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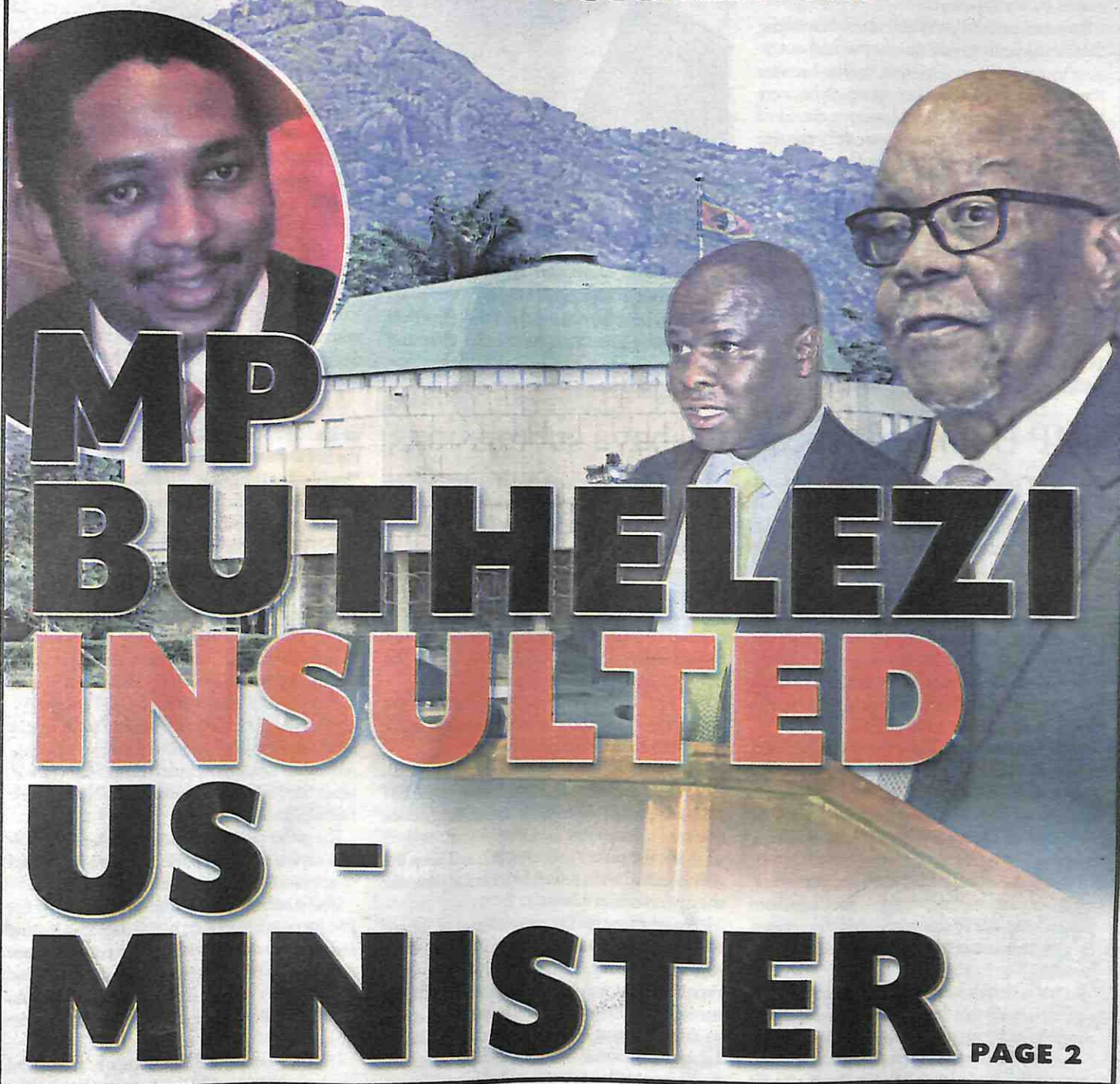
The Right Sunday



JULY 30, 2017

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FURORE OVER MP'S COMMENTS...



MP BUTHELEZI INSULTED US - MINISTER

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CLARIFICATION

HE INSULTED OUR INTELLIGENCE - MINISTER

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

A minister has jumped to the Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini's defence by stating how he feels Matsanjeni North Member of Parliament Phila Buthelezi insulted their intelligence.

Information and Communications Technology Minister Dumisani Ndlangamandla said this in response to Buthelezi's allegations that the PM muzzled his charges resulting in them failing to realise their full potential.

Buthelezi said this on Wednesday while stating that it was unfortunate that they would not be able to get responses on their queries because they were more like rubber stamps, who were to be controlled to do what someone else liked adding how most ministers were very capable of doing their jobs, but could not because they appeared to be muzzled.

Furious

Despite some ministers stating that they would reserve their comments for their respective houses, Ndlangamandla sounded miffed by the whole scenario and saw the need to respond to MP Buthelezi's allegations.

"If I was there, I would not have stood for it because he was saying we are not doing things which should be done," the furious minister who



ICT Minister Dumisani Ndlangamandla.

also doubles as Ngudzeni MP said.

He said he was of the notion that Buthelezi should have been brought to order there and then.

He declined being drawn into other matters

saying he could only respond to the utterances which touched on his peers, that of being rubber stamps and not working to their full potential.

"It was an insult to our intelligence and he was undermining us," Minister Dumisani Ndlangamandla said.

In the same vein, Minister Jabulile Mashwana said even though she was not aware of the incident, she could, with confidence state that as a minister, she worked within the confines of the law with collective responsibility as a guide as Cabinet works together.

On the other hand, Minister Prince Hlangusemphi said all he could say was that they worked and executed their duties to the best of their abilities.

Fairness

"In all fairness, married couple's face problems but it does not mean once they hit a rough patch, their marriage ends," he said.

Of note, other ministers when called, said they could not comment outside of Parliament.

Minister Winnie Magagula said seeing as MP Buthelezi made his statements in Parliament, she could not flout procedure and comment out of the house of assembly as she sits in senate.

In the same tone, Minister Jabulani Mabuza said responses to statements made in Parliament were reserved for the house. "If I have anything to say about this matter, I will say it in Parliament."

MP Buthelezi repeated Sibaya submissions

While Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini says Matsanjeni North Member of Parliament Phila Buthelezi attacked the operations of Sibaya, it seems he might have repeated what attendees of the people's parliament said from first submission to last.

The PM went on the offensive on Thursday night when he responded to submissions by the outspoken MP stating that they were inflammatory.

Buthelezi was quoted as having criticised Dlamini for allegedly muzzling ministers in order not to perform up to their capabilities.

Buthelezi went on to blame the PM and accused him for contributing to the country's 'painful financial situation'. This was during a motion which sought to question why government was not maintaining and building roads around the country.

During the debate, MPs also wanted to know what was happening with the public private partnership (PPP) initiative, which was hailed by government as the right way to develop the country.

In his heartfelt submission, Buthelezi said he was of the view that the PM was the one hindering progress, in terms of the country's development.

Contrary to the PM's press statement, Buthelezi reportedly pleaded with Speaker Themba Msibi to ensure that the head of government be in attendance on Mondays during parliamentary meetings so they could get clear responses which the ministers failed to give.

This would enable the legislators to ask questions to the premier so that they could get straight answers to the concerns and questions they had.

The MP said ministers could not give satisfying answers because they were more like rubber stamps, who were to be controlled to do what someone else liked, adding how most ministers were very capable of doing their jobs, but could not because they appeared to be muzzled. He went to the extent of stating how the Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini, contrary to the way he was delivering, had capabilities to lead the ministry of finance to prosperity.

The PM, in his response, said the MP took advantage of his absence in the house to make the inflammatory statements.

Attempted

Whereas the MP stated that actions by the PM could serve as a let down to the country's authorities, Dlamini's statement said Buthelezi attempted to shake the pillars that establish and keep the nation unified and a peaceful state and in particular the operations of Sibaya.

Perusal through the proceedings of Sibaya which was held last August reveal that Buthelezi said nothing out of the ordinary as he merely repeated what was said there, albeit in different tones. Daniel Ngubeni of Vusweni said it was so disappointing to learn from the Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula that urgent bills were still stalled in parliament. Despite referring to Minister Magagula, he apportioned blame on the PM for his conflict between the prime minister, speaker and senate president as causing delays. "These people are busy with non-issues instead of dealing with the matters that affect the country,"

Simanga Nkhosi from Mambane stated that

he had attended the people's parliament with the hope that a new PM would be announced. "I wish that the prime minister should be fired as soon as possible because he is the biggest villain in that cabinet team. I had come here hoping he would be fired. Ndvunankhulu lona ngu bhabuli lomkhulu."

"LoNdvunankhulu lona wemali nje kuphela. Akaphume aye etinkhundleni (This prime minister is only concerned about money. He should go to constituencies)," said Mantfombi Motsoa.

Khula Mkhabela spoke in riddles when he said to His Majesty "Kunendvodza lehleli emnyeleni, ngabe Silo Sikhulu ngu Sidzikadzika, ngabe ngubhabuli, ngabe ngumkhulu loshiwo ngulenze indvodza? Lendvodza iyabukela tinkhabi tilima, wena Silo Sikhulu uhleli ubambe likhuba ugwele tintfuli," he said.

The gathering clearly understood what Mkhabela was saying as they reportedly gave a big round of applause to his statement.

Sibaya submissions came down hard on the PM for even the amount he will earn after leaving office. "The adjustments (salary review) made one man to be able to receive a salary of about E61 000 per month until he died," Velaphi Dlamini (Dlovunga), who was referring to the PM.

On the other hand, Pastor Moses Warren, who spoke without revealing names whereas the general consensus was that he was referring to the PM's Cabinet, said, "stop giving more money to people who are already high earners."

In several submissions, Cabinet remained unpopular as ministers were heavily criticised and accused of the problems faced by the country, the nation pointing out that their time was up.

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Missing Dumako boy found dead

By LUSITO TSELA

Police have discovered the body of a schoolboy who has been missing for three weeks. The 14-year-old boy identified as Musa Tfwala was found dead on Friday morning.

Police came to the scene after they were called by a concerned resident. She narrated that she was called by

children who saw dogs playing around with a human skull. The children called their mother who in turn took the skull into an old pot hiding it in a pit.

Upon seeing this, the concerned neighbour called the authorities in the afternoon; they came and guarded the area. A search team which included the children from the community began searching the whole area and

that is when other parts were found which included a leg.

As they were searching, the children identified clothes in the forest which belonged to the boy. The family said the boy had a tendency of disappearing from time to time that is why they were hoping he would turn up fine.

His uncle Phelakwakhe Guliwe said they are still in shock. The family and the community don't believe what has befallen the community and the family. "We are still in shock

and we haven't slept since we found his remains," he said.

His uncle said he was not around when his nephew disappeared. He confirmed that his nephew would disappear from time to time but he disappeared to his grandmother's home which is close.

Acting Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that Musa was found dead on Friday morning.

BY OBSERVER REPORTER

PUDEMO RESOLVES TO STAY AWAY FROM ELECTIONS

With the current Parliament at the sunset of its term and the national elections looming in the horizon, the People's United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO) has resolved not to participate in the exercise which it described as a sham used to maintain a charade of legitimacy of the Tinkhundla system of government.

At its International Solidarity Conference in Johannesburg over the weekend, the proscribed entity went 'one up' with a resolution to intensify a campaign against the national election exercise and push for what it described as democratic reforms in the country.

PUDEMO also resolved to step up efforts to garner support for a 'people's march' on the sidelines of the forthcoming SADC Heads of State Summit to be held in Pretoria next month.

President Jacob Zuma will assume the round robin Chairmanship of SADC, and PUDEMO and its international allies want to put pressure to bear on the regional body to take action against Swaziland and pave the way for democratic reforms and an end to human rights abuses.

The conference which was attended by representatives of various political formations and pro-democracy activists in Swaziland, South Africa and the United Kingdom, was held at the Parktonian Hotel in Johannesburg.

Pudemmo President Mario Masuku gave the keynote address, where he pointed out that after lengthy discussions the organisation found that the current elections in Swaziland were not democratic or held under a free and fair atmosphere.

"The fundamental issue here is that these national elections do not conform to the SADC principles; the AU African Charter on Human and People's rights in particular, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and, indeed the UN declaration on fundamental human rights. The

Conference in Johannesburg sees EFF, SAPC, BDS decide to draw big numbers in SADC Summit picket next month

most problematic area is that at the tinkhundla level, Chiefdom and at implementation levels there is a bottleneck," he said.

The organisation, together with its youth wing the Swaziland Youth Congress (SWAYOCO), was declared a proscribed entity in 2008 under the Suppression of Terrorism Act. This followed a spate of bombing incidents targeted at state institutions and property of individuals deemed to be pro status quo. However, the leadership of PUDEMO has always maintained that the organisation is against violence as a political tool and has distanced PUDEMO from the incidents.

South Africa's Deputy Minister of Economic Development Madala Masuku, who is also a member of the South African Communist Party's (SAPC) Central Committee, pledged his organisation's continued support for democratic reforms in Swaziland. He acknowledged that peace lovers and proponents of democracy in Swaziland played a pivotal role and sacrificed a lot during the fight for South Africa's liberation from the draconian colonialist apartheid regime.

"Our freedom as South Africans and as the people of greater Africa cannot be complete without the

freedom and protection of the human rights of the people of Swaziland. We all have an interest to make such that we contribute towards a peaceful transition in Swaziland," he said.

Deputy Chairperson of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) in Gauteng Mandisa Mashego said the organisation was fully behind PUDEMO's efforts to usher in meaningful democratic changes in Swaziland and the region.

"We will continue to share ideas, resources and strategies with PUDEMO as we pursue the common objective of economic emancipation of the people. Our solidarity is action based and we will tap into our ability to mobilise the masses in support of PUDEMO's programmes. We will be fully behind the organisation as it marches on SADC in Pretoria next month to press Swaziland to be on the agenda and for the people of Swaziland to be free to enjoy basic human rights and freedoms from oppression," Mashego said.

Human Rights Lawyer Thulani Maseko, who represented the Institute for Democracy and Leadership (IDEL) says it is impossible to separate democracy from the type of leaders that a country has, saying it was incumbent upon all freedom

fighters and pro-democracy proponents to work towards unity.

"History has shown that elections have the potential to divide us. Whatever we do we must fight for unity of purpose to usher in an era of progress and human rights in Swaziland. In Swaziland we are denied the essence of being human beings. We must win back our dignity," he said.

Kwara Kekana the National Spokesperson and Deputy Coordinator of the Palestinian solidarity organisation BDS SA (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions South Africa), also pledged her organisation's full support.

"We demand freedom in Swaziland and we shall work in solidarity with the Swazi people to attain it," she said.

Among the resolutions of the conference was to continue to mobilise international solidarity for the following:

- An all-inclusive political dialogue
- The total unbanning of political parties
- A transitional authority
- A new democratic Constitution
- A Multi-party democratic dispensation
- A monarchy under a democratic Constitution.

Swaziland does not entertain ineffectual threats - Percy

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Swaziland Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane says the country will not apologise for having a united front.

This he said when responding to South African Deputy Minister of Economic Development Madala Masuku, who is also a member of the South African Communist Party's (SAPC) Central Committee, who pledged his organisation's continued support for democratic reforms in Swaziland.

The deputy minister said the neighbouring country's freedom and that of Africa cannot be complete without the freedom and protection of the human rights of the people of the country as they all have an interest to make such that they contribute towards a peaceful transition in Swaziland.

The minister was speaking during the People's United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO) International Solidarity Conference in Johannesburg where the entity led by President Mario Masuku resolved to once again stay away from national elections, a stance that has been taken in all prior elections.

The organisation stated that they cannot participate in the exercise which they term a sham used to maintain a charade of legitimacy of the Tinkhundla system of governance.

In response to the deputy minister's assertions, Simelane said, "Deputy Minister Madala Masuku must know that Swaziland does not entertain paper tigers (a person or thing that appears threatening but is ineffectual). We are not going to apologise to anyone for having the masses on our side. We have people's power behind our system of governance."

Participation

Concerning PUDEMO's pronouncement, Simelane said seeing as participation in elections and voting was voluntary, "By deciding not to participate in the coming elections, PUDEMO is exercising its democratic right embedded in the Constitution."

He recalled how during the 1993 elections, PUDEMO threatened to disrupt voting through its 'One Vote, One Bullet' campaign, "But the determined nation came to the polls in their numbers and repeated same in all the elections that came there after amid PUDEMO threats."

Concerning the resolve to support a 'people's

march' on the side lines of the forthcoming SADC Heads of State Summit to be held in Pretoria next month, Simelane said, "The last march and border blockade against Swaziland organised by South African Unions was boycotted by locals. To a normal thinking person that was a statement."

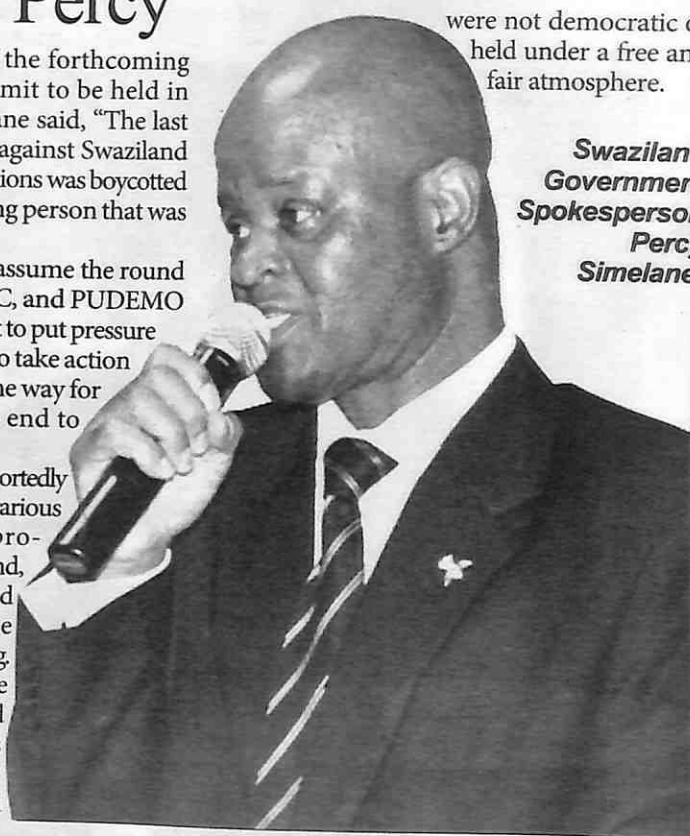
President Jacob Zuma will assume the round robin Chairmanship of SADC, and PUDEMO and its international allies want to put pressure to bear on the regional body to take action against Swaziland and pave the way for democratic reforms and an end to human rights abuses.

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were not democratic or held under a free and fair atmosphere.

Swaziland
Government
Spokesperson
Percy
Simelane.



Still no investor for Ngwenya Iron Mine

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Three years on, there is still no investor for the again defunct Ngwenya Iron Ore mine which previously had its dumps excavated by Salgaocar Swaziland (PTY) Ltd.

This was revealed by Ministry of Natural Resources' Commissioner of Mining Samuel Ntshalintshali this past week.

Responding to a questionnaire concerning the status of applications the department revealed over two years ago; that there were

four investors who had shown interest in the resuscitation of the mine, the commissioner confirmed that they were still considering the four applications.

"Yes, the office of the commissioner of mines has received applications for the resuscitation of the iron ore mine at ngwenya which are under consideration," he said in the response to an emailed questionnaire, adding, "four applications are being considered."

