participation, which is critically for ensuring the protection of women and girls. Lutsango was happy to be part of One Billion rising as they support initiatives ensuring the respect of women's rights and preservations of their voices.

The word revolution means change, and Lutsango supports this change as it is in line with His Majesty's Vision 2022. They also are represented at this women's dialogue to support the campaign for the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence bill to be enacted. As daily Lutsango learns of women being killed through the media, and yet families are supposed to be sources of love not violence. Lutsango also supports His Majesty's call for women to rise into political leadership, be elected members of parliament like *Make Esther Dlamini*.

The representative of European Union (EU) Ambassador, Allen Dlamini expressed his organization's solidarity against exploitation, as this is a violation of human rights. Although EU has been participating in the national agenda on gender issues, Dlamini, acknowledged that there is still a long way taking into consideration the Millennium Goals. Particularly on gender, justice and peace, as EU applies the human rights approach in its developmental agenda.

Evidently frowning on the exploitation of women and girls, as gender issues are cross cutting, EU supports initiatives that protect women and girls. The increase in violence against women and children concerns the EU, as this questions what kind of love is expressed through violence.

They pledged their solidarity towards the campaign for the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence bill being enacted into law. The representative of American Ambassador, Joia Starks, stated how the status of gender inequality in Swaziland, is an important part of their mission. She presented a historical context on the importance of listening to the youth, par-

ticularly as Africa is historically the oldest continent, but demographically the youngest. Hence the former President Obama's, Young African Leadership Initiative, as future predictions indicate for every one adult there will be four youth in Africa. This requires reflecting on what type of the world our progeny will inherit, will it be one infested with gender violence and corruption? Thus, suggesting how we need to listen to the youth, their voices must be heard in decision making and they must participate. When reflecting on the killing of black youth resulting in Black Lives Matter in the US and the Arab Spring uprising we learn on how suppressed youth, will eventually be heard international.

In conclusion

I nyandzaleyo march led by women and men leaders, indicates how the struggle against exploitation of women and girls is not unique to Swaziland. However, this day was humbling to see the support of leaders from all levels of this country, affirming how women and children are important citizens of Swaziland.

Sharing the plight of women in the informal economic sectors, from the cross border informal women's organization (APEX) was Thobile Dvuba whilst domestic workers represented by Phumelele Dlamini. *Make Stella Lukhele* presented perspectives on the positive use of culture and religion to combat gender based

violence. She emphatically stated how character building begins at a tender age, as children are all taught humanness at home.

At home children are taught self-respect, self-preservation and protection such that they understand their bodies whilst instilled with good character. Former MP Nonhlanhla Dlamini presented on the challenges of women leadership across all sectors and shared the experience on how standing for elections is expensive. MP *Make Esther Dlamini* represented members of parliament, highlighting the importance for women to rise and stand for the elections in 2018. Solidarity statements were presented by the DPM's Office through Human Trafficking department and Royal Swaziland Police office through Domestic Violence unit. Manzini South MP Minister of Labour and Public Service Owen Nxumalo officially closed the Women's Dialogue.

In closing prayer *Make Sibongile Mazibuko*, prayed to God, to strike dead those conducting ritual murders in order to win elections. Marching in Manzini, transformed FEAR into Face, Everything, And, Rise, a city I personally experienced rejection, domestic violence and abuse, professional christening and baptismal of fire.

Importance of speech therapy for children with disabilities



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A Manzini mother spent three years of her life wondering what was wrong with her child. While his milestones appeared to be on course, he suddenly lost his speech and became extremely difficult to control, to a point where the mother almost committed suicide.

A doctor subsequently diagnosed the child with autism, a word the mother had never heard of before. Now the boy is receiving speech-language and occupational therapy, and his behaviour has notably improved.

There are many interventions in place for children with developmental disabilities, which when commenced timeously, can significantly improve the life of the child. Speech therapy is one such intervention for children with speech and communication problems.

Speech therapy is an intervention that focuses on attending to all the communication disorders that an individual might have. Conditions that make children predisposed to communication problems include Down syndrome, whereby a child maybe verbal but may not know how to use the vocabulary they have. Children with apraxia, dyslexia and articulation disorders, those that stutter or have auditory processing disorders also benefit from speech therapy. Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) also benefit significantly from speech-language therapy. Autism is characterized by communication challenges and social interaction difficulties. Individuals with autism can either be verbal or non-verbal. A Manzini speech-language therapist, Kholiwe Sihlongonyane* called on parents of children falling in either bracket to take them for therapy sooner rather than later. She said normally after giving the autism diagnosis, the doctor would refer the child for speech and occupational therapy.

According to the TinyEye Therapy Services website, the goal of speech therapy is to help children become clear confident communicators so that they can become fully engaged in school and benefit from the curriculum, develop self-help skills and independence for activities of daily living, actively participate in life experiences, and build healthy social relationships.

Speech therapists will help the child with trying to improve social interaction and communication skills because most autistic children are severely limited ability in that.

The therapists will also help the child with language use or interpretation, development of vocabulary construction of sentences, and how to respond to sentences. They also focus on issues affecting attention span, which is how long a child is able to sit down and work with the teacher as well as how they understand the instruction the teacher is giving to them. She pointed out that sometimes a child may have normal developments but have delayed speech. "When we talk about speech delays, we are talking about a child who's not able to say their first word or express their needs above 18 months. That's when a parent needs to con-

sider seeing a speech-language therapist," she said. While some parents with children who cannot speak might not see the point in getting speech-language therapy, the therapist highlighted that speech therapy is not all about speaking. "Communication doesn't only mean we have to speak. It's basically interpreting other ways to relay a message. It's about expressive language - how someone is able to relay and understand information and interpret that message they hear to become something they can use in a functional way," she said.

Among tools that can be used to help non-verbal children is Picture Exchange Communication System (Pecs). This is an approach that teaches early communication using pictures in place of the voice. A speech therapist will assist you in knowing assistive devices for the non-verbal child and build their language using receptive language so that even though the child cannot express himself, he can still understand and will be able to communicate in other ways. Sihlongonyane said there were other artistic devices the child could be taught to use for communication purposes, one of them being GoTalk. This is an augmentative communication device where pictures are installed. When the child clicks on a picture, it will give verbal output. The therapist recommended that it was better to use real life pictures, for example of food, toilet, home, and other things in the child's everyday life.

A child who can't speak can be taught to read and write, and that goes a long way in improving his life and relations with those around him. Children with intellectual disabilities already have problems with social interaction; therefore, a failure to communicate in any way becomes quite detrimental to their functionality. They would not be able to make requests, build friendships, or participate in anything, which can lead to self-esteem issues. Some children with autism are known to have tantrums, which might be a result of the frustration of not being able to articulate their needs, thoughts, or understanding of the world.

Sihlongonyane said parents could go directly to a speech therapist upon realisation that their children's academic progress is deteriorating, that their speech is delayed, or their behaviour is difficult to understand. An assessment can be done and the child can then be referred to the right people for assistance based on the findings. Pediatricians, occupational therapists and educational psychologists can also refer you to a speech therapist after doing their assessments. "One thing parents need to remember is that therapy is not a quick fix. It's an ongoing process and also depends on your dedication.

You should not skip sessions and should follow the programmes that therapists give you. It is important to have early intervention. Don't dismiss your child's speech problems with, "They'll eventually outgrow it," added Sihlongonyane. She said children with communication difficulties may be able to pick language from school or home, but would still need assistance in using the language appropriately. Some non-verbal children are able to speak if they get help from as early an age as 3, but if you only take them for therapy when they are much older, their options become limited.

Speech-language therapy is available at public and private institutions around Swaziland. There is SOPREC, and the Psychiatric Centre in Manzini, Cheshire Homes in Matsapha, and Mbabane Government Hospital. Unsubstantiated reports say there are only about five speech-language therapists in the country.

*Name changed on professional grounds

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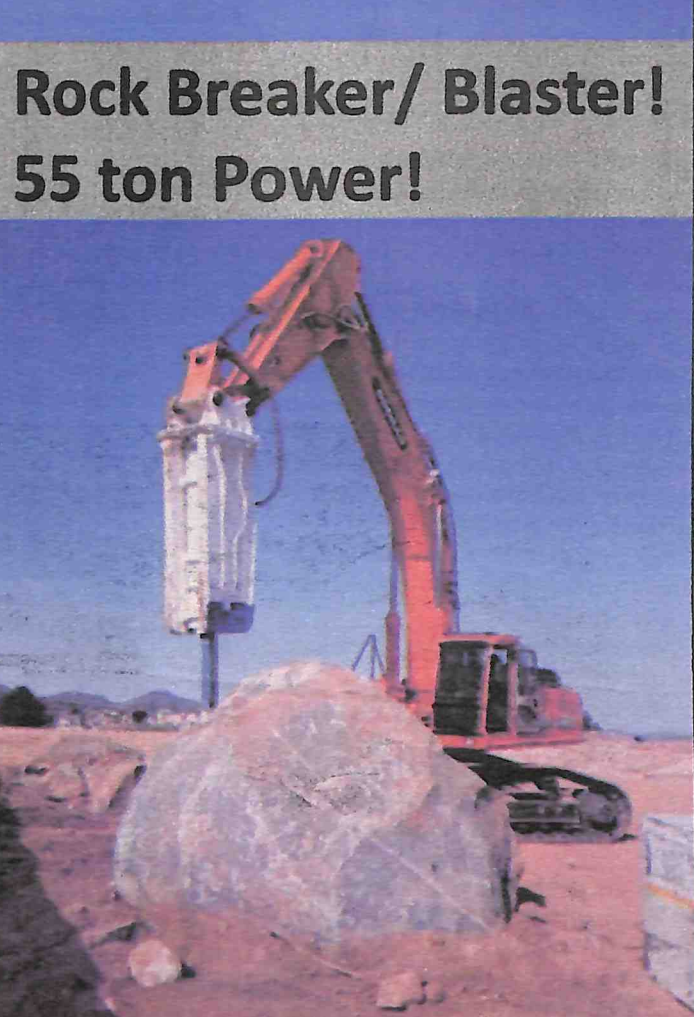
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'Lyon rejected chance to sign Sakho'

LONDON - Lyon President Jean-Michel Aulas says they rejected the chance to sign Mamadou Sakho from Liverpool despite concerns about their defence.

Sakho, who moved to Anfield from Paris Saint-Germain in 2013, was linked with a return to Ligue 1 last month after being frozen out of the Liverpool first team under Jurgen Klopp.

The centre-back eventually signed for Crystal Palace on loan, though he has yet to make an appearance for Sam Allardyce's side.

