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MARCH 26, 2017

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KUKHANYA'S **E3M** HEADACHE

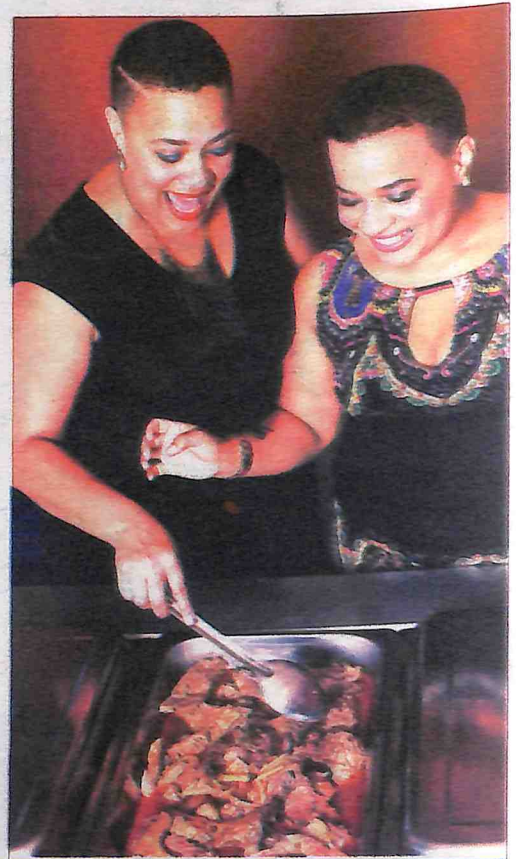
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INDLOVUKAZI BUYS SIKHUMBULO WEDDING GIFT

● Bishop Nash cries at son's wedding

SundayObserver
Scene



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CHRISTIANS CAN NOW 'SWIPE' THEIR OFFERINGS



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CLARIFICATION

HER MAJESTY BUYS SIKHUMBUBUZO A WEDDING GIFT

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

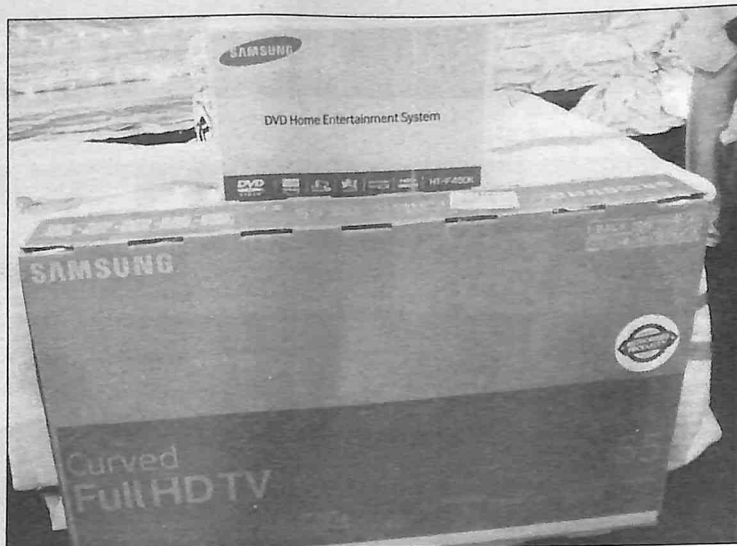
In a rare occasion, Her Majesty Indlovukazi bought newlyweds Pastor Sikhumbuzo Shongwe and Jabulile Nkonyane a gift for their wedding.

The gift was presented yesterday to the couple during their glamorous wedding held at the Divine Healing Ministry Church in Manzini where over 500 well-wishers gathered to witness the historic wedding of Manzini's former bad boy, now turned man of the cloth.

It got a lot of those present talking due to the fact that it was not a common sight for royalty to buy someone a gift, at-least not for a wedding.

Nhlanhla Dlamini, the National Secretary made the presentation at the high class event where he represented Her Majesty Indlovukazi who had also sent him to deliver a special message to the couple.

The gift comprised of a 55 inch curved smart television, home entertainment system and TV stand which was brought towards the end of the event by a group of men who put it on the podium for all to see and was met with excitement by Bishop Nash Shongwe, the groom's father who joked that he was going to take



The gift to the couple from Her Majesty Indlovukazi. (Pics: Mloni Mpanza)

it home and gift Sikhumbuzo the old things he has used over the years.

Of note, the event was also attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Sikhanyiso, Cabinet ministers, parliamentarians and judges, to name a few.

Soon after the gift had been brought, Pastor Sikhumbuzo became curious as to what it was that was covered in a white cloth and the TV stand was opened for him to see.

Dlamini officially handed over the gift on behalf of Her Majesty after he had finished delivering the two-

fold message he had been sent by royalty to share with the couple.

Structured in the form of biblical verses, Pastor Sikhumbuzo and his wife, Jabulile were advised to stay humble at all times for their marriage to last longer.

One of the verses was 2 Chronicles and spoke about being humble even in situations which seemed to put the marriage in disrepute but if they are humble they will always manage to conquer together as a family. Directing the message to Sikhumbuzo, the national secretary

said, "If you respect yourself, wife and everyone around you, you will be surprised to learn that you will soon get that same respect from your family, however if you do not do that then it's impossible for them to do so."

He also told the couple that it was important that they loved each other unconditionally to make sure that they stayed happy at all times. Dlamini made an example that for some men it was not easy to laugh at anything, however if they were in happy and loving relationships this tended to be a normal thing as they were always happy and that was a spirit he encouraged between the two lovebirds.

Dlamini concluded by sharing the second verse, John chapter 3 verse 16 which reads, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

This particular verse was seen by many to have been directed to the past of Pastor Sikhumbuzo who lived a life that many parents did not wish for their children, however the grace of God had come upon his life and he was now a saved man and a man of the cloth.

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Couple warned against divorcing

On another note, the couple was warned against divorcing as the marriage they were entering into was no joking matter and deserved to be taken seriously.

This was the message from President of the Alliance Church in Swaziland, Reverend Johannes Mazibuko and Apostle Robert Kasaro of the Jesus Calls Worship Centre.

Mazibuko told the couple that he did not want to wake up one day to reports that the two were divorcing as by that they would have embarrassed God, their parents, the church, as well as him because he is their counsellor.

Mazibuko said this when he was officiating in the marriage of Pastor Sikhumbuzo and Jabulile where he reminded the former that what he was entering into was serious and should not take it for a joke.

"We do not want to wake up to read newspapers with you Sikhumbuzo on headlines that you are divorcing. Whilst we are happy that you are getting married, it will not bring us pride to read newspaper articles that you are abusing your wife, this woman needs to be given all the respect she deserves," stressed Mazibuko.

Equally, he told the bride he will not be happy one day to read head-



Alliance Church's Reverend Johannes Mazibuko.

lines about the couple experiencing challenges because she was not offering conjugal rights to her husband.

He said when such happened, she should know that it would be wrong especially because that would see Sikhumbuzo running all over the place looking for what he should be rightfully getting from his wife.

Further, he told the well-wishers that he was not happy with the rate at which couples were divorcing in the country.

He said that this made her wonder where the country was going if people took lightly of marriage yet he believed that needed to be respected, regardless of any situation.

Bishop Nash emotional

An emotional Bishop Nash Shongwe could not hold himself yesterday during the wedding of his son as he would occasionally breakdown as one speak after the other spoke about how drastic the life of his son, Pastor Sikhumbuzo had changed.

The Man of God was first engulfed by feelings after he brought in his son to wait for his bride where Bishop Shongwe gave Pastor Sikhumbuzo an affectionate hug and his mother did likewise.

Bishop Shongwe was particularly emotional because his son had been living an unpleasant life until he repented three years ago before further taking bible studies and was eventually made the overseer of one of his father's church branches.

When making his remarks, Bishop Shongwe said that the event felt like a dream to him and he did not believe it was really happening.

He likened his son to a mountain which he had finally conquered as he shared how he would always wake up to reports that his son had committed crimes in the country.

But, the bishop did not lose hope as he always told congregants in church that one day he would preach with Pastor Sikhumbuzo and indeed he had lived to see that day, as well as witness his son's historic wedding.



The groom's Father, Bishop Nash Shongwe making his remarks.

ding. This was also mentioned by another speaker that spoke on behalf of the church who told the well-wishers that Bishop Shongwe had a skill of prophesising things before they happened.

The speaker revealed that the bishop always told them that he would not die until all his children repented and one day he will share the pulpit with his son.

"We applaud the bishop for being patient with Sikhumbuzo and today is testimony that those who believe in the Lord will get their wishes at the end," said the Divine representative.

High profile guests at wedding

The Shongwe and Nkonyane families had the pleasure of sharing their special day with the country's notable personalities. These included Senators Ndumiso Mdluli, Bonisile Mngometulu, Manzini North MP, Jan Sithole, High Court Judges Titus Mlangeni, Mzwandile Fakudze, Manzini Chief Executive Officer, Lungile Dlamini and Lubombo Regional Administrator, Sylvia Mthethwa.

The presence of Princess Sikhanyiso and Royalty Representative was just a cherry on top as the guest list already boasted of Cabinet Ministers, Owen and Christopher. Nhlambeni MP, and gospel artist Frans Dlamini was also present and he even led the well-wishers in worshipping through a song.

Mkhemetelo Mkhathwa, the King's Praise Singer also attended the wedding and so did the Former Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Reverend David Matshe and Pastor Griffiths Dlamini.

On another note, over 500 well-wishers crammed Divine Healing Ministries Church in Manzini amongst which were close friends to the couple.



Ministers Owen Nxumalo and Christopher Gamedze sharing a light moment.

Friends heed to warning against drinking

Meanwhile, friends of Pastor Sikhumbuzo Shongwe heeded to the now turned Man of God's call to behave and not bring alcohol beverages to the church.

Indeed, none of those present during the wedding were seen imbibing in the waters of immortality, despite most expecting that the groom's friends would do so.

All present made sure that they stayed inside the church and followed proceedings without a problem, although some were overheard within the crowd occasionally shouting that they won't be sleeping for the whole of last night in celebration for their friend's milestone.

Funnily, at the end of his remarks Sikhumbuzo called for those present not to miss church today as he revealed that he would appreciate if the church would be packed to the brim as it was yesterday. The groom further revealed that the church he oversaw at Phumul'mchashi in the Lubombo region had promised that yesterday would not be the end of festivities as they were going to host a welcoming event for their pastor's wife next weekend.



Pastor Sikhumbuzo Shongwe feeding his wife Jabulile as a sign of symbol of oneness.

KUKHANYA'S E3M HEADACHE

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Having recently won two tenders worth over E32 million from Manzini City Council, Kukhanya Civil Engineering Contractor has been threatened with liquidation following alleged failure to settle a E3 million debt.

According to well-placed sources, the fast-growing company has been failing to settle its bills with SD Civils, another civil engineering contractor, for services rendered to it.

According to documents in the possession of this publication, Kukhanya owes SD Civils E3 330 918.90.

This amount is said to be past overdue and remains unsettled despite several demands for the company to do so.

Overdue

"The contract between SD Civils and Kukhanya is for plant hire," a source divulged. On the other hand, communication from SD Civils to Kukhanya was to the effect that the Coates Valley based contractor was failing to pay their extremely overdue debts. The company's inability to pay its debts has been interpreted as insolvency. SD Civils has threatened to escalate the matter to the High Court.

Efforts to get a comment from Kukhanya failed yesterday as Corporate Affairs Manager Welile Shongwe was unreachable. This is despite her being aware of questions concerning the company's debt as she was sent an emailed questionnaire on Friday which was also sent as an sms to her work number. Despite promising to take a look at the questions and get back to this publication, she did not do so.

Fed up creditor threatens if the engineering contractor fails to settle E3 million debt by Friday

On the other hand, the well-placed sources stated there was a huge possibility that the inability to settle the debt was caused by the stop-starts which have characterised the construction of the Nhlanguano-Sicunusa Road which could not be confirmed from Kukhanya as this formed part of the questionnaire which was not responded to.

The source said usually, plant hire contracts varied according to the duration of the project and as such payment agreements were usually invoiced within 30 days of hire while the expectation was that the invoices would be settled after 30 days from issue. "At the time heavy equipment is hired and charged per hour or as per contract according to the needs of the contracting company."

Allegations

"The over 42 kilometres of road has had several days of idle time after there were issues of payment," the source said. Without getting confirmation from Kukhanya on whether they were getting payments from government, the ministry of works could not be contacted with the allegations. However, it is noteworthy that the tender for the construction of the road which has taken several years of roadworks was last year pegged at E466m.

"The failure by Kukhanya to repay the debt is not understandable as they have been awarded several contracts in different sectors within the construction industry," said the source.

Recently, Kukhanya won a E16 million tender

from Manzini City Council to rehabilitate Mkhosi Township in Coates Valley. Other notable road construction tenders in recent history have been the rehabilitation of the Matsapha Manzini strip of the MR3. Another notable tender is that of the International Convention Centre project.

According to a much-publicised court wrangle which came to the fore about seven months ago where shareholders sought to be paid according to their profits, the company allegedly recently had a joint venture agreement for the construction of pack houses at Siphofaneni which was worth over E6 million.

Revenue

Another alleged project was E28 million for the Information Technology Park, whereas the Sikhuphe Catering and Workshop was said to be a contract sum of over E17 million. The New Life Factory Shells in Matsapha reportedly brought in revenue of E5 million while the construction of the Good Shepherd Hospital was said to be worth E25 million.

The construction of civil servants' flats was worth E18 million while E23 million came in from the Nhlanguano Health Centre project. From the ICC, the construction of the International Convention Centre project was worth E1.5 billion while the Matsanjeni Health Centre's project was worth E25 million. However, the above stated amounts are not a true reflection of the company's book of accounts in their entirety.

SIPA debacle rages on as manager faces DC

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority saga which has been simmering for several months is not over, in fact, it would seem as though those who dared to bring up grievances against the CEO are in for a long haul.

A manager, who was part of those who delivered worker's grievances nearly a year ago to the Sandile Simelane led board is facing disciplinary action for an alleged offence which is widely believed to have been created in order to summarily dismiss her. Three managers, some of whom were with her during the consultation with the board, tendered their resignation in December following the sacking of former Minister of Commerce Industry and Trade Gideon Dlamini, just before the retiring of his Principle Secretary Jinnoh Nkambule. The three, citing a hostile working environment, allegedly resigned after losing faith in Minister Jabulani Mabuza's competence in dealing with the SIPA debacle which saw employees compile a dossier of alleged irregularities done by the Chief Executive Officer Phumelele Dlamini. The workers cited among other things allegations of misconduct, irregular procurements,

abuse of staff members using unpalatable language, irregularities in leasing out a hall to her church and other allegations which were presented to two boards without a solution being found. "The two seemed to understand the issues that workers complained about and they were willing to properly investigate them," said a source within the parastatal tasked with enticing investors about the former minister and his PS.

"However, the current minister is new, his PS is new and we feel as though they are afraid of rocking the boat hence their pussy footing around the issue," the source continued.

He clarified that this was not an indictment on the capabilities of the two, "However, we know how a new broom cannot reach all the nooks and crannies of a dirty house."

Asked about the exact meaning of the statement, he said, "The new minister and PS have displayed reluctance in stating anything decisive so we all know that they are unable to deal with the matter. Instead, all dissenting employees are being advised to leave peacefully and find other places of employment." On the other hand, the source decried the suspension of a manager who has been at home for several months now.

"Nothing has been done about the senior

'Delinquent employees can't hide behind my words'

The Minister of Commerce Jabulani Mabuza said he can not entertain petty squabbles brought up by employees in the event they were found to have been in the wrong.

"Yes, I called for calm and promised employees that we were dealing with the issue of their grievances within ministerial structures along with the board.

However, this does not mean employees can then do as they wish just because I said we were looking at their issues," he said. Making an example while clarifying that he was not privy to any manager's disciplinary hearing particulars, he said it did not mean one should get to work late just

because he had said there should be calm.

"We shouldn't be conflicted by people misbehaving at work who then turn around and use the message from the minister as their shield," he said.

When asked about the timelines concerning solving the issues raised by employees, he said, "All I can say is that we are working on the matter. It is not for me to say next week because you will then hound me with expectations. All I can say is that the day it gets solved, the nation will appreciate that we have been working tirelessly on this matter." Adding, he said, "When I asked for calm it was to enable me to be given a chance to look at their grievances."

ranking employee despite having been sent home last year at the height of the debacle. This is confusing because we have other employees facing disciplinary action while working," he said stating there was no logic in the way things were being done.

"One allegedly delinquent employee is at home while the other is at work. Does that make sense to you?" he asked no one in particular. Efforts to get the two cited senior employees hit a snag as one could not be located while the other declined to entertain questions from this reporter. On the other hand, the Board Chairman Sandile Simelane did not respond to calls made to his mobile phone with the last call placed last evening. The CEO graciously declined to respond to questions stating she was not available to delve into work issues as it was the weekend.

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TOP NOTCH WEDDING FOR SIKHUMBUBUZO

BY MLONDI MPANZA

The country yesterday witnessed what can arguably be said to be the best celebrity wedding of the year since that of the Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini that took place three years ago.

Just from the mere sight of the inside of Divine Healing Ministries Church in Manzini, one would be forgiven for believing this was a wedding of a high ranking official based on the fact that it was characterised by high profile guests and splendid decorations. The environment itself was electrifying inside the church which was filled to the brim as well-wishers came to witness this historic wedding that comes after Sikhumbuzo paid dowry to his sweetheart in November last year.

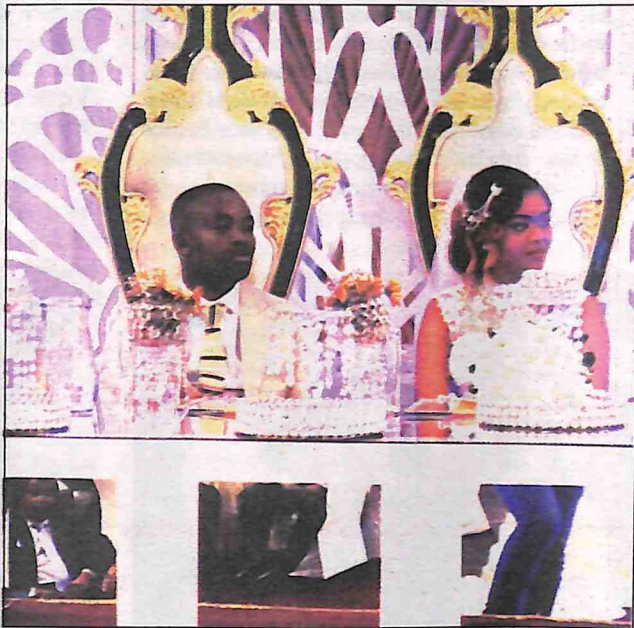
Notable

Amongst the notable guests were Her Royal Highness, Princess Sikhanyiso, National Secretary, Nhlanhla Dlamini, Cabinet Ministers Christopher Gamedze and Owen Nxumalo, to name but a few.

This was during the wedding of Divine's junior pastor and son to the church's founder Dr, Bishop Nash Shongwe, Sikhumbuzo and his sweetheart, Jabulile Nkonyane who is a daughter to the family that owns local hardware shops, Corban Hardware.

Glitz and glamour was further the epitome of the event as every guest present made sure to adhere to a glamorous theme, and so did the groom and bride, together with their entourages who did not fail to impress.

The groom was dressed in a pin-striped cream white suit, matching well with a waistcoat, whilst the bride equally looked stunning in her sleeveless, highneck princess wedding dress.



Although the event slated for 11am ended up starting an hour later, well-wishers did not regret any minute spent waiting for the eventful wedding that started with groomsmen arriving in an usual fashion to begin as they came in bikes contrary to using cars. It is worth noting that whilst all this happened, Her Royal Princess Sikhanyiso was also amongst those that had long settled down in the church in anticipation for the day's proceedings.

Podium

Eventually when the wait was over, programme directors, Swazi Observer Managing Editor, Mbongeni Mbingo and businesswoman, Nozipho Shabangu took to the podium for the wedding to begin.

This was shortly after the arrival of the bride with her bride maids which was met with excitement from well-wishers who could hardly wait for the grand march.

When the bridesmaids and groomsmen finally entered, the crowd could not hold themselves in excitement at the well-choreographed moves displayed by these parties, amongst which was Swazi TV's Siphesihle

Nkwanyana and Gospel Artist, Linda Dlamini. On the other hand, the groom walked in to with Andile KaMajola's *Nanoma Niyangibona* playing which had an emotional appeal due to the relevance of its message to the life of Sikhumbuzo who used to live an untoward life.

Marched

Sikhumbuzo came in escorted by his parents down the aisle where he exchanged pleasantries in appreciation for all they had done for him before the bride to entered the church.

The bride, Jabulile Nkonyane was walked down the aisle by her mother accompanied and grandfather who handed her over to Sikhumbuzo. The couple walked together towards the podium whilst women ululated with the men blowing whistles in appreciation of the pair. Thereafter, different speakers took turns making speeches directed to the couple.

Also present during the historic wedding were men of the cloth, South Africa's Apostle MS Mpungose, Apostle Robert Kasaro, Reverend Absalom Dlamini, Pastor Phetsa Dlamini, Reverend Johannes Mazibuko, but to name a few.



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CHRISTIANS CAN NOW 'SWIPE' THEIR OFFERINGS

STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU

BISHOP SMD Mathabela has introduced speed point facility for his congregants to swipe serious offerings because he does not need paltry offerings at his church.

The flamboyant Durban based Swazi preacher justified the electronic offerings by saying after all, he prayed for his congregants to have lots of money so that they can make good offerings which require the use of a speed point.

He also highlighted that he prays for unmarried women to get husbands as well as single men to get worthy wives.

Blessed

"God has also blessed me with the gift of healing the sick through prayer and the use of the special olive oil which I anoint," he said while speaking at Jesus Dominion Centre International where he was a guest speaker on Thursday night. The church was founded by Prophet Khulani Mamba who doubles as Chief Police Information and Communication Officer (CPICO).

The founder of Mathabela Prophetic Outreach said God's miracles should not be taken lightly and considered cheap highlighting that the consequences of living under a curse and non-progressive life was even more expensive. Mathabela,



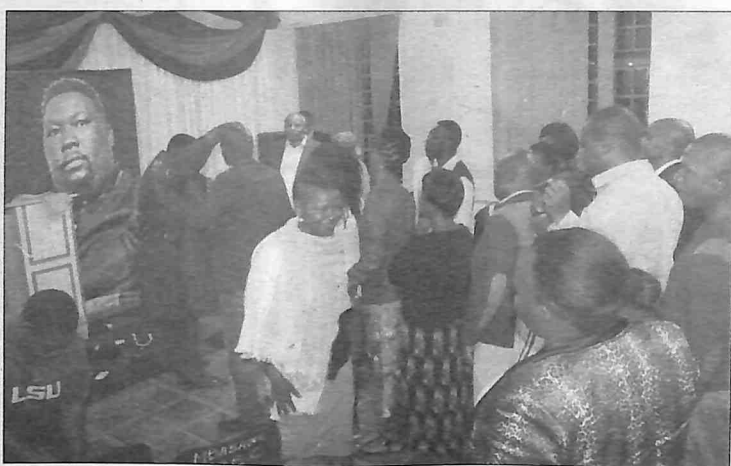
Swazi born Durban based Bishop SMD Mathabela preaching at the three Days of Glory seminar hosted by Prophet Khulani Mamba at the Jesus Dominion Centre International on Thursday. The services ended on a high note on Friday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

who is not apologetic and proudly said that he loved money said his experience in the ministry taught him that people always complain when they have to give offerings yet they pay handsomely for traditional healers and consultation with medical doctors. He noted that people have a tendency of expecting them as men of God to pray for their healing success for free. "Why is the same not expected from doctors because the wisdom they have to be able to complete their studies is also a gift from God. Why don't people expect the same from Doctors," he wondered. Meanwhile,

the three-day service was a great success, according to the host Prophet Khulani Mamba. He said they were blessed to have a man of God of Mathabela's calibre who preached the word of God in truth. He said many people were delivered during the three-day services, "Church services continue as usual at our place of fellowship at the youth centre every Sunday." Concerning Mathabela's messages of delivery, Mamba said, "We were blessed to have him and I am happy to say that on Friday we had a great service where a number of people were prayed for. We are expecting testimonies.



Founder of Jesus Dominion Centre International Prophet Khulani Mamba and congregants listening to the sermon.



Prophet Mathabela praying for the congregation.



Prphet SMD Mathabela ministering at the service.

Communication is key in marriages – Marriage Officers

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Communication is key in marriages. This is an assertion that has been made by the country's marriage officers regarding the use of conjugal rights by married women for bargaining when in dispute with their husbands.

They were particularly responding to questions posed by this reporter following reports of a man whose vehicle was burnt to ashes by his wife after he had engaged in a relationship with a secret lover because the former was allegedly depriving him of conjugal rights which she however denied.

President of the Alliance Church in Swaziland, Reverend Johannes Mazibuko said the withholding of conjugal rights by one partner was a sign of a problem in a relationship. He made reference to a human rights quote, "A right is never an issue until denied," which he said clearly illustrated the extent of the problem the use of conjugal rights to fight battles caused.

Mazibuko said that conflicts in marriages were an indication that there was someone who felt deprived in one way or the other

and that can be regarding sex, money or any other need.

He further pointed out that the family life was a chain and if one part of it was non-functional it meant that the rest of the chain would be affected and equally, "Just like a car, if one part is faulty then the car cannot move because these parts have to work together for the common goal," he said.

Rights

On the other hand, the President of the League of Churches, Bishop Samson Hlatshwako condemned the use of conjugal rights for bargaining. Equally, he condemned the damage to the husband's car in the case at hand for which he encouraged dialogue and said couples should report to their families if they had problems so that these can be discussed properly and a solution be further provided without going to the extent of damaging property.

However, he said it was unfortunate that most couples got married without the knowledge of their families hence it became a problem for them to involve their families in the event their marriage experienced challenges.

"Couples should not get to the extent of

destroying property and killing each other because of disputes that can be solved through dialogue," he said.

In addition, Hlatshwako condemned men from engaging in another relationship as means of solving their marital problems or rather to make their wives jealous.

Instead, he said couples should engage each other on matters that challenge the marriage before they can resort to other measures.

In furtherance, Bishop Stephen Masilela, the President of the Swaziland Conference of Churches said such a subject touched on emotions which when down, no one can be expected to engage in the exchange of such rights. Having said as much, he emphasised on the fact that couples should talk if they have problems so they find solutions to their challenges.

"We encourage couples to use dialogue instead of destroying assets when in dispute since whether there is or not a dispute these assets will be of good use to them," he said. Masilela also echoed the words of Mazibuko and Hlatshwako in making it clear that couples should talk to each other when they have problems and solve them amicably.

Getting clean water from sewage

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The over seven litres of water per toilet flush in the urban areas is seven litres less of clean drinking water. Where does this water mixed with waste go to? With the world commemorating World Water Day this past Wednesday, the Swaziland Water Services Corporation took time to educate on their endeavours to recycle water and reduce the negative impact of waste on the environment.

With the purpose of commemorating the day a means of focusing attention on the importance of fresh water and advocating for the sustainable management of fresh water resources, this year's theme was aptly aligned with looking at waste water as there is need to ensure that it does not contaminate fresh water sources.

Explaining how they manage waste water in order to keep fresh water sources clean, SWSC Public Affairs Manager Nomahlubi Matiwan explained that they operate eleven Waste Water Treatment Plants, the

largest being the Matsapha plant with a design hydraulic loading of 20 Megalitres/day.

"The Nhlambeni and Ezulwini Treatment Plants both have a design hydraulic loading of 10 Megalitres/day," she said.

She explained that three other plants employ bio-filtration technology while five are stabilisation ponds and with the remaining three activated sludge systems.

Plants

Detailing how the plants work she said the bio-filter system which is also known as the trickling filter starts its cleaning process by screening which is the removal of large solids through course, then fine screens.

Thereafter in sedimentation tanks, the process of removal of sludge and scum starts. During this process, water is retained for a period of time in the sedimentation tanks so that sludge sinks to the bottom and scum floats and these are then separated from the water. Having removed the sediments, the biological treatment of waste water then takes place.

HIGH DEMAND FOR SEX PILLS

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Swaziland has a robust sex pill free trade. This was evident from the visits to several pharmacies where sex pills and tea were publicly displayed and readily available over the counter without much questioning.

This then brings about the possibility that the E20 million sex pills that were seized at the O.R. Tambo airport this past week could have been possibly destined for Swaziland.

Even though local pharmaceutical distributors and wholesalers have denied ownership of these, but the Sunday Observer can reveal that there is an existing demand for the pleasure pills in the country as evident in an investigation carried out in a number of pharmacies around Mbabane.

According to reports from South Africa where they were seized, the shipment came from Bombay, India and was destined for Swaziland.

Out of three visited pharmacies, one was discovered to be a fully fledged sex shop and was sustained by selling these pills and therefore the volumes of such found in this particular shop brings about the possibility that indeed the seized consignment could have been headed to Swaziland, as per earlier reports.

Pills

Not only does this shop owned by foreign nationals sell sex pill and sex tea but special condoms amongst other things were notably in open display with the owner further asserting that these were in demand as most men came to his shop to buy them.

Queried about the usage of the pills, he said they varied in that they had different strengths and equally their process were also different as well with the least active costing a bit less than the most active. "These are very good and have a variable timeframe for their stay in the body and they also do not have any side effects," he said as he pointed to several other sex accessories on display in the counter. In this shop, the least expensive sex pill costs E20 each and they go up to E160 each.

Of note, all the accessories are inscribed in a foreign language and those who purchase them only rely on the sales assistant for information regarding their strength and how to use them, but to name a few.

In addition, apart from these foreign pharmacy shops, the pills are also sold in supermarkets run by particular nationals who will not be named for ethical reasons. In another pharmacy owned by locals, five different types with different strengths were availed to this reporter who had disguised as an interested buyer of the sex pills.

Although these were made available over the counter but the assistant took time to explain about

them before she could advise which ones would be suitable for the disguised reporter.

She made it clear that the sex pills were suitable for old men especially those with diabetes, however the young men also used them but on a doctor's prescription and often times the pills were abused because people now know them and they just come and ask for them. In this pharmacy they range from E30 to E60.

Pills

In the last pharmacy, a different set of pills was also availed ranging from E60 to E140 and were said to stay in the body for four days and were suitable to men of any age and do not have side effects either. Asked about the usage, the assistant said they were not good to be taken on a daily basis, but were best when used once in a while and not every time one wanted to enjoy sexual pleasures with their partners.

Meanwhile, this past week South African newspapers broke the news that nearly two tons of male sexual enhancement tablets worth E20.6m had been seized at OR Tambo International Airport.

This was after the South African Revenue Services (SARS) Customs officials intercepted a shipment at the transit shed containing 80 000 tablets and 126 000 "oral jellies" wrapped in brown sacks on Sunday. The shipment, weighing 1809kg, was handed to the Medicines Control Council for further investigation. The reports that the shipment was destined for Swaziland were denied by local pharmaceutical distributors, according to the Times of Swaziland.

The distributors were reported to have denied ownership of the sexual enhancement pills, arguing that before importing any pharmaceuticals into the country they notified the ministry of health. Meanwhile Traditionalist TV Mtsetfwa says Swazis have their own way of dealing with impotence. He said a man would visit the traditional healers who would give him herbs (*timbita*) or perform a ritual called *kuftombisa* if it was caused by the fact that it was not performed to him at his youthful stage. He said a man would go around asking for a traditional healer who knew how to do this ritual or the herbs for impotence. He lamented that there are fewer traditional healers who knows how to treat impotence. Director of health Services Dr Vusi Magagula said there is still no law that regulates such pills as they are still working on the Medicine and related Act since the Pharmacy and Poisons act current legislation being used is old and deficient. He says once the act has been finalised a Medicine Regulatory Authority (MRA) would be formed which will among other things register all medicines entering the country.



These sex accessories were found on open display at one of the pharmacies in the capital and this shop is seemingly sustained by the free trade of sex pills and teas. (Pics: Mloni Mpanza)



Swaziland Government

PRIVATE AND CABINET

IMPROVING PUBLIC SECTOR PERFORMANCE PROJECT (P152528)

VACANCIES

Background

The Government of Swaziland intends to embark on institutional reforms through the Improving Public Sector Performance Project that will be funded by the World Bank. Under the project, selected Ministries, Departments and Agencies will undertake a number of activities to respond to the government's goal of strengthening and improving efficiency in the public service. The project intends to cover the following areas: government wide performance management, strengthening payroll and performance management, strengthening public financial management, procurement and public enterprise management, as well as improving statistical capacity and data quality.

The project also intends to facilitate the government's renewed focus on improved public sector performance. Applications are invited from suitably qualified individuals for the following positions within the Project Support Team which will be based at the Private and Cabinet Office.

1. PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

Main Purpose of the Job: To ensure timely implementation of the procurement process in accordance to the procurement plan which will guarantee timely acquisition of goods, works and services. The selected individual is expected to play a key coordination role between all stakeholders in the procurement cycle. To ensure timely implementation of procurement activities (including the planning and implementation and supervision of all procurement operations) under the project in compliance with Bank procurement guidelines and as agreed in the Loan Agreement.

Qualification: Bachelor's degree with a major in a relevant discipline (e.g. Procurement, Finance, Business or Commerce) and relevant training in public procurement; Master's degree will be an advantage.

Experience: At least five (5) years of direct relevant work experience as Procurement Specialist including supervisory capacity, or alternatively, substantial work responsibilities in procurement dealing with World Bank and donor-financed projects. Good knowledge of concepts and principles of and approaches to international procurement, and public procurement systems.

Duration: This is a five year contract position. It will be an initial three-year engagement, subject to review with a possibility of extension for a further two years dependent on performance.

Scope of work

- Coordination Function for all the procurement activities under the Project.
- In consultations with the MDA's, prepare, review, adjust (where applicable) and monitor the implementation of the Project procurement plan.
- Ensure timely preparation/updates, and submissions of the project Procurement plans for review and approval of the World Bank.
- Ensure that procurement procedures prescribed in the Project Implementation Manual are followed.
- Verify that Procurement requests are in accordance to the approved Procurement Plan.
- In consultation with User Departments, prepare bidding documents for acquisition of goods, works and non-consulting services, and the RFP and RFP for consulting services.
- Take a lead in the bidding and selection processing of contracts under the project, including organising pre-bid or pre-proposal meetings, providing clarifications, coordinating the Receipt of bids/proposals, leading and participating in the opening of bids/proposals/expressions of interest
- Prepare and circulate to all User Directorates and contracts committee members the schedule for pre-bid meetings, pre-proposal meetings, and deadline for submission respectively, to ensure adequate planning for participation
- Ensure that clearance/No-objection(s) from World Bank are obtained if required
- Participate in Evaluation of Expression of Interest, Quotations, bids and Proposals for contracts under the project
- Preparation of Procurement progress reports at a minimum on monthly basis, highlighting among others the progress on processing various contracts, constraints met and any other issues that require Management attention;
- Report to the Project Coordinator of the PIT;
- Assist with any other relevant duties assigned.

2. SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Main Purpose Of The Job: Under the direction of the Project Coordinator, to manage and administrate various aspects of project accounting, financial budgeting and reporting in accordance with the World Bank's operations and accounting manual, ensuring that World Bank procedures and general accounting principles are followed.

Qualification: Bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, business, economics, or commerce plus professional accounting qualifications (CA, CPA, ACCA, CIMA). Master's degree will be an advantage

Experience: At least five (5) years of experience in accounting and financial management. Relevant knowledge of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) desirable. Knowledge of the Bank's accounting systems preferable and/or experience with accounting systems with a comparable level of complexity and high degree of integration.

Duration: This is a five year contract position. It will be an initial three-year engagement, subject to review with a possibility of extension for a further two years dependent on performance.

Scope of Work

- Maintain adequate financial management arrangements to support the deployment of project resources in an economic, efficient and effective manner to achieve the desired objective;
- Ensure that all accounting records and bank accounts are up to date;
- Establishing/enhancing systems of internal control (goods, consulting services, fixed assets);
- Prepare monthly bank reconciliation's for all bank accounts
- Together with the Project Implementation Team, maintain, develop, and update the Financial Procedures Manual on a regular basis;
- Establish/enhance systems of internal controls;
- Ensure compliance with World Bank's financial management requirements and Government's regulations;
- Ensure that all payments for the project are made in accordance with the approved budgeted/planned amounts as approved and comply with Loan Agreements and the laid down accounting procedures & operational guidelines;
- Ensure that all the payments vouchers are adequately supported with appropriate documentation, duly authorized for payment and properly filed to facilitate easy retrieval and referencing;
- Prepare timely withdrawal applications for replenishments to the designated account (DA) as well as direct payments to suppliers and/or contractors, in accordance with the laid down procedure guidelines.
- Provide leadership thoughts in the area of preparation of annual budgets and work plans together with the PIU;
- Preparing cash flow forecasts in consultation with the project coordinator;
- Accurate recording of all the Projects Fixed Assets in the Fixed Asset register (FAR) and subsequently carry out timely updates and reconciliation of all assets acquired for the Project.
- Ensure that all the Projects Fixed Assets are correctly identified & Physical verifications carried out on a regular basis to ascertain existence and condition(s) and that all fixed assets are adequately insured.
- Preparing quarterly internal financial reports and annual financial statements for the project;
- Ensure timely submission of relevant monthly and quarterly reports on project implementation to all stakeholders.
- Ensure timely submission of relevant monthly and quarterly reports on project implementation to all stakeholders.
- Liaise with the internal/external auditors and follow up any audit queries/management letters;
- Furnish the World Bank with certified copies of the financial statements, and opinion and report on such audited financial statement as and when undertaken by the auditors;
- In conjunction with the Project Coordinator and Project Team, monitor performance against agreed financial performance indicators.
- Perform any other tasks as may be assigned by Project Coordinator from time to time.

Applications: Submit a detailed copy of updated curriculum vitae, certified copies of certificates, and references. Electronic applications should be emailed and addressed to: The Under Secretary, Private and Cabinet Office phindilegamedze@gmail.com or jeleke@gov.sz no later than 5th April, 2017.

FASHION GALORE AT SIKHUMBUSO'S

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

It was indeed a celebrity's wedding at Pastor Sikhumbuzo and Jabulile Shongwe's wedding ceremony as family, friends, socialites,

celebrities, royalties, influencers, Cabinet ministers and pastors came dressed so perfectly well for the event.

Socialites

The bridal party included well-known socialites like Siphesihle Nkwanyane, Linda

Dlamini and Sibusiso 'Babes' Bhembe.

The programme directors included former Miss Swaziland and businesswoman Nozipho Shabangu who left attendees in stitches of laughter with their comments and ran the pro-

gramme smoothly.

Although the event started

fashionably late, it was beautiful and filled with laughter.

There was also a host of pastors and bishops in attendance.



Bridesmaids upon arrival at Sikhumbuzo and Jabulile's wedding yesterday at the Divine Healing Ministry. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



The groomsmen were well suited-up at the ceremony.



Lindo Nkonyane looking all sorts of fine at the wedding. RIGHT - Bawinile Matimela looked stunning in her beautiful tailored dress.

PIGG'S PEAK



TOWN COUNCIL

P.O. Box 479, Pigg's Peak, Swaziland
Tel: 437 1720 Fax: 437 1720

IMPROVEMENT IN SERVICES AND
QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH UNITY

RATES ASSESSMENT NOTICE FOR THE PERIOD

1ST APRIL 2017 – 31ST MARCH 2018

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 27 (1) of the Rating Act of 1995 that Council has levied the following differential rates for properties in the Pigg's Peak Valuation Roll.

