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## HIS MAJESTY MOVES TO BUHLENI ROYAL RESIDENCE



**BAYETHE:** Ingwenyama in song and dance with regiments at Buhleni Royal Residence as the Little Incwala heats up getting closer to the main day. His Majesty is expected to commission Ingatja from the Hhohho region in a few days. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

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**PRICE GOES UP**

**GET PASSPORT IN 7 DAYS AND...**

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**MANZINI COPS ACCUSED OF SELLING FAKE LICENCES**  
Page 6

## NO END IN SIGHT... Story on Page 3

# SRA WORKERS: IT'S WAYA WAYA

...Resolution taken at well attended meeting yesterday

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# GET A PASSPORT IN SEVEN DAYS

Stories by Mbono Mdluli  
Mbabane

If you want an international passport, be sure to get it within seven working days.

This is an assurance given to the members of the public by government, through the ministry of public service.

The ministry has issued a directory of government services, in an effort to ensure that government becomes a more efficient service provider.

The directory serves as a guide for Swazi citizens, and those from outside the country, to know what services they can get from government and from which department are the services available.

Under this directory, members of the public are assured to get an international passport within seven working days, at a fee of E170 plus a revenue stamp (E150 for passport and E20 for fingerprints).

All Swazi citizens are eligible for this service, which is obtainable at the headquarters of the ministry of home affairs. All correspondence should be addressed to Chief Immigration Officer PO Box 372 Mbabane. Applicants below 20 years should submit letter of consent and certified copy of parent's identity card.

International passports are divided into four categories and could enable one to travel to most, if not all, countries in the world. The categories include those who

...Members of the public are assured to get an international passport within seven working days, at a fee of E170 plus a revenue stamp (E150 for passport and E20 for fingerprints)

Below are requirements on all the four categories:

Holiday Application letter	Visit Application letter	Study Application letter	Business Application letter on company letterheads
Three-month bank statement	Invitation letter from the host	Consent if applicant is a minor	Supporting documents for the trip e.g. invitation letter
Certified copy of identity card	Copy of host's resident status	Letter of acceptance or admission from educational	Two coloured passport-sized photos
Certified copy of marriage certificate, if applicable	Three-month bank statement from either party	Three-month bank statement if sponsored by parents or confirmation of scholarship award	Certified copy of marriage certificate, if applicable
Two coloured passport-sized photos	Two coloured passport-sized photos	Two coloured passport-sized photos	Certified copy of birth certificate
Certified copy of birth certificate	Certified copy of identity card	Certified copy of identity card	Certified copy of identity card
	Certified copy of birth certificate	Certified copy of birth certificate	
	Certified copy of marriage certificates if possible	Certified copy of marriage certificates, if possible	

want the passport because they want to go on holiday, those going for a visit, those who want to study abroad, and those travelling on business.

Below are the requirements for people who want the travel documents:

Single Swazi females 18 and above and all males	Married females	Children 16 - 18	Children 15 and below	Citizens by naturalisation
Personal identity cards	Personal ID cards	Personal ID cards	Original birth certificate	Original citizenship certificate
Original birth certificate	Original birth certificate	Original birth certificate	Accompanying parents identity card	Personal identity cards
Police report if lost or damaged	Original marriage certificate	Police report if lost or damaged	Police report if lost or damaged	Original marriage certificate
	Police report if lost or damaged			Police report if lost or damaged

required. The service is obtainable at the headquarters of the ministry of home affairs and all service centres across the country.

## Get travel documents within just two days

While international passports are obtainable within seven days, travel documents are obtainable within two days.

This applies to every Swazi citizen who wants to travel within SADC countries.

A fee of E80 and a revenue stamp are needed to secure a travel document. If lost, a fee of E120 will be

## EXPECT TO PAY UP TO E600 FOR A VISA

A person in need of a visa is required to pay up to E600 to get such a document in the country.

However, the minimum amount for such a service is E80, provided an application for a single entry of the visa is sought. For a three-month multiple entries, an applicant is required to pay a sum of E300, while for a seven-month multiple entries, E600 is needed.

This is contained in the government service directory, aimed at informing the public about the kinds of services offered by government.

A visa is an endorsement placed within a passport that grants the holder official permission to enter, leave or stay in a country for a specified period.

The most common visa types are tourist, student, work and transit visas.

Depending on where you are travelling, a visa can be valid for a single or multiple visits. Some visas require an application to be filed prior to entering the country and other visas are granted upon entering the country.

Certain countries require an interview or medical screening prior to applying for a visa. This is different from a pass-



port, which is a document issued to a country's citizens for international travel and identification.

A passport is used to verify one's country of citizenship. If travelling outside your country, it is used to regain entry into your country of citizenship. Passports include a photo, name, birth date, gender and physical characteristics of the

owner.

Some countries only require a passport for re-entry. Other countries may require a visa before entry. One should confirm if a visa is required before traveling to a certain country.

Diplomats and government officials are granted different passports than what's given to regular travelers.

A visa in this country can only be issued to certain tourists, business visitors, and certain foreign volunteer workers. The documents can be obtained at the ministry of home affairs headquarters in Mbabane and the country's foreign mission.

## Pay E85 to change surname

If you contemplate changing your surname, you should have E85 ready to ensure that such happens.

This is contained in the government services directory, aimed at informing the public about the kinds of services offered by government.

The services are obtainable at the ministry of home affairs in Mbabane.

There are no specific requirements for this service, except for the E85.

The E85 includes E50, which is needed for an alteration of the applicant's birth certificate.

The remaining E35 is for the alteration of the national identity card (ID). The duration of the service varies depending on the merits of a case.

## Get ID within 3 days

If you want a national identity card, government promises you that you will get it within three working days.

The first issue of the ID costs E25 and the service is available for Swazi citizens and legally registered foreigners. If the ID is lost, an applicant would be required to fork out E50.

Below are the requirements for a person who wants an ID:

- Must be 16 years and above.
  - Certified copy of birth certificate
  - Graded tax number, if male and above 18.
  - Valid resident/working permit for non-Swazi.
- Below are requirements for someone whose ID is lost:
- Police report proving that ID is lost.
  - Documents proving legality of alteration (if altering ID).

## Pay up to E68 to deliver a baby

DELIVERING a baby can cost up to E68 in government health facilities.

However, the costs can even be less, depending on each case as some could not be so complicated.

The fees include the caesarean section fee, which is E25, normal vaginal delivery (E5), stitches if necessary during normal vaginal delivery (E15), ward fee per night (E6), medication (E2), and outpatient department (E20).

The service is provided by the ministry of health and is available to all pregnant women.

The women, before accessing the services, should have tangible signs of labour pains. They should also have their ID cards with them before they could access the services.

The services are accessed in all government hospitals and clinics in all the four regions of the country. The duration of the service varies from case to case.

## Expect Standard V results anytime - Minister

By Nozipho Sibiya  
Mbabane



THE Minister of Education and Training Phineas Magagula has assured parents and pupils anticipating the Swaziland Primary Certificate results to relax as they will be released before the end of December 31 or possibly today.

In a telephonic interview with the minister, he said the results would be published in newspapers before the year ends.

"I cannot however state the exact day as we (ministry) are also waiting for a correspondent from the Examination Council of Swaziland (ECOS)," he stated.

Magagula requested parents and pupils who are anxiously waiting for their results to be patient as the results will be out soon. He said as soon as they get a correspondent from the council, they will take the results to Cabinet for blessing before release.

He said he was still to talk to the council to get full details of the results release date.

"I need to contact the council so I can be in a position to state the exact date," he stated.

The localised Swaziland Primary Certificate (SPC), popularly known

as Grade Seven results, in previous years were released after Christmas while the Junior Certificate results were released during the first few weeks of the New Year.

Whereas Form Five results are usually the last to be released and it is normally done towards the end of January of the following year, which in this case, means they will be released by the end of January 2018. Last year, the Swaziland Primary Certificate (SPC) examinations results were released on December 30, 2016 which was on a Friday while Form Three results were released on January, 2017.

Swazi Observer Managing Editor Mbongeni Mbingo said in the event the results are released today or any other time, readers must rest assured that this newspaper will publish them in a bigger font as usual.

He advised readers to watch the space and put trust in the Swazi Observer.



# FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR WILL BE HOT

By Nozipho Sibiya  
Mbabane

TEMPERATURES will warm a little through Sunday before they blow hot on New Year's Day with a few thunderstorms expected.

According to information sourced from the Swaziland Meteorology Services, today and tomorrow temperatures will be cool in the Highveld and hot in the Lowveld.

"Today and tomorrow there will be occasional light rain with fog at places, otherwise cloudy with sunny intervals and cool but warm in the Lowveld with a few thunderstorms expected in the

TODAY	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
Mbabane	16/24	18/27	16/26	17/29	19/30

Today, there will be light rain and fog at places otherwise cloudy with partly cloudy intervals and cool but warm to hot in the Lowveld, with isolated afternoon thunderstorms.

TOMORROW	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
15/23	16/24	17/26	15/25	16/28	18/29

Tomorrow, there will be occasional light rain with fog at places, otherwise cloudy with sunny intervals and cool but warm in the Lowveld with a few thunderstorms expect in the afternoon.

SUNDAY	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
17/25	18/26	19/28	17/27	18/30	20/31

On Sunday, there will be fog patches, otherwise partly cloudy and hot mainly in the Lowveld, with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon.

MONDAY	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
15/27	16/28	17/30	15/29	16/32	18/33

On Monday, there will be morning fog at places, otherwise cloudy becoming partly cloudy and warm but hot in the Lowveld with a few thunderstorms.

afternoon," said a forecaster. Temperatures are expected to slightly rise on New Year's Eve reaching a maximum of 25 Degrees Celsius

in the Highveld while in the Lowveld they will reach a maximum of 31 Degrees

Celsius. On New Year's Day, it will be hot both in the Highveld and Lowveld with a few thunderstorms.

# SRA VOTE FOR WAYA WAYA KIND OF STRIKE

COVER STORY

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

STRIKING Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) employees have made it clear that they are not willing to go back to work until they get the 6.5 per cent increment and housing allowance they are demanding.

This effectively means the workers have employed the waya waya approach as regards the strike.

This decision by the employees was reached yesterday by members of Swaziland Revenue Workers Union (SRAWU) during a meeting held at Shosholozha Centre in Manzini.

The employees decided to turn down SRA's offer to go back to work and report for duty by 10am yesterday and continue with negotiations while at work.

The workers had been locked out by management and further slapped with a no work-no-pay rule after engaging in a strike that has lasted for two weeks.

During the meeting which was attended by throngs of SRA employees, it surfaced that there were members who heeded to the memo issued by SRA Commissioner General Dumisane Masilela.

The memo advised striking workers to report back to work before 10am yesterday.

However, according to SRAWU Secretary General Moses Masilela out of the hundreds of workers who are under SRAWU only 10 members reported back to work, seven at Ngwenya Border Gate while Mananga saw three heeding the call.

The secretary general said this has been a major blow to the SRA as it had anticipated that by opening doors to workers maybe a lot of them would go back to work.

...This decision by the employees was reached yesterday by members of Swaziland Revenue Workers Union (SRAWU) during a meeting held at Shosholozha centre in Manzini



ASIYINDZAWO: SRA employees dancing under a tree at Shosholozha after resolving that they will be on strike until their demands are met.

ipated that by opening doors to workers maybe a lot of them would go back to work.

## Workers

However, SRA's Vusi Dlamini said their records indicate that 21 workers returned to work. Breaking it down, Dlamini said 15 are based in the various border gates, Mananga (seven), Ngwenya (four), Mahamba (three) and Lavumisa one. The other six are from the headquarters and other branches.

Those who went back to work were labelled as traitors by their colleagues. Masilela when updating the members on the progress of the negotiations said nothing had changed as the employer was not offering them anything which is why they

decided to get back to members to find another way forward.

Masilela said the only thing that happened was that they were sent to CMAC on Wednesday where they did not receive any help but wasted the whole day for nothing.

On the issue of being locked out and not receiving their salaries, the workers wondered if it was proper for the employer to execute a lockout and then when workers respect that order, the employer hits them with the no work no pay tactic.

Masilela said as SRA employees they have compromised too much and this time even if the 6.5 per cent and housing allowance demand is met they will go back to work but that will only be the

## ...SRAWU seeks advice from NAPSAWU

SRAWU has already engaged the National Public Service and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU).

Yesterday SRAWU Secretary General Moses Masilela informed members that as leadership they have already approached NAPSAWU and asked for advice on the predicament the workers are faced with.

Masilela said NAPSAWU informed them that their offices were always open. Some members even suggested that since the work no pay issue will hit hard on their pockets maybe SRAWU leadership can approach NAPSAWU or SNAT and request a loan on behalf of members.

The members said in terms of rates

these unions could offer competitive rates as compared to banks. Masilela said there were options they would look into as workers will be on strike.

He said workers could approach banks and ask for a deferment in terms of debts as they have a month with no pay. An example, teachers from Lesotho who engaged in a strike for eight months and were later hit with a no work no pay, are said to have received a deferment of those months. SRA employees are currently engaged in a strike action demanding a 6.5 per cent salary increment on top of the 6.8 per cent already offered by the authority and also demanding housing allowance.

## Are Tax returns piling up at SRA?

AS the workers are on strike it has been alleged that work is piling up at the SRA offices as tax returns are piling up with no one to do reports.

The workers have vowed that they will not be doing December's work unless SRA is willing to pay them for that month.

The workers said if SRA's contingency plan worked then it means there will be no loads of work when they finally go back.

beginning of the struggle because there is a lot of rot that needs to be fixed at SRA.

Masilela said for example, workers sacrifice with their lunch hours but are never appreciated instead they are treated like dirt. Masilela said that will come to an end as people will go to lunch when they want to.

Masilela said during Wednesday's meeting with CMAC a plea was made whereby they were requested to tell workers to call off the strike and go back to work and continue with nego-

The workers however revealed that they have learnt that those who are in the office are only receiving and not helping that much.

## Dangers

Masilela said the dangers of having to push too much load of work when the employees get back is that they could end up making mistakes. Masilela informed members that however they are still to meet with SRA today (Friday) and discuss the issue of December salaries.

tations while at work.

However, the workers just booed off the idea and made it clear that they were not going to work empty handed. The workers said it would have been better if the employer had at least given them something, for example the 6.5 per cent and then they negotiate the housing allowance while back at work.

The employees stated that it is surprising for SRA to say that it does not have money while it has millions of Emalangeni with it.

## Building Society runs to court in bid to stop looming strike

By Sandile Nkambule  
Industrial Court

IN a bid to stop a looming strike action by its employees, Building Society has run to court where they have filed an urgent application for an order interdicting the employees from continuing

with the industrial action.

The Swaziland Building Society in its papers filed in court and already served to the Swaziland Union of Financial Institutions and Allied Workers Union (SUFIAWU) argues that the industrial action which the employees want to engage in is illegal.

They are seeking an order of court interdicting the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) from conducting an intended balloting exercise where employees of the institution are expected to vote on whether the strike action should be on or not. However, the matter has been scheduled for January 3, 2018

for hearing before the Industrial Court as both parties would have filed their papers. The employees who were prevented from conducting the exercise within the institution's premises are intending to strike over their payment of merit increment by their employer. This is payment done in a numerical value in accordance with the various assignments of the employ-

ees based on their performance of the duties assigned to them during the assessment period.

The looming strike action confirmed by SUFIWU Secretary General Jabu Shiba who stated that the action emanates from the Society's failure to give employees their stipulated five percent merit increment as per the procedure.

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ON SATURDAY

Observer

## Swazi Observer cover price goes up

OWING to escalating costs of raw material and printing consumables, the Swazi Observer Group of Newspapers wishes to

notify its esteemed readers that the copy price of your favourite newspaper will go up with effect from January 2, 2018.

The new prices will be as follows:

	Old Price	New Price
Swazi Observer Daily	E5.00	E5.50
Observer on Saturday	E5.00	E5.50
Sunday Observer	E6.00	E6.50

\*All prices are VAT inclusive.



# LITTLE INCWALA DAY 11



**IN SONG:** His Majesty joined by Emalangeni, chiefs from the region and ilomo as he dances to one of the Incwala songs at Buhleni Royal Res dance. His Majesty is expected to commission the Ingatja from the Hhohho Region in a few days, a sign that the Main Incwala is getting closer. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



**PRESENT:** Speaker Themba Msibi also made it to the Hhohho region to dance with the King.



**NEMAMBALA:** Prince Majaha was among royalty present at Buhleni.



**CULTURAL:** Maidens who came to attend in song.

**ROYALTY:** Emakhosikati LaMbikiza, LaMahlangu and Liphovela LaMashwama also joined the King and the nation in song and dance.



**KIYO BOMAKE:** Members of the Royal family led by Minister Princess Tsandzile and MP Ncengcenge came from near and far to dance with the King.



**ATTENDED:** Inkhosatana Sikhanyiso among the Imbali from the Royal family on the day.



**IN NUMBERS:** Lutsango and Imbali also came in their numbers.



# LITTLE INCWALA DAY 11



**ENGOMENI:** Regiments singing and dancing on the day. **(R) COULDN'T MISS OUT:** Indvuna Nonduduzo Zubuko leading Imbali which was joined by South African actress Celeste Khumalo who acts on 'The Queen'.



**SPOTTED:** DPM Paul Dlamini and Umbutto Hulumende also attended.



**ALSO PRESENT:** Hlangabeza Mdluli, Canon Mandla Dlamini and Senator Moimoi Maselela could not miss out.



**EMAJAHA LAMADZALA:** Umbutto Mabuyendiya Ndwandwe and Director of Culture Prince Bukhosi were also at Buhleni.





## SWAZI MOBILE BIG FIVE 24 HOUR PARTY

**3 DANCE FLOORS**

**SUNDAY,  
31 DECEMBER 2017**

**TIME: 12NOON VENUE: ESIBAYENI LODGE**

**ARTISTS: KRTC, NOMALUNGELO, MOZAIK, MANDISA, NOBUHLE, DIBA DIBA, BUSTA & NCWIKI, TRIGGERSON, CHAKALAKA, MAGAYA, LOMASOUL, 80 SCRIPT, TRIPPY KING 20, KANGAROO, SYMPHONY, KING TERRY, QIBHO INTALEKTUAL**

**DJS: CROOKS, WICKED, PAPZ, MBO, CECE, FANTASY, MAVISTO, MISTOSOUL, LUNGSTA, 1D, TEMPT, WAAR WAS, JOMINHO, KARLY B, YUGO, X-STACY, MENZIE, ZULU D, MAYE LE MUSO, TWANAZ, SMISH, NYD, PARIS, BANDZI, DOPEDEEP, REKORDER, SUPA CDQ, KATZ, FROGGZ, MSAKRIE, SPEECH, NJEZA, MK, TISO JOZI HHG, DRUM RHYTHM, POOMLA DA PRINCESS, MSETO, CUP, CZAR, T-FACTOR TONIC DEEP**

**HOSTS: NDOSH, BOBO, DR. SHAKES**

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# MANZINI COPS ALLEGEDLY SELLING FAKE DRIVERS' LICENCES AT E2 500

By Sisho Magagula  
Mbabane

**IS this a tip of the iceberg? Some corrupt traffic police officers based at the Manzini Police Station are allegedly selling counterfeit drivers' licences to members of the public at a cost of E2 500.**

This startling revelation has been made by a woman who was arrested by Mbabane traffic police officers on Wednesday after she was found driving a motor vehicle without a valid drivers licence.

Hloniphile Gule, who is in her mid-40s, was nabbed by the men in blue while driving a Toyota sedan at Forbes Reef.

When the traffic cops stopped and requested her to produce a drivers licence, she fished out from her bag, a fake document and showed it to one of the police officers.

The uncompromising traffic officers informed her that they were not satisfied that this was a valid drivers' licences and requested her to accompany them to the police station.

The officers' suspicions were confirmed when the document was checked and discovered not to be available in the system containing all valid and legitimate drivers' licences in the country.

Gule was then arrested and charged.

According to the charge sheet which was read to her in court yesterday morning, Gule was charged with unlawfully and intentionally driving a motor vehicle on a public road using a counterfeit drivers licence.

On the second count, she was charged with unlawfully and intentionally driving a road-unworthy motor vehicle on a public road which had smooth tyres.

Gule appeared before Mbabane Principal

Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi yesterday who asked her why she was driving on the country's roads with a fake drivers' licence.

That was when she dropped the bombshell and exposed the unscrupulous traffic cops.

Gule informed the court that she obtained the document from a traffic police officer in Manzini in 2003 after paying him E2 500 in hard cash.

"Your Worship, I was not aware that the document was fake. I started driving lessons in 2003 and after a few months, my driving instructor said I was now ready to get a drivers licence. He took me and four others to the Manzini Police Station where we met a traffic police officer. The officer instructed all four of us to give him E2 500 each and wait outside the police station," she said.

Gule said the officer disappeared into the building and returned a few minutes later with the drivers licences for all four of them. Magistrate Nhlabatsi, who was visibly perplexed by the accused's revelation, asked her how she knew that the person they gave money to was actually a police officer.

"The person was clad in full police uniform and I have no doubt in my mind that he, was indeed a cop. Also, he emerged from the police station building to meet us and further disappeared into the same building after taking the money," she said.

As the accused person made this disclosure, traffic police officers who were

also inside court yesterday cringed in obvious embarrassment and constantly glanced at one another.

The magistrate asked Gule if she had paid for the driving lessons before paying the E2 500 to the traffic cop and she answered to the affirmative.

She said she had paid E 1 800 for the driving lessons.

"Before you were arrested, were you aware that the transaction you entered into with the police officer was illegal?" asked the presiding officer.

Gule answered to the negative.

"I wasn't aware it was an illegal deal. I just saw a cop in uniform and thought everything was legitimate. My driving instructor was also there, so I had no reason to believe there was something amiss," she said.

Gule pleaded guilty to the offence and continued pleading for leniency, based on her claim

that she was not aware that she was in possession of a fake document. This means that for 14 years, Gule has been driving along the country's roads with a fake licence without being aware of it.

Magistrate Nhlabatsi found her guilty as charged and sentenced her to one year imprisonment with a fine option of E2000.

The sentence was however suspended for a period of one year on condition she is not found guilty of a similar offence. On the charge of driving a motor vehicle with smooth tyres, she was sentenced to five months imprisonment with a fine option of E500.

**The officers' suspicions were confirmed when the document was checked and discovered not to be available in the system containing all valid and legitimate drivers licences in the country.**

## Charges laid against Pastor Mboro, but he hits back at critics

**JOHANNESBURG - Controversial Pastor Paseka "Mboro" Motsoeneng has slammed his critics after assault and intimidation charges were laid against him, following the death of a three-year-old at his church this past weekend.**

Mboro helped Nontombi Gwam, 42, to lay charges of assault and culpable homicide against Ekurhuleni emergency services personnel on Wednesday after her daughter Latoya died at the church last Sunday.

Mboro was accused of assaulting one of the paramedics and they laid the charges against him on the same day.

But he has defended himself, speaking out against critics, including the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL Rights Commission) who criticised him on Wednesday. Commission Chairperson Thoko Mkhwanazi-Xaluva said: "It is not for the religious leader to encourage people



**ACCUSED: Pastor Paseka "Mboro" Motsoeneng.**

to bring people to them who are extremely ill. Churches are not supposed to be hospitals."

Mboro responded yesterday and questioned the point of the statement.

"Everybody knows that the church in

general is not a hospital, so I wonder what the point of that statement was. I urge the CRL to read the statement of the late Latoya's mother before making any remarks," he said. "Everybody, including members of the CRL, need both prayer and medication if they so require," Mboro said. He said he was aware of the charges against him and had made representations to the prosecutor in the matter.

However, of greater concern was the state of the medical profession in the country, he said.

"We must never lose sight of the fact that an innocent three-year-old child Latoya lost her life because of the negligence of the paramedics," he said.

"After much discussion with the mother of the late Latoya and her family, she requested that I lodge a call for all people that have been traumatised by medical personnel or paramedics, to come forward and complain so that their complaints can be investigated," Mboro said.

News24

## Ruling on Hunter drone case in next session

By Sandile Nkambule  
High Court

**A ruling in an application for acquittal and discharge filed by Private Investigator Hunter Shongwe in his drone case will be issued in the next session of the High Court.**

Judge Cyril Maphanga is yet to make the ruling after Shongwe had been put to his defense by his Lawyer Derrick Jele who applied that Shongwe be acquitted and discharged on the criminal matter.

Shongwe will then know whether his application for discharge is successful or not after the ruling.

The application for his discharge in terms of Section 174 (4) of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act (CPE) was filed after the crown had closed its case.

The section reads, "If at the close of the case for the prosecution, the court considers that there is no evidence that the accused committed the offence charged with or any other offence of which he might not be convicted thereon it may acquit and discharge him."

According to papers filed by Jele before court, the decision to grant or refuse such an application lies with the discretion of the court.

Jele had submitted that the evidence led by the crown was poor, such that the accused ought not to have been charged in the first place which follows therefore that Shongwe has to be discharged at the close of the crown's case as there is no need to put him to defence.

During trial the crown paraded nine witnesses which included, staffers from the Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority (SWACAA), the police and the members of the Ezulwini inner council.

Jele had further submitted that the evidence of John Vilakati, Ndavela Mavimbela, Desmond Dlamini and Clement Sihlongonyane in the last count of contravening the Swazi Administration Act on 1950 were not controverted that the accused failed or refused to appear before the Ezulwini Royal Kraal.

Jele stated that the issue in court was whether that is a criminal offence in terms of the Swazi Administration Act and further the evidence of the Act clearly shows that it was repealed hence there was no need to then charge the accused on a repealed legislation.

On the other counts one to four which were that of contravening the Civil Aviation Regulations, Jele submitted that the prosecution paraded three wit-

nesses, Simo Shongwe, Simon Kutibiwa and Clement Sihlongonyane in order to prove that the accused operated an aircraft that is classified under the first schedule of Regulation 117 of 2011.

"It is our submission that the prosecution through its witnesses failed dismally to prove that and it follows that the accused person has to be discharged at this early stage," Jele stated in his papers.

The pilotless aircraft, according to Jele is not classified in the first schedule of the Regulation and if not it follows therefore that it cannot, be registered nor have an airworthiness certificate.

The first schedule of the regulation also does not refer to remotely piloted aircraft, unnamed aerial vehicle or drone and the accused has been charged for operating a pilotless aircraft which is not covered under the first schedule of the Regulation 117 of 2011 and there is no regulation in Swaziland according to Jele with reference to drones.

Shongwe pleaded not guilty to all five counts when they were put to him during trial and that of contravening the Swaziland Administration Order by allegedly failing, refusing or neglecting to appear before the Ezulwini Umphakatsi when called to answer certain issues regarding his forceful stay as a tenant in his office.

The private investigator is facing a total of five counts in that on the first count he is charged with contravening Section 3 (1) of the Civil Aviation Regulations in that he allegedly piloted a drone while at Mvutjini without being a holder of a valid civil aviation licence.

On the second count, Shongwe is alleged to have contravened Section 59 (1) of the regulations in that he flew the same drone in the Swaziland Air Space and thus flouted the Convention of International Aviation.

Shongwe on the third count is charged with contravening Section 54 of the Civil Aviation Regulations in that while at Mvutjini, he flew the same drone without being a holder of an Aircraft Certificate while on the fourth count he is alleged to have contravened Section 60(1) of the same regulations in that he flew a pilotless aircraft.

Shongwe reported the drone missing while flying in the direction of Somhlolo National Stadium during Easter Services in 2012 where the League of Churches had descended for the annual services and he had claimed it costs in the region of E20 000.

**JUDGEMENT: Private Investigator Hunter Shongwe.**



# SA HIGH COMMISSION ONLY ACCEPTS FINGERPRINTS FROM SAPS

By Lungelo Nkambule  
Mbabane

**STUDENTS** applying for study permits at the South African High Commission have been left confused following a communiqué found outside the commission's premises stating that they will only be accepting fingerprints clearance forms from South African Police Service (SAPS).

Information gathered from reliable sources is that this would mainly affect returning students studying in South African institutions already as they will have to submit two sets of fingerprints clearance forms for the study permits to be processed.

The students who have to renew their study permits at the beginning of every academic year will have to submit fingerprints clearance

forms from police services of both countries.

A communiqué found at the South African High Commission states that in order for one's study permit and other permits application.

Explaining this Chief Police Information and Communication Officer (PICO) Superintendent Khulani Mamba said it was not that the students no longer needed fingerprints clearance forms from the

Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) but they would be required to submit forms from police services of the two countries.

"They will need clearance forms from us and our counterparts in South Africa. This I guess is for security measures," he said.

He encouraged the students to do as advised for their processes to go smoothly.

Celiwe Magongo

Okay Ke... Sengbuyile... Nine tinini ta Sluga hamban nintjele kuts ngyabonga Kinginjingisa... I opened a case wt a lawyer because they emaphoyisen Batse. It's a civil case so the lawyer said I hv to sue him fr defamation of character... Esgodwen batamfuna bamthele bambiyise lapha Kim to apologize and get his facts straight if need be...so I won't back down until a video of him on his knees apologizing to every girl on the list is published.. Then itophela Kelenzaba...so wherever he is hiding update him nd the more angatholaka kutamshubela abobuta labangone lekamashaytafula lawake wasebenta Khona kuts ngifike nginjan naban base bayangtjela kuts ulapha kuswimmer Khona emuas...so Cela lalabangadzele lendzaba bamtjele avele Kim or get my number ku inbox sente Le video of apology sigcine lapho kungakalimal muntf... Ngoba nam sengyesaba my relatives are fuming and believe me he wouldn't wanna wake up at RFM phindze akhandze mine futs Le surgical... Thank you... Case closed fr the day... Resuming tomorrow at 2 when meet the police again

39 · Like · React · Reply · Report · Yesterday at

have been put together by one Bonkhe Shabangu, who was quoted saying those are the people he believed did well in the fashion front. The list is titled 'Swazis that slayed 2017'. The list has the likes

of SwaziMobile Chief Consumer Executive Gciniwe Fakudze, Musician Sands, Model Coralee Vilakati and Socialite Lindokuhle Mthupha amongst others.

## RFM distances itself from nurse's Facebook post

By Lungelo Nkambule  
Mbabane

**THE Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital** has disassociated itself from a Facebook post by one Celiwe Magongo who claims to be a nurse at the hospital.

In wake of the new list making rounds on social media Celiwe Magongo who is at the top of the list has been involved in a show-down with one Meluleki 'Sluga' Simelane who discredited her and said she did not deserve to be on the list because he alleged that she lived off other people.

Magongo did not take Simelane's allegations lying down as she posted that she had taken the matter to the police and she would be suing him for defamation of character unless he apologised to her.

In her post Magongo also stated that in the event Simelane failed to apologise, he ran the risk of being attacked by her relatives and finding himself in a surgical ward which she is stationed at.

RFM Chief Executive Officer

(CEO) Ben Simelane, when reached for comment said the hospital had nothing to do with such an issue and hence he disassociated the institution from the contents of the post.

"We are a service provider and our primary service is to afford members of the public with health care so we refuse to be associated with statements implying that our nurses can at any point use our facilities to push their agenda that go against our mandate which is to provide health care," he said.

**Added**

The CEO added that they strongly condemned what the nurse had done in bringing the hospital's name into the post to fight personal battles.

"We condemn such because it brings the hospital's name into disrepute. We therefore will conduct an investigation into the matter and that investigation will inform us on the next appropriate move," he said.

Simelane assured users of the RFM facilities that they were committed to giving them the best services possible.

The new list set social media abuzz on Boxing Day. The list is said to

## Shops advised against lighting firecrackers prior to New Year's Eve

By Sizwe Dlamini  
Pigg's Peak

**SHOPS and businesses in the small town of Pigg's Peak** have been advised against lighting firecrackers before New Year's Eve.

Yesterday afternoon, Pigg's Peak Station Commander Webster Methula was seen going around Pigg's Peak shops telling individuals to stop lighting firecrackers.

Fire crackers popularly known as 'crickets' are often lit with matches to explode.

The patrol by Methula was prompted by a number of loud firecrackers that were over heard exploding in shops.

He was seen entering six out of eight shops in Pigg's Peak that stock the fire crackers.

Speaking to this publication, some of the shop owners who are pre-

dominately Asian nationals, said unfortunately for them some customers wanted to first test the fire crackers before buying them in bulk.

"Some customers want to test the fire crackers before buying them this, then creates a problem for us the people selling the crackers because we have to allow the customer to see a demonstration of the fire cracker.

One actual fire cracker costs E2 but the whole bag costs E20 to E40, so what happens is a person first buys one cracker and tests it, that is the reason why the police came because customers were busy testing the crackers inside our shop," he said. Apparently, the station commander had to attend to a long list of complaints made by the public that the fire crackers were a disturbance. "We had to speak with



**TOO EARLY: Pigg's Peak Town where Pigg's Peak Station Commander Webster Methula was seen patrolling most of the shops educating shop owners on when to start officially blowing up fire crackers.**

him and explain our predicament, we have promised to minimise the noise," the shop owners said.

Meanwhile, Chief Police Information and Communications

Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba said it was good that the Pigg's Peak Police were already making these visits to educate shop owners.