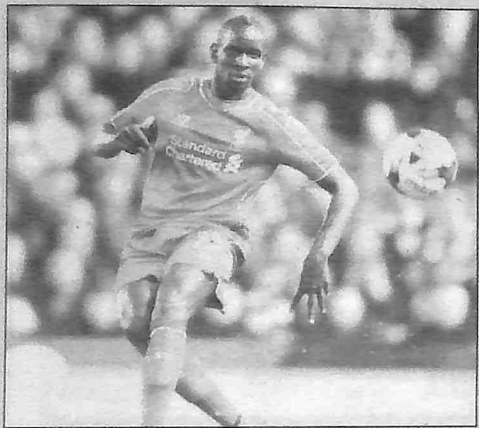
Aulas has admitted that Sakho was considered as a means of improving their poor defensive record - in Ligue 1's top 10, only Guingamp have conceded more goals - but says they passed on any potential deal.

"We had an opportunity with a left-footed defender who is available in England - Mamadou Sakho," he told RMC.

"We didn't choose this solution because we have faith in terms of the management of [Nicolas] Nkoulou and [Emanuel] Mammana.

"We're disappointed with defensive performances, even though that goes beyond only the defenders. It's part of the organisation of the game.

"We know that, if we want to progress in the table, we'll need to strengthen this defensive area." **GOAL**



Mamadou Sakho.

Evra says he is 'good' with Suarez

LONDON - Patrice Evra claims to be "good with Luis Suarez" following an infamous clash between the pair during a Premier League meeting between Manchester United and Liverpool.

A fiery encounter in 2011 saw former Liverpool forward Suarez found guilty by the Football Association of racially abusing the French defender. The next time their paths crossed, Suarez refused to shake Evra's hand.

It was, however, to be the United defender who had the last laugh as a Wayne Rooney double saw the Red Devils to a 2-1 win.

Evra took the opportunity to celebrate in front of Suarez at the final whistle, with tensions running high at Old Trafford.

He is, however, prepared to put the episode behind him and move on.

Evra, who is now on the books at Marseille, told beIN Sports: "There are a lot of memories. Of course when we had this problem with Suarez.

"We won 2-1 and all the players played for me and it was amazing with my celebration in front of him.

"But now I'm happy, I'm good with Suarez. We don't have any problem."

Evra enjoyed plenty of battles with Liverpool during eight-and-a-half years in Manchester and admits that he always relished encounters between two old adversaries.

He added: "My first Manchester United v Liverpool game was at Old Trafford.

"I won the foul, we did the free kick and Rio Ferdinand scored the winning goal." **GOAL**

CAZORLA WILL NOT PUT TIMESCALE ON ARSENAL COMEBACK

LONDON - Santi Cazorla admits he does not know when he will be back in action for Arsenal, but he is determined to honour the final year of his contract.

The Spain international saw a 12-month extension option taken up by the Gunners in January.

Arsene Wenger activated that clause, despite seeing the 32-year-old stuck on the treatment table.

Cazorla has been sidelined since October 19 and underwent another operation on his troublesome ankle on Thursday.

He was forced under the knife again after opening up a scar during rehabilitation work.

Arsenal are now expected to be without his services for the remainder of the season, with no timescale put on his comeback.

Cazorla told Onda Cero: "Everything was going well until I started to do some exercises on the bicycle and the stitches gave in.

"I had to have a minor operation to close the scar on Thursday afternoon.

"I had a graft done a month-and-a-half ago because the skin on my

ankle was practically dead and that was the reason why the wound would not close when I first had my operation in Sweden.

"We hope this is the last one and I can return as soon as possible."

While frustrated to be enduring further injury struggles, Cazorla is hoping to be in a position to play a leading role in Arsenal's 2017-18 campaign.

He added: "I still have one year left on my contract and my only desire is to return to playing and to compete at the highest level."

GOAL



Santi Cazorla.

Snodgrass explains Barcelona trial snub rumours

LONDON - West Ham midfielder Robert Snodgrass has sought to shed some light on reports suggesting that he once turned down the opportunity to take in a trial at Barcelona.

Back in 2005, the tricky winger was busy making a name for himself at Livingston.

Having burst onto the scene with the Scottish side, Snodgrass was a talent very much in demand.

His potential was noted by clubs throughout England - with Leeds United eventually securing his services - while talk of his ability was said to have spread as far as Spain.

Barcelona were rumoured to have made an approach, during a period in which a young Lionel Messi was starting to make his mark in the first team at Camp Nou.

Snodgrass is claimed to have snubbed an invite from the La Liga giants to spend time training with them,

but the 29-year-old Scotland international insists that was never the case. He said in The Sun: "You'd have to be insane to reject a trial at Barcelona.

"No-one would turn down a chance like that but I don't think about what might have been because it never happened.

"Everyone is intrigued by this story. It comes up all the time. But I don't know how to even begin to explain it.

"I was 17 years old and playing for

Livingston when it was reported that I'd refused to go to the Nou Camp for a trial.

"I've been told that various clubs and agents were involved but I honestly don't know anything about it."

Rather than heading for Catalonia, Snodgrass moved to Elland Road in 2008 after a spell on loan at Stirling Albion at the end of the 2006-07 season.

He has since taken in spells at Norwich and Hull City, with a switch to West Ham completed during the 2017 January transfer window.

GOAL



West Ham midfielder Robert Snodgrass.

'Shaw's Manchester United career has been disappointing'

LONDON - Paul Scholes has told Goal he is disappointed by Luke Shaw's lack of progression at Manchester United, claiming if he was "fit and firing he would definitely be first choice".

The left-back has played just once in three months for United, with his exclusion from the mid-week trip to Saint-Etienne in the Europa League the latest in a series of snubs by Manager Jose Mourinho. And Mourinho's insistence this week that it is up to Shaw to work his way back into the reckoning means it his highly unlikely the former Southampton star will line up against his old club in today's EFL Cup final at

Wembley.

"He did not make the trip because I'm playing with Daley Blind, with Marcos Rojo, with Darmian, and all of them are playing a way I like a full-back to play," Mourinho said in Saint-Etienne on Tuesday. "Luke has to wait for his chance, working better and better, knowing that I give nothing away for free." And Scholes admits he has also been left unimpressed by the 21-year-old's form since signing for United in 2014.

"Luke Shaw's a disappointing one actually. From Southampton and playing for England, you've got a potential to be one of the best left-backs in the world, but for some reason, whether

Mourinho's handling him the way he did with Henrikh Mkhitaryan or whether he's not playing him to try to give him a bit of hunger, a bit of desire to come into the team and prove how good he is, I don't know."

Asked if the full-back's 2015 leg break, which kept him out for 10 months, had left mental scarring, Scholes added: "He's had a few injuries, hasn't he? "It's difficult to tell since we don't know what's going on at the training ground but he's been fit for a few weeks now and whether his focus is totally on football or on something else I don't know, but for one reason or another the manager's not playing him." **GOAL**

'Messi is the best of all time'

MADRID - Barcelona star Lionel Messi is the best player of all time, according to Sevilla attacker Stevan Jovetic.

Jovetic, 27, has made a bright start to life in Spain since joining Jorge Sampaoli's team on loan from Inter in January.

Now playing in La Liga with the two players considered the world's best in Messi and Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo, Jovetic has weighed into the debate regarding who is better.

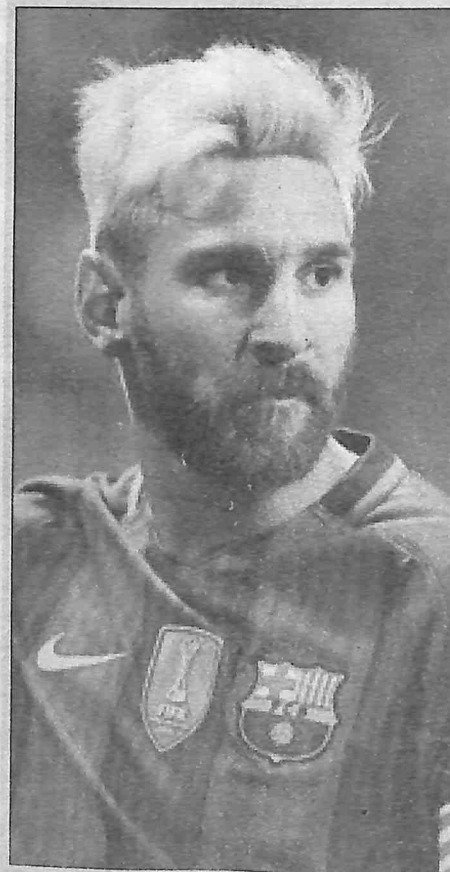
"Messi is the best, no-one can better him," the Montenegro international told La Liga Santander.

"When you see him, he makes everything look easy. He is the best of all time."

Messi is a five-time Ballon d'Or winner, although he was beaten to the 2016 prize by Ronaldo - who won it for the fourth time.

The Argentina star has 19 La Liga goals this season - four more than Ronaldo - but Madrid are top of the table.

GOAL



Barcelona star Lionel Messi.

DE VILLIERS PASSES MILESTONE IN SA WIN

WELLINGTON - South Africa captain AB de Villiers became the fastest man to score 9 000 one-day international runs as he led his side to a 159-run victory over New Zealand in the third one-day international yesterday.

De Villiers scored 85, having needed just five runs to surpass former India captain Sourav Ganguly, who took 228 innings to achieve the milestone. De Villiers did it in his 205th innings.

South Africa scored a credible 271-8 in their 50 overs and then their pace bowlers ripped the top off the hosts batting to reduce them to 58 for six in the 20th over before bowling them out for 112 in 32.2 overs.

The victory gave de Villiers' team a 2-1 lead in the five-match series with the fourth game in Hamilton on Wednesday.

Colin de Grandhomme was the only New Zealand batsmen to really come to grips with the drop-in pitch at Wellington Regional Stadium



South Africa captain AB de Villiers.

with 34 not out and highlighted that he was batting too low at number eight in the order.

Andile Phehlukwayo (2-12 from five overs) and Dwaine Pretorius (3-5 from 5.2 overs) were the most economical of the South African bowlers.

De Villiers had again held his side's innings together with a composed knock and was only dismissed in the final over when he failed to get underneath a Trent Boult full toss and was caught on the boundary.

Quinton de Kock also gave his side a solid foundation with 68, the

opener passing 50 in his last five one-day matches.

The visitors were adept at rotating the strike and ticking the scoreboard over, with 116 runs coming from singles.

A surprising double strike by de Grandhomme in the 23rd over slowed the visitors momentum, with the all-rounder having Faf du Plessis (36) caught by Tim Southee before de Kock was caught by Jimmy Neesham three balls later at deep midwicket.

South Africa had been cruising at 114-1 before de Grandhomme's double strike.