Private Properties

Residential:

Land Vacant	0.99%
On Developed Land	0.79%
Improvement	0.55%
Refuse Fees @ E150 per unit per year	

Commercial Properties

Land Vacant	4.32%
On Developed Land	3.40%
Improvement	1.41%
Refuse Fees @ E300 per unit per year	

Commercial Residence:

Land Vacant	3.19%
On Developed Land	2.46%
Improvement	0.68%
Refuse Fees @ E150 per unit per year	

Government Properties

Residential:

Land Vacant	6.35%
On Developed Land	6.35%
Improvement	6.35%
Refuse Fees @ E300 per unit per year	

Due Date: The rates are due and payable on the 31st May 2017. Rates bills will be sent to property owners through their last known postal addresses before the end of April 2017. A penalty of 15% per annum shall become payable for any rates remaining unpaid after the expiry of two (2) months from the date the rates become due and payable as provided by Section 30 of the Rating Act.

Payment of rates by installments

The Act permits payment of rates by installments. Ratepayers who wish to make use of this facility are advised to contact the Office of the Town Treasurer as soon as they receive their notices.

Notification of Addresses

Property owner's attention is drawn to Section 37 (4) and (5) of the Act which reads thus:

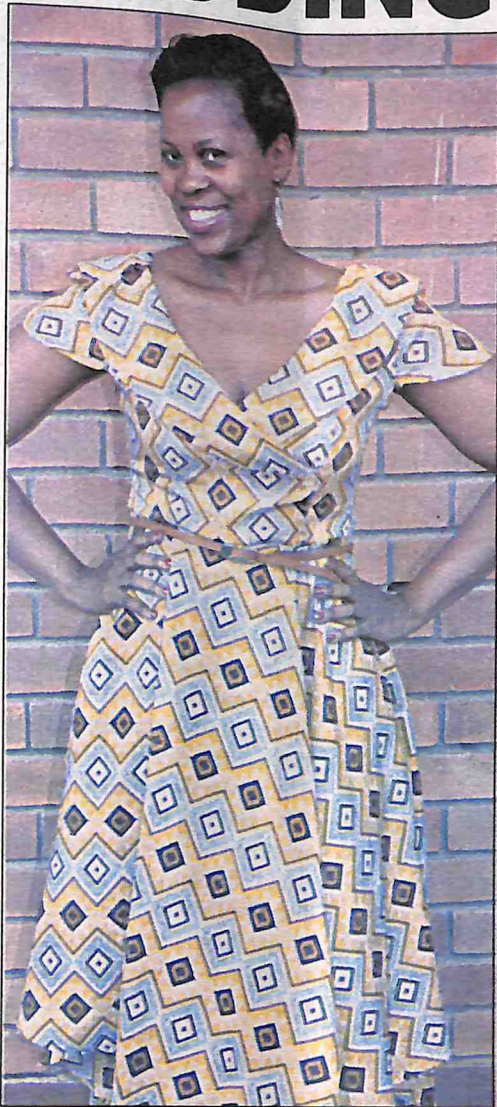
The owner of any movable property shown in the valuation roll shall notify the local authority of his postal address within two weeks of acquiring such property and thereafter, within two weeks of any change of his postal address. An owner who fails to comply with subsection (4) shall be guilty of an offence.

Please Note:

All property owners who, by the 30th April 2017, would have failed to furnish Council with their postal addresses where their bills should be sent will have their names and the rates balances published in the local newspapers.

MZWANDILE NDZINISA
TOWN CLERK/CEO

WEDDING



Sisusa Dlamini looked simple yet classy.



The newlyweds Sikhumbuzo and Jabulile Shongwe walking down the aisle.



Nompendulo Dlamini in Xhosa regalia.



The elders Sipho Dlamini, Lutfo Dlamini and Bishop Nash Shongwe well suited up.



Programme Director Former Miss Swaziland and businesswoman Nozipho Shabangu kept the audience entertained.



KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND

Your Health Is Your Wealth, start ARVs Now

Regardless
of your
CD4 count



Test For HIV Start ARVs Early



RATING ACT HEADACHE

BY MLONDI MPANZA

The decision to auction the property for owing ratepayers by municipalities has sparked a debate from parliamentarians who believe this is wrong and should be treated differently.

These are the parliamentarians whose perimeter is within that of municipalities; Mbabane and Manzini.

This is particularly because amongst

the owing ratepayers are vulnerable groups such as the elderly and orphaned children who struggle with rates and further stand to lose the only thing they have.

Properties

The debate is also based on the questionable Rating Act which is the tool municipalities are waving as the instrument that gives them the right to auction properties, despite that this very same act has been challenged twice in

court and it lost on both occasions.

Once more, the debate was this past week sparked by reports that the Municipal Council of Mbabane has set out to auction properties whose owners are owing rates on Friday, something which the likes of Esther Dlamini, Mbabane East Member of Parliament, Johane Shongwe, Mbabane West MP and Jan Sithole who is the Manzini North MP.

Interviewed in the past week, here is what they said;

...Politicians have to respect rule of law – Jan

Manzini North Member of Parliament, Jan Sithole pointed out that the government and politicians had a duty to respect the rule of law.

This is to say; if a matter has been decided upon by the country's courts, that decision had to be respected, particularly by the two parties as they form part of the three arms of government which are expected to work together in harmony.

His sentiments were with reference to the case of the Rating Act which has been 'thrown out of the window' on two occasions after it had been challenged in court and thus putting in a questionable state which the parliamentarian believes should be respected.

Sithole explained that, "If a judgment orders that an issue be discussed in another forum, that should just be that and it should be respected."

However, if the government feels otherwise about the case of the Rating Act, then there is a need to come up with another legislation that will cover the interests of the different vulnerable groups so that everyone is accommodated.

In the event the government did not respect the rule of law, then there is something, said the MP as he condemned the action of going against the ruling of the court with reference to the Rating Act and the ministry of housing and urban development.

It is worth noting that the ministry's Minister, Phiywayinkhosi Mabuza is on

record to have said the Municipal Council of Mbabane had all the rights to auction the properties of wing ratepayers. This is despite the fact that the Act still awaits amendments, having also lost twice in court, but he holds that it is acceptable for the Council to use this instrument in carrying out the auction.

The minister was in fact further reported by our sister paper, the Swazi Observer daily to have asserted that was the only instrument the Council had to force people to pay their rates. But, Sithole thinks otherwise. He thinks no Cabinet minister has the right to go against the court, instead he should rather appeal it through the rightful procedures and use the proper channels and not be seen to be going against it in the public domain.

...Government is insensitive – Inalda Jorge

Manzini resident and ratepayer, Inalda Antonio Jorge has said that it was insensitive of the government to expect the elderly to pay rates of E4000 when the elderly grant is only E2400 yearly. She said to note such from the government was saddening whilst the Parliament continues to be silent on the thorny topic that should have long been addressed with regards to the amendment of the Rating Act.

Jorge said in her constituency, 80 per cent of the residents were made up of women, whilst 30 per cent were elderly people who can hardly afford the rates by councils.

"We have two MP's within our vicinity who have not done enough to make sure the matter is addressed in Parliament," she said referring to Manzini South MP, Owen Nxumalo and Manzini North MP Jan Sithole.

She explained that it was unfair for them to let other people enrich

themselves at the expense of the populace instead of empowering them.

On another note, she said she could not respond to the case of the act being 'thrown out of the window,' by the courts because she was an employee of the court.

However, she emphasised that there was a strong need for the amendment of the Rating Act in such a way that it accommodates the vulnerable groups in the country.

There is no legislation giving Council right to auction – MP Esther

Considering the fact that the Rating Act has been challenged twice and lost both cases, MP Esther Dlamini argues that the Council basically has no legislation giving them the right to attach and auction these properties.

She asserts that even if this act can be challenged in court yet again, it would still lose the case as she justified why she believed the act was non-functional.

The Mbabane East MP further revealed that she had a meeting with the minister where she sought clarity about the Rating Act as it needed to be addressed considering that it had been challenged twice in court and still lost.

Basically, Dlamini wanted to know what the way forward was for which she alleged Minister Mabuza responded by stating that he had not said the council should attach people's properties, instead he claimed to have told them to continue collecting the rates from all ratepayers.

In her own eyes, the Member of Parliament believes this was a complex statement which can be interpreted as basically supporting the council in attaching and

auctioning owing ratepayer's properties.

"I further asked him when he was going to take the legislation to Parliament so it can be deliberated on but I later learnt that in the ministry's performance report he had asserted he would be starting the act afresh to cover all the aspects," explained Dlamini.

However, when the same question was posed to the minister later on he is said to have changed tune and revealed that he would be taking the act to court for the third time to appeal the decision from all the two lost cases.

Such a decision has therefore been met with shock by the legislator who wonders why the minister would rather go this route when all he had to do was amend it so that it covers everyone's interests.

The minister is further alleged to have said that it was within his mandate to repel the decision, whilst Dlamini on the other hand is shocked how the courts are even giving the minister this kind of attention as he keeps on getting orders whenever he went to court over an issue that can be solved by taking it to Parliament.

I have tried helping the owing ratepayers but – MP Johane

Meanwhile, Mbabane West MP Johane Shongwe said that the ratepayers did not cooperate with him in addressing this matter.

He said if they had listened to him he would have long put the matter to bed as he made numerous means to get bring these people together so they can discuss the matter but none of them came forth.

Shongwe said he has previously met with the Council's Chief Executive Officer, Gideon Mhlango on the same subject whereupon the latter pointed out that he was open to listen to offers regarding how much these individuals could afford towards the rates so they could structure up an agreement.

Subsequent to that, Shongwe claims to have written letters to each and every ratepayer within his constituency to come forward so they

can go and meet the CEO.

But, unfortunately none of these people came to him and now they were on the verge of losing their properties with the auctioning sale billed for the end of the month by the council.

Situation

"People are in this situation because of distancing themselves from myself as their MP," he said as he explained that the reason he had taken the initiative to go to Mhlango was because he was of the understanding that some of these people had no money at all hence they had to bring heads together to find a way forward which in this case never materialised.

He also pointed out that he had hoped the matter would be brought to Parliament for discussion but up to date it has not been brought by the ministry of housing.

Rating Act faulty – Mbabane Ratepayers

Mbabane ratepayers who stand to lose their properties believe that the Rating Act was faulty.

Therefore, this makes them wonder what gives the council the right to auction their properties for owing rates.

This was said by the Mbabane Ratepayers Association Chairman, Solomon Nxumalo in an interview with this newspaper.

Nxumalo said they were yet to meet with the minister and inquire about such since they were of the impression the council should be

following Parliament's motion on the matter which called for the address of the issue of vulnerable groups and the amendment of the Act itself.

This was because the Act is not in line with the kingdom's constitution and further rendered the Rating Act a challenge to work with in the absence of the amendments to make it relevant.

Nxumalo explained that the current Act had a lot of interests as he made an example that one may be owing around E10 000 but due to these interest rates one ended up

having to pay something around E15 000 which was unfair to them as ratepayers.

He further added that they were Swazi's and not going anywhere so they did not understand why they were being put under so much pressure as if they would run away.

He said it was however unfortunate that the councillors who represented them in the council had no properties so they were not feeling the pinch they were feeling as property owners.

In fact he said, "Our cries just fall on deaf ears," as he added that the



matter should just be dealt with in peace and they were not picking up any fights with anyone.

The chairman also pointed out that they had met as ratepayers last week Saturday and they were really not happy with how things were

being done at present moment.

"It is unfair because the elderly are the foundation of the capital and in fact the city found them already living here when it was developed but now they are looked down upon," he concluded.

MALAGWANE FRUSTRATION

DIRECT ALTERNATIVE ROUTE OUT OF THE CAPITAL?

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

Amid the concerns of not having an alternative direct route out of the capital towards the Manzini direction, the ministry of public works and transport has owned up to the problem and said that they were aware of the need to come up with an alternative route.

However, this has been grounded by financial constraints, although the ministry is considering on conducting a study to find out where and how a direct alternative route can be constructed, according to the Principal Secretary, Makhosini Mndawe.

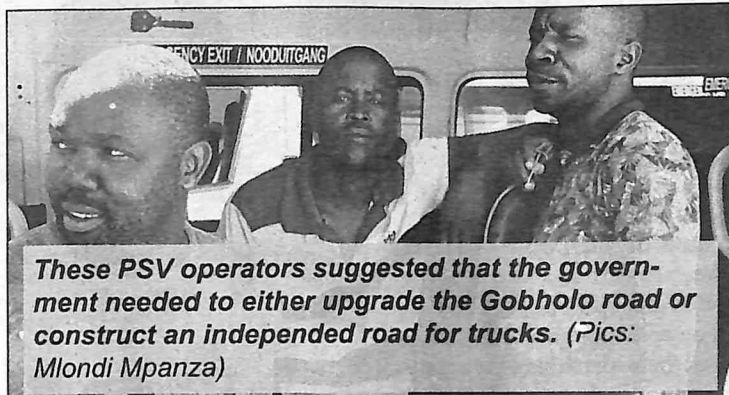
Presently, motorists have to either drive all the way via Mhlambanyatsi, Bhunya just to get to Ezulwini and Manzini or brace the frustration of driving through the gravel Gobholo – Buka route and vice-versa.

Mndawe told the Sunday Observer that there was a need for a route alignment study in order to find the best and safest way for the construction of the direct alternative route, although he did not want to commit if that would be the Gobholo route or the study would lead them to a better route besides this one.

"We are aware that there is no direct route to Mbabane except for the highway which goes all the way from Manzini straight to Mbabane. However, we do have indirect routes which also lead to the same destination namely; the Mhlambanyatsi – Bhunya route or the Gobholo route," said Mndawe.

Although he acknowledged that these might not be in the best of stan-

...The ministry of public works and transport is considering conducting a study to find a direct alternative route out of the capital apart from driving on the MR3 highway through the Malagwane hill which proves to be a challenge in the event of an accident.



These PSV operators suggested that the government needed to either upgrade the Gobholo road or construct an independent road for trucks. (Pics: Mloni Mpanza)

dards but he said they can be used in the event there was a challenge accessing the direct route via MR3 highway.

Jam

His comments come after they witnessed traffic jam of over six hours at Malagwane after a truck had overturned due to braking system malfunctioning and it blocked both lanes driving out of the capital to areas such as Ezulwini and Manzini.

Motorists had to either go via the said indirect routes as the police worked tirelessly in trying to clear the road and control the traffic that started from the central business district both from the side of Mhlambanyatsi and Gobholo.

Having taken place around midday

last week Friday, the road was finally cleared late at night when most motorists had taken to the alternatives whilst some had the patience of waiting for the police to clear up the road.

Long queues were also witnessed at the Mbabane Bus Rank where frustrated commuters waited for transport to take them to their various destinations which had been stuck in traffic on all three routes.

Meanwhile, the PS further pointed out that during accidents there were response teams that were responsible for making sure that no further damage is done.

These are the likes of the Royal Swaziland Police, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Swaziland National

Fire and Emergency Services (SNFES) who were expected to be there as soon as an accident happened in order to control traffic, amongst the many responsibilities.

He said all these measures were put in place to ensure that accidents were controlled and did not end up causing further damage.

On another note, one of the most critical challenges of the non availability of a direct route or rather a bypass is that during accidents along Malagwane, they normally end up with high traffic jams that have over the years ended tragically.

One of disastrous accidents in the country's history caused by the absence of a reliever route is that which took place two years ago where over 20 cars burnt to ashes.

The accident was reportedly caused by a truck contracted to now defunct Salgaocar Company which had developed mechanical faults and led to a temporal road closure for the traffic flowing out of the capital.

The road closure then caused a traffic jam during the peak hour when people were heading out on the city in the afternoon and subsequently saw a runaway truck ferrying coal from South Africa ploughing into the traffic at Mnyamatsini area at the foot of Malagwane.

...Ministry condemns rise of accidents

On another note, Mndawe condemned the rise in accidents over the past couple of months in the country.

He appealed to drivers to drive safely, to keep good observations of all road signs, as well as respect the speed limits.

As a ministry of public works and transport, the principal secretary said they were concerned with the number of accidents taking place in the country's roads.

Of note, in less than seven days the country has witnessed three accidents being the truck that lost control last week Friday in Malagwane, another that happened on Tuesday in Pigg's Peak which claimed the life of a four year old and the last one reported to have been on Wednesday where a kombi lost control and hit an electricity pole around Hhelehhele, although there were no fatalities.

"It is not a good thing that every day we witness accidents in the country that threaten the human life and we request people not to over-speed nor overtake in areas where they are not supposed to," he added.

Lastly, he revealed that they would soon be calling for a stakeholders meeting where they will seek for a way forward in order to curb the rising accidents.

At-least one hour for driving via Gobholo – Buka

It took at least around an hour for the news crew from this newspaper to drive from Mbabane to Buka via the Gobholo road, the route which motorists had to use as means of getting to their destinations last week Friday.

This was after a truck accident in the only direct route out of the capital, specifically in Malagwane that saw the road being closed for the better part of the day and left motorists with no alternative but to seek for other ways out.

Therefore, they either had to wait in the traffic jam, drive via Mhlambanyatsi or via Gobholo, with the latter routes proving to be the favourable options.

It is for that reason that this newspaper went out to drive in the Gobholo route where it was discovered to be in a bad state with PSV operators on the other hand calling for the government to upgrade it to a better standard to serve as the official alternative route out of Mbabane.

Whilst driving through the bumpy road, it was noted that it had a couple of steep hills that caused a challenge to most motorists, however one had been upgraded thanks to an effort by community members working together with the ministry of public works and transport.

Further, the state the road is in does not allow for motorists to drive at high speed since there are a number of places where good driving skills are put to test in the negotiation for a better road.

From Msunduzi until Gobholo, the road is a single carriage and its motorists can hardly pass each other with those coming from the direction of Gobholo having to drive up the steep hill at high speed and in the process posing danger to those going in the opposite direction.

There are also a couple of low level bridges which during heavy rains might prove to be impossible to cross which in the event the government decides to rehabilitate this road will have to be changed.

On average, through the whole one hour journey the news crew noted that there traffic flow ranged around five vehicles driving on the road, hourly.

On another note, the one hour drive to by-pass Malagwane via Gobholo then makes the whole trip to Manzini to be around one and a half hours when it is normally half an hour through Malagwane.

'Upgrade Gobholo road or construct separate lane for trucks'

Public service vehicle drivers want the government to either upgrade the Gobholo road or construct a separate lane for heavy motor vehicles along Malagwane to make sure that even if there was a truck accident the rest of the traffic will not be affected.

They said this on Thursday when interviewed about the frustrations they faced in cases where the highway had to be closed along the Malagwane hill for which they said was a great setback to them.

"The road closure greatly affected us in that we have a daily target of trips we set out to achieve daily, however on this fateful day we could not meet them because of the accident that subsequently led to the road closure," said one driver.

As a result, he said they could not meet the target for their employers as they spent over six hours stuck in the traffic in Malagwane.

They said the closure of the hill was synonymous to the country being held hostage as this means there is no movement in and out of Mbabane from the Manzini directions.

It is for such reasons that they called



for a separate lane to be constructed specifically for trucks and probably join with the highway around Mvutjini where the trucks would have successfully descended the hill without causing any frustrations to other motorists.

Another driver added that the Gobholo road was in a bad state and needed to be upgraded first so it can be used as an alternative.

"On the day of the accident, I preferred to go via Mhlambanyatsi than Gobholo because as much as it is shorter but it is in a very bad state

hence it also brings about the same frustrations," he said.

He also stated that whilst they appreciate the effort of the police in coming up with a contingency plan by means of allowing motorists to use the other lane to drive up and down but they were also delayed by the passage of the SADC delegates whom they had to make way for.

At some point he said he was told to leave the highway despite having gone all the way to connect at Mangwaneni hence he ended up taking the Mhlambanyatsi route.

The drivers said, "The Gobholo road should be tarred all the way to Manzini and it would provide the perfect alternative out of the city because more accidents are still going to happen in Malagwane and equally there will be more inconveniences brought by such."

They however noted that accidents were not only caused by trucks but motorists too also caused them so it was not cast in stone who would create an accident but it was important to make sure that a plan was put in place for events like this.

FNB FOUNDATION DONATES E2MILLION

STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU

First National Bank (FNB) has donated over E2 million back to society through different donations in the past year alone.

This was revealed by the FNB Foundation Chairman Dennis Mbingo who is also the Chief Executive Officer of the bank.

He said this at the Lozitha Royal Palace on Friday when presenting a vehicle to Hospice at Home whose patron is Inkhosikati LaNgangaza. The vehicle donation comes with a two-year service plan and insurance from the bank which makes the donation to be a sum of E500 000. Mbingo said as a bank, they were proud to be associated with Hospice at Home, an organisation which has over the years proved to be responsible with integrity and good values. He noted that the organisation had challenges in past years, something which he said they were convinced was a thing of the past.

"It is with gratitude and humility that we enjoy your presence today. Despite the fact that as a leader and mother, the demands upon your time may be endless, it is notable that you found it befitting to continue supporting our Hospice friends. The FNB Foundation has been in existence for just under two years. However, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm of the bank has been informally in existence for almost as long as the bank has been around," he said.

He added that the long-standing rela-



Swaziland Hospice at Home Patron, Inkhosikati LaNgangaza posing with FNB management and the board of the Swaziland Hospice at Home during the donation of a car to Hospice at Home by the FNB Foundation at Lozitha Royal Palace on Friday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

tionship between the bank and the organisation would continue as long as the organisation displays a trust, integrity, accountability and respect especially for their brand and assets donated by the corporate for the use of the organisation. "We have a long association with Hospice at Home and have always recognised the strong chain of 'Help' and 'Kindness' that links the Swaziland organisation to similar ones around the world. The record and reputation of the Global Hospice brand in home based care are difficult to challenge. And it is with this in mind that the challenges the Swaziland chapter of Hospice at Home has faced in recent years touched us deeply. We have been blessed enough to enjoy a lot

of what this beautiful country has to offer. But there are Swazis who endure a daily struggle to see the sun, or enjoy a warm meal, or laugh without feeling pain. They are part and parcel of the fibre of this great nation and cannot, should not, be forgotten," he noted.

He urged the leadership of the organisation to respect and honour the friendship they have with the bank. "We might sometimes seem to be young and funky but we have fundamental values we are neither able nor willing to compromise. I can say that the FNB Foundation has trusted you enough to stand behind you and to link our brand and reputation in the manner we see today. I know you will not let us down" he said.



FNB's Vivi Nxumalo presenting a gift to Inkhosikati LaNgangaza.



Minister Lindiwe Dlamini represented her counterpart of the ministry of health.



FNB CEO Dennis Mbingo making his remarks.

Sharp increase of cancers diagnosed - Minister of health

Minister of health Sibongile Ndelela-Simelane, who was represented by Minister of works Lindiwe Dlamini, said there was a rise in the number of cancer related cases in the country among the Swazi populace.

She said the work done by Hospice at Home catered for such cases as

the organisation offers palliative care for terminally ill patients. "The work done by the organisation is critical as they cater for the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of clients diagnosed with cancers.

Increase

As a ministry, we have seen a sharp increase in the number of

cancer cases being diagnosed among our people.

The leading cancers include cervix, cancer of the breast and prostate cancer. A large proportion of our clients are diagnosed during the late stages of cancer or experience delays in accessing treatment resulting in them need-

ing palliative care. We have over the years relied on services provided by hospice in addition to the services offered by our hospitals" she said.

Effectively

She said the ministry will ensure that the organisation continues to operate effectively and benefit

more Swazi people who need their services.

She said a new director to lead the organisation had been appointed adding that she was currently rebuilding the team to take the organisation to greater heights.

She thanked the FNB Foundation and SMVA for the donations adding that these would go a long way in ensuring that the organisation continues to grow.

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MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTIFICATION OF CONTRACT AWARDED BY CONSULTANTS' QUALIFICATIONS SELECTION

Name of Project: Swaziland Local Government Project ID: PQ95232

Project Name: MBABANE/SLGP/CONS/001/2016-The Construction Supervision of Ncoboza Road Phase I

Consultants Name: Bicon Consulting Engineers Contract Date: March 2017

Procurement Method: Consultants' Qualifications Selection (CQS)

Contract Price: E 727,335.68

Duration: 6months

Scope of Contract: To provide engineering services needed to ensure that the work is carried out with quality and cost effectiveness in accordance with the conditions, drawings and specifications, and within the programme and budget for the construction contract. The services are to assist the Council in pre-contract services and to supervise the Rehabilitation of Ncoboza Road Phase I

GIDEON MHLONGO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Inkoshikati LaNgangaza making her remarks while Minister Lindiwe Dlamini and Nomcebo Mbhamali look on.

Inkoshikati LaNgangaza grateful to King, government

Inkoshikati LaNgangaza has expressed her appreciation to His Majesty King Mswati III and the government for recognising Hospice at Home and including them in the list of non-governmental organisations which receive a subvention from government.

She said the support His Majesty has extended to the organisation's activities was highly appreciated adding that it was one of the many reasons that made her resilient

and ensure that the organisation continue to offer assistance to the terminally ill.

"May I applaud His Majesty and his government for the support towards the activities of Hospice at Home" she said.

She also wished the FNB Foundation to grow from strength to strength and help more people across the country.

She also thanked The Swaziland Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVA) for

associating with the organisation stating that with this kind of assistance from stakeholders, the organisation will continue being of an advantage to the people who need it most.

Meanwhile, the New Director, Zodwa Gamedze, thanked the patron for the support she has always given them and the wise leadership and advice she always gives to them as a team which has been tasked with taking the organisation forward.



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTIFICATION OF CONTRACT AWARDED BY NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Name of Project: Swaziland Local Government Project ID: PO95232

Bid/Contract Description: MBABANE/SLGP/001/2016- The Rehabilitation of Ncoboza Road Phase I

Scope of Contract: Removal of unsuitable material, construction of subgrade, pavement layers, asphalt and of drains, installation of kerbs and sleeves.

Duration: 4 months

Contract Signature Date: March 2017

Awarded Bidder		
Name & Address of awarded bidder	Bid price at bid opening	Final bid price
Stefanutti Stocks (Pty)Ltd P.O. Box 1181 Matsapha, Swaziland	E9,452,633.30	E10,679,588.36

Evaluated Bidder(s)		
Name of evaluated bidder(s)	Bid price at bid opening	Bid price of evaluated bid
Heptagon Company(Pty)Ltd	E10,644,020.97	E11,899,527.08
Afrotim Construction(Pty) Ltd	E10,584,100.88	E11,831,866.28
Stefanutti Stocks Construction(Pty)Ltd	E9,452,633.30	E10,679,588.36
Du-Van Developers(Pty)Ltd	E11,756,565.91	E12,911,516.37
Roots Civils(Pty)Ltd	E12,882,345.41	E14,127,397.26
Pots Construction (Pty)Ltd	E11,187,617.43	E12,599,818.43
Heptagon Company(Pty)Ltd	E10,644,020.97	E11,899,527.08
Afrotim Construction(Pty) Ltd	E10,584,100.88	E11,831,866.28

Rejected Bidder(s)		
Name of rejected bidder(s)	Bid price at bid opening	Reason(s) for rejection
Kukhanya Civil Engineering Contractors (Pty) Ltd	E14,863,952.17	The wording on the bid security is not consistent with the text provided in the bid documents

GIDEON MHLONGO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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SCHOOL WITHOUT CLEAN WATER

...despite water project located 300m away

STORIES BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

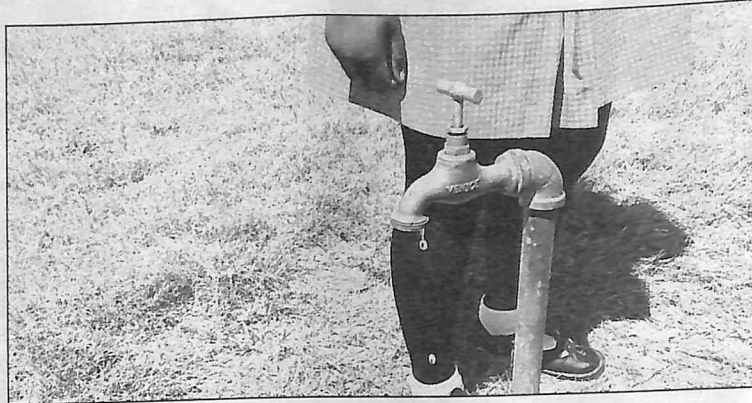
While the country was celebrating the World Water Day on 22 March which focused on the importance of clean water for everyone; pupils and teachers from Mavula High School had nothing to celebrate as they do not have clean water.

The school has an enrolment of nearly 200 pupils

Rainy days are the worst as one cannot differentiate whether it is water or orange squash juice that they drink, use to cook and do their laundry. They get water from the nearest river which is ferried by a tanker which then fills one of the five tanks at the school. The other four tanks have been empty for over two years and have remained unused as they have not been able to get water nearby. The two teachers staying in the school also depend on the same tank for household use. This tank usually last the school about two weeks.

Despite that the water tanks supplying the whole of Sihhoye area are located 300 metres away from the school it still does not benefit from it. The school paid for the water but is still forced to use dirty water which is directly taken from the nearby river because of the unreliability of the community water. Even though some homesteads have water on Thursday the school does not have water coming from the tap connected to the scheme. A senior teacher and some pupils said it was not a new thing that the community reports to have water while the school does not have any water supply.

A former member of the committee that runs the water scheme disputed that the school was not getting water as she said it was only affected just like the rest of the community when they fail to foot the electricity bill. When told that this team had been from the school and had witnessed that the school does not have water she argued that there was a problem



A water tap from Mavula High School where they have a shortage of water.

with the school's pipes and stated that sometimes naughty children switch off the valves supplying certain areas including the one supplying the school.

She said if people did not get water while others were getting water, they should consult David Masango who is responsible for fixing such problems as he is paid E550 per month for this service.

Masango when contacted admitted that the school hardly receives water due to the fact that the tap is near the

tanks yet the system feeds the furthest pipes first which disadvantages the school.

"The school receives water but on rare occasions and scarcely because it is located near the water plant and a proposal was made to the engineers to come and make another route to supply the school but this has not been approved hence the school suffers," he said. The chairman of the scheme Michael Nkambule explained that the water was being rationed among the

three areas with each getting the water for three days. He said in as far as he was concerned, the school received the water said the school received water but not in the same days as area one which is Mkhwakweni rather on the days which the other areas received water being Sundays to Tuesday evenings. This he said was as a result of the fact that the school's pipes were connected with the other areas being Mankontjane and Makhabeni. "They are getting water, they last had water on Tuesday at six in the evening since they are connected to a pipe that crosses to the other areas," asked about the tanks that were empty yet connected to the plant Nkambule said the school failed to connect their tanks properly and that the last time he checked only one tank was receiving water from the main pipe. "I even commented that it was not good for the other tanks to be empty and asked them to tie them well as they were vulnerable to being swept by winds," he added.

Mavula High School head teacher disputed that the school received water except for the first six months when the project was launched in 2010. He said Nkambule was being economic with the truth as he was aware that the school purchases water as the system was faulty and that the school never receives water from the system. "Unemanga lomunfu lomdzala bengembatsisa mangitsi kuyamphosisakela," said Dlamini meaning the elder is misleading I was sugarcoating when I said he was mistaken.

Parents demand answers on why school still not fenced

Parents are frustrated by the lack of fencing for the school as this does not only compromise the safety and security of the school but also disrupts classes as livestock get into the school anytime.

Another challenge is that the school cannot introduce agriculture while it is not fenced and due to the shortage of water.

Parents wanted the school to be fenced about two years ago as they even contributed E50 towards purchasing fence but till today the school is unfenced.

It is said that the parents held a

meeting as they were concerned about the security of the school and property where they decided that the school should be fenced.

It was in that meeting that the parents pledged to contribute the E50 towards fencing of the school and selected a treasurer and a secretary for this task.

The parents then kept their word as they contributed the agreed amount. However, today they are disappointed because the school is still not fenced and they have not been refunded their contributions.

While other parents blame the head

teacher for not working with the parents to fence the school, some blame the selected members as they accuse them of disappearing with their contributions.

"Yes parents did pay the E50 for the fencing, we don't know what happened thereafter to the money as the money was collected in 2015 but as you can see the school is still without a fence," said a parent who identified herself as Make Masango.

Another parent said it was the head teacher who was to blame for this issue as he was the one who should have ensured that the school was

fenced. "You don't know this man, he said we must contribute the E50 and the school would be fenced and we contributed but till today there is no fence, my child is about to complete school now and he was in Form Two then," complained Masuku another parent.

A senior teacher at the school Bongikhosi Khumalo stated fencing of the school would be a good thing had the funds permitted.

He said assistance would be appreciated as they were disturbed by livestock.

He also highlighted that fencing would enhance the safety for both the pupils and school property. He said this made it hard to recognise

and discipline late comers as the pupils come from all directions.

The head teacher said he distanced himself from the fencing issue which was initiated by the former school committee. When asked for contact numbers he said he did not have the secretary or the treasurer's contact numbers. Asked if he was considering fencing the school with the current committee, Dlamini stated the school could not afford to purchase the fence as it was very expensive, citing that the last quotation amounted to about E180 000 for the material excluding labour.

Dlamini added he would rather add classes and teachers' quarters with that kind of money if he had it.

Communities seek help to complete 12 Neighbourhood Care Points

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

With the rise in the number of Orphaned and Vulnerable children (OVCs) along with missing children, communities under Sigwe constituency are requesting for assistance to finish 12 incomplete Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs).

These facilities were established and supported by different organisations which left them incomplete citing that the funds that were allocated for these structures were finished. These include the NCPs located at the following areas: Mashekesheni, Mpakeni, Gushede, Makhava, Emphelamandla, Mbava, Mbolweni, Lompala, Nkalonde, Kujabuleni and Mgijija. The community says these facilities would be helpful in safe keeping the children as they will not only be a centre for feeding the children but could also help in early childhood education (ECD) and psychosocial support.

Other women said they would even be used as a day care, where they would be able to leave their children when going to

work knowing they are safe under supervision as opposed to leaving them alone at home where they could be at risk.

The National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA) confirmed having been engaged about constructing some facilities in the country through the aid of funding sourced from the global fund. NERCHA Communications Officer Busi Dlamini explained that her organisation was responsible for the construction of Gogo centres while UNICEF was responsible for the construction of the NCPs. She also said NERCHA did assist in some of the NCPs.

"The country received funding to support the construction of NCPs in different parts of the country. Some were completed. Unfortunately the funding got finished just before some of the NCPs were completed," she revealed.

Dlamini further stated the ministry of tinkhundla administration and development and NERCHA are frantically looking for resources to complete these important structures and it was appealing for the communities to also participate in this

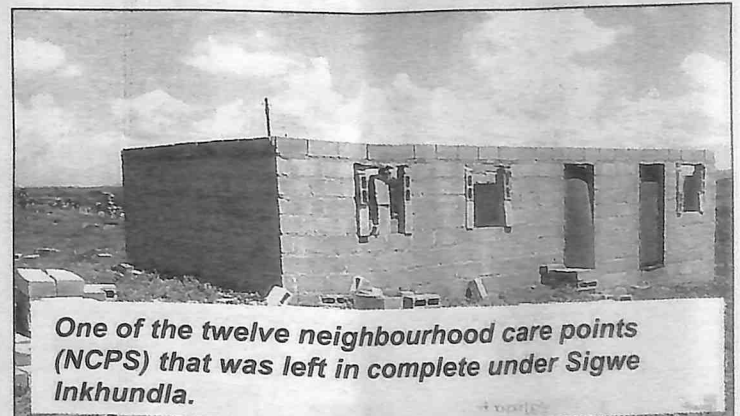
efforts. "NERCHA appreciates the vigilance these communities have on the resources already spent on these uncompleted structures," she added.

UNICEF Communication Specialist Nonhlanhla Hleta-Nkambule responding to a questionnaire sent by this publication admitted that her organisation was at some point involved in the construction of the NCPs. She highlighted that UNICEF was not the only partner that supported NCP construction as there were other partners who supported this initiative. "In 2003 to 2005 UNICEF received emergency funds to mitigate the impact of HIV on children.

The funding was directed towards the establishment and strengthening of community-driven NCPs which provided food, basic health care, non-formal education and recreation opportunities, she stated.

Nkambule added that the NCPs grew and became more than just places for providing a hot meal but also provided Early Childhood Learning.

"At this point UNICEF then supported



One of the twelve neighbourhood care points (NCPs) that was left in complete under Sigwe Inkhundla.

communities to construct formal permanent structures of NCPs and also provided Early Childhood ECD materials including learning and play materials for the children. UNICEF also supported training of care givers to enable them to facilitate learning at the NCPs," she said.

The main difference between NCPs and kaGogo centres is that kaGogo centres are part of the coordination mechanism for HIV response in the country.

The establishment of the centres

was in alignment with the decentralisation policy of the country, with the aim of developing capacity of the community in response to HIV and AIDS.

The centres are at Umphakatsi level, and were set up to be a point of information sharing, service delivery, meetings and a safe space for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC).

There is only one kaGogo Centre per Umphakatsi. On the other hand Neighbourhood Care Points were established to help feed the OVCs.

SIHHOYE, NKAMBENI FOLKS FAILING TO SUSTAIN WATER PROJECT

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The people from Sihhoye and Nkambeni under Madlangemphisi constituency were so excited during the official opening of the water scheme project in 2010 little did they know that their joy was short-lived.

There are a number of reasons why these communities find themselves having to part with huge sums of money purchasing water from tankers provided by tractor owners when they have taps in their homes which only cost between E30 to E50 per month to have adequate water supply. The main challenges are the poor management of the scheme and failure to pay for the electricity bill which provides power to pump the water. As a result the communities find themselves without water despite the fact that some families pay their bills without failure.

The water project that was brought by the Swaziland Water and Agricultural Development (SWADE) and other development partners including the African Development Bank (ADB) came as a relief to the residents of Nkambeni, Sihhoye and surrounding areas as it eased them from the task of going to ponds and streams to fetch untreated water.

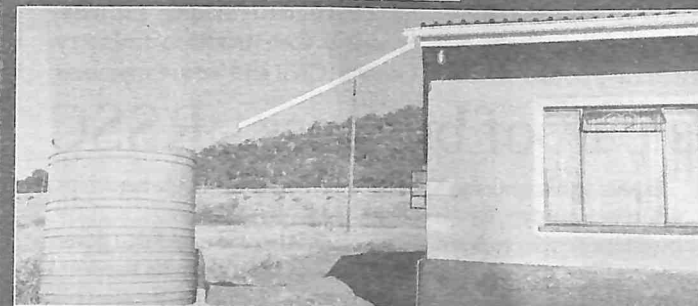
Ensuring

As per the community members this project did not only bring the basic need but also sanitation as it began by ensuring that every homestead had a restroom. It was after they were helped with the lavatories that the taps which brought clean water were mounted in each homestead. The water came at a minimal cost as they only paid E30 a month. The water was for both consumption and watering crops and vegetables as people were encouraged to have small gardens in their homes which was accepted with great enthusiasm.

Most families started to grow vegetables which meant healthy lifestyles and pocket money from the surplus which was sold. In the first six months everything went smoothly, as the contributions the communities had made were E100 per homestead. Everyday



Make Shongwe showing the Sunday Observer team the tap that used to bring water at Eftuntini as she says they have not had water for the past six months.



Rainwater is now the main source of clean water for Nkambeni residents with tanks being used on rainy days.

all the homes had a full running water supply which was appreciated by many. The funders of this project then left it to the communities to manage and sustain the project through a committee that was elected by each community.