Of note is that had Salgaocar not been liquidated, its contract would have elapsed next year June as the company was given a

contract in 2011.

Salgaocar closed operations in August 2014 when the price of iron ore reportedly fell to an all-time low. However, there were later disputes as Southern Africa Resource Limited – a majority shareholder in the liquidated SG Iron demanded a response on the collapsed iron ore mining venture from the country.

The investment dispute arose from SARL's claim that Swaziland expropriated without compensation its investments in SG Iron – the mining venture at Ngwenya Iron Ore Mine.

SARL held a 50 per cent stake in the project while the Government of Swaziland held 25 per cent and the remaining 25 per cent was held by His Majesty King Mswati III in trust for the Swazi Nation.

Salgaocar excavated dumps which were left by Anglo American Mining Company in the late 1970s when it stopped its mining operations in the area.

SARL contended that the closure of the company was purposely engineered so that Swaziland avoids paying the money due to it. When Salgaocar suspended its operations and filed to be placed under judicial management, it was revealed in court that the company owed its creditors approximately E42 million.

When the company eventually closed down, close to 700 people lost their jobs.

It was revealed that at the time it closed down, the company assets in terms of plant, machinery and other equipment amounted to approximately E308 000 000.

PRINCIPLES SHOULDN'T BE COMPROMISED BECAUSE OF AUTHORITY

BY SUSAN DLAMINI

The Nation Editor Bheki Makhubu says the country should be steadfast in upholding principles and not compromise them at the insistence of leaders who try to hoodwink and convince them to do otherwise. He said people should protect what they know best.

"If you are an accountant, there are certain rules that drive the profession which cannot be changed just to please anybody," he said, adding, "If you take an engineer who says you can't drive water up a mountain without an engine to propel it, if that is what the rules say, you cannot then do it just because a person above you says it can be done."

He was speaking during the annual reunion of former St. Christopher's High School pupils at the Prince Mavela Hall in Manzini yesterday.

Makhubu recalled how the current Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala, whilst a judge, convicted him without allowing him to mitigate during his contempt of court case. He said this was despite how even first year law student know that an accused has to be given a chance to state their case.

"Even under a tree, when a person is being tried, they are given a chance to mitigate. However, Maphalala, who was trying to please his superiors, dis-



Executive members Muzi Simelane, Osvart Sukati, Nokuthula Mamba and Reverend David Matshe after the function where the constitution that will govern former St. Christopher's High School pupils since its inception.
(Pics: Susan Dlamini)

regarded this at that time as he was pleasing his superiors. Denying me a chance to mitigate was questioned in the Supreme Court where then Attorney General Majahenkaba Dlamini was asked about it on my appeal, to which he responded that he did not know reasons behind me not being allowed to state my case," he said.

Makhubu said such behaviour was endemic in the country and causes professionals to bend the rules for those in higher positions making a mockery of the education they claim to have. "A person should be able to say my education frowns on this that

I am being asked to do while stating how things should be done," he said.

He called for people to stop bending the rules to please others and instead embrace their truth by speaking it at all times.

The former pupils present cut across different generations, coming together once again to socialise, talk about where they are in their lives and how they could make the reunion into a proper organisation which would help the school in future endeavours.

There were also those who now reside in South Africa.

Following previous reunions where

it was decided that there should be a constitution to govern the association of former pupils, Lawyer Mandla Mkhwanazi interpreted the draft which was adopted as amended.

This was after motivation by Pastor Phetsa Dlamini who said it called for them to change the wheel of a moving car seeing as they had taken too long to have a constitution for the association tasked with governing the way they can give back to the school.

Chairman Reverend David Matshe said they were pleased in what the school had managed to do thus far on their own but is hoping that in future they will be able to help in buying the school water tanks and donate food as there is a boarding facility. He revealed how in the past, former pupils of the school who reside in South Africa, donated a soccer kit towards the soccer team.

The former pupils also resolved that they host a family fun day that has a similar concept to the biggest braai to fundraise money towards the school. The alumni were enthusiastic about giving back to a school that they believe produces people of key importance to the nation.

Some former pupils, who are part of the association are Standard Bank CEO Mvuselele Fakudze, Reverend David Matshe, His Majesty's Correctional Service (HMCS)



Bheki Makhubu called for people to stop bending the rules to please others by embracing their truth and speaking it at all times.

Commissioner General Mzuthini Ntshangase, Reverend Solomon Nxumalo, Bahai School's Muzi Simelane as well as other notables.

During a past function, former pupils donated money towards the fundraising for the school which include Mzuthini Ntshangase who contributed E5 000.

The association has an executive that ensures that the operations of the association move accordingly on behalf of the members.

The executives include Reverend David Matse-Chairperson, Osvart Sukati-Vice Chairperson, Nokuthula Mamba-Treasurer and Muzi Simelane-secretary.

The Alumni hope that this will encourage current pupils to do the same once they have finished with their studies at the school to give back whatever they can and also use this platform to network with past pupils.

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SWAZI MOBILE: OVERWHELMING REACTION FROM PUBLIC

BY LUSITO TSELA

Swazi Mobile has received an overwhelming amount of interest, with hundreds of people queuing to get their SIM cards, a few days after the company went 'live'. However, this has not gone without its problems, as members of the public have been made to queue for hours on end to finally lay their hands on the chip to begin life as Swazi Mobile users.

The operator yesterday assured that it had taken stock of the problems of the early days and had improved its visibility and reach, and, therefore assured that it is getting better at servicing customers.

The starter pack is now in the market for the first time since the company was launched and they have experienced an overwhelming reaction from the public.

In a press briefing at their offices, Swazi Mobile Chairman Victor Gamedze said they did not expect such an overwhelming response at an early stage. He apologised however, for the inconvenience and delay



People queuing for Swazi Mobile SIM cards yesterday in the late afternoon at the Swazi Plaza as agents were kept busy responding to questions from members of the public.

(Pic: Lusito Tsela)

to the public.

The public was delayed in getting their SIM cards at some stations because the company had not signed agreements to use the stations. However, the chairman urged the public not to be disturbed as that was sorted out.

The chairman assured the public that everyone will get their Swazi Mobile SIM cards regardless of their

location. Swazi Mobile SIM cards will be available anywhere in the country from Tuesday since the company is decentralising their services. Gamedze said the public should not worry for they will get what is due to them.

The chairman further mentioned that the queues were caused by the fact that most people wanted to keep their numbers. The numbers had to

be activated one by one thus wasting more time on one number. However, all people who bought SIM cards they will be activated in 24 hours. Chief Marketing Officer Khulile Dlamini confirmed that people are queuing everywhere in their stations to get Swazi Mobile SIM card. He emphasised that the SIM cards are free, but the public are buying the package they will use for E50.

'We are coming to your town'

Given the mad rush for Swazi Mobile SIM cards, the company has undertaken to get to the rest of the towns, urging the public not to panic.

Chairman Victor Gamedze has urged the public to stay in their towns, assuring them that they were com-

ing to their areas. "They do not need to panic, we will get to their town.

There are enough SIM cards that have been set aside for people in the rest of the towns, and we will get to those," he said yesterday.

With the mobile operator offering its shares to people who sign up, there

is an urgency by the users to get their hands on the SIM cards to be eligible to become shareholders. This has led to people rushing to get signed up.

Planned

Yet, Gamedze said they had planned to get to the rest of the areas later, with about 25 000 SIM cards to be

spread across the country.

"As a company we have decided to go to the people; so people must stay where they are.

We have allocated SIMs to the whole country," he reassured.

He said the 100 000 users they are targeting will be made up of a network across the country.

The early bird should not panic

People who registered for the early bird should not worry for their SIM cards are ready and will be issued soon.

The company assured that they will be notified by email when and where to get them. Chief Strategy Officer Jeff Penberton promised that the early bird will be treated like executives as they will not queue for their SIM cards since they submitted all their information. However, anyone who registered for the early bird and are in a rush to get their SIM cards, they can go to any of their outlets and they will get them.

Earlier this month, Swazi Mobile announced that the first 100 000 Swazis to purchase SIM cards will be eligible to buy shares in the company.

However, the company has mentioned that the 25 000 people registered for the early bird already form a part of the 100 000.

Penberton said the company is working on providing all the services provided next-door. However, they are creating a platform where the public will not use any data when accessing the sites.

Penberton said at the moment, the public will not be able to use the international services such as making international calls, roaming and sending SMSes. The public will be able to make international calls from the 30th of September, and they will be able to send SMSes anywhere in the world in mid August.

The Swazi Mobile network will also run on LTE network making it easy for people to make video calling and same units will apply depending on the package that a person will be using.

12 survive gruesome kaKhoza van accident

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI

A total of twelve people were rushed to hospital with various injuries after the van they were travelling in failed to negotiate the corner from Mhlaleni towards Manzini with the driver losing control of the car.

The accident happened just after 10am resulting in traffic back up as survivors got spilt on the road.

An eye witness, who was at the scene said he suspected there could have been fatalities judging from the amount of blood on the road.

However

This was, however, disputed by the police through Deputy Chief Police Information and Communication Officer Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati who said they had taken all passengers to the hospital.

The accident occurred about 300 metres from the spot where there was a seven car pile-up over a week ago.



Twelve people escaped with various injuries after this van lost control as it turned from Mhlaleni towards kaKhoza. They were rushed to the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital for treatment. Food stuff such as eggs and meat were strewn all over the place. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

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Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority

SIPA gives cleaners' company 3-year tender

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA) has given Lethukuthula Investment a three-year cleaning services contract.

This is a company that has been formed by the retrenched SIPA cleaners. When the news of their retrenchments was announced, it was believed to have emanated from the fact that the former employees of SIPA had forwarded their grievances related to their working conditions.

It was also alleged to be as a result of the cleaners' bitter relationship with the CEO.

It was later clarified that this followed a decision of the SIPA board to outsource the cleaning services so that companies can tender for it.

Meetings

This meant that their job would end on June 30 which alarmed the 14 cleaners as they thought this meant the end of their career and employment.

The workers then engaged the Amalgamated Trade Unions of Swaziland (ATUSWA) for it to intervene.

Thereafter three parties engaged in meetings which seem to have been a success as SIPA and the workers are said to have reached a common ground.

This agreement then saved the cleaners their jobs as they soon learned that they could form a company and in the process retain their jobs.

Investments

The good news was that their former employer was willing to give their company first preference and a three-year contract as long as they delivered good service.

SIPA did not only grant them the contract but volunteered to assist them form and run the company especially in the administration area.

Soon after these discussions the

workers had been in the process of registering their company which had been named Lethukuthula Investment where-in they are also shareholders.

ATUSWA Secretary General Wonder Mkhonta said they were happy that none of the workers lost their jobs and that they assisted facilitating the dialogues between the employer and the workers.

He said his organisation was committed at assisting the newly formed company where needed and encouraged them to develop themselves with skills needed to manage the entity.

He advised that they should not bring issues from the past but let them be history and focus on the future.

"Even if there were some differences they should be left in the

...The good news was that their former employer was willing to give their company first preference and three year contract as long as they delivered good service.

past where they belong.

Sometimes when two bulls fight in the workplace the workers tend to be vulnerable and are usually the ones that suffer," he said.

The Chairperson of the company Lucky Mngometulu revealed that the company has been fully registered and started rendering its services beginning of this month.

He also pointed out that their company had 14 shareholders who are the retrenched cleaners. He said so far they have good relations with their former employer.

He however, lamented that they were still waiting for someone from SIPA to assist them with the administrative and office work which they are not yet equipped on citing issues of payrolls and salary processing.

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Life in the political wilderness is very challenging.

These are views of former Minister of Health Benedict Xaba who revealed how everything changed the minute he left office to the extent he hasn't bought a shirt since he last went to the Switzerland to represent the country at the World Health Organisation in 2013.

He said his experience taught him that after leaving office, former politicians become rejects, stigmatised to the extent they fail to get employment despite being qualified.

He revealed how following his failure to get elected following losing to current Shiselweni II MP Mthokozisi Kunene, people he once considered friends while minister, started avoiding his calls whereas some even blocked him, confirming that they did not want to be associated with him.

Experience

Xaba was interviewed in his office at Mayors Initiative for Community Action on HIV and AIDS at Local Level (AMICAALL) in Manzini where he is national director, a position he took up in May. He revealed that his failure to get a job locally after the elections, saw him getting employed and appointed by international organisations which engaged him on the basis of his experience as minister.

"I think I was engaged by the organisations and companies on the credible record and achievements I had as minister under the health portfolio," he said after stating how he was appointed by the World Bank and Global Fund as a Southern African Development Community (SADC) Special Envoy on Tuberculosis and Mining.

This appointment was closely followed by engagement at Otsuka Pharmaceuticals in Geneva, Switzerland where he was public

health advisor for Africa. He said prior to these engagements, he experienced what he termed being in the professional dustbin, a reject, who couldn't get a job whereas he felt he had given the country everything he had professionally, "I gave a 100 per cent, both nationally and at my constituency."

Positions

He said he was disappointed to note that no one wanted to employ him, "I think the problem with former ministers is that people feel intimidated by their former positions and fear that they will bring politics to their establishments." Xaba said his engagement at Otsuka took him to places his ministerial post had not, such as Barcelona in Spain, Egypt and Senegal. He relented that it was a good job for him financially whereas the Global Fund board membership was more of a volunteer position as he found that he had to use his money most of the time. Tragedy struck in 2016 when he was promised another job. "I was offered an international position which somehow did not pan out," he said. He explained that even though he was given the option of contract renewal at the World Bank, he did not due to the promise of the new position. "I was supposed to assume a new contract outside the country but nothing came of that resulting in having to go through a very tough period," he said.

Calling it a dry season, he said it reaffirmed his relationship with God as he found himself unemployed and having to rely on his wife.

Wife

"My wife fed me," he said of his situation, stating that he was in a desert that was only manageable by constant praying. He said he had, for over eight years when he was minister and afterwards, never bothered to find out what his wife earned. "Teachers really struggle with their salaries."

This is despite having served as legislator who was supposed to be cognisant of such as they are stipulated by circulars which determine their pay which were approved at cabinet level. "I was shocked to find out that she earned peanuts as deputy head teacher and this is what we had to live on," he said adding how difficult it was being

fed by his wife as he had always been the provider. He said during the ensuing years after 2013, having experienced hardships prior to his international jobs, they had to adopt drastic lifestyle changes. "When things were good (when he was minister); we used to travel to South Africa every month end and to enjoy a lot of outings as well as eat out," he said adding how the absence of a ministerial paycheque enabled him to make changes. "Even now that things have changed, we no longer go out as much as we used to and always eat simply, at home," he said. He said being short of money, he realised that there were clothes he had bought prior to 2013 which had never been used. "I used to buy several shirts on trips to Switzerland as minister and had several suites made one time in Thailand. Most of these remained unused due to the fact that I gained weight while minister; however, during my struggles, I found that they all fit as I lost most of that weight when I left office," he said. He said his spending sprees diminished by nearly 100 per cent. Xaba said he wished the current crop would prepare themselves well for life outside because it can be hard for one who has no plan. "If there was a way of going back and doing things another way, I would so I could have been better prepared." "I had a lot of friends as a politician and on hindsight, I realise they were friends to the position, not me," he said. Advising the current crop he said they should not be overwhelmed and misled that people love them. "the minute you step down, people block you, you become isolated. Understand that as a minister, you have to make crucial decisions, some not popular while sacrificing your time and family," he said adding how meetings with former colleagues who failed to get back into politics were an eye opener. "We have our different struggles," he said adding how he was grateful for having lost the elections because this made him realise and appreciate a lot of things.

"You get to a level when you thank God for having fuel to get around and food to live on. I now understand why that happens, the problem is we don't learn from our predecessors."

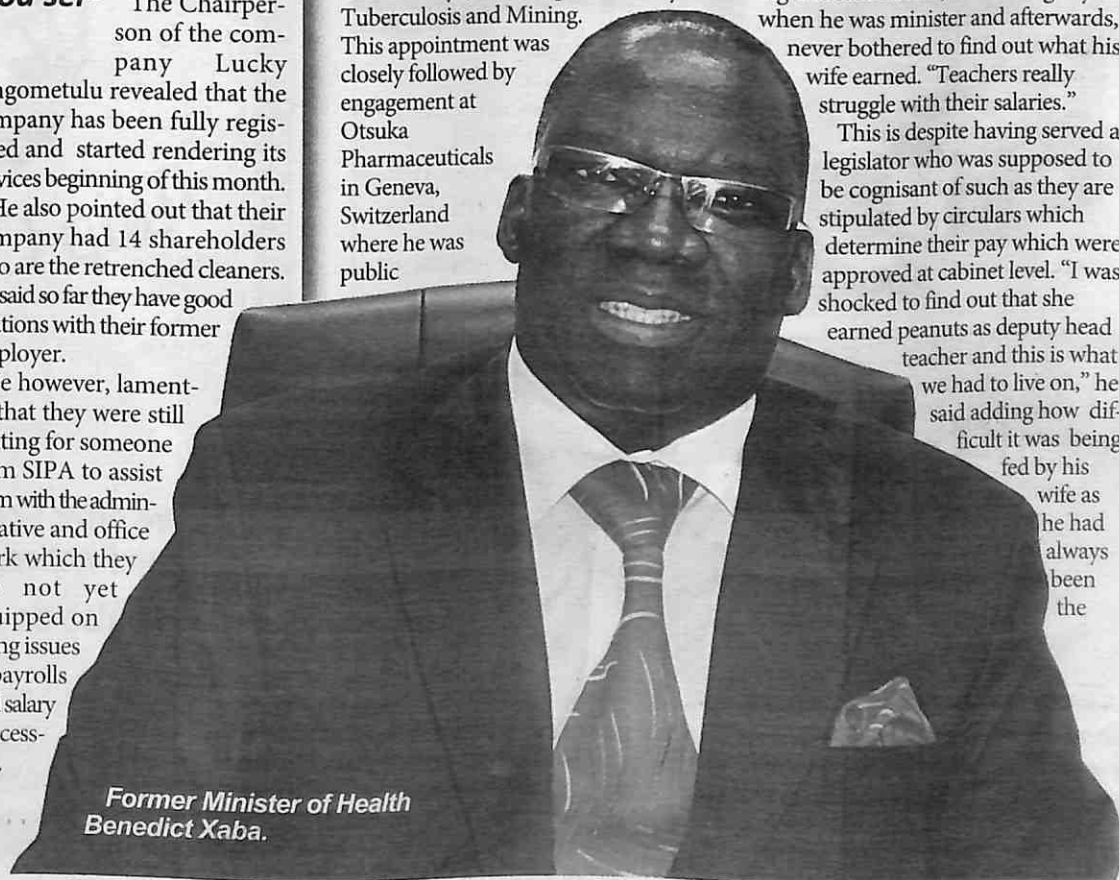
Revealing a tinge of disgruntlement over his failed election bid, he said it was disheartening to note that politicians offer all they have and get nothing in return.

"We invested a lot on people and at the end of the day, there is nothing as people then dump you."

He said such an experience was very painful as he had connected with other members of Parliament with whom he had established a prayerful rapport, "All you are then left with is God and your family. The situation I went through was one that taught me a lot of things. I think I got a stronger qualification on life than if I had gone to Harvard University."

I HAVEN'T BOUGHT A NEW SHIRT IN FOUR YEARS - BENEDICT XABA

...says his calls were blocked by people he once considered friends



Former Minister of Health
Benedict Xaba.