Their vaunted middle order failed to fire with wickets falling at regular intervals and they were in trouble at 180-6 by the 39th over.

De Villiers, however, then combined with Wayne Parnell (35) to add 84 runs for the seventh wicket that gave them a target that was achievable but never in danger of being threatened by the hosts.

Reuters

Kyrgios stands between French, Marseille title

MARSEILLE - Nick Kyrgios kept on course to defend his Marseille Open title with a 6-3, 6-3 quarter-final victory over Slovak qualifier Norbert Gombos on Friday.

But he will have to overcome two home players if he is to retain his crown.

The 21-year-old Australian fired

down 15 aces and lost just six points on serve in a ruthless display that lasted less than an hour.

In yesterday's semi-final, he faced Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who thumped compatriot Gilles Simon 6-4, 6-1.

And if the third seed wins that, Kyrgios will also face a Frenchman in the final.

"I thought I served and returned really well today," said Kyrgios. "All that matters is that I'm going out there and playing every point hard. I think I'm pretty aggressive on my returns, particularly here where I'm trying to get in the first big hit."

Second seed Tsonga came through a quarter-final between two twice former winners, thanks to con-

verting four of seven break points.

The 31-year-old, on a seven-match winning streak, is bidding to win a second tournament in successive weeks after triumphing in Rotterdam last week. Sixth seed Richard Gasquet overcame top seed Gael Monfils in an all-French quarter-final 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-2. He was to play another compatriot next in fourth seed Lucas Pouille yesterday after the latter defeated Russian Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-1, 6-4. AFP

Why Man Utd aren't giving up on Premier League title

MANCHESTER - Antonio Valencia is looking for EFL Cup glory to provide the "impetus" for Manchester United to force their way into the Premier League title picture.

The Red Devils are unbeaten in the English top flight since October 23, with a positive response offered a 4-0 humbling at Chelsea.

Those efforts have not been enough to lift them into the top four, but they are now within touching distance.

Jose Mourinho's side sit sixth, two points adrift of the Champions League places.

They are 12 behind leaders Chelsea, but success in other competitions has helped to keep the confidence flowing and belief building that anything is possible.

Valencia told the club's official website ahead of a Wembley showdown with Southampton today: "Winning the cup could give us even more impetus, as we're already pretty high on confidence."

"It's a big thing for us, there are around 15 games left in the Premier League and anything can still happen."

"While we have a chance mathematically, we'll carry on battling to try and win the title."

United may be setting their sights

on multiple honours this season, but Valencia admits that their immediate focus is locked on the Saints - with no distractions allowed at this stage.

He added: "I'm 100 per cent up for it!"

"You can never be just at 30 per cent. When you pull on the United shirt you have to be 100 per cent focused and ready. It's all about being totally concentrated."

"In such an important game as a final, you really need to be mentally strong and fully focused on the game, even more so when it's at a fantastic stadium like Wembley, with all its history."

"Let's hope that's how it is in this final and we're all concentrating on our jobs and we can manage to win the cup."

"We have to put all the build-up, photos and interviews completely out of our minds, and focus on the task in hand."

"We've got a trophy up for grabs here and know just how important that is for the supporters."

"We can't approach the game in a relaxed mood; we have to go out, put in a shift and fight hard, and hope that throughout the 90 minutes, we're in control of the game and can eventually lift the cup."

GOAL

McIlroy says round with Trump 'not endorsement'

LONDON - Former world number one Rory McIlroy hit back at critics on Friday saying his decision to play a round with US President Donald Trump "wasn't an endorsement nor a political statement of any kind".

Trump is a keen golfer and McIlroy, a four-time major winner, accepted an offer from the commander-in-chief to join him for a round at the Trump International Golf Club in Florida last weekend.

On Friday, he posted a statement on Twitter responding to suggestions he had allied himself with the controversial president.

"I don't agree with everything my friends or family say or do, but I still play golf with them," McIlroy wrote. "Last week, I was invited to play golf with the president of the United States. Whether you respect the person who holds that position or not, you respect the office that he holds."

"This wasn't an endorsement nor a political statement of any kind," McIlroy wrote. "It was, quite simply, a round of golf. Golf was our common ground, nothing else."

"I've travelled all over the world and have been fortunate enough to befriend people from many different countries, beliefs and cultures."



Rory McIlroy.

To be called a fascist and a bigot by some people because I spent some time in someone's company is just ridiculous."

McIlroy's statement came after the Northern Ireland golfer told the Guardian he had been intrigued by Trump's rise.

"I really got into it once Trump ran because I knew him a little bit but at the same time I was intrigued how a successful businessman could transition into running for the highest office in the land," McIlroy told the publication on Friday.

"It is a totally different process from the UK. He obviously came at it from a completely different angle."

AFP

FIFA chief Infantino meets Mugabe

HARARE - FIFA President Gianni Infantino met Zimbabwean leader Robert Mugabe on Friday, a day after he attended a birthday party for the country's football chief, an official said.

Zimbabwe Football Association spokesperson Xolisani Gwesela confirmed that Infantino had paid a courtesy call on Mugabe at State House, but gave no details.

The 46-year-old Swiss-Italian jetted into Harare from Johannesburg on Thursday to attend the birthday party of Zimbabwe football chief Philip Chiyangwa.

"It's really a pleasure to be here, I feel at home, away from home," Infantino, who was the guest of honour at the birthday, said in a speech in which he referred to Chiyangwa as "my dear friend and brother."

"My presence here is to celebrate a man whose love for the beautiful game I do not doubt," he said, adding he first met Chiyangwa on a bus in South Africa in the run up to the FIFA presidential election.

There they discussed football, "our love for the game and desire to see it develop in Africa and across the world".

AFP



FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

'Madrid would be crazy to pay Bale money for Alli'

MADRID - Michel Salgado says Real Madrid would be "crazy" to spend the same money on Dele Alli as they previously paid Tottenham for Gareth Bale.

Speculation regarding a possible switch to the Santiago Bernabeu for the England international refuses to go away.

Despite being just 20 years of age, the midfielder is already a proven performer for club and country.

His efforts as a goal-scoring and creative threat from deep have drawn admiring glances from European superpowers, with Real said to be closely monitoring Alli's progress.

Any deal would require them to dig deep, though, with it possible that a fee similar to the £85 million package put in place for Bale in 2013 would be required to get their man.

Salgado doubts that Alli is worth that at present, with question marks still hanging over the temperament of a player who picked up a reckless red card for Spurs in midweek Europa League competition. The Madrid legend told talkSPORT: "Obviously they can pursue him because he's a great player, he's young, he's got the ability and he's got pace, too."

"But the price is too high, Real Madrid paid big money to Tottenham for Gareth Bale and now if they paid that money for Dele Alli, it would be crazy."

"My question is can he cope with the pressure of playing for Madrid, which is going to be so many times more than at Tottenham?"

"Quality on the pitch he's got it, but at the moment I don't know what's going to happen and hopefully if they do sign him the price will be a little bit cheaper."

Spurs have no intention of parting with Alli any time soon, having tied him to a new six-year contract in September 2016, but a big-money offer over the summer would test their resolve.

GOAL



KOEMAN HOPES SOUTHAMPTON LOSE EFL CUP FINAL

LONDON - Ronald Koeman will be cheering on Manchester United in the EFL Cup final against his old club Southampton, as their victory would boost Everton's European qualification chances.

Everton are currently seventh in the Premier League, a spot that could secure continental football as long as United win the EFL Cup and a team above Koeman's side in the table claim FA Cup glory.

The Dutchman swapped Southampton for Everton last year,

but he will not be backing his former employers for today's final at Wembley as a result of the potential implications for Everton.

Wins

"It is true you need help from which team will win the EFL Cup or the FA Cup," Koeman told reporters ahead of yesterday's Premier League game against Sunderland at Goodison Park.

"In that way we hope United will win at the weekend and one of the biggest clubs wins in the FA Cup,

because then it's possible seventh in the table can play for qualification for the Europa League."

Koeman confirmed Everton qualifying for Europe will have an impact on the players the club tries to sign at the end of the season. "Yes, it is a factor because players like to be part of Europe, and like to be part of Champions League," said Koeman, who led Southampton to the Europa League play-offs. "That is the best for football players, but that will normally be impossible. **GOAL**

Fabregas not thinking of leaving Chelsea

LONDON - Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas reveals he has no intention of quitting

fact that he has started just five times in the Premier League this season.

He has, nevertheless, played an important role for the Blues from the bench, contributing four goals and eight assists in all competitions.

Fabregas also ended any uncertainty about his plans for the foreseeable future.

Challenging

"I am not thinking about anything else than challenging myself here. The situation from six months ago to now has changed massively," he told Sky Sports.

"From the beginning it has been a big challenge and there are always rumours, you cannot stop that, but I don't even care what people say. Not for one second did I want to leave.

"Sometimes it's so easy, you don't play two games, you get frustrated and upset and want to move somewhere else, but for me it's the opposite; I want to challenge myself. **Teamtalk**

Stamford Bridge any time soon despite being used mainly as a substitute this season.

The Spain international's future at the club has been the subject of much speculation after rumours he had fallen out with Manager Antonio Conte and the

'Kante sale has caused Leicester's downfall'

LONDON - Georginio Wijnaldum thinks the sale of midfielder N'Golo Kante has been a key factor in Leicester City's fall from Premier League champions to battling against the drop.

Kante was the only Leicester star to leave after their unlikely title triumph, joining Chelsea and helping his new club to establish an eight-point lead at the top of the table, while his former team are a single place above the relegation zone. Wijnaldum's Liverpool host Leicester tomorrow in the first game since the sacking of Manager Claudio Ranieri and the Netherlands international highlighted Kante's sale as a catalyst for their downfall.

Important

"Of course they have a bad run this season, they are not doing that well compared to last season," Wijnaldum told Sky Sports. "But I think they are still a good team, almost all the players stayed. "Kante is a big miss for them, because he was a really important player in the midfield, and he keeps everything together and he was one of the main reasons they were champions last season. And because he left, it makes it way more difficult for everyone in the team. "But I think they still have a good team and it is still difficult to beat them. You could see that when they played Manchester City, they had a good game, so they can also win against big teams. In the Premier League, almost everyone is difficult to beat, it depends on how you begin a game and how you play in the game. "Now they are at the bottom of the league, but everyone knows they can do better than what they show right now.

Goal



Manchester United's Marcus Rashford.

Giggs hails Rashford potential

MANCHESTER - On February 25 2016, Marcus Rashford was handed his Manchester United debut.

With Louis van Gaal's options depleted by injury, the talented teenager was thrust into a Europa League clash with Midtjylland by the Red Devils manager.