Just like in any society there were those who did not support the development project in its initial stage as some did not want to participate but somehow found themselves obliged to do so. These groups within these areas which benefit from this water scheme continued to sabotage the scheme even after they had seen the good that this project brought.

They are said to claim that this was a gift from the King and therefore it is free hence they won't contribute anything towards sustaining the scheme.

This action by the laggards therefore has affected the early adopters who contribute the E30 every month which caters for the purchase of electricity which is needed to pump the water to the three communities. It

actually discouraged them to continue paying the subscriptions as even those who did not pay received the water at the expense of their contributions. This then led to the decrease of the community members who subscribed which resulted in the scheme incurring electricity bill debts as the money received was not enough to match the bill. Eventually SEC started to cut off its power supply which meant the community stopped receiving water. Meetings were held and contributions were made to pay part of the debt and negotiate that SEC reconnected the power while collections were made to repay the balance.

Minimise

A plan to minimise the bill was also devised as rationing was introduced where the areas were to get water on certain days as opposed to getting the water on daily basis as in the past.

This did not work as planned as some people, especially those who did not contribute started filling their 1000-litre tanks because they were afraid that they may have their sup-

ply disconnected since they were known and had been warned. This resulted in some areas not getting the water especially those whose homes are located on steep areas which brought controversy and filling of tanks was banned.

At Nkambeni the situation led to the area being left without water for the past six months while at Sihhoye it's been on and off.

Residents of Nkambeni now depend on the rains and ponds for water as they have not had water for the past six months, because they are said to owe Swaziland Electricity Company thousands of Emalangeni. They also part with E300 to fill a tank that lasts them three weeks which is ten times higher than the money they used to pay while the system was well run.

Most stated that the problem was that the people were now reluctant to pay first because those who did not pay were also getting water at their expense. Secondly, they accuse the committee of having misused the scheme funds leading to the debt that resulted in the disconnection of the power needed to pump the water in the area.

Suffering

"I think the community believe this is as a result of poor management by the committee, I think the Swaziland Water Services Corporation should take over and this may be an easy exercise since each home has its own meter rather than suffering for people who do not want to pay," suggested Emmanuel Mkwana.

At Sihhoye not long ago, a meeting was summoned where the issues were raised and the Member of Parliament of the area Mbalekelwa Ndwandwe was asked to assist in resolving this matter. The MP admitted that the water crisis was due to failure of some members to pay the monthly fees and that the members had asked him to intervene in resolving this issue.

"I called the rural water team to advice the people and the ministry of natural resources and they will be coming again to assist them in electing a new committee as they said the time of office for the current committee was over," Ndwandwe revealed.



Pushing, shoving as elderly rush to board new MP Marwick's kombi

BY MLONDI MPANZA

There was pushing and shoving a week ago when old women rushed to board a brand-new kombi bought by Lobamba Lomdzala Member of Parliament, Marwick Khumalo for the constituency.

This was after the kombi had been seen driving past Mahlanya market upon which the women stopped it in excitement so they could get a ride in it.

Responding to their excitement, the drive indeed took the women for a ride around the area before dropping them off and heading to a car-wash where the branded kombi continued to draw the public's attention who took turns in taking pictures of it.

The kombi, a Nissan costs around E400 000 at a Nissan dealership and from the way it looked, one would rightly believe it was new as its seats were still covered in plastics as is normally the case with a new vehicle.

Sought for comment, Khumalo confirmed that he had bought the kombi which he said was a replacement for an old one that had become problematic and risky to drive hence he bought this one.

Replacement

"I have always had a kombi in my constituency, the only thing that's different right now is that this is a replacement but besides that there is nothing new," he said joyfully.

He explained that he bought the first kombi when he won the elections at Lobamba Lomdzala in 2013 and after it started developing mechanical faults he made a promise to the electorate that he would buy them a new one which is now the one at hand. The MP said that the kombi was used for transporting the elderly and sickly community members to their different distinct destinations such as hospitals, free of charge. In fact, he said that this was more of an ambulance for the constituency more than anything as seen in one of the inscriptions at the back of the kombi and it particularly helps the elderly and sickly because they do not have the strength to go on their own to places where they can get medical attentions. He added that the kombi normally takes these people to places such as Matsapha and Mankayane and further said the development of mechanical faults of the old one did not mean he now had to deprive the community of such a service hence he bought this one. Meanwhile, the MP revealed that the kombi had just arrived and he would officially present it to the constituency yesterday where he would divulge everything about it including the price which he did not to reveal to this reporter when queried about it.

AMADI students appealing for financial assistance to complete their diploma

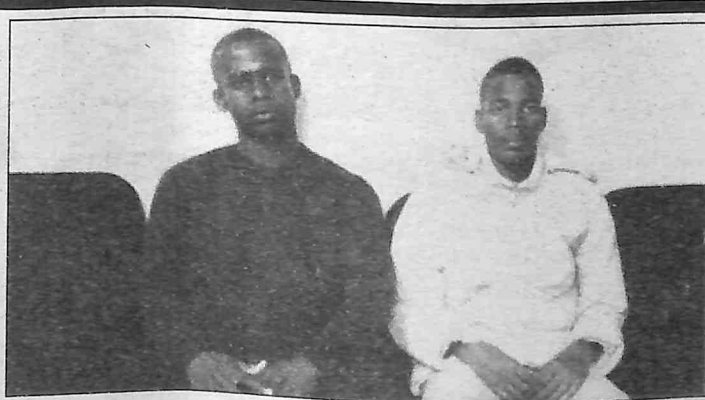
BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Phinda Shongwe and Mpendulo Ntuli are appealing for financial assistance to complete their diploma in education. Both students are studying at African Management Development Institute (AMADI).

The two second year students say their guardians are having a hard time financing their tuition fees which amounts to E21000 for per year.

Shongwe's educational fees are currently catered for by his brother who also has a responsibility to take care of his family. He says the situation is bad at home as his mother is unemployed while his dad passed away which increases his brother's burden.

Shongwe says he is determined to have a brighter future and take his books serious and would not like to drop out when he is only left with a year to complete his studies. He says he will do his best to excel in his studies, anyone willing to assist him would have made a good investment as he will be a good teacher to many pupils. He says he had tried applying for scholarship but had been turned down as he has been told that government was not sponsoring students from his college. Shongwe has also tried online to find foundations but hit a rock as he did not meet some requirements needed by some of these foundations as some were only considering students who wanted to do their Masters



Phinda Shongwe and Mpendulo Ntuli.

degree as opposed to undergraduate studies.

The same sentiments were shared by Ntuli who said all along his mother has been tightening her belly to ensure that he become the teacher that he wants to be but poor health is forcing her to retire. This makes make him face his worst fear of drop-

ping out of college when he has only a mile to go. He is appealing for assistance from the public and business sector as he has tried family members who also failed due to their own responsibilities and financial stress.

Anyone willing to assist them can contact them on these numbers Phinda 76651803.

JA PRODUCT A DIRECTOR AT 22

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

What started out as a way to while away two hours of free periods has paid dividends for a former St Michael's High School pupil who now owns a business at the age of 22.

Attending sessions facilitated by Junior Achievement Swaziland from 2010 instilled a drive for the world of entrepreneurship for Sethule Maziya as she was driven to be her own boss after realising she was not being challenged enough within the work-place as she found herself having to break down barriers and prove that she was just as capable as her peers in the male dominated industry.

Armed with knowledge garnered from the JA In School Youth Programmes, Maziya said she realised she would be more effective in her

chosen field of Civil Engineering if she worked for herself instead of being overshadowed by more established players.

"In the JA company programme, I was made sales director and this motivated my zeal for marketing as I was fascinated that we were able to transform an idea on paper into a reality," she said during the breakfast meeting hosted by JA for stakeholders held on Friday morning at the Happy Valley Hotel. She said she learned a lot about running a business during the period. "This experience strengthened my leadership skills and enabled me to grow on so many levels."

After attaining her qualification at the Swaziland College of Technology, she was attached to Stefanutti Stocks Civils as an intern where she found she had to work very hard to convince experienced supervisors that



she was up to any challenge.

This seems to have paid off as the company she owns and co-directs, Simple Construction, has been subcontracted for small jobs by the leading civil engineering construction

contractor. "Having sourced finances from friends and family, we were able to register a company with the ministry of commerce, industry and trade as well as Construction Industry Council (CIC) and we are members

of the Swaziland Contractors Association." Concerning the name of the business, Simple Construction, she said that a majority of Swazis live in sub-standard houses and her company seeks to improve the decency of these conditions by providing simple, cost-effective solutions to reduce capital intensive buildings.

She relented that she had to go back to JA for assistance at the inception of her business and she consults with them at every turn whenever there are challenges.

"Because our business is still at growth stage, my business partner and I sometimes need to forfeit our salaries to aid growth" she said adding how this did not by any means mean they compromised on quality and their values as they subscribed to seeing His Majesty King Mswati III's vision of the country attaining first world status.

"We celebrate every successful job, whether big or small.

Our biggest job so far is at the John Wesley Methodist Church."

STUDENTS IMPRESS BILLIONAIRE KIRSH

Swaziland's richest man, businessman Nathan Kirsh, is impressed by Junior Achievement Swaziland students.

The business magnate recently met a Junior Achievement Swaziland members where he expressed his joy of having young people groomed into the world of business at such a young age. According to Kirsh Foundation's Carol du Pont, the magnate met the group last month where he invited those who have been groomed to consider utilising the Inhlanyelo Fund which provides microcredit to microenterprises and can be applied for through the various chiefdoms country wide.

Ranked the richest Swazi citizen by Forbes Magazine,

Kirsh sat down in his boardroom with reigning JA Africa Company of the Year champions Hawk Arts Company from Mjingo High School, 2015 Champions Econovative Productions Pty - Ltd from Manzini Nazarene High School, Vibrant Mushrooms and seed production company Smiling Through Investment had a chance to present their businesses to Kirsh and his team, receiving valuable advice from one of the billionaire.

During the meeting, there were also presentations by some of the out of school members of JA who are making a name for themselves as small and medium enterprise owners. The Kirsh Family Foundation is one of the major JA Swaziland sponsors.

Liquidation is part of business - RSSC

"Pupils should know from a young age that liquidation is part of business."

This was said by Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation Group Public Affairs Manager Sifiso Nyembe while motivating for a review on liquidation which started recently. In the past, companies started at high school level were liquidated towards the end of the year. However, this was revoked after the realisation that some of the companies can survive beyond high school and become serious income earners for them.

Explaining his reasoning Nyembe said it was prudent for the young business people to learn about the realities of business from a young age.

"Liquidation of companies is part of the learning curve, it is a reality," he said. He urged that the psyche of learning about business disappointments should not be taken from young minds as this will equip them with resilience and the zeal to avoid it better later on in life.

"Let us not only teach them about the glowing success of entre-

preneurship but the hardships as well," he said.

Further, he urged that government should up its support of SMEs by not placing stumbling blocks across their ways.

"We all know that every business needs a healthy cash flow to survive.

Therefore, while stating support for SMEs government should show it by paying them on time," he said, adding how delayed payments dominoes into the economy as SMEs have to pay suppliers as well.

Girl child proving her mantle in innovative business - TOTAL

Mjingo High School's success in doing business on the international stage proves that the girl-child is ready to take on the world.

This was alluded by TOTAL Swaziland Managing Director Anthony Siebert on Friday.

As a Gold Sponsor of JA Swaziland, Siebert said TOTAL was proud to be associated with the initiative which has allowed

girls to shine to the extent that they were able to represent the country well internationally and return with the first prize.

He lauded the JA strategy of incorporating schools from the rural areas which usually comprises of disadvantaged children who have minimal access to business exposure due to their geography. He recalled how this same strategy was the determining fac-

tor in their decision to buy into the idea of being one of the major sponsors of JA Swaziland.

He called for products of the programme to be identified whenever they run their businesses as they are the fruits of the hard work done by JA. He said TOTAL was proud to associate with an organisation that showed integrity and stuck to its mandate of improving the lives of the youth.

Economy growth dependant on entrepreneurship - FNB

There should be a robust exercise of instilling the spirit of entrepreneurship in the youth.

This was said by First National Bank Chief Executive Officer Dennis Mbingo during the JA Swaziland breakfast meeting with stakeholders on Friday. Calling for an increase in JA coverage throughout the country, Mbingo said this will ensure that jobs created satisfy the demand for employment that sees a large part of the youth population without an idea on what to do to earn a living.

The CEO said it was important to note the country's economy could be sustained by businesses grown from the youth who started their enterprises from grass-root levels.

He further encouraged support of JA and other similar initiatives as they ensured that the youth got the necessary skills to succeed later on in life.

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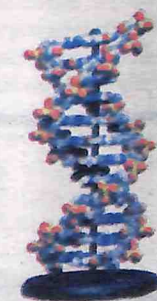
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UNISWA ICT ROADMAP 2022

Supplement.....



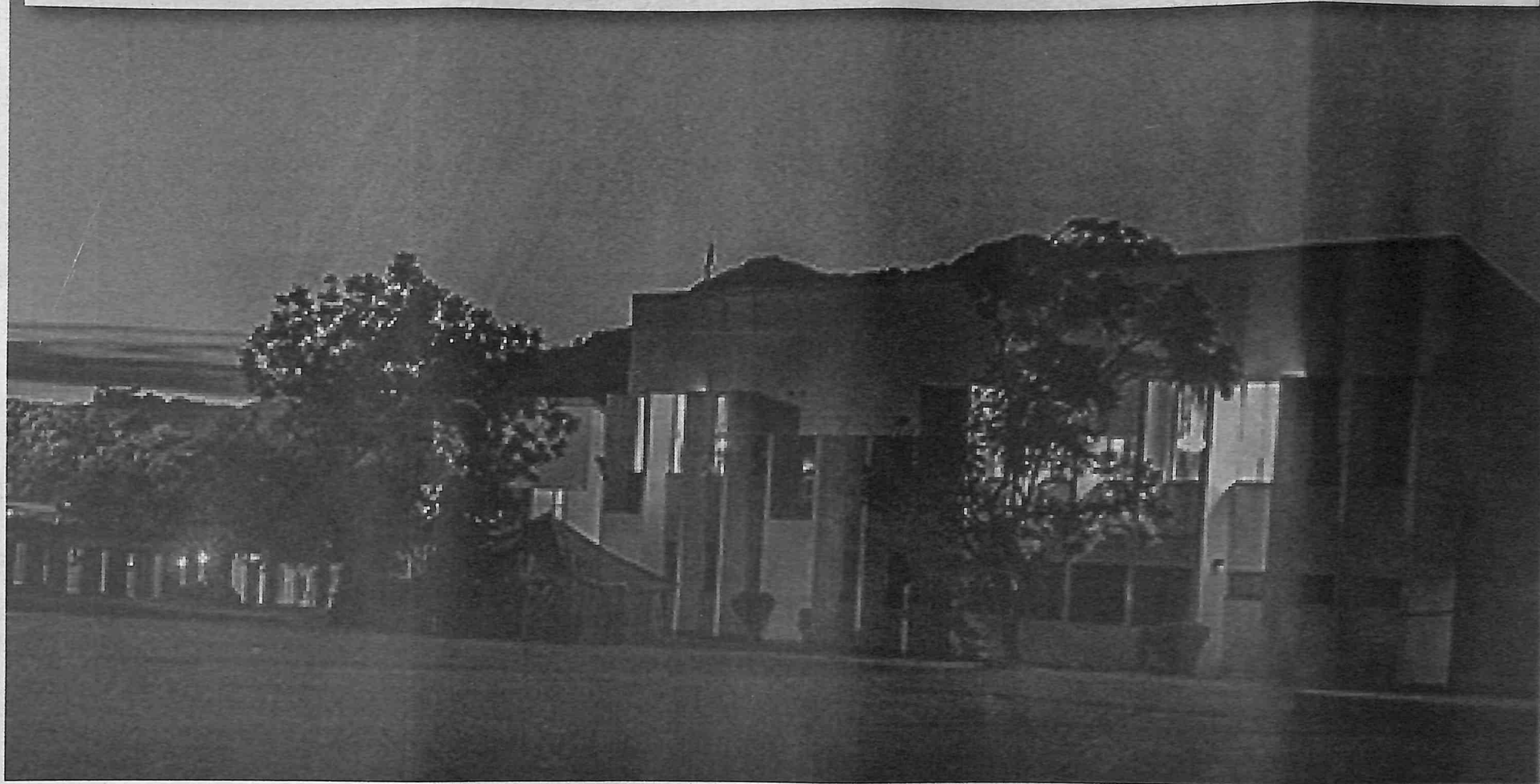
The Chairman of Council (UNISWA):
HRH Prince Phinda Dlamini

AS Chairman of the University Council, I am happy to see the University of Swaziland taking leadership in collaborating with the Country's Innovation Park. This has happened because of His Majesty the King and the chancellor of the university's relentless push and mentioning in many occasions including the graduation ceremony that the university must take leadership of the activities taking place at the Royal Science and Technology Park. As Chairman of the University Council I would like to applaud the initiative undertaken by the Computer Science Department and Marketing Officer to inform the nation about the intentions of the Computer Science Department in collaboration with the Innovation Park. It must be noted that this is a significant contribution to His Majesty's 2022 vision. The university has positioned itself as a university of choice in Africa as it boasts of the expertise of its young, innovative and qualified Computer Science personnel, who are geared to produce the necessary ICT manpower that will drive the Innovation Park towards global recognition, which will also play a pivotal role in the attainment of the national vision 2022. It is my hope that all ICT companies and practitioners take this opportunity to forge partnerships with the Computer Science department and the Innovation Park to propel the ICT field to First World status.



SIYAPHAMBILI nge-ICT

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, UNISWA



INTRODUCTION

The Department of Computer Science (CS) was established in 1990, following a delinking from the Department of Mathematics.

For the past 27 years or so, the department has remained one of the smallest departments in the Faculty of Science and Engineering in terms of resources such as staffing positions, equipment and physical infrastructure. This has severely affected the growth of department and its ability to better fulfil its mandate of teaching, research and community service.

With only six academic positions and zero support staff all along, the department often finds itself unable to respond to the huge demand for highly skilled Information and Communication Technology (ICT) specialists in Swaziland and the whole of the African continent.

Establishment

A case in point is the establishment of the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP). The RSTP will require highly skilled and innovative research and development personnel who are ready to serve not only Swaziland but also the Southern African region. It is for this reason that the University of Swaziland, in particular the Department of Computer Science, urgently needs to restructure and reposition itself in order to produce highly skills personnel who are ready to drive Swaziland's economy towards

vision 2022. In this regard, the department urgently needs to expand its current programmes to be relevant to the demands of industry.

In addition to the lack of adequate personnel, the department does not have adequate infrastructure in terms of teaching and research laboratories, offices, store rooms, and workshop-space. Since its establishment in 1990, the department has only one small teaching laboratory, therefore, there is an urgent need to build specialised computer laboratories.

DEVELOPMENTS

In response to the above problems, the department has made some very positive changes with regards to positioning itself towards playing a major role in shaping the ICT landscape of the country which will help speed-up the country's attainment of its first world status by 2022. The department of Computer Science welcomes the opportunity to contribute towards ICT growth and development in the country and for this reason it has continued to strive towards growth and relevance to meet such a dynamic sector. The following are some of the things that the department has achieved recently as part of its restructuring and repositioning so as to be in a better position to drive the country through ICT towards vision 2022. There are five things we'd like to mention here and these are;

INCREASED STAFFING

As mentioned earlier, one of the major problems the department has faced is the shortage of staff. A major improvement has been made in this regard, which has seen an increase in staffing positions from the previously mentioned six to twelve as we speak. Currently, 10 out of the 12 positions have been filled and only two are yet to be filled. It is worth mentioning though that the two vacant positions have already been filled, just that those appointed for them will begin this coming July. It is also worth mentioning that for the first time, the department now has one support staff of its own, a technologist.

2. Increasing programmes offered

In this regard, the department is in the process of finalising two direct programmes that will see the department offer three undergraduate programmes instead of the one that it is currently having. Currently, the Department has five (5) approved Bachelor of Science (BSc) major-major programmes. In these programmes students combine Computer Science (CS) with another Science subject. The Science subjects are: Biological Sciences (BIO), Chemistry (CHEM), Physics, Mathematics (Maths), and Geography, Environmental Science and Planning (GEP). However, due to insufficient staff and lack of teaching laboratories, only three (3) of those are cur-

rently offered, and these are CS-Maths, CS-Physics and CS-GEP. The awarded degree here, as is the case currently is: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and [other], or B.Sc. (Comp.Sci & [other]).

The current major-major programme only allows a student to take Science courses only. We observe that most of our graduates actually end up working in diverse areas such as financial institutions and government departments where they need to have some background in statistics, economics and business information systems.

Proposed

As such a major-minor programme has been proposed, which will allow students to take computer science as a major, together with a minor subject in any other subject of interest. The awarded degree here would be: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, with minor in [other], or B.Sc. (Comp.Sci with Minor in [other]).

Also, a new Computer Science single major programme has been proposed. This will allow the student to concentrate on Computer Science as a core subject, and also take electives from other subjects such as Statistics, Economics and Business Management. The awarded degree would be: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, or B.Sc. (Comp. Sci.). In this regard, the department is almost done proposals of two B.Sc. in Computer Science programmes and they are as follows:

a B.Sc. in Information Technology (B.Sc. IT) and a B.Sc. in Computer Education (B.Sc. Comp.Ed.)

3. Partnering with the Innovation Park On the strength of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that the University of Swaziland has signed with the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP), which encompasses both the Innovation Park and Biotechnology Park, the Department of Computer Science is seeking to benefit from this partnership, particularly in collaboration with the Innovation Park. Out of this partnership the department envisages: Introducing new programmes (as already discussed above) that will help train ICT professionals/ experts that will fit directly into the Innovation Park. Currently, the Innovation Park through its Incubation Centre, seeks to mentor young Swazi ICT personnel through incubation so that they develop into ICT professionals who can come up with different start-ups that will see the emergence of ICT products and services that will push the country towards global recognition in the ICT sector.

Also the department is planning to, from time to time, send its students to tour the Innovation Park so that they can gain the necessary motivation, exposure, and awareness of what is expected from them as future ICT experts and professionals.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE STAFF



4. Professionalising the ICT space in Swaziland

The department has since noted that currently there is no professional organisation or society for ICT practitioners and professionals in the country. This is not good as it hinders the growth of the ICT industry which is key for growth and development. As a department, we have noted that any country's economy runs on ICT.

Therefore, it is important to create a professional framework that will oversee all ICT activities and developments in the country. The department is seeking to transform its already existing student-based computer science society into a professional Swaziland computer science society.

The department cannot achieve this on its own, but needs assistance and collaboration with the relevant key stakeholders, which include the alumni, ICT professionals or experts, ICT companies or organisations and the government (particularly the ministry of ICT).

5. Computer Fair

The Department of Computer Science in the Faculty of Science and Engineering, at the University of Swaziland (UNISWA), together with the Uniswa Computer Science Society (UCSS) would like to host a Computer Fair on the 27th - 28th of September 2017, aimed at discussing and showcasing a number of topics or projects in the

ICT sector in Swaziland, that have a major impact in the whole country, that is, socially, economically, politically and otherwise. As mentioned earlier, ICT plays a pivotal role in a country's development and as such we have noted that the country is lagging behind a great deal in as far as advancement in ICT is concerned. The most important part is that this fair will create the much needed awareness to interested parties and equipping them with the right skills and tools to enable them to move towards attaining His Majesty's Vision 2022. Indeed, ICT has been identified as one of the major enablers for the attainment of first world status for developing countries.

This fair will accommodate all age groups as it is aimed at creating ICT awareness to all citizens and it will also provide a platform for the different ICT companies or organisations and the government to meet together and discuss major ICT sector development projects within the country. Companies will also be able to market their various products and network with sister ICT companies so they can learn each others relative strengths.

A number of benefits will accrue from this partnership with the industry. These will lead to a better understanding of their needs in terms of courses that are currently required in



this highly dynamic ICT industry. This will help the department in the following ways:

To fine-tune its programmes.

Also a number of graduates from the department would be directly absorbed by these companies, without needing any further training, which is currently the case and that has seen most companies preferring graduates from other institutions over UNISWA graduates.

THE ROAD AHEAD

As a department, we continue to strive for growth. By increasing the number of programmes we offer at undergraduate level, we hope to get to a position where we will be better prepared to offer masters and also PhD programmes.

With the increase in programmes, staffing positions, partnership with the Innovation Park, partnership with ICT companies or organisations, hosting of annual computer fairs and pro-

fessionalising the ICT space in Swaziland, partaking in cutting-edge research and community service; we hope that we will gain the necessary growth for the department to transform it into a school of ICT.

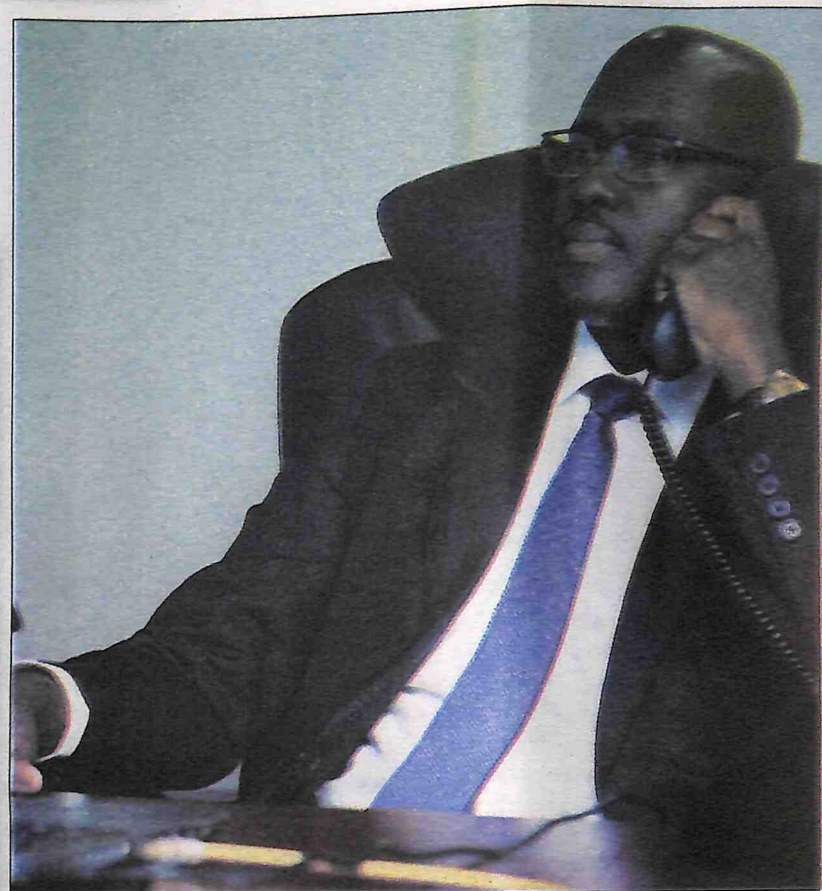
When such eventually happens, we hope that the department will be one of the leaders of ICT growth and development in the country and we hope that with such achievement we will better contribute towards attaining His Majesty's 2022 Vision.



EXECUTIVE INTERVIEWS

The following are interviews that were conducted by the UNISWA Computer Science (CS) department with the following executives;

Prof. CM Magagula (CM)
Mr V. Dlamini (VD)
Prof. MD Dlamini (MD)
Dr. SS Simelane (SS)
Prof. JM Thwala (JT)



CEO of RSTP Mr V. Dlamini

B.A., + CCE(UBS), B.Ed. (Brandon), M.Ed. (Manitoba), Ed.D. (Toronto), C.D.E.P (UNISA)

CS: UNISWA being the leading university in the country, what contributions does it make towards ICT growth and development in the country?

CM: It produces the high-level human capital needed by the country.

Helps in promoting research and development (R&D).

Support new innovations and product development.

Provides technical advice to parastatals (e.g. SPTC) and organisations (e.g. MTN), government ministries, industries, etc.

CS: CT development is one of the major vehicles for a country's growth and development, how do you think ICT will contribute towards the attainment of the country's first world status by 2022?

CM: Promoting economic growth through e-commerce, trade, com-

munications, human capital development, marketing of the country's products for exports, promoting education at all levels (basic, secondary, high and tertiary).

CS: The Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP) is one of His Majesty's projects that seeks to promote science and technology in the country, how will the collaboration of the university and the Innovation Park help speed up ICT development in the country?

CM: By securing the state-of-the-art ICT equipment.

- Producing and promoting innovations.

- Improving connectivity and infrastructure.

- Producing human capital needed by the country and RSTP in the ICT area.

- To promote e-commerce, trade, innovations and products for export.

- Facilitating of ICT training programmes.

Associate Degree CS (Vincennes), BSc Industrial Eng., BSc CSE, MSc. MBA (Purdue)

CS: What is the role of RSTP in the country's ICT sector development?

VD: His Majesty King Mswati III's initiative to establish the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP) is the first comprehensive effort to promote Science, Technology and Innovation in the country by providing steadfast support for basic research and innovation and a coherent approach to maximising the innovation dividend.

Innovation Parks in developing countries have sustainably boosted their respective countries' innovative capacity and this has led to the benefit of research, industries and the economy.

Our role as RSTP, is to enable science, technology and innovation in Swaziland by providing a focal point for research, facilitating the links between research and industrial communities and stimulating the development of knowledge-based business through the incubation of techno-preneurship and high tech enterprises.

We provide infrastructure that will enable start-up companies and foreign companies in the field of IT and Biotechnology, to contribute meaningfully to the economy of Swaziland through job creation and skills transfer.

RSTP also builds capacity by providing world class ICT training and nurturing entrepreneurship through innovation and research.

RSTP links education and training with the field of work with emphasis on research and development

to support business enterprises RSTP lays the foundation for the development of a knowledge economy.

Ultimately, RSTP will foster the conception of new inventions and facilitate their patenting and will help knit various elements of the R&D cluster together.

RSTP will support the government policy of expanding the applications of ICT and creation of additional electronic delivery of public services through infrastructure and institutional capability development.

RSPT is also an enabler for government ministries, departments and the private sector in terms of providing ICT services such as;

- Cloud computing services
- Data back-up services
- Disaster recovery sites
- Data mining services
- Call centre services

CS: RSTP is one of His Majesty's major projects that is aimed at promoting science and technology in the country, how does RSTP plan to achieve this and in the process aid in the attainment of the country's first world status by 2022?

VD: The Royal Science and Technology Park will serve to;

Stimulate and pursue research on the commercialisation of potential ICT businesses and services. Develop, process, package and sell value added products and services derived from ICT through Research and development; Create opportunities for employment of local people, and for local business entrepreneurs and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) to participate in harnessing the country's talent in ICT wealth and benefit from its commercialisation and trade;

Attract high technology companies to invest in Swaziland thus contributing to the country's economy through revenue generation and foreign direct investment;

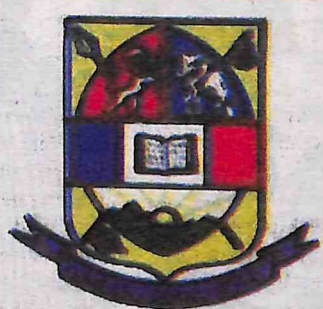
Stimulate innovation activities;

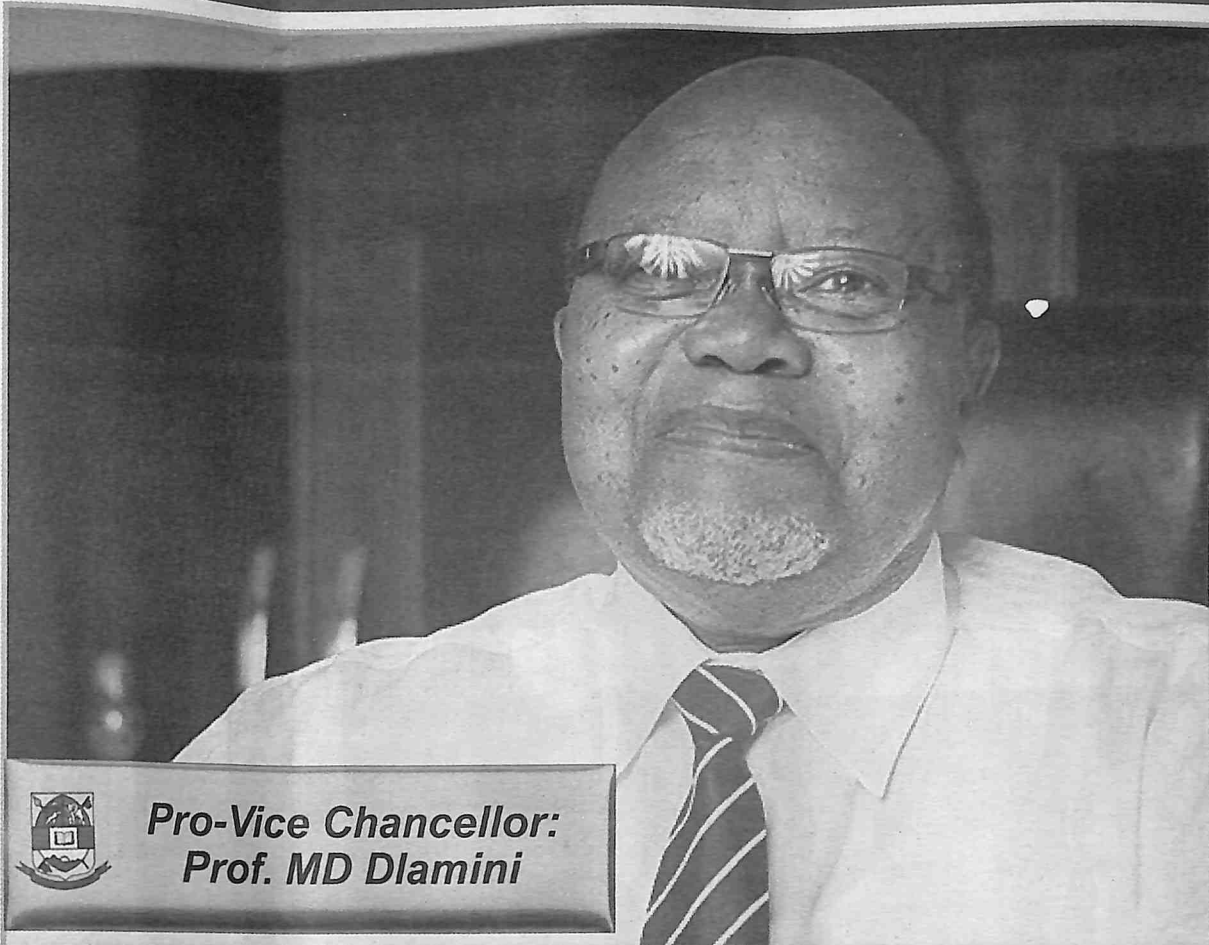
CS: How will your partnership with the University help the country attain vision 2022?

VD: Generally, the country lacks the contribution of science, technology and innovation to the performance of the Swazi economy. The Innovation Park comes as the relevant approach to address the slow performance of the economy, particularly in adoption of Information Technology (IT). This park, on the one hand, aims to ensure that the current human resource in IT gets the right skills to support the country's industrial sector. On the other hand, the park is an area that provides land Infrastructure for location of investments in high-tech products.

Considering the above, RSTP's partnership with the university will ensure that by 2022 Swaziland will be internationally renowned for swiftness in exploring science, technology and innovation as a means to increase the country's economic growth and increase human capacity by developing a knowledge-based economy and creating modern infrastructure, thus substantially alleviating poverty. RSTP and UNISWA will intermittently work together on the following;

Determining research and developmental initiatives in Science and Technology. Providing of consultancy and training services to both the public and private sector. Work together also on other areas of mutual benefit to the parties.





**Pro-Vice Chancellor:
Prof. MD Dlamini**

B.Sc. + CCE (UBS), M.A. (Lancaster), Ph.D. (Cambridge)

CS: What is the role of ICT in education? How do you think having a proper ICT curriculum will enhance sustainable growth and development in the ICT sector of the country?

MD: ICT is a key factor for innovation, teaching and improvement of learning process. It offers numerous possibilities to manipulate and simulate situations, phenomena, actions, etc. Various ICTs can be used to support research activities with the aid of Internet. It can also widen access to the field of tuition through distance education.

This off-campus delivery is an option for students who are unable to attend face-to-face lessons.

A good ICT curriculum can enable

the country to leapfrog and hence reduce the digital divide in relation to advanced countries.

CS: What is blended learning? What is the role of blended learning in education (both in full-time and in part-time)?

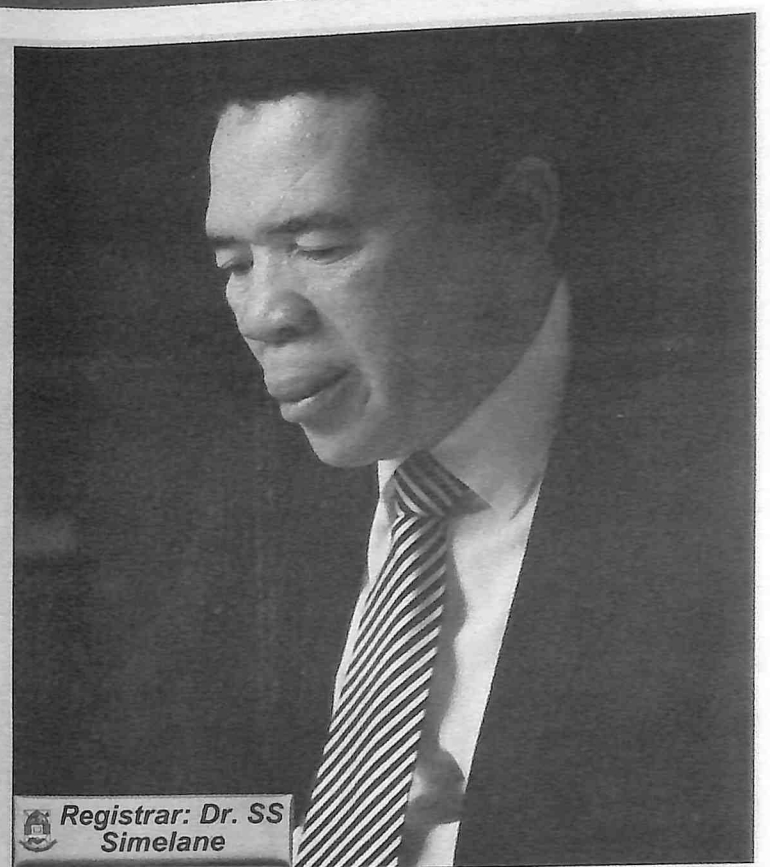
MD: Blended learning is a hybrid or mixed-mode programme that combines online digital media with traditional face-to-face classroom methods. A number of higher education institutions are constrained by availability of classroom and laboratory space to financial limitations.

The adoption of blended learning could minimise this problem through the right mix of online and conventional teaching methods. For example, practical-oriented subjects like Science require a much greater face-

to-face component compared to disciplines such as Law.

CS: What will be the role of the Department of Computer Science in the Innovation Park?

MD: The function of the Innovation Park, a branch of the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP) is to provide business incubation facilities for advanced training in hardware, software, networking, to name a few. Given that the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) signed an MoU with RSTP, it is expected that the Department of Computer Science will work closely with the Innovation Park in terms of providing specialised ICT and research expertise. The partnership of UNISWA and RSTP is in line with the University's strategic plan (2016-2021).



**Registrar: Dr. SS
Simelane**

B.Sc. + CDE (UBS), M.Ed. (Alberta), Ph.D. (Nottingham)

CS: How is the Office of the Registrar utilising ICT benefits to carry out its day to day duties? What are the plans of the office to further improve the current ICT services that they have?