## Strong Rand to drive petrol price down in new year

**JOHANNESBURG** - Motorists can expect some relief as fuel prices are expected to drop in the new year.

According to the Automobile Association, fuel prices are set for a hefty drop after the Rand's strong performance against the US dollar.

This is despite increases in international petroleum prices during December.

The association was commenting on the price drop based on unaudited month-end fuel data released by the Central Energy Fund.

"The Rand has had a very strong run against the Dollar since the middle of the month, gaining considerable ground after the ANC's electoral conference chose Cyril Ramaphosa as the new leader of the party," the AA said.

"After opening the month at R13.80 to the Dollar, the rand is now testing the R12.30 level."

It said that despite higher international oil prices over December, all grades of fuel are set to fall at the Department of Energy's next price adjustment.

Petrol was expected to drop by up to 34 cents a litre, diesel by 26 cents and illuminating paraffin by 28 cents.

"... Ramaphosa's political and fiscal position ahead of the February 2018 budget speech is likely to be the most influential determining factor for fuel price movements in the short term," the AA added. *eNCA*



## PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL CONSENT IN TERMS OF THE MANZINI TOWN PLANNING SCHEME OF 2013**

We GIRLIEND JOHANNES VERMAAK, the owner (s) of the property in question, hereby make a Public Notice in terms of Clause 1.5 of the 2013 Manzini Town Planning Scheme that We wish to apply SPECIAL CONSENT to establish (description of development) Pre-School

Plot No 162 Township Ngwane Park

Any one having objection to this application may lodge their objections, in writing, with the Municipal Council of Manzini at P.O.BOX 418, Manzini M200, SWAZILAND not later than (date) 18 January 2018 that is 21 days from the last publication of the notice namely on (date) 28 December 2017.

R/N 187001



# SIKHUMBUBO DLAMINI, SAMKELISIWE MHLANGA NOW HUSBAND AND WIFE

**JUST MARRIED:** Sikhumbuzo Dlamini of Siphocosini with his wife Samkelisiwe Mhlanga of Ndlalambi as they tied the knot at a colourful event held at Gobolondlo Hall, Pigg's Peak. Behind them are the groom's men and the bride's maids. (Courtesy pics)



It was a day of love and bliss between the Dlamini family of Siphocosini and the Mhlanga family of Ndlalambi in the northern Hhohho region as **Sikhumbuzo Dlamini** of Siphocosini wed his sweetheart **Samkelisiwe Mhlanga** of Ndlalambi. The event took place last week at Gobolondlo Hall in Pigg's Peak.

**TAKEN:** The lovebirds' wedding rings.



## NOTICE TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS Let's Serve You Better

**We will serve you better if we know you.**

- 1.0 In order to establish a proper customer database, and to comply with our credit policy, The Swazi Observer is updating all existing and future customer information. You are hereby requested to supply the requisite information on the appropriate form.
- 2.0 Our Sales Representatives will be in contact with all our customers and will distribute the requisite form as stated above, with regard to this exercise.
- 3.0 Should you require further information and/or clarification do not hesitate to contact the following:-
  - Ms. S Mkhonta (Marketing Manager) 76052296
  - Mr. B Mvubu (Marketing Officer) 76074326
- 4.0 Our valued customers are kindly reminded to comply with the Swazi Observer Credit Policy of **30 days**. Customers with outstanding debts of **60 days** and above risk legal action being taken against them. Any queries on outstanding debts must be duly referred to our debt collection department at telephone number **2404 9600 ext. 129, 131, 132**.
- 5.0 Your co-operation in this matter will be highly appreciated.

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**THE FIRST BITE:** Dlamini feeding his wife a piece of cake.



**READY:** The groom Sikhumbuzo Dlamini getting ready to welcome his wife from Mhlanga.



**BAZALI BAMI:** The lovebirds pictured with the bride's parents Sithembile Mhlanga (I) and Reverend Samson Mhlanga.



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**BABAZANI BO:** Dlamini planting a kiss on his wife, while the bride's maids and the groom's men act shy.



**BLUE FOR PEACE:** The two lovebirds with the groom's men.



**RED FOR LOVE:** The lovers pictured with the bride's maids.

**WE ARE ONE:** Dlamini and Mhlanga posing with the groom's mother Sibongile Msibi and his father Didi Rocha.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### RE: PROPOSED SIMUNYE-LOMAHASHA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (SWAZILAND/MOZAMBIQUE)

A public notice is hereby published in terms of section 52 of the Environmental Management Act, 2002. The Ministry of Natural Resources through the Department of Water Affairs has prepared an Environmental Impact Assessment report and formulated a Comprehensive Mitigation Plan for the proposed Simunye-Lomahasha Water Supply Project.

The Purpose of the study was to identify environmental impacts that are likely to emerge as a result of the proposed development so that measures are taken to mitigate negative environmental impacts and enhance positive ones. Copies of these reports are available in the following places:

1. Swaziland Environmental Authority Offices – RHUS Office Park, Mbabane.
2. Simunye Police Station
3. Simunye National Library
4. Mhlume National Library
5. Lomahasha Clinic
6. Lomahasha Border Post
7. Lomahasha Police Station

Interested and affected parties are requested to submit comments and/ or objections as per the Environmental audit, Assessment and Review Regulations, 2000. Written submissions should be directed to the Director, Swaziland Environmental Authority, and P. O. Box 2602, Mbabane.

Fax: 24041729. Email: [ceosec@sea.org.sz](mailto:ceosec@sea.org.sz)

The deadline for submission of comments is **2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018\***

\*20 days from last week of publication of notice.

# Provisional Tax

...payment due **31<sup>st</sup> December**

Taxpayers are kindly reminded that the due date for the 1st provisional tax payment is the **31st December 2017** (for taxpayers whose year-end is 30th June 2017). Taxpayers whose approved year end is 31st December are expected to make their 2nd provisional tax payments by the same deadline date i.e. **31st December 2017**.

For more information please call 2406 4050 or email: [info@sra.org.sz](mailto:info@sra.org.sz)





## 10 NATIONAL NEWS

# Teen stabs man at The Gables

By Sisho Magagula  
Mbabane

A man is lucky to be alive after he was stabbed in the head with a knife by a teenage boy at The Gables Shopping Complex.

The teenager has since been arrested and charged with assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (GBH).

Khetsa Nxumalo attacked and stabbed Thomas Nkambule in broad daylight at the Ezulwini based shopping area on November 4, 2017.

Yesterday morning, he made an appearance before Mbabane Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi and pleaded guilty of the offence. He has also been granted bail fixed at E2 000.

However, he has not been able to pay the bail amount.

Yesterday, the prosecution applied that the accused person be remanded back into custody until January 5, 2018 since it intended leading witnesses to prove the commission of the offence.

Soon after the presiding officer had issued the remand order, Nxumalo raised his hand and requested to address the court.

"Your Worship, I wish to make an application for reduction of the bail amount because I am currently in custody since I cannot afford it," he said.

The prosecution vehemently opposed this application and submitted that the offence Nxumalo was accused of was very serious.

"We are opposing the application for reduction of the bail amount on the basis of the nature of the weapon that was used in the commission of the offence and the body part in which the victim was stabbed. The head is a very delicate part of the body," submitted the prosecutor.

Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi accordingly dismissed the application and remanded Nxumalo into custody.

Meanwhile, in a separate matter, a man surprised the court and the public gallery when he claimed to be mentally unfit to stand trial.

Menzi Mavimbela had come to



BEFORE HER: Mbabane Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi.

court for the continuation of his trial but discovered that the docket for his case had not been brought to court.

Magistrate Nhlabatsi asked the accused person why he considered himself to be mentally unfit.

"My sister, I am actually not sick but the problem is that I frequently visit a certain local rehab centre

because I smoke and drink too much. Ngule yonje inkinga lenginayo my sister," he said as the public gallery reverberated into laughter.

"I am not your sister. You need to address me as Your Worship," the presiding officer quickly reminded him. His case was stood down to allow the prosecution time to look for and find the docket.

## Maphungwane residents challenge police to make 'proper investigations'

By Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

RESIDENTS of Maphungwane are not happy about reports which suggest that the man who was found lying dead near homesteads at Mhlabubovu area died as a result of an accident.

The residents challenge police to undertake a thorough investigation to unearth the real cause of the man's death.

Apparently, a man in his late 20s was found by residents of the area in the early hours of Saturday.

The man's upper body had multiple cuts which suggested that he was dragged on the ground for several kilometres before being dumped near the homesteads where the body was eventually found.

Police have also confirmed information which was to the effect that the man was dragged by a motor vehicle for about six kilometres. It was gathered that the man was first hit by a kombi near Mafasitelo area, which did not stop after the accident. This was late in the evening last Friday. It is said that later in the same evening, another vehicle which operates as a For Hire ran over the man who was already motionless dragging him on the ground for over six kilometres.

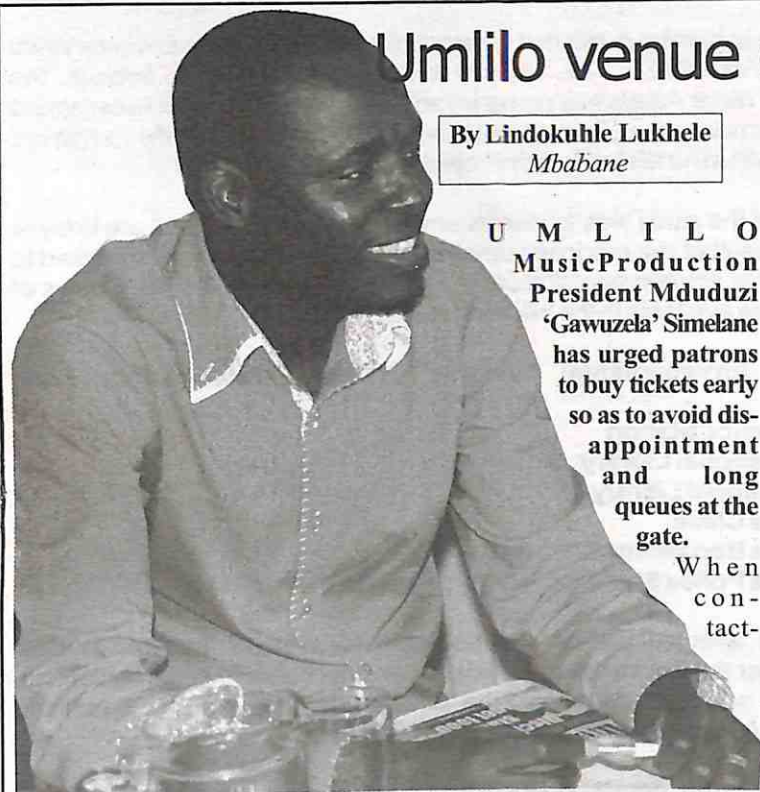
At least, this is the information which the police have confirmed to be working on. However, residents of the area have vigorously refused to accept such information as they are of the view that there is more to the matter. A resident who identified himself as Maziya said this was mainly because the body was found at an area where the farming of dagga is rife.

According to Maziya, the incident could be somehow be linked with gang fights which often emanates from the cultivation of dagga.

"Some gangs from around this area fight and accuse each other for stealing dagga in the fields; and therefore police must intensify their investigation and see if this case cannot be linked with such," said Maziya. Maziya based his argument on the fact that it could not be possible for an experienced driver to drag a human body for over six kilometres without noticing. Several other residents have shared the same sentiments as they call for intensified investigations.

## Umlilo venue changed due to weather

By Lindokuhle Lukhele  
Mbabane



UMLILO Music Production President Mduzi 'Gawuzela' Simelane has urged patrons to buy tickets early so as to avoid disappointment and long queues at the gate.

When contacted

by the entertainment desk, 'Gawuzela' said he was from meeting with the meteorologist staff who confirmed that there is a 90 per cent chance that it might actually rain on the night.

"Having met with the meteorologist staff, as a team we have decided to move the event to the main hall where it will take place until the rain is over as the meteorologist suggested that the rain will be passing.

We have arranged for a separate shelter for those who will be queuing at the gate trying to get in," he said.

This will be the seventh crossover the gospel stable will be hosting.

'Gawuzela' promised patrons that it will be different from the other six that have been hosted. "We have more acts this time around, not just gospel artists but also five pastors who will minister the Word of God as the show progresses."

All along ticket costs E50 each for the general public and E40 for Swazi Mobile users however, Simelane says since there is no telling if the people really are Swazi Mobile users, the tickets now cost E50 for everyone and are available in all Swazi Mobile outlets nationwide and E200 for VIP which is only sold at Nandos outlets.

CHANGES VENUE: Umlilo Music Production President Mduzi 'Gawuzela' Simelane.

## MAN BREAKS INTO SHOPS, STEALS CLOTHING AND CASH

By Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

CASES of breaking into shops with the intent to steal continue to be a nightmare to businesspeople operating in Siteki as more cases are reported almost every month.

A recent case is said to have occurred last week wherein a boutique shop was broken into, and items valued at over E4 000 were stolen.

The intruder also went away with money in cash amounting to E2 000. This transpired at the Magistrate Court where one Sabelo Mabundza faced a

charge of house breaking and theft.

He was alleged to have broken into a shop owned by Musawenkhozi Fakudze stealing clothing valued at the aforementioned amount.

He further took away the money which was to be deposited to the bank on the following day.

### Charge

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused pleaded guilty to the charge. His was accepted by the crown without leading evidence to prove commission of the offence.

The crown told the court that all the stolen clothing items

were successfully recovered, except for the money which was stolen in cash.

When asked on how he gained entry into the shop, the accused told the court that he entered through the roof after he ripped the corrugated iron open.

The accused person stated that he had already used the money which he stole on alcohol. Some of the clothing items are said to have been recovered from other people to whom the accused person had sold to.

The accused person was eventually found guilty by the court. He was sentenced to three years in a correctional facility with an option to pay a 1 000 fine.



CLEAN ROADS: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Khulani Mamba.

## 3 MEN ARRESTED FOR ILLEGAL HUNTING

By Nozipho Sibiba  
Mbabane

THREE men have been arrested by the Malkerns police for illegal hunting and being in possession of protected royal game.

According to a police report, released by Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Khulani Mamba, the three men aged 27, 26 and 19 respectively were arrested by Malkerns police for being in possession of Nyala (*Tragelaphus angasi*) car-

cass while at Mlilwane Game Reserve.

The suspects are yet to appear at the magistrate's court.

"On December 27, at 1735 hours, Malkerns police arrested and charged three men aged 27, 26 and 19 respectively for being found in possession of protected royal game, *Inyala* carcass while at Mlilwane game reserve," reads the statement.

Meanwhile, the police mouthpiece said there were no fatal road accidents reported yesterday. "The country's roads were clean over the past 24 hours," said Mamba.



# JAILED FOR BASHING WIFE WITH SAGILA

By Sisho Magagula  
Mbabane

A 53-year-old man has been sentenced to three years behind bars for bashing his wife with a knobkerrie (sagila) on the head.

Sipho Phungwayo of Siphocosi under Chief Jabhane stood trial at the Mbabane Magistrate's Court yesterday morning and, according to the charge sheet, he did wrongfully and unlawfully assault Mavis Dlamini with a knobkerrie on the head and with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

The incident happened at Sigangeni. Phungwayo pleaded guilty to the offence.

In his defence, he informed Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati that he did not intend bashing his wife but she provoked and insulted him.

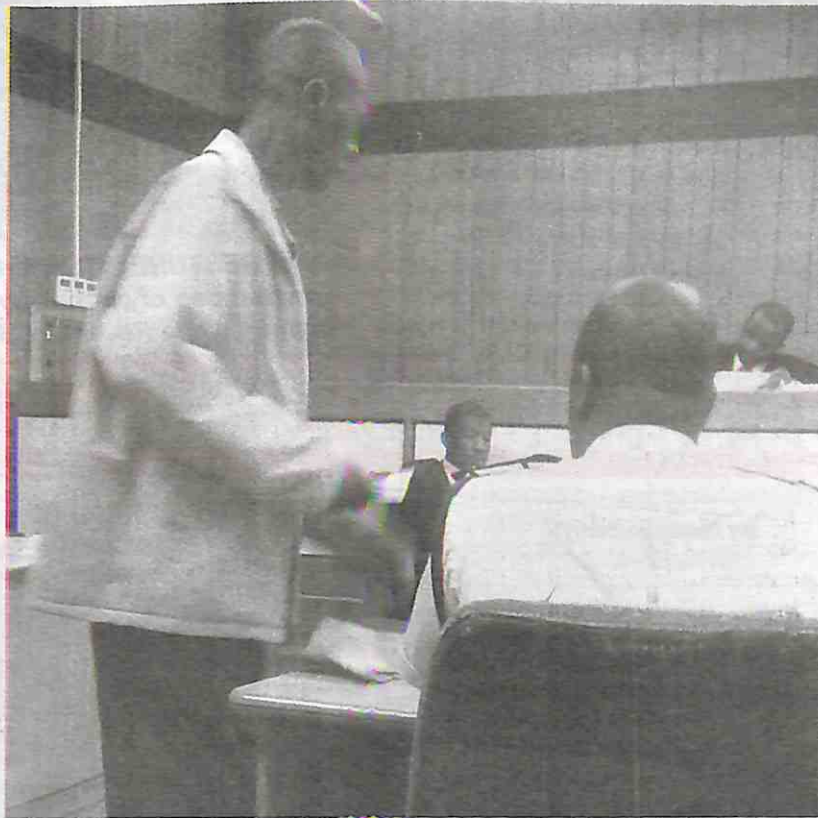
He said his wife was the one who first charged at him with the knobkerrie and a fight ensued.

The aging Phungwayo said there was a scuffle as he tried to dispossess his wife of the weapon and, in the midst of the fight, the knobkerrie accidentally hit her on the head.

It is said after the assault, Phungwayo went to a nearby homestead and reported what had happened to one Nobile Lokotfwako.

The prosecution however, disputed Phungwayo's defence and requested the court to reject it.

"We respectfully plead with the court to disregard the accused person's defence as a lie based on the nature of the weapon that was used in the commission of the offence. The medical report also indicates that the victim's injuries are very serious and there is no way they could have been inflicted through an accidental act. The accused person committed the offence in manifestation of a wellthought intention," submitted the



**WIFE BASHER:** Sipho Phungwayo providing his fingerprints after being convicted for assaulting his wife with a knobkerrie. (Pic Sisho Magagula)

prosecutor. In delivering his judgment, Magistrate Vilakati said he considered Phungwayo's mitigation and the fact that he had children with the victim.

"However, the seriousness of the offence committed cannot be overlooked. Cases of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm are prevalent in our courts where men assault their spouses.

These domestic violence cases are prevalent in our society.

In some instances, the victims get severely injured and eventually lose their lives.

It is in light of the foregoing that our courts should strongly frown upon accused persons who commit such

offences and discourage men from assaulting their spouses," he said.

The presiding officer further warned Phungwayo against assaulting his wife and said it was improper to raise children within an environment where violence is a daily occurrence.

"You could have killed the mother of your children," he said.

Phungwayo was then found guilty as charged and sentenced to three years imprisonment or a fine option of E3 000.

However, two years of the sentence were suspended for two years on condition he is not found guilty of a similar offence during the duration of this period.

## Man killed, 'dumped' near former MP's home

Stories by Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

**IN a tragic incident which has left residents of Maphungwane making speculations, a defaced man was found lying dead near a homestead belonging to a former member of Parliament in the early hours of Saturday.**

The gruesome discovery was made by residents of the area who were returning from their various destinations just after midnight.

Even though the incident is said to have since developed a number of different versions, one fact remains that the man was dragged by a motor vehicle for several kilometres before being deposited near the homestead which is situated adjacent to two other homesteads and a school. The body was found in the middle of a road which passes through the homesteads to other areas.

Upon discovering the body, the residents are said to have raised an alarm, to which community police responded swiftly.

A source close to the matter said it became apparent that the man was actually dead as his face was ripped open to one side, with numerous fractures on the

limbs and an extensively damaged upper body.

The community police guarded the body until dawn while waiting for police to arrive. In the meantime, more residents of the area gathered at the scene to identify the man, an exercise which however proved futile as the man's face was extensively damaged.

"One thing which became evident was that the man had been dragged on the ground for a long distance, presumably with a motor vehicle," said a source.

Police are said to have arrived a few hours later taking the body to Good Shepherd Hospital.

Statements were also recorded from several residents who are said to have given different versions of the incident.

Primarily, the residents are said to have been of the view that the man had been murdered.

"What came to mind was that the man was likely to have been killed for whatever reasons, before being dragged by a vehicle which then deposited the body near the said homesteads.

Our understanding was that the body had been strategically deposited there so as to give an impression that the homesteads situated nearby were responsible for the gruesome incident," said another resident.

## One arrested in connection with the man's death

**AT least one suspect has since been arrested in connection with the death of a man who was found lying dead near homesteads at Maphungwane, police have reported.**

Chief Police Communications Officer Khulani Mamba confirmed the discovery of a man who was found with multiple injuries which suggested that he had been dragged with a motor vehicle before being strategically deposited near the homesteads.

Mamba said however, police have information to the effect that the incident was all an accident, at least for now.

He disclosed that one motorist is currently in the custody of police as the matter is being investigated further.

"For now we have one suspect in our custody; who however alleges that he accidentally dragged the body of a dead man away from the area where it was eventually found," said Mamba.

He stated that investigations were however continuing.

Meanwhile, independent information gathered by this publication was to the effect that the



man was hit by a kombi near Mafasitelo area, which left him lying there as it did not stop after the alleged accident.

This is approximately seven kilometres away from where the body was eventually found.

The arrested motorist therefore alleges to have accidentally dragged the body of the man without realising anything wrong.

This is information which has however been dismissed as impractical by other motorists.

"It is not possible for a driver to drag a foreign object as big as a human being for such a long distance without noting something wrong with the vehicle," said a taxi driver.

## Kabasa Transport owners attacked by a mob

By Lungelo Nkambule  
Mbabane

**KABASA Transport operators Sgaca and Thulani Lukhele had to run for cover on Boxing Day after they were attacked by a mob in the small town of Hlathikulu.**

The two Lukhele brothers had to seek refuge at the Hlathikulu Police Station running away from a mob baying for their blood after they allegedly shot at a community member whom they had a misunderstanding with on Christmas Day.

What was meant to be a mother of all parties at a Lukhele home in Hlathikulu ended in chaos which saw the brothers attack one of their neighbours with guns for allegedly causing commotion at the party.

Highly placed sources said the two brothers who own a fleet of kombis

known as Kabasa Transport and are also Bishops at a Zion Church in Hlathikulu, on Christmas had a massive party at their parental home in Hlathikulu.

Commotion resulted and guns were drawn.

"The hosts (Sgaca and Thulani) tried to calm the situation, but tempers had flared as both groups of friends had been consuming alcoholic beverages the situation became hard to contain.

The party which was meant to be an all-nighter ended because of the commotion and the Mbabane group had left," a source narrated.

The source stated that while the community thought that what had happened was now a thing of the past, the two brothers are said to have the following morning went to one of the boys who had been a part of the commotion the previous night who upon seeing them ran away.

The brothers gave chase and fired gunshots at the boy something that did not sit well with members of the community. "Upon hearing the gunshots the community members gathered and started chasing after the transport operators baying for their blood.

Upon realisation that a mob was after them, they stopped chasing after the boy and ran to the police station to seek refuge," the source continued.

He said the mob waited outside the police station all afternoon pleading with the police to release them so they could show them a thing or two.

Chief Police Information and Communication Officer (PICO) Senior Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the incident.

"Yes something of that nature did take place however the police were able to resolve it and the two parties left the police station in good terms," he said.





**BLESSED:** The beneficiaries with the MP Gideon Dlamini, Reverend Mandla Mtsetfwa and Bheki Dlamini. (Pics: Nozipho Sibiya).



**KIND GESTURE:** Victoria Nxumalo handing over the donated bag of clothes by her family to MP Gideon Dlamini while Reverend Mandla Mtsetfwa looks on.

## Mkhiweni MP, churches, businesses 'pamper' the needy

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By Nozipho Sibiya  
Mbelebeleni

**MKHIWENI** Member of Parliament Gideon Dlamini, churches and business people spent their Boxing Day helping three child-headed families under the Mkhiweni constituency.

On Boxing Day three needy families at Mbelebeleni chieftdom received food and clothing donations from their MP Dlamini, churches and businesses and other helping hands.

The MP said the families that benefited were Magagula, Maseko and Dlamini, all of which were child headed.

"Every year for the past five years, the gospel groups make money offerings at the end of the competitions and identify needy families that can benefit from the foundation," he said.

The initiative was a result of the annual *inkhundla* gospel competitions held in December at Emcozini High School where 13 church gospel groups from Mkhiweni *inkhundla* participated in the competition.



**GOODIES:** One of the beneficiaries appreciating food and clothes donated by the people of God.

to donate to the identified needy families. All three families have a total of 16 orphaned children and youth," he said.

The needy families received E700, clothes, shoes, and school bags.

The MP Dlamini donated clothes and shoes for all 16 children as well three bags. The MP also donated a 10kg bag of rice which was cooked during the occasion.

Channel Swazi "Khuluma Ngilozi" programme hosts Reverend Mandla Mtsetfwa and Bheki Dlamini partnered with the *inkhundla* on behalf of Channel Swazi and donated chicken portions,

rice and vegetables.

On the other hand Ndlelayekuphila Restaurant Director and owner Michael Masuku borrowed the *inkhundla* 100 chairs free of charge to be used during the event.

"He also donated food and 24 bottles of juice concentrate to be distributed amongst the three families."

Victoria Nxumalo, a church member from Catholic Zion Church donated a bag full of clothes to the three families. The local church called Sikhonyane also donated food that was eaten during the day and rendered good music for attendees.

"At the end of the competition like we do every year, three needy families are identified and all gospel artists and guests make offerings



**CASH:** The beneficiaries appreciating the donations.

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# 'Minister should deal with farm dweller evictions'

By Sandile Nkambule  
High Court

**ONLY the minister, not Shiselweni Farm Dwellers' Tribunal can issue an order for evictions of farm dwellers at Mahamba Gorge.**

These are submissions that have been made by Mahamba Gorge farm dwellers who face eviction following an order that was issued by the Shiselweni Farm Dwellers Tribunal and Central Farm Dwellers Tribunal.

These submissions are contained in an affidavit in an urgent application for an interdict against eviction filed at the High Court by the farm dwellers

at Mahamba Gorge.

According to Mandla Shongwe in his affidavit, the respondent (Mahamba Gorge) has been trying to evict him and other families in the farm after lodging an application with the Shiselweni District Farm Dwellers Association where it was successful as an order was made to have them vacate the farm by June 30, 2017.

Shongwe submitted that they are protected by the Farm Dwellers Act in particular Section 10 (2) which prohibits the evictions between September 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018 and the fact that the minister for tourism is yet to decide their fate in terms of the Act.

He submitted that the balance of con-

venience favoured that the respondent be interdicted until due process is observed and the minister has made his final decision.

Farm dwellers residing at Mahamba have taken the Mahamba Gorge (Pty) Limited to court where they are seeking an order interdicting, restraining the Gorge directors from demolishing their structures at their homesteads.

The Mbondzane Farm Dwellers in an affidavit filed by Mandla Shongwe are also seeking an order of court interdicting the Gorge owners or their agents against setting foot anywhere near 10metres from their homesteads situated on Portion A of Farm Johannesloop Number 19 which Shongwe claimed

he has been in occupation ever since he was born.

Shongwe also submitted in his affidavit that they are seeking an order restraining Mahamba Gorge from ploughing on their fields and must also erect their demolished cattle kraals.

Shongwe whose affidavit was supported by that of Bonsile Nhleko submitted that he is the *umnumzane* in terms of the Farm Dwellers Control Act having resided there since he was born.

He stated that the respondent has been seeking to evict all of them from the farm and as such proceeded to demolish their gardens, kraals and fencing.

"As a result of the destruction that occurred, my sweet potatoes, beans and maize I had planted therein were all devoured by cattle, I witnessed that

occurring as I was drawn to the act by the driver who was chasing after onlookers with the TLB machine," he submitted.

He stated that he has a clear right conferred by Section 10(2) of the Farm Dwellers Act to the effect that he shall not be removed or evicted between the said period.

He said there was no other satisfactory remedy available to them except to interdict the respondent from evicting him and the other farm dwellers through the

honorable court.

He submitted that the matter was urgent in that the respondent may effect the demolishing any time as it has been done to other families.

The matter has been filed under a certificate of urgency through their Lawyer Bhekiwe Ngwenya before High Court Judge Mzwandile Fakudze.

**Farm dwellers residing at Mahamba have taken the Mahamba Gorge (Pty) Limited to court**

## I'm not the father of dumped baby - accused's husband

By Sizwe Dlamini  
Pigg's Peak

**THE husband of the woman who is accused of dumping her new born baby to die at a mountain has denied fathering the child.**

The husband who could only be identified as Shongwe said his wife Magagula separated from him nine months ago.

During this time of separation Magagula fell pregnant with the child that was eventually dumped at a mountain to die at Ekarvinjelweni last week.

Speaking to this publication, sources said the mother of the deceased baby, Magagula is suspected to have been involved in an affair when she was cast out of her marital homestead nine months ago.

"Information we have gathered is that Magagula and her husband Shongwe were separated amidst rumours of cheating, so the husband told his wife to go and live at her nearby parental homestead. During this time, Magagula was then impregnated by another man," said the source.

### Negotiations

About eight months later, Shongwe then reopened negotiations with his now pregnant wife and asked her to come back to the homestead as he was about to leave on work related issues.

It is then when a pregnant Magagula was seen back at her marital homestead for only a week, after that she disappeared for another whole week returning without the baby.

This then shocked the husband who then phoned the police who made the arrest.

"After the arrest, Magagula then led the police up the mountain where her new born baby had died after spending three days alone," said the source.

Attempts to get other family members proved futile as they were not willing to speak.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed that the police were not investigating Shongwe because he was the one who alerted the police of the incident in the first place.



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# COP'S SUPERVISOR ASSAULTS JUNIOR'S WIFE

Stories by Starsky Mkhonta  
Nhlanguano

**A woman believed to be a wife of a police officer based in Nhlanguano escaped being killed by her husband's senior colleague on Tuesday, Boxing Day.**

The identity of the woman has been withheld.

It is said \*Ntombi Zulu was turned into a punching bag on Tuesday after a misunderstanding with her husband, something believed to be a daily occurrence between the lovebirds.

On Boxing Day, Zulu and her husband had an argument inside the house

at the police camp, an episode that got so out of control it became a spectacle to other police officers and their families.

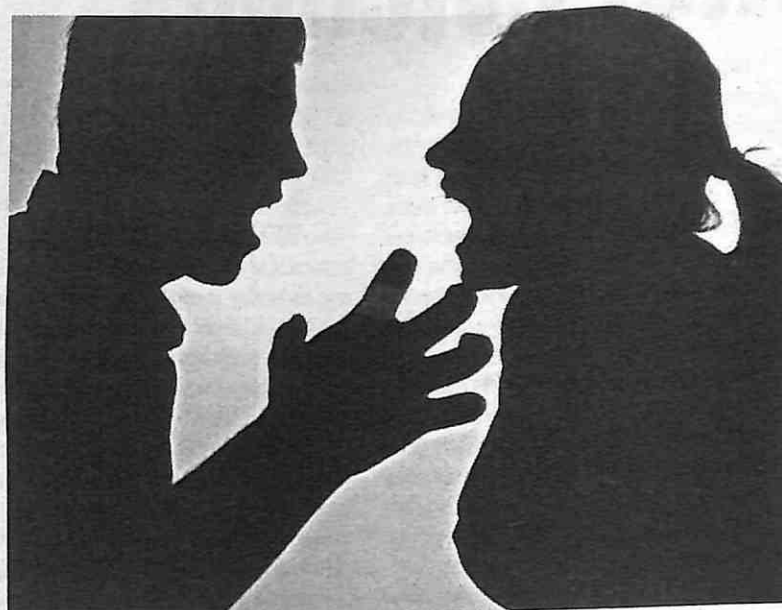
Information gathered is that Zulu and her husband first had an altercation after a woman believed to be his 'makhwaphehi' called and insulted her.

## Infuriated

Zulu was infuriated by the calls and insults from the woman that she confronted her husband and that was when all hell broke loose.

The two argued and neighbours are said to have been drawn by what was taking place. The altercation drew the attention of many.

It is reported that a senior police offi-



cer believed to be an immediate supervisor to Zulu's husband arrived at the scene of the altercation and never bothered to ask what the problem was but

instead jumped for Zulu's throat and started punching her.

The senior police officer pushed down the woman and in the process

*...She feels her life is in danger as it seems like her husband has ganged up with his colleagues to kill her. She has survived many attacks by her husband and at one stage; he arrived at her rented house where he destroyed almost everything*

started kicking and punching her all over the body. No one came to her rescue as also her husband watched from a distance. Zulu was dumbfounded by her husband's supervisor.

## Danger

"She feels her life is in danger as it seems like her husband has ganged up with his colleagues to kill her. She has survived many attacks by her husband and at one stage; he arrived at her rented house where he destroyed almost everything.