Any fears that the stage may be too big for a relatively untested academy graduate were eased over the course of 90 impressive minutes as Rashford netted a deadly double.

Twelve months on and the 19-year-old is now an established first team star at Old Trafford and a senior international who graced Euro 2016 with England.

He has found the going a little

tougher this term, with the surprise element having been eliminated from his game, but he remains a player of considerable promise and one United legend Ryan Giggs always believed would reach the top at a club set up to embrace his ability.

Giggs told PA Sport: "I remember watching him the week before [his debut], it may have even been three or four days before that game, training with the reserves.

Starring

"He obviously stood out and he looked sharp but, little did we know that three or four days later, he would be starring and ending the season so well and then going onto the Euros with England.

Goal



Mourinho not convinced over Rooney inclusion

MANCHESTER - Jose Mourinho is weighing up whether to start Wayne Rooney in the EFL Cup final after the Manchester United ended speculation about his immediate future.

Talk had been growing over the 31-year-old making an Old Trafford exit, with his agent Paul Stretford understood to have been in China this week speaking to interested clubs. However, Rooney put to bed speculation regarding his future for the rest of the campaign on Thursday, con-

firmed he was staying at Old Trafford in a statement. United boss Mourinho was pleased by the content and timing of the statement from Rooney, who will be in the squad for today's EFL Cup final against Southampton despite a recent hamstring injury and dropping down the pecking order.

Hamstring

United's all-time top scorer may even start at Wembley after in-form Henrikh Mkhitaryan sustained a hamstring issue of his own, but Mourinho stopped well short of declaring Rooney would start. "I have to make a decision," Mourinho said. "You know that we normally play two different systems - sometimes we play with two midfield players and a number 10 if you want to call it (that).

Teamtalk

South African SOCCER

Nigerian goalkeeper yet to sign with Bucs

JOHANNESBURG - Reports coming out of Nigeria claim that goalkeeper, Emmanuel Daniel has not put pen to paper on a deal with Orlando Pirates.

Enugu Rangers General Manager, Christian Chukwu has accused the Buccaneers of tapping up the Nigeria U23 international, according to allnigeriasoccer.com

The Siya crew reported that Daniel had signed with the Soweto giants, however, the Rangers chairman claims the player is still under contract with the Nigeria Professional Football League champions.

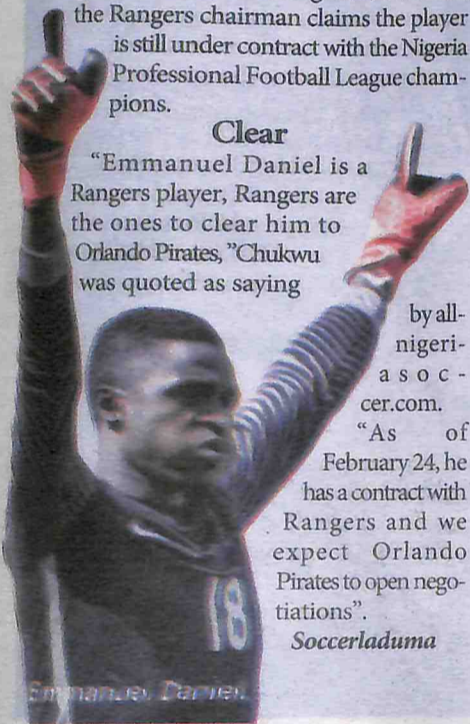
Clear

"Emmanuel Daniel is a Rangers player, Rangers are the ones to clear him to Orlando Pirates," Chukwu was quoted as saying

by all-nigeriasoccer.com.

"As of February 24, he has a contract with Rangers and we expect Orlando Pirates to open negotiations".

Soccerladuma



PIRATES EARN POINT AT HOME

JOHANNESBURG - Although Polokwane City scored first, Dove Wome handed Orlando Pirates a point in the Absa Premiership when they drew 1-1 against Polokwane City at Orlando Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The draw sees Kjell Jonevret's men occupying the ninth spot with 21 points from 18 matches so far, as they push to move up the log table.

Although the encounter got off to a cagey start, the wet conditions of the Orlando pitch made it difficult for both sides to play their preferred style of carpet football.

However, 'Rise and Shine'

kept the Pirates defence on their toes with the pace of Tlou Segolela and Rodney Ramagalela and they almost combined to good effect in the fifth minute, but Segolela's cross failed to reach Ramagalela.

Deadlock

The Buccaneers started to settle down in the match as they started and came close to breaking the deadlock in the seventh minute when Mpho Makola's pass almost sent Tendai Ndoro through.

In the 35th minute, Makola came agonisingly close to finding the back of the net, but his curler was parried away by goalkeeper George Chigova.

However, Luc Eymael's men became better in the second stanza when Saluani Phiri blasted his effort over the bar despite having time on his side in the 47th minute.

City managed to find the back of the net through Ramagalela in the 54th minute when he slotted home with ease after Makola was dispossessed in his own half. The hosts responded swiftly when by throwing numbers forward in attack and were rewarded two minutes later when Wome levelled the scoring after some poor defending by the visitors.

Backpage TXT



Muhsin Ertugral.

Things aren't well at Pirates - Ertugral

JOHANNESBURG - Former Orlando Pirates coach Muhsin Ertugral believes the club are in turmoil although he is reluctant to reveal where the problems lie at Mayfair.

Ertugral was in charge of the Sea Robbers until November last year when he resigned unexpectedly after a 6-1 thrashing at the hands of Stuart Baxter's SuperSport United.

Thereafter, Augusto Palacios took over on an interim basis before the reins were finally handed to Swedish coach Kjell Jonevret, who signed a three-year deal to take charge of Bucs.

Nonetheless, the Turkish national believes the problems run deep at Pirates and he is reluctant to offer any advice to Jonevret as to how to fix the situation.

Offer

He told Isolezwe: "I can't offer the new coach any advice. If I were to do that I would be opening myself up for attacks by fans and be turned into a joke because they would ask why I never implemented that myself."

"That is why I cannot say anything about the new coach. Things are not well at Pirates but let's hope they will change soon. The Chairman (Irvin Khoza) knows his job thus I don't doubt he has chosen the right man for the job."

Sport24

ARROWS HOLD CHIPPA IN FOUR-GOAL THRILLER

EAST LONDON - Chippa United and Golden Arrows played to a 2-2 draw in an Absa Premiership game at the Sisa Dukashe Stadium in East London on Friday night.

As a result, the Chilli Boys remain eighth on the league standings, while 'Abafana Bes'thende' also stay seventh on the table.

The first real chance of the game went to Chippa striker Lerato Manzini, who was played through, but he scuffed his shot wide 11 minutes into the game.

However, Manzini made amends five minutes later when Menzi Masuku brilliantly set him up, and the former scored, to make it 1-0 to Chippa.

Arrows head coach Clinton Larsen made a tactical change two minutes after the half-hour mark when Nduduzo Sibiyi replaced Nkanyiso Mngwengwe.

Andile Mbenyane nearly doubled the home side's lead in the 38th minute, but Arrows goalkeeper Nkosingiphile Gumede was well-positioned to deny him. 'Abafana Bes'thende' managed to contain the Chilli Boys until

the match referee blew the half-time whistle and Chippa were leading 1-0 at halftime.

Arrows looked lively in the opening stages of the second-half and did level matters through hard-running striker Lerato Lamola.

Cracker

The former Bloemfontein Celtic striker beat Chippa keeper Daniel Akpeyi with a cracker of a shot, to make it 1-1 for the visitors in the 51st minute.

Backpage TXT



Golden Arrows
Lerato Lamola

Stars move well clear of danger zone

BLOEMFONTEIN - Platinum Stars put some daylight between themselves and the Absa Premiership relegation zone with a 3-0 win away to Bloemfontein Celtic at the Dr Molemela Stadium yesterday.

Dikwena, who were set on their way by two brilliant goals from Gerald Phiri Jr inside the opening 10 minutes, move up to 11th place on 19 points, now five points clear of the danger zone at the bottom of the log.



Dumisani-Zuma and Henrico Botes.

Phunya Sele Sele, meanwhile, drop to 13th on 18 points after suffering a third defeat in their least four league matches.

Opportunity

Stars claimed the lead in the seventh minute with their first notable attacking opportunity. Gerald Phiri Jr struck a superb left-footed shot direct from a free kick to open the scoring, stunning the home crowd into silence.

And lightning struck twice

just two minutes later: Phiri again netted with a shot direct from a free kick. This time the Stars player's shot hit the underside of the crossbar and went in via the body of a hapless Patrick Tignyemb to make it 2-0.

On 14 minutes, there was almost another goal direct from a free kick: this time Lantshene Phalane struck a fine shot just over the target as Celtic looked to get themselves back in the game.

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Pelembe, Kgaswane still sidelined

JOHANNESBURG - Baroka FC look likely to again be without January signings Helder Pelembe and Mpho Kgaswane when they face Cape Town City at Peter Mokaba Stadium today.

Botswana international Kgaswane joined Baroka from Gaborone United in January, while Mozambique forward Pelembe previously plied his trade at Orlando Pirates and Bloemfontein Celtic before arriving in Polokwane last month.

Debuts

However, the pair have been unable to make their debuts for the club due to paperwork issues, although Bakgaga Ba Ga Mphahlele have spent the past few days working hard to push the permits through. "Yes, they've been going [to Johannesburg Home Affairs] since yesterday, even today they've been around Johannesburg because of the work permits," a reliable source tells KickOff.com.

GUARDIOLA FOR ENGLAND - SCHOLES

LONDON - Former England midfielder Paul Scholes would like Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola to take charge of the England team one day, he said in an interview published yesterday.

"I hope he becomes England coach one day and bring us his style," Scholes told Spanish sports daily Marca. Scholes, who had a long career with Manchester United, said he admired the style of the Catalan coach at his former club's bitter rivals. While Guardiola has not had the same impact in his debut campaign in English football as he did in his first seasons at Barcelona and Bayern Munich, where he stormed to the title, City are second in the Premier League, eight points adrift of leaders Chelsea, and beat Monaco

5-3 in the first leg of the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday.

"He can still succeed in England, he could improve in defence because at every ground you come under pressure but everyone in England loves the way his teams play," Scholes said of Guardiola.

Charge

Scholes, one of the leading figures of Alex Ferguson's trophy-laden spell in charge of United, also praised current United coach Jose Mourinho despite the fact that his former side are sixth in the Premier League, 12 points behind Chelsea. "He is getting the team to play how the fans and the club want. Before the style of play from other coaches was dif-

ficult to understand, their league position does not match the good football the team are playing," Scholes said.

Reuters



Pep Guardiola.