SS: The Registrar's office uses ICT in carrying out its main processes; admissions, registration, recruitment and correspondence with its stakeholders. In addition, ICT is used by the office in carrying out research and analysis of its data.

CS: At what level should ICT education be introduced in schools?

SS: ICT should be introduced slowly starting at pre-school level. Appropriate lessons should be prepared for each levels of education in schools.

CS: What role can ICT play towards improving special needs

education? What is the position of the university towards that?

SS: We seldom prioritise the needs of extreme cases of disabled people. ICT should be used in providing instruction to all students with special needs, even at the point of taking examinations.

For example, an arm-amputee could be provided with voice activated technology that could be used to answer examination questions. Emails could be used for instruction purposes.

The university is now providing for the blind.

CS: How can social media be used to improve education and learning?

SS: Social media could be used to communicate with groups that are taking lessons: disseminating information, sending out assignments, holding group discussions, etc.





EXECUTIVE STAFF'S INTERVIEWS, UNISWA

B.Sc. (UNISWA), M.Sc. (East Anglia), Ph.D. (Bristol)

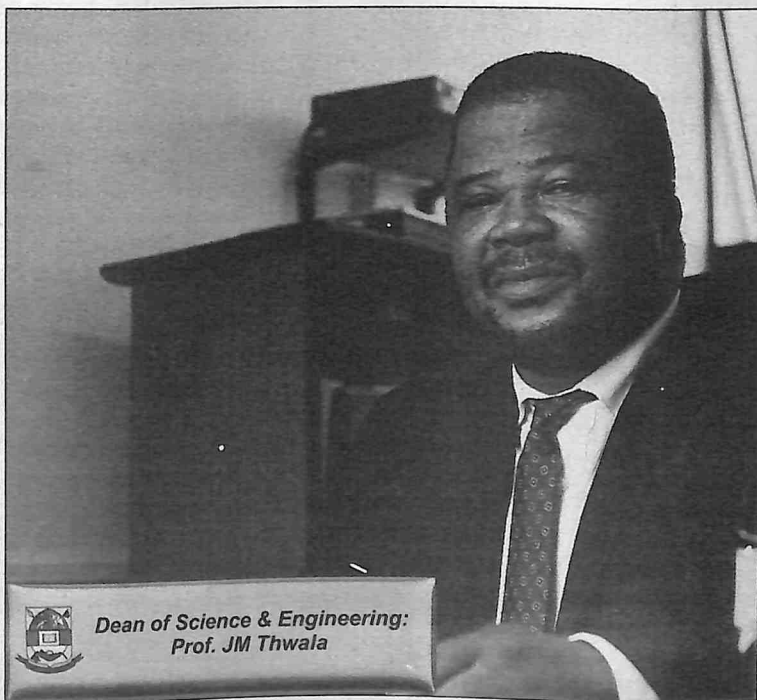
CS: What is the role of ICT in science and engineering education?

JM: ICT plays a pivotal role for teachers and students in the teaching and learning process in science and engineering. ICT provides various tools for teaching and learning such as:

simulations and modeling helps in understanding terms, processes and systems which are too complex, expensive or impossible to implement in the real laboratories and education environment databases and spreadsheets help students to collect, organise, analyse, retrieve and update information, results and relationships. e.g. extracting data on the nutrient value of different foods;

Data logging in instrumentation where sensors are used to measure, analyse responses such as voltage to measure concentrations of pollutants such as DDT in Marula or nutrients levels in foods or variables such as power intensities in solar panels.

Publishing and presentation software helps students and teacher to organise, plan and share their findings and investigations with others information resources as data files, internet, CD-ROM for finding the relevant information and understanding the terms and topics faster and



**Dean of Science & Engineering:
Prof. JM Thwala**

effectively.

Learning platforms such as moodle where teaching materials are placed by instructors for access by students.

Integrated learning management systems to capture students registrations, finances and results.

Open Educational Resources (OER) that can be accessed at low costs by students and teachers from reputable institutions such as Harvard and Cambridge Universities.

3D printing and art used in development of artificial limbs in medicine

Virtual laboratories ICT provides teachers the following advantages.

Sharing all the relevant and subject-related materials via emails, cloud, website or blog demonstrating experiments and concepts assisting students to research on the topic reporting and records-sharing better assessment methods ability to easily recognise the poor understandable topics and low

performance students or student groups.

There several advantages of using ICT in education process:

Decreases the challenges related to time and space global access to knowledge communication with teacher/students in any-time and anywhere interactive learning environment involves new way of thinking and approaches brings excitement and motivation.

CS: How can ICT be integrated in science and engineering?

JM: ICT requires four steps for effective integration in science and engineering. Namely:

Training and professional development. Instructors need to be trained on current technologies used in teaching and learning including the pedagogies of ICT integration in science and engineering. Pedagogies include constructive, collaborative, situational (real-life) and discovery learning approaches to teaching.

Resource allocation and development. There is need to allocate the necessary technologies including software for ICT integration.

Development of Teaching materials.

Establishing a policy framework for the University to use ICT in Science and Engineering.

CS: As a Faculty of Science and Engineering, what is your position concerning the utilisation of ICT in

Science and Engineering?

JM: The conventional methods of teaching within four walls that is instructor centred learning needs to be replaced by a student centred approach using ICT and is long-overdue.

Sustainable development in Swaziland can be achieved through the use of Science, Innovation and Technology driven by Information, communication and technology.

The use of ICT in Science and engineering includes software engineering, cyber and network security, health informatics (Bioinformatics) and mechatronics (robotics) that are key in research and development in the 21st century and help producing students that are innovative in producing new products for economic development and disease control.

The faculty of Science and Engineering is currently working jointly with the Royal Science and Technology Park in seeking collaboration on the use of ICT in innovation through incubation of students for entrepreneurship development that will help the country have the critical mass of innovators for economic development. The faculty will be mounting programmes in information technology and computer education that will not only help in complementing academia and industry but also help integrate ICT in Schools.

SundayObserver Scene

THE BEAUTIFUL HUSTLE ISSUE



‘DOING IT
OUR
WAY’

Ayanda Dlamini

WRITER'S NOTE:



On behalf of Sunday SCENE team, we would like to apologise for our last issue, Film Issue, where the pages were mixed up, we had few glitches here and there.

Coming back to our Issue today, In the midst of unemployment rates and even the rise of job insecurity for those who are employed, learning to master a second skill is an option to ensure income flow in case a cherry slip is waiting in your future. Finding an alternate source of income in addition to your day job; 8-5 is a good way to go. Most people call it a side job; well, I call it a beautiful hustle.

My definition of a beautiful hustle boils down to working hard for yourself, having your own business, be a go getter, and it is not about having a good job but finding creative ideas to sustain yourself.

Hustling doesn't necessarily include you going door to door selling baked goods or candies, dicing or fraud but using your second skill to generate more income or owning your business.

So today we are celebrating women who are working hard, they strive every day and hustle to be where they are.

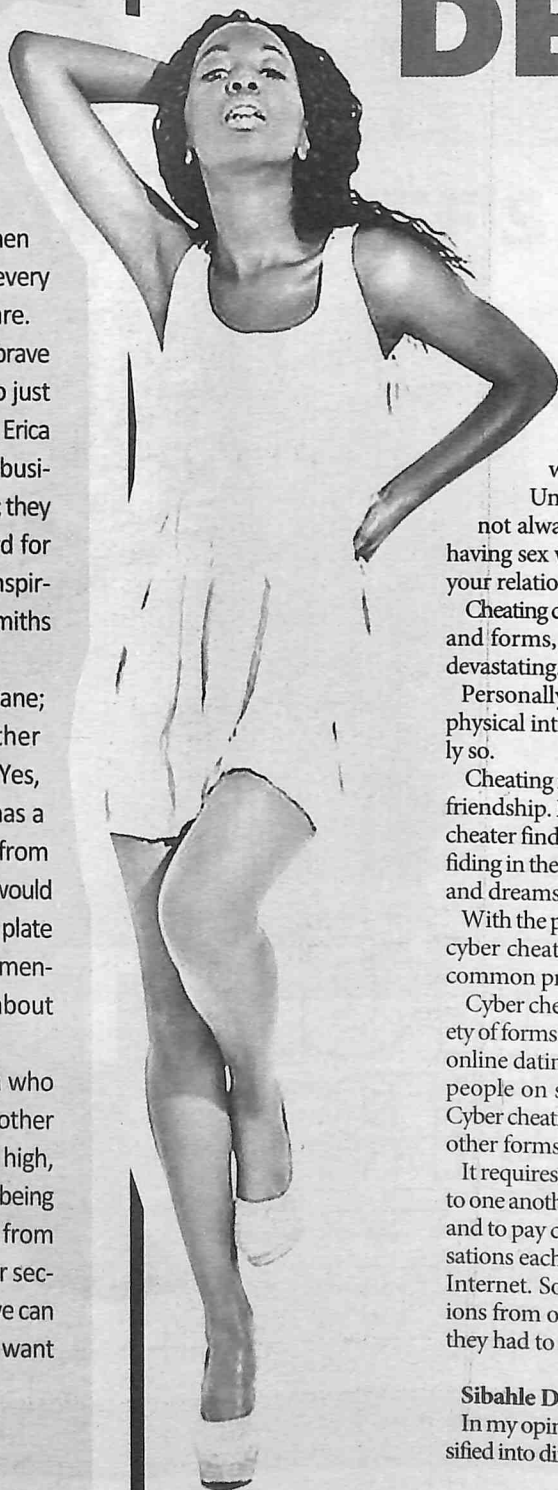
On our cover today, we have the brave sisters Nancy and Erica Smith who just embarked on 'The beautiful Hustle'. Erica left her job and decided to start a business together with her sister Nancy; they are ready to hustle and work hard for themselves. Now that's a really inspiring move. Read more about the Smiths on PAGE 5.

We also have Thulile 'Pasha' Zwane; she has become a mentor to other women, she empowers women. Yes, she has a good job but she also has a business on the side. She comes from a good family background and she would have received everything in a silver plate but no, she hustles for herself and mentors other women. Read more about this gorgeous hustler on PAGE 4.

Readers, the mission of women who hustle is to empower, encourage other women to keep their heads held high, to inspire women and to celebrate being a woman. Come on now, get up from those couches ladies and use your second skill to earn more income so we can all fly to Abu Dhabi (I mean we all want to go there).

Till next week.

Yandie.



'ONE LIE IS ENOUGH TO QUESTION ALL TRUTHS'



WHAT'S YOUR DEFINITION OF CHEATING?

Cheating is a common problem in many relationships. When one partner discovers that the other is cheating, there are heart-wrenching emotional effects. Unfortunately, cheating cannot always simply be defined as having sex with someone outside of your relationship.

Cheating comes in a variety of shapes and forms, but they are all equally devastating.

Personally, cheating may include physical intimacy but not necessarily so.

Cheating may begin as an innocent friendship. Eventually, an emotional cheater finds himself intimately confiding in the person, sharing thoughts and dreams.

With the popularity of the Internet, cyber cheating is becoming a more common problem among couples.

Cyber cheating can come in a variety of forms. Cyber cheating includes online dating and flirting with other people on social networking sites. Cyber cheating is harder to catch than other forms of cheating.

It requires the couple to have access to one another's computer passwords and to pay close attention to conversations each person is having on the Internet. So we gathered few opinions from our readers and this what they had to say.

Sibahle Dlamini

In my opinion, cheating can be classified into different categories depend-



ing on the nature of the relationship.

Firstly, since relationships are structured differently; they come with different expectations and rules that govern the romantic affiliation. There's an exclusive relationship, where both parties agree to stay faithful to each other and not see other people. In this case, if one of the two in the relationship does as much as flirt, give unnecessary attention to the opposite sex, accepts unconventional favours and gifts from a suitor, has an emotional or physical relationship outside of the current relationship, it's termed cheating.

Then there are relationships where; there are no strings attached, 'friends with benefits', casual flings, and open relationship type of relationships.

Here people are free to see other people, flirt, there's nothing compelling them to be faithful and loyal to the person they have an arrangement with.

Personally I feel cheating is horrible, brings a lot of heartache and pain to the person being cheated on. It throws a relationship off-balance, mistrust and insecurity stem from it.

Sammy Lapidos

Cheating is not really about sleeping with someone else. It's being emotionally attached to that person and lying about it; be it blatant lies or lying by omission. For instance, if I ask you about it and you don't tell me the whole truth that is lying and therefore, that is cheating.

Celiwe Nsibandze

Well for me cheating is simply dishonesty. It's being a dishonest lover and friend. It's being dishonest with your word and your character as a person. And my thing is, you cannot build anything with someone who's inconsistent with their word and their character. *By Ayanda Dlamini*

SOCIAL SCENE

Social Media Watch

A grade nine student's nude video started trending on Facebook on Wednesday; sadly everyone wanted to see the video.

The backlash this young child got is disturbing. Instead of noting that they were promoting child pornography by merely requesting the video, people exposed their vile minds by vilifying it. Yes this happened in South Africa, but

social media has no borders, many locals have seen the video and have sadly shared it as well.

It is sad to note how very few people took to denouncing this and were generally inaudible as the uproar was from those who saw it.

I don't understand why people tend to be entertained by the young girl's nude video, why are people sharing it like its meme, I

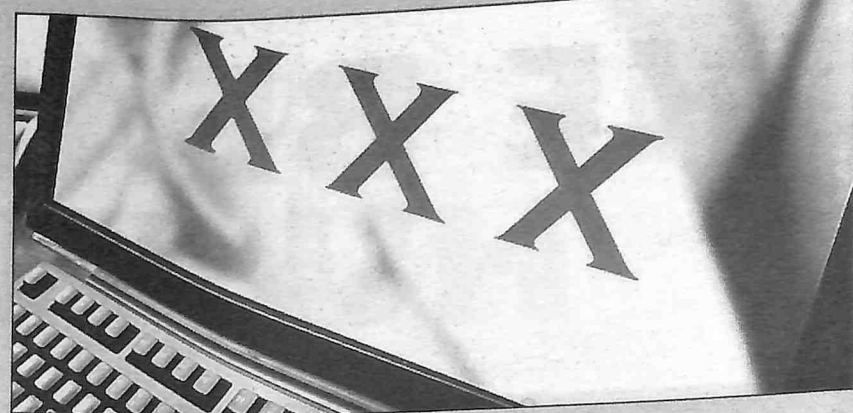
seriously don't understand. She is young and I'm sure she didn't even upload the video herself.

A girl that young does not just come up with an idea of shooting a nude video. She did it at the demand of some random guy I'm sure.

Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill needs to be enacted like yesterday because it's getting out of hand.

At least one out of many was on my side as she posted on Trending S.A Facebook page.

She posted; "For anyone who is helping spread the nude video of the young girl, don't allow 'satane' to play with you like that. Over and above everything, that is a child who for whatever reasons took a very wrong turn in her young life. That however should not make for comic relief or be a source to get you social media likes and comments. Stop cornering this young girl with your judgment because should



she take her life out of shame, you will be crying crocodile tears here.

Before you condemn this child, check how many nudes and pornographic videos you have in your phone or how many you have sent.

If you won't reach out and help a CHILD who has lost her way, then kindly refrain from crucifying this child. At this rate, it would seem some of you are actually pushing her to sui-

cide just for likes and comments.

I do not in any way or form condone what she did but I can assure you she is not the only one doing this.

The moral degeneration of this generation is mind blowing and spirit shuttering at times but heck let us get on with the business of fixing what we can and stop feeding the monster." These are the people we need in the society.

By Ayanda Dlamini

WOMEN IN BEAUTIFUL SIDE -HUSTLE

These women have worked so hard to be where they are today. Despite their trained profession, they practise what is called a side hustle; which is a way to make some extra cash that allows your flexibility to pursue what you're most interested in without quitting your 'day job'.

The cool thing about side hustles is that you can combine your job and your passion and have more cash to support your lifestyle basically. Just to name a few, we have;

Nomonde Fihla - Ngema

From being a beauty queen to celebrity make-up artist and TV personality. Nomonde has made her name beyond borders and the work she does is amazing. Her social media platforms prove it. She hustles her way up; doing what she enjoys most. She has been featured in five TV commercials in South Africa; SABS, Suzuki, Spar, Fatts and Monis and Brother for life.

Recently she was doing an amazing job to celebrities' faces. She is THE make-up artist in one of the youthful shows in SABC 1; Fan base and wardrobe stylist in different shows and series. Celebrities are wowing her job on social media. In our interview with our sister publication Swazi Observer early last year, she advised youngsters to keep doing what they love most and be the best at what they do.

Nobandile Gwebu - Kunene

From humble beginnings to TV personality. Nobandile is one of the go-getters we have. The very same young beautiful lady who used to do make-up, hair, nails hawking (just to name a few) on the side now is on South African screens she is the weather forecaster we see on SABC News every now and then. Soon after her marriage ended she didn't settle for less but hustled her way up and did what she is good at. Girls looked up her; some even share on social media

platforms. Friends and fans respect her work. She has made a name for herself in the South Africa.

Nomzamo 'Zaza' Dlamini

Our very songbird Zaza; the only Swazi singer with Joyous Celebration and make-up artist, Zaza is one beautiful hustler, she hustles, she

uses her incredible talents profitably. Other than being part of the Joyous Celebration, she does make-up (Make-up artists for weddings, private functions, and celebrities) and acting as well (she has featured on one of the South Africa documentaries). When she moved to our neighbourhood realm South Africa, she knew very well that she was going to make it and excel!

Celebrities are tweeting and celebrating her amazing work on social media platforms. "In the industry I'm working towards my dream. This is not even close to where I really want to be. I want to touch people lives, as much as I can like a sponge and empower, encourage and motivate the next generation of creatives," she says in a telephonic interview with SCENE.

NOMONDE FIHLA - NGEMA



NOBANDILE GWEBU - KUNENE



NOMZAMO 'ZAZA' DLAMINI



THE BEAUTIFUL HUSTLE...



Women work hard for themselves, they work hard to be where they are today, they strive every day to be better and gain admiration from the society without any assistance from the spouse or partner. They hustle.

Hustling, as I define it, isn't about cheating people out of their money, rolling dice, or anything immoral like that. It is also certainly not about mindlessly working, doing the minimum required for a job, or becoming satisfied. My definition of hustling boils down to working hard for yourself, having your own business, being a go getter, and it is not about having a good job but finding creative ideas to sustain yourself individually. We have seen both women and men hustling and becoming respected members in the society.

Hustling is about being smart. But every nerd certainly isn't a hustler. Rather, it's about being persistent. Working

hard without strategy won't get you there.

So today with SCENE, we are celebrating women who are hustling, women who have become mentors in the society, women who have empowered others, women who strive every day to be better in future.

We have Thulile 'Pasha' Zwane; she has become a mentor to other women, she empowers women.

Yes, she has good job but she also has a business on the side. Yes she comes from a good background and she would have received everything in a silver plate but no, she hustles for herself and mentors other women.

We also have the brave sisters Nancy and Erica Smith who just embarked on 'The beautiful Hustle'.

They decided to start a business together; they are ready to hustle and work hard for themselves.

Now that's a really inspiring move, big ups to the Smith family.

PASHA ON EYE-CATCHING MOMENTUM

She was conveyed up by a full circle of women; her grandmother, mother, sisters and they have influenced and shaped the way she does things.

"I was raised with strong religious values and was taught to be respectful to all people, I think my humbleness has propelled me to where I am today," she says while I prepare my pen and note book to job down what the former beauty queen says during our interview.

I'm a bit out of focus in our photo shot as I kept on staring at this gorgeous young ambitious woman.

Mind you, it's our first meeting her but it's just the way she carries herself; class, elegance and she oozes nothing but confidence.

"After completing my bachelor's degree, I struggled to get decent employment and for an extended period of time I did a voluntary unpaid internship with the Ministry of Agriculture but I was patient enough because I knew that eventually it would pay off," she boldly states.

Her beautiful hustle began when she was at school in Taiwan furthering her studies; she ventured into business, merchandising high-class and trendy wears.

When she came back home, she business was still booming and she had a lot of young women begging for business ideas, general advices and many more other things.

"I have had a lot of young women sending me messages on my Facebook asking me assist them with either scholarship applications, business advice or general advice on how to thrive through obstacles, particularly as women we face a lot of resistance in society.

And I relate to most the challenges that women face particularly because as a former beauty queen I struggled to convince people to take me seriously in the work place and other professional settings and as a woman I always have to work twice as hard than my male counterparts," she gestures.

Paving your way up and sustaining

"I aspire to provide an arsenal of weapons for surviving in an unequal world, fight micro-aggressions, correct subconscious bias and strength up with female comrades to fight patriarchy on a daily..."

your relationship with family and friends can be somehow challenging for some individuals.

"Yes, my personal relationships and friendships often suffer because work comes first for me and my business is the second dearest to me.

It's hard to strike a balance but I am lucky enough to have equally busy friends who won't nag me for not being around, but when we do catch up, it's a blast.

I'd like to think that I am a risk taker, as such I have failed in so many projects that I've attempted to do.

I'm not afraid of failing, when we did the meet and greet with Women Working Together I was really worried that the turn out might not be great and there'll be losses but that didn't stop me from doing it anyway.

I want to be a symbol of empowerment for the under-privileged girl child who thinks their destiny is limited by present circumstances, a symbol of hope for recent graduates who are unemployed, for the grinding women, and those in search of opportunities.

I come from a middle-class family and I have worked hard for everything that I have.

I took advantage of Government scholarship for my bachelor's degree, and Taiwan ICDF scholarship for my master's degree, I've applied for World Bank young professional programmes, for AU internships, Global citizen symposiums and I have a mail full of rejection letters but that doesn't stop me from reapplying and searching for more opportunities," she says as I sip my coffee which she offered me earlier but now my coffee is cold, I haven't been sipping it for a while as I was glued on the former beauty queen, her articulation is

on point!

"As much as most people look at me as a fashion it girl and beauty queen but my purpose is beyond that: I aspire to pave a way for other women who desire to follow the same career path, I aspire to provide an arsenal of weapons for surviving in an unequal world, fight micro-aggressions, correct subconscious bias and strength up with female comrades to fight patriarchy on a daily.

"I'm equally passionate about food security issues and economic liberation so I believe that my purpose is to help attain that," she stares at me wondering if I'm still following.

Every woman has someone to look up to, so does Pasha. She look up to Sheikah Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned. According to the beautiful hustler, Sheikah has been actively engaged in education and other social reforms in Qatar.

She has also played a major role in spearheading international development projects. Amongst her numerous humanitarian work she has launched EAA a global initiative that brings opportunities to poor and marginalised youth and women in the developing world. And she does all this in pure class and style.

There are so many things that Pasha wants to do her happiness is defined by fulfilment.

"When I take stock at the end of the day and I have met my work and social targets I feel fulfilled. It is the daily achievements that sum up to bigger things and if there's consistent unfulfillment on a daily basis that's what leads to unhappiness.

So if I were to identify an obstacle to happiness, it would be misuse of time."

By Ayanda Dlamini

A LOVE AFFAIR OF SWAZI FOOD

..beautiful sisters give spark to Swazi cuisine

Venturing into a new business comes with obstacles but it always depends on your strategy and mission.

SCENE met the two beautiful, heart warming, intelligent with class Smith sisters, Erica and Nancy Smith who have just embarked on a 'Beautiful Hustle' as they have just given birth to AMOR Swazi Cuisine Catering business together.

Having met Nancy before she welcomed me looking all sorts of fine, as I arrived at AMOR. I had met Nancy but had met Erica before. The ambience of the restaurant breathes fresh air, elegance and the place is very stylish. The aroma of delicious food kicks up my throat, I start salivating as I fight the urge to order food.

I'm just wondering if I'm at the right place, should I order food. Within a second Erica welcomes me with a smile, "We've tried to modernize our little restaurant," Erica welcomes the SCENE team.

With no time no time to waste because of their busy schedule, we ready ourselves for the interview. "I've always loved the idea of generating an income through the work of my own hands. I often hosted friends and family for Christmas lunches over the years and what better way to gain profit through your passion than to venture into business," Nancy says as I turn my head to Erica.

"I am hungry for success and I have big dreams and working an eight to five job has its limitations. I love good food and particularly enjoy traditional Swazi dishes, hence the birth of Amor Swazi Cuisine," Erica boldly states.

"We started our business without any capital injection. We basically put together what we had in our pockets and started. This poses challenges as we are a new business and limits us in terms of expansion. However, it has taught us perseverance, patience and hard work.

Being a former human resources officer, my experience in the field brought me to the realisation that HR was not a field I wanted to pursue long term. I decided to explore by indulging one of my passions - cooking. Fortunately, my younger sister shares the same passion, and that's how our business was established," Erica says.

Nancy had a lingerie business she ran on the side a few years ago. Even though it was a thriving business so she says.

"I did not pursue it further after a near death experience whilst in transit to collect stock from Durban where I narrowly escaped an armed hijack and robbery that left me traumatised," Nancy states.

The entrepreneur spirit has always existed within these sisters.

"As a child, I sold sweets to my classmates so as to relieve my mother of the burden of my transport expenses to and from school. Throughout my working life, I have always had a little business on the side to boost my monthly income, from selling food, bags, perfume and lingerie etc," Erica beams.

The Smiths come from a very strict upbringing, sadly enough they lost both parents at an early age.

"My dad was a disciplinarian, whilst my mother a very humble and reserved person. We lost both our parents at an early



age. However, I did not allow my circumstances to spell doom and gloom for my future. I made a decision not to view myself as a victim in life but rather a victor," Erica bravely states.

One may find very challenging to work with a relative more especially your sister or brother. I too, I find it very challenging but when it comes for the Smith sisters it's visa-verse.

"My sisters and I share a strong bond, we understand and respect one another. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses. For that reason, we complement each other very well," Erica says.

"Erica and I have always had each other's back. We are best friends and she compliments my personality very well," Nancy agrees.

The love between the two is overwhelming they laugh together, and everything is just even.

They both have role models, people who they look up to everyday, Erica looks up to Nelisiwe Mabuza and Nancy looks up to Gigi Reid-Miles.

"I look up to or rather, am motivated by so many different people in life. From the woman who sells vegetables at the market to feed her children, to the woman taking control in the boardroom of the corporate and business world.

A woman I look up to in the beautiful hustle is CEO of African Alliance, Nelisiwe Mabuza. She comes from humble beginnings and has achieved success through hard work and believing in herself and her capabilities.

I love the fact that she is not superficial but real and is not afraid to live her life fearlessly in a world filled with hypocrisy. A trait of hers that many love to hate," Erica says.

"I'm inspired by attorney Gigi Reid-Miles. I love that she has a heart of gold and cares for less privileged children in the community. My sisters and some friends were inspired to follow in her footsteps and every Christmas Eve, we visit a boys' orphanage at Elwandle Manzini and spend the day with the boys over lunch," Nancy states.

The sisters decided to tell SCENE what empowers them.

"In everything you do, put God first. Do not limit your potential or doubt your capabilities. Take challenges as a learning curve. Give it your best. Believe in it, work hard. If ever there is a moment to follow your passion and do something that matters to you, that moment is NOW," Nancy bravely answers.

Erica says, "Being eager to gain more knowledge, striving to continuously improve myself as an individual and most importantly, learning from my mistakes has empowered me a great deal.

Also, listening to others success stories and rising from failure has motivated me to keep going and to have a never say die spirit."

Nancy is a married mother of three. She is a family orientated person and loves cooking.

"I enjoy being home with my loved ones enjoying good home cooked meals prepared with love. I am naturally a humble person and I do not believe in failure," she says.

Erica is a mother of two beautiful children. She is an optimist and has great dreams for the future.

"I am a people's person and am very down to earth. I enjoy being in the company of positive minded people," she concludes. **By Ayanda Dlamini**

ERICA AND NANCY SMITH



Poverty is not uncommon in Africa, and it wreaks havoc in communities; affecting both young and old, male and female.

It would seem as though the effects are little bit harsher when it comes to our young girls.

A number of girls have been forced into transactional relationships, in order to make ends meet and provide for their destitute families. This may be clichéd in the African context, but it still remains one of the biggest challenges facing our young girls.

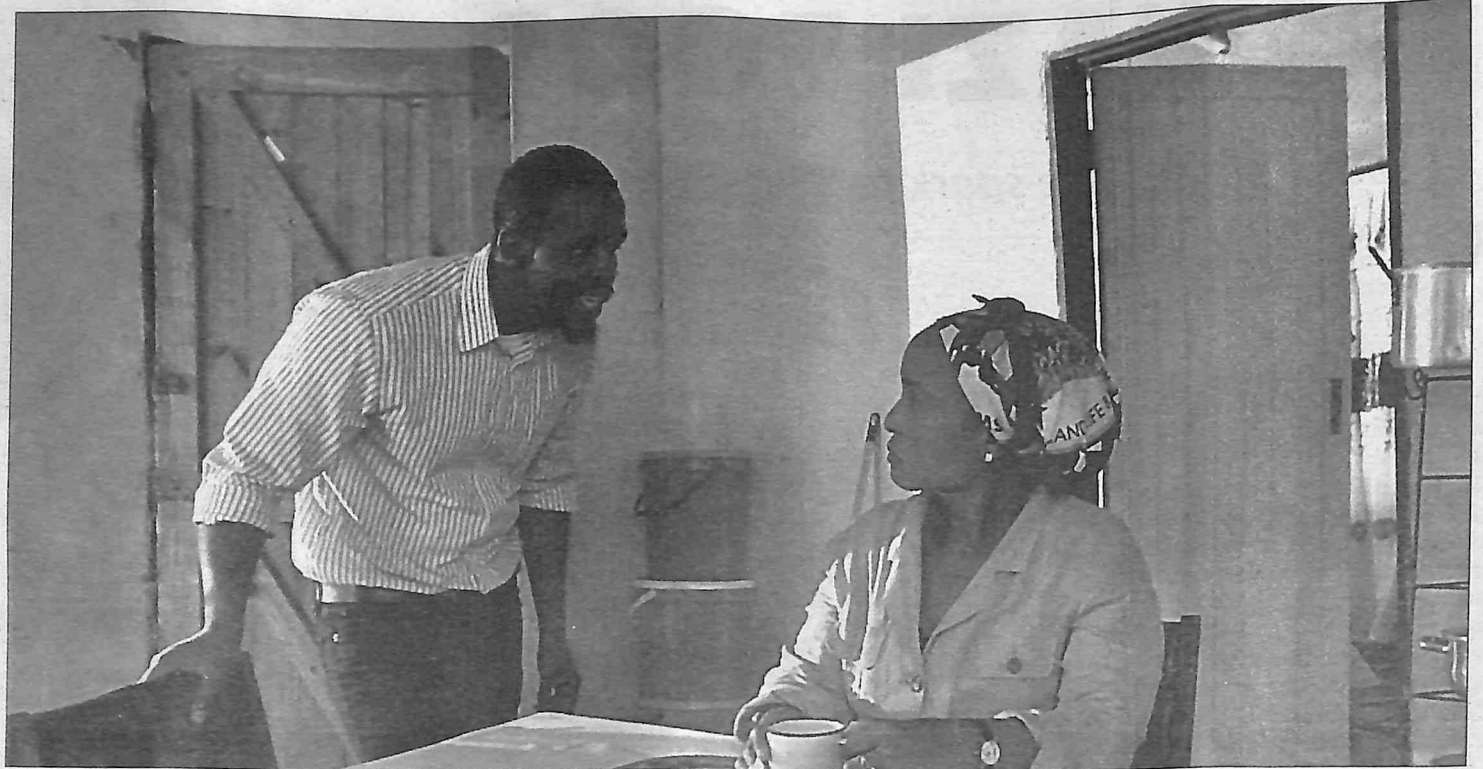
It is a scourge that quickly puts out flames of one's desire to become more than their circumstance. This is the reality of most young girls in our country, a means to an end albeit one that comes with a hefty price tag.



SYNOPSIS:

Faced with the reality of poverty after the death of their father, Nobuhle finds the quickest way out of her problem.

She soon pays a hefty price, realizing that sometimes the shortest route isn't always the best.



My wild mind conjure up this scene as I watched the lanky Sandile Makhanya run down the hill towards a car parked on Dinabantu Drive.

I imagined that this was the prelude to his escape. Close by was Limkokwing University residence where students had embarked on a strike; no one came in and no one went out!

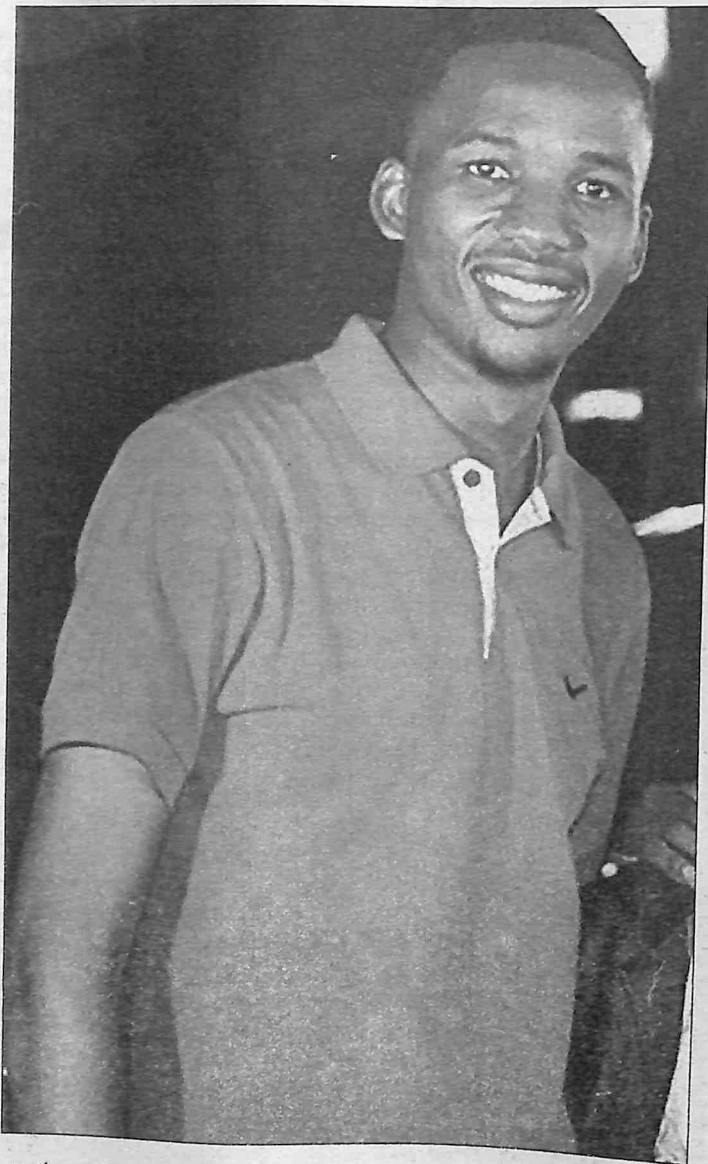
As we sat down for a chat, I quickly asked the director to take me back to that day some months ago during the pre-production phase of his film.

This image is still engraved in my memory reminding me of some of the most daring escapes I have witnessed in Hollywood films.

"It was the third day of rehearsals and the students went on strike and I was locked in! The cast were waiting for me, my mentor was not amused. He told me, very firmly, that if I don't make the rehearsal I might as well kiss the project goodbye. Having been part of the very disciplined, strict processes and preparations that went into the making of the films, I just knew he wasn't bluffing. At that point it wasn't even about the Film Lab, it was about seeing my dream go up in flames. I knew I had to fight to get out."

I am sold to his passion as I recall waiting in the car at the edge of a forest on that street just outside Limkokwing residence. My phone rang and I answered in panic. "I'm out!" Sandile's shaky voice says on the other end. As we drive away in a rush to make the rehearsal, Sandile casually wiped beads of sweat running down his face. He had somehow managed to compose himself as he perused his script and scribbled down some notes in readiness for his day. I smiled at this young man's resilience and thirst for success. This son of a woman who runs the Local Care Point spoke fondly of his mother's nurturing spirit and commitment to improving the lives of those around her. This is one

THE DIRECTOR; SANDILE MAKHANYA



attribute that rubbed off on him. "Poverty is not alien to me. That is why I never had much difficulty bringing this world (Blessed) to life. I know what it is to be poor, so it did influence my treatment of the film. Seeing people going through hardships and also experiencing some myself, it felt as though I was bearing my soul," he said passionately of his film. Blessed portrays a

raw and uninterrupted spiral into abject poverty that exists in communities in the sugar belt on the Eastern side of Swaziland. The film explores the positive socio-economic impact of the Small Scale sugar farming schemes funded by the European Union. Growing up in the dusty streets of Buka in eZulwini; a peri-urban community that has its fair share of socio-economic

struggles, has given the young director a window into a plethora of struggles and triumphs by everyday ordinary people.

Our first meeting at the Film Lab Initiative, him as a trainee director and myself a crew member, was not memorable. A quick introduction and a shy nod, an ever so slight wave and the world continued. Were it not for his height, Sandile would be easy to forget because of his quiet demeanour and what seemed like insecurity. Just when I had started calling him "the tall guy", he stepped out of his shell to claim what was rightfully his. His film stands a shoulder above many propaganda films that have come out of the Kingdom, attesting to the fact that the edutainment genre has a place in our society.

"I think there is a void in terms of stories that explore relationships, particularly between parents and children.

Films such as the Medea franchise by Tyler Perry are a great formula that I personally feel are able to tap into that space. When you talk about real things, stories that teach positive values, those are films that really get my attention," Sandile muses. It comes as no surprise then that this young director is passionate about edutainment judging from his aura, well groomed manners and a general willingness to help. So as we wind down the interview, my dreams shattered, I was amazed at the enthusiasm in his voice as he shared the synopses of his next film. I don't know whether this was a ploy to break my heart, but either way I quickly gathered myself (and the pieces of my broken heart) and scored myself a front row seat. It looks like Swaziland is in for a treat, with "the tall guy" at the helm of all the action.

BLESSED



CAST; THEMBINKOSI MTHETHWA

I don't think anybody dreams of being an actor as a young kid actually but it's something that you discover as you grow up and then you just follow it. It becomes a passion and that passion pays you when it becomes a career.

So I was one of the lucky ones that ended up getting paid. I have achieved few of my dreams because I have been to London with the Shakespeare Festival, and I have done quite a number of theatre productions. I was in a BBC movie when I was in Kenya which was funded by Anant Singh. I also did a couple of commercials in South Africa and I did Cool Catz, to mention a few.

My advice to the young great people out there is go to school, study hard, follow your dreams and never let anyone tell you "you cannot do it". If you have passion for anything at the end of the day, it is that passion that will drive you and sustain you. You're blessed if it can actually pay you.

Future plans



My plans would be doing more movies and telling a lot of Swazi stories.

I wish to see the Swazi film industry improve, because we have abundant talent, the equipment, and professionals to actually deliver high quality productions.

Memorable moments on set

My memorable moment on set were the sleepless nights, the fun we had while filming Blessed and the way the whole crew always kept us going. We had our eye on the prize no matter how long the hours. It was great but by the same token a tough time because we were fatigued at some point. That was a difficult moment for me.

MAIN CHARACTER: LENYELENHLE MALAZA

Growing up I always had my dreams set on being an actress. I always looked up to Julia Roberts, Audrey Hepburn, and Nthathi Moshesh.

It was very inspiring to see these women attack such strong roles on TV.

My break did eventually come; I have done "Litsambo Lemuntfu Alidliwa", "Siphosiso" and the current one under the Film Lab Initiative "Blessed".

To those who want to pursue acting as a career, I always tell people that acting is not for the faint hearted and nothing comes on a silver platter.