"The relationship is now rocky as her husband is understood to be seeing another woman employed by one of the eateries in town. It's the same woman who is responsible for all this," said Zulu's close relative.

## Efforts to seek help from police station's authorities in vain

**\*NTOMBI Zulu has allegedly been trying to get assistance from the Nhlanguano Police Station without any luck.**

It is said at the police station, her issue, whose husband is also a police officer, is a well-documented one as almost everyone at the station knows about their rocky relationship.

It is also said when she wants to report

an issue about him, she is no longer taken serious.

"Even when she wants to have an audience with the police station's authorities, she is denied that opportunity, as at times she is told those she wants to see are busy or are not around. There was a time where upon arrival at the police station, all those who were present started mocking her.

"In fact, she is now a laughing stock and seemingly no one entertains her each time she comes to the police station.

## Aware

"We are also aware that even if she can try to report what happened to her today (Tuesday), nothing is going to be done," said Zulu's relative.

Zulu is now believed to be sick and

tired of the abuse by her husband who is protected by his colleagues at the police station.

## Treatment

"She needs help and the other thing is that she now considers killing herself since she feels the treatment she is subjected to by her own husband and the lack of assistance each time she reports at the police station, all is

too much for her to bear," said a friend.

Police mouthpiece Superintendent Khulani Mamba said nothing was reported to the police in relation to the issue.

"Police in Nhlanguano do not know anything about this. They said they are also blank about a senior officer having assaulted a junior officer's wife," said Supt Mamba.

## Wife accuses love rival of shady deals

**ZULU has accused her husband's lover of generating money through illegal trade.**

She accused the woman of being a drug pusher and also dagga dealer.

With Zulu's marriage to the police officer on rocky ground, it is said she is now considering exposing her husband's 'makhwaphehi' as a way of revenge for destroying her marriage.

"I know why she is in relationship with him. She wants to be protected in her shady deals and uses him to cover up her illegal deals.

## Assisting

"She told me over the phone how she makes money and how my husband is assisting her to go about this



illegal trade," said Zulu in an interview on Tuesday.

Zulu said since it was clear that her

husband had chosen the woman over her, she would expose her.

She said for all this time, she has been quiet and was not interested in what the woman was doing.

## Dealings

"It's time I expose her, I feel it's the right time to speak on the woman's dealings.

"Her employer should now know that some of the people coming to that restaurant are not coming to buy anything but to see her over her deals.

"It's time she is arrested and I don't care even if my husband is also locked up. I am fed up and I now feel ready to have her exposed. She has done so much harm to me," said Zulu.

## ...Nurse also floored with vicious punch at her residence

**A NURSE based at the Nhlanguano Health Centre has related how Zulu's husband who is a police officer attacked her at her residence.**

The nurse said Zulu was running away from the abusive husband when she (nurse) found herself on the receiving end. She said it was around August this year when Zulu came running to the nurses home with her husband hot on her heels.

"As we are close to each other, she decided to come to my house to seek refuge but he followed her. I was inside the house when I heard

the noise outside and just as I opened the door, he (police officer) inflicted a vicious blow to my face without uttering a word. He was assaulting her right in the doorway and I was drawn by her scream only to be knocked with a fist in the face," said the nurse.

The nurse said she was aware how Zulu was abused by her husband who assaults her on a daily basis.

"She is a victim of abuse and the sad part, even if she reports him, nothing is done," said the nurse.

*\*Not her really name*

## Ngwane student fined E1 200 for drink driving

By Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

**A student of Ngwane Teachers College appeared before Senior Magistrate Donald Mavuso after he was nabbed driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.**

Lungelo Nkhatshwa was charged with contravening the Road Traffic Act. He was said to have driven a motor vehicle along Siteki - Lomhlupheko road while under the influence of alcohol or substance with narcotic effect. Particulars of the offence included that the accused person had a content of

alcohol in his system which measured to 1.17 mg/l. He was said to have also been talkative and attempted to resist arrest.

## Evidence

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused pleaded guilty to the effect. His plea was accepted by the crown without leading evidence to prove commission of the offence. When mitigating, the accused asked the court to be lenient when passing sentence, saying that he was still a student at the teachers' college who depended in his parents financially.

He told the court that he was also going to ask for the fine's amount from his parents, hence his plea for a lenient

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sentence. He was accordingly found guilty by the court and was sentenced to three months in a correctional facility

with an option to pay E1 200 fine. Meanwhile, Mangaliso Dlamini faced three counts of contravening the road

traffic Act. On the first count, Dlamini was said to have driven a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. He also said to have driven the vehicle without being a holder of a valid driver's licence on the second count.

## Unroadworthy

On the last count, the accused was charged with driving a motor vehicle which was deemed unroadworthy. The vehicle was said to have had numerous defective elements which posed danger to other road users.

The accused pleaded guilty to all the counts. He was accordingly found guilty by the court and was sentenced to seven months in correctional facility with an option to pay E2 500 fine for all the counts combined.



# SISWATI LANGUAGE GIVING LEARNERS A HARD TIME - SISWATI BOARD

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

**SISWATI language is giving learners a hard time in schools, it has been noted.**

This was revealed by SiSwati Board Member Thembekile Msibi yesterday at The George Hotel during a press briefing. Addressing the media about the board's motives Msibi requested all the assistance the board could possibly receive in order to ensure that SiSwati language is restored.

She urged all media houses to make sure that they contribute in whatever way in ensuring that the message of restoring SiSwati language reaches the nation at large. Msibi said the need to restore SiSwati language was emphasised by the Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini earlier this year during a conference held at The George Hotel. She said the premier noted with concern the deteriorating standard of SiSwati among the youth in the country. She said after the PM spoke to the SiSwati Board, which was tasked with ensuring



**RADIO MAN: SBIS' Veli Simelane making suggestions during the Siswati Board meeting with the media.**

ing that the SiSwati language is restored among the Swazis.

Msibi said currently they weren't just relaxing and doing nothing as they have held a number of meetings with various stakeholders to come up with ways of how they can ensure that the language is promoted.

Msibi then advised that whatever the media writes or reports about, must be that which promotes the language. The Board member said they intend to see SiSwati Language become a national heritage. Msibi said they want to see pupils being groomed from Pre-School level up to tertiary in SiSwati.

## SPECIAL REQUEST TO MEDIA

**MSIBI delivered a special request to the media saying what they have in mind as a board is to have something in SiSwati featured in all the local media platform.**

She said they would be very happy if the print media could give them space of about a page where they will have something written in SiSwati and English.

Msibi said the reason they will write in SiSwati and translate in



**ATTENTIVE: A section of those who attended the meeting.**

English is because through research they have discovered that learners at school are finding it hard to learn in SiSwati.

Msibi said the Board is already working on the competency test which the prime minister spoke about. Competency test will see people who apply to enrol in primary school or applying for admission at university or for scholarship, having to take a certain test on

SiSwati. Veli Simelane from the Ministry of Information Communication and Technology under Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Services (SBIS) was also present during the meeting.

He informed the gathering that it is about time people have a clear way forward on what is the ministry of education doing to ensure that the language is restored.

He said it started with the teachers back in schools ensuring that they help learners with SiSwati.

## NHLANGANO COPS RAID SHEBEENS

By Starsky Mkhonta  
Nhlangano



**CONFIRMED: Police mouthpiece Superintendent Khulani Mamba.**

of the people in this trade locking their doors and running away. They returned later after learning that the police had left," said one of the residents at Mangwaneni.

A couple of months ago, it was reported that shebeen businesses would not be allowed to operate at Mangwaneni as it is considered a royal residence where such trade should not be taking place.

The offices of Ndabazabantu and Regional Secretary, are said to have effected the ban on shebeens at Mangwaneni but things never changed as such businesses continues even to this day.

The raids by police, are said to not have any effect as immediately the police leave, the shebeen operators start all over again doing their businesses like nothing had

taken place.

"It is usually at this time of the year where shebeen business also flourishes like other businesses. The raids, yes they do hinder in a way but the owners of the shebeen seem to be clever as they wait for them (police) to leave and even before they reach the police station, it would be business as usual," said one of the residents.

Other reports are that some of the shebeens sell beers and it's then when the police would demand to liquor license as that was only reserved to be sold in bars or bottle stores.

Police mouthpiece Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed that police were conducting raids as part of the routine during festive holidays.

He said such raids were also meant to make sure that there law was not contravened.

"These are ongoing exercises where we want to clean up any illegal trade. There are shebeens which operate anyhow and as we have liquor license laws, we expect everyone to toe the line. The raids we conduct in such places, are a routine and we are still going to continue doing that. It's not just those areas in Nhlangano but we are conducting raids across the country," said Supt Mamba.



## Border operating hours might not be extended for the New Year

By Lungelo Nkambule  
Mbabane

**THE ministry of home affairs has not made a decision on the extension of border operating hours in the days leading to the New Year.**

While in the past the norm has been that operating hours would be extended from the days before Christmas until after the New Year, the principal secretary has said they are not sure if the hours would be extended for the New Year.

**Unlike**

Information gathered from the Ministry's Principal Secretary Anthony Masilela is that unlike in previous years when the extension would go until the New Year, this year the hours extension had ended on the Christmas Day and the jury was still out on if they would be extended for the New Year celebrations.

"We haven't decided if the extension



**BACK TO NORMAL: Minister of Home Affairs PS Anthony Masilela.**

sion of border operation hours will continue until January 1, but what I do know is that currently operation hours are back to normal. The public will be informed if there are any changes," he said.

Masilela said they were still to meet as officials of the ministry to decide if the extension was necessary or not.

## TEEN GIRL'S BODY FOUND DUMPED IN BACKYARD

**CAPE TOWN - A 19-year-old girl who was enjoying Christmas with friends was dragged out of a house, a plastic bag placed over her head and then shot dead.**

The body of Ismah Hill was found dumped in a backyard in Kalksteentfontein.

The family believes her ex-boyfriend, an alleged member of the Americans gang who previously threatened to kill her, is behind the murder.

Ismah's mother, Kariema Hill, 43 and sister, Toufegqah Hill, 21, were inside

their home in Kalksteentfontein when they heard a gunshot going off just after 1am on Tuesday.

Little did they know it was Ismah who had been shot and killed.

Hours later, the family was called to a backyard in Hydrangea Street, where her body was found by a resident who had "relieved" himself.

Kariema says Ismah had passed matric this year after being a student at Bishop Lavis School of Skills, and had wanted to become a fashion designer.

Kariema made sure her daughter ended an abusive relationship a year ago.

"We are Muslim, but we were all together as family on Christmas Day, listening to music," she says.

"That evening after 9pm, I told Ismah I am going to sleep.

"She walked over to her ex-boyfriend's mother's home where they were celebrating the day. "Around 1am, we all heard a gunshot going off and we didn't even know it was Ismah who was shot."

**Daily Voice**





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A very high values thanks to you for showing full faith in us and believing in us. We value our relationship and strive to strengthen our bond more in the coming new year.

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with Peace and Prosperity.



*Wishing you*  
a Happy New Year

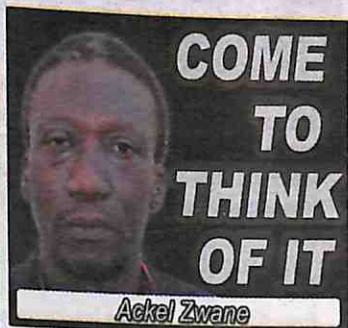




# FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

info@observer.org.sz



Aekel Zwane

## SCANDAL OF THE MILLENNIUM: TEACHERS FAIL THE EXAM THEY MARK

THE Examinations Council of Swaziland has opened a can of worms exposing the fraud that teachers can be by subjecting them to the same examination that they aspire to mark for our children, and they failed.

Instead of hiding the head in the sand like the ostrich, the affected teachers have made us understand that the real issues are with taxation, that they take home virtually next to nothing after having worked so hard applying their skills in marketing the external examination scripts.

Now the cat is out of the bag, we know that it is because do not know, the teachers are in fact a fraud and we do not know the extent of the damage caused thus far. It is time the ministry of education together with the examinations council got to the bottom of things. Parents and learners alike deserve better, so are those who absorb the chaff that is turned in our schools.

As a matter of fact the ministry of education must own that it has a big scandal in its wake and that it has to act now, very fast and effectively before everything collapses on all of us.

### Skeptical

Employers at the receiving end are now skeptical whether after employing school leavers they must again invest time and resources in training afresh because these children could be products of fraud.

This scandal tells us volumes about what actually happens to our children in the hands of teachers. It could be that teachers are no longer giving lessons but interested in other things that may be of priority to them than education. Similarly the teachers could as well be a manifestation of a real problem that began way at the start of the learning itinerary. It is time we had a closer look into where it all went wrong in the education system of Swaziland right through to the political head.

Incentives for children to perform



OUR TEACHERS: Teachers in one of their meetings.

well at school may have been replaced with other rewards such as luring children into believing that there are more important things than education such as quick cash and flashy lifestyles. Teachers may also claim to be not motivated enough given that their welfare has been relatively shifted to the background yet for decades on end teachers had always thought themselves to be the ultimate, even seeing themselves in the same leagues as doctors and pilots.

But today teachers have been baton charged by school drop outs who enlisted in the security services thus robbing them of their prized dignity. Without this dignity teachers have lost their integrity because the soul is injured, the image of a teacher who at independence was given that title of knighthood, Sir, is now no different from the herdboy who enjoys similar economic status as the teacher by doubling up as a dagga grower.

Over the years school principals have clogged headlines with scandals of either stealing or mismanaging school funds and these are the very

individuals who must provide the oversight in the learning environment. Schools principals and teachers have ganged up to impregnate the girl child

they are entrusted with providing protection, female teachers look at the boy child and see a Ben 10 to whet their sexual appetites.

The priorities have no doubt shifted completely or we have lost it as either a country or this generation.

It is not surprising that after the Examinations Council made known this scandal there has been a very loud silence in the teaching fraternity including government who appears to encourage such by continually churning fraud teachers into the system.

We are very much aware of what also obtains at the employment process-

es of teachers with many a teacher bribing their way into positions and also positioning those they favour to cover their backs.

“

*As a matter of fact the ministry of education must own that it has a big scandal in its wake and that it has to act now, very fast and effectively before everything collapses on all of us.*

education in Swaziland especially because this time around there is intense lobbying for the wrong people to take over the reigns of governance all because the system cannot vet itself, it cannot protect itself from corruption. Similarly the infighting at the

Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) is never intended to improve the welfare and quality of life of teachers for which the organisation was formed but to cushion certain individuals who continually benefit by holding high office much to the detriment of the interest of the average teachers.

### Lessons

We have been told that instead of giving lessons, teachers are often on the phone chatting or doing business because that is the only thing rewarding to them. The schools inspectorate is nothing but the office of witch hunt agendas instead of ensuring quality is in place.

We are waiting with bated breath for results but the question is whether the results will tell us anything about the quality of education in Swaziland. As matters stand, this is only a necessary process to rubberstamp or appear to be seen to be producing learners that will also be of service even to other countries but under the circumstance we all know that is not the truth.

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## ON THIS DAY ... DECEMBER 29

**1170** - St. Thomas à Becket, the 40th archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered in his own cathedral by four knights acting on Henry II's orders.

**1812** - The USS Constitution won a battle with the British ship HMS Java about 30 miles off the coast of Brazil. Before Commodore William Bainbridge ordered the sinking of the Java he had her wheel removed to replace the one the Constitution had lost during the battle.

**1813** - The British burned Buffalo, NY, during the War of 1812.

**1837** - Canadian militiamen destroyed the Caroline, a US steamboat docked at Buffalo, NY.

**1845** - US President James Polk signed legislation making Texas the 28th state of the United States.

**1848** - US President James Polk turned on the first gas light at the White House.

**1851** - The first American Young Men's Christian Association was organized, in Boston, MA.

**1860** - The HMS Warrior, Britain's first seagoing first iron-hulled warship, was launched.

**1888** - The first performance of Macbeth took place at the Lyceum Theatre.

**1890** - The US Seventh Cavalry massacred over 400 men, women and children at Wounded Knee Creek, SD. This was the last major conflict between Indians and US troops.

**1895** - The Jameson Raid from Mafikeng into Transvaal, which attempted to overthrow Kruger's Boer government, started.

**1911** - Sun Yat-sen became the first president of a republican China.

**1913** - "The Unwelcome Throne" was released by Selig's Polyscope Company. This was a moving picture and the first serial motion picture.

**1934** - The first regular-season, college basketball game was played at Madison Square Garden in New York City. New York University defeated Notre Dame 25-18.

**1934** - Japan renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Treaty of 1930.

**1937** - Babe Ruth returned to baseball as the new manager of the Class D, De Land Reds of the Florida State League. Ruth had retired from baseball in 1935.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**Slim Jimmy**  
(rapper)  
December 29,  
1993 - 24 years  
old



**Mekhi Phifer** (tv  
actor) December  
29, 1974 - 43  
years old

# ON THE ROAD TO A UNITED SA: WHAT STILL DIVIDES US?

Bt ElnariPotgieter

**PRETORIA** - Annually, since 1994, South Africa celebrates Reconciliation Day on 16 December. It is often around this time that we may reflect on progress made in terms of reconciliation and national unity.

The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), since 2003, conducts the South African Reconciliation Barometer (SARB) survey to track South Africans' sentiments pertaining to matters of reconciliation.

The 2017 SARB round shows that, at the time of surveying (June-July 2017), 75 per cent of South Africans felt that it is desirable to create a united South Africa, and 68 per cent believed it is possible to do so.

In addition, about seven in ten South Africans (74 per cent) felt that South Africa still needs reconciliation. However, only 56 per cent agreed that South Africa has made progress in reconciliation since the end of apartheid.

### Ranked

What is it that (still) divides South Africans, despite a desire for unity? The SARB finds that the "gap between rich and poor" (or inequality) is ranked as the greatest source of division by South Africans, followed by "divisions between race groups", and thirdly "divisions between supporters of different political parties".

Inequality is furthermore the aspect of society that respondents to the 2017 SARB felt has made the least progress since 1994, with 77 per cent of South Africans reporting inequality has worsened or stayed the same since 1994.

In addition, 63 per cent of South Africans agreed that reconciliation is impossible for as long as people who were disadvantaged under apartheid remain poor. Inequality (and/or poverty) is thus regarded as the most divisive and enduring aspect of South



African society - hampering reconciliation processes.

The second greatest source of division relates to racial reconciliation. Almost one in every three (32 per cent) South Africans reported an improvement in race relations since 1994 - showing some progress in this regard, although muted and slow.

In order to overcome prejudices and improve relations, a first step is contact between people from various groups.

The 2017 SARB shows that South Africans have the most interaction with people from "other race groups" in commercial spaces (such as shops and malls), as well as work and study spaces. These spaces, however, are also where South Africans reported experiencing racism most frequently. Most South Africans (61 per cent) remain open to interaction with people from "other race groups" in both public and private settings, while the greatest barriers to more interaction cited by respondents (other than "none") are "language" and "confidence". More than half of South

Africa's adult population approve of integration in various settings (including at schools, neighbourhoods and in terms of inter-racial marriage).

The third greatest source of division, although mainly focused on supporters of political parties, speaks to aspects of democratic political culture. The SARB posits that reconciliation is more likely to thrive in societies where a democratic political culture exists. Confidence in institutions matter in this regard, as well as political efficacy, rule of law and political community. With respect to confidence in institutions, the SARB shows a decline in confidence in key institutions over time - including in national government, Parliament and provincial government - pointing to a process of systematic erosion. Only 33 per cent of South Africans reported having "quite a lot of confidence" or "a great deal" of confidence in the incumbent political party in 2017, with lower levels of confidence in main opposition parties. One in four South Africans (26 per cent) furthermore reported not feeling close

to any political party. This is coupled with 51 per cent of South Africans agreeing that "[their] vote does not make a difference", and 56 per cent agreeing that "[v]oting is meaningless because no politician can be trusted".

While political efficacy is low, propensity for the use of violence or force for a political cause has increased from 2013-2017, showing three in ten South Africans either have or are willing to use such measures in 2017. This does not necessarily mean that South Africans do not show a regard for the rule of law, as 66 per cent of South Africans agreed that the Constitution must be upheld and adhered to at all times.

Reconciliation in South Africa's current and historical context requires a nuanced approach to overcoming and preventing social divisions. South Africans desire unity and think a united South Africa is possible.

Certain societal challenges, according to South Africans, limit progress made in this regard - briefly discussed here are those related to inequalities, racial reconciliation and aspects of democratic political culture.

Much work lies ahead - which, according to most respondents to the 2017 SARB, requires all South Africans to come to the table; as well as the involvement of a variety of institutions - including business, civil society, elected representatives and national government, faith-based organisations and individuals with their friends and families. As we near the beginning of a new year, perhaps now is also an opportune time for each of us to reflect on ways we can each be involved in helping to bridge the various divides limiting reconciliation processes.

- Elnari Potgieter is the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation's project leader on the South African Reconciliation Barometer (SARB).

## Should parents ask their children to apologise?

Have you ever felt deserving of an apology and been upset when you didn't get one? Have you ever found it hard to deliver the words, I'm sorry?

Such experiences show how much apologies matter. The importance placed on apologies is shared by many cultures. Diverse cultures even share a great deal in common when it comes to how apologies are communicated.

When adults feel wronged, apologies have been shown to help in a variety of ways: Apologies can reduce retaliation; they can bring about forgiveness and empathy for wrongdoers; and they can aid in the repair of broken trust. Further, sincere apologies have the physiological effect of lowering blood pressure more quickly, especially among those who are prone to hold on to anger.

How do children view and experience apologies? And what do parents think about when to prompt their



young ones to apologise?

**How children understand apologies**

Research shows that children as young as age four grasp the emotional implications of apology. They understand, for example, that an apology can improve the feelings of someone who's been upset. Preschoolers also judge apologising wrongdoers to be more likable, and more desirable as partners for interaction and cooperation. Children as young as

four understand the emotional meaning of an apology. Funkyah, CC BY-NC-ND.

Recent studies have tested the actual impact of apologies on children. In one such study, a group of four-to seven-year-olds received an apology from a child who failed to share, while another group did not get an apology. The participants who received the apology felt better and viewed the offending child as nicer as well as more remorseful.

Another study exposed children to a more distressing event: A person knocked over a tower that six-to seven-year-olds were building. Some children got an apology, some did not. In this case, a spontaneous apology did not improve children's upset feelings.

**When does a child's apology matter to parents?**

Although apologies carry meaning for children, views on whether parents should ask their children to apologise vary. A recent caution against apology prompting was based on the mistaken notion that young children have limited social understanding. In fact, young children understand a great deal about others' viewpoints.

When and why parents prompt their children to apologise has not been systematically studied. In order to gain better insight into this question, I recently conducted a study with my colleagues Jee Young Noh and Michael Rizzo at the University of Maryland and Paul Harris at Harvard University.

News24



## your HEAL+H section

# BOOTS UNDER FIRE OVER FAILURE TO CUT COST OF THE MORNING-AFTER PILL

By Claudia Tanner  
For Mailonline

...in 97% of its stores - five months after it promised to do so

**BOOTS** has been criticised for failing to reduce the cost of the morning-after pill nationwide five months after it promised it would.

The high-street pharmacy chain has lowered the price of the contraception in less than three per cent of its stores.

It had controversially announced earlier this year that it would not follow in the footsteps of other retailers by offering the product cheaper on the grounds that it encouraged women to have unprotected sex.

Then it bowed under pressure from campaigners and vowed it would slash its generic brand of levonorgestrel from £26.75 to £15.99 from October.

But now it has revealed that the price has still only been reduced in 69 of its 2,500 outlets nationwide.

Boots has said the delay is due to low stock as a result of a 'batch failure' experienced by the manufacturer.

## 'ABSOLUTELY SCANDALOUS'

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS), which led the initial campaign asking Boots to cut the price in line with other pharmacies, tweeted on Boxing Day that it was best to 'give Boots a miss'.

It has previously said the company had acted in an 'absolutely scandalous' way by missing its own deadline for providing the pills.

A spokesperson told MailOnline: 'It really is extraordinary that having apologised for failing to reduce the



**FAILING:** Boots has attracted controversy for failing to reduce the cost of the morning-after pill nation-wide five months after it promised it would. (stock image)

price of emergency contraception in the summer and promising a cheaper version across all stores by October, we approach the New Year and still the cost has apparently not been cut in the majority of its outlets.

'This is a chain which puts women front and centre of its marketing campaigns, yet continues to fail them when it comes to affordable access to this essential medicine.'

'It is particularly noteworthy that over the same period it has managed to roll out a cheap online erectile dysfunction service for men, with starter packs for just £13. 'It would be great if they could show the same com-

mitment for women's health.

'We are surprised that Boots continues to cite supply issues as the reason for its failure to offer an affordable version when others are able to.'

'Need can be greater at this time of year, and Boots is often the most accessible pharmacy for many women. We urge Boots to do the right thing and finally, make good on its word.'

However, Boots has said it remains 'committed to rolling this service out nationally' and pointed out it offers a free NHS service for emergency hormone contraception in most stores.

To be eligible for a free contraceptive pill, a customer needs a pre-

● BPAS tweeted on Boxing Day that it was best to 'give Boots a miss'.

● The chain lowered the price of the tablet in less than three per cent of its stores.

● Initially refused to follow suit after other retailers slashed cost in the summer.

● Then bowed under pressure, vowing to cut £26.75 price to £15.99 from October

● Boots says delay is due to low stock as a result of manufacturer's 'batch failure'.

scription from a GP or family planning clinic.

A Boots UK spokesperson said: 'Unfortunately the manufacturer has experienced a batch failure due to quality issues which means that the stock we were expecting is not now available, and we are now waiting for a new batch to be produced.'

'We thank our customers for their continued patience and reassure them that we are doing all we can to roll this service out to all our stores as soon as possible.'

'In July we launched an extended over-the-counter EHC service which includes the generic levonorgestrel in 38 Boots stores in the East Midlands. We're pleased to confirm that we have now been able to roll this out to a further 31 stores, taking the total number of Boots stores offering the service to 69.'

## Risks of making drug cheaper

**EXPERTS** have warned that the powerful hormone pill brings a risk of suffering a dangerous ectopic pregnancy, which occurs in around 12 000 pregnancies a year.

The Government's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Liam Donaldson, ordered manufacturers to change the wording of patient information leaflets to make clear the potential risk.

Critics also say its wider availability could make unsafe sex more common, at a time when certain STIs are on the up.

The Mail's Dr Max Pemberton has warned that the morning-after pill is 'not a harmless drug'.

He said: 'When it comes to the morning-after pill, having a levelheaded debate seems almost impossible.'

'I think the problem is that this medication has become too politicised.'

'I fear that we've lost sight of the fact that this is not a harmless drug. Like all medications, it can have serious side-effects and shouldn't be handed out freely.'

'While we become increasingly cautious around the prescription of some drugs, groups such as the BPAS would have us dish out morning-after pills like Smarties.'

By Mia De Graaf Health  
Editor For Dailymail.com

**BOTH** men and women can fall victim to a lack of libido at some point during their adult lives.

More often than not, this dip in desire is a temporary glitch which can be safely resolved by re-evaluating our general health and adjusting lifestyle habits. Unfortunately some medications such as opioids, anti-psychotics, cancer treatments and beta blockers can directly affect sex drive, as do some health issues including depression, fluctuating hormones, arthritis and ageing. However, where possible there are some changes you can make to help you get back in the mood, specifically with your diet.

Nutritionist Sarah Flower reveals her top tips on what foods you can consume to help turn you on and what foods to avoid to prevent turning off.

## HOW DOES NUTRITION AFFECT LIBIDO?

### 1) Fats affect nerve transmission

Increase fats such as essential fatty acids, omega-3 and natur-

## The sex diet:



**NEEDED:** A ginger tea may be just the thing you need to get your sex drive going.

al oils by filling up on oily fish, eggs, nuts, seeds and flaxseeds. Good healthy fats such as oily fish act as anti-inflammatories and supports nerve transmission and neurotransmitter actions.

### 2) Alkaline lowers libido-crushing inflammation

Reduce body inflammation by opting for an alkaline diet - fill up on dark green leafy vegetables and avoid processed foods, sugar and refined grains. This will be of particular help to those who have a health issue that is affecting their libido such as arthritis, obesity, hormone imbalances, diabetes and heart dis-

ease.

### 3) Minerals get your blood rushing

Boost blood flow and support micro-circulation by eating plenty of vitamin C-boosting berries as well as rich and leafy greens including kale and broccoli. You can also aid blood flow by eating plenty of zinc-rich foods such as pumpkin seeds, pine nuts, red meat, chickpeas and spinach. Zinc is particularly vital for healthy sperm and boosting male fertility. Cocoa also contains zinc, making dark chocolate which is also rich in phytonutrients, a good option.

## Wit & Wisdom

● "Good sex is like good bridge. If you don't have a good partner, you'd better have a good hand." — *Mae West*

● "In individuals, insanity is rare; but in groups, parties, nations and epochs, it is the rule." — *Friedrich Nietzsche*

● "I live for coincidences. They briefly give to me the illusion or the hope that there's a pattern to my life, and if there's a pattern, then maybe I'm moving toward some kind of destiny where it's all explained." — *Jonathan Ames, My Less Than Secret Life: A Diary, Fiction, Essays*

● "There are moments when troubles enter our lives and we can do nothing to avoid them. But they are there for a reason. Only when we have overcome them will we understand why they were there." — *Paulo Coelho, The Fifth Mountain*

● "The truth will set you free. But not until it is finished with you." — *David Foster Wallace, Infinite Jest*

● "This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change." — *Taylor Swift*

● "Can you understand? Someone, somewhere, can you understand me a little, love me a little? For all my despair, for all my ideals, for all that - I love life. But it is hard, and I have so much - so very much to learn." — *Sylvia Plath, The Journals of Sylvia Plath*

● "He died not for men, but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, He would have done no less." — *C.S. Lewis*

● "I restore myself when I'm alone." — *Marilyn Monroe*

● "Sometimes you lose a battle. But mischief always wins the war" — *John Green, Looking for Alaska*

● "There are three questions every woman should be able to answer yes to before they commit to a man. If you answer no to any of the three questions, run like hell. Does he treat you with respect at all times? That's the first question. The second question is, if he is the exact same person twenty years from now that he is today, would you still want to marry him? And finally, does he inspire to be a better person? You find someone you can answer yes to all three, then you've found a good man." — *Colleen Hoover, Slammed*

● "Demon pox, oh demon pox. Just how is it acquired? One must go down to the bad part of town Until one is very tired. Demon pox, oh demon pox, I had it all along - Not the pox, you foolish blocks, I mean this very song - For I was right, and you were wrong!" — *Cassandra Clare, Clockwork Prince*

● "I guess by now I should know enough about loss to realise that you never really stop missing someone-you just learn to live around the huge gaping hole of their absence." — *Alyson Noel, Evermore*



# BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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## VITALS

Prime Rate	10.75%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	5.4%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.25%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E12.10 per litre
Replacement	E12.15 per litre
Diesel	E12.00 per litre
Paraffin	E 8.95 per litre
Engen Garage	

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 28 DEC 2017

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	12.2399	12.2899
British Pound / SZL	16.1419	16.5090
Japanese Yen / SZL	9.1799	9.2158
Swiss Franc / SZL	12.4566	12.5063
Botswana Pula / SZL	1.2387	1.2536
Australian Dollar / SZL	9.5398	9.5849
Canadian Dollar / SZL	9.7027	9.7415
Mozambique Meticals / SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro / SZL	14.5991	14.6588
Gold	1,291.1300	
Oil	66.37	

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Standard Bank

# 2018 GDP PROJECTIONS SHOW 2.9% GROWTH

By Majaha Nkonyane

ACCORDING to gross Domestic Product (GDP) projections published by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development in their quarter performance report, the domestic economy is estimated to have grown by 2.9 per cent in 2018.

This is an upward revision to the August projections of 1.0 per cent.

"The medium term outlook (2018 – 2020) is expected to benefit from the full recovery of the agriculture sector which will also boost the agro processing sub sector. Slower growth is expected in demand driven sectors, particularly wholesale and retail and financial services, which will be negatively affected by spill over effects of the fiscal challenges," the report said.

The report projected a weaker economic growth for 2017 which was said to be decelerating to 1.0 per cent.

The weaker economic growth was due to negative effects anticipated from the ongoing fiscal challenges and weak economic activity in the South African economy.

According to the economic growth report in the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region which is made up countries like Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland is projected to pick up to 3.5 per cent in 2018, this has been largely attributed to an increase in international oil price following agreement by both Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non OPEC producers to trim supply, and a general improvement in com-

## ...Regulatory framework, number one challenge for businesses

THE ministry together with the Central Bank of Swaziland (Research Department) visits companies annually between January and April with the purpose of collecting data on economic developments in order to inform planning, development and implementation of appropriate policy measures.

"A number of challenges were cited by companies as major hindrance to doing business in the country amongst which is regulatory framework was cited as number one challenge by most business entities," the report said.

Furthermore the report revealed more challenges which were listed as taxation issues, high costs, utility costs and reliability, poor telecom-

modity prices.