MONTELLA HOPING TO REMAIN AC MILAN COACH

ROME - Vincenzo Montella insists he will have no regrets if he loses his job as AC Milan coach following the club's impending Chinese takeover, but he is hoping to remain in the role.

Sino-Europe Sports is expected to complete their buyout of the Serie A side imminently, leading to speculation the new owners could seek to replace Montella with a new

coach.

Milan sit seventh in the Serie A table, but taking seven points from their last three games has kept Montella's men in the hunt for continental football and the coach wants to get the chance to stay.

Dream

"One of the happiest moments of my career was signing for Milan, a dream I'd had since childhood," Montella told reporters yesterday.

"If I should remain, I'd be very happy. If not, I'd forever thank [current owner Silvio] Berlusconi and [Chief executive Adriano] Galliani. I have no regrets."

Milan travel to Sassuolo today and Montella is hoping to avoid a repeat of their last meeting in October, when Montella was dismissed for dissent after complaining about refereeing decisions, although Milan came from behind to win 4-3. "Winning always helps boost a team's confidence," Montella said.

Goal

Roma strike deal on new stadium

ROME - Serie A side Roma can look forward to playing in a new purpose-built stadium after city officials finally gave their backing to an amended project.

Rome mayor Virginia Raggi last year ended Rome's hopes of bidding to host the 2024 Olympic Games. But after months of uncertainty over Roma's bid to move away from the Stadio Olimpico home they share with Lazio and the Italian rugby team, Raggi gave the 'Giallorossi' the news they had been hoping to hear. "This administration has reached agreement on an innovative new project," Raggi announced late Friday. Roma's American President James Pallotta reacted by issuing a statement on the club's website which said: "This is an important evening for AS Roma. We look forward to building a stadium that the club, and the city, can showcase to the entire football world."

Emblematic

Roma's new stadium complex will be built at Tor di Valle, outside the centre of the city in the green belt. Although initially backed by emblematic club captain Francesco Totti, a one-club man who is in his 25th and final season with Roma, the plans had met opposition from

members of Raggi's Five Star Movement party.

Reuters



AS Roma FC

Benzema could make France return - FFF chief

PARIS - Real Madrid attacker Karim Benzema is available for selection for the France national team, French FA (FFF) president Noel Le Graet has stated.

The striker has been out of the picture with Didier Deschamps' side since being embroiled in a sex tape scandal with international colleague Mathieu Valbuena. Le Graet, however, has said that it is not impossible for the 29-year-old, who missed out on Euro 2016, to return to action with Les Bleus.

"He's up for selection, he's not suspended," Le Graet said. "If Didier

wants to pick him, he can do it when he wants. He has total control.

"There's no problem with Benzema; if he continues to play well, one day he will return.

Respect

"I've got enormous respect for the guy on a sporting level, he's the greatest French scorer in European football, and he's a starter with Real Madrid, which itself isn't easy. The quality of the player is not up for debate."

Benzema has scored 13 goals for Zinedine Zidane's side this season, having made 30 appearances for

the Spanish league leaders.

He has been capped 81 times for France, joint 15th most in history, and has scored 27 times for the national team - a tally surpassed by only seven others.

Goal



Karim Benzema.

Pele's son vows to clear his name

BRASILIA - The son of Brazil great Pele has vowed to clear his name after being ordered to serve prison time for alleged drug trafficking and money laundering.

Edinho, a former Santos goalkeeper, handed himself in to police to complete his sentencing after a court in Sao Paulo ruled on Friday that he must serve 12 years and 10 months in prison. He denies all charges against him.

The 46-year-old was first arrested in

2005 but appealed against the charges and has been free to work as head coach of Tricordiano.

A court sentenced Edinho to an initial 33 years in prison in 2014. Although that sentence has been reduced, he must be imprisoned while his appeal continues.

Speaking to the media as he arrived at a police station in Santos, Edinho insisted that the case against him is based purely on his association with other suspects.

"I'm frustrated because I'm being massacred by the courts," he said, as quoted by Globo. "But I have to trust in that same court and I'm sure that, over time, things will be put right. "The frustration is huge because I'm being accused of money laundering, but I've never done that. There's no proof in this process of that."

Argument

"The argument is related to my friendship with the other accused. I have never denied that but I have



Edinho and his father, the great Pele.

never laundered money.

"The argument for conviction is simply friendship. It's difficult to accept and to go through everything I've gone through for more than 15 years.

Ashamed

"I'm ashamed, I regret my carelessness, but I did not commit a crime. I'm strong. I'm going to overcome this."

Pele, the three-time World Cup-winner considered by many to be the greatest player in football history, stated in 2006 that he expected the case against Edinho to collapse.

"God willing, justice will be done," he said.

"There is not a shred of evidence against my son."

Goal



CHELSEA SINK SWANSEA TO SURGE 11 POINTS CLEAR

LONDON - Chelsea opened up an 11-point lead at the top of the Premier League after they sunk Swansea City 3-1 at Stamford Bridge.

Cesc Fabregas scored on his 300th Premier League appearance, but Fernando Llorente equalised on the stroke of half-time.

Pedro scored Chelsea's second when his shot deceived Swansea's goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski and Diego Costa added a late third as Antonio Conte's men won a 12th successive home game.

With Manchester City not in action this weekend and Liverpool at Leicester tomorrow, the Blues' advantage increased with 12 games to go. Swansea's only defeat in six league games under former Chelsea assistant boss Paul Clement have come to Arsenal, City and now the Blues.

And the visitors might have felt aggrieved at being denied a second-half penalty when, with the score 1-1, the ball appeared to hit the arm of Cesar Azpilicueta.

Fabregas was selected ahead of



Chelsea's Cesc Fabregas, right, celebrating after he scored a goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Swansea City at Stamford Bridge Stadium in London, yesterday. (AP)

Nemanja Matic for his first Premier League start of 2017 in the sole change to the starting XI from Chelsea's 1-1 draw at Burnley in their prior Premier League game.

Chelsea dominated the first half, with N'Golo Kante to the fore. The France midfielder has so often been

likened to Claude Makelele, the former Chelsea midfielder who is now on Swansea's coaching staff.

Makelele would have admired how Kante broke up the visitors' play and showed again why he was so integral to Claudio Ranieri in Leicester's title win last season.

Kante is seeking a second successive title after his summer move to Stamford Bridge and Conte is willing to "risk" the sack following the departures of the last two title-winning bosses - his predecessor Jose Mourinho and Ranieri.

Fabregas may not be considered the ideal foil for Kante, but he was out to disprove that here.

The Spain playmaker almost set-up Pedro in the opening minute, his counterpart curling over from the edge of the area.

Fabregas had an effort blocked before finishing in the style of Frank Lampard. Fittingly Chelsea's record scorer was the half-time guest.

Eden Hazard and Pedro combined in the right channel. Pedro cut the ball back and Fabregas dug it out from his feet before poking in his 46th Premier League goal 19 minutes in. Fabregas had another opportunity soon afterwards. He met a Victor Moses cross with a volley into the floor which Fabianski parried clear. **Teamtalk**

Keane equalises to secure point for Burnley

HULL CITY - Michael Keane scored and gave away a penalty as 10-man Burnley ended a run of seven straight away defeats in the Premier League by holding Hull City to a hard-fought 1-1 draw.

In an attritional encounter at the KCOM Stadium, Hull finally made the breakthrough 72 minutes in, Tom Huddlestone squeezing home from the spot after Keane was deemed to have handled in Burnley's area.

But Keane made amends inside four minutes, thumping home from close-range having latched onto Robbie Brady's corner.

Ben Mee and Andre Gray had previously gone close for Sean Dyche's side, while Hull had the better of proceedings on the whole - with Kamil Grosicki particularly threatening to Burnley's typically stubborn back-line.

Ashley Barnes was sent off in stoppage time, too late for Hull to take advantage, as Crystal Palace's win over Middlesbrough leaves Marco Silva's side 19th, with another mammoth clash against struggling champions Leicester City up next.

This was the first home game in five that Silva had failed to win as Hull boss, but the Tigers enjoyed the better of the chances.

Dieumerci Mbokani headed off-target early on before fashioning a chance for Grosicki, only for the Poland winger to chip his effort over the out-of-position Tom Heaton, and the crossbar.

Harry Maguire went to ground clutching his knee, but the defender returned to the action, although Burnley almost capitalised on Hull's disorientation at the back when Eldin Jakupovic fumbled Mee's header onto the crossbar.

Goal

Everton sink Sunderland

LONDON - Everton secured a comfortable 2-0 win over Sunderland to ensure former boss David Moyes' return to Goodison Park was not a happy one for the Scot.

Midfielder Idrissa Gana Gueye's first Premier League goal plus a record-equalling effort from Romelu Lukaku boosted Everton's European hopes while adding to Sunderland's relegation woes. Gueye was among the unlikeliest to open the scoring, having failed to do so in 55 previous league appearances, but his fierce drive just before half-time was one worth waiting for.

Lukaku's goal, all his own work with a 50-yard sprint from the halfway line, equalled Duncan Ferguson's club-best tally of 60 in the Premier League. The 2-0 victory put Ronald Koeman's side within six points of the top four, although Europa League qualification remains their primary target. Defeat - their sixth in 11 league matches - for bottom side Sunderland saw them slip four points from safety and cap a disappointing return to Goodison Park for ex Toffees boss Moyes. **Teamtalk**



Everton's Romelu Lukaku scoring his side's second goal during the Premier League soccer match between Everton and Sunderland at Goodison Park, Liverpool, England yesterday. (AP)

Lewandowski nets hat-trick as Bayern put eight past Hamburg

MUNICH - Robert Lewandowski scored his third hat-trick of the season as Bayern Munich obliterated Hamburg 8-0 to stay five points clear at the top of the Bundesliga.

The Poland international's treble, coupled with goals from Arturo Vidal, David Alaba, Kingsley Coman and Arjen Robben, gave the champions a seventh emphatic win in a row over Hamburg at the Allianz Arena and maintained the gap over second-place RB Leipzig.

The victory was a particularly special one for head coach Carlo Ancelotti, who celebrated his 1000th game as a head coach with his 591st win.

Vidal's powerful strike put Bayern ahead before Lewandowski struck twice before half-time, and any hope of a shock comeback from Markus Gisdol's side was ended when he completed his treble nine minutes after the break.

Alaba added a simple fifth, Coman struck twice within 10



Bayern's Robert Lewandowski, front left, celebrating after scoring his side's first goal during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Hertha BSC Berlin and FC Bayern Munich in Berlin, Germany, yesterday. (AP)

minutes of coming off the bench and Robben fired home in the closing stages, taking a ruthless Bayern's tally to 44 goals in their last seven home games against HSV, who remain third-from-bottom of the Bundesliga table.