PM praised for honing his skills

Former Minister of Health Benedict Xaba says he owes his subsequent professional career to the way the Prime Minister Barnabas Dlamini pushed cabinet to perform.

Revealing his initial reaction to the PM, he said he feared him; "I had never met the PM prior to my appointment as minister and this made me fear him. I feared him to the extent of shaking whenever I had an encounter with him," he said, adding; "When he called me, I

used to shake fearing what the call was about."

The initial fear turned to respect after sometime. Xaba said this was largely due to understanding how it called for updating the PM on pertinent issues prior to him hearing about them in other spheres, "I told myself that I had to deliver, both internationally and locally."

"I consulted him extensively and let him know about everything before he asked and this made for smooth relations," he said, adding how the PM really pushed him to deliver.

He owes this adopted work ethic to what made him successful in his job; "During our tenure, the PM declared us the best cabinet he had worked with, something I still hold to heart. I am sure he misses most of us."

Xaba said this also spurred him to be recognised internationally, "I owe my international engagements to the way the PM honed me to be better at my job," he said.

He said he was blessed to have worked with the PM as well as his then deputy, Themba Masuku, who he said he both admired for having made inroads internationally where they succeeded. "I am what I am because of the PM."

...admits to once fearing PM, feelings which turned to respect

I failed dismally in business

Despite having several academic certificates under his belt, Benedict Xaba revealed that business was not his forte.

He said, out of desperation, he tried to dabble in the used-car business, to his detriment. "Never make a business decision at night when desperate," he said, adding, how he never had any entrepreneurial ambitions until he fell on hard times. "I was used to working

with people, in humanitarian and charitable concerns," he said.

Seeing as this was not paying the bills and he was unemployed, save for board membership appointments, he said he then decided to try his hand at selling vehicles.

"I bought 40 cars which I thought would be easy to sell. However, I have had to sell them at greatly reduced prices in order to cover costs which I had not

anticipated," he said. The former minister said he had the cars shipped by rail to the country and he found that they had to stay at the dry dock for sometime as he tried to clear them resulting in skyrocketing fees.

"I ended up selling only six at drastically reduced prices as the Pakistanis who had orders would approach me and negotiate for lowered prices," he said adding how business had really frustrated him since he was not used to it.

I got along well with Makhalemphe

Contrary to public perception that their public spats bred animosity between Benedict Xaba and former Minister of Education and Training Wilson Makhalemphe Ntshangase, the former stated that their relationship was more than cordial.

He was referring to the much reported fall-out which was reported in mainstream media about the way the ministry of health disbursed deworming tablets at schools which was subsequently suspended by the Prime Minister in

2009.

During a breakfast meeting, the two ministers locked horns concerning the exercise with Ntshangase asserting that it reminded him of slavery days as he stated that he had attended despite misgivings of feeling like he was being pulled by the nose whereas he was not comfortable with the deworming exercise at schools.

Xaba said that incident made it seem as though the two did not get along to an extent that they were seemingly pit-

ted against each other based on it.

"I got along very well with other ministers to the point that we still share cordial relations to date," he said.

He added how missed the way his peers such as then minister of sports, culture and youth affairs Hlobisile Ndlovu as well that of public works and transport Nthuthuko Dlamini made life easier by breaking the ice with their light-hearted banter. He said he was close to Macford Sibandze, who was minister for a while at tourism.

Ready to make AMICAALL all-inclusive

Having had his experience, from being co-founder and director at Nhlanguano AIDS Training, Information and Counselling Centre (NATICC) to being a minister of health and thereafter working at a global level, Benedict Xaba is ready to take the Alliance of Mayors Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level to new heights.

Not new to working with communities on combating HIV and AIDS, Xaba said he previously worked in the rural areas and realised that there were declining numbers of people testing positive due to urban migration and he sees this as a chance to carry on his work and see to it that the country gets to the first 90 per cent.

Ideas

This is an ambitious undertaking to have 90 per cent of all people living with HIV to know their HIV status while the same percentage of all people diagnosed HIV positive should receive sustained antiretroviral therapy as well as having 90 per cent of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy have viral suppression by 2020.

"Rudolf Maziya really did a great job as my predecessor and he laid ground for me to come up with new ideas," he said, adding how the strength of the organisation was ensuring prevention which is better than cure.

He relented that the organisation had for the last 16 years focused on HIV only and he wants to change the approach and have it look at all factors that contribute to its spread. "The challenges in the cities are many, some of them exacerbated by substance and alcohol abuse resulting in people engaging in risky behaviour," he said, adding how it was in this regard he wanted to change the scope of the whole organisation.

Sex Workers

Looking at one aspect, he said he was of the notion that in the rural areas, there were hardly any commercial sex workers; "People from the rural areas move to town for employment opportunities and due to scarcity of jobs, many people then resort to other means of making money," he said.

He said it was for this reason there was need to look for out-of-school-youth as they are the most affected.

"You find a young person with good qualifications unable to secure good paying jobs engaged in risky behaviour.

It is not just about giving them condoms, but about identifying the factors that lead them to such situations and helping them overcome them," he said. He said it was pertinent to equip youth on what they need to not just be employed, but to start their own initiatives which will set them off to a life of entrepreneurship.

He said there was need for collaboration in all sectors which will see programmes which reduce the need for youth to move to urban areas to seek employment and when disappointed by lack thereof, engage in risky behaviour.

He said he intended to see to it that the organisation creates one-stop centres in all urban areas which will assist youth in not just counselling, but equip them in how to solve the problems they face. Xaba said his other project included mobilising donor funding as the country is facing serious challenges in meeting out some of the projects intended to benefit everyone due to donor fatigue.

CANGO sings praises for SD's good story towards combating HIV

BY LUSITO TSELA

The Chairperson of the Swaziland HIV and AIDS Consortium of NGOs and Civil Society Organisations (SHACO) under the auspices of the Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO), Hlobisile Nxumalo has congratulated the government of Swaziland for achieving a decreased HIV incidence and suppressed viral load in people living with HIV and AIDS. "We would like to join the nation in expressing our congratulations... that the HIV incidence has decreased by half and those virally suppressed also improved. This is great news for the Kingdom of Swaziland," Nxumalo said.

This comes after the Swaziland HIV Incident Measurement Survey (SHIMS2) was launched at the high level by the Prime Minister, Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini in cabinet offices on Monday.

Disaster

The Prime Minister had said the second SHIMS "is the first empirical evidence of progress in tackling one of the prevailing challenges in the fight against HIV and AIDS - that is, the rate of new HIV infections." He also said it is "key data in the nation's collective efforts" since His Majesty King Mswati III declared HIV and AIDS a national disaster.

Echoing his words, Nxumalo said there has been a show of wisdom and leadership from the Monarchy cascading down to the political commitments and multi sectoral players including NGOs and development partners in achieving the results. "When His Majesty King, Mswati III declared HIV and AIDS as a national disaster in 1999, this act of courage and leadership galvanised the Government, Non-Governmental Organisations, Faith Based Organisations, traditional authorities, the private sector, ordinary citizens, international partners, and people who were already living with HIV and AIDS to take action under the banner 'I AIDS Yindzaba Yetfu Sonkhe,'" she said.

Issues

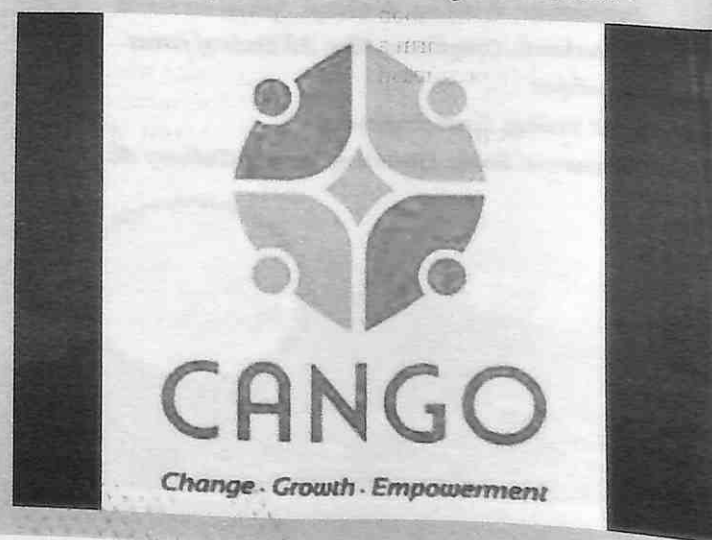
SHACO which was formed in 1999 after the declaration of HIV and AIDS as a national disaster counts amongst the first initiatives by civil society sector when

the Swaziland's case at the time would have been catastrophic. NGOs had begun in the early 1980s to focus on the HIV issue then emerging as a mysterious, fearful and complex to understand. Other times lines of the multisector approach included the conception of the national Emergency Response Council on HIV and AIDS (NERCHA) under the prime minister's office in 2001 which was subsequently formed through an act of Parliament in 2003 (The NERCHA Act No. 8/2003) and tasked mainly to coordinate and facilitate the National multisectoral HIV and AIDS response. Swaziland has also benefitted from the United Nations' initiatives, UNAIDS, the Global Fund to Fight HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) which was set up by the then United States of America, President George W. Bush in 2003 as well as the African Union and Southern African Development Community (SADC) initiatives.

The high infection rate which was one of the highest in the world attracted the world and in solidarity, mobilised resources and expertise to fight HIV and AIDS, the chairperson said.

"This Swaziland's good story will not be possible without the role played by international organisations and partners of the government," she said.

She said government has made efforts to collaborate and work closely with NGOs and Faith Based organisation through structures such as the Swaziland National AIDS Programme (SNAP). "Government ensured that the multisectoral response aimed at the realisation that HIV and AIDS was not just a health problem but a disease making every sector of the society feel the brunt," she said. Global targets in the fight against HIV are pointing towards elimination of the disease. The programmatic language now talks of three frees; which means start free - eliminate new HIV infections; stay free - reduce 95 per cent of new infections; and AIDS free - provide treatment for all HIV patients. However, the prime minister said there have been lot of challenges including "extensive stigma and denial".



NOTHING WITHOUT MONEY

...as Dr Tumi no show due to no payment

STORIES BY NOMFUNDO SIFUNDZA

Hopes of gospel music lovers drowning in the sounds of Dr Tumi's worship songs were flushed down the drain yesterday as the award winning singer did not show up.

Dr Tumi alerted his fans prior in the afternoon via his social media (Facebook) page that he was no longer coming to the country.

The reason for dejecting many fans of the star as stated by his facebook page was a failure of the organisers to fulfil all obligations as required by their contractual agreement.

Dr Tumi had been scheduled to perform at Esibayeni Lodge yesterday evening where free transport had been made available.

A representative of the organisers identified as Sandile Dlamini however was as disappointed by the artist's sudden decision to not come to the country as according to him his com-

pany 'Toy Story' had met all requirements including payments.

When requested to share with this publication the proof of payment Dlamini refused, stating that it was a legal document between his company and their client, Dr Tumi.

Worth noting is that Dr Tumi did not go the usual route of artists posting and inviting fans to their upcoming shows for the Swaziland show, instead the singers social media pages as from Monday were filled with posts of his upcoming show to be staged in South Africa where he aims to 'fill up the Dome.'

Dr Tumi did not hide anything from disappointed fans who questioned why he had not posted about the Swaziland show and why he eventually did not come as he responded "Simply put nothing was organised. They were supposed to make certain payments. Book accommodation and transport, we received checks which seemingly were faked."

The gospel star was sold a dummy by the new events company 'Toy Story'



as on Monday they claimed Swazi banks were on strike and the 'faked' payment would reflect on Friday, which did not."

Payment

This lie that the payment would reflect on Dr Tumi's account on a Friday then held the singer hostage to announce to fans that he would no longer be coming to the country as he nursed hope that indeed the payment would reflect.

Dr Tumi elaborated, "we were told that the chairman of their company stole the money that was supposed to be used for the event and they were



trying to make other arrangements. Those arrangements seemingly did not materialise. They made us believe it would be done and for that reason and not wanting to disappoint anyone we gave them enough time as we felt it would still be possible for us to get to SD. Now at this point it is impossible. I'm not sure if anything has been arranged. I did not want to speak about the event on our page until I was sure I would be available. But they had obviously started the promotions that side. I'm sincerely sorry and I believe they

Organisers apologise, to refund ticket holders

The Toy Story company pledged to do all in their means to refund all ticket holders and further profusely apologised for the inconvenience caused.

Sandile Dlamini said they were yet to come up with a strategy to refund ticket owners.

VIP Tickets cost E300 whilst general tickets were priced E200.

Dlamini said they appreciated the support offered by the public in this first show they were trying to pull together as 'Toy Story.'

should totally repay the money for the tickets."

Actually our plan was to make the announcement on Monday (tomorrow) but we were told the banks are on strike and it would reflect by Friday and unfortunately we believed it."



Former Director General, CID Sabelo Hlophe with his sweetheart sharing a blanket which was presented to them yesterday.



A section of police officers from the CID enjoying drinks during the event.

FORMER CID DIRECTOR GENERAL TELLS COPS TO DESIST FROM CORRUPTION

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

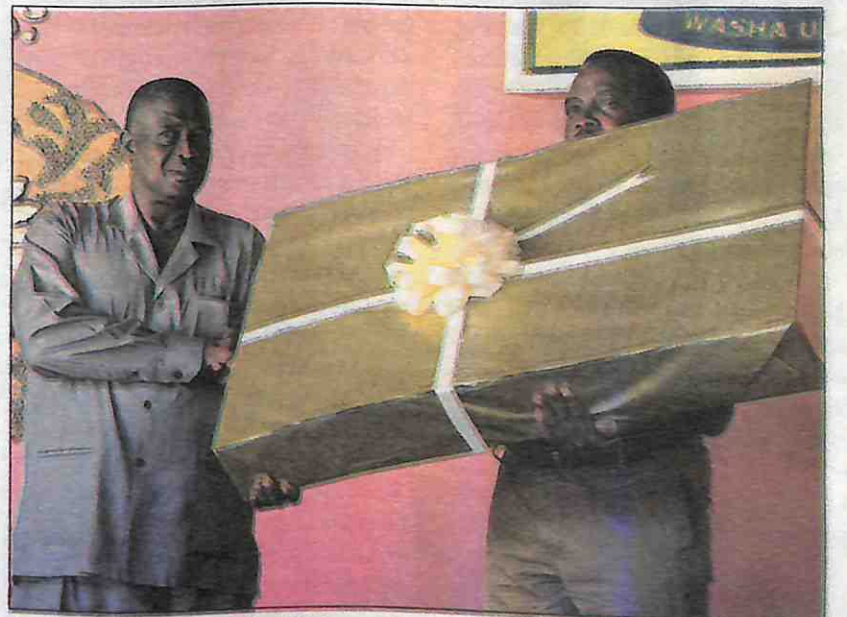
Former police director General CID Sabelo Hlophe has urged police officers to desist from corrupt practices, speaking during his farewell function which was held at Malandela yesterday.

The former cop has now retired, after having served the police service for 37 years. He said even if they are promoted to senior posts that does not mean they should be corrupt and accept bribes. He said they should learn from him as he can account for all his property and has never been found in the wrong side of the law.

He also encouraged them to build homes while they are young not to wait for the retirement funds. Hlophe also said he felt sorry for the police for failing to find missing people including businessman Almor Oliveira and the loss of cops including Schaza.

Among other speakers was Constable Jabulani Ginindza who is stationed at the Hhohho regional headquarters who spoke on behalf of the CID officers who bid farewell to their director. In his

- The former cop has now retired, after having served the police service for 37 years.



Hlophe accepting his gift from his well wishers.

remarks he described Hlophe as a legend who had imparted wisdom to their department and the service as a whole noting that he will always be a police officer.

He said he had worked with dedica-

tion commitment and diligence which made a footprint that they will not forget.

The officer was presented with gifts which included a plasma television and blanket.

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SANU students boycott top-up

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Government sponsored Southern African Nazarene University (SANU) students sponsored have vowed that they will not pay a single cent of the top-up fees expected of them as they maintain that they don't owe the institution anything.

Instead, they resolved to stage protests on the days of the deadlines for the payment of these fees which are scheduled to be on August 3 - 4.

The students pointed out that apart from the fact that they don't have this money, they were not the rightful persons from whom the tuition fees should have been sought from but their sponsor. They said they would not entertain the manner the university operated, which they labelled as unprofessional as the administration had demanded money and out of the blue set a month deadline.

About two weeks ago, the institution informed the students that they had an outstanding top-up balance which is up to nearly E5 000 in some programmes as government had only paid part of their tuition.

Additionally, they were informed that all students are expected to pay 30 per cent of the first semester tuition fees while those who are government sponsored, were promised that they would be refunded once government had paid.

Students were also informed that all those owing must pay first semester fees in full by the end of November as failure to do so would result in them not receiving their first semester results and denied registration for the second semester.

Submitting

The students have since decided that they will not be submitting any deposit slips for clearing as they will have not paid anything.

They have also vowed that if this matter is not resolved before the opening of the institution, they will boycott classes in a similar manner like that of February which saw the university being closed.

This resolution was taken in a meeting held at the SNAT offices in Manzini on Friday morning. According to the students their sponsor is liable for their full tuition fees, as the contract they signed has no clause that says the scholarship will only pay 70 per cent or a certain amount.

Some of the students that participated in the meeting expressed the pain of having their results withheld and requested others to be in solidarity with them by boycotting the payment of the tuition fees even if they would afford.

They said if they dare to pay the 30 per cent, they would have betrayed them and other prospective students as this would be the gateway for the university to continue increasing the fees to a point where they would eventually be required to pay the full tuition fees from their pockets.

Deprived

"Government has taken a stand that schools should not over-charge pupils and banned top-up fees so that no child can be deprived the right to education. It is amazing that the same government on the other hand allows the university over-charge us and expect us to top-up?" wondered one of the students while making his submissions.

The meeting was also attended by the Swaziland National Union of Students (SNUS) President, Brian Sangweni who also supported the resolution to boycott the top-up tuition fees stating that it was the responsibility of the government to provide scholarships for all students who have been admitted to tertiary institutions.

"Some of the students did not manage to have bus fare to even attend the meeting, how then can you expect them to pay the required sum, government should pay the outstanding fees. The right to education should be enjoyed by everyone unconditionally" he noted.

HAVE ASIANS CHANGED THE WAY SWAZIS VIEW BUSINESS?

STORIES BY LUSITO TSELA

They opened the smallest and some bigger shops in urban and rural communities operating business concerns such as general dealers, gadget shops as well as fast-foods and they have changed the landscape in the way locals do their shopping.

"Asian-owned shops operate even on public holidays," Samkelo Dlamini of Mpolonjeni said while standing by the Betfusile Street corner in Mbabane.

He acknowledged that this was advantageous to them as shoppers but was not good for the employees.

"Swazis employed by them can no longer attend *umhlanga* for example but they never miss their (Muslims) Friday prayers, closing their businesses and making staff keep guard of the shops, an indirect lunchtime never afforded to their employees on normal occasions," he added.

The perception that Asians have not come to better the life of Swazis seems to be growing by the day. Complaints about the incompliance with the law are amassing whereby people feel that the Employment Act is not being followed to the letter and that many have been found operating shops without permits or even being in the country illegally.

Overtime

"Our fellow brothers and sisters employed by Indians in the country are not working eight hours per the requirement of the Employment Act, they work more hours yet they are not being paid their overtime," Dlamini said.