"The South African Reserve Bank have forecasted the economic activity to grow by 1.2 per cent in 2018, however policy uncertainty and

Figure 1: GDP Medium Term Projections



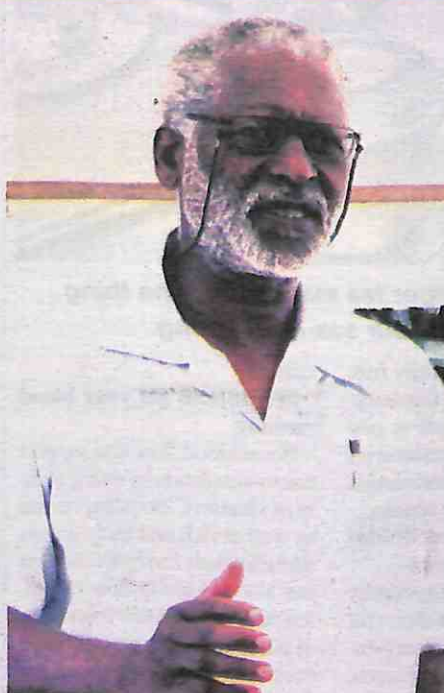
munication infrastructure, government inefficiencies and legislation.

The survey visited a few companies when compared to the previous year where a total of 126 companies were

visited whilst a total of 107 companies were visited this year. According to the report about 55 per cent of these companies were from the tertiary/services sector as the largest sector in the economy.

waning business and consumer confidence is expected to continue curtailing growth in the near future, pushing the economy into a low growth trap," the report said.

## SMI AWARDS



**WISE WORDS:** Chairman of the Board Magalela Ngwenya speaking during the event at the company premises. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



**MEATY:** Sikhumbuzo Shongwe receiving his replica cheque.



**WOMAN POWER:** Sitani Mamba was also amongst the list of winners at the event where she was awarded prize money.



# COTTON PRODUCTION RISES TO 614 TONS

By Majaha Nkonyane

**THE Swaziland Cotton Board has reportedly increased production to 614 metric tons when compared to 87 metric tons in 2016.**

This is according to the Ministry of Agriculture's second quarter performance report for 2017/2018 financial year.

"The overall production increased to 614 metric tons compared to 87 metric tons in 2016, the number of farmers engaged in cotton increased to 1 110 compared to 231 in 2015/16.

Area planted also increased to 1 200 hectares (ha) compared to 238 ha as a result of the Board's decision to issuing free planting seeds at the beginning of the season," the report said.

According to the report the projections for the 2017/18 season is 1 500



ha, 10 tonnes of Alba QM 301 has been ordered from Quton Seed Company in Zimbabwe. The board is said to engage 1 500 farmers this season with a poten-

tial yield of 800 metric tonnes. A training plan for cotton management and strengthening farmers associations has been finalised. In addition the report

further revealed that a total of 186 642 kg of seed cotton was purchased during the quarter, the crop is valued at E1 060 782.65.

This accounts for 30 per cent of the total purchase for the season.

"Transport costs to the ginnery were borne by the Board and stood at E70 404.88 contractors were paid E55 630 with the balance paid to growers who delivered their crops using their own transport.

Levy collected during the quarter stood at E20 530.51 the highest intake was 130 257 tons which was received in July followed by 40 003 tons," the report said.

The report further revealed that quality profile for the crop indicated a drop from 89.30 per cent to 79.78 per cent of the A grade and an increase from 9.82 to 15.48 per cent of the B grade and the rest was shared between other grades. The decline in quality, is attributed to rats and the weather conditions prevailed during the picking period.

## Another blow for Steinhoff as Moody's again wields downgrade axe

**CAPE TOWN - Ratings agency Moody's yesterday again downgraded the ratings of embattled global furniture retailer Steinhoff.**

Moody's downgraded Steinhoff International Holdings NV [JSE:SNH] and Steinhoff Investment Holdings.

The ratings agency has assigned a Caa1 Corporate Family Rating to the two companies, and a B3.za national scale Corporate Family Rating to Steinhoff Investment Holdings.

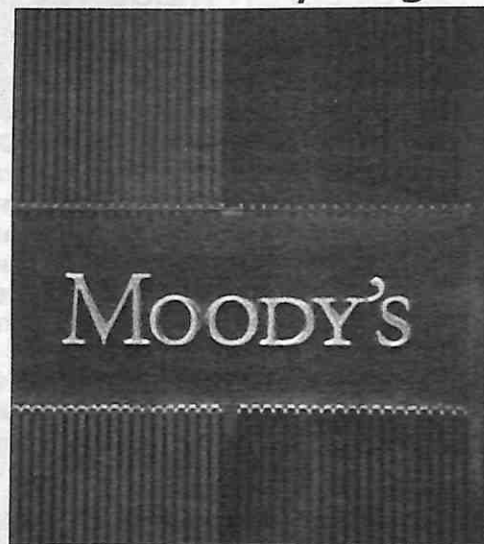
Caa1 is the seventh rung of non-investment grade, which indicates high credit risk.

Corporate family ratings, according to Moody's, are an "opinion of a corporate family's ability to honour all of its financial obligations and is assigned to a corporate family as if it had a single class of debt and a single consolidated legal entity structure".

Steinhoff, which is registered in Amsterdam, owns about 40 different brands in some 30 countries.

At the same time, Moody's said it has downgraded the backed senior unsecured notes rating of Steinhoff Europe AG to Caa1 from B1.

It has also assigned a Caa1-PD probability of default ratings (PDR) to Steinhoff and Steinhoff Investment Holdings.



The ratings agency added that, in line with its practice for corporates with non-investment grade ratings, it withdrew the B1 issuer rating it had previously assigned to Steinhoff and the B1/Baa3.za issuer ratings assigned to Steinhoff Investment Holdings.

All these ratings remain under review for further downgrade.

Yesterday's ratings action was the second time

this month that Moody's downgraded the global furniture and household goods retailer. On December 7, a day after its share price commenced a steep fall, Moody's lowered its credit rating four notches from Baa3 - the last rung of investment grade - to B1, the fourth level of non-investment grade.

Moody's said its latest rating decisions recognise the financial flexibility offered by Steinhoff's listed investments and its "predominantly unencumbered European property portfolio spanning retail, warehousing and manufacturing".

However, in its view Steinhoff may not be able to monetise these assets in a timely manner under current circumstances.

Steinhoff's share price has dropped over 90 per cent this month, after its CEO Markus Jooste abruptly resigned and it announced that PwC was investigating "accounting irregularities requiring further investigation" in its books.

The Stellenbosch-headquartered group's 2017 audited results are on hold, and it has warned investors not to rely on the figures contained in its 2016 results.

At the time of the announcement at 11:50, Steinhoff shares traded 0.87 per cent firmer at R4.66 on the JSE. **FIN24**

## Isolozwe launches a new digital platform

**CAPE TOWN - Isolozwe - a subsidiary of Independent Media has launched a new digital platform that will run complementary with its print daily publication.**

The website dedicated to Zulu readers is aimed at capturing the youthful audience with daily and trending topical news.

Group Executive of Digital, Walter Madzonga said, "We are excited about the launch of a dedicated Zulu website to complement the success of the daily newspaper. The launch of the site is an important step as approximately 22 per cent (12 million people) of the South African population speak Zulu as a first language".

Besides reaching the massive Zulu audiences, the publication's revenues will also gain boost through the online related business.



Isolozwe Content Producer, Mcebo Mpungose said, "When we made the move to build our digital platform, it was the case of combining the old, which is Iphepha lethu (our newspaper) and the new, which is what people want online".

Mpungose also said that fulfilling their readers' needs has always contributed to the stability of their print publication.

The publication wants its read-

ers to feel in control and own a portion of the content.

"We have plans to draw on User Generated Content. We want people to think of Isolozwe whenever something is happening in the community. To Whatsapp message us, or even share a voice note or a video," Mpungose revealed.

"This will allow us to draw on content from the community. Sometimes readers don't have

contact with journalists and this will be a great platform for the community to report breaking stories," Mpungose concluded.

The Isolozwe team looks forward to growing a platform that will bring together an online community for first language Zulu speakers which provides local and global brands with a targeted market on a platform where they will be highly engaged.

## Apple CEO Cook pockets \$102m after 74% bonus hike

**WASHINGTON - Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook received a 74 per cent increase in his annual bonus for fiscal 2017 as the iPhone maker posted higher revenue and net income, after a rare decline a year earlier.**

Cook's incentive pay totalled \$9.33m for the year ended September 30, the Cupertino, California-based company said on Wednesday in a regulatory filing. He also took home \$3.06m in salary and a previously disclosed equity award of \$89.2m, bringing his total pay out for the year to about \$102m.

His top five lieutenants each got bonuses of \$3.11m, bringing their total compensation to about \$24.2m each, including salaries and stock awards.

The equity compensation is composed of shares that vest solely based on the executives' continued employment and others tied to the performance of Apple's stock compared with other S&P 500 companies.

Apple has increased the proportion of performance shares in its equity awards, which boosts potential future earnings for the executives if the company outperforms its S&P 500 peers. History suggests that could be a good deal for them.

In 2014, executives including Dan Riccio, chief of hardware engineering, and former General Counsel Bruce Sewell received performance awards that paid out three years later at almost twice as many target shares as planned after Apple's stock returned 69 per cent over that span, including reinvested dividends. **Bloomberg**



# MTN SHARES LOWER AS PROFIT FORECAST FROM IHS DEAL LOWERED

JOHANNESBURG - MTN's share price fell two per cent to R133 yesterday morning after it warned that a R6bn profit from a deal with cellphone tower operator IHS would be cut by R2.8bn.

MTN said the R6bn profit it had booked in its interim results from the deal had been reduced to R3.2bn by a R2.8bn loan agreement in the second half of its financial year.

In February, MTN exchanged cellphone towers it owned in Nigeria in a partnership with IHS, called Interco, for a 29 per cent stake in an enlarged IHS. This deal included a \$231m (about R2.8bn) shareholder loan which MTN said had now been assigned to IHS.

"The combination of the profit from the exchange of Interco shares for IHS shares in the first half of the 2017 financial year and the loss on assignment of the shareholder loan in the second half of the year has a combined positive impact of R3.2bn to earnings in 2017," yesterday's statement said.

MTN's financial year ends in December and it releases its results in early March.

As part of the deal, IHS "has facilitated certain network volume commitments and provided more attractive terms for MTN Nigeria's future network roll-out applicable from 2018 onwards", the statement said. "The agreement allows MTN



Nigeria to continue to invest in its network more efficiently, and further simplifies MTN's interests in IHS. "The agreement will enable MTN and IHS to mutually benefit from continued investment and commitment to the roll-out of broadband and data services in Nigeria," MTN said. *iNet Bridge*



## Consumers warned of rough economic road ahead

CAPE TOWN - Consumers are in for a rough ride in 2018 and are warned to tighten their belts even further.

Neil Roets, Chief Executive of Debt Rescue, said many South Africans who barely made ends meet during the year have plunged themselves ever deeper into debt over the holiday season.

"With major price increases for food and other essential commodities on the cards as well as a continued sluggish growth rate predicted for the new year, South Africans are in for a rough ride in 2018. Unemployment is now at 27.7 per cent, and key jobs sectors, including mining and the industrial sector, are expected to continue shedding jobs at unprecedented rates," he said. However, Roets said that the election of Cyril Ramaphosa as ANC President holds prospects for greater political and economic stability. "There is a likelihood he may become the next president; there is a greater possibility of at least some foreign direct investment coming into the country next year," he said.

South African Reserve Bank Governor Lesetja Kganyago recently made the point that although the country's unemployment rate was already among the highest in the world at 25 per cent (currently at 27.7 per cent), it was expected to deteriorate further in 2018.

The only other comparable countries to have such high rates, according to data by the International Monetary Fund, are Spain and Greece, Roets said. "It seems sad that we have to be so pessimistic at such a happy time of the year but the sooner consumers realise the economy is in trouble and tighten their belts, the fewer of them will have to come to us to bail them out by placing them under debt review," Roets said. *Cape Argus*

## 'No decision made yet on cash-strapped Denel'

JOHANNESBURG - The defence department said yesterday the government had not yet made a decision on how to handle state-owned arms manufacturer Denel's financial woes.

The department said in a statement it was concerned about a newspaper report speculating that the government might consider selling a stake in Denel. "Such speculations should not create an impres-

sion that government is leaning towards a specific direction with regard to the challenges facing Denel," it said. **Wrong**

"This may send (the) wrong message to the industry as well as the financial markets during sensitive negotiations on Denel's financial situation."

In the event that a consideration or decision to sell stake in Denel was made, the gov-

ernment "will have to carefully determine which parts of the Denel SoC should be sold, through which model and to whom," the department said.

Earlier this month, Denel moved to assure its employees they would receive their December salaries as well as their outstanding 13th cheques despite a severe liquidity crisis.

*African News Agency/ANA*

## Mining houses could do well despite strong rand

JOHANNESBURG - The rand was at R12.26 to the Dollar at 7am yesterday morning, its strongest level since June 2015.

The Rand strengthened three per cent on Wednesday from R12.63 to the Dollar as the market resumed trading after the Christmas break and reacted to reports in Sunday newspapers that the ANC's new leadership was negotiating President Jacob Zuma's exit.

The Rand was at R14.62 to the Euro and R16.47 to the

Pound. The Rand's rally hammered the JSE's foreign blue-chip index tracking exchange-traded funds on Wednesday.

CoreShares S&P 500 tracker fell 2.41 per cent to R33.55 despite the index remaining flat at 2,683 points. Sygnia's Euro Stoxx 50 tracker fell three per cent to R52.98 and its FTSE 100 tracker fell 3.1 per cent to R126.01.

Rising commodity prices may make yesterday a good day for the JSE's miners despite the rising rand.

In Sydney, BHP was up 0.5 per cent to A\$29.50 thanks to Brent crude oil remaining above \$66 a barrel and copper reaching a four-year high of \$7 240 a tonne on the London Metals Exchange (LME).

On the JSE on Wednesday, the strengthening rand led BHP to fall one per cent to R247.68 and Anglo American to lose 0.3 per cent to R256.04.

The stronger rand outweighed rising oil prices for Sasol, causing it to fall 0.2 per cent to R418.05. BHP's rise in Sydney on Thursday morning helped the Australian Securities Exchange's S&P/ASX 200 index gain 0.2 per cent.

*iNet Bridge*

## Rand within 3c of pre-Gordhan firing level

JOHANNESBURG - The Rand achieved an intra-day best level of R12.34 to the Dollar on Wednesday, before giving back some of its gains by mid-afternoon, when settling just a few cents firmer than Tuesday's close.

Prior to the sacking of former Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan at the end of March, the Rand had been trading at about R12.31 to the Dollar. It slumped over the next three days to end that month at R13.42.

The Rand firmed in response



to the news in the Sunday Times at the weekend that "secret talks" were under way for a negotiated exit for President Jacob Zuma.

**Rand**

At 3.02pm, the Rand was at

R12.4501 to the Dollar from Tuesday's R12.504, at R14.808 to the Euro from R14.8291, and at R16.7186 to the Pound from R16.7216.

The Euro was at \$1.1894 from \$1.1858.

The rand has now gained more than nine per cent since the beginning of December, with gains accelerating in the lead up to and during the ANC elective conference, once it became evident that Cyril Ramaphosa would be elected as the organisation's new president. *iNet Bridge*

## THE TECH HUBS OF THE WORLD

DURBAN - Dubai is set to become a global tech hub or at least planning to according to the BBC.

Tech hubs are now becoming a global normality with big countries being home to at least one tech hub.

Here we look at tech hubs across the world and even a tech hub in South Africa

### 1. Johannesburg, South Africa

Jozihub is a tech hub that is located in Johannesburg. According to their site, Johannesburg remains as the driving force of the African economy and the perfect destination for an incubator like Jozihub, which has been developed to boost and push forward innovation in the South African tech and social fields.

### 2. San Jose United States of America

San Jose is the centre of Silicon Valley, the widely accepted capital of tech. Silicon Valley is home to the world's biggest high-tech corporations like Apple, Google and Facebook and lots of startups.

### 3. London, United Kingdom

According to the Independent, the tech area in London has drawn on more venture capital investment in the first six months of 2017 compared to any other European city since the Brexit vote. Venture capital firms have pumped into the London tech sector over £1.1 billion.

### 4. National Capital Region (NCR): New Delhi, Gurgaon and Noida, India.

The NCR collected a total of \$3.35 billion from 138 deals this year. The numbers in NCR were pumped up by the wind energy firm ReNew Power which raised \$100 million in structured credit.

### 5. Shenzhen, China

This city is the home to Chinese internet colossals, Tencent. It is also home to famous Chinese gadget creators like Huawei, makers of smartphones, to DJI who make drones. The city just overtook Guangzhou as the largest economy in the south of China.

- *Business report online*

## #SAA denies procuring bottled water, fuel at premium

JOHANNESBURG - Cash-strapped national carrier South African Airways yesterday rejected as false reports that it was paying more for its bottled water and fuel than the market price.

"We took note of comments on social media platforms suggesting that we procure at premium commodities such as bottled water and fuel. Nothing could be further from the truth," SAA said in a statement.

It said it bought bottled water at a rate less than the wholesale price (R2.75) suggested on social media platforms and was also comfortable it was buying fuel, which accounts for about 25 per cent of its operating costs, "within a competitive price range".

### Financial

Last month, SAA's chief financial officer told Parliament the airline's losses for the current year were expected to reach R4 billion, exceeding a forecast of R2.8 billion, due to the retirement of five aircraft which had forced it to cancel flights.

New Chief Executive Vuyani Jarana told Parliament's standing committee on finance that SAA would have to find R4 billion to pay back foreign and local lenders by the end of March in 2018. *African News Agency/ANA*





# World News

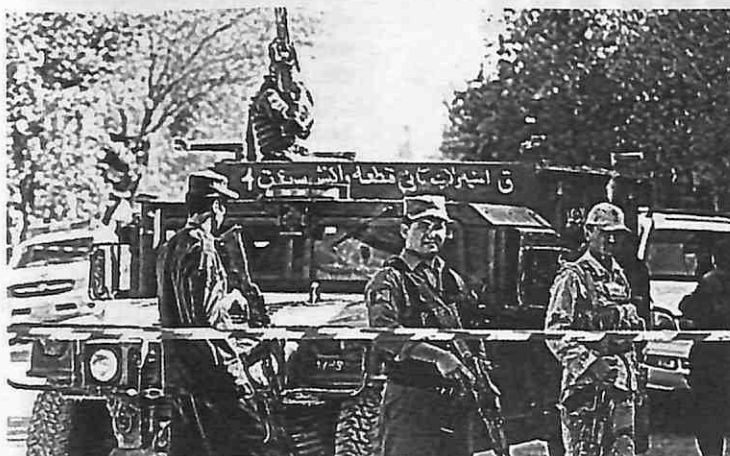
## DOZENS DEAD IN SUICIDE BOMBING IN AFGHAN CAPITAL

**KABUL** - Around 40 people were killed and dozens more wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside a Shiite cultural centre in Kabul yesterday, officials said, in the latest violence to hit the city.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the Taliban was quick to deny involvement in the assault near the Afghan Voice Agency, a media outlet which earlier reports had suggested could have been the target.

Deputy Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi told AFP the attack was in fact aimed at the Shiite Tabayan cultural centre in the west of the city. "The suicide attacker detonated himself during a gathering at Tabayan cultural centre causing a lot of casualties," Rahimi said.

The main explosion was followed by two smaller bomb blasts that did not cause casualties, he said, adding that the gathering was being held to



**DEAD:** Afghan security forces inspect at the site of a previous suicide attack near a large Shi'ite mosque, Kabul, Afghanistan.

mark the 38th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

There were chaotic scenes at the Istiqlal Hospital where ambulances brought victims, including women and children. Many of them were suffering severe burns to their

faces and bodies, as well as shrapnel wounds, AFP reporters said.

Anguished relatives searching for their loved ones inside the medical facility, slapping their heads in fury as they cried and cursed the government for seemingly being unable to

end the regular carnage on their streets. Some were so distraught they crawled on the ground pulling their hair.

An AFP reporter saw badly burned bodies lying on the floor in a room inside the hospital and wooden coffins being delivered so families could take away their dead loved ones.

Kabul has become one of the deadliest places in war-torn Afghanistan for civilians in recent months, as the Taliban step up their attacks and the Islamic State group (IS) seeks to expand its presence in the country.

Yesterday's assault comes days after a suicide bomber killed six civilians in an attack near an Afghan intelligence agency compound in the city, which was claimed by IS.

The Middle Eastern jihadist group has gained ground in Afghanistan since it first appeared in the region in 2015 and has scaled up its attacks in Kabul, including on security installations and the country's Shiite minority. **AFP**

## PM ready for Catalan separatists despite election disaster

**MADRID** - Despite taking fire for losing a snap election in Catalonia, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy faces the new year better equipped to block a separatist drive in the wealthy region, analysts said.

His detractors have called the results of the December 21 election, which saw separatist parties hold on to their majority in the Catalan Parliament, a "fiasco" and a "rout" for Rajoy, in power since 2011.

Pro-independence parties failed to win a majority of ballots cast but neither did parties in favour of Spanish unity do as well as was hoped for by the majority of Spain's political class.

Rajoy's conservative Popular Party (PP) saw its marginal representation in the 135-seat Catalan Parliament reduced even further, to just four seats, from 11 previously.

Its main rival, the relative newcomer Ciudadanos, won the most seats with 36, mainly by luring away traditional PP supporters.

At first glance Rajoy appeared to have lost his bet by calling the snap polls after he invoked constitution article 155, allowing him to suspend Catalonia's autonomy and impose direct rule in response to the separatists' independence drive.

But political consultant Ignacio Varela said, "article 155 played its role which was not to win the elections or improve the PP's results, or make separatism disappear, but rather to stifle a rebellion against the constitution."

Catalonia's three separatist parties had approved laws in September to "disconnect" the region from Spain, organised a banned independence referendum on October 1 and then proclaimed independence on October 27.

After Rajoy intervened, experts said the separatists recognised that they had underestimated the capacity of the Spanish state to react.

**AFP**

## Barack Obama warns about dangers of social media but..

**LONDON** - Former President Barack Obama told Prince Harry in an interview broadcast on Wednesday that people in leadership roles must be careful in their use of social media and warned against spending too much time immersed in the internet at the expense of the world outside.

Obama did not, however, directly mention his successor, President Donald Trump, who has made the use of Twitter a centerpiece of his presidency.

"All of us in leadership have to find ways to recreate a common space on the internet," he said. "One of the dangers of the internet is people can have entirely different realities. They can be



**WARNS:** Prince Harry interviews Former President Barack Obama.

just cocooned in information that reinforces their current biases." He spoke with Harry in the prince's capacity as guest editor of the BBC Radio 4 news programme. Both men said the interview, recorded in Canada in September, was Obama's first since leaving the presidency in January.

Obama said he felt serene the

day he left the White House at the end of his second four-year term despite the vast amount of work that remained unfinished. He said it was "hugely liberating" to be able to set his own agenda in the morning to have the time to talk with his wife, Michelle, now that he is no longer president. **AP**

## Israel passes controversial law curbing police powers

**JERUSALEM** - Israel's Parliament passed a controversial law yesterday limiting the police's ability to recommend charges following their investigations after criticism that lawmakers were seeking to protect Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The law will not apply to current investigations, however, meaning that graft probes involving Netanyahu will not be affected - a change made after wide-

spread criticism and large protests against corruption. Members of Parliament gave final approval to the bill by a vote of 59-54 early yesterday after a marathon debate lasting nearly two days.

Under the law, police will no longer be able to recommend to the attorney general whether or not to charge suspects at the conclusion of an investigation. The new law requires the attor-

ney general to ask for police input. Netanyahu called for changes to the legislation in early December after his opponents said it was designed to help him survive ongoing corruption investigations.

The premier said it should be made clear that it "will not involve current investigations against me". His call came after thousands of people protested against corruption. **AFP**

### BRIEFS

#### Islamic State suspects detained

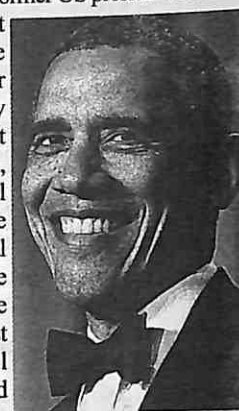
**ISTANBUL** - Turkish police detained 38 people, some of them Syrian citizens, over suspected links to Islamic State in an operation yesterday in the north-western province of Bursa, the state-run Anadolu news agency said. Counter-terrorism police carried out simultaneous raids on homes in various districts of Bursa, smashing doors open with battering rams and searching the properties, it said. Islamic State militants have carried out gun and bomb attacks in Turkey. **Reuters**

#### Lawyer convicted in fraud trial

**NEW YORK** - A former lawyer for "Pharma Bro" Martin Shkreli has been found guilty of helping the disgraced executive and hedge fund manager commit fraud. Evan Greebel was convicted Wednesday of conspiracy to commit securities fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud following an 11-week trial in New York, the US Department of Justice said in a statement. He faces up to 20 years in prison at his sentencing hearing which will take place at a later date. **AFP**

#### Obama the most admired man

**WASHINGTON** - Former US president Barack Obama is the most admired man in the United States and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton the most admired woman, according to a poll published. Obama came out on top of the annual Gallup survey for the 10th year in a row while Clinton, who lost last year's presidential election to Donald Trump, was named the most admired woman for the 16th straight year. Seventeen per cent of the Americans polled said Obama was the man they admired most, down from 22 per cent last year. **AFP**



#### 200 000 passports recalled

**TAIWAN** - An airport mix-up leading to a misprint on Taiwan's passport has resulted in the country recalling passports that mistakenly feature an image of Washington-Dulles Airport instead of its very own Taoyuan International Airport. According to Travel and Leisure, the error on the passport - which began distribution last week - was pointed out on local social media network Weibo on December 25. On Tuesday, December 26, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) "acknowledged the mistake and recalled the 285 passports that had already been issued to Taiwanese citizens". A total of 200 000 copies of the passport book had already been printed - all of which the Taiwanese government will destroy. **TRAVELLER24**

#### Oil sales broken to North Korea

**BEIJING** - China said yesterday there had been no UN sanction-breaking oil sales by Chinese ships to North Korea, after a South Korea newspaper said Chinese and North Korean vessels had been illicitly linking up at sea to get oil to North Korea. The UN Security Council last week unanimously imposed new sanctions on North Korea for a recent intercontinental ballistic missile test, seeking to limit its access to refined petroleum products and crude oil. The UN resolution seeks to ban nearly 90 per cent of refined petroleum exports to North Korea by capping them at 500 000 barrels a year. The US - drafted resolution also caps crude oil supplies to North Korea at 4 million barrels a year and commits the Council to further reductions if it were to conduct another nuclear test or launch another ICBM. **Reuters**



# Focus on SA scene

## Juju's right – crime should come first

JOHANNESBURG - Dubai is certainly a touchy subject when it comes to our ministers.

So Minister of Police Fikile Mbalula and Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema are at it again.

The EFF commander-in-chief yesterday took to Twitter to question why the minister was in Dubai with his family when there were more important matters to attend to back home – most notably the crime over the festive period.

Dubai is certainly a touchy subject when it comes to our ministers.

"The whole minister of police [is] out of the country at this critical period of the year, talk of priorities.

Crime is a serious problem in this country but leisure for our ministers is more



**DEFENSIVE: Minister of Police Fikile Mbalula.**

important," Malema tweeted.

Mbalula was not going to miss an opportunity to take to Twitter in his defence,

insisting Malema's rant is a "pathetic" effort to win voters over.

There's a history between the two former ANC Youth League leaders. Earlier this year the pair went back and forth on Twitter with regards to the Constitutional Court ruling that National Assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete has the power to decide whether there should be a secret ballot on the proposed motion of no confidence in President Jacob Zuma.

While we are not questioning anyone's right to go on holiday with their family, Malema has a point when he questions why combating crime is not the priority for the minister.

Expect more fights on Twitter from these two in 2018.

**citizen**

## Mboro expected in court in January

JOHANNESBURG - Controversial pastor, Paseka 'Mboro' Motsoeneng, is expected to appear in court in January on a charge of common assault.

He appeared in the Palm Ridge Magistrate's Court yesterday after he was arrested for allegedly attacking a female paramedic with Ekurhuleni Emergency Services (EMS).

The paramedic alleges she was assaulted at Mboro's Incredible Happenings Ministry on Sunday when emergency services were called out to attend to a sick child.

The pastor blamed inaction by paramedics for the three-year-old girl's death at his church.

But paramedics said the pastor and some of the congregants attacked them. The female emergency services worker was allegedly slapped by the pastor. EMS said she needed a surgical procedure for a wound on her right cheek. At the same time. The mother of the three-year-old laid charges of culpable homicide against the paramedics who responded to the scene. Court officials said investigations are still underway and they want to put the two cases on the same docket. **eNCA**



**ARRESTED: Pastor, Paseka 'Mboro' Motsoeneng.**

## The gourd bubbles - Zuma explains Zulu saying he used at ANC conference

DURBAN - President Jacob Zuma on Wednesday explained the Zulu saying "Iyabhubhudla inkezo", which he used at the recent ANC elective conference, just before the announcement of his successor as ANC president.

Zuma was singing his famous *Umshini Wami* song on December 18 when officials from EleXions Agency arrived to announce his successor after more than 4 000 delegates had voted.

When he saw the officials, he stopped singing and loudly and excitedly said: "Sebefikile [They have arrived]. Iyabhubhudla inkezo [The gourd bubbles]".

Speaking at the 16th Jacob Zuma RDP Education Trust Senior Citizens Christmas Party in his hometown in Nkandla on Wednesday, Zuma said that by using the saying he simply meant that a good time was being had at the conference.

He said the saying was used to invite a passer-by in when there's beer and festivities at one's home.

"During the ANC conference in the past few days I said, 'Iyabhubhudla inkezo'. Many people have been asking what I meant. When we're in a festive mood back at our homes in the rural areas, inkezo (gourd) is used to fetch beer from a traditional Zulu pot (ukhamba)," he said.

Zuma said when the gourd is lowered into the beer pot, it creates bubbles which suggest that there's still plenty of beer in the pot.

"When someone passes by while I'm stretching outside my house. I

don't tell him to 'come here we're drinking', but I say, 'Iyabhubhudla inkezo'. In other words telling him we're having a good time here, we're drinking," he explained.

"What I meant was that we were having a good time at the conference," he said.

President Zuma hosts the 16th annual Jacob Zuma RDP Education Trust Senior Citizens Christmas Party, KwaNxaamalala, Nkandla, Zuma's preferred candidate Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma was up against the country's Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Ramaphosa won with 2 440 votes compared to Dlamini-Zuma's 2 261 votes.

"Don't take it the other way, because I see some people would try to explain it in another way," he said.

The former ANC president did not explain how the saying could be taken "the other way".

Zuma, who also gave the elderly Christmas gifts, said respecting senior citizens was a "beautiful" thing.

"If you don't respect elders, angels and ancestors will turn their backs on you. Old people are very important," he said.

Zuma said the events such as Wednesday's were important to the government.

"This kind of Christmas gives government a chance to be close to elderly people. I wish the grandfathers and mothers a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year," he said.

## POLICE RESCUE TEEN FORCED INTO MARRIAGE

CAPE TOWN - Eastern Cape police have rescued a 14-year-old girl being forced into a marriage allegedly arranged by her mother and uncles. The practice is known as *ukuthwala*.

The girl, who cannot be named because she is underage, was allegedly being forced into a union with a 26-year-old mineworker from KuMvezo near Qunu in the Eastern Cape. The family is alleged to have received seven cattle for *lobola*.

She was rescued on Christmas Eve.

It is understood that her family

and that of the man's had arranged the marriage without her knowledge. She was sent to live with the man.

Petros Majola, Director of the non-profit Khula Development Project that supports children, said the girl was in a place of safety.

"I am shocked that people continue with *ukuthwala*, forcing mostly young girls into these arranged marriages. We call on the justice department to give harsher sentences to those who are found to have been involved in these crimes," said Majola.

**SOWETANLIVE**

## Wife arrested for murder of acclaimed artist Walter Meyer

JOHANNESBURG - The wife of acclaimed South African landscape artist Walter Meyer has been arrested in connection with his murder in Upington, Northern Cape police said yesterday.

"She is 28 years old and appeared in court yesterday [Wednesday]," said Captain Jack September.

The 52-year-old artist was found dead at his home in Augrabies Park last Friday night.

It is claimed that Meyer had been involved in a quarrel with his wife at 21:55.

She then allegedly "stabbed him in the chest".

"He died on the scene. She was arrested," said September.

The wife is expected to apply for bail at the Upington Magistrate's Court today.

Meyer was an award winning artist, who had received international attention.

In 2012, Graham's Fine Art Gallery described his work as encapsulating landscapes "from the arid and unforgiving terrain of the Namib Desert, the Karoo and the Kalahari through the small towns and dilapidated farmhouses dotted across

the South African terrain to the rich vegetation around Camps Bay and the sparkling blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean".