Bayern's attentions now turn to a run of three games within a week at the start of next month, against Schalke, Cologne and Arsenal.

Vidal received a ticking-off from the referee after conceding four free-kicks in the opening stages, but the Chile international made a much more productive contribution with only 16 minutes played.

Goal

West Brom battle back to beat Bournemouth

WEST BROM - West Brom came from behind to register their fourth straight win at The Hawthorns, where Bournemouth fell to a 2-1 defeat.

The result means Tony Pulis' men continue to exceed all expectations this season and remain surprise contenders for European

football. Expected to struggle, the Baggies are flying high in eighth place in the Premier League and seventh spot may bring qualification for next season's Europa League - a position currently occupied by Everton, who are four points ahead of Pulis' team from as many matches.

Bournemouth took an early

lead through Josh King's penalty but goals from defenders Craig Dawson and Gareth McAuley turned the game on its head before half-time as West Brom won at home for the seventh time in the last eight outings. But it was only possible thanks to a superb injury-time save from Ben Foster to deny Tyrone Mings. **Teamtalk**

Van Aanholt the hero as Palace climb out of drop zone

LONDON - Patrick van Aanholt fired Crystal Palace to a crucial 1-0 win over Middlesbrough to lift the hosts out of the relegation zone.

Victory, secured by a first-half goal from Van Aanholt, also took them level with their visitors, who could yet struggle to avoid relegation.

Palace remain 17th but, having secured their first home league victory since Sam Allardyce's appointment in December, may yet have enough time to preserve their top-flight status.

Allardyce had had a fortnight uninterrupted by fixtures to work with his team, ending the demanding run that began with his arrival and finally giving him time to exert his influence during training.

He also handed loan signing Mamadou Sakho his debut in central defence, and the £13million capture Luka Milivojevic his first start at Selhurst Park.

Earlier this month, Palace's positive start against Sunderland was undermined when their confidence drained after they conceded the opening goal. They found themselves 4-0 down by half-time, but here Boro posed minimal attacking threat and gave the hosts time to settle.

Unlike on so many occasions this season, Palace did not lose belief when Wilfried Zaha's first attacks came to little, or when Christian Benteke tamely headed Van Aanholt's 13th-minute cross into Victor Valdes' hands. Their organised visitors were content to sit deep and deprive them of clear-cut opportunities, but gradually Palace's pace and intent created the half-chance Van Aanholt needed. **Goal**

#YELELE | SWAZIBANK CUP 2017

COMPILED BY: SABELO MAJOLA



Manzini Wanderers fans.

MANZINI WANDERERS UP AGAINST A CLOSED BOOK

19 Celtics vs Manzini Wanderers
Somhlolo National Stadium, 12noon

SOCCER - Two-time SwaziBank Cup finalists Manzini Wanderers will be facing Northern Hhohho Super league outfit 19 Celtics in their quest to claim the #Yebele glory after coming so close both in 2009 and 2015, finishing as runners-up in both occasions.

Wanderers were eliminated in the

last 16 of the tournament last season by National First Division outfit Malanti Chiefs, following their 2-0 victory over Manzini Super League outfit Sisonkhe in the last 32.

It is a tricky affair for the maroon and white outfit as they come head to head with a side they haven't played against before. The pressure is on for the Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe-led charges who are going through a trophy drought, with their last gold medal being the

Telecom Charity cup triumph back in 2006. With the vast experience the Wanderers squad has, the opponents will come to the game with motivation as they spear-head a war for a spot in the last 16 of the 14th edition of the competition. This will be the first game of the triple header in the grand opening games to be staged at Somhlolo National Stadium today. Admission to the games is E30, payable at the entrance.



Mbabane Highlanders players greeting the fans before one of their matches.

'Bull' in a tight contest with Tycoons

Hlatikulu Tycoons vs Mbabane Highlanders
Somhlolo National Stadium, 4pm

SOCCER - The grand opening games wouldn't be so grand without Mbabane Highlanders being part of it and spelling out the reason would be a bore as it is obvious to almost everyone.

The black and white ensemble will lock horns with Shiselweni side Hlatikulu Tycoons with the latter being the hosts at Somhlolo National Stadium, kickoff is 4pm.

This is a big test for Zimbabwe mentor Hebert Maruwa, who is under immense pressure having joined the team at their lowest

form from Green Mamba.

Maruwa is yet to prove his worth to the throngs of Highlanders supporters, who are craving for success, something the team has been missing for a very long time now. Highlanders suffered a 0-1 defeat at the hands of Mbabane Swallows in the last 16 games of the competition last season and they will be looking to avoid an early elimination this time in their quest to restore dignity and have a bite of glory in a competition they are the only team to have defended in the history of the tournament. Landers were crowned SwaziBank Cup champions in 2009 and they went on to defend it in 2010, something that no other team has achieved in the 14 years of the tournament.

'BUCCANEERS' IN AN OPERATION TO ROB BAD BOYS

Bad Boys vs Moneni Pirates
Somhlolo National Stadium, 2pm

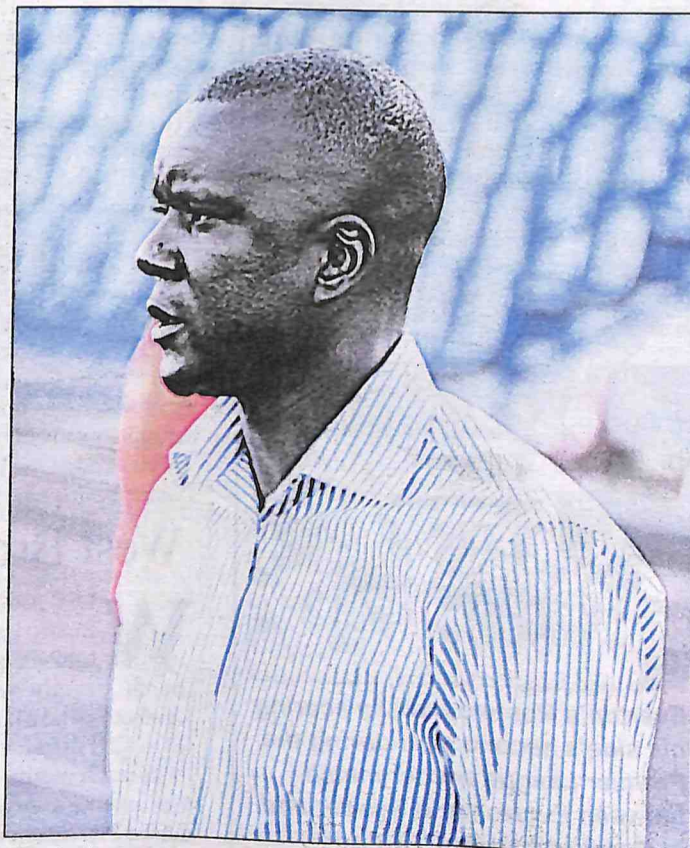
SOCCER - Moneni Pirates know exactly how it feels like to hold the SwaziBank Cup as they won it at the expense of Manzini Wanderers in 2015 and there was no better consolation as they were relegated from the elite league to the NFD in the same

season. The 'Sea Robbers,' who are famous for their flamboyant and entertaining style of football, will be visitors to NFD outfit Bad Boys, whose hopes of making a comeback to the elite league are slowly fading away. This is the same Bad Boys team that was at the peak of the league table after four games last season, but they have since become a shadow of their

former self. Pirates went as far as the quarterfinals in the recently ended tournament with their elimination clouded by debates and pinning of blames following what was labelled by many as 'clumsy refereeing' and the 'Buccaneers' will be looking to rise above that storm and give their loyal supporters something to cheer about this afternoon.



Moneni Pirates players celebrating after qualifying for quarterfinals.



Zimbabwe mentor Hebert Maruwa.

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PICTURES



Tinyosi FC's Simanga Ndzinisa and Manzini Sundowns' Juries Gama fighting for the ball during the SwaziBank Cup match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Sundowns won 2-0. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



Swallows' Sandile Hlatjwako being blocked by Lusanda Mabuza.



Sundowns players celebrating their first goal against Tinyosi FC.



Manzini Sundowns' first goal against Tinyosi FC.

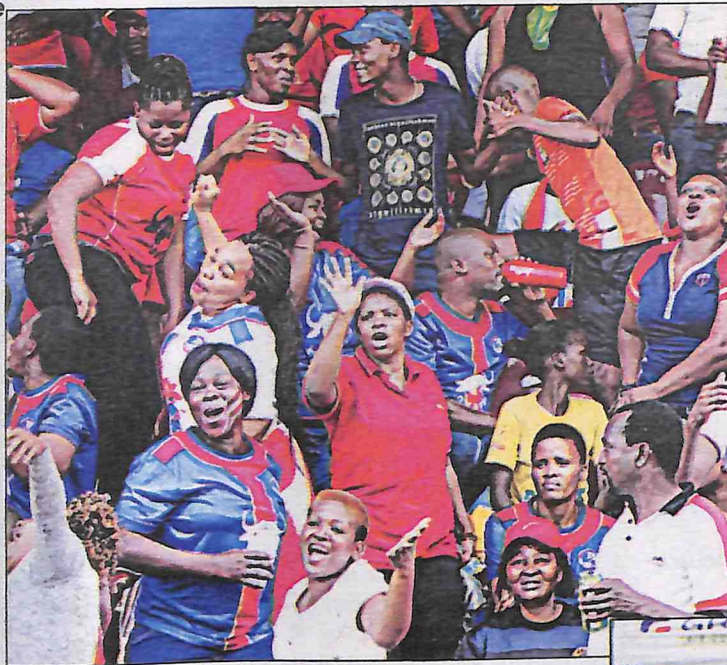
Current SwaziBank Cup top goal scorer Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa of Mbabane Swallows winning the ball from Ludzeldzwe's Lusanda Mabuza. Ndzinisa scored five goals.



Well beaten Ludzeldzwe Brothers goalkeeper Sifiso Maseko failing to stop this shot from Mbabane Swallows striker Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa (not in the picture).



Manzini Sundowns' Justice Figureito controlling the ball whilst Tinyosi FC's Seabonkhe Mlotsa closes in.



Jubilant Mbabane Swallows supporters.