There is a lot of reading that has to be done, dedication and just putting your

I plan to push myself even more out of my comfort zone and I am kind of ready for anything because I am even afraid of my own dreams right now.

mind on to what you are about to do.

Future plans

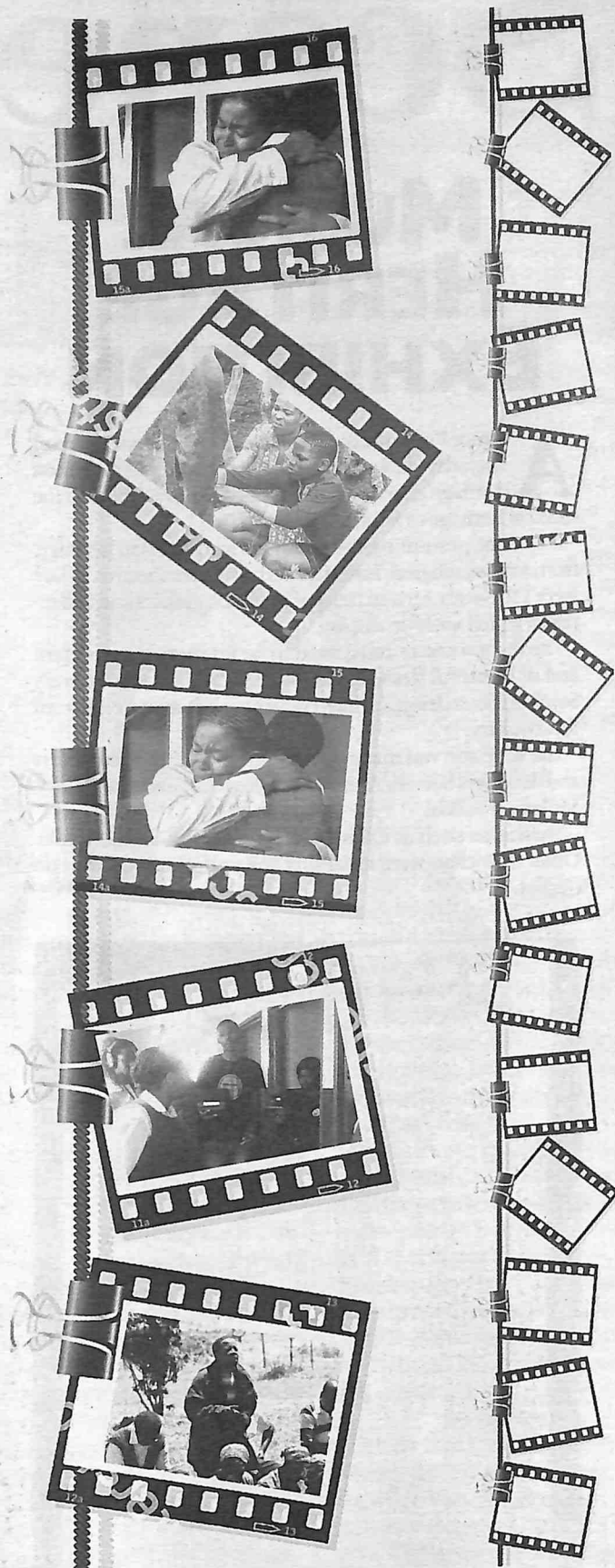
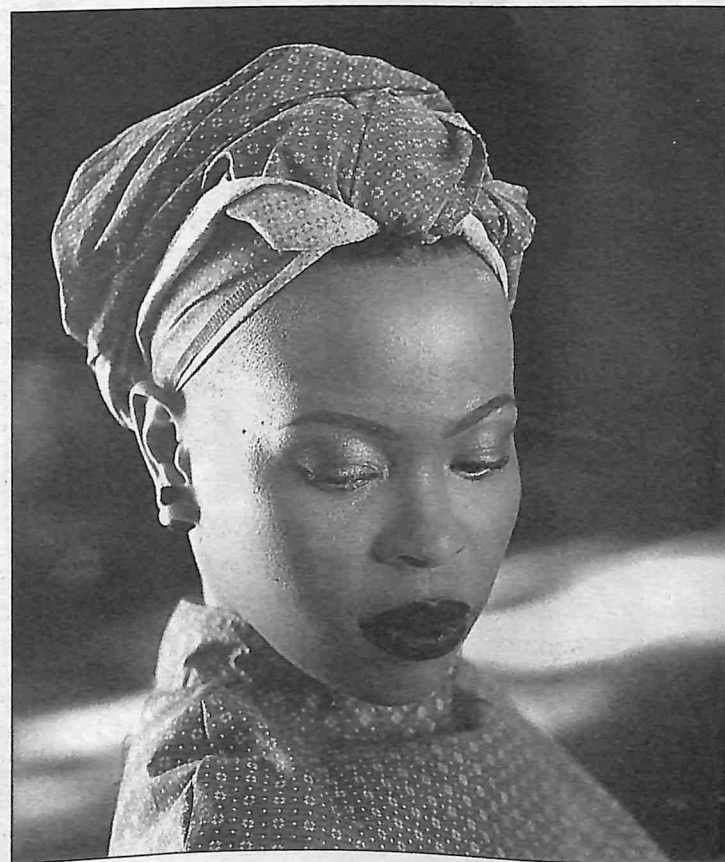
I plan to push myself even more out of my comfort zone and I am kind of ready for anything because I am even afraid of my own dreams right now. I also want to tap in the business side of film, in a way I am grateful to be able to be in this space, where I am able to understand the business side of film making sure that my passion and reason can co-exist in my brain.

Memorable moments on set

I am a bubbly young black and gifted soul, so it's hard to select because all memories shared on set were and are still memorable to me.

Seeing and being around determined and passion-driven Swazi film makers on its own was a memory for archives.

The laughter, thanks to Thembinkosi Mtetwa and Savior Kakama who kept us laughing all the time. Another memorable moment was when I had to milk a cow for the first time in my life.



Behind the Scene

MUSICAL HERITAGE EXHIBITION

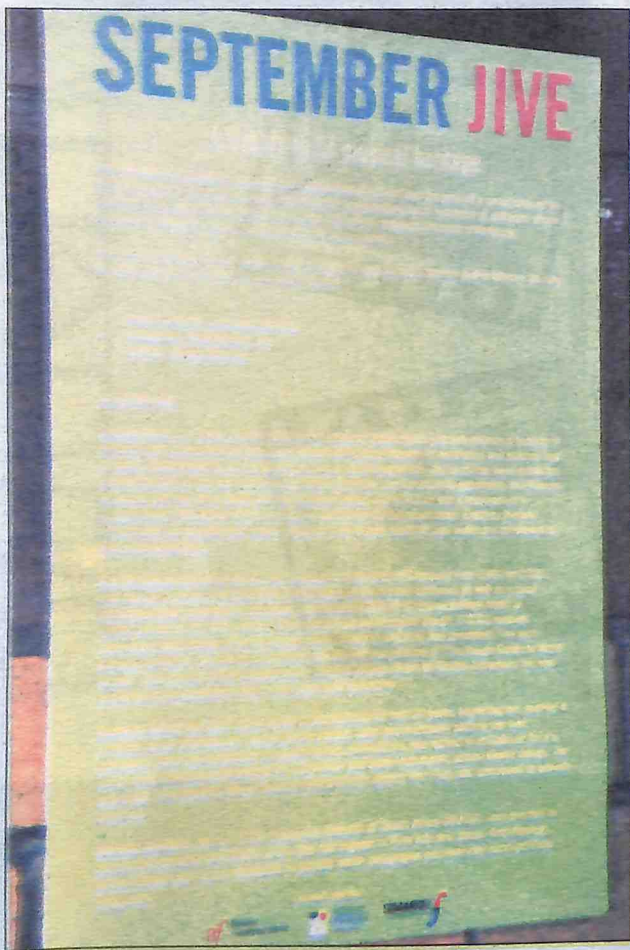
Alliance Française de Mbabane hosted a teaser event on Thursday, dubbed 'September Jive- A Tribute to Musical Heritage exhibition. September Jive is a tribute to the musical heritage of South Africa.

It aims at promoting the South African musical heritage, from a musicological, historical and visual perspective. There were 150 South African musical graphics, classics and collectables which were on display.

The displays were considered to be interesting, important and of beautiful sleeve covers, with a special focus on truly South African designs, which could have emanated only from this country.

The selection was made by a group consisting of collectors and designers Siemon Allen, Rob Allingham, Caroline Hillary, Molemo Moiloa.

Musicians such as Qibho came dressed in Swazi regalia. Other musicians were socialising and appreciating the art on display.



KING'S VISION

Kingdom of Swaziland
speech
by:

His Majesty King Mswati III during the 36th Graduation Ceremony at the University of Swaziland, Kwaluseni in Matsapha

15th October, 2016
Kings Office
Emakhosikati,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Prime Minister,
Councillors,
Chiefs,
Chief Justice,
Deputy Prime Minister
Ministers,
Members of the Diplomatic
Corps,
Presiding Officers and Members
of both Houses of Parliament,
Regional Administrator for the
Manzini region,
the Chairman and Members of
the University Council,
the Vice Chancellor,
members of the University Senate,
members of the Board of
Trustees of the UNISWA foundation
members of the University community,
parents,
graduands,
distinguished guests,
ladies and gentlemen
siyanivusela nonkhke lapha e-university ekwaluseni

INTRODUCTION

It is a great joy for me to be at the university of eSwatini to join this august assembly of the 36th graduation ceremony where 1286 candidates will be graduating today.

We welcome you all to this prestigious event on the university calendar, particularly the parents, spouses, friends and relatives who come from near and afar to support the graduands on their big day.

We congratulate the graduands for having been found worthy of the qualifications they would be receiving today, this is the product of our hard work, patience, the sacrifice of parents and all who contributed to you being counted among those being bestowed with academic recognition today.

Challenge to graduands

Now that you have been equipped with academic skills, use this investment in education to unlock the doors to your success. The knowledge you have acquired includes entrepreneurship skills that should



enable you to create the much needed jobs.

Government has put in place institutions to facilitate use of your skills so do take advantage of programmes such as the youth fund as well as the royal science parks and the innovation and biotechnology parks to start your own business ventures. The country is in great need of new ideas and skills to help unlock its full economic growth potential. We look to you to fill this gap.

Conferral of honorary degrees we also take this opportunity to congratulate the recipients of the two honorary degrees – doctor of laws and doctor of education respectively. Your hard work has earned you what has been given to you by the university. We hope you shall continue to contribute to the development of humanity throughout your lives.

Role of tertiary institutions in establishing SADC University and achieving regional aspirations. Ladies and gentlemen, you are well aware that the Kingdom of eSwatini has assumed chairmanship of our regional body SADC. We, therefore, look to institutions like the local universities to promote the socio-economic and political regional integration and development agenda of the SADC region.

The hosting of the SADC public lecture during the SADC summit by the University of Swaziland

was a good start and it contributed to the overall success of the SADC programme.

The summit culminated in the launch of the SADC university of innovation. We invite our tertiary institutions, both locally and regionally, to provide guidance and direction towards the establishment of this university. We do believe our tertiary institutions have the capacity and potential to tackle the challenges facing regional integration and development.

Recognising strategic partnerships for science and technology parks distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the country has taken significant strides towards tapping into innovation and creativity of its citizens. The University of Swaziland was part of the Swaziland delegation to the Africa-India summit where it established collaborations and partnerships with reputable Indian universities and research institutes.

We are happy to note that the parties are already collaborating with science and technology parks initiatives. The potential that comes with science parks in terms of revenue generation cannot be overemphasised. Our tertiary institutions should play a leading role so that we can reap the desired benefits from these facilities.

Acknowledging support towards infrastructure growth of UNISWA.

The university has witnessed noticeable growth that has expanded

the facilities and academic programmes available to students. Grants from friends of the kingdom and donors from various sectors have provided the University with equipment that will improve the quality of teaching and learning of the graduates.

In this regard we wish to extend our appreciation to the government of Japan and the government of eSwatini for the construction of several buildings at the Faculty of Agriculture and consumer sciences, at Luyengo campus.

We also acknowledge donations by the government of the Republic of China on Taiwan, DXN Malaysia, Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA) and the government of eSwatini.

This support has equipped the university with laboratory and irrigation equipment for the national crop production centre, the institute of distance education and the dalcru farm.

We look forward to the faculty of consumer sciences at the Luyengo campus and the new faculty not only producing entrepreneurs and job creators, but also generating additional revenue for the university through its textile and food products.

We encourage the university to explore the possibility of partnering with other institutions or private sector where they could develop incubators for students to start business after completing their studies.

We have seen in other countries where graduates are brought together to start their own businesses in a faculty that is managed and monitored by the university.

This could go a long way in empowering our young people. We give the University administration to explore this task for the benefit of the country. This can also address the issue of unemployment in the country.

Increasing student enrolment

It is the dream of every parent to see their children enroll at institutions of higher learning.

This has often proved a challenge for some.

We are, therefore, encouraged by the University's initiative aimed at significantly increasing access to University education.

The construction of the new buildings at the Luyengo and Kwaluseni campuses that will raise student enrolment to over 8000 is highly commendable.

To the students that have the opportunity to be admitted to the

university, take advantage of this opportunity of a lifetime. There are many other children who could not get this opportunity so treat it with care because it is your treasure for the future.

A University is a place of learning – yes a place of learning. It empowers an individual to create a road map for one's destiny. It is for this reason that the nation is doing all it can provide resources for quality education.

Applaud UNISWA vision and strategy

As the country strives to transform into first world economy guided by vision 2022, we are happy to note how the institution has positioned itself towards this national objective.

The university has come up with a 2016-2021 strategic plan which seeks to turn the institution into a university of choice in Africa. We do note that the new strategic plan has strategic initiatives aimed at enabling the university raise additional revenue.

The ultimate goal is to enable the university to partially sustain itself financially. We applaud this noble idea and urge you to work hard to achieve its objective. We also call upon the private sector, government and stakeholders to provide the necessary support for this business-like approach towards self-sustainability.

Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen, graduands, distinguished guest, as I conclude may I once again congratulate the graduands for their achievements. We encourage those who have excelled to continue to shine and make a difference that will impact positively on the growth and development of this country.

We are encouraged to have witnessed a number of university students heeding the call and making positive contributions towards the country's development when the nation was summoned *sibaya* recently. You should continue with this positive spirit and create a legacy in your organisation, or community where you will be working. This country can only realise its vision if we will put our hands on the deck and dedicate our lives to the growth of our kingdom.

May we also thank all those responsible for putting this wonderful event together which has been both inspiring and entertaining. We acknowledge your gifts and we are grateful to have spent time with you all today.

Thank you may the almighty god

UNISWA BECOMING THE UNIVERSITY CHOICE IN AFRICA



This is an exciting project undertaken by the institution in positioning itself as the country's leading producer of human capital in response to the growing trends of the demand of ICT products and services.

The institution would like to appeal to ICT companies to partner with the UNISWA computer Science department in shaping the country's ICT space.

This project is important to the transformation of how business models in the country will be shaped in the future as the institution produces the skills that will fuel the economic growth of Swaziland.

For decades UNISWA has been producing leaders who have been hoisting the country's flag, because of the education system that has moulded leaders who are executives in global brands.

Marketing Officer: Tengetile Nxumalo

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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For more information, please contact the marketing Officer at 7648 6329 or email to: cs_compfair@uniswa.sz

SIYAPHAMBILI nge-ICT

THE RED PEN

Phila Dlamini
VilakatiIf you want to be a
writer... write!

Please allow me to share this limited space with Sinengebo Macie; a very enthusiastic, hardworking young man who aspires to be a writer like his teacher. He just recently broke the school rules and got himself into serious trouble that I wouldn't dare mention. He no longer deserves the slot or any recognition whatsoever but because I promised him this, well, I guess I should keep my promise.

The dude was a very active member of the English Club and had a passion to write. I am thinking this might encourage him to reform. I am by no means embracing the fact that he broke my heart when he broke the school rules, I am in my own way using the so-called positive discipline measure. I love that old saying "Practice what you preach", and this that he wrote himself, is meant for him particularly because of his title "Staying on the right lane for prosperity".

(# Copy and paste) Greetings in the name of humanity. Once again we have been given a magnificent day to add to our obituaries by the universe of course. I'd like to draw attention to one vital concept to a prosperous peaceful and generous life—harmonious and absolutely fail proof. A positive life, unsurpassed, the life that every other great leader and teacher led. I wish to stress on the significance of a positive mind-set if success is to be attained.

First, let us see if what I'm saying correlates with history. "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land" (Isaiah 1:19). It is not impossible to be irreproachable and lead by example. Being influential has nothing to do with age and background. It's all about your credibility, integrity, and of course your perception of the universe. A positive percept is inevitable for success in anything you do since we are living under the law of attraction which constantly attracts to us circumstances and situations that are completely relevant to our predominant mental attitude.

So if you hadn't known, thought practically contributes to every conscious action. You are literally a product of your thoughts. Now just give it some thought, if you always stay positive, it automatically becomes your habit until you do it unconsciously—so you will be creating harmonious conditions for yourself in the future. The very same principle applies to negative thinking—you create situations of resentment and discord, and that becomes your lifetime habit and you end up doing it unknowingly.

Now can you do a self-introspection, and double check which side you are on? Which class of thoughts you entertain in your everyday life and see if they draw a parallel with the circumstances you have been facing in life. Then, do you still blame God for all the evil that has happened in your lifetime, the good that you have achieved? I don't think so.

The holy bible reads "man has authority over everything"—does that not ring any bells to you? It proceeds to say "God gave man free will", and that is, no matter how much God loves us—he sticks to his word—free will it is. God will never create your life, he can only help you attain what you entertain in your mind, what you always think about. So if you are always positive, all good things seem to come your way—you stay happy at all times. Ever smiling. Likewise with negativity.

"All that we are is a result of what we have thought"—Buddha

From today onwards, mind your thoughts, because they are literally creating you, so be sure to entertain only the quality of thoughts that you would love to see in reality. Lucky people aren't necessarily lucky, they have made positivity their habit, so all their encounters seem to be so smooth and harmonious. They end up doing it instinctively and end up succeeding in everything they venture into.

As King Solomon said "as a man thinketh, so is he". So our universe is but a direct reflection of what people are continuously thinking about. Your world too is just a reflection of what you always think about, talk about and do, so it all comes from thought. What you give is what you get, remember the old verse "what you sow, you shall reap" is directly affiliated to the fact that whatever you think about, you bring about. So all the power is in your possession, so start creating a pleasurable world for everybody's sake, your success is the universe's success. Lead a representative life.

All this by Sinengebo? Talk about irony!
Oh, what a classic example!

Analysis & opinion

BY MBONGENI
MBONGOPERHAPS
JAN HAS A
POINT

Martin Dlamini, he who also goes by the name of *Gobizandla*, is a happy when—his budget has now escaped the surprising if not unexpected scrutiny by the Members of Parliament. You could also say his budget has been passed by the lower house and obviously that it is now a matter of time before the upper house does its duty too.

By the beginning of April, and thus the new financial year for government, the budget will be in full effect, and the government machinery will be in full motion. Salaries will be paid, and all other obligations met—except for the contractors whose businesses are being run down by government's failure to meet its financial obligation. But, the passing of the budget this past week comes down to that. That is what it was always going to be like, no matter the huffing and puffing if not frothing by MPs. The finance minister made it known too this past week that the business of the budget was for government, and as such, he was bemused at how MPs suddenly became experts in the field. It is his remark that budgets are the government's policies in financial terms that got me thinking that this needed further interrogation, and certainly that it should open further debate as to the role of Parliament.

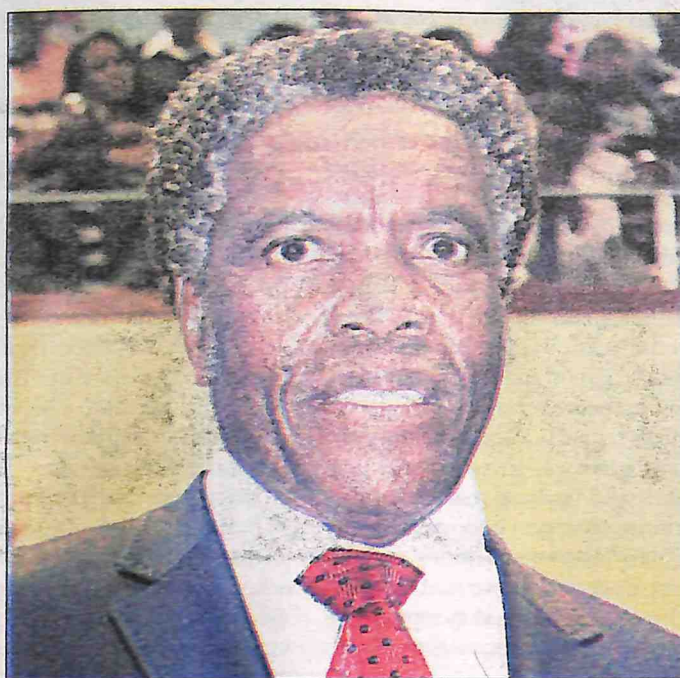
I don't want to argue with the budget, and the way that it is formulated purely because I have come to accept that it is what it is, and so often there is, nothing Parliament can do once it is presented. What I find interesting however, is the attitude regarding the process, if not outcome from the Executive; it is almost boastful. Based on what the minister is alluding, he is telling the legislature that the business of budgeting should be left to Cabinet, and government.

This should explain how in the end the budget made it through without any changes; and why, after three weeks of hyped excitement, everything the MPs questioned went back into the budget. Of course many of us knew MPs were wasting both their collective breaths and our money. Many of us knew that the budget and all that is contained in it was what was given. We could froth and all we want, but that is the reality.

Budget

But it is still an uncomfortable reality. What then should Parliament do; and in light of the budget debate. How far should they go? Should they even bother? Does it matter that they don't have as much input in it as they desire, or that can they not improve the process as a collective? What is Parliament's role in the whole set-up then?

Clearly, if you listen to the frustration of some of them there is the



Manzi North MP Jan Sithole.

feeling that this is a lost cause. Reading and judging by Jan Sithole's reaction to the attitude of government one senses that there is an air of hopelessness to how little impact parliament is having to the issues that matter. The Manzi North MP lamented the attitude of government toward parliament, accusing Cabinet of undermining the oversight role of Parliament.

He pointed out that there were resolutions that Parliament had passed that Cabinet had not enforced, with impunity. This is a very good point by the MP, and very well justified to be raised, except that just like the same resolutions he is pointing out, this too shall be taken for granted. I have always argued that Parliamentarians are themselves a serious let down in the way they pursue some of their own agendas in the House.

Wrong

They don't seem to read the political barometer well, or that understanding the context to many of their points and motions. Often, they come across as populists more than politicians, except that unlike the Donald Trumps and Julius Malema's they don't quite have the substance. And, let's not forget, they get things wrong; such as the timing of their submissions.

What I find contributes to their failure to make any meaningful impact to the political discourse is their apparent lack of understanding of the system and all its intricacies.

For me, this is crucial, and the answer to Jan Sithole's problem. If you are going to move a vote of no confidence against the prime minister or the speaker of the House, you must do that with certain people's approval. This can't be a skelem hatched in the Parliament lobby, no matter how justified.

If you are going to reject the budget, you must have the backing of certain people, and not just a stunt for the gallery. If you are going to argue, rightly so, that students of our universities must be given their allowances, you must understand the political context so as to be able to move the rocks that are obstacles.

Otherwise all it ever serves is the shouting from the rooftops, and even then people with mental disorders do a better job.

Problems

What I am driving at therefore is that Martin Dlamini is right. Sadly. For us to be able to appreciate the problems we are faced with, we need to appreciate how they are made. For us to solve them, we need to work together.

Parliament must not operate as an opposition party in Parliament. Parliament is an oversight of government. Parliament is part of the problem.

For them to have an input into the budget, they need to work on the policies; they need to input at their *Tinkhundla* and committees level.

The tendency to blurt out at the final stages what can and cannot go in the budget hardly ever is going

to make a difference. In any case, we should appreciate that budgeting does not happen overnight, certainly not national budgets. MPs only serve to expose how little they are familiar with the business of government when they are going to object to certain things when they should be part of the process themselves. If they want meaningful contribution, they obviously need to raise that during the year.

The system of rejecting things in the budget works well in a multi-party system where the opposition parties are not part of the planning. In this context, for instance, you can very much understand their point of view to rejecting the budget for the Christianity education roll out. That has been sprung from out of the blue by government and therefore politicians would be obliged to question it. In that regard, it was perfectly acceptable too to have that line suspended for the time being, because it is clear to everyone this rollout is being rushed through by Cabinet.

But, surprise, surprise, even then MPs backed down. That too was restored into the budget. You then ask yourself what the point was from the onset for MPs to throw out this budget, other than an attempt to score political points.

It is often said that in the final year of their term in office, MPs pursue a different agenda; many have accepted their ambition of being Cabinet ministers will not be achieved; many realise that it is time to start campaigning for votes; many are disappointed with the unfulfilled promises for a Cabinet post and therefore adopt a hostile stance to everything coming from Cabinet.

Parliament

In the meantime, those in Cabinet are not the least bothered with Parliament and whatever their impositions; they are focused on their ambition for a return to politics, and therefore their greatest agenda is to please the authorities.

This leaves us with Jan's accusation of Parliament being undermined. Yes, *babe Sithole*; you maybe very right.

The point is that you had four years as Parliament to get this cleared. Parliament needs to work as a collective, and not as individuals. Parliament needs to work as an oversight. Only then will the recommendations be implemented. Right now, everyone is jostling to be front of the queue where it matters—and it is not in Parliament.



THE VOICE OF BUSINESS POST BUDGET ANALYSIS

On Wednesday, this past week, the Central Bank of Swaziland in partnership with Corporate Skills Centre and the Swaziland Bankers Association hosted the 2017 Post Budget Seminar. The Voice of Business in Swaziland was part of the panel invited to present their views on the Budget that was recently delivered by the minister of finance.

Firstly, the Voice of Business would like to congratulate the minister on tabling a budget, especially under such trying economic and social circumstances. There are, however, a few areas that the Voice of Business was hoping would have been addressed in this year's budget.

The Voice of Business would have loved to see a budget that is geared towards growing the economy, and believes that the 2017/2018 Budget falls short of that. Growth in 2016 was stagnant, the GDP growth rate is expected to be at negative 0.6 per cent. With a GDP growth rate less than three per cent per annum over the last five years is evidence that the economy of the country requires improved ideas to increase economic productivity and output, resulting in positive trade results, reduced budget deficit, reduced trade deficit and reduced unemployment rate.

Against the backdrop of a shrinking economy as indicated by the expected GDP growth rate of negative 0.6 per cent, one key element that we believe is missing is specific initiatives on job creation.

While the Voice of Business acknowledges that there was a mention of the

advent of Special Economic Zones, there is still a lack of information on how they will operate and what impact they will have with regards to attracting export-based investment (both foreign and domestic) and subsequently job creation.

Another concern that the Voice of Business had hoped would be addressed is the expenditure control. As we previously highlighted in one of our articles in the Swazi Observer, we believe that what happened in 2016 was a huge error by government, wherein the public service wage bill was increased drastically by effecting an average 17 per cent salary increment for its civil servants. We believe that this was done at the wrong time and put further strain on the government's fiscal situation. We were hoping that the Budget Speech would acknowledge that this was a miscalculation and highlight plans of how excessive recurrent expenditure will be reined in. Accountability and transparency in government expenditure and financial resource utilisation are extremely important.

The minister stated during the 2017 Post Budget Seminar that the government has invested in capital projects which in turn equates to job creation.

In principle, this is true, but in reality it is negated by the cash flow problem that government has, which has caused a backlog in the payment of

Another concern that the Voice of Business had hoped would be addressed is the expenditure control. As we previously highlighted in one of our articles in the Swazi Observer, we believe that what happened in 2016 was a huge error by government, wherein the public service wage bill was increased drastically by effecting an average 17 per cent salary increment for its civil servants.

government suppliers. The situation on the ground is that a lot of companies are adversely affected by the late (and/or non-payment) and as such had to either scale down their operations or shut down.

The Voice of Business expected to see a strong statement from the minister which speaks to a better managed cash flow situation in the country. This, in view of the Voice of Business, would ensure accelerated payments of businesses which supplies government. Otherwise the current situation where government still struggles to pay private sector companies in time causes more strain to businesses, some of them incurring serious finance costs and risking collapse.

We hope that the Public Finance Management Bill that is currently in Parliament will be passed soon, and

will be implemented in trying to address some of the abovementioned challenges.

In line with the key message of His Majesty's Speech from the Throne was 'Rising Above Adversity to Create Prosperity for All'.

The minister, in his Budget Speech made a note of the need to reduce reliance on the Southern African Customs Unions (SACU) receipts, which constitutes about 42 percent of this year's government revenue, and has increased from 37 per cent of the 2016/2017 revised Budget. The continued reliance on SACU proceeds as the main source of revenue has been talked about in many fora and yet we are still not seeing any new strategies which will end this dependency.

One such strategy is the establishment of a stability or anchor fund that

will cater for extreme economic shocks that we have experienced. Further strategies include an honest and open discussion on the tax policy and how the informal sector can be brought into the tax bracket without jeopardising their disposable income.

During the Post-Budget Seminar, the Voice of Business has renewed calls for increasing funding to improve cross-border systems and processes. We believe that increased trade will directly improve revenue collected by government. The Voice of Business continues to call for a 24-hour border operation which would boost trade access to SA - our biggest trading partner. There is no insurmountable reason why the Swazi Government has been unsuccessful in negotiating with its South African counterparts for the 24-hour operation of all its border posts to facilitate the flow of goods between the two countries. Furthermore, there is a need to improve trade relations with Mozambique bilateral trade agreements which we believe will also improve the country's trade balance.

Lastly but not least, we hope that the ministry of finance is amenable to the suggestions of having stakeholder engagements before the budget is tabled. The Voice of Business believes that there is still an opportunity for the country to develop a budgeting mechanism that is inclusive of all sectors of the social-economic landscape.

Donald Trump's dizzying Time magazine interview was 'Trumpspeak' on display

Donald Trump's elastic connection to reality was richly on display in his interview with Time magazine, published on Thursday. Much of what the president said was unsurprising - that is, to those who have spent the past two months radically recalibrating their standards of what counts as presidential speech.

Devoted to the topic of "truth and falsehoods", the interview gave the president a chance to substantiate or explain his most offensive deformations of the factual record - that Muslims danced in the streets of the New Jersey as the Twin Towers crumbled, that 3 million undocumented aliens threw the popular vote in Hillary Clinton's favor, that Ted Cruz's father trucked with Lee Harvey Oswald, and that Barack Obama tapped the phone of then candidate Trump.

Predictably, the president offered nothing in the way of substantiation or contrition. Instead, he overwhelmed his interviewer with such a profusion of misstatements, half-truths, dodges and red herrings that one grows dizzy trying

to untangle it all.

Our first impulse might be to run this verbal stew through a fact-checking rinse. But as Spinoza once said about scripture, sometimes it's better to study a text for its meaning, not its truth.

In this regard, the Time interview is a particularly helpful document, as it provides unusual insight into the principles and deep structure of Trumpspeak, the untethered political discourse presently distorting our democracy.

What follows is an informal inventory of the most revealing quotes:

1. "I didn't say that. I was referring to ... a newspaper story with ... a picture of Ted Cruz, his father, and Lee Harvey Oswald, having breakfast."

In Trumpspeak, a speaker can never be accused of lying if he's simply repeating the statements of others; it is the responsibility of those who make original claims to check for the accuracy and truthfulness of their assertions, not the person who repeats them - even if that person happens to be the most powerful person and speaker



on the planet.

2. "But wiretapping was in quotes."

Trumpspeak is figurative. It lives in quotation marks. This is not only because Trumpspeak works by repeating the statements of others (see point 1), but because it is gestural, performative.

Trumpspeak is unscripted; words cascade forth only to be rearranged and endlessly massaged to say whatever is needed in the moment.

3. "Sweden. I make a statement, everyone goes crazy. The next day they have a massive riot, and death, and problems."

In Trumpspeak, truth is not fac-

tual, it's imagistic (this is related to point 2). Truthful statements do not necessarily offer an accurate account of events in the world. They provide an approximation or exaggeration of something that might, in theory, have occurred. Whether a terror attack in Sweden ever took place on the night named by the president is irrelevant. Nor should we care that the riot was not massive and there was no death. Close and maybe are good enough.

4. "Remember they said there was no way to get to 270? Well I ended up at 306."

Trumpspeak confuses prophecy with honesty. The president accurately predicted his electoral victory and therefore must be a man of his word. Conversely, if a news organisation failed to correctly anticipate the president's win at the polls, Trumpspeak treats this as evidence of the falsity and mendacity of that organisation's reportage about all of reality.

5. "The country believes me."

In Trumpspeak, belief is a signal of truth. If his supporters believe him, then what Trump is saying must be true. Conversely, if his

detractors disbelieve him, this too is evidence that what he is saying must be true. In Trumpspeak, detractors claim Trump is a liar because they are his detractors; and in calling Trump a liar, they in fact are lying.

6. "I'm president, and you're not."

Finally, Trumpspeak is transactional. It places no independent value on truth. The value of speech is to be measured exclusively in terms of its effects. If a statement gets me closer to my goal, then it is valuable; if it does not, it is worthless.

Valuable statements, then, are true by virtue of the fact that they advance my interests. Statements that fail to do so are worthless and thus false. I was elected president, so that means that every statement that got me here has validity.

This does not claim to be an exhaustive list of the principles of Trumpspeak. Nor do I mean to suggest that Trumpspeak is a conscious construct of the president. In the Time interview, Trump describes himself as a "very instinctual person", and however we parse this obscure characterization of self, we should acknowledge the president's peculiar gift at concocting verbal mayhem.

Lawrence Douglas

MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



CATCH THAT CULPABLE COP!

What we refer to here as COP is that very fascinating phenomenon in grammar: Case Of Pronoun.

Catching an errant case of pronoun is something we must know how to do as good writers or knowledgeable readers. Like most grammatical errors, faulty case of pronoun shows that a writer has a weak grounding in the fundamentals of grammar.

To be sure, case is a matter that falls under that vital aspect of grammar known as inflection, and it pertains to the forms which nouns and pronouns take according to what they are in a sentence, that is, the role they play. In sentences, nouns or pronouns may be one of three things: subject, object, or owner. Respectively, these are the nominative or subjective case, the objective case, and the possessive case.

"Who's fooling who about king's jet?" is the headline of a news story which runs across two inner pages of the Times of Swaziland, March 15, 2017. The lead of the story reads, thus: "Members of Parliament (MPs) were yesterday reminded of Double You's song lyrics 'who's fooling who' when two Cabinet ministers gave different versions about the whereabouts of the King's jet."

Well, as the saying goes, anywhere there is a pronoun, there is a case. Like the headline of that story, the lead has two pronouns; so each has a case to answer, so to say! The two pronouns in the headline are "who" and "who." The same two pronouns are repeated, albeit in a quote, in the lead of the story.

Double "who" in one sentence is signal enough that something is amiss, for you cannot have two captains in a ship. Since one of the two pronouns must be a noun, the other cannot also be a noun.

Whereas the first "who" is correct, because that is the form it should take in the subjective or nominative case, the second "who" is incorrect, because that is not the form it should take in the objective case. The correct form of this demonstrative pronoun in the objective case is "whom."

Accordingly, the headline may be revised, thus: "Who's fooling whom about king's jet?" And the lead of the story may be revised to read, "Members of Parliament (MPs) were yesterday reminded of the lyrics of the song by Double You, 'Who's fooling who?' when two Cabinet ministers gave different versions of the whereabouts of the King's jet."

The title of an article in the Sunday Times of October 12, 2016 is an example of the correct case of this pronoun.

It reads: "Who's fooling whom? Why tip-



toe around the 'K' word?"

GOOD WEEK FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION is the title of an opinion piece in the Sunday Observer of March 20, 2016. The third sentence of the article's opening paragraph reads, thus: "Makhubu, spent 15 months behind bars for expressing himself, and was released after the State dropped its charges against him, took serious offence with the minister's statement who he accused of threatening those people he disagreed with – and people who, as the minister had stated earlier, were protected in the forums at which they spoke freely."

In that sentence we find the pronoun, "who," occurring two times, again.

Yet, again, it is its second appearance that is incorrect. In this instance, "who" is a relative pronoun, and its correct case should be the objective case, not the nominative. With regard to the element of interest to us, here, the sentence may be revised, as follows: "Makhubu...took serious offence with the statement of the minister whom he accused of threatening those people he disagreed with..."

The culpable use of the nomina-

tive case, "who," instead of the objective case, "whom," is something that may be rightly characterised as pervasive. Most of what we may call "who-errors" are due to non-use of the objective case. We find another case in this headline: RESPECT FOR WHO? This is the title of an opinion piece in the Swazi News of January 23, 2016.

The fault in that headline may be better seen, if we change the case of the demonstrative pronoun, "who," to the case of its personal pronoun, "he." Imagine this for a title: RESPECT FOR HE? Surely, this would amount to a piece of illiteracy.

A preposition always comes before the objective case of a noun or pronoun, but this is not obvious when the element is a noun, since its spelling or form does not change. Take the following two sentences, for example. "Maxwell loves Maxine" and "Maxine loves Maxwell."

In both sentences, neither noun changes its form or spelling. But once we change the two nouns to the pronouns, "he" and "she," the story changes.

We can no longer have these sentences, "He loves she" or "She loves

he." Instead, the sentences should read, "He loves her" or "She loves him" – "her" and "him" being the correct case of the pronouns, "he" and "she," respectively.

Such juxtaposition, some gurus of grammar would say, is the formula for catching the culpable COP. All said and done, the aforementioned title with an incorrect case of pronoun should be revised to read, RESPECT FOR WHOM?

In The Star of December 3, 2014 was a news story with the headline, "You raped me, Bill Cosby." The fourth paragraph of the story reads, thus: "She said she had suspected Cosby, who she now considers a 'monster', of ill-intent as he was married."

Clearly, the "who" in that sentence is not the subject, so it should not be in the subjective or nominative case. If you apply the juxtaposition test, this is what you would get: "She now considers he a 'monster'." That would be a grammatical atrocity, no doubt!

Properly revised, the relative pronoun, "who," should be in the objective case, and the sentence should read, "She said she had suspected Cosby, whom she now considers a

'monster', of ill-intent as he was married."

"People are free to worship whoever they want but the God of the universe warned the children of Israel and us, through His written Word, that He had put life or death before them and us, and they must choose whether they want to do His will or the devil's by running after other gods – gods these false prophets represent."

That rather long sentence is an excerpt from an article in the Times of Swaziland SUNDAY, September 28, 2014, with the title: TB JOSHUA A MAN OF GOD?. And lurking therein is the culpable COP, "whoever." In the construction, "People are free to worship whoever they want," the pronoun is the object, not the subject.

And as the object, it is supposed to be in the objective case, which is "whomever."

In The Citizen of February 24, 2016 was a caption-like identification that followed this quoted statement, "He is more qualified than any minister I have ever appointed in the finance ministry." And the identification reads, thus: "President Jacob Zuma on Monday about David van Rooyen, who he appointed to replace Nhlanhla Nene as finance minister last year."

Check out the "who" in the construction and you would find that it is not playing the part of a subject, that of an object. Accordingly, its correct case is the objective one, "whom." Call the following sentence our parting pot-shot for today, if you like. It reads, "Does anybody in this room really believe that Hillary will be tougher on Putin than me?" Speaking, of course, is the President of the United States of America, during a press conference on January 11, 2017.

In correct Queen's English or traditional, prescriptive grammar, the pronoun, "me," which is in the objective case, is incorrect – a good case of a culpable COP!