Rest in Peace, Walter Meyer, artist. His moody evocations of South African spaces and places have a forlorn, mesmerising quality, like short stories painted in light and shade.

— Gus Silber (@gussilber) Shocked, truly shocked, to hear that Walter Meyer, leading artist, has been murdered. I love his art.

— Emile Joubert (@emilejoubert) Sad to hear about Walter Meyer.

— HocusPocus (@cloud999) Artist Walter Meyer dead at 52, a tragic loss. #waltermeyer

— Mary Armour (@MaryArmour2)

I hope Walter Meyer's spirit is flying happily and peacefully over the South African landscapes he painted so beautifully. What a loss.

**NEWS24**

## Four die in taxi, bus collision in KZN Midlands

MIDLANDS - Four people were killed when a minibus taxi and a bus collided on Howick's Main Road in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands yesterday morning.

Netcare911 spokesman Shawn Herbst said that paramedics received a report of the crash shortly after 6am and raced to the scene.

They arrived to find that several occupants of the minibus were trapped in the vehicle.

"Paramedics attended to multi-

ple patients, some of which were entrapped in the wreckage. Officers from the police's search and rescue unit used the jaws of life to free occupants from the minibus taxi."

Herbst said that four people, one of whom was the driver, were declared dead at the scene of the accident. "Multiple patients have been transported to various hospitals for further assessment and care," he added. **timeslive**



# US MARINES' BIZARRE TOPLESS DRILLS IN SUB-ZERO CONDITIONS

**PYEONGCHANG** - South Korean and US Marines took part in joint training exercises in sub-zero conditions ahead of the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang.

Around 220 marines and another 220 South Korean troops took part in a number of military exercises - including topless hand-to-hand combat - at the site of the games in Pyeongchang in South Korea.

It is feared that Kim Jong-un may launch an attack during the games next February with the UN General Assembly approving a resolution last month calling for all countries to observe a truce.

But the military exercises, that have been carried out since 2013, are said to risk infuriating leaders in Pyongyang and were under consideration to be scrapped to avoid raising tensions.

The three-week programme began on December 4 and have seen the semi-naked troops performing star jumps, press-ups and carrying out other physical tests with the emphasis often on team bonding.

The marines wore camouflaged face paint as they competed in a number of military exercises and games.

The exercises also emphasise the close relationship between South Korea and the US at a time of high tension on the Korean Peninsula.

South Korean Marine Corps Commandant Lt. General Jun Jin-goo told the marines: "You are a symbol of the robust South Korea-US alliance, overcoming the severe cold with comradeship."

"Let's defend the Republic of Korea (South Korea) firmly on the basis of hot comradeship and strong combat power of the allies' Marine Corps."

...Around 220 marines and another 220 South Korean troops took part in a number of military exercises - including topless hand-to-hand combat - at the site of the games in Pyeongchang in South Korea



**PRESS UPS:** Around 220 marines are taking part in the three-week training camp.



**PREPARING:** It is designed to prepare troops for a winter attack from North Korea.

A spokesman for the US marines told Yonhap News Agency that conditions dropped down to -20C. *Mirror*



**COMRADESHIP:** The exercises also involved US marines.

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- Create positive learning environments including resources based on child-directed learning
- Develop strategies to guide positive children's behaviour
- Build good, open communication with children, families and staff
- Observe and record children's growth, development and behaviour using electronic portfolios
- Ensure the learning environment is clean, hygienic and safe
- Help develop teaching goals for the preschool and its teachers
- Undertake administrative tasks as required

### Qualifications:

- An approved Early Childhood Development qualification
- Experience working in a preschool setting
- Fantastic organisational and teamwork skills
- Sound written and verbal communication skills
- A good level of computer literacy
- Current First Aid certificate

A good understanding of the Early Years Learning Framework  
Interested candidates should submit detailed Curriculum Vitae, with a detailed motivational letter and certified copies of all relevant certificates to:

**The Principal, Lwati International Pre-school, P. O. Box D291, The Gables, H126.**

Closing date applications: **Wednesday, 03 January 2018.**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews. If you do not hear from us within two weeks after the closing date of this advertisement please consider your application unsuccessful.

Lwati International Pre-school is an equal opportunity employer and ALL are encouraged to apply.

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## BRIEFS

## 'Peaceful conduct' hailed

New York - The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday hailed the "peaceful conduct" of Liberia's presidential run-off election, which pitted former international footballer George Weah against Vice President Joseph Boakai. "The Secretary-General welcomes the peaceful conduct of the second round of the presidential election in Liberia," spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in a statement. "He commends the government, political parties and people of Liberia for the orderly poll." Guterres has requested that former president Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, a member of the UN chief's high-level advisory board, travel to Monrovia from December 28 to 30 as part of the international body's "good offices engagement in Liberia," Dujarric said.

AFP

## Teddy Afro delights fans

LEGATAFO - He may be Ethiopia's biggest pop star but Teddy Afro hasn't held a concert in his country for years, some of his songs have been effectively banned, and the launch party for his last album was broken up by the police. But sitting in the living room of his spacious house outside the capital, Addis Ababa, the 41-year-old musician is relaxed and says he is focused on promoting peace and unity in Ethiopia. "As a child, I remember that we lived as one nation. We knew a nation that is called Ethiopia," Teddy said. "But nowadays, we are identified and called by our ethnic background. And this has already become dangerous."

AFP

## 'Mole' hunted for recording

NAIROBI - Raila Odinga's supporters have activated their investigative skills to identify the person who took and shared a video of the Nasa leader while drunk. One camp accuses Gem MP Elisha Otieno of being behind the recording while another has fingered his predecessor Jakoyo Midowo as the culprit. The two are sworn political enemies having competed against each other in the last general election. It was controversial blogger Robert Alai who fired the first salvo, tweeting: "Some (redacted) called Elisha Akuba recorded Raila while he was drunk and this is what we got? Then you voted out Midiwo?"

NAIROBI NEWS

## US professor freed

YAOUNDE - A New York literature professor held in the Central African nation of Cameroon since early this month for writing an article that criticised the government was released on Wednesday, his lawyer said. Stony Brook University Professor Patrice Nganang was expelled from Cameroon and has been told not to return to the country where he was born, lawyer Emmanuel Simh said. Nganang, 37, who has dual citizenship in Cameroon and the United States, had faced a Jan. 19 hearing after being detained December 7.

AP

## A29 Aircraft trade with Nigeria

ANUJA - The United States has accepted to sell one of its A29 Super Tucano aircraft to the Federal Government to boost the ongoing counterinsurgency operations in the North East. The US Ambassador to Nigeria, Stuart Symington, presented the Letters of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar on behalf of the Federal Government. A statement signed by NAF's Spokesman, Air Vice Marshal Olatokunbo Adesanya in Abuja, yesterday said the LOA represents the official US Government offer to sell US defence articles and services to the Nigerian government.

THE GUARDIAN



# Zimbabwe ex-army chief Chiwenga sworn in as VP

HARARE - Zimbabwe's former army commander who led a military takeover that helped end Robert Mugabe's 37-year rule was yesterday sworn in as one of the country's two vice presidents.

General Constantino Chiwenga, 61, took the oath of office in Harare, pledging to be "faithful" to Zimbabwe and to "obey, uphold and defend the Constitution", said an AFP journalist who witnessed the ceremony.

"I will discharge my duties with all my strength and to the best of my knowledge and ability," said Chiwenga dressed in a black suit.

**SWORN IN:**  
Retired army chief and new vice president Constantino Chiwenga.



Chiwenga retired from the military last week, slightly over a month after the military temporarily took control of the country on November 15, cul-

minating in Mugabe's resignation six days later. Emmerson Mnangagwa, who had a few weeks earlier been sacked from his job as vice president by Mugabe, then took over as the head of state.

Kembo Mohadi, a veteran politician and long-serving state security minister, was also sworn-in Thursday as the second vice president to Mnangagwa. Mugabe, 93, was ousted from power after the military stepped in following internal feuding and factionalism that had escalated in the ruling Zanu-PF party over who would succeed him. *News*

## Egyptian president's backers say 12M want him to run again

CAIRO - Supporters of Egypt's president announced on Sunday that they have collected more than 12 million signatures from people urging him to run for a second four-year term, a mostly symbolic gesture as there is little doubt he will contest, and win, next year's elections.

A General-turned-president, Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi has yet to formally announce his candidacy. He has said he will make his decision after gauging popular reaction to a "factsheet" of his achievements due to be publicised next month. Sisi was elected in 2014, a year after leading the military's overthrow of an elected but divisive Islamist president, Mohammed Morsi of the now-outlawed Muslim



**FULL SUPPORT:**  
Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

Brotherhood. The government has since waged a heavy crack-

down on dissent, jailing thousands of people — mostly Islamists but also many secular pro-democracy activists. It has also blocked hundreds of websites, banned all unauthorised demonstrations and slapped a travel ban on many rights campaigners.

With his win in the 2018 vote an almost foregone conclusion, a large voter turnout would take on added significance, affirming el-Sisi's candidacy as the people's choice. His likely opponents — the list so far includes a prominent rights activist, a former prime minister and an opposition politician thrown out of Parliament — are not expected to pose a serious challenge to him securing a second term. *News24*

## ZIMBABWEAN FAMILY STUCK IN BANGKOK FOR TWO MONTHS

BANGKOK - A Zimbabwean family has been marooned at Bangkok's main airport for two months, an ordeal over the holiday season that has drawn widespread sympathy among Thais.

Thai immigration police said yesterday that the family, four adults and four children — who are aged between two and 11 years old — have tried to leave Thailand since late October.

But they lack visas for onward travel, refuse to return to Zimbabwe and are denied re-entry to the

kingdom after overstaying, trapping them in limbo in the airside area of the airport.

Their predicament first emerged after a Thai Facebook user posted a photo of himself giving one of the children a Christmas present.

The post, which explained their predicament, went viral as questions emerged as to how they had lived at the airport for so long.

Comparisons were quickly made with the 2004 film *The Terminal*, in which a man played

by Tom Hanks finds himself stuck in a New York airport after his government collapses, rendering his papers useless. Immigration police said the family entered Thailand in May on tourist visas.

On October 23 they tried to fly to Spain via Ukraine, but were denied by the airline as they lacked Spanish visas. As they had overstayed their Thai visas by several months they were banned from re-entering the country.

AFP

## We Stand By Our Vote - Govt

TANZANIA - Government and political analysts have said that, as a sovereign country, Tanzania cannot be swayed by foreign aid in its decisions on both local and international affairs.

The remarks were made, almost unanimously, in response to US threats of aid cutbacks on account of government support of a UN resolution recognising Tel Aviv, instead of Jerusalem, as capital of Israel.

Speaking to the Daily News over the phone yesterday, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ms Suzan Kolimba said that, as a sovereign country, Tanzania could not also interfere in the internal affairs of any other country.

"We are a sovereign country ... our principles on foreign policy decisions are well known internationally."

We respect the fundamental human rights enshrined in our laws and international (all) conventions to which we are signatory ... we never (seek to) undermine anybody," she explained. She also underlined that Tanzania would "always strictly observe principles, laws, rules and regulations."

On possible aid cuts by the US government on account of the vote on the UN resolution, Ms Kolimba said Tanzania could not interfere in any other country's decisions.

"To give or not to give aid is purely an internal affair ... and that is decided by the respective country ... it's illogical that any one person should be telling another person what to do or what not to in this context," she noted.

However, the deputy minister asked media to dwell on issues that were beneficial to the public, instead of 'wasting' much time on matters that, in many ways, could harm the nation.

A veteran politician, Mr Pius Msekwa, said Tanzania could not, possibly, be swayed by foreign aid in making decisions on both local and international affairs.

ALLAFRICA





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# SIBEBE FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE APPLICATIONS OPEN TODAY

By Ayanda Dlamini

**SIBEBE Friday Night Live is back with season seven.**

The series is powered by House on Fire and Swaziland Beverages. The seventh season will commence on February 16, two days after the Valentine's Day.

This was revealed by House on Fire Communications Officer Noncedo Dlamini yesterday.

According to Dlamini, the Sibebe Friday Night Live showcase has for the past six years introduced over 100 Swazi acts to the House on Fire stage as well as attracting 18 000 attendees to share in this home-grown



artistic platform.

"Exclusive to local artists, this series has played a major role in providing a much needed stage and exposure to most of Swaziland's emerging acts, whilst contributing to the evolving Swazi arts industry and the broader creative economy," said Dlamini.

Since its inception, Sibebe Friday Night Live has cumulatively con-

tributed E600 000 towards local artists on top of which presenting a chance for the winners to perform at the internationally acclaimed MTN Bushfire stage, which attracts over 25 000 spectators from around the world.

Artists' applications to perform at Sibebe Friday Night Live stage are now open as of today.

Dlamini stated that application forms can be downloaded from the House on Fire website [www.house-on-fire.com](http://www.house-on-fire.com) and submitted via email to [communications@house-on-fire.com](mailto:communications@house-on-fire.com). The closing date is January 26.

"A committee will be responsible for screening applications and ultimately selecting the performers for the Sibebe Friday Night Live series

before the beginning of each season. The all new season of SNFL will consist of three events.

Each Sibebe Friday Night Live show will consist of a headliner performance, opening act and a DJ. The committee will also be responsible for determining the top three headline acts in the series, who will be scored at each show, run in an 'Idols' type format with audience participation being accountable for 30 per cent of the vote, and the remaining 70 per cent scored by a panel of selected judges," said Dlamini.

Sibebe Friday Night Live series initially was conceptualised in 2010. It is Swaziland's premier showcase supporting the development and growth of the performing arts in the country.

The series features live music, dance, poetry, DJ's, interactive arts and fashion from within Swaziland.

Previous performers on the Sibebe Friday Night Live stage include a long list of recognised Swazi household names such as; Bholoja, KrTC, Nomzamo, Nomalungelo, Flowe, Masikane, Qibho and Sands, Velemseni, Nomsa M, Amanda Mo, Pelepele, and many more.

## Pelepele, Mdura hoisting Swazi Flag High in Africa

By Lusito Tsela

**AWARD winning dance group Pelepele and internationally acclaimed comedian Mdura are currently out of the country on a mission to hoist the country's flag high.**

This was revealed by Larry Mhlanga yesterday saying "We left the country on Tuesday and am excited to inform the public that on Wednesday we left a mark in Ethiopia, with Pelepele's performance and Mdura's hilarious jokes, Swaziland will never be forgotten."

Mhlanga is both founder of Pelepele Dance Group and Mdura's manager.

He added "we left Ethiopia yesterday headed to Nigeria at the Paradise City in Calabar and we will make sure we do what we are known for, putting Swaziland on the map," he added.

Mhlanga said he would like to applaud the SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini and his team who made everything possible, working on Christmas day to make the journey a possible success.

Mhlanga elaborated that he was very impressed with the whole SWAMA committee's zeal and eagerness to help with everything.

"I think Pelepele have been doing well in terms of international trips since it has been to Europe, Asia, United States of America and now they are on a verge of conquering Africa, which will mean huge growth and success for Mdura. Pelepele



**HOISTING SWAZI FLAG HIGH: Comedian Mdura.**

has stood the taste of time now as it has 10 years in existence and keeping the brand at a high standard takes a lot of hard work, passion and team work," He said.

Mhlanga said he took some of the oldest members of Pelepele with him in the likes of Ntobeko Malandzela who has been with Pelepele for nine years, Bongani, Sandile, Nono who have all been with the group for over six years.

### Acclaimed

Internationally acclaimed comedian Mdura said it is by the grace of God closing the year on a high note with international gigs.

"It is every performers dream to grow their craft internationally and I won't lie, this year has been amazing for me," he said.

Mdura has also passed his grati-

tude to the SWAMA committee for making the trip possible as all committee members were hands on with the programme regardless of the late notice.

"The committee's recommendation to the Nigerian hosts was vital in securing visas regardless of the notice," he said.

The comedian has encouraged artists to join SWAMA as it becomes easier for them to recommend their own.

Larry Mhlanga said it is worth noting that the team is having a great time and in turn bringing fire to the stage. "The audience appreciates the craft that the team is bringing for them and the experience they are getting here will in turn help the future generation of Swaziland," he added.

## Swazi Mobile Big Five Crossover preparations at extreme peak

By Lindokuhle Lukhele

**PREPARATIONS for the renowned Big Five 24 hour crossover party have reached the ultimate extreme phase, as confirmed by the organisers' mouthpiece and Swaziboy Entertainment Director, Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane.**

The Big Five is a collaborative initiative of local entertainment industry giants, Big Fun Entertainment, Claiming Ground Records, SwaziBoy Entertainment, Mega Sound Events and Esibayeni Lodge, launched and debuted in a memorable crossover party held at Esibayeni Lodge last year.

The concept emanates from the need to identify, develop, showcase and celebrate local art content by creating an international standard platform for carefully selected artists that have otherwise done exceptionally all year through.

The second edition is scheduled for the remarkably superb setting presented by Esibayeni Lodge this Sunday, December 31, and is themed around celebrating local arts excellence, especially in the music classification. This

will see the best of Swaziland's premium talents setting the three stages of the show ablaze with astonishing recitals. The show starts at noon and will run through to the following day.

The organisers of the Big Five 24 Hour Party have expressed immense appreciation to newly launched local mobile telecommunications giant, Swazi Mobile for the recognition and support they have shown through the endorsement of the concept.

Swazi Mobile has attained naming rights to the event, having contributed a substantial amount in a bid to ensure a successful and memorable event.

Another notable sponsor is PSI Swaziland, through its 'Got it? Get it' initiative, which has seen the Big Five Concept as a perfect vehicle to communicate their messages to the masses. Spokesperson Mthunzi

"Shadow" Zwane said that the Big Five team has cited the contributions by these entities (among others) as a major attribute to the notable success of the much loved crossover show.

"Proper execution of such is never easy & doesn't come cheap, thus making corporate partnerships indisputable and essential.

We would have never realised such growth without the esteemed commitment to growth & sustainability of this concept by these entities among others."

**FEATURED: Nomalungelo Dladla.**







**IN SONG:** Africa Dlamini joined by his daughter Lindo, the band and back-up singers during his performance at the We Praise Live DVD and CD recording at Woodlands last Friday. The event was a great success and received support from a number of gospel music fanatics. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

## TAKITSI PRODUCTIONS TO UNEARTH UPCOMING MUSICIANS

By Simon Shabangu

UPCOMING gospel musicians have been thrown a lifeline as Takitsi Productions have set up a platform through which they will expose the artists to the music industry.

Theminkhosi Dube, the company Director said the project known as 'We Praise' came out after calls for a recording for the artists featured on the programme playing on Swazi TV titled 'We Praise.'

Dube said they identified about ten of the artists they have featured in the programme so far and recorded a live DVD and CD which was done at Woodlands last Friday night.

Dube said the objectives of this project are to help upcoming and middle level artists get exposed and allow them to do their solo projects.

"We target artist who I can classify as middle level, someone who has identified the talent and already performing or someone who has done an album but has not been successful with the promotion and marketing of their work. We will provide the stage and ensure they get exposure to the world so that they are able to follow their passion of being recognised artists," he said.

"We were happy about the success of the event. Although we did not fill up the hall, the attendance was good



**ON KNEES:** Mxolisi Mhlanga on his knees as he rendered one of his songs.

given that this is a new concept which we are hoping to grow over the years," he added.

He said they recorded twelve artists on the night which included two Zionists groups which will also be featured in the project. "We are looking at releasing this project by March next year as we need to give ourselves enough time to work on the project and make it of international standard. This will be a thick album as we are looking at having about 30 tracks in total because each artist recorded about three tracks so we will listen to the work and come with the final project."

Meanwhile the recording event proved that Swaziland is indeed talented behind the microphone as a number of unknown artists proved they were ready for the

big stage.

Performing on the night were Gugu Nyawo, Africa Dlamini, Satis Khumalo, Mxolisi Mhlanga, Mpumi Ntshangse, Bhelekazi, Saxophonist Fakazi Samuel, Siphwe Nyaweni, David Mkhonta and Makhosinke Mavimbela. The two Zionist groups were Gcina Masuku and God Praisers as well as Bishop Motha and Witness of Christ.

All the artists on stage proved to be on a class of their own and gave the much needed flair and diversity to the project as all classes of gospel music were represented on the night.

Contemporary, classic, Zion and traditional gospel music were among the types of gospel music displayed on the night. One will be tempted to say that this will be a powerful project once released as it will be able to accommodate all.

Present on the night were the likes of Pastor Ncengcenge, Luleme Manyatsi, Pastor Sizolwethu Dube, Muzikayise Dube, Mzwakhe Khumalo aka Tjovitjo and Bongani Dube aka DJ Tizalam among others. A number of gospel music fanatics, friends and relatives to the artists also came through to support their own. They were treated to the best of music as the artists gave it their all on the night. The project was recorded by Sicelo Dlamini of Down East Studios for the CD and Takitsi Productions for the DVD.



**ENJOYING:** Takitsi Productions Director Theminkhosi Dube and his brother Muzikayise enjoying the music rendered on the night.



**HALLELUJAH:** Pastor Sizolwethu Dube and Nothando Hlophe enjoying themselves.



**MAN AT WORK:** Swaziland's renowned Music Technician Sicelo Dlamini who owns Down East Studios.



**REVEALS** Nicholas Vilakati.

## OVER 1 000 KAGOGO CROSSOVER TICKETS SOLD

By Lusito Tsela

TOXIK Entertainment's Nicholas Vilakati has revealed that over 1 000 Swazis will be attending this year's epic Kagogo crossover.

Vilakati said they had printed 2 000 tickets and at this point they have managed to sell over half of the original tickets.

Vilakati has urged fun lovers to continue buying tickets for they will have the time of their lives, an epic experience that will be engraved in their minds.

The deejay said fun lovers will not only be treated to music but also car

spins and drifts from Team Brema, UFO, Matsapha Crew and LRC to mention a few.

The much anticipated crossover hosted by Toxik Entertainment is dubbed 'Kagogo crossover' and slated for December 31 at the Tum's Waterworld in Sidvokodvo.

The crossover will see Swazi Pride's Amanda du Pont and her younger sister Kim manage the proceedings of the day as they keep fun lovers entertained. The name 'KaGogo' is derived from the care and spoiling pleasure experienced at one's grandmothers hands. The 'KaGogo Crossover' will start as early as noon up until the next day, which will mark the beginning

of a new year.

The main acts of the show will be South African Buffalo Souljah and award winning artist Kwesta known for his hit songs 'Nyaz'fela ngawe', 'Ngudu' and 'spirit' to name a few.

The above mentioned international acts will share the stage with local acts in the likes of Lindz, DJ Toxik, Spyda, Krakens, Bakagogo, Kangaroo, DJ Kich, DJ Lolo, DJ Stitch, Mad Uno, Home Boys, Levae, Phaphama Ent, Illa Penboy, That No Saga, Twins of a kind, Full Note Music, King Terry and NR to mention a few.

Vilakati also urged aspiring artists in various music genres to purchase tickets as they will be given an oppor-

tunity to showcase their music talents. He added that they should grab the opportunity with both hands for there will be managers, producers and record stables present looking for new talent. Nicholas said the show will also act as a marketing platform for aspiring artists who can do magic on stage or behind the decks.

Nicholas also promised fun lovers that the show will be the best crossover show and people looking to enjoy themselves should not look further, but purchase themselves tickets.

**...December 31, its going down - International acts.**

International acts in the likes of Kwesta, Buffalo Souljah, Pinky Chair, Mikey Mikey and CLT have all posted videos promising the best crossover.



# HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

By Nomfundo Sifundza

#SIYAHAMBAMANJE...#SIHAMBASONKHE...#SIYAWELA

**NEW Year resolutions check, fun mode check, tickets check and so goes the weekend.**

2017 has been an eventful year. We saw so many heart wrecking deaths, too many memorable events and so many things were done.

Pick and choose from below where you want to welcome year 2018 at. It is a fun galore weekend.

## TONIGHT

### THE LAST SHANDEEZ

Where: Pub n Grill

Time: 5pm

The last show of the year at Pub n Grill will see a full line up of DJs including DJ MBO, Tendaness, MKay and live acts.

There will also be a photo booth. Entry is E80 general, VIP is E160.

### QUEENS OF INSTAGRAM

Where: Deja Vu Cocktail Lounge

Time: 7pm

Queens of Instagram presents sequel 2: White Christmas.

Theme colours are white, red and gold.

Limited tickets are available. Only 100 general tickets are available at E50 and only 30 tickets are retailing at E100.

## TOMORROW

### BRING BRAAI

Where: Malkerns Liquor Store/ Car Wash

Time: 10am



Dr Rebecca Malope at Umlilo Crossover.



Buffalo Souljah at Kagogo crossover.



KrTC and Mandisa Mamba at Big Five crossover.



DJ Mbo at Pub n Grill tonight.



Amanda du Pont at Kagogo crossover.



Kwesta at Kagogo crossover.



Sphumelele Mbambo at Umlilo crossover.

Malkerns Liquor Store presents the Bring Braai experience.

Braai stands will be available, bring your meat and ears for good music to be served by the likes of Shinely Greenz, LK Baba, The Immortals, DJ Duke Deep, DJ 711 and DJ Silver Cap.

### SWAZI MOBILE BIG FIVE 24HR PARTY

Where: Esibayeni Lodge

Time: Noon

The Big Five party is on. Last year's edition saw Swazi music win. This year it comes back bigger and better, be sure not to miss this stellar all local line up. Artists on the line up include Mozaik, KrTC, Nomalungelo, Nobuhle, Daibdiba, Lyrikal Busta, Newiki, Chakalaka, Magaya, Lomasoul and many more.

MC's will be Dr Shakes, Bobo and Ndosh.

Entry is E150 at the door, VIP is E300.

### SWAZI MOBILE UMLILO GOSPEL CROSSOVER

Where: Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre

Time: 6pm

Presenting gospel giants, the likes of Dr Rebecca Malope, Sphumelele Mbambo, Lusanda,

Mduduzi Nezinceku Zamagawgaw and many more fine gospel musicians.

The Swazi Mobile Umlilo Crossover is not to be missed if you fancy yourself a gospel music fanatic.

Entry is E50 General, E200 VIP.

### THE ULTIMATE CROSSOVER

Where: Pub n Grill

Time: 5pm

Headlining acts include The Scientists, DJ Chuidy, Shepherd Brothers, Baba, Lady Zee and Castle.

Entry is E50 before 9pm and E80 after. VIP is E150.

### SIYAWELA GOSPEL CROSSOVER

Where: Worship Centre (Mbabane)

Time: 6pm

Here is one for the capital city people. The Siyawela Gospel Crossover presents giants N o n h l e

Mthethwa, Mzwakhe Myeni, Thabile Myeni, Donny Ngwenyama, France Dlamini and many more.

There will be a free braai pack.

Entry is E50

### KAGOGO CROSSOVER PARTY

Where: Tums Water

Time: Noon

Toxik Entertainment presents the Kagogo Crossover set to stage Kwetsa, Buffalo Souljah, Lindz, Pink Jay, DJ Stitch, Kangaroo and a lot more youthful acts.

MC's will be the hot Amanda du Pont and her younger sister Kim.



Nothando at COGOP Gospel crossover.

Tickets are retailing at E200 general, VIP is E450 found at Ocean Basket, Galitos and Sdeez outlets.

### CROSSOVER WITH BHOLOJA

Where: Ron-Deh-Voo

Time: Noon

Spinners will be on the decks from noon until the next day.

The main attraction for this one is none other than afro soul musician Bholoja.

Entry fee is E100.

### THE GOLDEN WHITE NEW YEARS EVE

Where: Solanis Shisanyama

Time: Noon

If you are around town and have no place to hang until the evening events, relax Solanis is right here for you.

Gates open at noon and on the decks will be Lady Cream, Drum Rhythm, Tibo DW, The Scientists, Flava, So What, Dexter, Nizhe DeSoul's Soul Candy.

Presale tickets cost E70 at the gate it is E100.

### THE BIG WIG CROSSOVER

Where: House on Fire

Time: 8pm

Put on your great wig and head to House on Fire for some real fun.

There will be three stages and live bands, DJ's Street performers, mechanical bull and a fire show.

Tickets are retailing at E250.

### THE CROSSOVER WITH NIZHEDESOU

Where: Venue Avii

Time: 8pm

Cross over into 2018 with Soul Candy's Nizhede Soul at Venue Avii. He will be supported by DJ Cash.

### THE OLD SKOOL PLATINUM CROSSOVER

Where: Emfuleni Lifestyle

Time: Noon

Definitely one for the books, who does not want some old skool mixes as they dive into the New Year.

Well SBIS's Lindz Mafa will be rendering just that at Emfuleni Lifestyle.

### COGOP CROSSOVER

Where: Ngwenya kaDake

Time: 8pm

Here is one for the lovers of the word. More than five men of God are scheduled to preach.

The event is hosted by Bishop Steven Masilela.

Music will be rendered by Nduduzo Matse, Nothando Hlophe and other local teams.



NEW YEAR'S 2018  
**THE BIG WIG**  
Let's get wiggy with it!

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International  
Celebrity News

## Kardashians fire back at Chyna

LOS ANGELES - The Kardashians have come out swinging in Blac Chyna's lawsuit against them in which she claims the fam sabotaged her reality show with Rob, saying it was all her doing.

As we reported, Chyna is suing Rob, Kim and Kris claiming they orchestrated a plot to torpedo "Foxy & Chyna" after the couple broke up, and that's why E! cancelled the show.

The Kardashians have just filed legal docs, courtesy of their attorney Shawn Holley, asking the judge to toss Chyna's case, claiming the real reason the show was cancelled is that Chyna went to court and got a domestic violence restraining order against Rob, making it impossible



**CLAIMS:** Blac chyna and Rob.

to shoot a show with interactions between the two.

It's important to note ... Chyna got a settlement in which she now gets \$20k a month in child support and in return dropped the domestic violence allegations. *TMZ*

## Joel Dommett pops the question

IBIZA - Comedian Joel Dommett has become engaged to his model partner Hannah Cooper.

The I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here star took to Instagram to share the happy news on Wednesday evening in a typically kooky style as he shared the image of a lock on a door flipping from reading 'Vacant' to 'Engaged'.

Joel first met Hannah on Instagram after his appearance on I'm A Celeb last year, and the pair's blossoming romance has been a fixture on both their social media profiles. *DailyMail*



**ENGAGED:** Joel and fiancée

## Meghan's estranged sister hits back at Prince Harry

LONDON - Meghan Markle's estranged sister has hit back at Prince Harry's claim that the royals are the family the actress 'never had'.

Harry told Radio 4 listeners his fiancée had a 'fantastic' Christmas at Sandringham in Norfolk, and that his family 'loved having' the 36-year-old Suits star.

However, Miss Markle's half-sister Samantha has lashed out at the 33-year-old royal's comments and said loved ones 'always' supported her growing up but she was 'too busy' for them.

Samantha, who is related to the actress through their father Thomas,



**HIT BACK:** Meghan Markle.

fumed on Twitter: "Actually she [Meghan] has a large family who were always there with her and for her." *DailyMail*

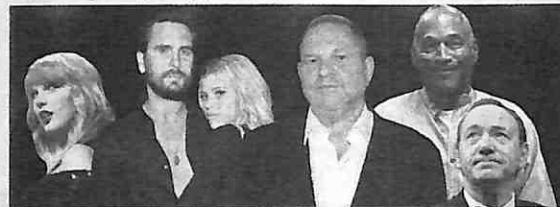
## Hollywood's Top Shocking Moments

HOLLYWOOD - As 2017 nears the end of its impressive and eventful run, we're here to remind you of the stories that dropped out jaws, made us gasp and got us to say, "Oh my god!"

From Harvey Weinstein's epic take down (which started a revolution) to OJ Simpson getting out of prison

after nine years in the slammer and the Bachelor in Paradise's fourth season getting put on pause, 2017 has been a series of shocking story after shocking story, some of which were sad, some devastating, many of which were scandalous and all were shocking.

*Eonline*



**DEVASTATING:** Hollywood d.

## SA Celebrity News

## Looking back at Hlubi, Kirsten's traditional wedding

JOHANNESBURG - Take a look at their Xhosa wedding with a Scottish spin.

It was a fabulous fusion fest - a traditional Xhosa wedding with a Scottish spin as the bride and groom made every effort to honour each other's heritage on their special day.

"I love this guy. He's my best friend," actress Hlubi (38) gushes about Kirsten (37), a financial consultant.

The couple have been together for just over 15 years and Kirsten's best man, Dirk Fourie, loves telling the story of how the



**FUSION FEST:** Hlubi and hubby Kirsten.

groom had been smitten with the TV star since seeing her on the soapie *Isidingo*.

*Drum*

## Solange cancels SA visit, Twitter goes crazy

NEW YORK - Solange on Wednesday night confirmed that she would not be performing at her scheduled Joburg appearance at AFROPUNK due to be held on 30 and 31 December.

In a lengthy post on her Instagram page, she said she has been battling an illness for months.