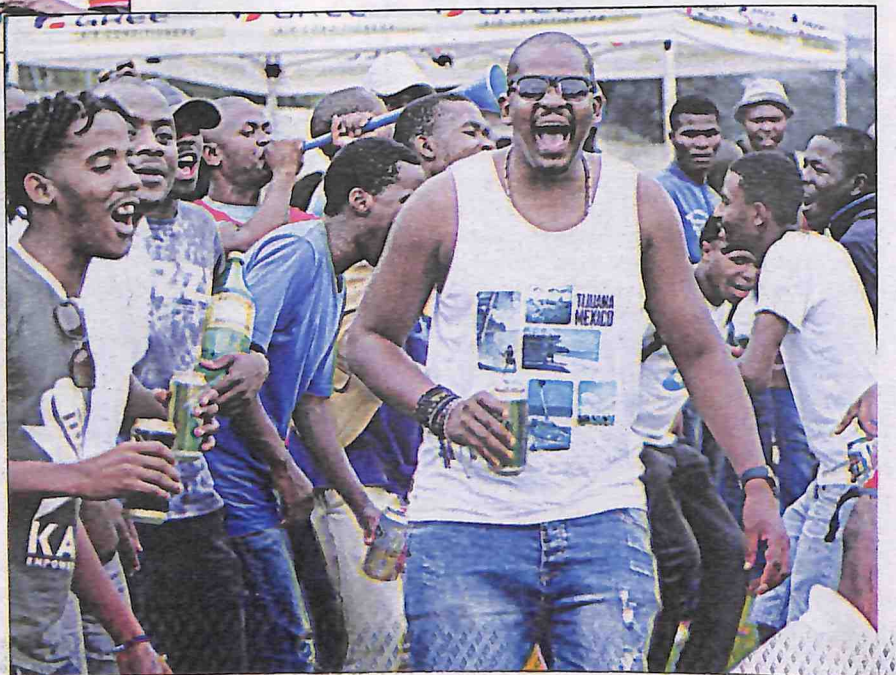


Swallows players celebrating one of their 11 goals.



GOAL: Citizen goalkeeper Mancoba Mvula diving unsuccessfully as Matsapha scored one of their penalties.

Matsapha United fans in a jovial mood after the game.



'DOWNS NEUTRALISE TINYOSI STING

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Tinyosi..... (0)0
Manzini Sundowns..... (2)2

SOCCER - MANZINI Sundowns scored two quick first half goals to knock Tinyosi FC out of the 2017 SwaziBank Cup.

The 'Kappa Boys' booked their place in the last 16 through goals from Kingu Penga and Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkhambule, who scored from the spot kick, sending the Hhohho Super League side out of the #Yebele edition at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

Evident

Superiority was evident as the Premier League side started the match on a high, scoring the first goal 13 minutes into the match through a header from their DR Congo import Kingu Penga, who benefited home a Justice Figareto corner kick.

The yellow and blue ensemble doubled their advantage a minute later through a 'Mlaba' Nkhambule spot kick. This was after Tinyosi defender Mangaliso Nkhambule tripped Siyabonga 'Siya' Nkhambule inside the box.

The left-footed midfielder made no mistake, sending Tinyosi FC and former Highlanders goalkeeper Mduduzi Shongwe to the wrong



Sundowns players celebrating their first goal against Tinyosi FC.

direction. Tinyosi tried to get back into the match as their striker Bongumenzi Dlamini's shot was saved by the holiday Sundowns goalkeeper Sandanezwe Mathabela in the 18th minute.

The elite league side enjoyed a 2-0 cushion going to the breather as the opposition offered little resistance. The second half saw Sundowns continuing where they left off as they upped the tempo in search of another goal. Figareto was unlucky not to score in the 56th minute when his pile driver taken from the edge of the box hit the cross bar.

Despite parading two former Premier League players in ex-

Highlanders midfielder Mancoba Dlamini and former Midas City striker Thando Shabangu, Tinyosi did not cause any threat in this stanza where they were let down by poor decision making, especially in the final third. The match ended 2-0 in favour of Sundowns.

THE TEAMS:

SUNDOWNS - Sanda, Mkhwanazi (Linda), Sandile, Pemba, Bhekani (Siya), Seto, Mlaba, Figa, Juries (Sandumuzi), Sikhokho, Darren

TINYOSI - Mduduzi, Mancoba, Mxolisi, Sebabonkhe, Gustavo, Mangaliso, Bongumenzi, Steven, Thando Shabangu, Thando Dlamini, Mancoba Dlamini

Wasteful Madlenya punished by Hub Sundowns

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Hub Sundowns..... (0)2
Madlenya..... (0)0

SOCCER - Two second half strikes from Andile 'Mayambela' Dlamini and Bongie Dlamini was all Former Premier League side Hub Sundowns needed to beat a wasteful Madlenya, and send them packing early in the SwaziBank Cup.

This was during a match played at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday. The Mandla Shabalala-led charges were compact and didn't allow Madlenya to play their usual game. Both sides matched each other pound for pound in the first half but poor finishing cost them on both ends. Chances were few and far as the strikers from both teams missed clear cut chances. The match went to break with the teams with the score 0-0. Madlenya showed more urgency and intention in the second half when attacking, but again they couldn't capitalise on the chances they created. Instead, it was Hub Sundowns, who scored first through Andile Mayambela Dlamini. The striker finished off a great move after a good interchange of passes. Madlenya should have equalised as they created plenty opportunities but they couldn't register anything. They even let a penalty but the striker put the ball wide off the mark. As Madlenya tried harder to find the equaliser, Hub Sundowns scored another goal as they capitalised on the space left by Madlenya at the back.

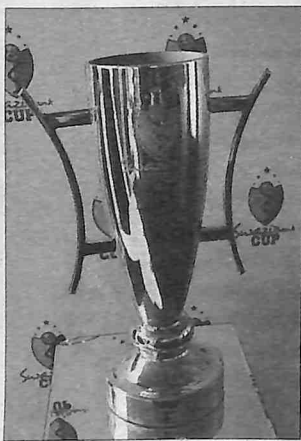
Matsapha United dreams of lifting the SwaziBank Cup

BY SABELO MAJOLA

SOCCER - NATIONAL First Division side Matsapha United's ambition is to go all the way to the finals of the SwaziBank Cup and lift the trophy.

This was revealed by the team's Zimbabwean mentor Saul Chaminuka, who replaced Mateus Joaquim Manjate, popularly known as 'Chaka Chaka'.

Matsapha secured a spot in the last 16 after defeating Mbabane Citizen 5-4 in the penalty shootouts as the score ended 0-0 in full time. Interviewed after the game, Chaminuka said their ambition in the tournament was to reach the finals and claim the million worth trophy. "We didn't play our normal game today (yesterday), we were subdued but the most important thing now is that we managed to make it



through to the next stage of the competition. We are warmed-up for the cup now and of course we want to go all the way and bring it home," he said. He then commended his players, especially Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze, who has been shifted from defence to the striking force.

"He has been key in attack for the team and he bangs the needed goals." Meanwhile, Citizen coach Bongane Makanya expressed his disappointment after losing the match especially after his side managed to contain the opposition for the entire 90 minutes, only for them to be eliminated on penalties. "We played very well but we were just unlucky. We couldn't prepare well for the game due to the rains but we can't lament about that now, the focus shifts back to the league and we are looking to finish in the top four and wait for next season," he said.

Matsapha kick Citizen out of SwaziBank Cup

BY SABELO MAJOLA

Citizen..... (0)
Matsapha..... (0)

(Matsapha won 5-4 after penalty shootouts)

SOCCER - Matsapha United successfully eliminated National First Division counterparts Mbabane Citizen out of the SwaziBank Cup, triumphing in penalties as the game ended in a barren draw after 90 minutes.

Hosts Citizen failed to positively utilise the home ground advantage seeing that the match was played at the Prince of Wales Ground.

Matsapha United fielded their usual squad that has seen them maintain the top position in the NFD league thus far, with defender-turned striker Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze leading in attack and Vusumuzi Zungu stirring the midfield. Having emerged victorious in their last meeting of the league, Citizen were highly motivated coming to the game and they were the better side in both halves, holding the visitors at the back and catching them on the break.

Mancoba Vilakati, who re-joined Citizens in the January transfer

window after a short spell with Mbabane Highlanders, was denied in two occasions of the same fashion when his close range strikes in the 23rd and 40th minute, respectively were saved by the keeper in what could have changed the direction of the game.

The score was level when the match went for a break but Citizen did find the back of the net through sturdy forward Vusi Hlandze early in the second stanza only for the referee Simanga Nhleko to award a free kick in the box, a decision that got Citizen's supporters throwing toys out of the pram.

The match ended 0-0 and it went straight to penalty shootouts as per the rules and regulations of the tournament.

It is after the penalty shootouts that Matsapha emerged victorious, booking their place in the last 16 of the competition.

TEAMS:

CITIZEN - Mancoba, Mvini, Brian, Mpumelelo, Baimba, Dan, Sandile (Thami), Mthabi, Mancoba (Samkeliso), Vusi, Mcolisi (Sizwe)

MATSAPHA UNITED - Mxolisi, Sbonelo, Futhi, Sifiso, Jimoh, Menzi, Peter (Msimisi), Vusumuzi, Sabelo, Mthobisi (Sdumo), John.

Nqaba was passionate about the game - 'Beyond 2 000'

BY MLONDI MPANZA

SOCCER - The late businessman and Mbabane Swallows Supporter, Nqaba Dlamini was passionate about the game of football.

This was said by the team's General Manager, Sandile Zwane yesterday when he spoke on behalf of supporters during Dlamini's memorial service held at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre.

An emotional Zwane said he was still trying to come to terms with the fact that Nqaba had passed on a few weeks after they had gone to Botswana where Mbabane Swallows faced Orapa United in the first leg of the CAF Confederations Cup where they won 1-0.

He said Nqaba contributed immensely to the team financially and otherwise and his contribution would forever be missed.

He said the team had brought them together as each and every one of them brought their different personality to the team

which was of great importance.

According to reports, the businessman passed on last week Friday after he was involved in a car accident in South Africa and Zwane told mourners they were not only friends with the late but had become brothers as their relationship dated back to childhood years as they grew up together. Nqaba was also described as a staunch supporter of Mbabane Swallows.

He passed on a day before Mbabane Swallows played their second leg of the CAF tournament, game in which the local team prevailed victorious and team boss Gamedze dedicated the win to the late Dlamini as the team advanced to the next stage after winning 4-2 in aggregate score. Gamedze was reported saying Nqaba was

always with the team and would have felt bad if they lost the second leg match against Orapa. Gamedze said the Nqaba brought many people with him to support the team.

The Mbabane Swallows boss was amongst the many mourners, who came to bid farewell to the departed supporter yesterday.



A portrait of the late businessman.

SWALLOWS EXHIBIT MERCILESS POWER

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Ludzeludze Brothers..... (1)3
Mbabane Swallows..... (5)11

SOCCER - It was a demonstration of skill as well as merciless power from Mbabane Swallows when they hammered National First Division side Ludzeludze Brothers 11-3 during a SwaziBank match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

Quicksilver striker Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa stole the show, scoring five goals on the day and in the process putting himself in a better chance to win the top goal scorer award.