The sentence should be revised to read, thus: "Does anybody in this room really believe that Hillary will be tougher on Putin than I (will be)?"

Affordable Health legal Insurance finally here



Dups is pleased to announce the addition of a new company, United General Insurance Limited UGI, to its stable. This is the first locally owned company in Swaziland providing short-term insurance products starting with legal and health insurance.

The need for health insurance can never be overemphasized. At some point in our lives, we will need medical attention. Having health insurance protects you from financial and health risk as well as unexpected high medical costs. Finally Swazis have a medical scheme

that is accessible to people from all walks of life at the most affordable rates. There has always been the misconception that health insurance is meant only for the wealthy. United Health is accessible to people of all demographics based on the simple premise that everyone can get sick and it is essential for everyone to get health insurance. Without it, there can be unnecessary loss of life as people either procrastinate or even forego getting help for serious health concerns for fear of steep bills. United Health insurance clients will not only be able to get medication from reputable pharmacies in Swaziland and South Africa, but we are the only company that can pay for traditional medicine.

When someone unexpectedly becomes sick, requires expensive treatments, or has a chronic condition that needs long term care and prefers to have high qual-

ity medical assistance, they can never go wrong with a health plan from UGI.

The same misconceptions regarding accessibility of health and funeral insurance also dog legal insurance, maybe even more so. One might be tempted to think only those likely to be in conflict with the law need lawyers, but everyone above the age of 18 is exposed to legal risk. Legal insurance can be useful if someone begins lawful proceedings against you. In addition you can use it if you need to begin legal proceedings against other people. We have read many stories of people who end up in court, and eventually jail, after assaulting or even killing other people and engaging in other illegal methods that they think would resolve conflicts. With the right legal advice or representation, most conflicts would be resolved amicably and grave circumstances averted. UGI Legal

insurance would help you in taking care of civil matters, non-serious criminal matters, administrative matters, labour matters and accidental death legal expenses benefit. It provides legal counseling and representation for you and your family, and you can also choose the Individual Plan. Matters that are excluded from cover include but are not limited to matrimonial and family disputes, defamation, cases, business and commercial matters, political matters, collective action, and involvement in wars, riots, civil commotion or public disorder. Forms for UGI Health and Legal Insurance are available from all Dups Direct Insurance across the country. In upcoming weeks we shall be unpacking the UGI Health and Legal plans in detail. You can, however, call us on 2404 76767, 2505 2028 or send a fax to 2505 6178 or 2404 7541 with your queries. You can also send an email to ugienquiries@dups-group.com.

On a different note, Dups joined the

world in commemorating Down Syndrome Awareness Day, which was on March 21. We would like to let families of affected individuals to be aware that Dups looks out for those with all forms of disability. The Family Dignity Funeral plan has no cut-off age for children with disabilities, whereas other children can only be covered up to the age of 22, unless they are enrolled with a tertiary institution. Another plan we would encourage parents whose children have disabilities to consider is the Family Support Plan. This policy was put in place to ensure that families are not left financially vulnerable before the winding up of the breadwinner's estate, in the event of death. Children with disabilities sometimes need therapy and medication. Your child would not be forced to quit therapy or go without medication if you were suddenly no longer there. Please give us a call to find out more about all Dups products and services.



**NOKUKHANY
A GAMEDZE**

JA BOARD CHAIR

Introduction

One of the most important elements that determine growth in an institution is evaluation.

This is where one gets to take a step back and evaluate the progress made and also identify areas of improvement. This was the case at JA Swaziland where we took a look at our Economics for Success (EFS) Programme and evaluated its impact in the lives of learners. This was a six hour long programme that was implemented in a series of activities that communicate financial literacy to the learners elements such as budgeting, being a savvy shopper and many more aspects. What was discovered to be a missing link with the programme is that the content on financial literacy was rather too thin to leave lasting effects in the lives of the learners. It even lacks practical aspects that can assist learners practice financial wisdom. This then lead to making the decision to revamp this programme in such a way that it shall carry rich content that will appeal to young learners.

Taxation

It is almost unreal that the first ever real life experience that any Swazi Child ever has with the concept of tax is when they have fin-

GIVING A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO FINANCIAL LITERACY

...Education - The New Economics for Success



ished high school at the age of 18 when a male child can begin to pay government tax. A female child only gets to experience tax once enrolled in formal employment. This then makes it a concept that one learns only as a responsibility that they have to their government. A session where one is educated on the value and importance of tax can only be discovered as one gets

older. This is why most people even to this day do not fully understand this concept hence some try as much as possible to avoid being liable to paying tax. JA Swaziland therefore believes that in order to cultivate a generation of tax paying individuals, the concept has to be introduced early enough in their lives giving them enough time to learn, practice and accept this con-

cept as a part of being a responsible citizen of our country. We need to develop tax conscious entrepreneurs as well. This can only become a possibility when the concept of taxation is introduced early enough in the lives of learners to grasp and implement. JA therefore seeks to partner with the Swaziland Revenue Authority in introducing tax education to form two learners

of our country. This will then achieve the desired outcome of grooming a generation of tax sensitive and tax paying citizens and entrepreneurs of our country.

Stock Exchange

Stock exchange is one concept that young people take a longer time to understand as some learners during their education, never get to be introduced to this concept. Reasons vary as to why not, however the main challenge being the fact that in high school learners get to choose different curriculums that do not include this education. JA has realised this gap and want to rise to the occasion where young people will get to learn these concepts. Stock exchange is a concept that means an organised and regulated financial market where securities such as bonds, notes and shares are bought as well as sold at a price governed by the forces of demand and supply. Primarily stock exchange is used to grow capital by channeling savings and investments into productive ventures. Through JA Swaziland, high school learners will be introduced to this concept early enough in their lives to understand and explore the concept of stock exchange in building their future wealth as young entrepreneurs.

Cooperatives

A lot of people in our country even in their adult life struggle with the concept of saving. The reason

You can be your own boss through grain production

For decades now, agriculture has been linked with the production of essential food crops. Currently, agriculture is the leading industry in Swaziland and maize is the widely grown crop on Swazi Nation land mainly for subsistence. Maize is a staple food for most countries in the SADC Region and it remains important for achieving food security in Southern Africa. In the agricultural economy, maize is one of the most important cereal crops in the world for human consumption, animal feed and other industrial raw material requirements. It is, in fact, one of the world's leading crops with an estimated 637 mil-



lion tonnes produced annually.

In Swaziland, it is the staple food

of the Swazi nation and is the most widely produced agricultural prod-

uct in the country. Even subsistence farmers grow maize more than any

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MASUKU**

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GRAIN

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being that we only introduce saving into our lives later on when we have resumed formal employment which by that time proves an immense challenge to overcome. JA seeks to acquaint young learners with saving not only as individual but as well as in a cooperative set up. A cooperative can be defined as a firm owned, controlled, and operated by a group of users for their own benefit. Each member therefore contributes equity capital and shares in the control of the firm on the basis of one member, one vote principle and not in proportion to his or her equity contribution. Not only will learners be educated on this concept, they will also experience a practical aspect where they will be challenge to set up these cooperatives as a system that will assist them fully grasp the concept. In the long run, we aim to develop young people who are accustomed to saving and have a clear picture of how one can be engaged in saving either in a cooperative or as an individual.

Investment

The final aspect of financial literacy that will be added in our EFS programme is investments. This will include a step by step education on how learners can go about committing money or property acquire for future income.

One of the best financial decision a person can make is ensuring that they secure some money for their future. During the employment duration, one gets income on a daily basis. However, after the retirement age the monthly income if you had been a government employee decreases. If you have been employed by a private entity, a once off pay can be received after which one has to depend on other sources of income. It becomes vital therefore to invest some money that can be utilised for such a period in one's life which will maintain the standard of living that one has been accustomed too. If such future planning has not been proacted, life becomes a struggle in one's old age. Money invested can also be used to resume capital projects that one seeks to undertake. Our core mandate is to train young people on entrepreneurship which again requires resources to be put in place.

Investment when engaged early in life can be the source of capital for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Conclusion

In order for our country to develop financially savvy young people, it is therefore vital to invest in financial literacy education that will encompass all the financial wisdom that will ensure that their mentality is transformed. With the introduction of these key elements of financial literacy at JA Swaziland, we believe we are on the right track towards developing the desired impact of financially savvy entrepreneurs.



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BY BONGANI DLAMINI
STA Marketing Manager
Email: mm@tourismauthority.org.sz

WALKING WITH THE GIRAFFES

"Mbulizi Nature Reserve in the Kingdom of Swaziland is relatively not as popular as the other big parks in the country, but in terms of nature it stands a good chance of being elected 'Miss Swaziland'. Nowhere in the small kingdom is as luxuriant as here. Of course, Malolotja is a green paradise in Swaziland, Mkhaya a great safari park with rare black rhinos, and Mlilwane is amazing, but Mbuluzi won my heart."



26 Mar Tourism Tour guide Sandile Tom Bakker travel writer Niels Bakker former Swazi ambassador to the Netherlands Joel Nhleko Carolina Bakker and STA Marketing Manager.

their funny noise as they continue their lifelong battle with fellow cousins; the baboons. Waking up early apparently is standard here.

Well that's a good thing, because that's the great time to see most of the wildlife at close range before shying away into the green thickets. Birds on the other hand, at Mbuluzi, actually sing all day long by the highest song. It's a beautiful and relaxing setting.

Swaziland and particularly Mbuluzi

is known as bird watchers' paradise and we discovered that that's not exaggerated. Snakes are also there, although you need a little bit of luck to come across them.

Mbuluzi has great flora and fauna. I was still eager to come across giraffes otherwise it would have been a spoiled day. We were delighted finally to come across giraffes, and had a close encounter with the elegant long-necked animals as they walked around peacefully.

It felt like Spielberg's Jurassic Park, expect that this was much safer version. Giraffes are fascinating; not only because of their length and elegance but their beauty too.

These beautiful animals always look unperturbed, giving them an almost mystical aura. When they catch you staring at them, they momentarily stare back motionless for a minute or so and then gracefully disappear again into the greenery. That was a moment to treasure!"

With good farming practices, cooperative and doubled efforts as well as Government's input subsidies, local farmers can certainly increase their yields this season.

other crop so much so, that agricultural marketing is dominated by maize marketing amongst small scale farm holders. It accounts for an average of 36% of all caloric intake in the region and the predominance of the crop in farming systems basically suggests that yield gains have the potential to kick start a major improvement in nutritional value. Agriculture basically plays an important role in the entire life of a given economy as it is the backbone of an economic system of a country and in addition to providing food agriculture also provides employment to a large percentage of the Swazi population.

This therefore, should communicate to the public that there is a need for farmers and potential farmers alike to take advantage of the hectares and hectares of arable land that Swaziland has, so as to reap optimum benefits from this boom-

ing industry.

Now that the rains have come, it is up to us as a people to put all we can towards farming, particularly maize production, so that Swaziland can be able to produce enough maize to sustain herself. It is not going to be easy. Even when it rains, there will always be other challenges lurking and waiting to pounce on us but we should never allow ourselves to stop trying. "The power lies within us" says CEO, Sabelo Msibi.

With good farming practices, cooperative and doubled efforts as well as government's input subsidies, local farmers can certainly increase their yields this season. The persistent drought had negatively affected crop production not just in Swaziland but in the entire SADC region, hence this year we should be taking advantage of the good weather patterns.

Viability of Maize Grain in Swaziland

In Swaziland, maize production is viable since a farmer can earn a profit of E12 094 per hectare when proper management practices and other factors such as good weather conditions are constant. Farmers are encouraged to produce maize at a larger scale and in suitable agro-ecological zones.

Even though Swaziland is still unable to produce enough maize to meet the country's demand; hence farmers are encouraged to engage in maize production as the market is still very receptive to this. This coupled with the promotional price of E4000.00/tonne from the National Maize Corporation (NMC) with which NMC buys from farmers has the potential to increase one's profits magnificently.

Viability of Dry Beans in Swaziland

The production of dry beans in Swaziland is viable since a farmer can earn a profit of E12 499.60 per hectare; according to the GROSS MARGINS FOR FIELD CROPS IN SWAZILAND, 2016 booklet. However, this can only be so when proper management practices and other factors such as drought are constant. It is advisable though that beans production be done on large scale in order to obtain significant profits. National Maize Corporation also buys these beans from farmers.

For more information on how one can take advantage of grain production in Swaziland, readers are encourage to contact NMC's Farmer Development Officers or the Marketing Department who are always available to help with information.

Wishing you all a very productive week.



BY Comfort Mabuza

RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION IS A CONSTITUTIONAL MATTER

● To deny that Swazi Traditional Religion exists is futility endeavour

The Constitution of Kingdom of Swaziland has provided for Freedom of Religion in Section 23, which states "Every person has a right to freedom of thought, conscience or religion."

Without any undue pressure, let me assist you dear reader to embrace the reality that the Kingdom of Swaziland is a multi-faith society according to the supreme Law of the land.

Traditional religion thrives and should not be mixed up and confused with Christianity. While one gets so disturbed to hear that there are attempts to close doors for new churches in Lushikishini in Mankayane and this can be interpreted as religious persecution and is totally against the spirit of the Constitution. Before I digress, let me hasten to mention that there is nothing wrong with conducting mission work and establishing churches in any given community in Swaziland. Whosoever wants to stop such noble initiative is the enemy of the Gospel and totally causing unnecessary violation of people's rights to religious freedom. Other faiths are equally free to operate and this uncalled for perceived oppression smacks of religious intolerance and should be discouraged. Somebody better call such leadership to order, as this will invoke religious intolerance and discrimination as all faith formations in the country have a right to exist.

Purpose of this article

The reason for writing this article is to recognise the existence of Swazi traditional religion and its right to co-exist. We shouldn't be naive though to limit it to merely rituals as it is bigger than that. We however strongly object to claims that it is Christianity.

We also affirm that Traditional religious system does act as preparatory means of exposing people to the existence of a Supreme Being. We however appeal for religious tolerance allowing Christians to defend their faith and not be lumped together with the traditional religion. Let Christian propagate their good news without any undue interference and uncalled blasphemous statements equating it to traditional religion.

Ancestral Veneration as Traditional Religion

It was a great shock to read claims by a senior citizen that traditional religion is a Christian religion. Perhaps we need to assist Swazis, that they are part of the Ngunis of Southern Africa (*Bantu*). Swazi traditional religious belief system has nothing to do with Christian faith doctrine. *Kuphahla* as traditional religion ritual to appease ancestors is core within the Swazis cannot be Christian. Such a ritual seeking for intervention of the sleeping ancestors (*Labaphansi-Labalele*) is a quest for deep humanity spirituality. Christian faith has reservations about such a

ritual as it is against the teachings of the Holy Scriptures.

As Swazis we are very much aware of the importance attached to the great house, *Kagogo* or *Esibayeni* (the kraal), where family ritualistic rites are executed with devotion. Families who might need intervention of ancestral spirits in their own challenges would convene *Kagogo* or *Esibayeni* beseeching for help. At times some family members would make claims of having dreams and visitations by their departed ones, and will then perform religious rites as part of passage to meeting their own spiritual quest. This is deep African cosmology and should not be taken lightly though.

Family births and Deaths

When a child is born they are welcomed within *Kagogo* hut which is a family shrine and alter linking the sacred rituals and connecting them to the departed ones. The sleeping dead are believed closer to the Supreme Being - *Mvelinchanti* and possess powers to influence events of this life.

To deny this noble truth is rejecting the historical roots of the Swazi traditional belief system. When a family member dies their corpse is kept *Kagogo*, as part of linking their souls to ancestors in the spirit world. A person's birth and death are reported to the ancestors at *esibayeni/esangweni*. You often wonder why important family discussions are held *Kagogo*, well it is for the obvious reason they link such forums to their ancestral spirit world. Traditionally belief system attests to the fact that a human spirit does not die but sleeps peacefully.

Traditional religion is operative science and has agents.

The notion that there is no Swazi traditional religion is certainly misinformed and rejecting the very Swazi heritage and culture founded on humanity and African values and norms - *'Buntfu'*. It part of the Ngunis of Southern Africa tracing its historical roots from Embo in East Africa.

Sacred Cow - *Inkhomo Yemadloti*

A sacred cow associated with ancestral veneration forms part of the traditional spirituality referred to as *Inkhomo yemadloti*. It is treated with dignity and rarely used for domestic chores like ploughing the fields.

We also affirm that Traditional religious system does act as preparatory means of exposing people to the existence of a Supreme Being. We however appeal for religious tolerance allowing Christians to defend their faith and not be lumped together with the traditional religion.

Traditionally, this sacred cow is special as it embodies a sacrificial link and is used for ritualistic ancestors' veneration purposes. Traditional healers often play an agents role by giving instructions of how such a cow is to be slaughtered as part of appeasing ancestors. Its blood is sacred and the fore-head (*lukhakhayi*) is used as sign of invisible assurance of having a powerful link with the spirit world. When visiting some Swazi homes, one will often find the horns of a cow or goat put on top of the roof of *Kagogo's* hut.

This is not merely for decoration purposes but symbolic, one wonders then who can deny the existence of traditional religion within the Swazi Community. The spilling of bile - *inyongo* upon the couple's feet during marriage or *lobola* ceremonies is symbolic and affirmation to ancestral connectedness and link. How on earth does one dare say Swazi traditional religious rites are Christian? It elevates the ancestral spirits as an important link between the living and the dead and by extension to *Mvelinchanti* - the Supreme deity.

Traditional Healers as Mediators

Muti - traditional medicine within the traditional religion plays a pivotal role. Right from birth, children are given herbs and *tinyamatane* - family totems to protect them from getting 'spiritual forces' of darkness - *Kuhhabula*.

Such protection is invoked by family elders in consultation with traditional healers. It should be said that traditional healers have a very important role within the traditional religion life.

Even though we call them names, but let us be honest, traditional healers play a very important role in the

religious life of the Swazis. Normally, they are responsible for family protection from bad-luck and attacks from enemies of a given family. Not only can they be consulted in case of family calamities and suspected deaths. We have often hear how they can cast bones and tell you the sources of your bad-luck. If possible they have powers to stop this or even give a person strong *muti* to protect themselves. We seem to take it lightly that normally within the Swazi, a person can be modelled and influence by *muti* - *uyakhiwa umuntfu ngesiSwati*, especially women to remain with their in-laws forever. The role of traditional healers as agents of such rituals within the traditional religion cannot be overemphasised. Well we stand at a threshold and should not deny the very Swazi heritage, which is part of national norms and values.

Kuloywa - Bad Medicine

Traditional religion affirms the existence of bad *muti* often practised by wizards - *Batsakatsi*. These are normally people who have bad hearts and forever wanting to kill others using the power of bad medicine.

Historically there is divination - *kuhlola* the sources of such bad medicine which results in bad luck befalling people. *Umtsakatsi* is the most hated person and if caught through divination they were killed or even sent away from communities. We have known such people who are evicted for being witches and are told to go away and cross seven rivers from their communities.

We come from a traditional religious background that successful are bewitched and have their business endeavours goes to ruin. Enemies of progress use the power of bad *muti* to work against the success of others.

It is not uncommon to hear that people have been gruesomely murdered as part of ritualistic purposes and this is part of bad traditional belief system that can negatively influence people's perceptions about others.

While bad medicine is never encouraged within Swazi context, it will be folly to deny its existence. We therefore hope this brief clarifies any doubting mind about the existence of traditional belief system which remains deep spiritually needing more unpacking for all. Dare I say more?



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

I sincerely thank SADC Heads of State and government for choosing His Majesty King Mswati III as SADC Chairman 2016/2017. This decision brought to my door step SADC, my research laboratory during this critical phase.

And am appreciative and blessed for attending majoring of the sessions in preparation of the extraordinary summit.

I thank the Swaziland Government, specifically the ministry of information and technology for the access from March 6th to 18th 2017. I am grateful to director of information and his team for understanding my quest for actively listening into these meetings.

As after the August 2016 SADC Summit, I presented during our annual November retreat to my peers and international fellows at UNISA. They appreciated the academic argument of my study, but critiqued me for being idealistic and romantic about SADC.

A wake up call, as some were from Europe having recently experienced Brexit, they penetrated through my idealism. And recommended attending various SADC meetings, to listen deeply into the level of engagement and dialogue.

Process Immersion

Hence this recent process immersion, where I actively participated through listening during meetings prior to extraordinary summit. I immersed on the level engagement and dialogue of senior officials, which are incorporated into the final communiqué adopted by council of ministers and subsequently the heads of states and government. This process enriched me as they challenge each other as with respect colleagues, ensuring towards reaching common consensus.

I did not attend the finance committee meetings as finance is outside my research study scope, and it is a doctorate study on its own. I was enriched by ministerial retreat, the consultants and development partners' presentations on SADC We Want. Council of ministers, interrogating the SADC we want and reviewing senior official's documents in preparation for the extraordinary summit.

Immersing myself switched on a light bulb on what is missing in houses of Parliament. The motivation for ensuring deep understanding between Members of Parliament and senior officials. Thus, engaging in dialogue that results in MP's common consensus decision making. The processes, such that ministers and senior officials working together towards the final documents of public policy and enacted laws.

The SADC decision making process fascinated me within two weeks there are policy decisions adopted, even though there were some moments of scepticism. This process is still commendable, if we imagine Parliaments who wished to ensure Bills are enacted into law, they would benefit by learning from the process of engagement and dialogue of SADC meetings of senior officials and ministers.

As this process of immersion made me realize that Members of Parliament require to engage and dialogue with technocrats. The senior officials that are recommending public policy and Bills to ensure MP's gain insights and in-depth understanding of the policies.

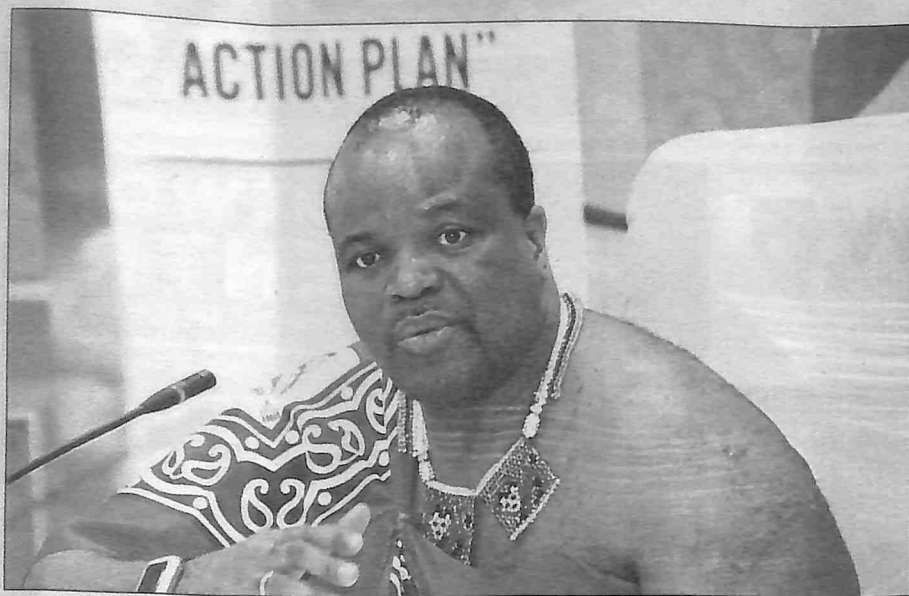
Yes I am aware of the committee systems, but the number of outstanding Bills in Parliament indicates the need to deepen level of engagement and dialogue.

As reading all the content parliamentarians are provided with maybe daunting, thus inhibiting the decision making process. The SADC immersion has been a growth point for me such that I understand the limitation and delimitations of my research study.

The SADC We Want

The most exciting part was the ministerial retreat on the SADC we want, presented by the consultants and development partners. The consultants

TOWARDS THE SADC WE WANT



affirmed by presence when calling for the engagement and participation of think tanks and academics. This engagement and dialogue on the SADC we want, provided me an opportunity for testing whether my research will be academic and strategic for regional integration. And most significantly, as am working towards the conceptualisation of the Academy for African Leadership to be hosted within the SADC region. As a flagship programme for the African Union 2063 Agenda, which is The Africa We Want, hence the ministerial treat created excellent synergy with Agenda 2063. Thus requiring ministers to reflect on how they can ensure that SADC realises its objectives whilst satisfying the expectation of member states. Listening deeply to the level of engagement and dialogue was an enriching process, indicative of the commitment towards implementing the SADC integration plan.

This retreat presented an opportunity for understanding how SADC is looking deeply and open to possibilities for promoting regional integration. Therefore my researching the possibility of Ubuntu Leadership as an option or possibility for regional integration is on point. The Ubuntu Leadership that enable us to populate this SADC region when we left Cameroon or Great Lakes or Rift Valley during the Bantu Migration. This retreat enriched and affirmed my study, where I argue how Bantu is a linguistic identity bastardised through public policies such as Bantu Affairs and Education. Thus, retracing the identity of Aba-Ntu, people of God (Ntu) and their epistemology of hope Ubu-Ntu embedded in indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems.

The ministerial retreat prioritised my research pillars, which are economic trajectory, spatial development and statelessness. As I argue how we need Ubu-Ntu leadership towards restorative action in addressing the economic trajectory, for we survive through Ubu-Ntu epistemology during Abantu migration. Until we developed trading routes along the coast line, were introduced to vanity goods that fragmented our interconnectedness and interdependency. My research argues that spatial development is critical for regional integration today as it was when we left Cameroon and Embo in the Rift Valley. It further argues that the statelessness we experienced during the Aba-Ntu migration is critical and relevant today. As we deal with peace and security, xenophobia, and most significant-

ly to drive the free trade policy.

In conclusion

In conclusion, I congratulate the SADC Head of States and Government for extending the contracts of Dr Tax and Mhlongo. In particular, Dr Tax on this international women's month, hence affirming their commitment to women participating in leadership and decision making positions. She is strategically placed to implement the calls made by the consultants, particularly how private sector, think tanks and academia must be engaged on the regional integration towards the SADC we want. This is critical for achieving the SADC we want, as any closed system or organisation, does self-destruct through developing entropy. This would be opportune for investing in intellectual property, as am focusing on Ubuntu Leadership towards Restorative Action in Regional Public Policy, SADC. At University of South Africa, the African University of service to humanity, which affirmed this vision by recently appointing

Chancellor Mbeki, the godfather of African Renaissance.

In essence my research suggest that SADC regional integration requires the reflection on how we survived the Abantu migration and populated this region. By using bundle of herbs or medicine as compass, as we were each other's mirrors until crossing rivers then saw our images in the fast moving water. Thus, reflecting how public policy can positively affirm integration, considering how public policy of imperialism, colonialism and apartheid that fragmented us. Hence this study suggests restorative action in regional policy through Ubuntu leadership, thus reflecting we are the cradle of humanity. Now contextualised as Ubu-Ntu leadership, triangulated with other first nations, Native Americans and Aborigines' in Asia. Thus, affirming that we are the cradle of humanity endowed with epistemology of hope, Ubu-Ntu, which the Supreme Being, Ntu, bestowed on His people, Aba-Ntu. My research study is an African Renaissance research, rewriting the major tenets of history by retracing Ubu-Ntu leadership within the first nations. Thus, ensuring Ubu-Ntu leadership the epistemology of hope, be part of the restorative action required towards achieving "The SADC We Want."

This engagement and dialogue on the SADC we want, provided me an opportunity for testing whether my research will be academic and strategic for regional integration. And most significantly as am working towards the conceptualization of the Academy for African Leadership to be hosted within the SADC region.

A mother's 5-year Down syndrome journey



Disability Rights Advocate

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Last week we published the general facts around Down syndrome, whose awareness day was March 21. The date (3/21 – month and day) was specifically chosen to symbolise a third copy of the 21st chromosome in people with Down syndrome.

As with raising most children with disabilities, it is a great challenge to raise a child with Down syndrome. It is an arduous journey usually characterised by frequent health problems and dealing with stigmatisation in society.

Buhle* came forward to share her story about how she found out that her child, Bongani*, had Down syndrome and her five-year journey caring for him. Following a normal pregnancy and normal delivery, her baby developed jaundice. It worsened as he could neither open his eyes nor breast-feed anymore. After his admission in hospital, the pediatrician said the baby's features made him suspect he had Down syndrome, and went on to talk about chromosomes, which Buhle did not understand much and had to read up on Google afterwards. "His neck muscles were very weak and his head dangled loosely from his head and I was worried he would never be able to hold his head up or sit on his own," she said.

Buhle was advised to take Bongani to a lab to test for Down syndrome. After two weeks, the rug was pulled from beneath her feet when results confirmed that Bongani indeed had Down syndrome. She was advised to take him for physiotherapy. Buhle said she did not understand how the therapy would help her son and wept with very strong doubts that anything would help him.

Bongani was also found to have a hole in his heart and had to be taken to a cardiologist. The cardiologist said the hole was not very huge and if he got to two years before it closed by itself, surgery would be needed. "I cried a lot and asked God why this was happening to me yet I had had my baby at 27. I had been aware that children with Down syndrome usually came to women who had babies when they were older," said Buhle. Thankfully, the hole closed. Bongani was susceptible to colds and pneumonia, but following the closing of the hole in his heart, the ailments also stopped.

However, when it gets cold, he still comes down with a cold but antibiotics usually sort him out in no time. Every time he got a cold, he would need to be admitted and that happened countless times.

The improvement took a heavy weight off Buhle and her husband's shoulders.

Adversity usually results in one of two reactions

– devout faith in God, believing that He will heal your child against all odds, or distancing yourself from Him, bitter that He allowed such a thing to happen on his watch. Buhle said her faith in God never waned because she had adequate support from her mother, who had walked an almost similar path caring for a daughter with cerebral palsy, and her very caring husband. "My mother prayed with me, accepted the situation as it was, and smothered the baby with love," Buhle said. She added that Bongani's paediatrician has been another pillar of strength in her life, together with the physiotherapists who have worked really hard to assist him.

Five years down the line, Bongani's condition has greatly improved. He is now learning to walk and still goes for physiotherapy once a week. Although he cannot talk yet, Buhle says he can hear and understand everything. He is still being potty trained, and Buhle and her husband have trained him to have bowel movement in the morning in his potty, and then wear a diaper to avoid wetting himself.

Bongani's doctor recommended that he enroll at a crèche with typical children and that's where the battle began. Three crèches turned him away as they said they were not equipped to deal with Down syndrome. "I was really hurt. No one chooses to be in this situation, but God gave me this

"I was really hurt. No one chooses to be in this situation, but God gave me this gift. I somehow expected society to understand that and accept my baby too,"

gift. I somehow expected society to understand that and accept my baby too," said Buhle. The toilet problems have turned out to be the reason why some preschools will not accept him. Although some of them take 6-month-old babies in diapers, they are not prepared to take care of a 5-year-old wearing diapers as well. Bongani eventually got accepted at a crèche based at a church premises where he is very happy,

which has also put smiles on his parents' faces.

Bongani's brother, Sicelo, occasionally asks when Bongani is going to walk. Buhle said she simply told him that she was taking him for physiotherapy in order to make that happen. "I feel he is too young to grasp everything now. I will tell him everything when he is a bit grown up, but I think he has seen that our baby is different from others." Bongani's personality is starting to take shape. His mother says he is ever-smiling and is besotted with his father. He also loves to imitate everything his 9-year-old brother does and even has his own favourite cartoon series, Tom and Jerry. Buhle said all she wishes for her son is to be an intelligent big man, able to do everything on his own rather than be dependent on his parents or other people. "My biggest fear is that society does not know much about Down syndrome. I am scared that my son will be stigmatised and that will deal his self-esteem a big blow. I want to be an ambassador to inform society that people with Down syndrome are also equal human beings despite their condition, and they must be accepted and treated like everybody else," said Buhle.

Many parents of children born with cognitive disabilities, especially of a genetic nature, are usually wary of having more children. Buhle is however undeterred.

"I want a baby girl next so that she can play with her big brother. Of course, I am afraid of history repeating itself, but my trust in God is stronger," she said.

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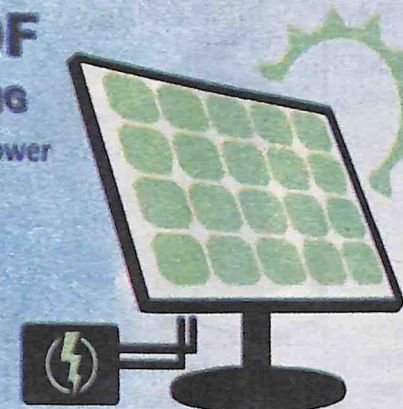


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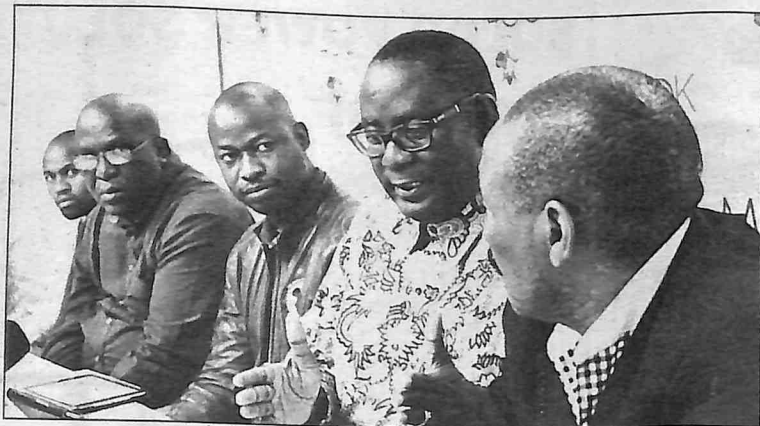
JOHANNESBURG – Former Cosatu Secretary General Zwelinzima Vavi is making a comeback.

Vavi will officially spearhead the newly-registered South African Federation of Trade Unions.

It will hold a congress next month to ratify the new name.

The congress will be attended by 21 unions, representing nearly 700 000 members.

"This is a milestone in the history of the South African Trade Union Movement and paves the way for the birth of a vibrant, independent, democratic and militant workers' champion, which will turn the tide against exploitation, mass unemployment,



poverty and inequality and take us forward to the total liberation of the working class," the trade union said in a statement.

The federation will focus on work-

er exploitation, mass unemployment, poverty and inequality.

In March 2015, Cosatu's special executive committee voted to have Vavi expelled. **eNCA**

Ousted Fransman questions Mantashe's motives

CAPE TOWN – Suspended African National Congress Western Cape Chairperson Marius Fransman has questioned why he was ousted from the party while other leaders facing criminal charges continue to serve.

Fransman has taken on ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe over the recent decision to recall Andile Lungisa, the ANC's Chairperson in Nelson Mandela Bay.

He's accused Mantashe of allowing the ANC's brand to sink under his watch but the top brass leader was told to "go sell ice-cream".

In a statement directed at

Mantashe, Fransman has asked why Boland Secretary Jonton Snyman and Provincial Secretary Faiez Jacobs have not been boot-

ed out of the party.

Snyman was found guilty of fraud while Jacobs is currently facing assault charges in court. Jacobs was found guilty by the ANC's disciplinary committee but his sentence was suspended.

Fransman believes the pair are still in leadership positions because they are in Mantashe's

faction. Mantashe has previously rubbished Fransman's claims, saying decisions are taken by the disciplinary committee, which is an independent body.

EWN



ANC defers divisive land debate to a special NEC

JOHANNESBURG – The ANC will hold a special national executive committee (NEC) meeting to discuss the divisive land issue, also expected to be used as a rallying call ahead of its December elective conference.

Two sources confirmed to News24 that on Friday night, the party decided to defer the land debate to a special NEC meeting instead of discussing it this weekend.

The party's highest decision making body between conferences is meeting in Irene until today.

The meeting adopted a proposal by its National Working Committee

(NWC) for a special meeting, following deep divisions that have also played out in the public arena. The NWC had met on Monday.

According to the Mail & Guardian, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa had made a suggestion during Monday's meeting that there be a special NEC, due to differences on the matter.

This was after President Jacob Zuma had pushed through his radical stance for expropriation of land without compensation in his political address to the meeting, arguing that it was a long standing party resolution. Sources confirmed to News24.

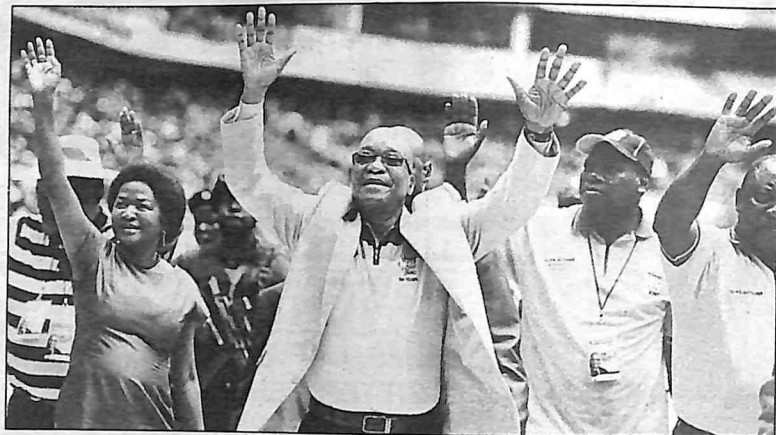
His address was also seen as "hitting

back" at his detractors, they said.

"The president was very hard, especially to those who thought he was being a populist by calling for legislation to be changed to allow for expropriation without compensation.

"He told us that expropriation without compensation was a party resolution that had not been implemented and that when he calls for it, he can't be labelled a populist," one source said.

Several ANC leaders including Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor, Treasurer General Zweli Mkhize and Secretary General Gwede Mantashe have publicly contradicted Zuma on the need to change the



Constitution to allow for land expropriation without compensation.

Zuma recently also contradicted party Chief Whip Jackson Mthembu when he said that the ANC in Parliament

should have voted in favour of an EFF motion to amend Section 25 of the Constitution, to allow for the expropriation of land without compensation. **News24**

Cash-strapped Free State municipality throws bash for Motsoeneng

JOHANNESBURG – The Maluti-A-Phofung municipality in the Free State is throwing a "homecoming" concert for former SABC chief operating officer Hlaudi Motsoeneng in Phuthaditjhaba, with music stars such as Rebecca Malope and Dr Malinga billed to perform.

A poster picturing Motsoeneng, Mayor Vusi Tshabalala and the municipality's code of

arms was circulated inviting residents to the bash at a local stadium yesterday

Spokeswoman Kedibone Sentle would not confirm whether the municipality, which included areas such as Harrismith and Qwaqwa, was footing the bill for the concert. Motsoeneng hails from Qwaqwa.

Popular gospel artist, Malope, Free State's own gospel

star Teboho Molei, convicted killer Molemo "Jub Jub" Maarohanye recently released on parole, Dr Malinga and Doc Shebeleza were some of the top artists scheduled to entertain revellers. Motsoeneng, whose tenure was marked by financial and political controversy, was replaced by Keobokile Mosweu as head of corporate affairs after he was

denied leave to appeal the Western Cape High Court decision that set aside his

appointment as COO.

Last week, a report compiled by an ad hoc committee of Parliament into the SABC was adopted by the National Assembly. It recommended, among others, that President Jacob Zuma seriously consider firing Communications Minister Faith Muthambi, on whose watch governance at the public broadcaster had degenerated.