"The past five months I have been quietly treating, and working through an Autonomic Disorder. It's been a journey that hasn't been easy on me. Sometimes I feel cool, and other times not so cool at all. It's a complicated diagnoses, and I'm still learning so much myself, but right now, my doctors are not clear-



**CANCELS:** Solange.

ing me for such an extended lengthy flight, and doing a rigorous show right after." *Timeslive*

## Robbie Malinga died of pancreatic cancer

JOHANNESBURG - On Wednesday Robbie Malinga's family and friends gathered at a housing complex in northern Johannesburg to host a press conference about the musician's death.

For the first time it was revealed the musician had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in June this year. His brother, Bheki, said it was stage four and by then they knew they had limited time with Robbie.

Robbie, who died on Christmas day, battled with walking and eating in his final days. He insisted on inviting his whole extended fami-



**RIP:** Robbie Malinga.

ly to be with him on Christmas day. *TimesLIVE*

## Artist Walter Meyer stabbed to death

JOHANNESBURG - Celebrated South African artist Walter Meyer has been stabbed to death, allegedly by someone very close to him.

Northern Cape police confirmed on Wednesday that the 52-year-old Upington-based painter died two days before Christmas.

Provincial police spokesperson Lieutenant-Colonel Dimakatso Mooi said: "It is alleged that on 22 December 2017, the victim was stabbed with a sharp object when he was involved in a quarrel with the suspect."

A case of murder was opened and the 29-year-old suspect was arrested."

Mooi said the suspect appeared briefly in the Upington Magistrate's



**TRAGEDY:** Artist Walter Meyer.

Court on Wednesday and is expected to apply for bail today. "The police investigation continues," said Mooi. *Sowetan*

## WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY

Jabu surprises Zama with a big romantic gesture. Busi opens up to Bongani. A nervous Thandi and Bhukumuzi leave to go make formal introductions to his parents.



**SURPRISE:** Zama.

ISIDINGO

TODAY

The day of the launch arrives at last. Anja decides to write a heart-warming letter apologising to her father and Hendrik springs a surprise on his daughter. Nikiwe comes clean with Benjamin.



**COMES CLEAN:** Nikiwe.

Muvhango

TODAY

Sthembiso asks KK if he can talk to him - man to man. Tenda is hell-bent on keeping Pfarelo away from Azwindini. Vho-Masindi is very suspicious about the new man in Rendani's life.



**MAN TO MAN:** KK.



TODAY

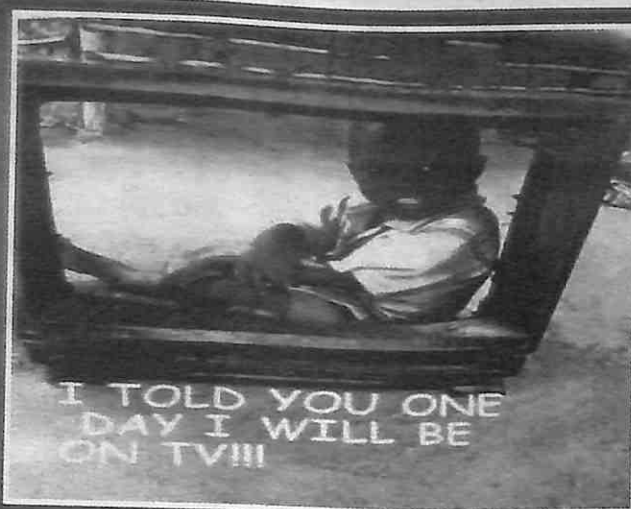


**STEPS IN:** Sabelo.

When the police drag their feet about investigating the initiation school, Sabelo decides to sort it out.



PICTURE OF THE DAY



## TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

### Capricorn December 22 – January 19

You might find your emotions stifled today. You have a great deal to say, but for some reason there's a bit of hesitation when it comes to saying it. Don't be surprised if you feel anxious in such a way that makes it difficult to communicate. Much of today's talk may be filled with fluff and not much substance.



it effectively, it may be a sign that you need to make some changes. This is a time of heightened sensitivity. Do your best to stay afloat.

### Cancer June 22 – July 22

People are hesitant to deal with deep emotional issues today. They're erecting protective barriers so the things they hear, see, and feel don't hurt them. Respect these boundaries. Do your best to stay rooted in your inner sanctuary. Try to keep a positive attitude even though the prevailing mood may be somber.



### Aquarius January 20 – February 18

You might not feel especially motivated today. Nonetheless, whether you want to or not, it's important that you attack the mountain of tasks. Understand and respect the constraints of the ticking clock. As long as you're disciplined about accomplishing one small task at a time, you won't have a problem reducing the mountain to a small pile.



### Leo July 23 – August 22

You're having a difficult time getting started today. Don't get discouraged if things don't seem to be working. Your expectations may be too high, and your perfectionism is making it difficult for anyone to live up to your standards. Don't get worked up over every little detail. Perfection isn't demanded of you.



### Pisces February 19 – March 20

You may be very busy today. This is a good time to get things done. There's a feeling of discipline that's helping you stay focused. Emotions are stifled, which may work to your advantage. Keep everything limited to the facts at hand, and work can proceed much more efficiently than if simple issues become big soap operas.



### Virgo August 23 – September 22

Be polite and try your best not to impose on other people today. It's important to behave civilly in all circumstances. People may feel like they've been cheated. Although you may not be the source of their discontent, you may feel the consequences. Keep other people's issues separate from yours, and don't let their discomfort seep into your world.



### Aries March 21 – April 19

You're having a difficult time connecting with your emotions today. Things will run more smoothly if you don't try to force yourself to act cheerful if you aren't. Be honest about your emotions. If you're feeling restless or negative, keep it to yourself. Go for a walk, preferably near water, and indulge in a good healthy meal.



### Libra September 23 – October 23

Don't blame everything on others today. It's important to be adult enough to take responsibility for your actions. Understand that things aren't always going to happen the way you want. Realise that sometimes you have to take the good with the bad.



### Scorpio October 24 – November 21

You might need to adopt a stern attitude today in order to be as effective as you'd like to be. When dealing with others, don't make assumptions for which you don't have solid backing. Other people are easily touched off, so keep things limited to the facts. Try not to stir up heavy emotions.



### Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

You may not feel like your engine is working today. For some reason, it seems like you're using the wrong fuel. Don't be surprised if it's a bit harder to get in touch with your emotional state. Your feelings are playing tricks on you. Do your best not to be thrown off balance by this energy.



### Gemini May 21 – June 21

You may get more emotional than usual when it comes to work. Do your best to keep your emotional life separate from daily responsibilities. If you feel overwhelmed by a certain job to the point where you can no longer do



## BABY BLUES



## BUCKLES



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## HOME WORDSEARCH

### PUZZLE CHOICE

#### MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, forwards

SWAGNILLIHSIKNITOTS  
DEEKAKIRGUTWRJYALYD  
RCMDRVDIMWIKOECRVUY  
NPVIVAWRCAVTNNARNAC  
TIOHTTDTTHBGLLSOONE  
OAGPHNNHHPHVLALMARE  
ZINAHEESICTOVKYRILP  
GABACCPCDUDDTFFIJKU  
KKULMEPPIPQLRRORROR  
RRSRIBAENOJPRAIRRRR  
UOQAAARRSAUTGPNMIUB  
PNXNNRAORNDAGMNRNTY  
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ARCTYRIVHRIIATHCCO  
HLTBPOVMETUGNLTGRRC  
HFSIRLKLINFHPCPTEIH  
LVSUMVACEAHSINABRTD  
UREPFHDRANORKIESIAP  
YDNARRLELBURLLEKEHS

AFGHANI, AURAR, BAHT, BANI, CENT, CENTAI, CENTIMES, DINAR, DIRHAM, DOLLAR, DRAM, EURO, FORINT, FRANC, HALERU, JIAO, KORUNA, KRONA, KRONER, KRONUR, LIRA, MANAT,

PAISE, PARA, PESO, POUND, QUINDARKA, RAND, RINGGIT, RIYAL, RUBLE, RUPEE, RUPIAH, SANTIMI, SHEKEL, SHILLING, STOTINKI, TAKA, TUGRIK, WON, YEN, YUAN.

## LOL

Laughing out Loud

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### USELESS FACTS

1. The Aztecs had a primitive form of basketball called "ollamalitzli." The difference from today's sport is that the first person to get the ball through the ring high above the ground had the right to collect the clothes right off the backs of everyone watching the game.  
2. If you were to guess at a number chosen between five and 10, you would be wrong five out of six times.  
3. Donna Griffith is credited with the longest recorded bout of sneezing.

It lasted 978 days, from January 1981 to September 1983.  
4. According to old historical opinion, Valentine's Day is a good day to prepare eels for the purposes of magic. It was once believed that eating an eel's heart would give sight of the future.  
5. The youngest person to receive a driver's licence is a 14-year eight month-old by the name of Andrezej Makowski.

### BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### Yesterday's brainteasers

1. If you had only one match, and entered a dark room containing an oil lamp, some newspaper, and some kindling wood, which would you light first?

Answer: The match.  
2. Is it legal for a man to marry his widow's sister?  
1. Answer: No, but since

he's dead it would be kind of difficult.

#### Today's brainteasers

1. Some months have 31 days, others have 30 days. How many have 28 days?  
2. Larry's father has five sons named Ten, Twenty, Thirty, Forty... Guess what would be the name of the fifth?





NEWS



# NEW DRAMA ON MZANSI MAGIC 'NKULULEKO'

THEY say life is like dominoes - it takes one fateful move for everything to fall apart. Such is the case in the new drama series, *Nkululeko*, premiering on Mzansi Magic in January 2018.

From new storytellers, Dumile Films, *Nkululeko* is a coming-of-age story set in the windswept streets of one of South Africa's most infamous townships, Khayelitsha.

Here we meet the lead, *Nkululeko* Zwai played by newcomer Aphiwe Mkefe, who is a talented mathematician preparing for a competition that could change his life and destiny forever.

When he makes an impulsive decision in a moment of blossoming love, he suddenly finds himself in deep trouble and everything he has worked so hard for falls apart - leaving his future in jeopardy.

It is at the centre of *Nkululeko*'s unravelling that we are introduced to Sibulele Nginda (Ziyanda Nyoka) who is the daughter of Khayelitsha's well-known Brigadier.

Sibu is exceptionally smart, independent and while the two are drawn to each other like moths to a flame, it is their meeting that ignites a series of events destined to change their world forever.

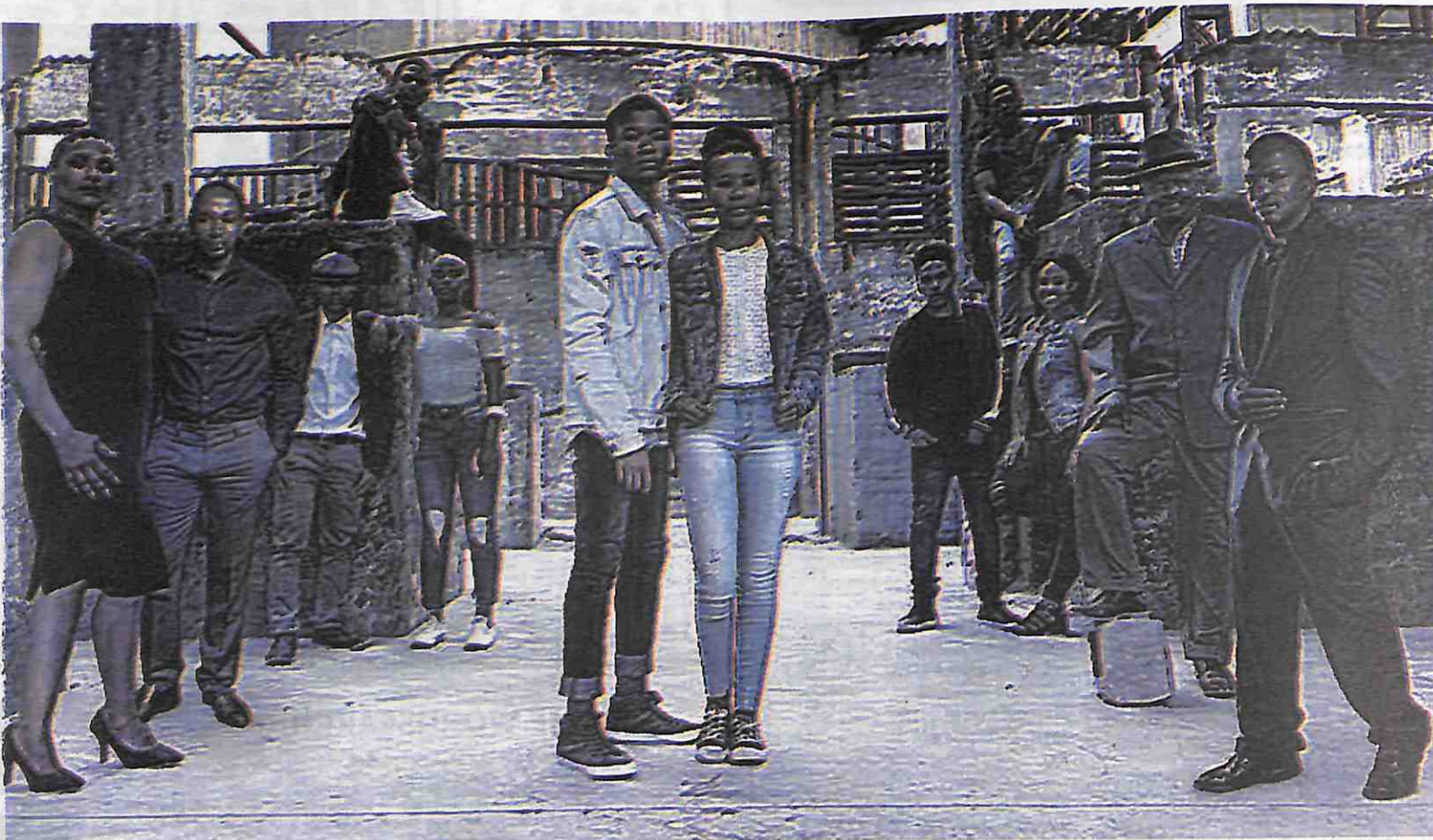
Taking on the roles of *Nkululeko*'s side-kicks are Mandla (Tisetso Thoka) and Buhle (Abongile Salli) who have to face their own demons while helping their friend come to terms with his life choices.

Buhle is a colourful hustler from a poverty-stricken family.

He believes money can end all his problems and is not afraid to dabble in criminal activities to acquire it, while Mandla is a "Cheese Boy" who is struggling to find where he belongs.

And what is a drama without protective parents? *Nkululeko*'s father,

*There's a new drama coming to Mzansi Magic where it takes just one night for things to fall apart*



Thami Zwai (Chris Gxalaba) is a caddy at a golf course whose wife left him for greener pastures.

His primary focus is to give his son all the opportunities he never had, and so does the Brigadier (Sizwe Msuthu), who's determined to protect his daughter at all costs - especially from the

influence of the troublemakers.

"Through the lives of the youngsters in *Nkululeko*, we'll delve into the dynamics of society to explore the complexities of the journey to adulthood in modern day South Africa.

At the heart of this story are great lessons about life, consequences and fate," said Reneilwe Sema, Director

of Local Entertainment Channels at M-Net.

Joining the cast for compelling 13 episodes is Tina Jaxa, Abongile Matsai, Andile Mxakaza and Jet Novuka.

"*Nkululeko* is a socially relevant story that we are proud to tell.

Having grown up in Khayelitsha, I am humbled by the opportunity given

by Mzansi Magic to showcase local stories, providing a platform to a new breed of storytellers.

Partnering up with the great Bomb Pictures has enabled us with the support to express our noteworthy stories that will be enjoyed by South Africans," said Sibulele Siko-Shosha of Dumile Films.

## 2018 SAG NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

**THE 24th Screen Actors Guild Awards are taking place in January 2018 and will be hosted by actress Kristen Bell.**

Awards season is kicking off soon, as the latest nominations have been announced. Actresses Olivia Munn and Niecy Nash announced the nominees for the 24th Screen Actors Guild Awards on Wednesday. The awards, taking place in January 2018, will be hosted by actress Kristen Bell and will be broadcast live on DStv.

Are your favourite actors and actresses nominated? Here are some of the top 2018 Screen Actors Guild Awards nominations:

### Film

**Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture**

*The Big Sick*  
Get Out (27 January at 21:00 on M-Net)

Lady Bird  
Mudbound  
Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

**Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role in a Motion Picture**

Timothée Chalamet, *Call Me by Your Name*  
James Franco, *The Disaster Artist*  
Daniel Kaluuya, *Get Out* (27 January at 21:00 on M-Net)

Gary Oldman, *Darkest Hour*  
Denzel Washington, *Roman J. Israel, Esq.*

**Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role in a Motion Picture**

Judi Dench, *Victoria*  
Sally Hawkins, *The Shape of Water*  
Frances McDormand, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*

Margot Robbie, *I, Tonya*  
Saoirse Ronan, *Lady Bird*

**Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture**

Steve Carell, *Battle of the Sexes*  
Willem Dafoe, *The Florida Project*  
Woody Harrelson, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*  
Richard Jenkins, *The Shape of Water*  
Sam Rockwell, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*

**Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture**

Mary J. Blige, *Mudbound*  
Hong Chau, *Downsizing*  
Holly Hunter, *The Big Sick*  
Allison Janney, *I, Tonya*  
Laurie Metcalf, *Lady Bird*





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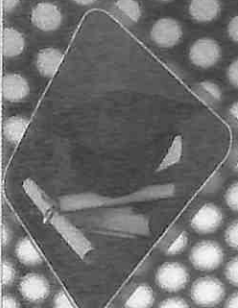
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**BY: Rev Msibi**  
**Contacts:**  
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**Wednesdays Prayer**  
6.00pm - 7.30pm

**Mondays Couples**  
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**Thursdays**  
Bible Exposition 6.00pm-7.30pm

**Fridays**  
Youth 6.00pm-7.30pm

**Saturday**  
Women 2.00pm-3.30pm

**Sundays**  
English Service 8.30am - 10.30 am

Siswati Service 11.00am - 1.00pm

**Children's Ministry** 8.30am - 10.30am, 11.00am, 1.00pm

**Men-Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** of the month 6.00pm - 7.30pm

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Contacts 2404 0979

**CHURCH - NAZARENE**  
**MBABANE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

## Services

**SUNDAY**  
8.00am - 10.00am - English Service  
8.00am - 10.00am - Siswati Service  
11.00am - 1.00pm - English Service  
11.00am - 1.00pm - Siswati Service  
**WEDNESDAY**  
6.00pm - 7.30pm - English Service  
6.00pm - 7.30pm - Siswati Service  
**THURSDAY**  
6.00pm - 7.30pm - English Service  
6.00pm - 7.30pm - Siswati Service  
**FRIDAY**  
6.00pm - 7.30pm - English Service  
6.00pm - 7.30pm - Siswati Service  
**SATURDAY**  
6.00pm - 7.30pm - English Service  
6.00pm - 7.30pm - Siswati Service  
**SUNDAYS**  
10.00am - 1.00pm - English Service  
10.00am - 1.00pm - Siswati Service



**CONTACT**  
**76180775**

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**Services**  
**Mondays**  
6pm - 7pm - Home cells  
**Wednesdays**  
6pm - 7.30pm  
**Fridays**  
6pm - 7.30pm  
**Sundays**  
Morning prayer  
5.45am - 6.30am  
Main service  
10.00am - 1.00pm

**Contact**  
76638622/76471717

**Host:**  
Pastor N.T. Dlamini

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**Siswati Service -**  
1100hrs - 1300hrs

**Every Monday**  
**Prayer:**  
1800hrs - 2000hrs

**Last Tuesdays of the Month**  
**Family Fellowship:**  
1800hrs - 2000hrs

**Every Friday**  
**Youth Services:** 1800hrs - 2000hrs

**Venue:**  
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Central Primary School

**Contacts**  
22075 020/7603 6628

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**CONTACTS**  
7671 0029/7631 4007.  
Come one come all

**FREE EVANGELICAL ASSEMBLIES SITEKI**



**Mondays Prayer**  
6.00pm-7.30pm  
**Wednesdays**  
6.00pm-7.30pm  
**Saturdays Youth**  
3.00pm  
**Sundays Women**  
9.00am-10.30am  
**Sunday School**  
9.30am - 10.30am  
**Main Service**  
10.30am - 1.00pm

**Contact**  
76638622/76471717

**Host:**  
Pastor N.T. Dlamini

**DIVINE**  
Healing Ministries International

**Manzini Branch:**  
**Wednesdays- Prayer**  
6:00-7:30pm

**Thursdays- Mid-week**  
Service 6:30-8:00pm

**Sundays- Teachings**  
9:30-10:30am

**Main Service**  
10:30am - 1pm

**Mbabane Branch:**  
**Tuesdays - Prayer**  
6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Sundays- Service**  
10am - 1pm

**DIVINE**  
Healing Ministries

## Yonder Worship Centre



**with**  
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**Sundays:**  
10am-12pm

**Venue:**  
Woodlands, Ezulwini

**GROWING FAITH**  
Ministries International

**Mondays:**  
Prayer & Transformation 6-8pm  
**Tuesdays:**  
Transformation Class at Syney Williams in Manzini 6:30-8pm  
**Fridays:**  
Breakthrough Service 6-8pm  
**Sundays:**  
Prayer 9am  
**Main Service**  
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## 16 DEATHS

**Bhekephi Sophie**  
Sibanyoni (uZulu)



VIGIL: FRIDAY  
29/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
PLACE: ENHLAMBENI

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba gogo Bhekephi Sophie Sibanyoni (uZulu) kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ekhaya kakhe eNhlambeni (Manzini) ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 30/12/2017 ekuseni nga 5.00am, kulandzela umlindzelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa yindvodzana yakhe, Joseph Bheka Sibanyoni egameni lemndeni.

Dx: 30/12/17 Rn: 187001

**Shadrack Mandlenkosi Lushaba**



VIGIL: FRIDAY  
29/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
PLACE: EHLUTHI

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani baShadrack Mandlenkosi Lushaba kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Utofihlwa ekhaya kubo eHluthi ngemgcibelo ekuseni mhlaka 30 December 2017 emva kwemlindzelo ngalesihlanu. Simemetelo sikhishwa nguMnakabo Abel Driver Lushaba egameni lemndeni.

**Sakhephi Mavuso**



VIGIL: FRIDAY  
29/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
PLACE: KAMAKHWELELA

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani baSakhephi Mavuso kutsi akasekho emhlabeni ufihlwa ngemgcibelo 30/12/2017 emvakwemlindzelo lotaba mhlaka 29/12/2017 ekhaya lakhe ka Makhwelela. Simemetelo indvodza yakhe Magi Nzima

**Magobhiyane Sibonangaye Dvuba**



VIGIL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SUNDAY  
31/12/2017  
PLACE: VELEZIZWENI

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Magobhiyane Sibonangaye Dvuba kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ngeliSontfo mhlaka 31 December 2017 ekhaya kubo ka Velezizweni emvakwemlindzelo ngeMgcibelo 30 December 2017. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Makhelwane Dvuba umnakabo.



people don't always need advice sometimes all they need is a hand to hold

**Syabonga Vincent Ngcamphalala**



VIGIL: FRIDAY  
29/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
PLACE: KANDUNAZITHINI

Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni waSyabonga Vincent Ngcamphalala kutsi akasekho emhlabeni ufihlwa kaNdunazithini ngemgcibelo umlindzelo ungalesihlanu. Longasekho emhlabeni ngu Syabonga Vincent Ngcamphalala, Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Babe Bonkosi Ngcamphalala

**Bethusile Nomfundo Methuula (Bethu)**



VIGIL: FRIDAY  
29/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
PLACE: NKAMBENI

Relatives and friends of Bethusile Nomfundo Methuula (Bethu) of Nkambeni are notified of her sudden demise on the 21st of December 2017. The Methuula family of Nkambeni and Dlamini family of Mshingishingini (indlu yaNgangaza) are all notified that she will be laid to rest to rest on Saturday 30th December 2017 after a night vigil at Nkambeni her homestead. Announcement by her father Thomas Maniki Methuula and family.

**Daniel M Shongwe**



VIGIL: FRIDAY  
29/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
PLACE: ENGCULWINI

Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni taDaniel M Shongwe kutsi akasekho emhlabeni, utawufihlwa ekhaya lakhe ngemgcibelo 30/12/2017 emvakwemlindzelo 29/12/2017 eNgculwini Ntabamhlosane sitieshi

**Tsakasile Martha Mohale**



VIGIL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SUNDAY  
31/12/2017  
PLACE: EKUTSIMULENI

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Tsakasile Martha Mohale kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa baka Nkhosi ekhayakubo eNyakeni. Utawufihlwa ngeliSontfo mhlaka 31 December 2017, umlindzelo ungeMgcibelo mhlaka 30 December 2017 ekhakhakhe eKutsimuleni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Bongani Mohale umyeni wakhe egameni lemndeni.

THOSE WE LOVE  
DON'T GO AWAY,  
THEY WALK BESIDE  
US EVERYDAY.

**Zablon Mkulute Mabuza**



VIGIL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SUNDAY  
31/12/2017  
PLACE: KUDWALILE

Zablon Mkulute Mabuza usishiyile emhlabeni kwatiswa bonkhe bendlu ya Mjaji eMliba nase Nyakeni nebaka Nkhosi ekhakhakhe eMashobeni. Kulindzela ngeMgcibelo 30 December 2017 afihlwe ngeliSontfo ku Dwalile ekhaya lakhe

**Nomphumelelo Doreen Vilakati**



VIGIL: KUTE  
FUNERAL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
PLACE: EGEBENI

Kwatiswa labati Nomphumelelo Doreen Vilakati kutsi sosishiyile. Ufihlwa eGebeni ka Nkhosi celeni kwe Primary ngeMgcibelo 30/12/17. Kute umlindzelo kwatiswa baka Mngometulu eNtshanini, ka Mdluli elabulani baka Manana kagogo wakhe kanye nala bekasebenta nabo eF. T. M. Garment. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu babe wakhe Vincent Vilakati.

REST IN PEACE



**Nelson Senzo Underson**



MEMORIAL: FRIDAY  
29/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
PLACE: MHOBODLENI

Friends and relatives of Nelson Senzo Underson are notified of his demise, he will be laid to rest on Saturday 30/12/17 at his parental home at Mhobodleni. There will be a memorial service held at Cathedral on the 29/12/17 at 2 pm. Announcement by his family.

**Phetseni Sisteli Dlamini**



VIGIL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SUNDAY  
31/12/2017  
PLACE: KUMALINDZA

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani nabasesontfweni lakhe e ZCC inkhanyeti eNgculwini nebasekhaya kubo ka Dlamini eSiweni kuMalindza nebasekhakhakhe kaMabuza eMaphopheni Kumalindza kutsi akasekho emhlabeni Phetseni Sisteli Dlamini. Utofihlwa ekhakhakhe eMaphopheni kuMalindza NgeliSontfo emvakwemlindzelo longeMgcibelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumkhulu wakhe Adam Mabuza.



**Calvin Makhosini Dlamini**



VIGIL: FRIDAY  
29/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
PLACE: HHUKWINI

Friends and relatives of Calvin Makhosini Dlamini are notified of his demise. Memorial service will be at Mbabane Central High School on 29 December 2017 at 1 pm and funeral at Hhukwini on Saturday at 5 am after a night vigil.

**Mildred Lukhele**



VIGIL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SUNDAY  
31/12/2017  
PLACE: ENHLAMBENI

Relatives and friends of Mildred Lukhele are notified of her dismissal. She lived at Nhlambeni and worked for R. S. P based at Police Acade. She will be laid to rest on Sunday at her parental home at Nhlambeni after a night vigil on Saturday. Announcement on her mother Agnes Bikwaphi Nleko.

WISHING YOU  
PEACE TO  
BRING COMFORT,  
COURAGE  
TO FACE  
THE DAYS AHEAD  
AND LOVING  
MEMORIES  
TO FOREVER  
HOLD IN  
YOUR  
HEART

**Siphiwe Mantfombi Nxumalo uVilakati**



VIGIL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SUNDAY  
31/12/2017  
PLACE: KUMALINDZA

Make Siphiwe Mantfombi Nxumalo uVilakati. Tihlobo nemndeni tiyatiswa kutsi sewusishiyile emhlabeni. Uyobekwa ekhaya lakhe ngeliSontfo mhlaka 31/12/2017 nga 5am emva kwemlindzelo ngeMgcibelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni lala ngekhuthula Ngwendze.

**William B. Manana**



VIGIL: SATURDAY  
30/12/2017  
FUNERAL: SUNDAY  
31/12/2017  
PLACE: ENGCULWINI

Kwatiswa tihlobo tababe William B. Manana kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa baka Manana Velonkhe, bekhobonina ka Mkhawatswa elwandle, baka Msibi neba Mkhawatswa ekhakhakhe. Ufihlwa eNgculwini (Mhlamanti) ngeliSontfo mhlaka 31/12/2017 kulindzela ngeMgcibelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumkakhe egameni lemndeni.



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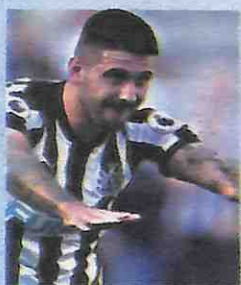
## BRIEFS

## 'I went for a win against City'

**NEWCASTLE** - Newcastle United Manager Rafael Benitez explained his team selection after Wednesday's 1-0 defeat to Manchester City at St James' Park. The Spaniard made five changes for the match, in which a single goal from Raheem Sterling gave City their 18th consecutive win, but insisted that it was not done with one eye on tomorrow's clash against Brighton & Hove Albion. "It was not about resting players for Saturday," Benitez said. "It was about trying to play the best players possible to try to get something from this game. We were trying to win this game." "We cannot forget we have a couple of games in a few games time against teams at the bottom of the table, but today the idea was to have players with pace to play counter-attack, and try to create something." *AFP*

## Mitrovic seeking January departure

**LONDON** - Out-of-favour Newcastle United striker Aleksandar Mitrovic is looking to move on during the January transfer window after limited opportunities at St James' Park. The Serbia international has struggled to make an impact on Tyne side in the two-and-a-half years since his switch from



Anderlecht in 2015. Mitrovic scored nine Premier League goals in his debut season as the Magpies suffered relegation to the Championship, which they won at the first attempt last term to make a swift return to the top flight. However, the 23-year-old contributed just four goals in 25 appearances during their promotion-winning campaign and has yet to be handed a league start in 2017/18. *Sport24*

## Zlatan withdrawal tactical - Mourinho

**MANCHESTER** - Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho insists his decision to haul off Zlatan Ibrahimovic at half-time against Burnley was purely for tactical reasons. The 36-year-old striker was handed his first Premier League start of the season on Tuesday for the visit of Sean Dyche's side to Old Trafford. Ibrahimovic had little impact on the game in the first half as the Red Devils found themselves trailing 2-0 at the break, after Ashley Barnes opened the scoring in the third minute before Steven Defour doubles the 'Clarets' lead with a superb free-kick on 36 minutes. *Sport24*

## 'New players can boost Swansea'

**SWANSEA** - Swansea City need to recruit players in the January transfer window to provide a much-needed boost to both morale and performance at the Premier League's bottom side, caretaker Manager Leon Britton has said. Swansea's 5-0 defeat by Liverpool on Tuesday marked their ninth defeat in 12 games, leaving the Welsh side five points adrift of safety, having won just three of 20 matches so far. The 'Swans' escaped relegation last season after recruiting Martin Olsson, Tom Carroll, Luciano Narsingh and Jordan Ayew in January and Britton is hopeful that a raft of new signings would have a similar impact this time around. "We have January coming up," Britton told the club's website. ([www.swansea-city.com](http://www.swansea-city.com)) "I am sure there will be some fresh faces coming in and we need that." *Reuters*

## NOT WORTH IT!



## Shearer questions Liverpool's mega-money Van Dijk swoop

**LIVERPOOL** - VIRGIL VAN DIJK is NOT worth the £75m Liverpool have spent to get him.

Van Dijk will move to Anfield on January 1 after a mega transfer deal was agreed yesterday. The Southampton man was a top target for Kop boss Jurgen Klopp in the summer but he couldn't get him.

Saints weren't interested in a £60m deal then but have now decided to cash-in for £15m more.

And ex-Southampton man Shearer thinks Liverpool have

massively overpaid for the Dutchman.

"Southampton have got one hell of a deal," he said on BBC Radio 5 Live.

"Van Dijk is a good player, yes, but for £75m? No, he's not worth it at all.

"Southampton could have named any price they wanted.

"They knew Liverpool were absolutely desperate for a centre-half.

"Everyone is aware they are desperate - we have seen them come up short several times this season.

"We've been saying it for a number of years now - that transfer fees have gone through the roof - and this one has taken it to another level."

Van Dijk will become the world's most expensive defender when the transfer is rubber-stamped on New Year's Day.

Manchester City the two previous highest amounts when buying Kyle Walker (£42m) and Benjamin Mendy (£52m) this summer.

Van Dijk could make his debut against Everton in the FA Cup.