He is one of few people interviewed about on this as it has been noted that locals seem to be getting used to finding their shops of choice closed whenever they get that one hour of freedom to do shopping on Fridays.

On the other hand, Christopher Gama said he does not think Asians are controlling the way Swazis live, although he said he does not see the economic benefits they are supposed to come with as investors.

Gama said his chagrin stemmed from the fact that they seemed able to take local women for wives whereas Swazi men do not seem to have that liberty.

He, however, did not state whether he had ever tried and failed to try take an Asian wife.



Closed and people are waiting outside.

He noted that though they came as investors, they did not bring much to the economy.

"It is common knowledge that the money Asians generate does not circulate within Swaziland but they take it back to the countries of their origin leaving Swazis in no better condition.

Exploited

Swaziland Revenue Authority should also be taxing these businesses as they do to Swazis because they lose a lot of money which leaves the country through them. The law in Swaziland to prevent money from leaving the country should be enforced, and most importantly our people should be protected from being exploited," said Gama.

Nandipha Dlamini said she worked for an Asian in a shop in 2016 and made the decision that she would never work for them again.

She related how she suffered as she alleged

that one of her supervisors proposed love to her and when she refused, he made life a living hell for her.

"I was hired as a cashier, but when I refused to be his girlfriend I was made to sweep and mop the floor every day in front of customers. At that time I needed the job so I made sure to keep my mouth shut and did what I was told, even though it did not fall under my job description. I worked for three months and felt I could not take it any longer so I had to quit," said Nandipha.

She said she was also of the view that Asians controlled the way Swazis live.

Nandipha said the government should come up with a monitoring mechanism to ensure that business does not get disrupted as it can be saddening to watch a person waiting outside a shop to open simply because the customer is desperate.

Workers fired after 10 years of short-term contracts

BY LUSITO TSELA AND THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Three workers from Freedom Electrical Contractors (Pty) Limited have been shown the exit door.

They were served with a letter informing them that their fixed term contract of employment was coming to an end with effect from July 18, in line with the contract entered into between the parties. In the letter, the company stipulates that they shall be invited to negotiate new contracts on con-

dition that the company's negotiations with their biggest contractor for new contracts to do new projects have been awarded to the company.

Over and above, the employees have given them a five-day notice to vacate the company house which they occupy. The letter states that failure to comply would result in necessary action being taken to ensure their compliance.

The three worked for the company since 2007 on three months contracts. They alleged that they worked on contracts without a

break because the director did not want to give them benefits when they left the company. In their findings, they said the law did not consider them temporary employees.

They alleged that the employer once signed some of the employee's letters to acquire a loan at a certain bank, which to them was proof enough that they were not temporary employees since banks do not offer loans to temporary employees.

They say they were buried in debts and they cannot pay the loans which they took under the assumption

that they would be able to repay them as they have been employed for several years.

They allege that before their contracts elapsed, they were called to a meeting where they were told that their salaries would be cut by E1 700 due to financial constraints.

The alleged abuse of the employees became worse with regards to their leave days and holidays because they said they had to work all holidays and did not have leave days, sometimes waking up at night to work overtime which was never paid. They alleged that they tried



ASIAN'S WAY OF LIFE CAN BE EXAMPLE FOR SUCCESS

There is feeling that despite having changed the business landscape in the country negatively, there are several practices which, when emulated, can spell success for the nation. One such etiquette is the way they assist each other start businesses.

Samuel Dlamini said he has for years watched how Asians, after inviting their lesser privileged relatives to join them in the country, later help them start their own enterprises.

"I have heard how they don't charge each other interest on loans," he said, adding how this model helps in looking after small businesses as it makes

it possible to collude and ensure that they complement each other's businesses.

Sustainability

"There seems to be a lot of support for one another when it comes to the Asian's way of life when compared to the Swazi lifestyle, this including the sustainability of business support or never letting any of their own to be subjected to extreme poverty," he said, adding how this should be looked into if people want to succeed.

He said borrowing from financial institutions and keeping their money there is neither here nor there.

"I understand their loans to

each other have very low interest compared to those given by financial institutions in Swaziland, which is why Swazis are having difficulties to be in business," said Dlamini.

On the other hand, Njabulo Sibeko, who owns a grocery shop at Mpolonjeni, said he never closes his store because that would affect business.

He said Asians are much disciplined when it comes to their religion and that is why they remain in business for longer than Swazis.

"Maybe their faith helps them to be successful because of their devotion which we fail to do," said Angela Dlamini.

Commercial Amadoda calls for tougher action against illegal Asian businessmen

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The Swaziland Commercial Amadoda (SCA) says Asians found operating businesses illegally should return to their country of origin.

The SCARTA Vice Treasurer Edward Masilela was responding to the arrest of nine Asian businessmen who were arrested for being in the country illegally and also operating businesses illegally. It is worth noting that this was the second group to be arrested following a police raid around Mbabane as another 30 Asians were arrested for similar offences two weeks ago.

He protested the E1 000 bail granted to such offenders saying this was not a good deterrent than deporting them. Masilela believes that the Asians being in the country is affecting the Swazi economy negatively as he says they "steal" from the economy.

He complained Swazis can no longer run businesses despite the availability of development funds since shops are now occupied by the Asian nationals.

Conspiring

Masilela, however, admitted that it was true that in some cases it was Swazis who were conspiring with Asians by giving them trading licenses to run business in the country. "A form of action must be taken by deporting the illegal Asians back to their countries.

It was indicated in their charge sheets that they are holding permits that they did not obtain in a legal way. They did not follow all the procedures set at the home affairs

office so why give them bail they should be sent off," he said.

Masilela says that it is the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority's (SIPA) job to check that only investors are allowed to operate business in the country not those who will be competing with small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Masilela added that the ministry of commerce, industry and trade was lax and suggested that there should be SCA members, where the trading licences are issued to monitor against foreign nationals operating businesses reserved for Swazis.

Observed

He also observed that in the shops, mostly Asians work inside the shops and no Swazis at all in some cases. He said if a Swazi was found, it was because these Asians were still new in the country and they needed someone to translate for them.

Masilela said SCA was now resting their hopes on the ministry of commerce, industry and trade to help them resolve the long unsettled issue of foreign businesses who are now invading the Swazi Nation Land (SNL) which was only reserved for Swazi citizens.

Swazi Commercial Amadoda was established in 1947 by King Sobhuza II to fast track the processes of venturing into business on SNL.

Its mandate was to organise and develop small businesses on Swazi Nation Land, grant exclusive rights to trade on SNL throughout the country and protect the rights and the interests of the disadvantaged small businesses trading on SNL.

ASIANS HIT BACK

Sai Mohammed, a shop owner in Mbabane, alleged that they did not come to Swaziland to disturb anybody's peace.

"We Asians came to Swaziland for business opportunities and also to play a key role in His Majesty's Vision 2022," said Mohammed. "I understand that some may feel that we exploit them and take advantage, I will not point any fingers. I personally respect Swaziland as I have found a new home and great people who are welcoming and warm hearted," said Mohammed.

Mohammed said they brought about a vibrancy to the competitive landscape of the country as they provide Swazis with better and affordable goods and services.

Religion

It is not that we are controlling Swazi people, but the mere fact that we are religious people and do as our religion commands, is the reason why we close our businesses for prayer every Friday.

"Swazi people and Asians are not different from each other, the only difference is that we differentiate time for prayer and time for work," said Mohammed.

BUSINESS HOURS

MONDAY - SATURDAY 7:00AM - 6:00PM

SUNDAY 9:AM - 4:PM

WE CLOSE EVERY DAY FOR PRAYER

FROM 11:00PM - 1:45PM

FRIDAY 12:00PM - 1:45PM

"SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE"

to talk about the issue but the director accused them of plotting against him.

Irregularities

They said they had made attempts to get intervention from agents which enforce accountability because there were many irregularities they noted within the company.

Having been sub-contracted to an electrical producer, they alleged the director would force them to take the material bought by the company to another which is concerned with transportation.

They revealed other alleged incidences which cannot be revealed as they have not yet been reported to the police.

We find it odd that the company would cut our salaries while the director and his assistant are building expensive houses," they said. They alleged that they are being exploited and as a result, their lifestyle is becoming tense.

"We had hoped that our employer will not terminate our contracts until the contract they have with the transportation company elapses," they said.

They alleged that they were not given proper accommodation during the times they worked and lived on-site and were not provided proper food.

"We only ate canned beans and fish," they alleged.

'Lawyer' calls, threatens reporter

After the director failed to respond to questions posed by this reporter despite scheduling an appointment for yesterday at 2pm, a call was made to this reporter by a 'lawyer' who identified himself as Muzi Dlamini.

Using a number which is familiar, the 'lawyer' claimed to be calling as representative to Freedom Electrical and wanted to know what the reporter wanted from his client.

When this reporter handed the phone to his supervisor after feeling

intimidated, the call was dropped immediately by the caller.

Attempts to locate the 'lawyer' failed despite the number being called several times.

Responded

Instead the MTN caller-tune 'Yala Ngami Nkhosi' by gospel singer Frans Dlamini played at every call.

Despite not being responded to, the number was identified as that from The Times of Swaziland which is used as a landline and is available to be used by all.



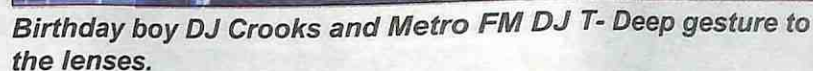


BY AYANDA DLAMINI

Chilly weather did not stop Deep House fans from attending Swazi Boy Entertainment spinners; DJ Tibza and DJ Crooks' double birthday celebration as South African Metro FM DJ T-Deep heated up the Déjà Vu Cocktail lounge with his three-hour set on Friday night.

The Metro FM DJ, who is not new in the country, took over the turntables after midnight, which turned out to be the moment everyone was waiting for.

Revellers, in appreciation of his set, stayed on their toes as they were seen dancing to every single beat rendered



by the spinner.

He thrilled the whole host when he rendered old time song 'Hey hey' by

New York spinner and producer Denis Ferrer.

The crowd sang along to this hit mantra,

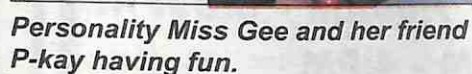
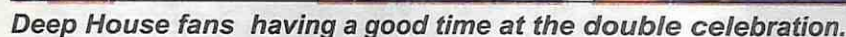
PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
70 Nkoseluhlaza Street, Manzini
P.O. Box 69, Manzini, Swaziland



CONTACT DETAILS

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Prices Excluding V.A.T.

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UP DEJA VU

"And I heard you say; Hey Hey," revellers joined the hook of the song.

He mixed the song with more beats to make it lively.

The Metro FM DJ said he would come to Swaziland at any given day as it was his sixth time in the country and he always gets bliss from the kindness of the nation and its ambience at large.

"I just enjoy the vibe and most importantly I enjoy interacting with the people of Swaziland. The spirit is lively and welcoming, humble and this place (Déjà Vu) is really cool.

It's my first time here but I've been to Cafe Mogambo for a couple of times but I'm liking what I see.

It's a beautiful place. I like the music they play here it's very relaxed and this is my kind of vibe," he said during an interview with this publication before he heated up Déjà Vu with his set.

The international spinner said he was very

excited when he was approached by the Swaziboy Entertainment to come headline the double birthday celebration.

"I was really looking forward to come back in the country. I'm always open to invitation," the spinner stated.

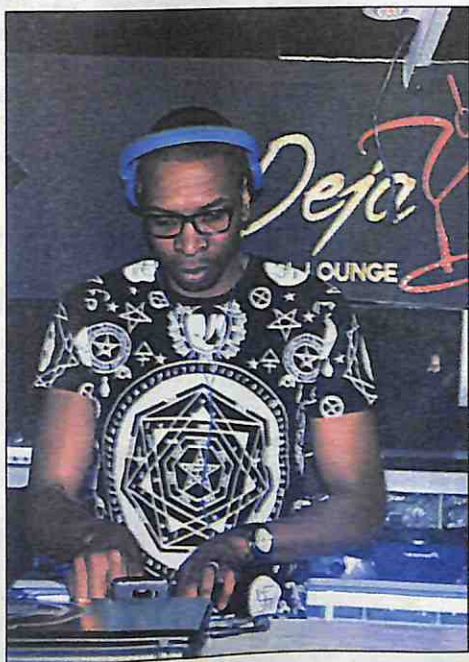
He advised aspiring Deep House spinners to be who they are as they would go far as there is a lot that can be achieved in the house genre industry. Before T-Deep's rendition, Tibza warmed-up the lounge with his Deep House set and he dished out good music. His acquaintances and peers appreciated his music. The birthday-boy spinner enjoyed his set himself as well as he kept on nodding his head and sipping on his drink. At 2:25 am, DJ Mix Mash switched the to Hip Hop genre as he played old school songs, the likes of 'Blow your mind' by Eve, 'Always on time' by Ja-Rule featuring Ashanti and revellers sang along to every single lyric of the old-time songs and danced the night away.



Déjà Vu patrons Sly, Sethabiso, Siya and Illa Pen Boy also attended the double birthday celebration.




DJ Paps giving Illa Penboy a few words of advice.



DJ Mix Mash rendering good music.



Simile went army for the night.



Public Service Pensions Fund

PUBLIC NOTICE / SATISO

PROOF OF LIFE VERIFICATION

Pensioners and Dependants under the Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) are requested to undergo the annual proof of life verification for them to continue receiving their monthly pension payment from the Fund. The verification will be done through the Biometrics System in which members are only required to submit fingerprints for capture without having to complete the Certificate of Existence Forms.

They are requested to visit the listed places and are required to bring along their national Identity Cards (IDs) and Pension Cards on the given dates below:

- 07 to 11 August 2017 Mbabane, Ingcamu Building
- 14 to 18 August 2017 Manzini, Manzini National Library (Venue is only for these dates)
- 21 to 25 August 2017 Nhlanguano, Nhlanguano National Library (Venue is only for these dates)
- 28 to 30 August 2017 Siteki, Evukuzenzele Building
- 31 August to 01 September 2017 Piggs Peak, Piggs Peak Red Cross (Venue is only for these dates)

Dependants above 16 years of age should furnish their IDs, while those below this age should bring with them valid passports.

School going dependants shall undergo this verification process at the Fund's branch offices during this year's August/September school holidays.

The Fund wishes to advise that all Pensioners and Dependants should ensure they have undergone this verification process not later than **31st OCTOBER 2017**, failing which their monthly pension payment shall be suspended as from **1st NOVEMBER 2017**.

BY MANAGEMENT
TOLL FREE: 800 2401

SIMEMETELO SEKUVUSETELA BULUNGA

Emalunga elihhovisi leMhlala Phansi i-PSPF ayacelwa kutsi avakashele emahhovisi aka-Penisheni netindzawo letibaliwe atongenela luhlelo lwekufakazela kutsi lilunga lisaphila, lolwentiwa njalo ngemnyaka kute lilunga likhona kutsi lichubeke litfole imbasha efasitelweni. Loluhlelo lwekuvusetela bulunga lusebentisa kutsatsa umdvwebo wetandla lobitwa ngekutsi pheceleti yi-Biometrics Finger Print System kulababola impenisheli lekungema Pensioners nema Dependants ngaphandle kwekugcwalisa lifomu lelifakazela kutsi lilunga lisaphila lebelisebenta ngaphambilini pheceleti i-Certificate of Existence Form (COE's).

Ema-Pensioners nema-Dependants ayacelwa kutsi avakashele emahhovisi eMhlala Phansi netindzawo letibaliwe, aphaatse matise webuve (ID) neli khadi laka Pensior nganawa emalanga lalandzelako:

- 07 kuya ku 11 Ingci 2017 Mbabane, Ingcamu Building
- 14 kuya ku 18 Ingci 2017 Manzini, kaManzini eMtapeni (kulamalanga labekiwe kuphela)
- 21 kuya ku 25 Ingci 2017 Nhlanguano, eNhlanguano eMtapeni (kulamalanga labekiwe kuphela)
- 28 kuya ku 30 Ingci 2017 Siteki, esakhiweni seVukuzenzele
- 31 Ingci kuya ku 01 Inyoni 2017 Sipiki, emahhovisini eBaphalali (kulamalanga labekiwe kuphela).

Bantwana labangetulu kweminyaka lelishumi nesitfupha (16) babhekeke kutsi baphatse bomatise bebuve babo (ID's), kutsi labo labangephansi kweminyaka lelishumi nesitfupha (16) baphatse emaphasiphoti abo lasebentako.

Bantwana labasahamba sikolwa bona batovusetela emahhovisini eMhlala Phansi lakanekise etigodzini totine telive nasekuvalwe tikolwa (nga August na September). Bantwana bangaloviswa etikolweni.

Lihhovisi leMhlala Phansi likhumbuta emalunga kutsi kumele abe sekavuselele bulunga kungakefiki mhlaka **31 IMPHALA 2017**. Labo labangeke bavuselele ngesikhatsi lesifanele angeke bayitfole imbasha yabo ekupheleni kwenyanga ye **LWETI 2017**.

SIMMETELO SIKHISHWA BAPHATSI BELIHHOVISI LEMHLALAPHANSI
INOMBOLO YAPHANSI YAMAHHALA 800 2401

DOC:14064



CIVIC SOCIETY ALSO CALL FOR OPEN BUDGET

The Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO) and partners are calling government to involve citizens through civil society in the drafting of the national budget.

The organisation says this would be achieved by ensuring that prior to commencing budget drafting, government invites civil society to forward written submissions and the opening up of budget debates in Parliament to civil society through forums whereby they make submissions.

According to CANGO, involvement of civic society in the process of drafting the national budget will allow them to make meaningful contributions which will enable the country to deal with economic trends such as the current recession.

The umbrella body says this will not only strengthen citizens' appreciation of the current economic

climax but would also enhance their compliance with regards to taxes.

CANGO Communications Officer Nkhosihle Myeni stated that such a move would give the people a chance to shape the budget by voicing out solutions on how government could generate income locally.

"Citizens will be able to generate ideas on how the government should respond to the crisis caused by the economic crisis, resources constraints due to low SACU receipts and the ability to raise more from domestic sources," he said. The organisation argues that by adopting an open budget system, government would come up with 'true' national budget that is the "people's budget" as it boosts of a membership of more than 70 organisations which are representatives of the citizens from diverse backgrounds, socio-economic and thematic areas.

MPs, NGOs CALL FOR AN INCLUSIVE BUDGET APPROACH

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Members of Parliament and NGOs are calling for an inclusive budget approach which will be informed by their constituencies.

Mbabane West Member of Parliament Johannes Shongwe says in line with the current system, it is difficult to call it the national budget as ordinary citizens (*luntfu*) have no contribution as MPs who are the representatives of the people are unable to influence it in anyway.

He said they don't have a say yet they are the ones who stay with the people and as such informed of their needs. Shongwe added that this year's budget was not responsive to the people's needs and linked the fiscal challenges faced by the country with poor and uninformed budgeting.

According to him, the first quarter reports confirmed the observations of the parliamentarians when debating the budget and failure to implement the adjustment they requested in February. He said there was a need to consult the people on the ground and a needs assessment should be conducted so that the budget can address those needs.

He said debating the budget was "half useless" as there were no changes made afterwards, citing that their views and opinions were not implemented. He said it was not even true that the finance committee represents the views of MPs in drawing up the national budget. Shongwe argued that the members of the finance committee are usually presented with a document that has already been drawn up by certain people and that MPs were not given a chance to brief them before the drafting of the

budget. He therefore, called for written submissions by each legislator detailing the needs of their constituency.