Ndzinisa was joined by Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko, who netted a hat-trick while the trio of Tony 'TT' Tsabedze, Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze and Sandile Hlatshwako also registered their names in the goal scorers' chart for the defend-

ing champions. Despite the crippling loss, Brothers did visit the back of the net thrice where they fired past Swallows second choice goalkeeper Ntokozo Shabangu, who was given a run ahead of first choice goalkeeper Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza. The NFD side was consoled by Siboniso Gamedze, Ncamiso Gwebu and Themba Msibi, who netted a goal each.

The capital city giants were in an uncompromising mood, coming from their 3-2 over Orapa United in the CAF Confederation Cup.

The match went to the break with Swallows leading 5-1. It was literally a one-way traffic as the 'Beautiful Birds' were all over the opponents. 'Sikhali' opened the floodgates 18 minutes into the match to give his side the lead.

This was followed by three quick goals in the 24th, 26th and 29 minutes, to shatter any Brothers' hopes of causing an upset in the competition.

Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati made two changes in his starting line-up, bringing in Ntokozo and Zimbabwean defender Talent Maphosa, ahead of Mandla Palma.

Brothers' goalkeeper Sifiso Matse let his team down with school boy errors, especially in the first half.

If it was a boxing match, Brothers could have thrown in the towel even before the end of the first half.

The pressure was too much for Brothers towards the end of the match as Swallows upped the tempo. They failed to sock the wrath of the unstoppable Birds.

The teams:

Swallows - Ntokozo, Mabila, Mkhweli, Talent, Siphamandla, Papy, Wonder (Phathizwe), D4D, Sikhali, Sandile (Richard), Pupu, Tony (Mydou)

Brothers - Sifiso, Thabiso, Ncamiso, Lusanda, Phumlani, Mthobisi, Siphosethu, Ntokozo, Themba, Mfanifikile, Siboniso.



Swallows players celebrating one of their 11 goals.

LETHAL LEOPARD BRUSH OFF AMALANDA

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Amalanda..... (0)0
Royal Leopard..... (1)3

SOCCER - A brace from Bonginkhosi 'Manyovu' Tfwala and a lone strike by Muzi 'Mzoro' Dlamini transported Royal Leopard to the next round of the SwaziBank Cup.

The police side beat famous giant slayers Amalanda 3-0 during a match played at the Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday.

Fresh from exiting the CAF Champions League at the hands of DC Congo side AS Vita, the Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane-led charges showed intention from the first minute of the match.

Amalanda also showed aggression in their play, which turned the match into a physical but exciting encounter.

The return of Xolani 'Papi' Sikhondze brought back the much needed stability in the middle of the park for the police side, as he bossed proceedings in midfield, taking off some bit of pressure from Zweli 'Mlilo' Nxumalo.

Both teams were coming hard at each other but it was Leopard, who had an upper hand as they saw much of ball possession.



Royal Leopard players.

Leopard finally broke the deadlock in the 31st minute, when 'Mlilo's million dollar pass found 'Manyovu,' who made no mistake, calmly firing a low shot past Sizwe Manana.

The match went to the break with the police side leading 1-0.

In the second half, Amalanda started winning midfield battles but their striking trio of Lwazi 'Shumi' Maziya, Bhekiswa Shabangu and Mxolosi Dladla failed to find the back of the net.

Leopard eased the pressure a minute after the hour mark, Bonginkhosi being the supplier this time. He eliminated two defenders on the left flank before

an inch perfect cross to 'Mzoro', who chest-trapped the ball before firing a low volley to make it 2-0.

Two minutes later, the police side got their third. This was after some brilliant interchange of passes between 'Tokyo', 'Mlilo' and 'Manyovu'. Leopard were in total control of the game at this stage. 'Manyovu' completed his brace with a great tap in.

After that, Leopard got a penalty after 'Manyovu' was fouled in the box but he failed to grab a hat-trick as his lame effort was saved by Sizwe Manana.

Leopard are now through to the round of 16.

'KOKI' REFUSES TO BE CARRIED AWAY

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER - Mbabane Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati said he will not be carried away by his team's 11-3 victory over Ludzeludze Brothers.

Vilakati said he was not concerned about the win but was happy they regained their scoring form at the expense of the National First Division outfit.

"I am not concerned about the win but I am happy we managed to bury the chances we created. The players need such confidence, ahead of our upcoming CAF match. We still need to improve on certain arrears as a team especially in the defence; otherwise I am happy with the input of my new players I introduced today." He said they would remain calm and focus on the next match. "It's over and done about this match and we now have to face the new challenge."

'Koki' said they would take it one game at a time.

Meanwhile, his Brothers counterpart Msizi Tfwala said they just lost to a better team in the



Mbabane Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.

defending champions.

"We just lost to a more experienced team. We learnt a lot from playing against a strong team like Swallows since we are still fighting to survive relegation in the league. We will roll our sleeves up and focus on the upcoming matches," he said.

It was a tough game - 'Nuro'

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SOCCER - Royal Leopard head coach Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane says their game against Amalanda was a very tough encounter.

The soft spoken mentor admitted the win was hard fought, but was pleased that his charges managed to stamp their ground and claim a win.

He said this after watching his side beat Amalanda 3-0 during a SwaziBank Cup match at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday.

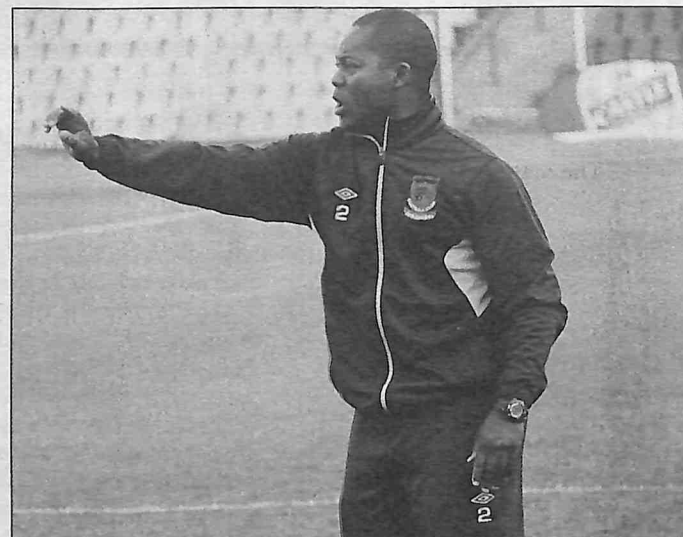
"Yes, it was a hard fought win. The first games in a knockout tournament are never easy and this one was no exception. However, I am very happy the boys man-

aged to grind a win and we have advanced to the next stage of the tournament."

He said he was happy with the win.

"All in all, it was a good performance from the boys and we are taking it one game at a time, and we will see where it takes us."

Meanwhile, his Amalanda counterpart Mthunzi Ginindza, who was only on his second game in charge of the side, was gracious in defeat. "I am happy with the performance. Basically, Leopard won it through experience. You know they are just from a CAF tournament and a majority of their players are in the national team, so that's how they beat us. It's that simple," he said.



Royal Leopard head coach Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane.

RESULTS

YESTERDAY

ABSA PREMIERSHIP

Ajax Cape Town	1 - 1	Kaizer Chiefs
Highlands Park	0 - 1	SuperSport United
Mamelodi Sundowns	2 - 0	Bidvest Wits
Oriando Pirates	1 - 1	Polokwane City
Bloemfontein Celtic	0 - 3	Platinum Stars

PREMIER LEAGUE

Watford	1 - 1	West Ham United
Chelsea	3 - 1	Swansea City
Crystal Palace	1 - 0	Middlesbrough
Hull City	1 - 1	Burnley
West Bromwich Albion	2 - 1	Bournemouth
Everton	2 - 0	Sunderland

SundayObserver SPORTING

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#YELELE | SWAZIBANK CUP 2017



FIVE STAR 'SIKHALI'!

- 43 #YELELE GOALS
- SWALLOWS SCORE 11

FULL STORY ON PAGE 39

'Downs' Kekana, Vilakazi, **stun** Wits

PRETORIA - Goals from Hlomphe Kekana and Sibusiso Vilakazi downed Bidvest Wits 2-0 as they lost their Absa Premiership tie against Mamelodi Sundowns last night at Loftus Versfeld Stadium. The victory for Pitso Mosimane's men ensured they move up to the third spot on the log table with 32 points from 14 league matches. The first 10 minutes of the contest saw

both sides fighting to dominate the proceedings, but it was the Clever Boys who came close in the fourth minute when Gabadinho Mhango was picked out by Nazeer Allie and the Malawian's header went narrowly wide.

Affair

The affair became physical for both sides, but Percy Tau nearly gave the hosts the lead when he saw his volley on the run missing

the target in the 16th minute.

The hosts were awarded a set piece in the 38th minute and skipper Kekana produced a stunning thunderbolt to beat goalkeeper Darren Keet on his left post.

Midfielder Thabang Monare wanted to pull one back for the visitors as he received a loose ball on the d-line, yet the midfielder's well struck effort went wide.

Backpage TXT

LEAGUE CUP



Man United camp in training.

Cup glory key to Mou's United revolution

MANCHESTER - Jose Mourinho has challenged Manchester United's stars to prove his revolution is on track by winning the first major silverware of his reign in today's League Cup final against Southampton.

Given his remarkable success in 17 years as the world's most fascinating and polarising manager, it's understandable Mourinho labels the League Cup as only a "little detail" on a glittering CV, including two Champions League triumphs and league titles in England, Spain, Italy and Portugal.

But the United manager is too shrewd an operator not to realise that perception is everything in the 'what have you done for me lately' world of the Premier League.

After being sacked by Chelsea last season, Mourinho arrived at United in July with a point to prove after critics questioned whether he had lost his magic touch and the initial reviews of his rebuilding job were underwhelming.

Despite overhauling an unbalanced squad with the world record capture of France midfielder Paul Pogba and astute moves for Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Eric Bailly, Mourinho cut a tetchy, frustrated figure as United endured a miserable run of two wins in 11 league games.

Taunts

A hammering by Chelsea was especially chastening for Mourinho, who suffered taunts of "You're not special anymore" from his old club's supporters.

Since then United have lost just two of their 28 games in all competitions, yet are still 12 points behind league leaders Chelsea in a disappointing sixth place.

Mourinho knows he badly needs to qualify for the Champions League and win a cup or two to ensure players, fans and the club's hierarchy remain in his corner.

A victory at Wembley could act as a catalyst to further success, just as it did when the League Cup was the first silverware of his maiden spell with Chelsea.

AFFP