*Daily Mail*

## Everyone's just wild about Harry Kane...even Wenger

**LONDON** - The acclaim for the goal-scoring feats of Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane has been the deafening soundtrack to the festive football programme as even Arsene Wenger, Manager of the club that let him out of their grasp, joined in on Wednesday.

Arsenal boss Wenger once admitted to being "a bit angry" when he learned how his club had let a nine-year-old Kane leave after a year in the Gunners' junior ranks only for the boy to become a phenomenon for their nearest and biggest rivals.

Yet, after Kane became Europe's premier marksman of the year on Tuesday with his 56th goal of 2017 in Spurs' 5-2 thrashing of Southampton, even Wenger was in the mood to salute the one that got away up to the other end of London's Seven Sisters Road.

"He has done it and would I have predicted it? I would modestly say no," Wenger admitted, when asked about Kane's remarkable feat on Wednesday.

"What he has done is beat people like (Lionel) Messi and (Cristiano) Ronaldo, who are unbeatable in my head, so what he has done is absolutely fantastic."

Whereas Messi, who has scored 54 for Barcelona and Argentina, and Ronaldo (53 for Real Madrid



**GOAL DIGGER:** Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane in action against Southampton at Wembley Stadium on Tuesday.

and Portugal), made their hay in La Liga, the England striker's achievement was even more special because it was set in a more competitive Premier League, reckoned Wenger.

"Yes, that is why I say that what he has achieved is absolutely amazing," said Wenger, echoing the plaudits that suggest the blossoming of the 24-year-old is a reason for English football to be particularly cheerful going into a World Cup year.

Alan Shearer, whose calendar year record of 36 Premier League goals that Kane broke against Southampton en route to taking his tally with a hat-trick to 39, warned that Kane's heroics would

only heighten the interest of giants like Real Madrid and Barcelona.

"It's inevitable they will come calling or come asking, because he's that good a player and wouldn't look out of place in either of those teams," Shearer, the Premier League's record scorer, told the BBC, he felt it was not a given that Kane would leave Spurs, though, unless they failed to win any silverware.

"That could be a huge call if Tottenham in two or three years haven't won a trophy and his form is still as good as it is," said Shearer. "Then he'll have a big question to answer, because I'm sure the big boys will come calling." *Reuters*

## Bolasie blessed to be back for Everton

**LONDON** - Yannick Bolasie says it is a "blessing" to be back playing for Everton after making his return for the club in their Boxing Day draw with West Bromwich Albion.

The 28-year-old DR Congo international winger has been sidelined for a year with cruciate knee ligament damage.

A former Plymouth Argyle and Bristol City player, Bolasie joined the Toffees from Crystal Palace for £25m at the beginning of last season.

He made his return to competitive action in the 0-0 draw on Tuesday, playing an hour at the Hawthorns.

Speaking after the game, the winger described just how hard it was to recover.

"There are times when you don't know when the end of the road is coming or when you're going to be back training or start playing, it's hard to see," he said.

"When I started seeing a little bit of light that was great for myself, then Tuesday has just been a blessing. "I didn't want to come back and just have my name on the shirt and not be the same kind of player, but I felt like with a bit more match sharpness I will be probably even better. "It was totally different to what I'd been used to for the last year. It still hasn't hit me, to be honest. It might take a couple of games.

"I don't know when I'm going to sit down and think to myself, 'You're back, Yann'." *Sport24*

## Pep's secret recipe working out for City

**MANCHESTER** - Pep Guardiola has warned Manchester City's Premier League rivals that his team will find a way to win in every match.

Guardiola's side stretched their lead at the top of the Premier League to 15-points over Manchester United on Wednesday with a 1-0 victory at Newcastle United.

Rafael Benitez's men attempted to stop City with an ultra-defensive approach, but Raheem Sterling's first-half goal proved to be enough despite some late pressure from the hosts.

Speaking after the game Guardiola talked about how he had to set up his team to win in the face of his opponent's defensive approach.

"As a manager, I have to adapt my team to convince them. In these 18 games, we have played against teams who have done high pressing, low pressing, counter-attacks, just set pieces, just like Tottenham who tried to go forward and attack, and in all of them, we have been able to beat them," said Guardiola.

"The magnificent thing about football and any manager of any team is they can play any way. "Teams can try to trick you, but you have to be able to beat them and until now we have been able to do that. Until now, we have found a way to win." The win could have been more comfortable as City hit the woodwork twice through Sergio Aguero and Magpies keeper Rob Elliot made several important saves.

"Of course, this was tough - it's the Premier League and everyone says this is the toughest one. But if you analyse 90 minutes, we were much, much better and created enough chances in the first-half and the start of the second half," added Guardiola. *Sport24*





## Marlin reunites with Ertugral at Ajax

**CAPE TOWN** - Calvin Marlin has departed Cape Town City to join up with new Ajax Cape Town head coach Muhsin Ertugral at the Urban Warriors.

Last week Ertugral was appointed as Ajax coach for the fourth time after Stanley Menzo was sacked. Menzo's former right-hand man Boebie Solomons will now make way for Marlin, who was head-hunted by Ertugral.

The 41-year-old Marlin previously had a spell at Ajax as a goalkeeper between 1999 and 2003 and also worked with Ertugral on the Black Aces technical team (Aces were later sold to form Cape Town City, where Marlin has spent the last 18 months). He also represented SuperSport United, Mamelodi Sundowns and Bafana Bafana during his playing days.

"Once Muhsin got the job he got in touch with me straight away and I was immediately intrigued," Marlin told the Ajax website. "I thought about it for a couple of minutes and decided it's an opportunity I can't pass up on." "This is a great opportunity for me to grow as an individual and I am confident we can get the team back to it's best and playing with pride and passion."

"This is a big jump for me, but having worked with Muhsin at Aces I know what is expected from me. I want to learn and grow as a coach and this is the perfect platform." "Muhsin wants the best 24/7, there is no quarter given and he has shown in the past that he can inspire a quick turnaround in fortunes." *Teamtalk*

## Orlando Pirates return to training after festive break

**JOHANNESBURG** - Orlando Pirates' players and technical staff have returned to training following a two-week recess.

Pirates have confirmed their commencement of preparations for the second half of the season, which kicks off in the first week of January.

"After spending almost two weeks away from the training field, Orlando Pirates players returned to work on Wednesday afternoon to begin preparations for the restart of the ABSA Premiership season," read a club statement yesterday.

"The return of the team precedes that of the office staff who return to work the following week, on January 3. "Head coach Micho Sredojevic and his technical team opted for a light session yesterday [Wednesday], however, as we approach the end of the week, the strength and conditioning team will be tasked with burning off some of those festive season kilos." Their return to action would have seen new signings Phetso Maphanga and Diamond Thopola report for duty, prior to their registration which will take place in January. The former Chippa United duo could feature when The Buccaneers host Baroka in their first fixture of the new year on January 6. *Kickoff*

# CAPE TOWN CITY SUSS OUT PIRATES' MDC COACH JACOBS

**CAPR TOWN** - KickOff.com has established that Cape Town City could rope in Orlando Pirates' MultiChoice Diski Challenge coach Rayaan Jacobs to serve as Benni McCarthy's assistant.

McCarthy's former assistant Ian Taylor recently left the club to take up a role at Chinese side Guangzhou.

According to a source close to City, McCarthy is excited to work with Jacobs.

"He [Jacobs] and Benni both share an immense passion for the game and they will work well together," says the source.

Jacobs was a technical analyst before being promoted to Pirates' MDC team.

Meanwhile, new Ajax Cape

Town coach Muhsin Ertugral wasted no time in poaching goalkeeper coach Calvin Marlin from the Citizens to serve as his assistant. The pair previously worked together at Mpumalanga Black Aces.

Marlin takes over from Boebie

Solomons, who spent six months with the Urban Warriors. *Kickoff*



TO BE ASSISTED: Benni McCarthy.

## Ndoro Surfaces In Cape Town

**CAPE TOWN** - The Siya crew has been reliably informed by a source in the know that a former Orlando Pirates striker has surfaced in Cape Town.

As reported on the Soccer Laduma website earlier today, sources revealed that Tendai Ndoro is currently being linked with a return to Mzansi's top flight.

The Zimbabwean international made the move to Saudi Arabian outfit, Al-Faisaly, during the July/August transfer window period.

However, sources have since revealed to the crew that the player has been spotted training with Ajax Cape Town under the watchful eye of his former head coach, Muhsin Ertugral.

Ndoro was under the mentorship of Ertugral during the head coach's short stint with Pirates in the 2016/17 campaign, where the Zimbabwean scored seven goals before Ertugral's departure from the club.

It comes as no surprise that Ertugral may be showing interest in trying to bring the player to the Urban Warriors, with indications that Ndoro will be able to help the team turn their form around in the second half of the 2017/18 campaign.

*Sign*

It remains to be seen if Ajax do sign the player, with indications that talks of a possible deal have started.

*Soccerladuma*

## 'I still believe in Majoro, I hope Bobby Motaung goes for him'

**JOHANNESBURG** - It was confirmed earlier yesterday that Cape Town City has parted ways with one of their strikers, Lehlohonolo Majoro, who had joined the Citizens at the beginning of 2016/17 season from Soweto giants Orlando Pirates.

It is still unclear where "Major" will be heading to next for the second round of the 2017/18 season, which resumes in just over a week.

*Members*

Supporters Club members have reacted to the player's sudden departure from the Citizens, considering he still has six months on his contract with the club.

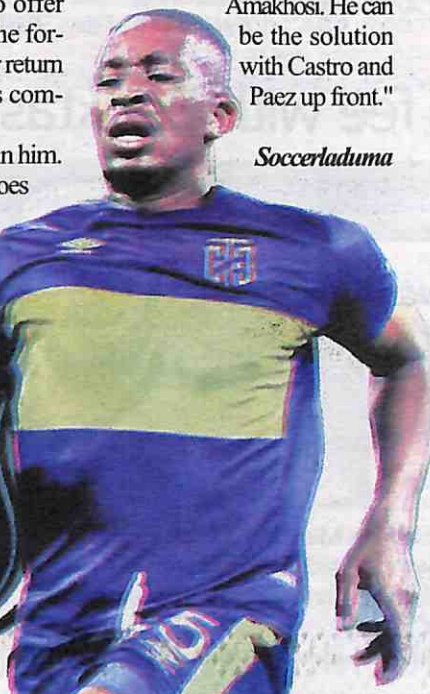
One of our members,

Tebogo Mahlaba, believes that Majoro still has a lot to offer and would love to see the former Kaizer Chiefs striker return to Naturena. Here is his comment:

Tebogo: "I still believe in him. I hope Bobby Motaung goes for him on a short-term contract. He can help us up

front, he knows the style of Amakhosi. He can be the solution with Castro and Paez up front."

*Soccerladuma*



## BRIEFS

### Chippa snap up Macuphu

**JOHANNESBURG** - Chippa United have made their second signing of the mid-season break, having brought in mid-fielder Mxolisi Macuphu from Jomo Cosmos. The Chilli Boys also signed Thabo Rakhale from Orlando Pirates with Phetso Mphanga and Diamond Thopola going in the opposite direction. Macuphu, 28, has experience in playing in the top-flight from a previous spells at Golden Arrows and a brief stint at Polokwane City. In the National First Division (NFD), he turned out for Royal Eagles before joining Cosmos in 2015. His move to the Chilli Boys was confirmed by the NFD club: "BREAKING NEWS...@Jomo\_CosmosFC sell Mxolisi Macuphu to @ChippaUnitedFC."

*Teamtalk*



### Arrows sign Venter from FS Stars

**JOHANNESBURG** - Golden Arrows have announced the signing of Free State Stars winger Danny Venter as their first signing of the January transfer window. The acquisition of the experienced left-footed player has sparked rumours that he may be a direct replacement for in-demand playmaker Kudakwashe Mahachi. Mahachi has attracted the interest of Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates in recent weeks but with the arrival of Venter, Clinton Larsen has secured a more than adequate addition to his squad. "We would like to announce that we have secured the services of Danny Venter," the club announced on their official Twitter account on Wednesday. *Teamtalk*

### Celtic willing to sell Mahlasela

**JOHANNESBURG** - Kabelo Mahlasela could potentially be moving to Kaizer Chiefs in January, but only if Amakhosi meet Bloemfontein Celtic's asking price.

According to a report on the Goal website, Phunya Sele Sele are willing to part with their start midfielder if Chiefs meet their valuation. If not, the Glamour Boys could potentially get their man for free in July when his contract runs out. That would likely increase the risk of other suitors making a move for the talented 26-year-old, although he could also potentially sign a pre-contract with Chiefs in January. "The latest news is that Celtic told Chiefs to meet their asking price or wait until July to have Mahlasela," claimed an unnamed source. *Sport24*



# KLOPP OPEN TO GRUJIC, WOODBURN LOAN

**LIVERPOOL** - Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp says he may loan out a few players in January if it makes sense for the club.

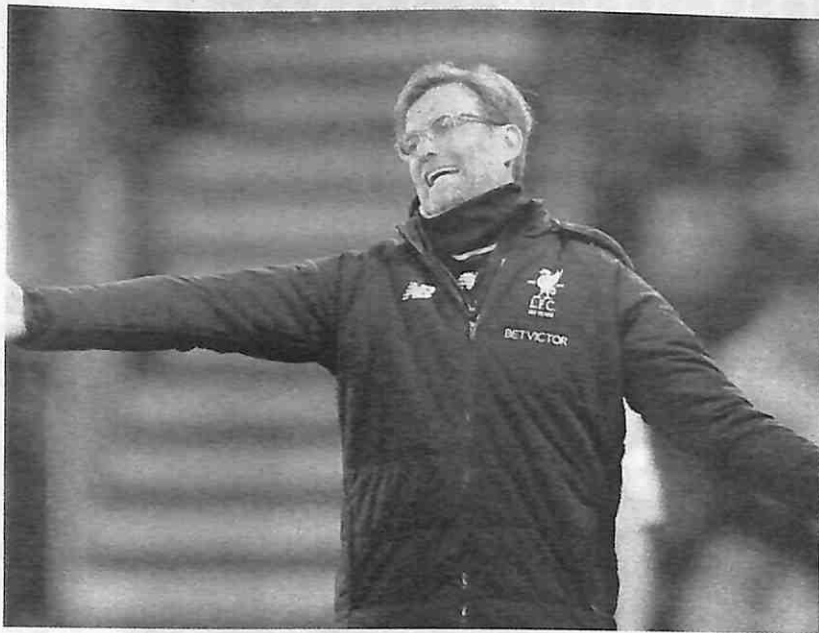
The Reds have already announced the record capture of Southampton centre-back Virgil van Dijk for £75 million and may follow up with some more new faces at Anfield during the transfer window.

When asked whether Serbian midfielder Marko Grujic and Welsh striker Ben Woodburn could potentially be loaned out, the German mentor said that would only consider loan deals for certain players.

He told the club's official website: "We will see. These boys are all really close - much closer than you can see when I do the squad."

"We have to decide at one point if it makes sense that they stay. For a lot of them, it makes sense that they stay here because we need them. For a few, maybe it makes a little bit less sense."

"We will see - nothing is decided so



**STILL NOT SURE:** Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp.

far. We will see which clubs are asking and then we have to make a decision whether it is good for the boy or

not and all these things. "But, really, for most of them there will be no transfer window. They will stay here." *Sport24*

## Joshua vs Parker takes 'giant leap forward'

**LONDON** - Anthony Joshua and Joseph Parker could come face-to-face as early as mid-January, with their proposed unification clash expected to be finalised in the coming days.

Representatives for the New Zealand fighter are set to fly to London next week to put the final touches to a deal that will see two unbeaten world champions collide in March or April next year.

Following months of negotiations, Parker's side expect to return a contract

to Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn last Friday after the two camps

finally agreed a purse split - of between 70-30 per cent and 65-35 per cent in AJ's favour.

A date and venue for the mega-fight have yet to be agreed, with Hearn revealing last week that March 24, March 31 and April 7 are currently being considered alongside a number of stadiums including Twickenham and Cardiff's Principality Stadium.

But Parker's promoter David Higgins told Sportsmail yesterday that the fight is a 'giant leap forward', with the WBO champion hoping to come to London as early as the middle of next month to begin the promotional tour.

The New Zealander's team had originally hoped to secure a 40 per cent stake in the fight, before dropping

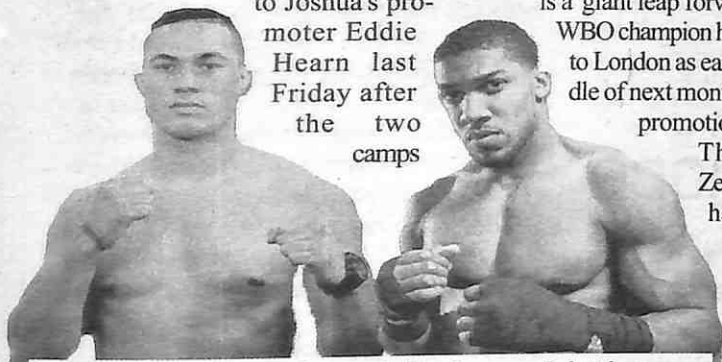
their demands to 35.

Now, Higgins claims the two camps have each made small concessions that mean 'both sides are happy and that we're a whole lot closer.'

'I'd like to pay tribute to Anthony Joshua and Eddie Hearn,' Higgins said. 'They've both said they want to unify. Talk is cheap but by stepping up on this occasion they're proving that they do actually want to unify as does our side and Joseph Parker.'

Joshua, the WBA and IBF champion, would be the heavy favourite for the unification bout. But the WBO king's team have accused AJ in recent months of having a 'glass jaw', even holding a press conference to highlight the British fighter's perceived frailties.

'Most of the blinded British fans think Joshua is this unbeatable messiah with no chinks in his armour when, in fact, there are many. By the time I've finished my job they're going to think Parker's the favourite,' Higgins claimed yesterday. *Daily Mail*



**READY TO FIGHT:** Joseph Parker and Anthony Joshua.

## Everton agree £25m fee with Besiktas for Tosun

**LONDON** - Besiktas striker Cenk Tosun is poised to become Sam Allardyce's first signing as Everton boss after a £25million transfer fee was agreed.

Sportsmail reported the Goodison Park club's interest in the 26-year-old this week and the Toffees have since made a breakthrough in their talks with Besiktas.

Tosun has also been a target for Newcastle and Crystal Palace but Everton's financial clout and ambition have convinced him that a move to Merseyside is for him. He is set to sign a four-and-a-half year deal.

Tosun has been a key figure in Besiktas's Champions League run this season and

**NEW SIGNING:** Former Besiktas striker Cenk Tosun.



they face Bayern Munich in the last 16. Allardyce remains keen to add Steven Nzonzi from Sevilla too and a left-sided defender.

Everton, who drew 0-0 with West

Brom on Boxing Day, have scored 24 goals in 20 Premier League games this season.

Leading scorer Wayne Rooney has netted 10 of those goals. *Daily Mail*



## Morfou brothers enter Platinum Stars race

**DURBAN** - KickOff.com has learnt that former Mpumalanga Black Aces owners, the Morfou brothers, have joined the race to buy Platinum Stars.

According to a well-placed source, siblings George and Mario hope to secure a deal with 'Dikwena' in the new year.

"There has been meetings. There is progress," says the source.

"The Morfou brothers are determined to buy the club."

"The only challenge now is to

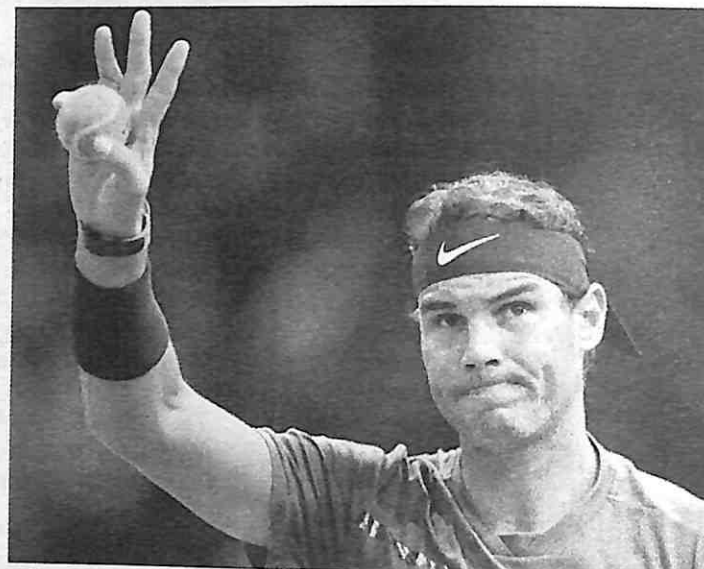
relocate the club from Rustenburg to Johannesburg.

"The discussions are ongoing."

Businessman Thabo Mokgatle has also been linked with purchasing the Premiership outfit, which is reportedly undergoing financial challenges.

Cape Town City were formed last season when the Morfou brothers sold the topflight status of Aces to ex-Ajax Cape Town boss John Comitis.

*KickOff*



**CHOOSING:** World No 1 Rafael Nadal.

## Nadal pulls out of Brisbane, but says yes to Oz Open

**BRISBANE** - World No 1 Rafael Nadal has withdrawn from the Brisbane International with a knee injury, but said he still intends to play in next month's Australian Open.

The Spaniard, who hasn't played since losing to David Goffin at the World Tour Finals in London, was scheduled to start his season in Brisbane this weekend, but said he would now not be coming.

"I am sorry to announce I won't be coming to Brisbane this year," Nadal said on Twitter yesterday.

"My intention was to play but I am still not ready after last year's long season and the late start of my preparation." But Nadal said he still planned to play in the year's opening Grand Slam tournament, starting in Melbourne on January 15. "I will be seeing my Aussie

fans when I land on the 4th (of January) in Melbourne and start there my preparation for the Australian Open," he added.

Reports casting doubt over Nadal's recovery from an injury to his right knee surfaced last week when he pulled out of an exhibition in Abu Dhabi this week and took at least four days off from practice.

Nadal, 31, has had a stellar 2017, claiming a 10th French Open, a third US Open crown and the year-ending world number one spot.

Nadal added two Masters titles at Monte Carlo and Madrid to his triumphs at Roland Garros and Flushing Meadows, finishing the campaign with six trophies. The 16-time Grand Slam champion also secured the year-ending top ranking for a fourth time.

*AFP*



# MILAN'S PATRICK CUTRONE DUMPS INTER OUT OF CUP

**MILAN** - Milan teenager Patrick Cutrone scored a sensational extra-time goal to dump Inter Milan out of the Italian Cup on Wednesday and book a semifinal showdown with Lazio.

The 19-year-old broke through after 109 minutes under driving rain at the San Siro after the match had ended 0-0 in regular time to set up a two-legged semifinal against the Romans who saw off Fiorentina 1-0 on Tuesday.

The victory was a welcome relief for new Milan coach Gennaro Gattuso who had likened the clash to "a World Cup final". "To think that yesterday I was in Primavera (Milan's youth team), now cheering at San Siro with this magnificent crowd is something incredible," said Cutrone who was booked for taking his jersey off in the celebrations after scoring.

"I think this victory was necessary for morale, the derby can't be described as a normal game, but now we're enjoying this victory and this shift and from tomorrow we will think about the challenge against Fiorentina."

Milan went into the game in 11th place in Serie A, a massive 21 points behind league leaders Napoli, meaning the Italian Cup and the Europa League, where they have made the last



**SCORED: Patrick Cutrone.**

32, are their only avenues to silverware this season.

But it was a third consecutive defeat for Inter who are third in Serie A, five points off the leaders.

Luciano Spalletti's Inter have lost steam following their strong start to the season, already needing penalties to get past third division Pordenone in the last round. Goalkeeper Antonio Donnarumma made his senior debut

for Milan as younger brother Gianluigi Donnarumma and Marco Storari were both injured.

And the 27-year-old - who joined Milan last summer as part of the negotiations for the renewal of his brother's contract - had a baptism of fire with the video assistant referee (VAR) coming to his rescue in the first half as he awkwardly turned the ball into his own net. **AFP**

## Inter set tough Lazio test after Cup flop

**MILAN** - Inter Milan turn their focus back to their flagging Serie A campaign after their Italian Cup derby flop hosting Lazio tomorrow looking to keep pace with leading duo Napoli and Juventus who are jostling to end 2017 on top.

Luciano Spalletti's side - third in Serie A five points behind leaders Napoli - have now suffered three consecutive losses and face a tough task against fifth-placed Lazio to keep their Scudetto ambitions on track.

A defeat to the Romans would see Inter drop further behind the leaders as Napoli look set to end 2017 top of the Italian football league table for the second time in three years at third-from-bottom Crotone today.

Napoli have 45 points from 18 games ahead of their trip further south to Calabria, just one ahead of Juventus, who saw off title-rivals AS Roma 1-0 last weekend, and travel to second-from-bottom Verona tomorrow.

Inter are third two points ahead of Roma with Lazio a further two points back in fifth with the two teams from the capital both having a game in hand.

Spalletti was scathing of his players, including leading Serie A scorer Mauro Icardi and winger

Ivan Perisic after a 1-0 extra-time defeat to Milan which ended their Italian Cup ambitions.

"It seems as if here they want to convince you that that's how it works, that you can perform below par, that it can happen," said Spalletti whose side focus on Serie A with no European football this season.

"Before there was total conviction in our qualities. You can see they can't recapture that. On a psychological level, we must turn a corner, and realise that we should do more."

Napoli stayed top for Christmas with captain Marek Hamsik scoring his 116th goal in a come-from-behind win against Sampdoria to overtake Argentine legend Diego Maradona as the club's all-time record goalscorer.

And the southerners are firmly on track to challenge reigning six-time champions Juventus for their first Serie A title since the days of Maradona in 1987 and 1990.

"So far we have shown that we can achieve great results, but being ahead now counts very little, we have to head up to Crotone and give our best, there are three to four teams fighting for the summit," said Napoli's Brazilian midfielder Allan. **AFP**

## Puel seeks consistency from Leicester

**LEICESTER** - Leicester City's attractive style of play will count for little if they cannot find more consistency in the Premier League, Manager Claude Puel said.

Leicester have blended their counter attacking approach with a style that lays emphasis on possession and playing on the ground since the Frenchman took charge of the club in October.

While the resultant displays are pleas-

ing to the eye, Puel was keen to stress after the 2-1 loss to Watford on Tuesday that grinding out results was equally important.

"We try to play on the floor. We need to have more control in our games and we need to improve because it's important to have good results at the same time," Puel told the Leicester Mercury.

"When we won four games, it was a very good period, with quality. Always, we've played good games. Just against

Crystal Palace, there was not enough concentration or quality.

"To continue this hard work on the pitch and to have good results for the confidence to improve, this is the most important thing."

Leicester, who are eighth in the table, are looking to end a run of three games without a victory when they take on fourth-placed Liverpool in the league tomorrow.

**Reuters**

## Sturridge suffers fresh injury setback

**LIVERPOOL** - Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp said striker Daniel Sturridge has sustained a muscle injury and is likely to miss this weekend's Premier League clash with Leicester City.

Sturridge's injury problems have limited him to three goals in just 14 appearances across all competitions this campaign and the 28-year-old last played in Liverpool's Champions League win over Spartak Moscow on December 6.

"Daniel Sturridge was ill and now (has) a little

muscle thing. It's not a big deal, to be honest, but in this period all these things keep you away from games," Klopp told the club's website. ([www.liverpoolfc.com](http://www.liverpoolfc.com))

"That's not too cool for us, of course, but since yesterday not a lot (else happened)."

The England international has been hampered by injuries throughout his career and has missed six previous league games for Liverpool this season due to illness and injury.

Fourth-placed Liverpool thrashed Swansea City 5-0 on Tuesday and host Leicester at Anfield tomorrow.

**Reuters**



**TELLS ALL:** Dwight Yorke has revealed details of a conversation he had with Sir Alex Ferguson.

## Yorke reveals what Ferguson thinks about Mourinho 'parking the bus'

**LONDON** - Dwight Yorke has revealed details of a conversation he had with Sir Alex Ferguson about Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho.

The Portuguese manager is the Red Devils' third boss since Ferguson retired back in 2013, tasked with the job of turning the club back into the nation's best.

In his first season at Old Trafford he won the Europa League and EFL Cup, and had his eye on winning the Premier League this campaign.

But Manchester City are simply running away with the title, and settling for a second-placed finish seems to be the best United can hope for this season.

Mourinho has been criticised at times this year for failing to set teams up to attack, and instead,

as the man himself coined, 'parking the bus'.

He played very cautiously against both Liverpool and Manchester City - drawing the first fixture and losing the second.

And while it made some sense, given the attacking prowess of the two sides, it's not what Ferguson would have done.

Speaking to beIN Sports about a recent conversation he had with Ferguson, former Red Devils striker Yorke revealed the Scot isn't exactly against Mourinho's style of play, as is sometimes suggested.

But, at the same time, Ferguson doesn't believe Mourinho will ever change his cautious ways.

"He's done that type of stuff as a manager throughout his career," said Yorke. **Mirror**

**INJURED:** Daniel Sturridge.







# DU'S CORNER

'THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT'

WITH  
DUMSANE SIBANDZE

PLS Youth Development  
Communications Manager



## LET US ALL ATTEND INCWALA; IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

FOR all people living in this wonderful country, this period of the year usually provides special memories especially if you follow the country's cultural events.

It is that time of the year again when as Swazis, we attend the annual Incwala ceremony which is a national event that is celebrated by all in the country not forgetting the entire world.

I say the entire world because we always have tourists from outside the borders, who make it a priority to attend this ceremony every year.

### Scenario

Some come from as far as Europe and this will again be the scenario because this ceremony is clearly unique.

It is in that premise that the

PLS chairman is again imploring all football people from supporters, players and officials to attend this important gathering which defines us as Swazis.

You will recall that years back, this event was attended by mostly locals but this has changed remarkably as the world now joins Their Majesties in celebrating this special day.

### Pleased

I am very pleased to have seen some football faces since the first day of this event and let us show that as football people, we respect and appreciate the cultural values of this country.

The PLS Chairman along with his Executive and the Governors never miss this event for anything and let us all join in the fray. See you there!

## HAPPY NEW YEAR SWAZILAND!

THE Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Chairman Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze and his entire Executive Committee takes this opportunity to wish the football fraternity a healthy and prosperous new year.

As we count down the days to 2018, the chairman is hopeful everyone will have a fruitful year and above all, continue to break records in developing the PLS brand to the outside world. His dream in the New Year is to see stadiums not just being filled to the brim but also dominated by colourful supporters, who will have the energy to sing thus presenting a carnival atmosphere during games. He hopes supporters of the game in the country have received enough motivation to continue attending local games in numbers, given the competitive spirit displayed by all the clubs this year.

I am sure most of you will agree that the competition level this year has been really wonderful as it is clear that no one is prepared to take defeat lying down. We watch competitive matches every weekend and this of course will play a big role in convincing local football followers to religiously attend the games as we saw this year. We have already



### ...PLS' Executive Committee wishes all Swazis especially football people a productive 2018

witnessed record attendances in local games and the chairman has not hidden his happiness about this because it can only mean the PLS brand is growing. Gamedze is also hoping players have used the festive break effectively to catch their breath and recover fully from nagging injuries they picked during the course of this year.

### Achieve

The chairman is taking pride in the fact that most clubs in the local Premier League are assuming semi-professional status, which is in line with His Majesty King Mswati III's 2022 Vision and wants all of them to achieve such ambitions. A new year usually comes with new challenges and the chairman is positive that the level of the game in the country will reach new heights in 2018. However, such objectives will only be achieved through collective effort and this is what the chairman is requesting from the football fraternity as we approach the New Year. Gamedze wants football people to pull in the same direction because at the end of it all, we all share the common goal of seeing local football rated highly in the world. Let us see unity in the football fraternity in the New Year and eliminate the bad elements in the local

game.

The PLS Executive has set benchmark of achieving greatness in local football and 2018 promises more of such goodies from those wise gentlemen because as pointed out before, they have been blessed with the exclusive and special art of thinking outside the box where football matters are concerned. Let us all support these men in the New Year so that we continue to see more benefits for the local game. Happy new year everybody!



## Football people just love Esibayeni Lodge

THIS column is thrilled that a lot of football people are heeding the call that they must make bookings at the spacious Esibayeni Lodge in Matsapha during these festive holidays. We are seeing a lot of familiar football faces at this venue and this is very much appreciated because we all know the massive

role this Swazi-owned facility is playing in developing Premier League football through sponsoring the Under-17 League. The more support Swazis give to Esibayeni Lodge, the more benefits local football will continue to get. I hope people will continue to make bookings at this venue for the New Year's eve fun that will surely blow everybody away. There is never short of fun at Esibayeni Lodge during this period of the year.

## Elite league players must stay away from festive tournaments

THIS column has noted with great concern the continuous participation by some Premier League players in featuring during the country-wide festive tournaments.

The PLS has always warned players against playing in these stokvel competitions but seemingly, this falls on deaf ears. Once again, players are requested to stop this habit and under-

stand that this is for their own good. They must realise that they now play in professional set-up hence they risk the danger of picking up bad injuries because the festive games are not usually played in good facilities and we all know that.