"The national crisis is as a result of the poor budgeting hence we have unfinished projects. I'm very sorry to the people who elected me and trusted me hoping they would see change; we can't deliver while the budget is drawn by few individuals unless the system is changed or Jesus comes back," he said regretfully.

Lobamba Lomdzala Member of Parliament Marwick Khumalo who doubles as the chairperson of the finance portfolio committee also shared the same sentiments, stating that it was not clear what formula was used in drawing up the budget in the current situation.

He also advocated for the bottom up approach of budget formulation as this format it tends to be inclusive of the grassroots. He said such a system could start at the communities, and move to the chiefdoms then constituencies and to the regions then from there be brought to the national government.

He stated that parliamentarians were also seeking to be given a participatory role in the formulation of the national budget.

MP Khumalo also pointed out that it remains unclear why the country seems unable to fund the budget that was presented by the executive and approved by parliament which he said was raising some serious concern.

He said it turned out while they were debating as the portfolio committee that tax revenue collected in the first quarter of this financial year was far below that that had been collected in first quar-

ter of 2016. He revealed that they asked the minister of finance to explain the drop in the revenue collection which he attributed to among other things the current recession.

"Recession or no recession, the people from whom these taxes are collected should be still there. Another thing that we suspect as parliament is that because of the high penalties charged by SRA people have had to close down business operations," said the MP, further revealing that another MP made reference to the Ngwane Mills case which is said to owe a total of E40m.

According to that MP, the debt was at E10 million with the rest being being penalties," he said.

He noted that there was a need to revisit issue of penalties in the legislation which has become hostile to the business environment and to individuals in the country. He said they also observed that the increasing wage bill also drives the country to the fiscal countries.

Hhukwini Member of Parliament Saladini Magagula said an open budget system could be a move in the direction as it would give power to the people and motivate them to participate in the development of the country.

He said as it is, the priorities of the country are upside down as they are not informed by the people on the ground yet they could have contributed meaningfully.

He said when people see transparency on the use of the available resources they would be encouraged to assist the government to fund the budget. He observed that presently the national budget is underfunded and the nation needs to find ways of generating income and create employment.

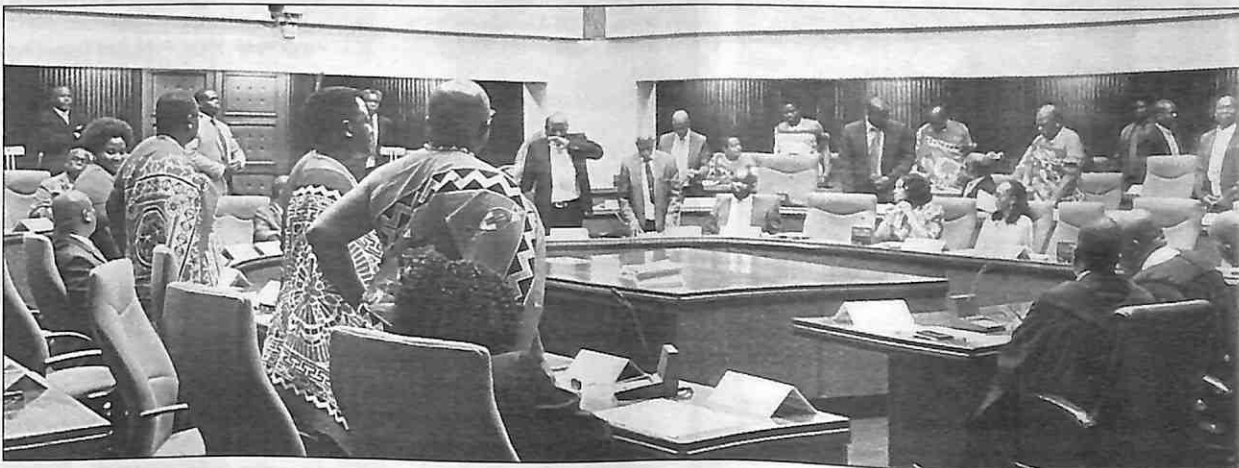
OPEN BUDGETS NOT PRACTICAL

Minister of finance says the idea of open budgets is not practical but those responsible for drafting the budget can seek advice from the people but use their discretion to decide whether or not to implement them.

"Yes people's opinions needed but it is not practical to involve

them the table when the calculations are made," he said.

Responding to MPs contribution to the budget, the minister said they are represented in the drafting by the finance committee which is elected by the members of parliament.



FARM DWELLERS EXPECTED TO KHONTA TWICE

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Farm dwellers at Lushikishini are not pleased that they are expected to pay both the farm owner and the Umphakatsi a total of three cows which they view as being made to *khonta* twice in a land they are not certain they will keep forever.

Some of the occupants claim to have been in the farm for over 10 years while others have been there for at least five years.

What seems to bother these residents is that it is not clear who the rightful owner of the piece of land they are currently occupying is. The initial owner is said to be deceased and the current owner claims to be a rela-

tive to later owner.

Demands

They argue that if the farm belongs to the 'umlungu' as it seems to be the case, they should only be paying the two cows which he demands of each family or if it belongs to the chiefdom then they should simply pay the cow required by the Umphakatsi.

However, they are expected to pay both the chiefdom and the farm owner a total of E14 000 as each cow is pegged at E5 000 farm owner while the umphakatsi's cow is at E4 000.

Even if they would be able to pay the three cows to both parties the residents will still be uncertain if they can call the farm their permanent home.

One reason that these occupants are

not certain about their stay in the farm is that they have gathered that the owner at some point tried to sell the property to Montigny but the sale was not successful following that it was said to be in arrears of some certain tax which amounted triple the price it was being sold.

Fears

This, therefore, raises fears that they may pay the cows needed by the farm owner and the cow needed by the Umphakatsi but at the end find themselves having to vacate the place due to the outstanding tax.

That is not all that is bothering the residents as they are also not sure that this deal is known to the chief but only to the headman as they say the Umlungu

only discusses this issue with the Indvuna.

"We are not satisfied because the white man only speaks to the Indvuna. Both the inner council (*bandlancane*) and the chief are not aware of the issue. We are still going to talk to him to ascertain to if he is the rightful owner of the farm the government offices are there so that if there is something that is not clear we can seek clarity," said one of the affected resident.

A week ago, a meeting had been scheduled to take place at the Umphakatsi where this matter was to be addressed as the residents wanted to report it to the chief and seek clarity. However, this meeting did not take place reportedly because the Umgijimi (runner) was held at work yet he was to transport some of the residents and the farm

owner who is said to be a pedestrian. Now the residents are supposed to sort the matter with the farm owner.

Some have indicated that it won't be easy for them to make any payment until they are satisfied about the rightful owner of the farm.

Regarding

The headman, when called, said he was not in a position to answer any questions from the media regarding the farm in question saying it was neither his nor for the chiefdom.

"I don't want to answer any question from the newspapers and whatever you want to ask. What concerns you or is bothering you in the farm of the white man I don't talk issues pertaining to the farm because it doesn't belong to me nor the chiefdom," he said.



HONDA FIT DRIVERS NOT FIT

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

There is nothing wrong with Honda Fit vehicles, just a lot of unfit drivers who have them due to being affordable.

The observation was made by seasoned mechanic, Mfundo Mabaso, who stated that the car make which seems to be involved in numerous accidents around the country was getting a bad name from inexperienced drivers.

He said it would be folly to give it a notorious tag without looking at pertinent factors which cause the

accidents.

"It's not about the vehicle being fast or being faulty, it is the drivers themselves," he said, adding how in times past, people who got their drivers' licence, drove under supervision of vehicle owners for several years before affording to buy their own, thus getting much needed experience.

"In recent time, the affordability of vehicles allows people who have never driven without an instructor to get on the road with confidence while lacking proper skills to drive alone," he said.

Stating that the way they seem to

litter every road irked him to a certain degree, it was however, important to sober up and look closely at the people who own them.

"The vehicles are cheap," he said as opener. "The problem is that everyone can afford them and most drivers are inexperienced," he alleged.

"It doesn't matter whether a vehicle's engine is a V12 or V16, it is all about the ability to handle the car," he said further highlighting how most accidents involving Honda Fits are not normal accidents but due to negligence.

"Look at the X6 (BMW). You hardly hear of it rolling on its own accord

while the driver is on the wheel because owners are usually better experienced having driven other vehicles," Mabaso said.

He went to the extent of alleging that Honda Fit drivers have surpassed kombi drivers in their notoriety for being involved in accidents.

"I seriously wish there was a way of ensuring all Honda Fit drivers get tested for competency to handle vehicles before being allowed on the road," he said in distaste.

He said what irked him further was seeing the vehicles used to ferry school children which he said exposed them to danger.

IMPORT VEHICLES TARGETED IN SA

There are syndicates targeting locally registered import vehicles to the extent that motorists who drive to South Africa usually advise each other about taking precautions when parking in public spaces.

"The Honda Fit is well sought by both hijackers and people who steal parked cars," a Honda Fit user said.

He stated that despite his being a reliable car, he dared not go with it to South Africa as he fears returning on foot.

"They apparently sell the vehicles to their connections in Mozambique or strip them for parts which I have heard, make their way back to the country," he alleged.

Of note, it is not only Honda Fit owners who return to parking lots to find their cars gone.

Several personalities have revealed how they have had their cars stolen while visiting South Africa and Mozambique with the syndicate targeting Swazi registered vehicles.

VERY DANGEROUS IN THE WRONG HANDS

Having driven a Peugeot for several years, owning a Honda Fit has been a breath of fresh air for Melvin Mohammed.

"One has to appreciate that it is a very light car when driving so it can be dangerous in the hands of an inexperienced driver," Mohammed said. He said his ride has been dependable for the last three years and he has enjoyed the experience.

He said the safety aspect all depended on the person driving it. "You need to know what you are doing otherwise it is a very reliable car which has potential of

HONDA FIT NOT MADE FOR STARTER PACKS

The debate on the accidents involving Honda Fits has raged for quite some time in the country to the extent that the general consensus is that the vehicle is not suited for first time drivers.

Due to the vehicle being a first choice for most first time car owners, it has been nicknamed *boDlamini* due to the prevalence of the surname in the country.

"The challenge with these *boDlamini* cars; they were not made for starter packs. The Fit is a six plug, engine is a 1.5 L (92 cu in) i-VTEC 4-cylinder with 117 horsepower at 6 600 rpm mated to a five-speed automatic transmission," a car lover said.

Another, in support said, "so they are too fast for their size, too much torque for their road handling capabilities,

too cheap for their performance. Too many for these roads."

There are two different Honda Fit makes. This is according to Brian Bongani Maseko who said, "there is one with a blue dot and another with the red. The blue dot is a seven speed. The difference is that the seven speed has seven forwards which means that there are more gears, one up to seven."

"The difference is that the blue is more comfortable. As caution, just buy bigger tyres because the tyres that they

"The challenge with these boDlamini cars; they were not made for starter packs. The Fit is a six plug, 1.5 L (92 cu in) engine is a i-VTEC 4-cylinder coughing out a 117 horsepower at 6600 rpm mated to a five-speed automatic transmission," a car lover said.

come with are usually much smaller. Bigger tyres mean more stability. Otherwise it can easily be blown over by the wind at high speeds," he said, adding how he had enjoyed the vehicle as he had driven

it as far as Malawi."

Another said in the hands of an inexperienced driver, the Honda Fit was like a Ben 10 in a relationship with a much older woman, a recipe for disaster.

GET IT FRESH TO ENJOY IT

Former taxi man, Theminkosi Hlophe advises aspiring Honda Fit owners to get a fresh one in order to enjoy it fully.

"Don't go for a second-hand," he said with a chuckle.

He said his car helped him make a proper living because it was a fuel saver.

The young man who plied his trade in Manzini at President

Centre said his experience was that he was able to save on fuel, which was one of the biggest factors which he considered when he bought it as well as use it for a prolonged period.

"Once you service it well, it is a very good car which serves you better than expected," he said. Hlophe said he was fortunate to get it during a time when several others were han-

dling for it, thus he was to get parts and maintain it well.

"There are several spares shops which offer you parts so this car is easy to maintain and many mechanics embraced it early making it easy to get it fixed in the event I experienced problems."

He said he was not of the view that it was cheap as it all depended on the depth of the buyer's pocket.



It is a fuel saver — comedian 'Smallz'

As a student, Lungelo 'Smallz' Gina (20) had a Honda Fit for two years and he said it treated him well.

He relented that it was his first car as he recently bought another.

The University of Swaziland student said he could, with authority, hail the car as a good one simply because he never had a problem with it over the years.

"Looking at the fact that I was able

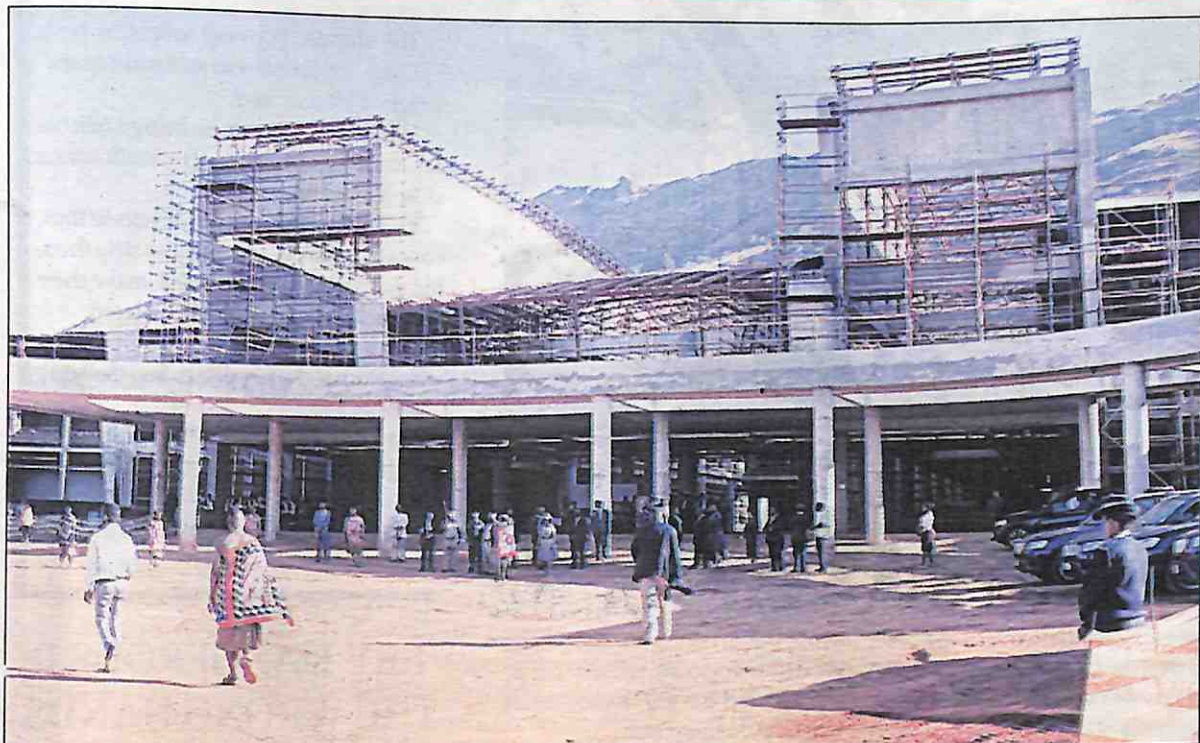
to maintain it while I had it, that should tell you it was a good car," he emphasised. He stated that the only issue he had with it was maintenance because as he was a student and he at times had financial challenges. "However, I hardly ever ran out of fuel due to it being friendly in that regard."

He said even though he hailed it, he would not hoodwink anyone into thinking one can get its optimal performance as the fit usually comes into the country as second-hand, and an import at that.

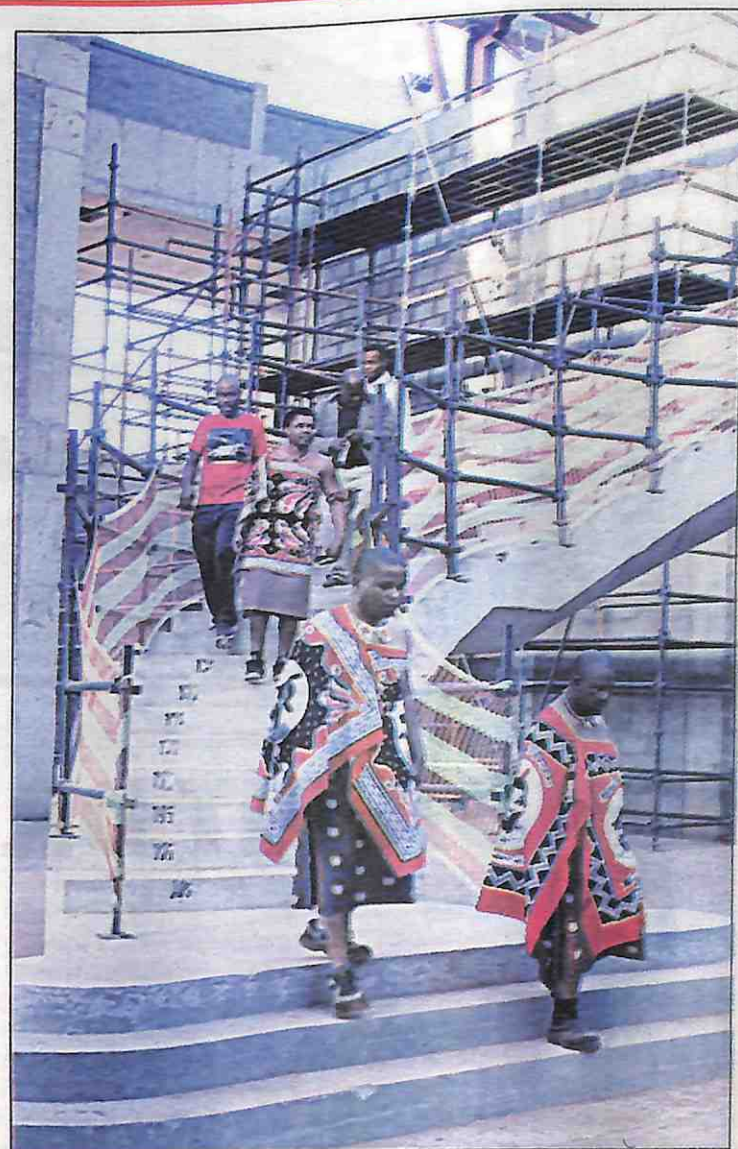
"You can't run away from the fact that it is an import and does not do

well when one has to make use of gravel roads all the time," he said, adding how this affects not only its performance, but body as well.