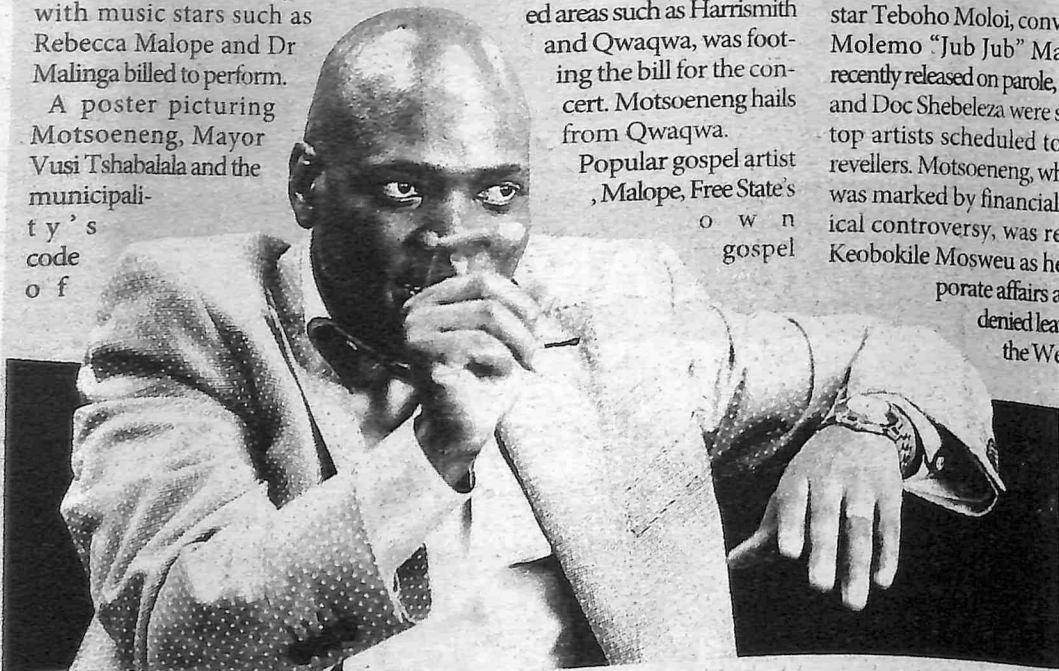
The SABC has in recent days conceded that it was a facing financial crisis, and blamed continuous attacks which it said affected its business relations with its partners.

Democratic Alliance councillor in Maluti-A-Phofung Alison Oates said her party has launched a probe into the cost of the event, and who would be paying for it. There was "absolute-

ly nothing to celebrate Motsoeneng's sketchy career and his plunging of the SABC into financial chaos", she said.

"It cannot be right for a municipality in serious debt, to celebrate the disgraced Motsoeneng, who lied about his own qualifications to get a senior job and then inflated his own salary... ran the broadcaster like his own fiefdom. The DA has succeeded through every court approached in the land at showing Mr Motsoeneng up to be an improper person.

"Celebrating Hlaudi is an insult to the people of Maluti-A-Phofung." Qwaqwa residents have in recent times gone for periods without water, relying on water tanks deliveries in the area. **News24**





SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

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TRUMP LOSING STREAK CONTINUES

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump suffered a stinging defeat in his first major legislative challenge on Friday as rebel Republican lawmakers shot down his effort to repeal Obamacare.

It was the latest in a string of political stumbles and controversies for the nascent administration as Trump scrambled to achieve a crucial success to steady his already-listing presidency.

Barely two months into his term, Trump was forced to withdraw an embattled Republican Health Care Bill, moments before a vote, leaving his campaign pledge to dismantle his predecessor's health care reforms unfulfilled.

"We were very, very close" to



President Donald Trump suffered a stinging defeat in his first major legislative challenge.

securing enough support for the bill, Trump said in the Oval Office.

But with no Democratic backing, "we couldn't quite get there."

Trump had thrown his full political weight behind the measure, spending days arm-twisting recalcitrant Republicans, and he declared himself "disappointed" and a "little surprised" by the defeat.

The battle was an eye-opening experience for Trump, a billionaire real estate tycoon who entered the White House with no experience in politics or government, including the delicate navigations of Congress.

And the Bill's defeat marked a second major policy setback for the new president, who has seen his attempt to curb travel from Muslim-majority countries twice frozen by the courts.

Instead of projecting humility, Trump went on the offensive Friday, branding Democrats as the real "losers" of the failed repeal bid because "now they own Obamacare. They own it, 100 per cent."

The president met with House Speaker Paul Ryan, then spoke with him by telephone when it was clear the party did not have the votes to get its plan across the finish line.

AFP

Russia, China seek chemical weapons probe in Iraq

NEW YORK - Russia and China on Friday proposed that a United Nations panel investigating chemical weapons used in Syria be extended to Iraq, a proposal Britain immediately rejected.

The two countries raised the prospect of broadening the scope of the Joint Investigative Mechanism during a council discussion about the battle of Mosul, where Iraqi forces are fighting Islamic State group jihadists.

Security Council members expressed "unanimous concern" about the latest information concerning ISIS' use of chemical weapons, according to British Ambassador Matthew Rycroft, who chaired the talks.

Russia and China then presented a draft resolution that "seeks to expand the work of the Joint Investigative Mechanism to Iraq", Rycroft said, adding that Britain opposes the measure.

"The UK pointed out that there were many differences between the situation in Iraq and Syria," he said.

Unlike the Syrian government, the Iraqi government "is fully co-operating with the OPCW", Rycroft added, referring to the intergovernmental Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which works with the UN to implement the Joint Investigative Mechanism.

"There are no allegations" the Iraqi government is using chemical weapons, he said.

The council took no decision over the draft on Friday, Rycroft said. He did not indicate whether Russia and China would submit their resolution to a vote in the future.

The dispute highlighted a fundamental disagreement over Syria between Western countries and Russia.

AFP

Zim court rules against Mugabe's wife Grace

HARARE - A Zimbabwean court has ruled against First Lady Grace Mugabe's move to seize yet another farm, as she seeks to expand her empire in the prime farming area of Mazowe.

High Court judge Felistus Chatukuta on Friday upheld an urgent chamber application filed by Mazowe villagers effectively interdicting the police from evicting them from Arnold Farm at the behest of President Robert Mugabe's wife.

The villagers had occupied the property for the past 17 years courtesy of Mugabe's controversial land reforms.

But on Wednesday this week, they were shocked to be confronted by heavily armed police accompanied by government land officials who started to demolish their homes without a court order



Zimbabwean First Lady Grace Mugabe

and in flagrant violation of an earlier court order issued on January 14, 2015 barring the state from evicting them.

"The respondents (government and police) are hereby ordered to immediately

restore possession ante omnia of the applicants (villagers) plots situated at Arnold Farm Number 10 Maze," read part of the Judge ruling issued on Friday.

News24

New arrests as British police release photo of Parliament attacker

LONDON - British police said Friday they had made further "significant" arrests over the Islamist-inspired terror attack on Parliament, as they released the first picture of the home-grown killer who left four people dead.

Khalid Masood, a 52-year-old Briton with a history of violent offences but no terrorist convictions, was shot by police on Wednesday after a rampage through Westminster.

Ten other suspects are in custody following searches at 21 locations, mostly around London,



in the central city of Birmingham and in the northwestern city of Manchester.

The Islamic State group claimed that Britain's deadliest terror

attack in 12 years was conducted by one of its "soldiers" acting on a call to target countries in the US-led coalition fighting the jihadists. **AFP**

BRIEFS

Turkey must choose between recovery or repression

ROME - MPs have expressed concern about human rights and democracy in Turkey.

The Commons Foreign Affairs Committee said the country was at a crossroads and must now choose between recovery or repression.

The committee said the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) seemed to be unable to provide an independent analysis of last July's coup attempt, and so took the Turkish government's account of events after Ankara blamed it on a plot by the Gulenist movement.

Independent

UN regional force to be deployed in S Sudan

NEW YORK - The first soldiers of a United Nations-mandated regional military force are set to be deployed to South Sudan within about a month, the outgoing UN official in charge of peace-keeping said on Friday.

"The vanguard element of the force will be deployed between end of April, beginning of May," Herve Ladsous, the UN under-secretary-general for peace-keeping operations, told reporters. The first contingent of soldiers to the African country will come from Bangladesh and Nepal, Ladsous said, adding the deployment will include a helicopter unit.

AFP

Israel ignores UN demand against settlements - diplomat

NEW YORK - Israel has ignored a United Nations resolution demanding it halt settlement building in the occupied Palestinian territory that was criticised by the Trump administration, the world body's Middle East envoy said on Friday.

Although the UN Security Council resolution passed December 23 demanded that Israel immediately cease all settlement activities, "no such steps have been taken", envoy Nickolay Mladenov said in his first report to the council since the resolution was adopted.

AFP

Court suspends Italy deal on tackling migration

TRIPOLI - A Tripoli court has suspended a deal between Libya and Italy to limit irregular migration to Europe, the unity government's justice ministry said. Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni and his Libyan counterpart Fayez al-Sarraj signed the deal in February to tackle people smuggling through the North African country.

Italy pledged money, coastguard training and equipment to assist the UN-backed government in efforts to address Europe's biggest migrant crisis since World War II.

AFP

US immigration judge grants asylum to teen blogger

CHICAGO - A teenage blogger from Singapore whose online posts blasting his government landed him in jail was granted asylum to remain in the United States, an immigration judge in Chicago ruled on Friday.

Amos Yee has been detained by federal immigration authorities since December when he was taken into custody at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. **AFP**



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WENGER TOO ARROGANT FOR HIS OWN GOOD

LONDON - Paul Merson has accused Arsene Wenger of being "too arrogant for his own good" as speculation regarding his Arsenal future rumbles on.

With his current contract set to expire at the end of the season, uncertainty continues to shroud both his and the Gunners' plans for 2017-18.

Wenger claims a decision has been made, as calls for him to leave mount in intensity, but he is yet to reveal what action will be taken.

Certain sections of a disgruntled fan base are eager to see the club move in a different direction, but various first team stars

have called for the Frenchman to stay on and be handed fresh terms.

Former Arsenal forward Merson believes Wenger will remain at Emirates Stadium for another 12 months, but he has questioned the thinking process behind keeping everyone waiting.

He wrote in a column for the Daily Star: "Arsene Wenger is becoming too arrogant for his own good. Arsenal is a club with so many loyal supporters and he's just doing what he wants and keeping everybody in the dark about his future."

"There's a real arrogance about that. It feels like he is just mugging everybody

off. And then he says talks are on hold with Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil because it might distract the team.

"What about his own future? It's a bit hypocritical. It's not just Sanchez and Ozil anyway. The other players haven't shown any heart either. The last couple of performances have been bordering on pathetic."

"Where was the heart against West Brom? Everybody knows the Baggies are great at set plays, and Arsenal go for zonal marking! It's unbelievable. I think Wenger is one result away from signing.

GOAL



Arsene Wenger.



Romelu Lukaku.

Lukaku hints at Everton exit

LONDON - Romelu Lukaku says there is nothing wrong with ambition after reportedly opting to reject a new contract at Everton.

The Belgium international's apparent move to refuse fresh terms earlier this month came despite his agent Mino Raiola having previously insisted an agreement was "99.9 per cent done".

Everton top scorer Lukaku has regularly spoken of his desire to play in the Champions League and win trophies, but he insists that should not be mistaken for arrogance.

"The decision has already been made so I can't talk about that," Lukaku, who still has two years left on his Everton contract, told reporters ahead of Belgium's World Cup qualifier against Greece.

"There is nothing wrong with ambition. You have to embrace it and where you are as a footballer."

"Sometimes people will mistake things that I say but it's just ambition that I have; I want to win titles and trophies and I don't think people should take that as arrogance - people should embrace it."

"This is what footballers need to achieve if they want to become the best, and I think young kids need to learn that too."

"I have made a long way until now but the road is still long and I know I have to improve and get better. I want to help Everton as much as I can, as well as the national team. I think a lot of stuff can be achieved."

Lukaku has scored 21 Premier League goals in 28 matches this season, putting him two clear of Harry Kane at the top of the scoring charts.

Ahead of the Greece game, Belgium boss Roberto Martinez - formerly his manager at Everton - tipped Lukaku to become the world's best number nine.

GOAL

'I'm not just a tall N'Golo Kante'

LONDON - Wilfred Ndidi has played down comparisons to N'Golo Kante as he helps to repair the damage caused by the loss of the box-to-box midfielder at Leicester.

Leicester City are the current Premier League champions, but the £17 million midfielder arrived at a club in turmoil, with Manager Claudio Ranieri sacked shortly after he arrived as they languished near the relegation zone.

Craig Shakespeare has steadied the ship while Ndidi has become a key cog in Leicester's first team, with some commentators suggesting he plays a

similar role at the France international, who moved to Chelsea from the King Power in the summer.

"No, I have never put myself in Kante's shoes," Ndidi told Goal.

"I didn't look to play like him when I arrived."

I just came here to play my own game. I just feel like a different player to him.

"He is a good player, he has proved that he's great this season. With the support of others, you can do anything you want and you can do it here."

Kante left Leicester for £32 million in the summer and he has since helped Chelsea to a 10-point lead at the top of the table, while Ndidi's Leicester still need points to ensure survival.

Ndidi is seven-and-a-half inches taller and five years younger than Kante, but he does hold some similarities in his style of play, as he covers lots of ground for his team.

And the pair do have comparable personalities, with the Nigeria international being both modest and softly spoken.

GOAL

Martial 'really keen to stay' at Man U

MANCHESTER - Anthony Martial insists he is "really keen to stay" at Manchester United and embrace the support shown to him by a loyal fan base.

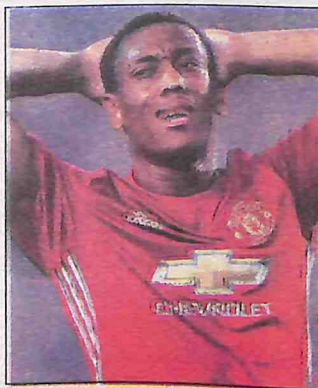
The French forward endured a tough opening to the 2016-17 campaign, with his early form under Jose Mourinho seeing questions asked of his value to the Red Devils cause.

A first goal of the season did not arrive until October 2, in a 1-1 draw with Stoke City.

With there no guarantee of regular starts at Old Trafford around that time, Martial saw speculation sparked ahead of the January transfer window.

Various loan moves were mooted, but the 21-year-old ultimately stayed put and has played his way back into favour.

Martial now claims to be happy in his current surroundings and has thanked supporters for sticking by him during a testing period.



He told Inside United: "For me, what's really special here is the supporters. They've been really outstanding with me. I think that's what goes a long way to

making me feel at home and at ease, and makes me really keen to stay here at the club." Martial, who represented Lyon and Monaco before joining

United, says fans in England offer a lot more encouragement than those in his homeland, with that helping to bring out the best in those on the field.

He added: "In France, even if you're one of the best players around, they might begin to boo and jeer you if you go a couple of games without scoring. "But here it's just the opposite, they'll try to cheer you on so you can be able to score, and so then you grow in confidence."

"I think it's just a different mentality. That's why I like the fans here so much."

Martial has made 29 appearances for United in all competitions this season, with his goal tally taken to seven. The last of those did come back in February, though, so he will be eager to end a six-game barren run when domestic action resumes after the international break. GOAL

LONLA INVESTMENTS

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195/65 R15 - £1000.00 for 4
205/65 R15 - £1000.00 for 4
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195/85 R16, 195/70 R16
225/70 R17, 205/80 R17, 225/80 R17.5
215/70 R17.5
205/60 R17.5 - £4000.00 for 4
245/45 R18 - £4000.00 for 4
245/70 R19.5 - £4000.00 for 4
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Rims Combo from £2800.00

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Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 7am - 5pm
Sat 7am - 4pm

Manzini: Opposite Satellite Bus Rank Below Hub
Cell: 7639 8839 / 2505 8458



LETSGO ZANZIBAR DELIVERS



March has been a great month of delivery and happiness for letsgozanzibar and our valued clients. Last weekend we went through the greatest highlight of the year through our partnership with Swaziland Miss Cultural Heritage we sponsored our Queen Sindiswa Dlamini with a fully paid for Cultural exchange holiday to Zanzibar. On this trip our Queen was subjected to different cultural experiences dressed up in the local attire. She went through a full Swahili food cooking lesson plus a tour of spice Village learning about how they make their spices ending her cultural exchange with a village tour learning about the Tanzania culture. We also had a fantastic time with 2 of our best clients ever Ncedile Ngwenya and Hlobile Tsabedze who came to celebrate the friend's birthday in Zanzibar. The report we got from them was nothing but lots and lots of fun they were very happy with our services see for yourself with the pictures. Lastly we recently pulled off a great move when we took Mbabane Swallows fans to Tanzania and accommodated the entire soccer team at short notice from the report we got from them too the fans Mr Sandile and Abraham Dlamini and the Mbabane Swallows team official Mr Sandile Zwane was very encouraging since they are very happy with all the work we did for them too. Here are some pictures below to feed your eyes when the boys left for Tanzania and the when they arrived.



Sindiswa Dlamini, Ncedile Ngwenya, Vusani Matsebula and Hlobile Tsabedze



Miss cultural heritage Sindiswa Dlamini dressed in Tanzania attire on the picture where she's alone



Sindiswa Dlamini refreshing herself with coconut water



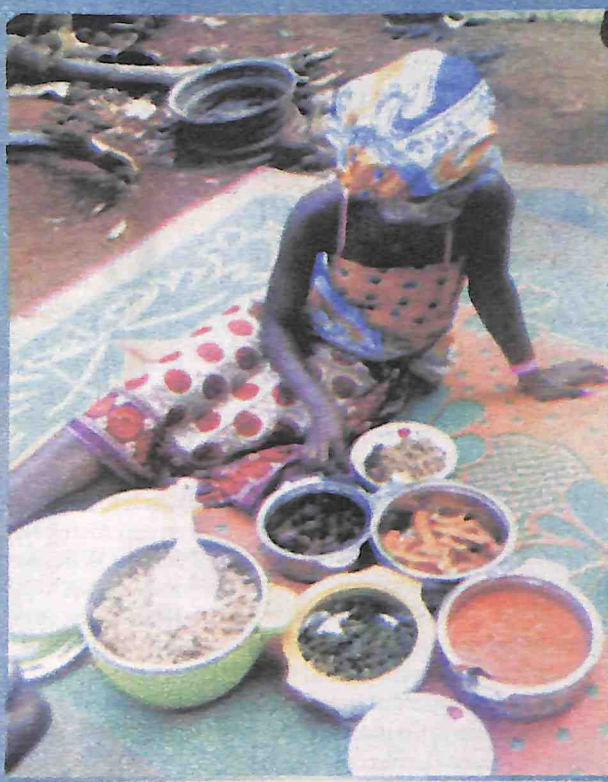
Vusani Ncedile Sindiswa tour guide and Hlobile at Spice Village



Ncedile and Hlobile enjoying the Ocean in Zanzibar



Ncedile and Hlobile having fun with Ringo



Sindiswa displaying her food after cooking Swahili food



Ncedile and Sindiswa



Ncedile and Hlobile who went to celebrate her birthday in Zanzibar



Ncedile at Zanzibar Parasailing water activities



Swallows players



Sandile Zwane, Sandile Dlamini and letsgozanzibar official Khetsiwe Mabuza



George letsgozanzibar, Abraham and Sandile Mbabane SWALLOWS fans and Vusani at ORTAMBO heading to Tanzania

Letsgozanzibar book your holiday, school trip, work team building, honeymoon or business trip with us and we will delivery plus you will be very happy with our services. UP NEXT WE WANT TO TAKE MBABANE SWALLOW'S FANS TO CONGO to watch the boys hit AC Leopard on the 8th April 2017 look out for the Special coming out next week. Contact us for more details

contact details; Tel SD: +268780814144 Tel SA: +27762600033 Tel SD: +255767328322 email: info@letsgozanzibar.com
fb: @letsgozanzibar web: www.letsgozanzibar.com

BARCELONA TO NAME STADIUM AFTER CRUYFF

BARCELONA - Barcelona have announced that they are to pay a series of tributes to Johan Cruyff, including the decision to name a new ground after the Netherlands great.

Cruyff is regarded as one of the all-time legends of the game and achieved brilliance with the Catalan



MARK OF RESPECT: Johan Cruyff.

side both as a player and a coach. Indeed, he is widely credited for importing and implementing the tiki-taka style that has been such a feature of the club's anatomy.

Passed

He passed away aged 68 a year ago, and in tribute to one of the great figures of their club, Barcelona will take a series of steps to commemorate him. President Josep Maria Bartomeu announced these to the media yesterday, with the club's new stadium at their training complex to be named after Cruyff.

"The future stadium at the Ciutat Esportiva will be named after Johan Cruyff," he declared.

"The Club will also promote the creation of a commemorative statue in honour of Cruyff, which will be placed in the future Camp Nou

"We will also dedicate a section of the FC Barcelona Museum to recognise the figure and history of Cruyff."

Barca have announced that among the artefacts to be placed in the museum are the Ballon d'Or the player won in 1974 and a shirt he wore while playing with the club. Moreover, they have also asked that the player is recognised in the city centre by the town council. *Goal*

Philippe Coutinho 'enthusiastic' over Barcelona transfer

LONDON - Barcelona will go all out to try and sign Philippe Coutinho this summer, according to Sport. The Spanish publication claim the Liverpool man is "enthusiastic" about the prospect despite recently signing a new contract at Anfield.

The 24-year-old penned a new five-year deal in January lifting his salary to £150,000 a week, but the Brazilian may well have had his head turned, especially after Neymar's comments this week.

Talks

His fellow Brazilian said Coutinho would "totally fit in" at the Camp Nou and said: "A Premier League player that I would like to have in Barcelona is Coutinho."

The player's Giuliano Bertolucci is believed to have been in talks with Barcelona and assured the Catalan giants that the diminutive midfielder would not favour PSG over a move to La Liga.

The report does claim that Coutinho will leave Liverpool at the end of the season and "operation Coutinho" will see the player sign for Barca, whose boss Luis Enrique is leaving in the summer.

Coutinho has scored just once in his last 15 games in all competitions and his form since the turn of the year has been a million miles away from the performances he was putting in last year.

He has collected seven goals and seven assists – the majority of which came before his six-week lay-off in December and January.

Teamtalk

Wales boss Coleman defends Bale

DUBLIN - Wales Manager Chris Coleman spoke out in defence of his players after Republic of Ireland captain Seamus Coleman sustained a horrendous broken leg during their World Cup qualifying match.

Seamus Coleman was stretched off in the 71st minute of Friday's 0-0 draw in Dublin after his right foot was left dangling sickeningly after an ugly foul by Neil Taylor, who was sent off. Wales forward Gareth Bale was booked for a late challenge on John O'Shea, ruling him out of June's trip to Serbia, but his manager felt Ireland's players had been no angels themselves.

Asked by an Irish journalist if Bale had been lucky to avoid a sec-

ond booking for a high foot on James McClean, Chris Coleman said: "Do you think one or two of yours were lucky to stay on the pitch?"

"Because it was a little bit of both. Your boys were not coming off there with halos on their head. It was going on all through the game.

"It was a typical British game of football. There were one or two complaints from our boys, that your boys were a little bit late here and there.

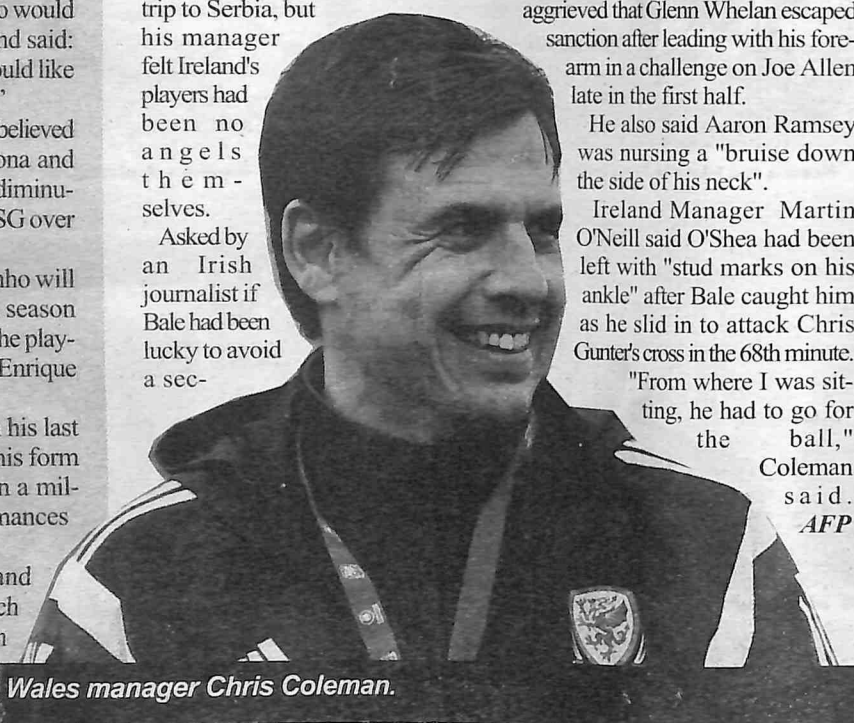
"And some of our boys were as well. I'm not complaining. That's football." Coleman may have been aggrieved that Glenn Whelan escaped sanction after leading with his forearm in a challenge on Joe Allen late in the first half.

He also said Aaron Ramsey was nursing a "bruise down the side of his neck".

Ireland Manager Martin O'Neill said O'Shea had been left with "stud marks on his ankle" after Bale caught him as he slid in to attack Chris Gunter's cross in the 68th minute.

"From where I was sitting, he had to go for the ball,"

Coleman said. *AFP*



Wales manager Chris Coleman.

France's second string better than England's top dogs

PARIS - It was less than a year ago that Eder stunned the whole of France by condemning Didier Deschamps' side to runners-up behind Portugal at Euro 2016. Beaten 1-0 after extra-time in front of their home crowd, it would almost have been understandable if there had been some kind of hang-over for Les Bleus.

Admittedly, their World Cup qualifying campaign started in inauspicious circumstances as they were held to a poor draw against Belarus, but since then, the French have gone from strength to strength, recording victories over Sweden and Netherlands to make themselves firm favourites to reach Russia 2018 from Group A.

Deschamps has rejuvenated and reinvigorated the squad, although his task in this regard was eased by the fact that France are producing such a formidable stream of international-class players. The rate at which youngsters is coming through is so prodigious that no other European nation can match them.

Kylian Mbappe is the latest bright young thing to have caught the eye, and the 18-year-old Monaco striker is emblematic of the way French football has bounced back from the disappointment of last summer. The teenager is fresh, enthusiastic and fearless. And he is not the only one. Deschamps' squad for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Luxembourg and next week's friendly with Spain has an average age of just 25. Perhaps what is most incredible about the pool that the France boss has to pick from, though, is the players who are not present.

Even if Paul Pogba, the world's most

expensive player, who was named in the initial squad but has since pulled out due to injury, and the retired Franck Ribery, still a force at Bayern Munich even in the twilight of his career, are overlooked, the talent Deschamps has been able to ignore is quite staggering.

In attack, for example, he has chosen to leave out Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema and Lyon forward Alexandre Lacazette, who has been tipped for a giant move in the summer. Bayern winger Kingsley Coman is injured but is replaced seamlessly, while in the midfield Monaco's Tiemoue Bakayoko has omitted despite some monstrous displays in the Champions League.

"Everyone picked is a good player," Arsenal's Laurent Koscielny told the media on Thursday when questioned about Benzema's ongoing absence. "We've got an offensive palette full of different styles. Karim could adapt wonderfully with those who are here."

Even in the rearguard, there is a good degree of quality absent. Raphael Varane and Lucas Digne play for arguably the two biggest sides in the world in the form of Real Madrid and Barcelona respectively, while Aymeric Laporte is considered a hot prospect in the middle of the defence.

Admittedly there are mitigating circumstances, such as return from injury, that are keeping some of these players from breaking into Deschamps' panel, but, nevertheless, these are men who possess such talent that they would be starting, regardless, for most national teams. Instead, they are not even on the bench – they are training with their clubs. *Goal*

Sule explains why he snubbed Chelsea for Bayern

BERLIN - Germany defender Niklas Sule was honoured by interest from Chelsea but felt the pull to join Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich was too great.

Sule, 21, will move to Bayern from Hoffenheim at the end of this season, having made an international breakthrough with the world champions.

The centre-back was also on Chelsea's radar but ultimately opted to stay closer to home when he decided on his future in January.

"Both offers came almost simultaneously," he told TZ. "Of course it was huge for me that the Premier League leaders showed interest in me, but it felt better to stay in the Bundesliga.

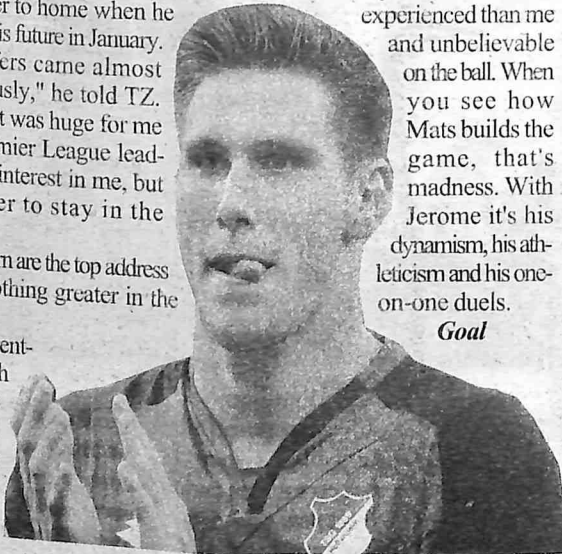
"And Bayern are the top address – there is nothing greater in the world."

Sule is currently with Joachim Low's squad to face Azerbaijan in a World

Cup qualifier in Baku yesterday, alongside future team-mate Mats Hummels. Jerome Boateng will provide further stiff competition for a place at the heart of the Bayern defence but Sule is keen to learn from two top-class performers. "I think I can learn a lot from both," he said. "If I look at myself every day, compared to Mats and Jerome, I can bring myself to a completely new level.

"They are much more experienced than me and unbelievable on the ball. When you see how Mats builds the game, that's madness. With Jerome it's his dynamism, his athleticism and his one-on-one duels.

Goal



Germany defender Niklas Sule.

Benzema receives Cantona support over France exile

MADRID - Eric Cantona has voiced his support for Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema, who cannot find favour with France boss Didier Deschamps.

Since being accused of conspiracy to blackmail against international team-mate Mathieu Valbuena in the autumn of 2015, the forward has not featured at all for his country. Officials at the FFF have rejected the notion that the Madrid ace is banned, but the Manchester United legend, who had an acrimonious relationship with the national side, is not so certain. Indeed, Cantona drew parallels with presidential candidate Francois Fillon, who stands accused of corruption charges related to

paying his wife and children significant salaries for apparently little work. "France is a very strange country. If you're indicted, you are banned indefinitely from the national football team, but you can still run for the presidency," Cantona mused to Eurosport.

"Francois Fillon once suggested cancelling a match if people were disrespecting the national anthem. I suggest that we cancel the election when the candidates are disrespectful of morals and ethics." Benzema ranks eighth in France's all-time top scoring charts, having found the net 27 times in 81 games for his country – seven more than Cantona, who played only 45 times for Les Bleus. *Goal*



SUPPORT: Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema.

HAMILTON TAKES POLE AT AUSTRALIAN GP

MELBOURNE - Triple world champion Lewis Hamilton fought off late bids from Sebastian Vettel and team-mate Valtteri Bottas to seize pole position in the season-opening Australian Grand Prix yesterday.

Hamilton in a Mercedes clocked a record lap of one minute 22.188 seconds to claim his 62nd career pole and his sixth in Australia into today's race in Melbourne.

Ferrari's Vettel made a valiant late bid to snatch pole off Hamilton but finished just 0.268secs down, although fractionally quicker than Bottas.

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen took fourth ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen, while Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo crashed out in the final Q3 session.

It was dominant Hamilton's fourth successive pole in Melbourne and his fifth in his last six Australian GPs.

"It's been a fantastic weekend so far. I'm incredibly proud of my team," Hamilton said.

"Valtteri did a great job and it's great for us as Mercedes. It's going to be a tight race.

"Tomorrow is about putting all the work together and making sure I come

back stronger than ever."

Hamilton, who finished runner-up by just five points in last season's titanic world championship battle with now-retired team-mate Nico Rosberg, will be chasing his third win in Melbourne.

Vettel gave promise of fighting for Ferrari's first win in Melbourne since Kimi Raikkonen's victory in 2007, with his bold showing.

"I lost a bit in turn

one and in turn nine

I tried a bit too much,

but I don't think it

would have been

enough," said Vettel,

who claimed

Ferrari's



Triple world champion Lewis Hamilton.

first front row since Singapore in 2015.

"I wasn't entirely happy with my lap but I don't think pole was up for grabs.

"Tomorrow we can do something in the race. I'm looking forward to it. People are fired up and we're motivated."

Hamilton's pole time was 1.7 seconds quicker than his qualifying time last year.

"Third position is not ideal," Bottas said.

"In general I'm not happy for the result.

But I'm proud of what the team has done.

"I only saw a very small part of the preparation and it's nice to see the work has

pulled off and we're fighting at the front."

Australia's big hope Ricciardo crashed

his Red Bull at turn 14 looking to post a

good time in Q3 and will start 10th off the

grid. Ricciardo damaged the rear of

his RB13 car and was heard

over the team radio as saying: "I'm alright... sorry

guys."

The final session of

qualifying was suspended while

Ricciardo's car was removed from the

gravel alongside the track.

Reuters

No Arsenal offer for Arda, insists agent

BARCELONA - Arsenal have made no approach for Barcelona midfielder Arda Turan, insists the Turkey international's agent Ahmet Bulut.

The 30-year-old playmaker has long been linked with a move to the Premier League.

Several English clubs were reported to be monitoring his situation prior to a 2015 switch from Atletico Madrid to Barca.

Arsenal have figured prominently in such speculation, and a fresh round of rumours have put the Gunners back in the mix, with a £25 million approach when the transfer window re-opens this summer has been mooted.



Barcelona midfielder Arda Turan.

With Mesut Ozil's long-term future at Emirates Stadium up in the air, Arsenal are said to see Arda as a natural replacement.

ment.

His representative has, however, moved quickly to point out that no formal offers have been tabled.

Bulut told ESPN FC: "There is currently no offer, there is nothing to speak of right now.

"I have not been contacted by Arsenal. As I said before, he is happy at Barcelona and has three years left on his contract."

Arda faces fierce competition for places at Barcelona, but he has made 29 appearances in all competitions this season.

Those outings have delivered 13 goals, including hat-tricks against Borussia Monchengladbach and Hercules in Champions League and Copa del Rey contests. **GOAL**

SA Rugby announces 'satisfactory' financial result

CAPE TOWN - SA Rugby yesterday announced a "satisfactory" operating result for the year ended December 31, 2016, despite reporting a group pre-tax loss of R23.3 million.

The loss was attributable to a decline in sponsorship revenues, but cost savings meant that normal operations were unaffected.

SA Rugby maintained its support to the 14 member unions, which increased by 90% to R336m, principally on the back of increased broadcast income, as group revenues rose 19.9% to R1.2bn (R997m in 2015).

Competition costs rose 46% to R155m while fees for player image rights and insurance increased almost fourfold from R23.5 million to R87.3 million.

The new arrangement secures the image rights of provincial players on behalf of member unions for their use in marketing and branding campaigns (having previously only related to national players). The insurance covers all professional players in the country

against temporary and catastrophic injuries.

The costs associated with national teams declined 4% to R197m - attributable to performance related payments - while delivery of sponsors' rights costs fell 24% to R125m due to a reduction in the size of the portfolio.

"In a very difficult economic environment and considering the many challenges to ensure that we deliver on rugby imperatives, we consider this a satisfactory operating result," said Jurie Roux, CEO of SA Rugby.

"We increased our support to members and the investment in rugby activities. However, the loss of R129m in budgeted sponsorship placed pressure on operations.

"Our cash flow was also negatively impacted by the payment of provisional taxes made to SARS against an estimated normal taxation charge of R78.7m. The structure of certain foreign broadcasting rights agreements gave rise to an increased taxable income that was expected to be recognised over the dura-

tion of the new five-year broadcasting cycle only."

The significant normal taxation charge, against a pre-tax loss of R23.3 million, resulted in an accounting adjustment to reflect a deferred taxation asset of R100.4 million compared to the R14 million of the previous year.

SA Rugby's investment into grassroots development, women's rugby, elite player development at junior level and academies was able to continue however.

Roux warned that 2017 was unlikely to see an easing of pressure on SA Rugby finances.

"Securing and retaining sponsorships is now key for 2017 although we will continue to review our cost base," he said. "It is likely to be another challenging year if we are to maintain our current level of support for our members and our other rugby activities."

The results are scheduled to be approved at the SA Rugby Annual General Meeting in Cape Town on April 6, 2017.

SPORT24

Nadal sweeps past Sela in Miami

MIAMI - Rafael Nadal cruised past Israeli Dudi Sela in the second round of the Miami Open on Friday while Kei Nishikori and Milos Raonic also enjoyed comfortable victories as the top seeds got underway.

But there was an upset for ninth-seeded Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov, who was beaten by 158th ranked Argentine Guido Pella, and for France's 11th seeded Lucas Pouille who was defeated by American Donald Young, ranked 51st in the world.

With plenty of backing from the South Florida crowd, Nadal never looked in trouble against the 83rd ranked Sela as he ran out 6-3, 6-4 winner in one hour and 20 minutes.

Rain delays earlier in the day pushed back Nadal's appearance on court and gusty conditions also made it tricky for the former world number one.

"It has been very tough and long day for everyone I think. Rain delay a couple of times and then the wind was very, very high," he said. "So it was difficult to find the right feelings but on these kind of days what you have to do is try to win. That's

what I did, and I am very happy with that."

The Spaniard is looking to win his first Miami title after losing in the final four times in his career.

"I was close enough four times in my career. I am going to try to give myself more chances during this year and during the next couple years. But this tournament is a tough tournament and anything can happen," he added.

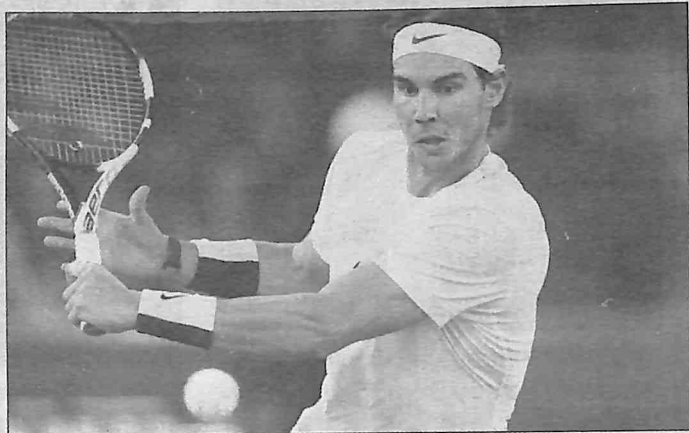
Japanese second seed Nishikori beat big-serving South African Kevin Anderson 6-4, 6-3 on center court and will face Fernando Verdasco of Spain.

Nishikori, beaten by Novak Djokovic in last year's Miami final, didn't face a break point in the contest and won 88 per cent of his first-serve points.

The 27-year-old said he was looking to make a breakthrough in one of the slams this year and believes a win in Miami could give him the boost in belief that he needs.

"I think if I can win big tournaments like this or some Masters, that's going to give me a lot of confidence for sure. That's my next goal, to win the big tournaments," he said.

AFP



Rafael Nadal.

Isco rubbishes Barca transfer rumours

MADRID - Real Madrid midfielder Isco has suggested that speculation linking him with Barcelona has been sparked to fill time during the international break.

The talented playmaker has been linked with several clubs over recent months, with his days at Santiago Bernabeu considered to be numbered.