This is a period for the players to rest and recover from injuries. On Christmas Eve, I was at Gege watching a tour-

namment and I was happy to see Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko watching from the sidelines instead of risking injuries by playing. This is the kind of maturity we are expecting from all the players in the Premier League when it comes to these tournaments called *timbuti* or *tinkhomo* games.



# PROs' SCORE CARD

By Sibusiso Dlamini

**SOCCER – AS we head for the end of the year, the Swazi Observer Sports Desk took some time to rate the performances of club PROs.**

Well some of the PRO are really trying while

others decide to pick fights with journalists.

Worth noting is that some of them are more on radio, by this I mean they do not even know the newsrooms.

**This is how we rated them:**

## Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane (Mbabane Swallows)

Oh how we miss the late Sibusiso 'Nanisto' Manana! As one of the new additions to the team, I only got to work with Manana for only a few months before his demise, but one thing for sure is that he had better people-handling skills than any other PRO. Manana had his own way of finding out whether you really knew the story, or were still trying to follow the lead and connect the dots. He would never under any circumstance be rude or lose his cool even if you were working on a story that didn't favour his beloved Swallows.

Now this is something that Zwane has to work on, and also has to learn that the media works under intense pressure and tight deadlines, so *umlungu's* stunts of denying everything or asking to be called back after a couple of minutes needs to come to a stop. We are not the 'special project'; here I am talking about mean-looking group of men he is always with during matches.

But a part of me feels like maybe we are judging him based on the fact that he is filling in the shoes of 'Nanisto', and to his credit he is trying his bit.

**Rating 4/10**

## Sandile Gwebu (Young Buffaloes)

Gwebu has matured well in the game, although he still needs to do major improvement when it comes to dealing with journalists. He has the right character, especially with his team going for the continental campaign this season. This season, Gwebu showed another side of him when he charged at a journalist for showing a consultant a team list. This was uncalled for because a tounge lashing would have been just perfect, there was absolutely no need for a scene because journalists aren't 'black science' enthusiasts as to know what and what not teams use when going about with their shenanigans. Also, he needs to understand that giving an answer to a journalist is not doing them a favour, because it is his job to do so. The fans are the ones who spend money to find out what's going in their respective teams, and he owes them the information. He is also a present figure to the 'Buffs' development side, which proves his love for the team. His only downfall is being difficult.

**Rating 5/10**

## Thami Phakathi (Green Mamba)

Thami is a down-to-earth man of not so many

words. I admire Phakathi because he always answers and gives accurate information. His calmness and personality are characteristic of the Correctional Services side and one will hope he will keep up the good work. You call him any day and you will get information from him. I think being a former journalist himself has helped him understand how to deal with the media. Personally, this is one guy I enjoy working with in as far as getting information about Green Mamba is concerned.

**Rating 7/10**

## Patrick Gamedze (Manzini Wanderers)

Manzini Wanderers have no PRO at the moment as they have been chopping and changing media liaison personnel. We do, however, remember the presence of General Manager Patrick Gamedze, who was very helpful to the media, and basically divulged on issues he was supposed to. He was also available to give us a comment whenever we needed him to give clarity of certain issues concerning the team.

We also remember Senzo Dlamini and Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini, who also had a short stint as Wanderers PRO. I will not say much about the two but I am happy they eventually roped in Gamedze.

**Rating 7/10**

## Muzi Matsenjwa (Manzini Sundowns)

This is one PRO the others need to learn from. Call Matsenjwa anytime, and he will respond to you, in writing and even put it on record. He knows what's going on in his team, respects and understands very well the team's culture. Matsenjwa knows Sundowns are a brand and represents it very well. If only we'd have more people like him in our football. He is one of the best I have worked with.

**RATING 8/10**

## Frank Hurube (Royal Leopard)

Hurube is one of the most enthusiastic and funny PROs. This is one man, who respects people and their work. He knows when a story does not favour his team, but he will, nonetheless, give a fair and honest comment, which is something he should be applauded for. He still has that spirit of making fans want to come in their numbers for games, and that's the spirit we need in our soccer. Hurube is also actively involved in the development of the team which gets the players excited, but I don't know why he hasn't invited his coach to join him during one of the team's games. And he can definitely teach his mean-looking colleague Mabamba Shiba a thing or two about dealing with people.

**Rating 8/10**

## Thami Dlamini (Former Moneni Pirates CEO)

If there is one thing about Moneni Pirates fans – their passion! The 'Buccaneers' faithful just love football, and good football that is. I remember vividly Dlamini explaining to me the other day how beautiful Moneni Pirates play soccer, and that was just Thami for you. He is a cooperative man, who loves the team.

**Rating 6/10**

## Mphumelelo Mnisi (Mbabane Highlanders)

Mnisi tends to deny everything that isn't good about Highlanders, a habit we pray he leaves behind in 2017. The in-fighting in the team does not mean the fans should suffer.

Just tell us the truth, and if you don't know anything, it is no crime to report that. Also, he needs to make sure he works with the fans to reignite the spark and excitement behind being a Mbabane Highlanders supporter, who will support the team no matter the result, not unruly fans who will keep getting the team charged.

**Rating 5/10**

## Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini (Matsapha United)

The charismatic 'Mavikane' has done his best with Matsapha United to be honest. He has been the face of their marketing strategy and has gotten the Matsapha United brand name into everyone's lips.

But, he must know more about what's going on in the team, in terms of players and the basic day-to-day things in the team. Otherwise, the 'godfather' is doing well and this is the time

where

we have to see his character – when the team is not doing well! I am not sure about the slang but if it works for him, then he must continue with it. **Rating 7/10**

## Nathi Dlamini (Tambuti)

This guy is none existent because we only know him by name and have his number, otherwise, I last had a talk with him over a year ago, and he is never helpful either. What kind of a PRO is this one?

**Rating – 1/10**

## Lungile Dube (Malanti Chiefs)

The only lady in the sport is doing well, I really cannot complain. She is very helpful whenever you need her, so big-ups to her and this makes me think maybe, just maybe we need more ladies in this sport.

**Rating 8/10**

## Bongani 'Bhanyaza' Mdluli (Midas City)

'Bhanyaza' does very well when asked any question, and considering that the team has been under intense pressure, I think he has handled all matters quite amicably. He must keep it up, although on his capacity as one of the members of the management committee in the team, they need to do changes, quickly!

**Rating 6.5/10**

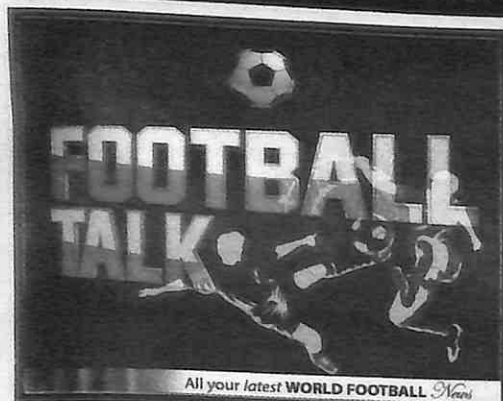
## Comfort Shongwe (Former Red Lions CEO)

There was a point in time where this man loved the team more than anything else, and you could see from the way he talked about the team to the way he conducted the team's duties. But after he was confirmed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) things seemed to change, especially when it went downhill for the team. He was a very good officer for the team, who had a great relationship with all stakeholders.

**Rating – 7/10**

NB Vovovo have no official PRO or media liaison as all questions are directed to the director Sipho 'Tsetla' Bhembe and that it why we do not have a rating. Tsela is neither here nor there. You are always lucky to get a proper comment from him.





● Manchester United will not rival Barcelona's interest in 26-year-old Atletico Madrid forward Antoine Griezmann. (Marca)

● Paris St-Germain are monitoring Marouane Fellaini's situation at United and would be keen to sign the 30-year-old midfielder on a free transfer next summer. (Daily Mirror)

● Liverpool flew a team of doctors to assess Southampton's 26-year-old defender Virgil van Dijk so they could complete his £75m signing as quickly as possible - and before Manchester City could rival their interest. (Liverpool Echo)

● Atletico Madrid are happy to sell winger Yannick Carrasco, 24, in the January transfer window. (AS)

● West Ham United are closing in on the signing of 23-year-old Swansea defender Alfie Mawson. (ESPN)

● Arsenal have had a £35m bid for defender Medhi Benatia, 30, rejected by Juventus. (Calciomercato, via Daily Star)

● Everton have made Besiktas striker Cenk Tosun, 26, their number one target in January and could pay £20m for the Turkey international. (Liverpool Echo)

● Watford are in talks with midfielder Abdoulaye Doucoure, 25, over a new five-year deal that could be worth £70 000 a week. (Sun)

● Former Sheffield Wednesday boss Carlos Carvalhal is being considered for Swansea's vacant manager job. (Sun)

● Arsenal Manager Arsene Wenger believes 25-year-old midfielder Jack Wilshere will sign a new long-term contract if "he can meet a point of agreement financially". (Sky Sports)

● Birmingham are interested in signing 24-year-old Nigeria midfielder Shehu Abdullahi from Cypriot club Anorthosis Famagusta. (Birmingham Mail)

● Crystal Palace, Everton and Burnley are tracking Angers' 24-year-old Cameroon striker Karl Toko Ekambi. (France Football - in French)

● Athletic Bilbao are 'still waiting' for a reply from their goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga, 23, regarding talks to renew his contract amid interest from Real Madrid. (El Pais - in Spanish)

● Norwich are keen to sign Lyon's 21-year-old attacking midfielder Aldo Kalulu, who has been on loan at Sochaux. (France Football - in French)

● Newcastle's 23-year-old striker Aleksandar Mitrovic wants to leave the club. (Daily Mirror)

# CORRECTIONAL STAR SCOOPS THREE-YEAR SPONSORSHIP

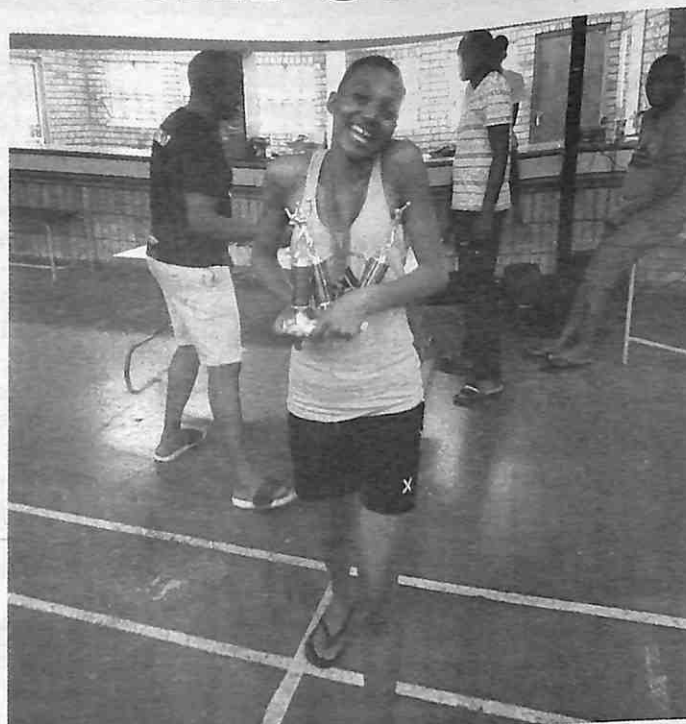
Stories by Sibongiseni Zondi

**VOLLEYBALL - HIS Majesty's Correctional Volleyball star Nokulunga Kunene has got herself a three-year sponsorship through her dedication and hard work in volleyball.**

The lanky star got a scholarship to the Vaal University of the Technology to pursue a diploma in Power Engineering after scooping awards at the Lady Smith Inter-township competition recently.

This was revealed during a presentation held at the Correctional Services headquarters where both the female and male teams painted the conference room gold as they were crowned champions of the tournament.

For her splendid performance, Kunene received three individual awards namely, the Most Valuable Player (MVP), Best Defender and Best Attacker. It was a trophy galore for the green and white ensemble as another Correctional star Nomfundo Dlamini scooped the Best Setter award, leaving the other teams thumb sucking as all the four individual awards were bestowed to the same team.



**A STAR: Nokulunga Kunene displaying her awards namely, the Most Valuable Player (MVP), best attacker and best defender.**

It came as no surprise when male team players in Nduku Masangane and Bongokuhle Mliba received Best Blocker and Best Setter awards, respectively.

Speaking on behalf of His Majesty's

Correctional Services Commissioner General Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase, Commissioner Phindile Dlamini congratulated the teams for a job well done. She said the department was pleased with the way the teams

handled their assignments at all times. She then encouraged the players to perform to their utmost best in any competition and should be exemplary to the other teams in terms of discipline.

"Kunene, we are thankful you have hoisted the department and nation's flag high and we want to see you going places. We are appreciative of The Vaal University's gesture." She said what impressed Ntshangase most was the fact that out of the eight individual awards in the tournament Correctional Services took home six where the female team collected the maximum four with the male team scooping only two.

Interviewed after her success, Kunene lauded His Majesty's Correctional Services for their support towards her stay and performance in the team. She said she would not be where she was today if she joined other teams.

"To the Correctional Sunrise family I am grateful for everything, from the coaches to the players, who pushed me so hard because they believe in me. I am where I am because of them and I thank you guys so much," the soft spoken player said.

## Correctional paints SD gold

**VOLLEYBALL - HIS Majesty's Correctional Services Commissioner Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase has hailed the volleyball teams for their triumph in the Lady Smith Inter-township Competition recently.**

The teams brought home gold medals from the tournament that was competed for by 21 teams in South Africa.

Addressing the players at His Majesty's Correctional Services headquarters, Commissioner Phindile Dlamini said these teams never disappointed when given responsibilities no matter how tough it may be.

For their gallant performances the teams brought home a total of E12 000 plus gold medals.

The male team received E7 000 while the ladies got E5 000.

Ntshangase then highlighted that the department was of the idea of the promotion of sports to enthuse the country's economic development, building a healthy and strong nation with a generally lower crime rate in community environment.

Worth noting is that these teams have won almost every competition they participated in. They also won the VA Cup which paved their way to compete in the Zone VI games held in Zimbabwe but unfortunately both teams didn't make it due to various reasons.

Ntshangase stated that the department was thankful of the work demonstrated by not only the play-

ers but the executive and the technical bench. Despite missing the Zone VI games, both teams went an extra mile by hoisting the national flag high after sweeping the boards in the Lady Smith Inter-Township Volleyball Competition in South Africa even this year.

Leading the pair of technical benches are Themba Sifundza and Mbuso 'Pampeta' Vilakati under the male and female sections, respectively.

Interviewed afterwards, the coaches heaped praises to the Commissioner General for his support towards sports as they promised to outshine in the upcoming competition.

They also lauded Nokulunga Kunene for the impressive performances throughout the tournaments.

### A brief profile about Nokulunga

Date of Birth: 20 December 1994

Place of Birth: Manzini

Started playing volleyball in 2012 at the age of 17.

### Her Achievements in sport thus far

- She made it to the national under-23
- 2015-16 best central blocker in an international tournament hosted by His Majesty's Correctional volleyball team
- 2016 Trade Fare tournament's best blocker
- 2016 Emnambithi Inter-township Tournament's best attacker
- 2017 Trade Fare tournament's best blocker, attacker and the Most Valuable Player
- 2017 Lady Smith International Tournament's best attacker, best defender and most valuable player (MVP)



**POSE: His Majesty's Correctional Services male team posing for a photo after they were crowned the Lady Smith Inter-township tournament's Champions after beating Mafolofolo from Botswana 3-0. The games were played in South Africa recently.**



**PROUD: Commissioner Phindile Dlamini, Correctional senior officers posing for a group photo with the volleyball team representatives after their Lady Smith triumph. This was during a presentation held at the HMCS headquarters last week.**

### Her Advice to the youth

Sports may seem useless to others but truth is, sports are a gateway to a lot of possibilities just like me. Who thought it would come to this far, so in shot am saying never give up on your dreams and work

hard for them to come true.

There are no short cuts to any place worth going

### Her goal

My goal in the sport is to get as far as around the world and market myself.





## 'Downs put Ikechukwu on transfer

By Sabelo Majola

**SOCCER - IN** their quest to make room for new signings ahead of the transfer window next month, Manzini Sundowns have released one of their foreign stars Reginald Ikechukwu.

A source close to the club asserted that the Nigeria born player has been handed his clearance after a series of poor performances that have seen him get less game time under Musa Manyatsi who replaced Ernest Mavuso as the team's mentor last month.

When reached for a comment on the

### MTN PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURE

Prince of Wales Ground	06/01/18		
Midas City	vs	Tambuti	3.30pm
Mavuso Sports Centre	06/01/18		
Moneni Pirates	vs	Matsa. U	1.30pm
Manzini Wanderers	vs	Vovovo	3.30pm
Somhlolo National Stadium	06/01/18		
Green Mamba	vs	Red Lions	1.30pm
Young Buffaloes	vs	Mala. Chiefs	3.30pm
Somhlolo National Stadium	07/01/18		
Manzini Sundowns	vs	Mba. Landers	1.30pm
Mbabane Swallows	vs	R. Leopard	3.30pm

and which areas need to be re-enforced.

"We shall make a formal announcement shortly after concluding discussions between the MC and the technical and after communicating the decisions with the players and or their agents," he said.

Manzini Sundowns will face off in a tricky premier league affair against Mbabane Highlanders on January 6, with the clash slated for Somhlolo National Stadium. Highlanders were triumphant over Sundowns in the first round of the league campaign, thumping them 1-0 to escape with maximum points.

development, Sundowns' PRO Muzi Matsenjwa said players are all at training and they are working closely with the technical team to have an expression of their opinion on which players are deemed surplus to requirements

### MTN PREMIER LEAGUE LOG

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
Swallows	18	13	5	0	32	10	22	44
Y. Buffaloes	18	12	5	1	30	10	20	41
G. Mamba	18	10	4	4	30	16	14	34
M. Wanderers	18	9	3	6	22	20	2	30
Matsapha U	18	7	7	4	16	13	3	28
M. Chiefs	18	8	4	6	26	28	-2	28
R. Leopard	18	6	8	4	19	14	5	26
M. Sundowns	18	6	7	5	23	17	6	25
M. Highlanders	18	6	5	7	17	18	-1	23
M. Pirates	18	4	9	5	18	21	-3	21
Vovovo	18	6	2	10	16	25	-9	20
Tambuti	18	5	3	9	18	26	-7	18
Red Lions	18	1	3	14	12	33	-21	6
Midas City	18	0	1	17	9	37	-28	1

### NFD FIXTURE

All Games on 6 January 2018

Prince of Wales Ground		
Tinyosi	vs	Hlati. Tycoons 1:30pm
Tabankulu Stadium		
Tabankulu Callies	vs	Hub Sundowns 3pm
Manzini Club		
Milling Hotspurs	vs	Amalanda 1:30pm
Manzini Sea Birds	vs	Sikh. Se-Afrika 3:30pm
Mayaluka Stadium		
Madlenya	vs	Bad Boys 3pm
King Sobhuza Stadium		
Mahlalini	vs	Mba. Citizens 3pm

### MTN NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Citizens	12	9	2	0	27	8	19	30
Madlenya	12	8	2	2	21	7	14	26
Sea Birds	12	7	2	3	25	14	11	23
Tinyosi	12	6	3	3	22	8	14	21
Milling	12	5	2	4	11	11	0	18
Callies	12	5	3	4	13	15	-2	18
H. Sundowns	12	4	1	7	10	14	-4	13
Sikhalo	12	3	3	6	10	16	-6	12
Mahlalini	12	3	2	7	16	25	-9	11
Bad Boys	12	3	2	7	12	21	-9	11
Tycoons	12	3	1	8	15	18	-3	10
Amalanda	12	3	1	8	11	20	-9	10

## Action continues in E50 000 Sigcaweni Zonal League

By Sibongiseni Zondi

**SOCCER - SIGCAWENI** Zonal League action will continue this weekend with current leaders Powerful Heroes taking on winless Young Lovers.

The League, sponsored to the tune of E50 000, has its last fixtures of the year 2017 this weekend, with the matches spread across two days and two venues. The action begins tomorrow, with four matches scheduled.

At Enhlanhlani Sports Ground, Sisonkhe take on Lubhuku before Dangerous XI clash with Thulu'zobona.

Meanwhile, at Sigcaweni Sports Ground, F.C. Classic face Tec Spurs before the leaders Heroes host struggling Lovers. On Sunday there are a further five matches, with three slated for the Enhlanhlani ground.

### E50 000 Sigcaweni Zonal League Fixtures

Tomorrow at Enhlanhlani Sports Ground		
Sisonkhe	vs	Lubhuku 1pm
Dangerous Xlvs	vs	Thulu'zobona 3pm
Tomorrow at Sigcaweni Sports Ground		
F. C. Classic	vs	Tec Spurs 1pm
Young Lovers	vs	Heroes 3pm
Sunday at Enhlanhlani Sports Ground		
Choppers	vs	Emashekeshe 11am
Kasi Warriors	vs	XI Experience 1pm
T. K. Zee	vs	Wizards 3pm
Sunday at Sigcaweni Sports Ground		
Mdumezulu	vs	P. G. Rangers 1pm
Young Aces	vs	Bombers 3pm

### SIGCAWENI ZONAL LEAGUE LOG

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Powerful Heroes	11	5	4	2	17	9	8	19
P. G. Rangers	9	5	4	0	12	5	7	19
Tec Spurs	11	5	4	2	18	12	6	19
Young Bombers	10	5	3	2	18	11	7	18
Killer Wizards	11	5	3	3	15	13	2	18
Sisonkhe	11	5	3	3	11	9	2	18
Easy Choppers	10	5	2	3	11	7	4	17
Kasi Warriors	11	5	2	4	17	16	1	17
Thulu'zobona	11	5	2	4	12	13	-1	17
T. K. Zee	11	4	3	4	15	11	4	15
Young Aces	10	4	3	3	14	10	4	15
XI Experience	11	3	5	3	14	13	1	14
F. C. Classic	11	3	4	4	17	22	-5	13
Lubhuku	8	3	2	3	11	11	0	11
Mdumezulu United	10	2	3	5	12	17	-5	9
Dangerous XI	10	2	2	6	15	24	-9	8
Emashekeshe	11	0	3	8	7	19	-12	3
Young Lovers	9	0	2	5	6	18	-12	2

Easy Choppers and Emashekeshe clash in the opening fixture before Kasi Warriors take on XI Experience.

T.K. Zee close out the day's action at the ground with a clash against Killer Wizards.

On the same Sunday, there will be a double header at Sigcaweni ground, with Mdumezulu facing second placed P.G. Rangers before Young Aces take on Young Bombers.

## ONLY THREE FOREIGN PLAYERS IN BANTU FC SQUAD

By Sabelo Majola

**SOCCER - ONLY** three foreign players make up the squad of little known Lesotho Vodacom Premier League champions Bantu FC.

The James Madidilane-led side has a date with local champions Mbabane Swallows in the CAF Champions League showpiece.

The team has registered only three foreigners in their current squad and the trio is from South Africa.

Two midfielders in Lindokuhle Pungulwa, Maloisane Ramasimong and Lazola Jokojokwana (striker) are the only foreign players the team currently has.

Swallows, on the other hand, have five registered foreign players as per the maximum number outlined in the FIFA Rules and Regulations. These are Siphamandla Mathenjwa, Gomezgani Gondwe, Deyinho Mwamba, Stanley Umukoro and Lazola Kunene.

Bantu has played 26 games in

<b>Goalkeepers</b>	
L. Nkiane	21
T. Lichaba	22
T. Selisa	30
<b>Defenders</b>	
I. Faleni	26
J. Molapo	22
K. Molelengane	23
P. Matsipa	24
T. Khaile	27
T. Khooa	26
T. Mokhehe	31
<b>Midfielders</b>	
H. Kalake	23
K. Moleko	31
L. Fothoane	20
L. Marabe	25
L. Mosehlyane	25
L. Pungulwa	25
M. Ramasimong	27
P. Molaoa	23
T. Lebata	23
T. Lesoana	18
T. Matsoele	23
<b>Strikers</b>	
L. Jokojokwana	26
M. Marabe	27
T. Motseare	31

2017 and lost only two of them while Swallows are unbeaten in 40 league games. Swallows will visit the Lesotho club in the first leg of the competition on February 9, before playing hosts on February 16, in the second leg.

## Benni's assistant leaves for China

By Sabelo Majola

**SOCCER - CAPE TOWN** City assistant coach Ian Taylor has recently left the 'Citizens' for greener pastures in China at the wake of the team's CAF Confederations clash with local side Young Buffaloes.

Taylor recently left the club to take up a role at Chinese side Guangzhou and he is set to be replaced by Orlando Pirates MultiChoice Diski Challenge coach Raya Jacobs as Benni McCarthy's assistant. Jacobs was a technical analyst before being promoted to Pirates' MDC team.

The technical transformation at City has also been followed by the departure of former Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates striker Lehlohonolo Majoro who recently parted ways with the club to join ABSA Premiership defending champions Bidvest Wits.

Meanwhile, new Ajax Cape Town coach Muhsin Ertugral wasted no time in poaching goalkeeper coach Calvin Marlin from the Citizens to serve as his assistant. The pair previously worked together at Mpumalanga Black Aces. Marlin takes over from Bobbie Solomons, who spent six months with the Urban Warriors.

Young Buffaloes and City are set for a showdown in February in the CAF Confederations Cup tournament and the local side will play

hosts to 'Citizens' on February 9' before hosting them a week later.



LEFT: CAPE Town City assistant coach Ian Taylor.



## PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

Crystal Palace 2 - 3 Arsenal

## PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

Liverpool	vs	Leicester City	5pm
Watford	vs	Swansea City	5pm
Chelsea	vs	Stoke City	5pm
Huddersfield Town	vs	Burnley	5pm
AFC Bournemouth	vs	Everton	5pm
Newcastle United	vs	Brighton	5pm
Manchester United	vs	Southampton	7:30pm

## Elite league players warned against festive tournaments

By Sibusiso Dlamini

**SOCCER - THE Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) has warned elite league players against taking part in festive season football tournaments.**

In what is a trend now turned culture, some elite league football players have made it a habit of playing in the village tournaments, which has at times left them injured or fatigued when the league resumes. The PLS have vowed to tighten screws and monitor players to ensure they get rest and avoid unnecessary injuries ahead of the league return in January.

Club officials acknowledged that the trend affects their schedule and compromises their standards in the crucial moments of the league season. Matsapha United CEO Victor 'Mavikana' Dlamini spoke against players competing in social and betting tournaments pointing out that those players should understand that they are professionals.

"We will be having a short break this time around and expect players to rest in the few days of the festive season. We take care of our players and they understand that. Appropriate action will be taken against those breaching contractual guidelines. League break is meant for players to rest," he said.

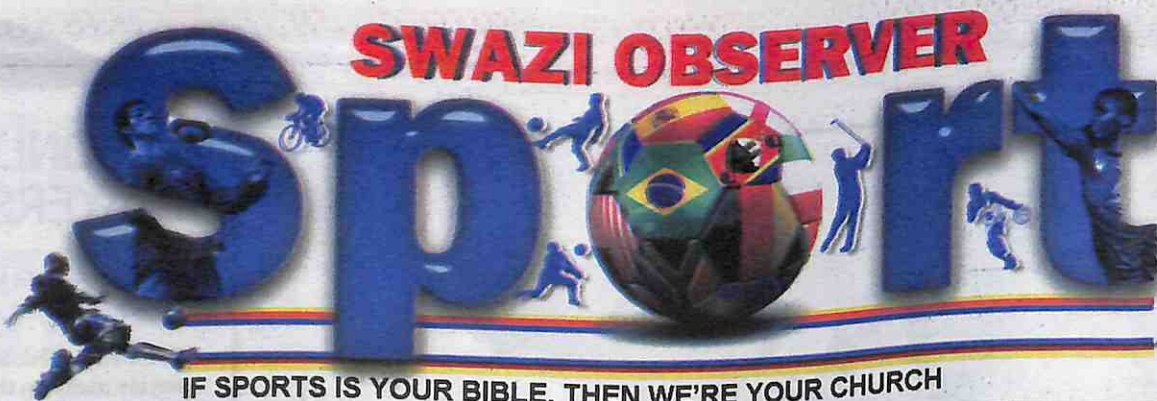
Another spokesperson shared the same sentiments saying contractual obligations will guide their players to stay away from festive season tournaments. PLS Dumsani 'DU' Sibandze advised that festive season tournaments were mostly played under an aggressive atmosphere with high risks of injuries.

"Players are aware that social tournaments are risky as some do not respect the laws of the game and take it personal on the pitch. AS PLS we do not expect player to take part in these tournaments. It is a challenging matter but we appeal to players not to take part in stokvels," Sibandze said.

He said players were aware of what was expected from them and must refrain from festive season tournaments.

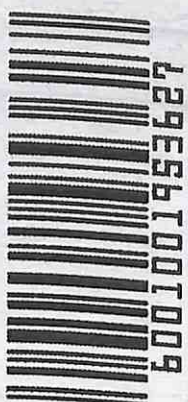
"Players owe services to clubs they are contracted to. We always advice players through the assistance of their teams to behave like professional on and off the pitch. Players train on their own during the festive break following schedule availed to them at respective clubs and there is no need for them to risk playing in games that do not have a future for them.

"Teams cannot afford to nurse injuries incurred from social tournaments. They are expected to rest and return fresh to complete their clubs' mission."



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

FRIDAY DECEMBER 29, 2017



# WE CAN BEAT MBABANE SWALLOWS - MADIDILANE

By Sibongiseni Zondi

**SOCCER - BANTU FC coach James Madidilane believes his team can beat Mbabane Swallows when the two sides meet in the 2018 CAF Champions League preliminary round in February.**

Swallows will visit the current Lesotho League champions Bantu in the first leg on the weekend of February 9-11, before hosting the second leg the following weekend. Despite Swallows' considerable experience in CAF tournaments which also saw them reach the group stages of the CAF Confederation Cup this year, Madidilane, speaking to KickOff.com, believes his side can advance past the preliminary round.

### Excited

"I am excited. Now that I am presented with this chance, I am ready to grab it with both hands. No team from Lesotho has gone beyond the first round in CAF competition and we want to make history. I am enjoying great support from management and the chairman. With good preparations I believe we can beat Swallows," he told KickOff.com.

Madidilane, a former Bloemfontein Celtic and Bafana Bafana defender, will be lead-

- Bantu FC coach wants to make history with team
- Says he has watched Swallows before
- Teams will clash in February



**BELIEVES IN HIS TEAM:** Bantu FC coach James Madidilane.

ing Bantu in their second Champions league campaign having made their debut in the 2015 edition. He adds that the standard of the top division in Lesotho can be compared to the South African National First Division.

### Compare

"In terms of professionalism I can compare it to some of the National First Division teams.

There is also a challenge of getting sponsorship. The league here is not enjoying good financial support from corporates like in South Africa. But in terms of quality, there are many talented players in the league," Madidilane added.

Madidilane also told Lesotho's online publication, The Post, that he had watched Swallows before and would be following them closely now in the lead up to their February meetings.

### Opponent

"Now that we know our opponent, we will be watching them closely and trying to find anything worth knowing about them.

"I have seen (Mbabane Swallows) before when they were playing against (South Africa's) Platinum Stars. But I was just watching the match; I was not studying or learning their weaknesses, strengths or anything, so basically we don't know anything about them. But it is good that we now know who we are going to face so we can watch them," he said.

Should Swallows advance past the preliminary round, they will face either Zambia's Zanaco or Gambia Armed Forces in the first round.

## Soccer star George Weah wins Liberian presidential election

**MONROVIA - Former soccer star George Weah has defeated Vice President Joseph Boakai to win Liberia's presidential run-off election and succeed incumbent Ellen Johnson Sirleaf next month, the country's first democratic transition in over 70 years.**

With 98.1 per cent of the vote counted, Weah led with 61.5 per cent to Boakai's 38.5 per cent, National Election Commission Chairman Jerome Korkoyah told reporters in the capital Monrovia on yesterday.

At his party headquarters outside Monrovia, tears streamed down Weah's face as he greeted supporters from a balcony. Outside, young fans ran through the streets and blared car horns as dusk fell over the city.

"Success for George Weah is victory for the whole country," a 47-year-old engineer named Randall Zarkpah said as he walked home with his young son.

"When you feel sick for some time and you receive proper medication - that is how I feel now. He will be good for our country. He is King George!"

Weah grew up in Clara Town slum in Monrovia and went on to become the only African to win FIFA World Player of the Year, starring for AC Milan, Paris St Germain and Chelsea.

His rags-to-riches story helped him tap into dissatisfaction with Johnson Sirleaf's 12-year tenure. Sirleaf drew a line under years of civil war but drew criticism for failing to root out corruption or



persistent poverty.

Weah's critics, however, say he has offered few concrete policy proposals. His choice of running mate Jewel Howard-Taylor - ex-wife of Charles Taylor, the former president and warlord serving 50 years in Britain for war crimes in

neighboring Sierra Leone - has also raised eyebrows.

"I think Weah is not fit for the work. He will see it," said Anthony Mason, 34, who had gathered at the headquarters of Boakai's Unity Party for the results.

Reuters