POSITIVE PROGRESS AT THE ICC



The main entrance to the International Convention Centre which is already taking shape as the construction progresses. His Majesty King Mswati III took time to tour the facility on Friday and was impressed by the progress so far. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



BY SIMON SHABANGU

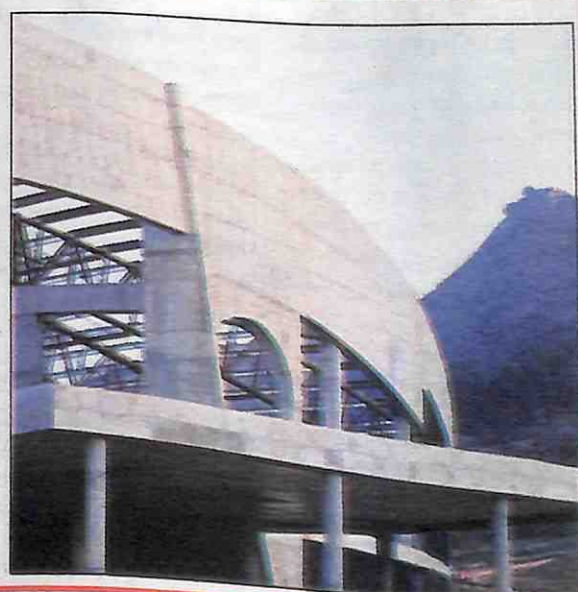
THE progress on the multi-million International Convention Centre and Five-Star Hotel under construction at Ezulwini brought a smile to the King as he toured the facility on Friday.

His Majesty was shown almost all of the features and components of the project which is set to change the landscape of the fast developing Ezulwini Town headed by the young and dynam-

ic Vusumutiwendvodza Matsebula.

The structure has taken shape, showing signs that it might be at about half way through if the works done so far are anything to go by. The main auditorium, theatre, conferencing rooms, halls and the lounges are already taking shape from inside and out. The King got to appreciate the amount of work done and still to be done in the whole project. The technical team also took the King at the site of the Five-Star Hotel which is almost attached to

the ICC at the groundwork's level as the engineers are still putting pillars that will support the structure. From afar, one can see that the structure is progressing well as it is now visible from the road where people get to appreciate the amount of work done so far. This is one of the many Millennium Projects set to take the country to the First World Status by 2022. It is also targeted that the project will be complete by 2020 as the country will be hosting the African Union summit.

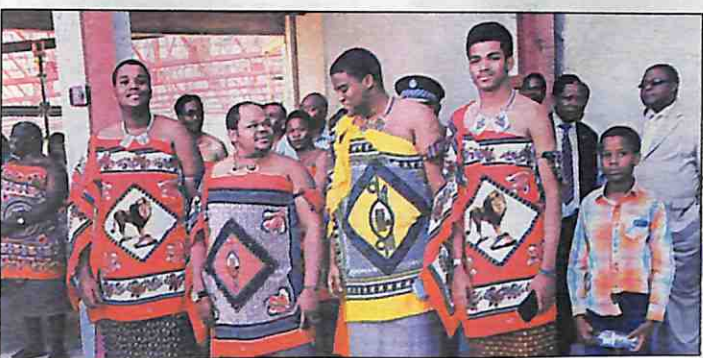




His Majesty King Mswati III also took time to consult senior citizens to hear their view on the proposed new Parliament site as he took a few words from Indvuna Mafohla Sukati while Minister Lindiwe Dlamini and Mphiwa Dlamini look on.



Director of Health Services Dr. Vusi Magagula flanked by Principal Secretaries Dr. Simon Zwane and Betram Stewart at the Elangeni proposed referral hospital site.

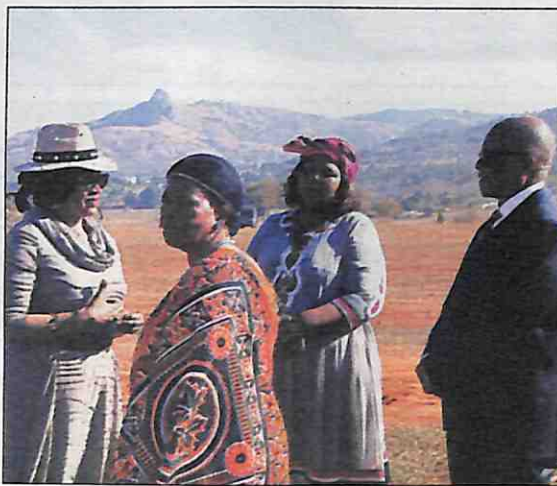


Emazinyane also joined the King during the tour of the ICC.

MORE ON HIS MAJESTY'S TOUR OF PROJECTS



His Majesty King Mswati III pictured with Millenium Projects Director Patrick Vusi Mnisi, Minister of Economic Planning and Development Prince Hlangusemphi, Andre Farrell from Atrium Design and PS Betram Stewart. This was during the King's tour of the multi-million ICC and Five-Star Hotel project at Ezulwini on Friday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini in conversation with Ministers Lindiwe Dlamini, Sibongile Simelane and Inkhosatana Tsembeni Magongo at Elangeni.



His Majesty and the entourage touring the facility.



PS Prince Mlayeto, Polycarp Dlamini, Umbutfo Gcashula Dlamini, Minister Phiwayinkosi Mabuza and DPM Paul Dlamini at Mavuso.



Acting Senate President Ngomuyayona Gamedze, Ministers Christopher Gamedze, Jabulani Mabuza and Princess Tsandzile during the King's tour.

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With 24 hours in a day how much time do you dedicate to reading? Most people often overlook the value of reading and the role it plays in one's life.

It is fundamental to functioning in today's society. So why is reading important? Don't worry I can help answer that question. One thing we should remember is that "word spoken-written are building blocks of life", meaning that you are right now, the result of the words you have heard or read.

What you become in the future will depend on the words you believe about yourself now. Books are packed with knowledge, insights into a happy life, life lessons, fear, prayer and helpful advice. With the change in time and advancement of technology, students, adults and children are avoiding books and are addicted to the tech savvy things which has led to moral degeneration, poor communication skills, low self-esteem etc.

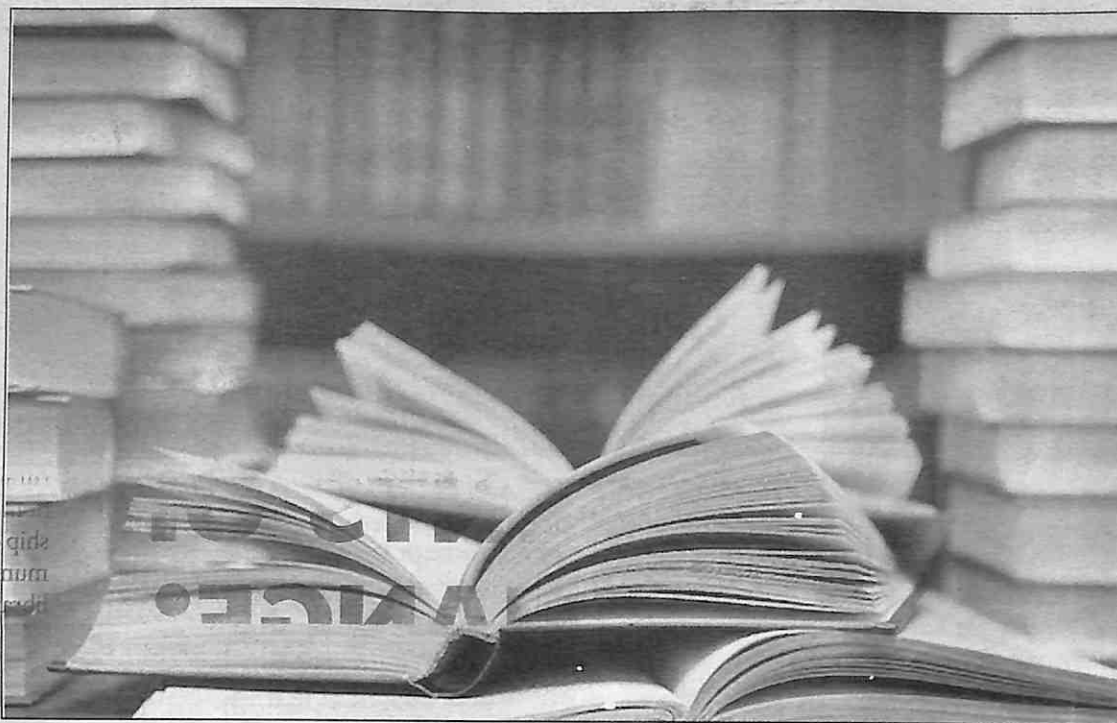
When you give yourself some time to read you expose yourself to new things, new information, new ways to solve a problem which helps in the development of the cognitive faculty.

It helps you as person in many ways as you begin to have a greater understanding of the world and exposes you to topics that interest you; for example: how to build self-confidence, how to memorise things better, how to prepare the perfect essay.

All these self-improvement skills start from reading. Non-readers or poor readers often have a low opinion of themselves and their abilities. Reading improves the understanding of the rules of life, in order for you to adapt, adopt and accommodate into society better. When you are reading you gain the knowledge and experience of someone which can help you in your life journey. There are more than 4 000 billionaires and 12 million millionaires, to become one of them, the first thing is to learn and get to know their past, learn their mistakes and what they did to get to where they are now.

As you know communication is of paramount importance, reading also improves our communication skills. As you communicate through reading, you understand more thus being able to communicate with a wide variety of people which is important in

IMPORTANCE OF READING



● It is fundamental to functioning in today's society. So why is reading important? Don't worry I can help answer that question. One thing we should remember is that "word spoken-written are building blocks of life", meaning that you are right now, the result of the words you have heard or read.

this global village.

Through reading you build a concrete foundation for communication. Reading helps boost your imagination and creativity as it exposes you to a world of endless possibilities and imagination showing you that nothing is impossible. When reading a person can go anywhere in the world or even better beyond, because of the imagination. Through reading you discover new things and develop the brain. A person who reads often can teach themselves in any area of life they are interested in.

One of the greatest benefits of read-

ing is that it improves your writing skills and vocabulary as a whole. The more you read, the more new words you come across and they make the way into your daily life.

Being able to speak well with a good vocabulary improves your confidence and is also a key to any successful profession. Studies show that reading also helps reduce stress, when reading silently your heart rate slows down and the tension in the muscles is eased. It is also been proven that reading improves your patience level: when you have a book with 300 pages, you wish to complete it but with patience

to know the in-depth meaning of each line and the word in it, with this attitude of understanding every single word comes to mind, the patience develops ultimately. Above all reading brings tranquillity, awareness and change in your attitude diverting the minds towards positivity.

If I was not a reader I would have not been able to compile this piece. A majority of our favourite TV shows are just for amusement and do not build you as a person. A book communicates knowledge and wisdom of all kinds. Dedicating an hour each day to read can improve your life drastically.

How often do you read?

When was the last time you read a book?

Or a substantial magazine article? Do your daily reading habits centre around tweets, Facebook updates, or the directions of your instant porridge packet? If you're one of the countless people who do not make habit of reading regularly, you might be missing out. Whether you are engaged in a novel, pouring over a newspaper or just looking at pictures in a magazine, reading skills allow you to interpret and become engaged in the world around you. Reading is the single most important skill necessary for a happy, productive and successful life, and developing those skills takes active engagement from an early age. This life changing skill helps you to speak fluently when engaging with other people, it assists to improve your vocabulary. If a student is not developing adequate reading skills at their age, they are most likely to encounter "ongoing academic difficulties in school, failure to graduate from high school or even university on time and chances of seceding economically later in life. On the other hand, a person who can read has the ability to empathise with and connect to the characters in a story. Also reading builds one's self esteem to be able to interact with other students and voice out your point fluently.

cally. Start slow and cultivate it as culture, encourage your relatives and friends to do it and watch how you will develop. They say that "when you open a book, you open a new world". Books have been here for centuries and without them today's knowledge of our past ancestors, cultures and civilisations would have been impossible. Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers" - Charles W. Elia

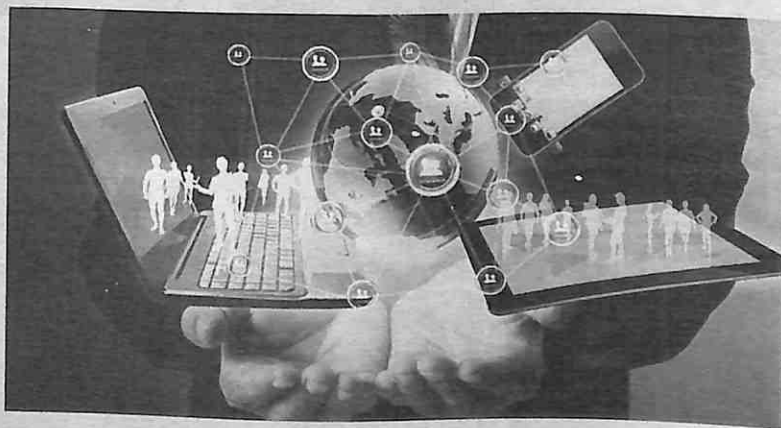
Choosing the right career path

Before you can get a job, you will need to think about what sort of job or career path suits you.

We continue from last week's issue where we started off by a few careers one can pursue and this week we focus more on those careers and which universities to apply to. The page in this section will help you work out the types of jobs out there and which ones are right for you.

Agronomy

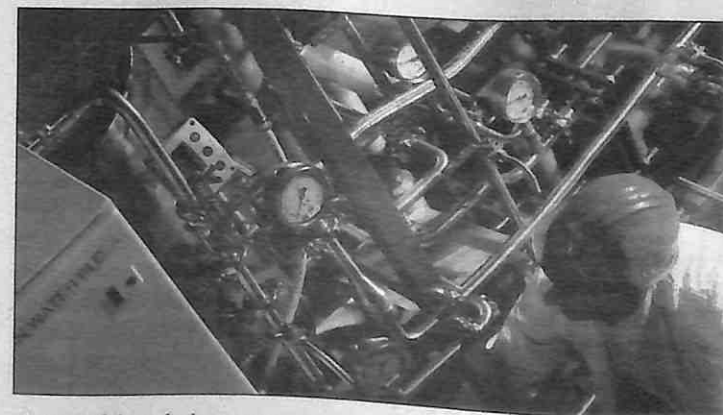
So last week we introduced the course but did not get deep into it, so this week all your agriculture based questions are answered by students who are already running with the programme for this course, 35 points are required



if you want to pursue a career in agriculture at the Luyengo campus, and you subjects should include Mathematics, Science and Biology.

The jobs you can tackle once you

have completed this course are: research officer, irrigation engineer and work at Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation. Svikelo Msibi who studied agronomy was keen to share her experience of the whole programme.



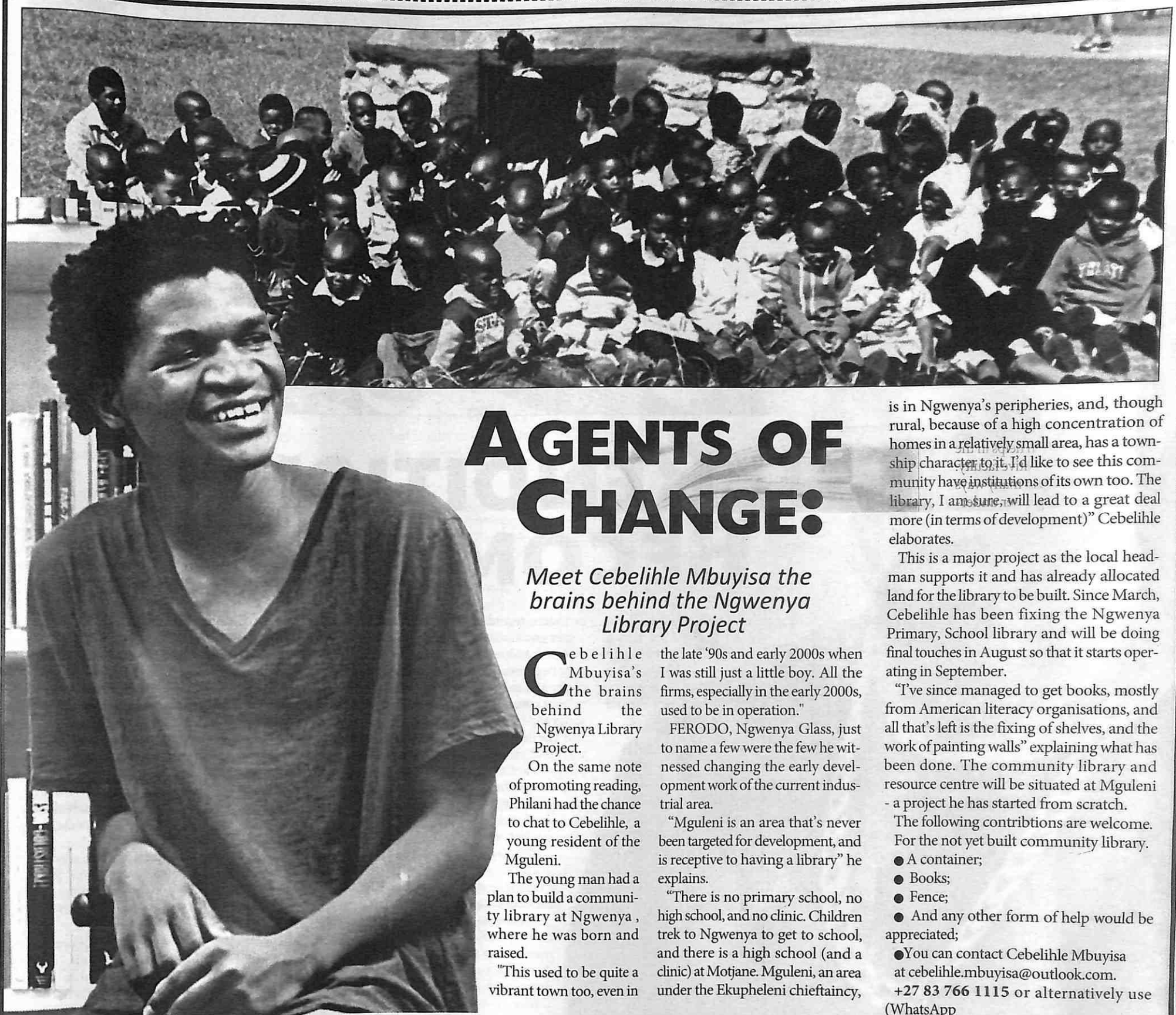
"Well, agronomy is basically crop agriculture; it is all about growing crops and other plantations. It touches on every aspect in terms of growing crops from soil to the atmosphere. Not only does it focus on the growth of crops, but also the composition of a plant and the chemical process involved in the growth of the crop from the inside

of the plant to the external factors involved. So basically agronomy is the study of crop growth from seed to seed, with a clear understanding of all the processes it entails".

This course also offers entrepreneurship modules, that can help awaken business skills in you and start your own business in crop growth.



ASPIRE EDUCATION



AGENTS OF CHANGE:

Meet Cebelihle Mbuyisa the brains behind the Ngwenya Library Project

Cebelihle Mbuyisa's the brains behind the Ngwenya Library Project.

On the same note of promoting reading, Philani had the chance to chat to Cebelihle, a young resident of the Mguleni.

The young man had a plan to build a community library at Ngwenya, where he was born and raised.

"This used to be quite a vibrant town too, even in

the late '90s and early 2000s when I was still just a little boy. All the firms, especially in the early 2000s, used to be in operation."

FERODO, Ngwenya Glass, just to name a few were the few he witnessed changing the early development work of the current industrial area.

"Mguleni is an area that's never been targeted for development, and is receptive to having a library" he explains.

"There is no primary school, no high school, and no clinic. Children trek to Ngwenya to get to school, and there is a high school (and a clinic) at Motjane. Mguleni, an area under the Ekupheleni chieftaincy,

is in Ngwenya's peripheries, and, though rural, because of a high concentration of homes in a relatively small area, has a township character to it. I'd like to see this community have institutions of its own too. The library, I am sure, will lead to a great deal more (in terms of development)" Cebelihle elaborates.