A lack of regular starts in the Spanish capital, along with a contract that has less than 18 months left to run, has intensified the gossip surrounding the 24-year-old.

Premier League clubs have long held an interest in Isco, with the likes of

Arsenal and Tottenham often mentioned as possible landing spots.

It is, however, a potential switch between La Liga's fiercest rivals which is generating the most interest at present.

Andres Iniesta and Denis Suarez are among those at Camp Nou to come out in support of such a move being made, with Barca always in the market for added creativity.

Isco, though, has sought to curb the rumours by suggesting that there is little substance to them.

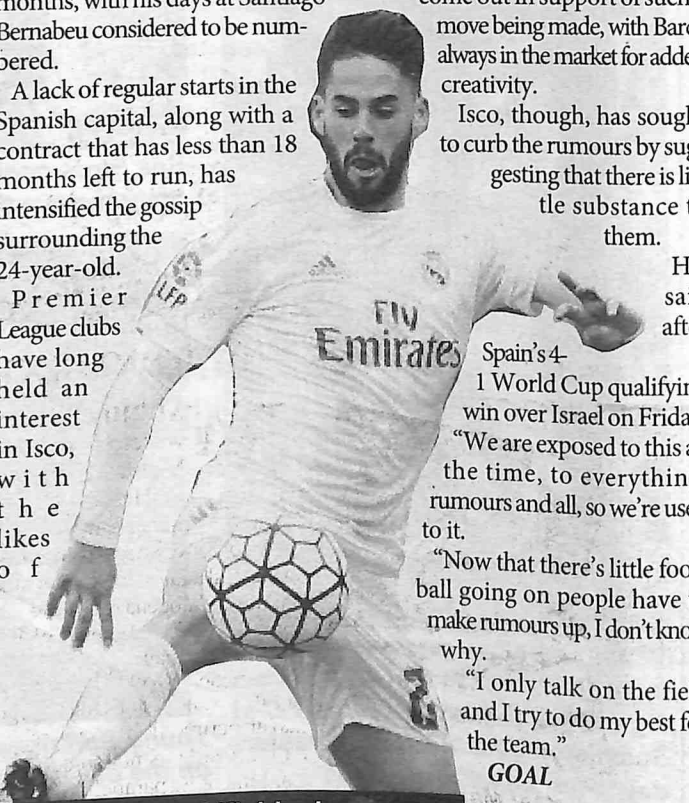
He said after

Spain's 4-1 World Cup qualifying win over Israel on Friday: "We are exposed to this all the time, to everything, rumours and all, so we're used to it."

"Now that there's little football going on people have to make rumours up, I don't know why."

"I only talk on the field and I try to do my best for the team."

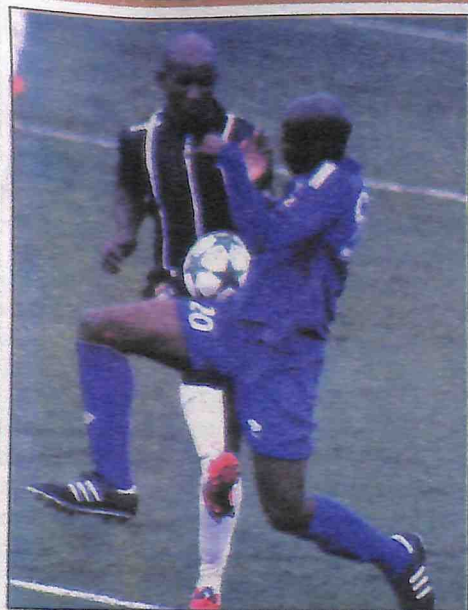
GOAL



Real Madrid midfielder Isco.



MTN Premier League 2016/17

PICTURES


Leopards' Zweli 'Mlilo' Nxumalo and Moneni Pirates' Siyabonga Mkhize fighting for the ball. Leopard beat Pirates 1-0 at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.



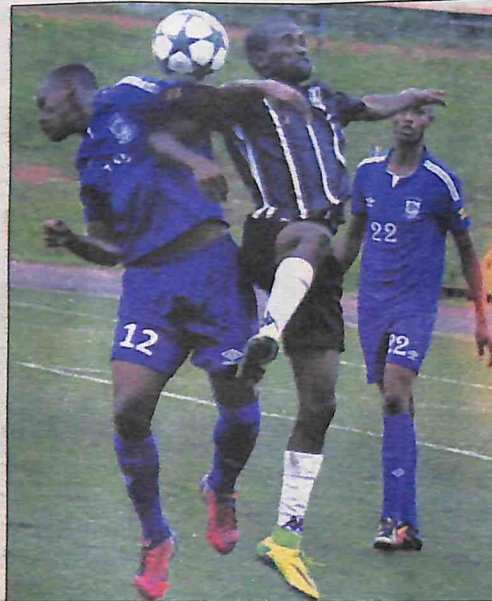
Leopard's Phumlani Dlamini clearing the ball away from Pirates players.



GOAL: Bonginkosi 'Manyovu' Dlamini (L) celebrating after scoring a goal for Royal Leopard.



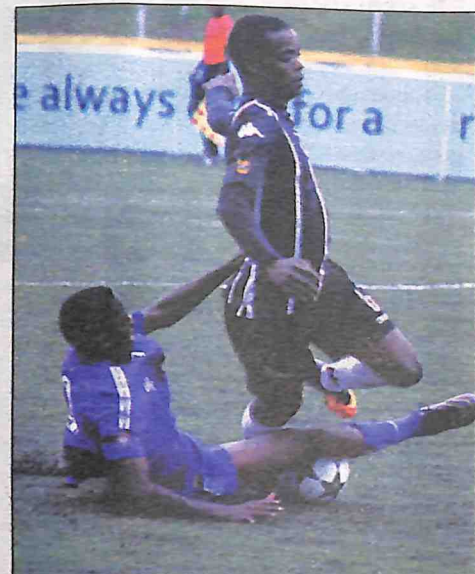
Moneni Pirates' Fanelo 'Order' Mamba passing the ball.



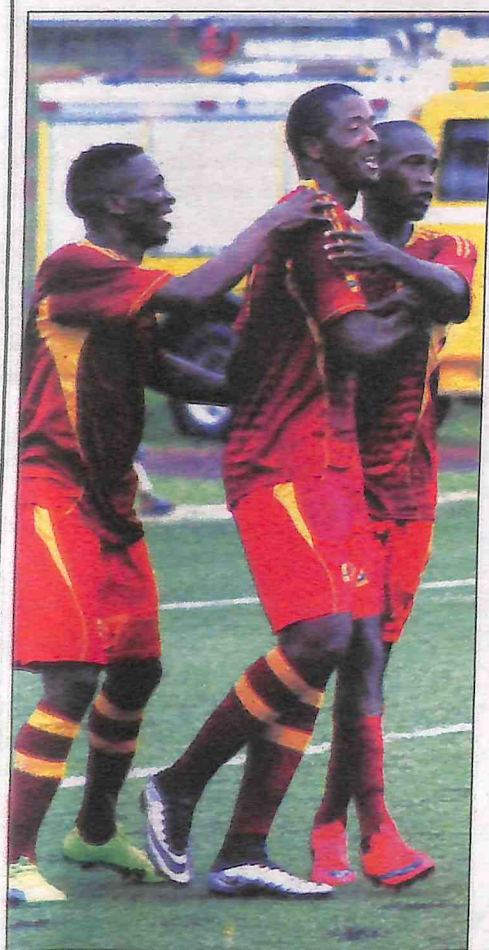
Leopard's Sifiso Nkhambule fighting for the ball with a Moneni Pirates player.



Leopard players celebrating the goal scored by Bonginkosi Dlamini.



Pirates' Bongani Ndzimandze being tackled by Lungelo Tsabedze.



Young Buffaloes players celebrating with Phiwa Dlamini after scoring a brace to beat Sea Birds 2-0 at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. (Pics: Sabelo Majola and Sibusiso Dlamini)



Sea Birds goalkeeper Bafana Ngwenya diving desperately to save the ball.



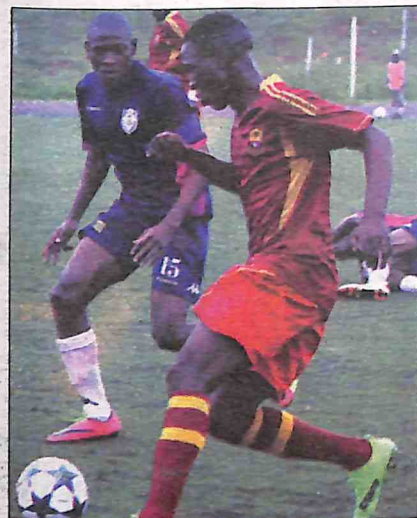
Young Buffaloes' Sandile Gamedze on the ball whilst Sea Birds' Bhukumuzi Mamba close in.



Sihlangu mentor Pieter De Jongh pictured with Manzini Sea Birds Director Peter Simelane at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.



GLOOMY: Moneni Pirates development coach Terisayi Changara and his bench following the game.



Young Buffaloes' Sifiso Mazibuko controlling the ball while Sibusiso Mamba keeps a close eye on him.



MTN Premier League 2016/17

PREVIEWS

CAN 'CITY SPOIL BIRDS PARTY?

STORIES BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

*Midas City vs Mbabane Swallows
(3.30pm, Somhlolo National Stadium)*

SOCCER – Complacency usually gets to record breaking teams when they have won silverware but will this be the case for unstoppable MTN Premier League Champions Mbabane Swallows when they visit tricky Midas City.

The record breaking Swallows will certainly not want to spoil their unbeaten run that will be spiced up by their official crowning today after amassing an impressive 48 points in 16 matches.

The red and white will have to make sure they do not under-estimate City sometimes known as giant slayers due to their spirited performance against top teams.

This trend was evident two weeks ago when they pulled a memorable 1-0 win against Young Buffaloes, something that should keep Swallows mentor Thabo 'Koki'



Mbabane Swallows and Midas City in action during the MTN League first round. (File Pic)

on his toes.

Talent and individual brilliance will take centre stage between the two teams especially in the attacking line where Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa and Simanga Shongwe are expected to keep the opposition set of defenders on their toes throughout the afternoon.

MIDAS CITY
Head Coach: Caleb Ngwenya
Captain: Khetho Mkhonto
Key players: Siboniso Jomo Maseko, Buhle Msibi, Ndumiso Ndaba
Match Winner: Simanga Shongwe
SWALLOW
Head Coach: Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati
Captain: Tony 'TT' Tsabedze
Key players: Papy Kabamba, Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu, Siphamandla Matherjwa
Match Winner: Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa

'Super Buddies' in emotional affair

Manzini Wanderers vs Mbabane Highlanders (1.30pm, Somhlolo National Stadium)

SOCCER – They have fought emotional wars together, shared grandstands and even danced together which is something that will be put aside today at the Somhlolo National Stadium when super buddies Manzini Wanderers and Mbabane Highlanders face off.

This is one of the biggest fixtures in the local calendar that has created hype and anticipation especially with the two teams' throngs of supporters.

This is one game that will have supporters at the edge of their seats throughout the 90 minutes played.

All eyes and pressure will be

on the once mighty Black Bull who are yet again staring relegation in the face, especially if they do not win this match. All their supporters know the magnitude of this match and that a loss could see their beloved team plunge deeper in the relegation zone, something that befell them in the 2012/13 season.

Pressure will be on the recently assembled Highlanders technical bench headed by Rodney 'Stumbo' Charles to ease these worries by winning this encounter.

Charles who needs no introduction in football will have to ensure players are at their best against the hub giants. The maroon and white, on the

other hand, are not under much pressure as they are sitting on a comfortable position five on the standings.

Highlanders will be facing a reputable coach in Nyanga Crooks' Hlophe who is blessed with one of the best striking combinations in the league comprising of Kola Aladeon, Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe and Allie Matse, who can be a thorn in the flesh of the shaky opposition backline.



WANDERERS
Head Coach: Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe
Captain: Lwazi Shana Maziya
Key players: Sifiso Matse, Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe, Sihle Mkhonto
Match Winner: Kola Aladeon
HIGHLANDERS
Head Coach: Rodney 'Stumbo' Charles
Captain: Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze
Key players: Menzi Sithole, Cosmas Kabaza, Sidumo Vilakati
Match Winner: Sabela Mohamed



Revamped 'Lions out to tame Downs

*Red Lions vs Manzini Sundowns
(11.30am, Somhlolo National Stadium)*

SOCCER – Revamped Red Lions' fight to cheat relegation continues this morning when they welcome cross rivals Manzini Sundowns at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

Red Lions are desperately in need for points in order to move out of the drop zone as they are currently perched 10th on the league table.

Dumisani 'DU' Makhanya led charges will have to be at their level best if they want to consolidate their premier league status they once lost during the 2012/13 season.

The red and white side however has already showed intentions to move out of the drop

zone after coming from a goal down to beat defending champions Royal Leopard 2-1 in their previous outing.

The win has revitalised hope for the team ahead of this derby.

The pressure will certainly be on Amabhuesi who will be hoping that their equal capable players in the likes of Solomon Oladele, Enzo Motsa and Senzo Dlamini come to the party in order to save the team from danger.

They will however be against the slow poison of Sundowns. The Kappa boys are fighting for a respectable top eight finish, they have a powerful arsenal in their camp in the form of Darren 'Dazza' Christie, Justice Figureito and Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkambule who on their day, can torment any team.



Solomon Oladele.



Darren 'Dazza' Christie.

RED LIONS
Head Coach: Dumisani 'DU' Makhanya
Captain: Gcina 'Kwere' Mazibuko
Key players: Solomon Oladele, Mthokozisi Hlatwako, Mbongeni Motsa
Match Winner: Enzo Motsa
SUNDOWNS
Head Coach: Mlamuli 'Sputla' Zwane
Captain: Jerome Nthshali
Key players: Ndumiso Shongwe, Justice Figureito Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkambule
Match Winner: Darren 'Dazza' Christie

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OUR COACHES INTIMIDATED BY PLAYERS

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SOCCER – Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Chairman Victor Gamedze has urged coaches not to be intimidated by players in their clubs.

The chairman made these remarks during a workshop for PLS Board of Governors on Performance Standards and Club Licencing hosted by the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) at Sibane Hotel yesterday.

He said coaches were more concerned about being loved by the players as opposed to doing their job of managing the teams, something he said hinders progress.

“Coaches need to take control over their players so they

can be able to train extensively. We are not reaching a high level of intensity in our trainings because they are scared of these players. They tend to be soft on them so they cannot lose their jobs.

“Our training is very disappointing and as directors we need to monitor these sessions so we can be on board. It was very embarrassing seeing our teams failing to withstand the

pressure of playing mid-week and weekend games. We need to be able to stand this pressure because in tournaments such as COSAFA we only get a days rest,” he said.

The

Chairman stated it was important for directors to support coaches at all times as it would ensure smooth progress in the teams.

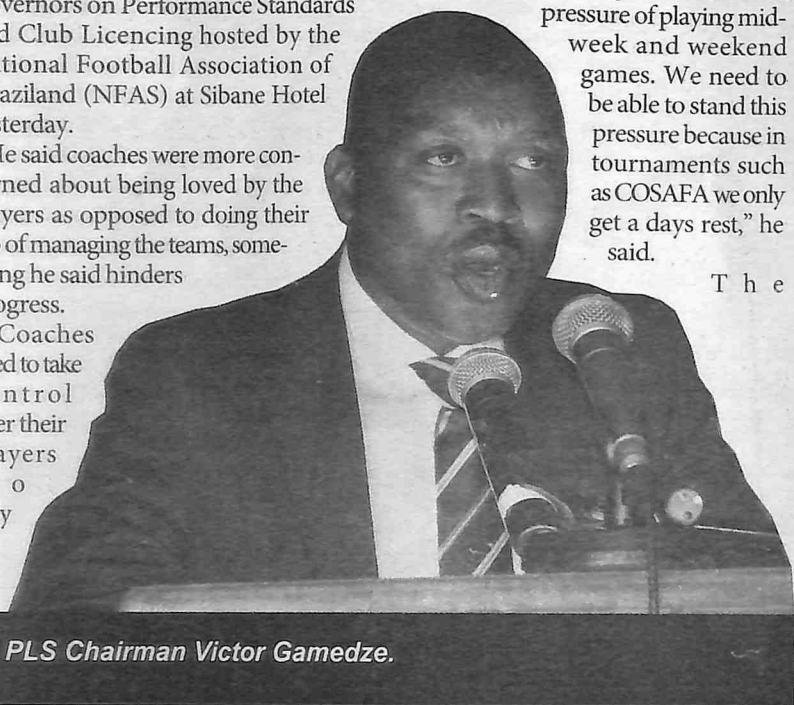
“As directors we need to attend training sessions so we can know what is happening in our respective teams. We don’t have to blame coaches when we lose games because we plan for games together,” he said. Gamedze further highlighted that local coaches lacked confidence and that this was the reason they opt to appoint foreign coaches.

The chairman was seconding Manzini Sundowns Director Mark Carmichael who had noted that local coaches were failing to take this profession as a career and were lax in doing their jobs hence the appointment of expatriate coaches.

“Our coaches don’t have confidence. For instance it takes a coach days to submit a final list of 18 players out of 31 players. Unlike a professional coach who will do that fast and tell a director how much he thinks he should be paid,” Gamedze said.

The chairman then thanked the football association for hosting the seminar, stating it would be of great benefit to the team.

“I would like to urge you governors to share all that we have learnt here today so our teams can be successful,” he said.



PLS Chairman Victor Gamedze.

Groom your own coaches, PLS teams urged

National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) Technical Director Bhikisiza ‘Bhizzah’ Mkhonta has advised teams to groom their own coaches as opposed to appointing big name coaches.

Making his presentation during the seminar with the Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Board of Governors at Sibane Hotel yesterday, the TD said it was high time teams groomed their own to lead the team.

“One of the challenges we face is relying on these big name coaches which we tend to rotate as teams. Teams are encouraged to groom their players so they have better understanding of the teams. This is a trend we have seen in international football and it works for the teams,” he said.

“Let’s identify good players at the age of 28 to take up these courses and groom them so they can be ready to coach at 35 years. That way we will get rid of these old horses. Teams like Leopard and Young Buffaloes have been able to do this” he said. Mkhonta explained to the directors that coaches were very important in football structures. He said 80 per cent of football was technical hence the need to appoint strong coaches. “Not everyone who has been to a coaching class is capable of being a good coach so teams need to come up with strategies where they can assess the candidates before hiring the coach to lead their team,” he said.

Meanwhile, PLS Chairman Victor Gamedze urged the TD’s office to work around setting standards for the new

crop of coaches.

“The TD’s office should ensure that it is just not about having a licence. These licences should be result oriented. What’s the use of having a PRO Licence when you have not won a single tournament, let alone played in a final,” he said.

Swaziland Football Coaches Association (SFCA) Chairman Antony Mdluli thanked the directors for their contributions during the seminar.

He said as coaches they need support from the directors in order to do their jobs profitable. “We need the support from directors. We are very capable of delivering and appeal that we get the same support as these expatriate coaches when it comes to salaries and contracts,” he said.

We will push until the final game

BY SABELO MAJOLA

SOCCER – Manzini Sea Birds assistant coach Sibusiso Mngometulu says they have not thrown in the towel and will push until the final game.

Mngometulu led the team during their 0-2 loss against Young Buffaloes yesterday as the club’s mentor Gcina Dlamini

was said to be out of the country on work commitments.

The coach said they articulated their game plan well, which was to push them forward and get them on a counter.

He however noted that failing to create scoring chances attributed to their loss.

“When you go to war, you stick to bases and plan well for the opposition and we did just that. It was a 50-50 game

but we didn’t create the much needed scoring chances. We will continue to push until the final game,” he said.

Goals

Meanwhile Young Buffaloes head coach Dominic Kunene said they should have scored plenty goals as they created multiple scoring chances but failed to convert.

“Sea Birds had a good game plan and they were on to us but I think we could have beat them with a big score if we converted our chances.



Mbabane Raiders Netball team is appealing for funding from the corporate sector.

Raiders Netball Club appealing for sponsorship

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

NETBALL – In a bid to improve the club, Mbabane Raiders Netball team is appealing for funding from the corporate sector.

Mbabane Raiders Netball Club, formally known as Sufiaw, was founded in 1999 and is made up of 31 players, with a majority being teenagers or scholars.

The club is the only team in Mbabane playing in the A League under the National Netball Association of Swaziland (NNAS).

Interviewed yesterday, the team’s coach Nkabinde Shabalala said the club had been working hard to provide new opportunities to the young netballers within Mbabane which is one of the most vulnerable areas in terms of drugs and substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and HIV and AIDS. “We currently rely on player’s subscriptions to finance the team’s operational costs, and

this is often compromised as our team is mainly composed of scholars. We appeal to sponsors and possible partners to join hands with us as we continue to impact lives positively, through sport. For support, those interested can contact me on 7667 4522,” he said

He also stated the team believed that youth involvement in sport was one of the ways to alleviate some of these.

The manager said their vision was to build future champions in the country through sport and to develop netball and provide opportunities for members to perform and achieve at the highest level both locally and internationally.

“We also have development programmes and are currently attached with Olymp Africa Juniors Netball Team. The club has also collaborated with primary and high schools around Mbabane through promoting the game of netball and encouraging youngsters to participate in various netball competitions in the country,” he said.

Weslians, Landers advance SwaziBank U-20 quarters

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SOCCER – Hub giants Manzini Wanderers and Mbabane Highlanders are through to the last eight of the SwaziBank Cup finals.

The two sides beat Midas City and Mbabane Swallows respectively during the games played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. The first game of the double header saw the Wanderers junior side overcoming a sloppy Midas City side in a fast flowing encounter witnessed by a paltry crowd of less than a 100 fans. Both teams came in the games wounded as they lost

their previous games to Lubombo based side Tambuti. With the much needed victory over city, the Weslians have now booked their spot in the last eight of the tournament have joining Tambuti who secured all six points in the group stages. Meanwhile, Mbabane Highlanders finished as runners up in Group D and joining Manzini Sundowns who are at the top of their group. The games continue today at Manzini club where Moneni Pirates will take on Royal Leopard at 9am while Correctional Services outfit Green Mamba have a date with defending champions Young Buffaloes at 11am.

THE LOGS

Group A	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1. Y. Buffaloes	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
2. Green Mamba	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	2
3. Red Lions	2	0	2	0	1	4	-3	0
Group B	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1. Royal Leopard	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
2. Moneni Pirates	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
3. Sea Birds	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
Group C	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1. Tambuti	2	2	0	0	6	1	5	6
2. Wanderers	2	0	1	0	0	2	-2	0
3. Midas City	1	0	1	0	1	4	-3	0
Group D	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Sundowns	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Highlanders	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
Swallows	2	0	2	0	1	2	-1	0

SOMHLOLO BLACKOUT NEXT SEASON

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SOCCER – Teams have reacted with shock after learning that the country's Mecca Somhlolo National Stadium will not be accessible next season.

This was revealed during a performance standards and CAF Club Licensing seminar held at Sibane Hotel yesterday.

The teams said they were shocked to learn that the stadium was being closed for renovations and that they would be forced to find alternative venues. The teams noted that it was unfortunate that there was no concrete partnership between the sports ministry and National Football Association of Swaziland when it comes to the stadium. "I understand that Somhlolo will be closing, something that will disturb our football as 70 per cent of games are played there. I would like to know



what the football association has done about this because as football teams Somhlolo is an investment to us as we have an artificial turf there."

"We really want to know what this means for us when it comes to the progress made in our football as most teams use this stadium," said NFAS Executive Committee member Sonnyboy Mabuza.

Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Chief Operations Officer Pat Vilakati said this was an unfortunate situation. He said they would be compelled to suspend all tournaments except the MTN Premier League. "Somhlolo closing will be a very big challenge for the PLS, in that it is only Somhlolo that can accommodate thousands of supporters. If closed, where then will we host

these finals because the other stadiums have small capacities."

"It is just unfortunate because we have contractual obligations to our sponsors. It would be a request that the ministry considers closing the stadium after May 14 so that our plans go on as planned," he said.

The tournaments that could be put on ice include the Swazi Bank Cup, Ingwenyama Cup, Castle Premier Challenge and the Swazi Telecom Charity Cup.

In response NFAS CEO Frederick Mngomezulu said the football mother body would consult with the relevant authorities over the matter.

Sought for comment, Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala said it was true that the stadium was closing. "It is no secret that Somhlolo is damaged and needs to be renovated."

The stadium will be hosting a national event in the 50/50 celebrations and there is no way it can be hosted under the current conditions of the stadium. The minister however highlighted that this event was being handled by the home affairs minister.

"The matter is still being discussed. We will meet with football team to discuss this matter."

However we all know that these renovations will also benefit everyone include football. Development will always disturb plans but is for the best."

"After all we have other stadiums such as the Mavuso Sports Centre which has even hosted international games before," he said.

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE LOG

Position	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Mbabane Swallows	16	16	0	0	44	7	37	48
Young Buffaloes	18	9	6	3	22	13	9	33
Royal Leopard	18	9	3	6	24	21	3	30
Moneni Pirates	18	7	5	5	23	22	1	26
Green Mamba	18	7	4	7	25	16	9	25
Manzini Wanderers	17	6	7	4	26	18	8	25
Midas City	17	5	7	5	21	22	-1	22
Manzini Sundowns	17	5	7	5	18	21	-3	22
Tambuti	18	5	3	10	18	31	-13	18
Red Lions	17	4	3	10	19	38	-19	15
Mbabane Highlanders	17	3	5	9	21	29	-8	14
Sea Birds	18	1	4	13	12	37	-25	7

'Magawugawu' blunder costs 'Buccaneers'

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Leopard..... (0)1
Moneni..... (0)0

SOCCER – A lone strike by Bonginkosi 'Manyovu' Dlamini was enough to see police outfit Royal Leopard bag the maximum points at Moneni Pirates' expense yesterday.

The winger capitalised from a Menzi 'Magawugawu' defensive blunder during their MTN league encounter played at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

The 'Buccaneers' ship was captained by coach Terisayi Changara in absence of their bereaved mentor Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini.

Pirates were first to create the first real chance in the game and it was in 18th minute when Fanelo Mamba was freed by former Manzini Wanderers forward Tawanda Chikuku, but the diminutive winger's shot was directed straight at goalkeeper Phephisani Msibi who comfortably saved it.

Leopards should have opened the scoring seven minutes later when 'Manyovu' outran Njabulo Shongwe on the right flank, but his inch-perfect cross could not find any of his teammates, and was cleared to safety by the Pirates defence.

'Manyovu' who seemed to be a thorn in the flesh of the overconfident 'Sea Robbers' defence but failed to break through the opposition's defence which saw the game go into recess at 0-0.

Introduced

After the break, Moneni Pirates came back the stronger side as they went in search of the elusive opener. It was on that very same note that they introduced striker Mfanfikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze for Siyabonga Mkhize, but he could not impose himself in the game. At the stroke of the hour mark, Tawanda Chikuku, who was arguably Moneni Pirates' best player on the day, produced a moment of magic – unlocking the whole Pirates defence with his fancy footwork, before releasing a defence splitting pass, which found 'Fash', but the striker instead of taking responsibility, and easily slotting it home, chose to pass to Xolani 'Messi' Ngwenya who was in an offside position. Magawugawu's overconfidence got the better of him 13 minutes before time, as he blundered whilst showboating. The veteran defender was dismissed by Muzi 'Mzoro' Dlamini who unleashed a cross which was easily tapped in by Manyovu.

De Jongh wants friendly before Niger clash

BY SABELO MAJOLA

SOCCER – Newly appointed Sihlangu head coach Pieter De Jongh is looking to play one friendly match before the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers clash with Niger on June.

De Jongh was amongst those who watched the MTN Premier League double header pitting Young Buffaloes against Sea Birds and Moneni Pirates against Royal Leopard at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The coach said that he was impressed with a few players especially their physical and mental aspect but mentioned that he still has a lot of assessing to do before coming up with the squad. "I have already submitted my working plan for 2017 to the football association executive Committee and I want to at least have five training days with the squad before the end of April. I have already come up with a plan on how we will beat Niger in the AFCON qualifier but there is little time and lot of work to do," he said.

'Buffs' add to Sea Birds' relegation woes

BY SABELO MAJOLA

Buffaloes... (1)2
Sea Birds... (0)0

SOCCER – A brace from Young Buffaloes striker Phiwa Dlamini rubbed salt to the wound of relegation threatened Manzini Sea Birds at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The fast flowing clash ended 2-0 in favour of the army side who made sure to cement their second spot while denying Sea Birds a much needed victory in their quest to evade relegation.

The Manzini side remains at the bottom of the log with seven points while Buffaloes have increased their point tally to 33.

The Buffaloes striker could have put his side ahead in the 12th

minute when he navigated through defenders but was let down by a side foot shot while facing goal and the ball went wide. Phiwa continued to intimidate defenders and his goal was disallowed in the 25th minute as he was ruled offside but the sturdy forward eventually put his side ahead in the 38th minute after netting from the penalty spot.

The penalty was awarded following a handball by Jabulani Mabuza in the box and referee Theminkosi Dlamini made no mistake but pointed to the spot. Sea Birds were packed at the back in search of an equaliser but the first half ended without a single shot on target for the latter.

The second half was no different as Buffaloes continued to dominate with Phiwa tormenting the opposition's defence. He

was however unfortunate in the 67th minute when he received a pass from Wandile 'Skosh' Shabangu while unmarked in the box but opted to trap the ball, making a poor shot that was easily saved by Bafana Ngwenya. His efforts finally paid off came three minutes from time when he connected a fine pass from substitute Ndoda Mtsetfwa to pass an empty net after beating an advancing Ngwenya.

TEAMS

Buffaloes

Nhlanhla, Linda, Wandile, Mndeni, Siboniso, Nkosingphile, Mzwandile (Ndoda), Sifiso (Timothy), Sandile, Wandile, Phiwa

SEA BIRDS

Bafana, Mfundo, Sibusile, Gcinizwi, Bonginkosi, Sanele, Jabulani, Theminkosi, Nkosikhona, Bhukumuzi, Gcinwayinkhosi.

Tambuti, 'Mamba share the spoils in six goal thriller

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Tambuti (1)3
Green Mamba (1)3

SOCCER – Rookies Tambuti are refusing to surrender their premier league status after holding Green Mamba to a three all draw yesterday.

This was during a six goal thriller played at the King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium. The Lubombo based side is still safe from the dreaded axe with 18 points

after forcing a late equaliser against the Correctional Services side in the tension filled affair that watched by over 100 spectators.

It was the home side Tambuti that drew first blood six minutes into the action with a powerful low volley from DR Congo born striker Patrice Mopina.

Mopina benefited from a poor clearance header by Green Mamba defender Banele 'Makones' Dlamini and he made no mistake and fire past goalkeeper Siyabonga Simelane.

The visitors regrouped, displaying good passes and transitional play that result-

ed in some cracks in the opposition backline. Their efforts finally paid dividend just before the half hour mark, when winger Muhle Shiba leveled matters with a stunner after being released by a Njabulo Tfwala weighted pass.

Tambuti continued to lead proceedings in the second stanza and were up three minutes into restart through midfielder Simanga Magongo. The pint size player also benefited from a goalmouth scramble after Green Mamba defence failed to clear an Ugochukwu Ohakwe free kick.

The Harries 'Madze' Bulunga led troops

did not despair as they once again levelled matters in the 60th minute through winger Njabulo Tfwala's powerful ground shot that came from a Thabiso Gumbi cross beating Tambuti goalkeeper Thokozani Mkhulisi.

Experienced Mamba's striker Phinda Dlamini gave his side the lead when he tapped home a Njabulo Tfwala pass.

Their joy was however short-lived as Tambuti were awarded what seemed to be a questionable penalty by referee Simanga. Nhleko nine minutes before time. The referee pointed to the penalty spot following a challenge between

Phinda Ginindza and Tambuti's Mlandvo Sihlongonyane inside the box.

Inyoka Eluhlazana had to finish the match with ten men after their fullback Thabo Mngometulu was given marching orders following a second bookable offence towards the dying minutes of the match after displaying unprofessionalism towards the referee.

The teams

Tambuti

Mkhulisi, Ishmael, Sanele, Mlandvo Machawe, Ngidi, Simanga, Bhengkosi, Zwa kele, Ugo, Mopina

Green Mamba

Siyabonga, Thabo, Gumbi, Makones, Cha uke, Mkhontfo, Phinda Ginindza, Njabulo Phindix, Mcebo (Musa), Muhle (Lawrence).

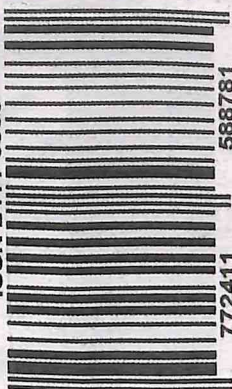
FIXTURES

MTN Premier League results			
Young Buffaloes	2	Manzini Sea Birds	0
Royal Leopards	1	Moneni Pirates	0
Playing today			
Somhlolo National Stadium			
Red Lions	vs	Manzini Sundowns 1	1:30am
Mbabane Highlanders	vs	Manzini Wanderers	1:30pm
Midas City	vs	Mbabane Swallows	3:30pm
National First Division			
Hlathikhulu Tycoons	0	Hub Sundowns	1
Vovovo	1	Amalanda	0
Mbabane Citizen	2	Madlenya	2
Playing today			
Mavuso Sports Centre			
Ludzeludze Brothers	vs	Bad Boys	2pm
Mayaluka Stadium			
Malanti Chiefs	vs	City Warriors	1:30pm
Sikhalo se-Africa	vs	Matsapha United	3:30pm

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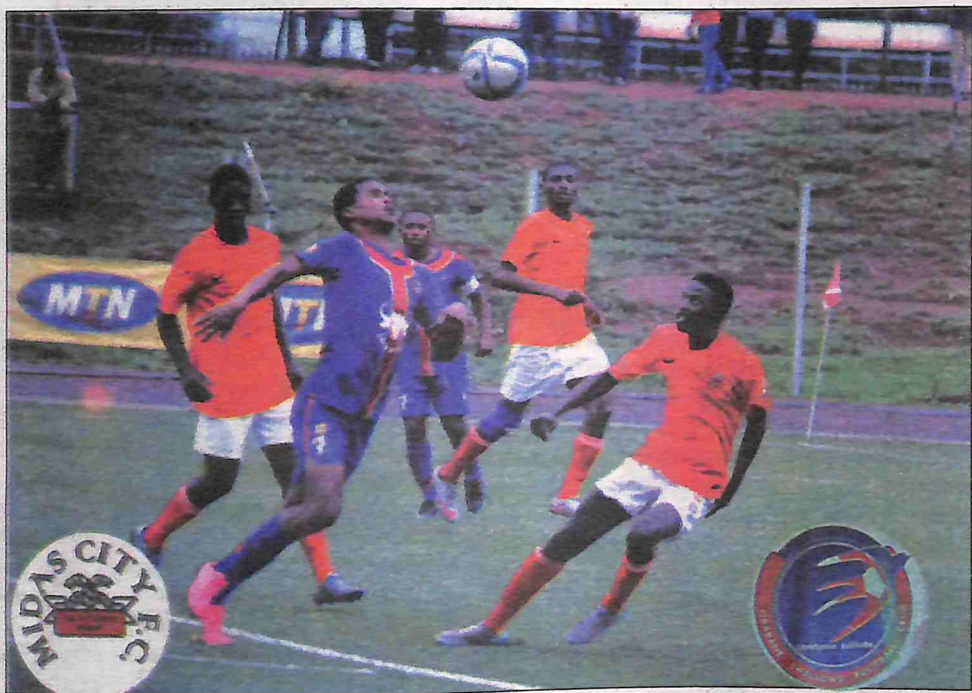
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GOVT TO SHUT DOWN SOMHLOLO

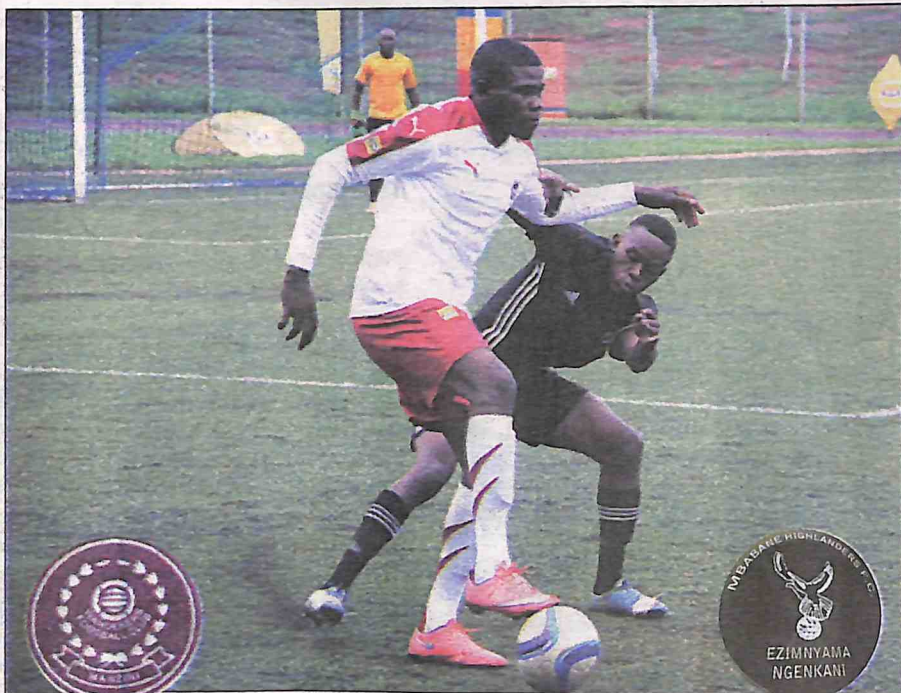
...national stadium to be renovated for 50/50 celebration

...PLS could find themselves suspending all other tournaments besides the MTN League next season

WILL CITY SPOIL THE PARTY?

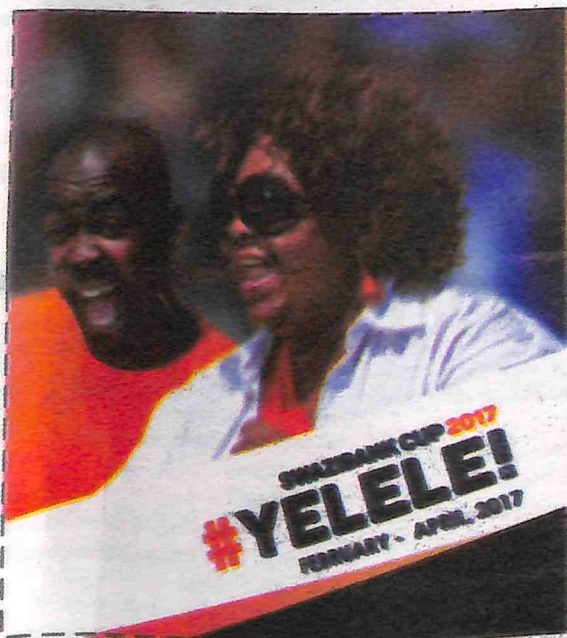


BECKONING MOMENT FOR 'BULL'



WIN E20,000 IN CASH PREDICT THE CHAMPIONS

Consolation prizes: 5 x E500 cash prizes. SwaziBank and Swazi Observer employees as well as contestants under the age of 18 years are NOT eligible to enter competition.



Deadline: 26 April 2017	
1 ST Prize	E10,000
2 ND Prize	E5,000
3 RD Prize	E2,500

Drop entry form at any Swazi Observer office or any SwaziBank branch.

Answer.....
Name.....Cell phone.....

Terms & Conditions apply.