This is a major project as the local headman supports it and has already allocated land for the library to be built. Since March, Cebelihle has been fixing the Ngwenya Primary, School library and will be doing final touches in August so that it starts operating in September.

"I've since managed to get books, mostly from American literacy organisations, and all that's left is the fixing of shelves, and the work of painting walls" explaining what has been done. The community library and resource centre will be situated at Mguleni - a project he has started from scratch.

The following contributions are welcome. For the not yet built community library.

- A container;
- Books;
- Fence;
- And any other form of help would be appreciated;
- You can contact Cebelihle Mbuyisa at cebelihle.mbuyisa@outlook.com. +27 83 766 1115 or alternatively use (WhatsApp)

Is this article written specifically for you? Then visit the University of Swaziland, Luyengo campus between Malkerns and Bhunya road and be the young, educated, skillful young person the country needs, more importantly to do what you love and not for the reward.

Engineering

General Surveying Engineering is a diploma programme. Surveying technicians, mapping technicians are all professionals who can prepare for their career by completing a diploma; degree is typically required for surveying and mapping.

General surveying engineering, commonly known as surveying, refers to the applied science of measuring and mapping the earth's surface.

It is on traditional discipline that has evolved with the advances in technology. The college also offers mechanical and automotive engi-



neering courses which students can choose from. The main subject you ought to have as you want to pursue a career in these courses is your Mathematics and Science subjects. This course also features an entrepreneurship module that will help you

kick - your own business if that is where your strengths are.

Communication Technology Communication technology training is generally offered in associate degrees with hands on preparations. Strong computer skills are required

for a career in communication technology. A degree in communication technology focuses on networking computers and establishing computer systems that can be used for effective communication.

A degree in this field can prepare

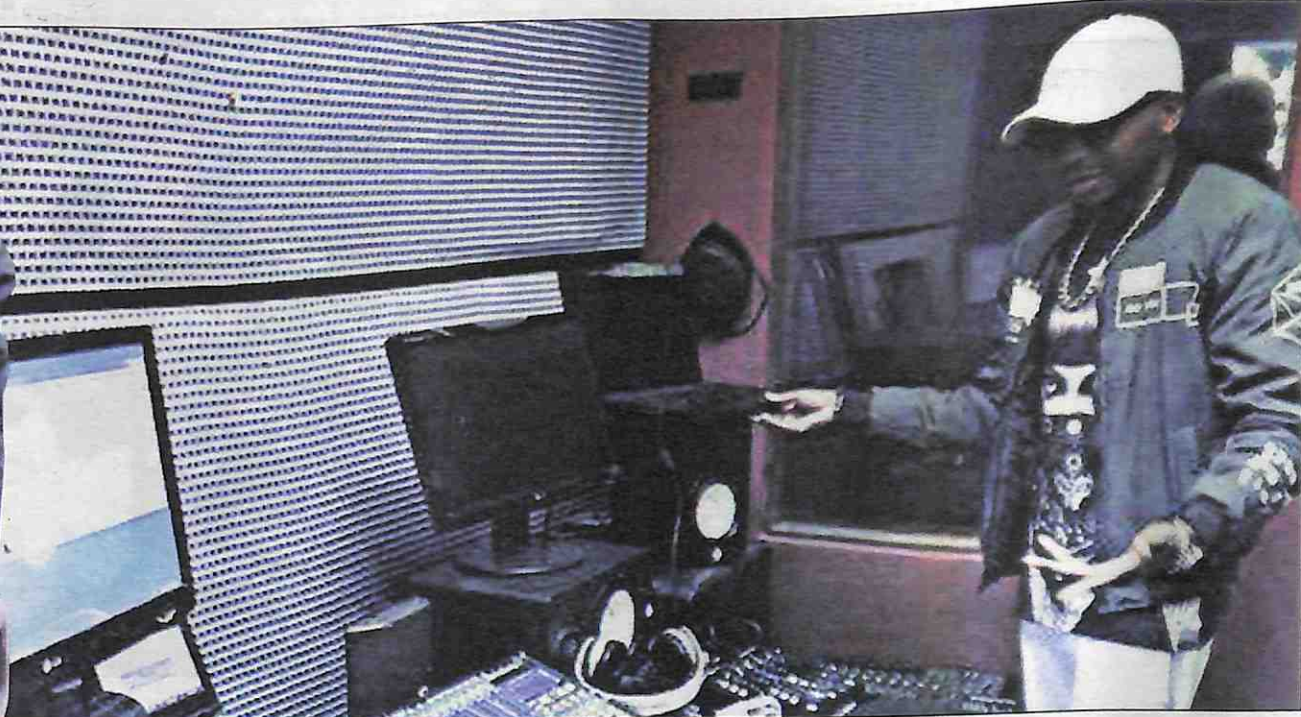
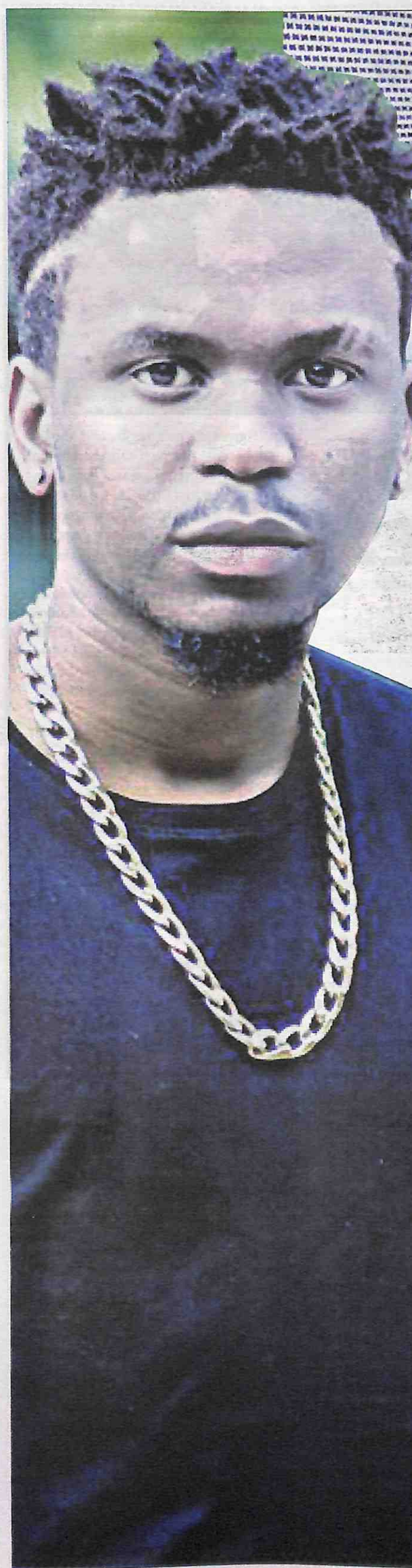
individuals for a career as a networking systems administrator, database administrator or computer support specialist. Studying this degree programme teaches students the skills and knowledge to implement computer systems and other tools for technological communication. **Journalism** - Journalism is concerned with following job opportunities: reporter, publishers and editors. This all goes together because they all serve one purpose which is communication.

Journalism is a form of writing that tells people about things that really happened, but that they might not have known about already.

This course enables you to work at newspapers, magazines, and website and television stations. So if you are the curious type of person and always know the ins and the outs of stories, this degree programme is calling out your name and you know it.

Aspire A Youth Section
On Youth Issues
By The Youth

ISTAYELA SYALAHLELA



RENDITION - BECOMING EP

Rendition, born Sibusiso Mzwandile Mabuza, is a Swazi record

producer, recording artist, sound designer, songwriter and Co-Founder of digital entertainment platform and record label MotherLand X.

He began his career in 2011 as a deep house producer and founded a group called Rhythm Lab project which released a number of marvellous songs and collaborated with Canadian duo Beauty and The Breakdown (Amber Long & Mason) with that particular song being picked up by a designer at Ottawa Fashion Week in the same year. He produced for MLX's first signee, Swazi rapper 80 Script and the result was the critically acclaimed and award-winning EP You Do The Dishes which was profiled on CNN's Inside Africa.

In 2016 Rendition produced for Una Rams, Usanele, Phaatoonz/Dipopai, C-tea (Ghana), Dr Jazz (Nigeria), Oriiginelle, KRTC and a host of other artists.

He went on to release an instrumental EP titled The Kids Are Alright with instrumentalist Vuma and collaborating with AutoPilot from Germany. One of his biggest projects to date is an advertisement for Converse and Nike Flynit collaboration where he composed the music. On that campaign he worked with YeahLenzo (the Director of the Tito Mboweni and Mayo music videos) and uSanele of BoyznBucks. I got the chance to sit down and chat with him about his new EP.

1. Briefly tell us more about Becoming?

Becoming is a project I've been working on for the past six months, it shows growth as a producer and as a creative.

This seven track EP is the journey I had to go through to get to the highest level of production that isn't limited by genre. When I stopped making Deep House music I got a lot of resistance from people who just didn't see where I wanted to take this whole thing. A few years later I'm capable of creating any genre of music. Becoming is the last instrumental project I will ever release, I have produced over 700 beats since 2013 and in the process grew into an artist.

2. Why the title Becoming?

Becoming is defined as coming into existence, growing into oneself. I chose this title because this EP signifies the process of constantly working on improving yourself and becoming a better version of yourself. The tracklist and cover delve deeper into this

concept of supreme being, we are capable of anything we put our minds to, it takes accepting yourself as you are and embracing your strengths and weaknesses. The desire to push yourself beyond what most people would deem possible and ultimately making your light shine bright through expressing your uniqueness to the world.

3. Who did you work with on the EP?

I worked with three incredible producers on this EP, AutoPilot a producer from Germany whom I met on soundcloud, we connected and started exchanging ideas for a few months, and this resulted in Do You Love Me.

I also worked with Kae.B who I discovered through Soulection radio, he was the first South African to be playlisted on the show, we also connected through Soundcloud and eventually met up to work in Fly.

The last person I worked with is JaySQuared, a music student at the University of Pretoria, I loved his compositions so much that we ended up working on multiple songs together. The artwork was done by Hurricane Fizz and myself, an amazing graphic designer and animator from Ghana.

4. You have a distinct and unique sound, under which genre can you classify this EP?

One of the co-founders of Motherland X, Vuma and I challenged ourselves to create our own genre through learning sound design, in the process we experimented with different genres and eventually found our own unique sound. We don't have an official name for it but it can be classified as Electronic music that is heavily influenced by hip hop, r&b and soul. I see music as a universal language so I focus a lot on how it makes people feel, as long as it evokes emotions I'm happy. So basically we create music that isn't bound by any limits, all I know is every song on this EP has deep meaning and how you decipher that will depend on each individual.

A blend of hip hop, electronic, r&b, Future Bass and soul, becoming is certainly one of the greatest projects to come out of Swaziland, make sure you do check it out.

Here the link to the EP- www.soundcloud.com/renditiontheproducer/sets/becoming-ep
www.mediafire.com/?dbnellxj7br1eny
www.audiomack.com/album/renditionmlx/becoming-ep-3

You can converse with the gifted Rendition on Twitter at @renditionmlx.

SUNDAY COMMENT

HAS PHILA TOUCHED A RAW NERVE?

It is difficult to ruffle the feathers of the Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini—at least not in recent times. The man who has admitted to having a long memory, has not openly showed his feelings even when he has been ruffled, and not since the fallout with the presiding officers in parliament has he showed his feelings.

And so it was surprising to see his reaction to the comment attributed to Matsanjeni North Member of Parliament Phila Buthelezi who criticised the Prime Minister and his Cabinet for failing the people.

Speaking in parliament during a motion on why government was failing to maintain and build roads around the country, MP Buthelezi criticised the Prime Minister for what he said was muzzling of the ministers in order not to perform up to their capabilities. He further accused the prime minister of hindering progress, saying that Swazis have a say in the appointment of the prime minister.

Issuing

The prime minister swiftly responded to these claims, issuing a statement the next day to challenge the MP, accusing him of attacking the Constitution. The PM then promised to respond to the MP's accusation tomorrow in parliament. More importantly, the PM finds the comments by the MP inflammatory and believes MP Buthelezi took advantage of his absence in the House to make these statements.

If this is anything to go by, then there is a showdown in parliament tomorrow, and the MP is in for a torrid time.

The PM's statement that the MP has attempted to shake the pillars that establish and keep the nation a unified and peaceful state is the strongest indication to how strongly he is opposed to the statements made, in addition to the fact that the issuance of the statement in response show just how serious he considers this issue to be.

The mere fact that the PM went out of his way to indicate that he had already spoken to the Speaker, and he had allowed him to make an official statement in response to the MP's comments further indicates that the PM is taking the MP on.

PM respects parliament protocol and does not normally engage on issues outside of the parliament structure. By way of his statement, he has already showed his agitation, if not position. This boils down to one thing; there is something that he finds very wrong about the comments by the MP—and not only is he going all out to defend his ministers, but is coming out all guns blazing.

MP Phila Buthelezi has definitely touched a raw nerve.

Analysis & opinion



BY MBONGENI MBINGO

Let me write and be damned, because my conscience says I have nothing to lose, or gain, by expressing my views on this issue. I am deliberately putting this disclaimer because these days anything on this subject raises temperatures to unprecedented levels in some quarters, let alone the critics who only see one side of the coin.

I am referring to, of course, the somewhat touchy topic of Swazi Mobile—if not Victor Gamedze. I am referring to the second mobile operator that is now entering the domain in the mobile telecommu-

nication space, that made a quiet if not low-key entry this past week.

For some reason, there is a sense that we should not have a say on Swazi Mobile. For some reason. It feels like there are people who would rather wish it away or just look the other direction.

Yet, this is a major development for this country, given that it ends a monopoly of the first mobile operator we were blessed with for almost 20 years. I will attempt to steer away from Swazi MTN—for reasons I would rather not state; suffice it to say however, that I am certain they will be reading every line with a fine pen, if not with bated breath.

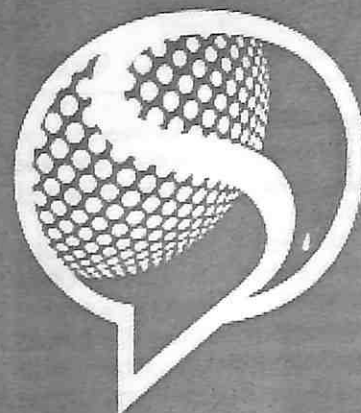
But, they have nothing to worry about; Swazi MTN is undoubtedly the biggest mobile operator in this country and across the continent. Their space, therefore, as a leading mobile operator is not under jeopardy, not for the longest time. One should only seek to reassure the reader that I have the utmost respect for Swazi MTN—they have been there, done that, and are probably wearing the T-shirt too. They have, in my view, nothing to prove to mobile users, except of course to provide excellent service to their clients. They can do nothing more than be professional in approaching this new era where they are suddenly in competition, and obviously also now that people have a choice to an operator, to compete. In any case, they have known that this day was always going to come—even if 10 years belatedly. They have at least been aware this was happening from six months ago. So I am certain they have done their homework, and are not fazed by what Swazi Mobile does or will do. Whatever else critics say should not matter—Swazi MTN deserves their place at the top, and I am certain that even a betting man would find it difficult to put his money on Swazi Mobile nudging them away as a competition.

In that case, we can all allow that the arrival of a second mobile operator in the shape of a home-brewed company is significant for the country. It is also very significant for the Swaziland Communications

BIRTH OF A FRESH ERA

swazi
mobile

we work we connect we serve



Commission which made the choice of Swazi Mobile compared with maybe what would have been a foreign or international company.

That they awarded Swazi Mobile says a lot about the bid that Swazi Mobile put together, the potential for success and the value that it would bring to the country and economy. Equally, the success and not failure of Swazi Mobile is important to the regulator as much as it is to the consumer.

It would be wrong, therefore, to simply look at this as just a one-man's show; there is a lot riding in the life and success of Swazi Mobile. The opportunity that SCCOM has given locals is a real big deal, and says a lot about the belief in local.

Significant

In this regard, the birth of Swazi Mobile becomes a significant milestone for a lot of reasons. First of all, as a second mobile operator, it is crucial to assess their ability on a competitive level. It is also crucial that they bring on board the relief that mobile users are looking for, and should enjoy. They should not make a mockery of the process, or fail to stimulate the competitiveness of the industry.

Admittedly though, Swazi Mobile has made the kind of start that is hardly surprising for a company that is considered local, or is local. The week leading to their 'going live' could have given the mobile operator's backers, including the commission, some palpitations as it looked unprepared, uncertain and disorganised if not quietly prepared.

There were fears things were not falling into place, and that by the time they put together the tariff

launch, it was looking like some patch work. And indeed, the company has seemed to have underestimated the demand for its products and services, judging by the delay of the SIM cards being made available.

Things began to click into motion, and after some hesitant start, it looks like Swazi Mobile is now getting into gear. There is now activity in the cities, and the management has promised to go full out this week.

This is what the public anticipated, and the faults of the first few days make sense, when you consider that there was virtually no sign things were ready to kick-off. But what Swazi Mobile has compensated with is the way in which it has structured its products. The rates it has announced have made people realise that calling will be cheaper, and that barring any other teething problems, these are going to be exciting times. In essence, Swazi Mobile has displayed that it has taken its time to study the mobile network industry and knows what it is about. There were fears initially that it would struggle to penetrate the market, or that it would not match the rates that are out on offer elsewhere.

But, they have gone even a step further by matching these, and giving the public the kind of feeling that really excites. It has announced itself in typical fashion, showing that it is not afraid of the competition.

The offer of shares in Swazi Mobile for the first 100 000 users to sign-up with the company has resonated well with the public; either because now Swazis are aware of such things having missed out on shares in Swazi MTN, or because the offer is just

too good to let go. The other point is that Swazis believe strongly in a product that is essentially their own.

This was the sentiment the other day between two ladies who were debating how they would buy a number of SIM cards just so that they grow their own network and become shareholders. With this product, Swazi Mobile has demonstrated that they are going to tick a lot of boxes that have been the public's concern.

They have worked hard in understanding the people and their needs, such as the social plan designed for the elderly to call on lower rates.

This is the advantage that they will enjoy; the benefit of not being in fear and making its name by providing products that are not out there.

Branded

It is hard to resist the temptation that a few days into announcing their arrival, and before there is even an outlet branded in their colours, Swazi Mobile has hit the right nerve, and proving that they are going to make their ground—slowly and surely.

There are a few relieved people at the regulator's offices, and many few thousands of others who have been dying to live to witness this kind of activity.

It goes without saying that this liberation of the mobile industry should have happened a decade ago when the monopoly ended, and perhaps the angst for cheaper services would not be as palpable.

Having said that, who would have thought then that we would live to witness such low calling rates. Surely, not in our lifetime, we must have thought!

GRATITUDE IS.....!

After all I have seen it happen in my own life, after the storm of losing both my parents when I was six years old in 2001.



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES
SWAZILAND

By Nontobeko Mbuyane

Fund Development and Communications Manager

The past week was quite an eventful, emotional and sweet week for SOS Children's Villages.

We were paid a GRATITUDE visit by former SOS Children's Villages Children who are now professionals in different disciplines locally and internationally, those that are still in tertiary and who are now independent and have been reintegrated back to their extended family members in their communities.

To see these now old and independent individuals was such an inspiring and motivational affair to most and yet still a very emotional affair for the mothers who had raised these children as their own from very early ages. Seeing such grown up gentlemen and ladies brought so many sad memories for the mothers who even remember every detail of the circumstances and age of these children when they were brought into SOS Children's Villages.

Speaker after speaker spoke highly of the organisation but a speech of one young man who is now a reputable businessman touched my heart the most. This young man spoke about being grateful and how he lived each day at SOS Children's Villages filled with gratitude.

This young man told everyone that it is okay to feel angry, despondent, and disappointed in life. It's okay to wish things were different

that we would have grown up with our biological parents and that maybe our circumstances would be different from what they had been. While it is true that there's nothing that grows out of ignoring reality or repressing our emotions. But there's a difference between embracing our feelings and stewing in them. It might not be possible to be feel grateful all the time, but it is possible to be grateful more often than not. Hence everyone that has grown up in a SOS Children's Village home should be really grateful.

According to this young man, in his stay at SOS Children's Villages he learnt to be grateful for each and every moment and therefore, learnt to practice gratitude in several ways which he shared such as:

Teach

Everyone has something to teach or offer me.

That parent who abandoned you for whatever reason is likely not a cold and inhumane soul who took pleasure in that act, but rather someone who was human and hurting, confused, terrified or even going through the most depressing state of mind then.

And from this, you and others can learn something from this situation. The person, in her act of neglect and abandonment, might have taught you to love, care and support others. It might have even helped you



become a stronger, wiser, more compassionate person, and the same is true for anyone who chooses to see it that way.

Challenge

There's something valuable in every challenge. Just like every person can offer us something valuable, every challenge can contain an opportunity as well.

But it is possible to acknowledge that, while some things are very bad, good things can come from them. One has managed to grow up in a safe, protective and loving environment and further provided with education. Yet I know all these good things could have happened if SOS Children's Villages had not taken me in and provided a home for me and many other children. I grew up with many other children who had been through different circumstances. We were children brought together by painful circumstances, but which brought everyone closer. On the other side of loss there's an opportunity for gain, if we're willing to seek or create it. We might have lost our biological families but we found another loving family.

Fortunate

Even if I didn't have what I wanted, I'm fortunate to have what I need. Very few people have everything they want. True, some may have a lot more than others, but the vast majority of us have hopes that have yet to be fulfilled. We have dreams, goals and ambitions. We want things, experiences and opportunities.

We want to be a little richer, for life to feel a little fulfilling, and to generally get the sense that we're moving forward, not backward. Still, amid all the ups and downs and highs and lows, many of us have everything we need, or at least most of it. We have somewhere to live, food to eat, people to turn to, and the ability to pursue whatever it is we'd like to achieve

in life.

Those things are not givens. Many people and you may be one of them, do not have their basic needs met. I didn't always appreciate this, because it didn't seem to make my challenges any easier. But if I didn't have those needs met, my challenges would certainly be harder hence I learnt to be grateful to the lease of life given to me by SOS Children's Villages.

Little Things

The "little things" in life are the big things. If you take a look around you, you would have likely recognised just how many touching, fortunate, or fun little things happen every day. It's not every day where an orphaned child gets shelter or food to eat an education or even a loving home. In fact, I as a matter of fact, know that smiles in life stem from little things, appreciated. I don't have to have it all or do it all to be happy. Many of us hold the belief that we need to do it all, have it all, and be it all. We can't miss out.

We can't fall short. We have to keep up, and keep accumulating. But grateful. People realise that happiness comes from accepting and appreciating what is and knowing that even if we never have or do more, we can live a full and fabulous life. I do believe, however, there's something to be said for putting in the effort, surrendering to the outcome, and recognizing that whatever happens, life can be beautiful.

Blessings

Everyone's blessings are different, and that's okay. When you're caught up in that race to do more and be more, it's all too easy to look around at who seems to be 'ahead' and feel resentful. Grateful people realize that life isn't a competition, and there's no such thing as 'behind.' We're all different people, we all have

different talents, interests, priorities, and values; and we're all on our own path. What's meaningful to me might not be meaningful to you. What's valuable to me might not be valuable to you. I feel blessed to be a child that grew up at SOS Children's Villages.

And you may have things I wish I had while growing up but there may be things I have that you want. And that's totally okay. We are all fortunate in our own way, for different reasons. All that really matters is that we recognise, focus on, and appreciate our own.

It could always be worse

Yes, it's a cliché, and not something we want to hear when we're going through a hard time. There's a quote that says "Saying someone can't be sad because someone else may have it worse is like saying someone can't be happy because someone else may have it better." Knowing that it could be worse does not have to mean denying our feelings. But it does put things in perspective and makes it easier to move through them. After losing out on being raised by my own biological parents sure was very painful but here I am grateful for life itself.

Life itself is a gift

We live in a world full of teachers, people and experiences that enable us to learn, grow, and continually evolve into the people we want to be. We have many, if not all, of our basic needs met, providing a foundation that allows us to comfortably enjoy life's abundant simple pleasures. We may not have it all, or the same things other people have, but we each have countless things, people, and opportunities to appreciate and enjoy. This moment will never come again, and there's no guarantee the moments that follow will look anything like this. Knowing this somehow makes the present more precious even if things aren't perfect. And that brings us to this final belief: life itself is a gift. It isn't always easy, or happy in life and it wouldn't be without the bumps and turns. At least, that's what I believe, and because of this, I'm grateful.

What are you grateful for?

For more information, please visit: www.sos-childrensvillages.org or visit our National Office in Manzini, Hlalakahle, Villiers Street, Tel: +268 2505 8470, email: nontobeko.mbuyane@sos-swaziland.org

DUPS POLICIES BRING PEACE IN DIFFICULT TIMES



We had an interesting chat with a lady that came to register for a policy last week.

She is in her early 30s, and said the recent passing of her grandmother precipitated her decision to take up a Dups policy. According to Ncobile*, her grandmother was the glue that held the family and community together and was much loved by everyone. When she passed, the agreement was to give her a send-off befitting her stature in the family and community.

Unfortunately, granny did not have funeral cover, and everyone was expected to make a small contribution towards everything – the coffin, transport, food, tent, and all the other little expenses that cumulatively run into thousands of Emalangeni.

"Then I thought, what decent funer-

● The best thing you can ever do for yourself and family is to get a Dups funeral policy, so that when the time comes, Dups personnel are the only ones running around to ensure a seamless send-off, while you sit and reflect on memories of your loved one.

al can you have if you are not covered?" wondered Ncobile. She said she and her relatives eventually did try to give their grandmother a funeral they thought she deserved, but life afterwards was very difficult. "We never budget for death. You feel bad when you bury someone and are left feeling you didn't do your best.

You feel like you failed them. It is double trauma. So I believe when covered, you face a single loss, which is of the person, not plus your money. What is worse is that we already live a hand-to-mouth life," she added.

And how right she is! This is the story of many Swazis who find themselves in desperate circumstances following a loss. Instead of sitting down to grieve, people have to be out on the street hustling and pulling strings, trying to put together some money for a decent funeral. After the burial, you are left with hefty bills to pay, and that is not how it should

What Dignified funeral can you have if you have no funeral cover? I have a peace of mind knowing that my grandmother is covered



be. That is not even what the departed relatives would want for us, to have no peace of mind and people we owe on our tails asking for their money back.

The best thing you can ever do for yourself and family is to get a Dups funeral policy, so that when the time comes, Dups personnel are the only ones running around to ensure a seamless send-off, while you sit and reflect on memories of your loved one.

Ncobile said she thought long and hard

after her grandmother's funeral that she was not getting any younger and was the first born in her family. If she did not take charge of the situation, who would? Furthermore, if there were more losses in the family, everyone would be looking in her direction to help out with money for funeral expenses, and that is a lot to take for anyone. Premiums for Dups policies, however, are quite affordable and won't leave someone reeling from the shock of coughing up like what

happens at uncovered funerals.

"I seriously need to have my family covered. I want a policy that can cover my child, grandmother, parents, three siblings, and me. I am thinking of the embarrassment I would have to endure should I lose my parents or anyone mentioned above and had to beg other people to help me bury them. If I happen to pass and also had a pathetic funeral, I think I would also be embarrassed as I lie dead," she laughed.

This week Saturday you will find us in Pigg's Peak to meet our customers in that area, and raise their awareness to the branch that is available in the town for their convenience. As part of the fun we will be bringing to Pigg's Peak, there will be a lucky draw where everyone who registers or upgrades their policies between 28 July and 5 August will be entered. Do not be left out!

Please give us a call on 2505 2028 to find out about all our products and services. You can also send queries to info@dupsgroup.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter @dupsinsurance or pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlalagano, Mbabane, Pigg's Peak and Siteki.

*Name changed on request.

SundayObserver Scene

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ISSUE



SILENT ACHIEVERS

Lindokuhle Lukhele

WRITER'S NOTE:

Last week we had Susan holding it down and I must say she is definitely one to look out for. Just the right kinda young lady SCENE needs to strive.

This week we looking at our last issue in July and here is August with women power and in celebration to this coming month we have our empowerment issue. We all have someone in our lives who has motivated us and empowered us in the endeavours that we pursue, especially as a young woman you need that someone who can show you that it is possible to do whatever you set your mind on. For me that is my mom, I've always admired the strength she has, how she could always pull through even in the most difficult situations. Us woman have that ability to overcome any difficult situation and do it with a smile. It's for that reason that it is important that we stand together and empower each other. We need to do this in our daily lives, stand together as a strong front and exhibit that girl magic that we have inside of ourselves which is dying to come out. This issue is for all the young girls out there who do don't have a strong, courageous, super woman to look up too. This is issue is for the young girls whose role models disappointed them and they are looking for empowerment but cannot find in the woman around them. This will show that just because you do not have anyone around you to motivate and support your dreams, you do not have to give up on them because there is always someone who was in a similar situation but managed to succeed even though it is supposedly a men's world. Dive in our pages and indulge in wanting more out of life, we have the Woman Farmer Foundation (WFF) and its winners empowering others and giving back to their respectable communities. We have Semusa Network with their upcoming show which is happening next week Friday. Other than that, stay inspired and empower others. 'Til next time.

Advancing interests of women

Woman Farmer Foundation (WFF) is a registered nongovernmental organization founded by Mrs Sonia Paiva in 2010. Before the establishment of the NGO the concept of empowering Swaziland's woman farmers started as a Woman Farmer of the Year Competition in 2007. Her aim was and is to see the growth in participation of local women in the agricultural sector of the country.



The organization is for every woman farmer in the country who joins as a member and is an active farmer.

Their mandate is to empower, equip, promote and advance the interests of Swazi women in the agricultural sector from subsistence level to commercial, especially the women in the rural areas, thereby subsequently improving food security and mitigating the issues of poverty and hunger in the country. Woman Farmer Foundation has a national focus to its work and implementation programme in Swaziland. The ultimate desire is to affect and touch communities in all the 55 Tinkhundla of Swaziland through practical, innovative and sustainable intervention.

WFF therefore endeavours to empower women through expanding their knowledge base, information dissemination, training and education in farming. They contribute to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by cutting across a number of consortiums within the NGO sector.

The following are a number of sectors which WFF is compounded under:

Food Security and Agriculture

Empower Woman farmers, at all times, to have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. This is achieved through capacitation programmes for technical skills development and business management skills development for the woman farmers and youth farmers. These programmes are facilitated in conjunction with relevant stakeholders that are partnered with to facilitate the necessary trainings. WFF also links the woman farmers to various markets to enable them to increase their income source while also enhancing their livelihoods.



Woman farmers during a training session.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Generally women are more vulnerable to poverty and have fewer chances to improve the economic conditions affecting their access to natural resources. Women are more vulnerable to water-related diseases since they are more exposed as water carriers and their important role in carrying out domestic chores (Preparing food, cleaning toilets, washing clothes, cooking and so forth). Traditionally the woman and the children were responsible for collecting water for domestic use in the rural communities, and in some cases they walk long distances to collect the water.

To mitigate these facts the Woman Farmer Foundation partakes in intervention programmes under this consortium that work to ensure that every community and household has access to portable water for domestic use and irrigation purposes. This is done in collaboration with the relevant

Gender Equality

Women in African societies have always been sidelined when it comes to issues of community development, hence most women are not involved, nor do they have a great influence, in the decision making bodies of community developmental programmes. WFF believes that empowering a woman is empowering the whole nation.

The situation of rural women is but one of the symptoms of a social order characterised by inequality, violence (in some cases) and insecurity. As such, the vision of women's empowerment must go beyond making room for women to participate in society within the current social order, as this will not suffice to end the marginalisation of most rural women and the entrenched patterns of discrimination. The

empowerment of women requires profound changes in the mind and hearts of people

and in the various authoritative structures of society. It begins with the understanding that the equality of women and men is more than a desired condition to be achieved for the common good; it is a dimension of today's reality with more women in society being empowered to play a part in the enhancement of livelihoods in their households.

The Woman Farmer Foundation has played a part in propelling the recognition of some hardworking woman farmers that have sat in the board of directors of some government Parastatals under the Ministry of Agriculture (the Swaziland Dairy Board, National Agricultural Marketing Board, and the National Maize Corporation).

WFF Link with Eswatini Kitchen

Eswatini kitchen is a primary target market for our women farmers depending on the commodities produced by the individual or association. It is worth noting though that the Woman Farmer Foundation

facilitates other market linkages for the farmers through the farmer networks created via social media (farmers are grouped according to their enterprises and linked to one another via a Whatsapp group chat) and retail outlets.

Woman Farmer of the year Competition

Woman Farmer of the Year Competition is a competition that has been running annually event since 2007. It is open to all woman farmers involved in food agricultural enterprises throughout Swaziland. A team of selected judges visit each homestead to conduct an assessment and the criterion is based on provided parameters for each enterprise and the scores distributed as follows:

- Sixty five percent (65%) quality of the Main enterprise
- Twenty five percent (25%) Home management
- Ten percent (10%) leadership and community services

Once all the women have been visited the panel of judges meet to discuss their findings and the scores are tallied up to come up with the overall top 10 which is revisited by a second set of judges.

After the second visit, the top ten is then selected and awarded prizes according to their different enterprises. Top 50 farmers are awarded a chance of acquiring skills and knowledge through training based on the recommendations by the judges. This is to ensure that farmers are empowered to be commercial from being subsistence and there is monitoring and evaluation that has to take place to ensure that the goals are met. All this we do Inconjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture.

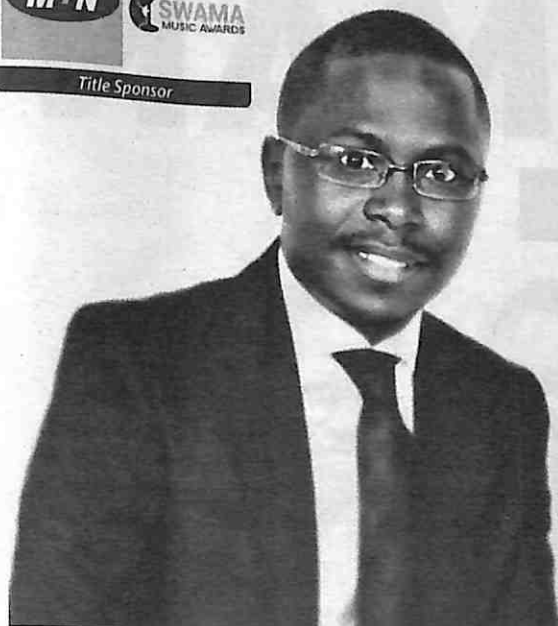
The competition comprises 3 categories namely; the large scale, small scale, and the youth category.



SWAMA NOMINEES PROFILES

WANDILE HLOPHE

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



Wandile Hlophe is a Mbabane based gospel artist and worship leader who has been involved in gospel music since 1999 at the tender age of 15. Having his roots firmly founded in God his music has always

revolved around church ministry and gospel music.

From this spring board Wandile launched his career as a gospel music artist and today has shared the stage with various artists including Ntokozo Mbambo, Khaya Mthetwa, Bakhe Dlamini, Bholoja, Sunshine M, Pholisile Dlamini to name a few. In his music journey this pianist, songwriter and singer

has released two gospel albums, the first of which being Journey to You released in 2011.

Wandile currently has a contemporary gospel music album out title This Is Zion which has received tremendous feedback locally, in South Africa as well as in the USA.

This Is Zion is a master piece which features fellow MTN

SWAMA Nominee Skeel and was co-produced by musical genius of Joyous Celebration fame, Bheka Mthetwa.

Wandile a proud husband and father is currently preparing to commence a series of #ThisIsZion Worship Nights around the country and is also readying himself for a much anticipated live DVD recording.

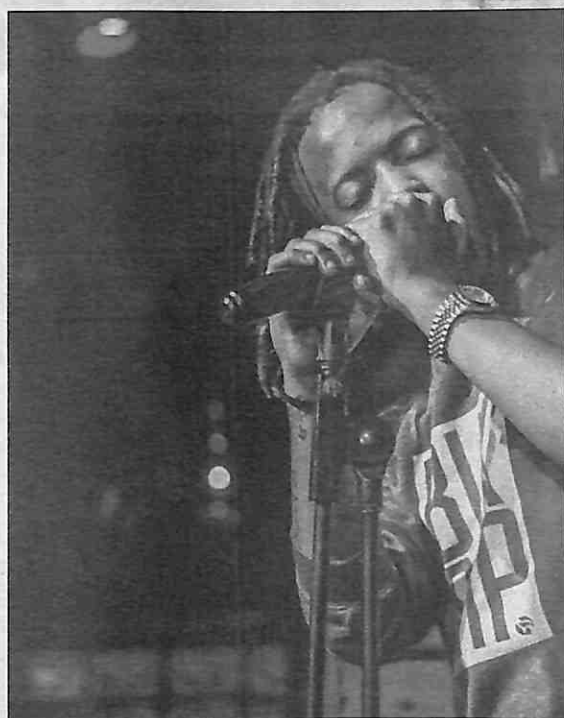
TRIPPY KING 20

BEST MUSIC VIDEO

Lindokuhle Kunene is a hip hop artist, born and bred in Manzini.

Trippy is signed to G-Stars Entertainment & Projects, under the directorship of Gino Kash. He is nominated for MTN SWAMA awards for Best Music Video. His nomination video for song titled "All Night" has been on rotation on DSTV channels, Trace Africa, Channel O, Planet TV and many more.

Trippy is by far one of local hip hop artist to have both his music and videos on SA music platforms. His singles "All Night" and "Ballers Only" has been plugged in MTN caller Tunez in Swaziland,



Nigeria, South Africa,

Uganda & many more.

NONHLE MTHETHWA

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Nonhle is a 13 year old talented fire ball.

Career discovered in 2010 I am the winner fame highlights and performances include Trade Fairs shows, Umlilo Crossover Swazi Bank soccer tournament, Simunye fun fair, SWAMA Festival and other International stage. Nonhle has sold over 25000

copies of her music since she started releasing.

Share stage with Swaziland's greatest Matsapha Gospel Messengers, Frans Dlamini, Phathwakahle, Shongwe and Khuphuka, Nothando Hlophe, Nduduzo Matse and many more. Nonhle has 5 albums and recently launched her business venture; NONHLE INVESTMENT (MUSIC, SOUND HIRE AND CATERING).

She is also funding community work through her foundation called NONHLE FOUNDATION. She is currently working on her upcoming album.



SABELO 'SUBJAMZ' SITHUNGO

BEST MUSIC PRODUCER AWARD.

Sabelo Sithungo is a multi-award winning music producer/mix engineer who runs a full service production company, SIT-FUNGO INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD trading as SubJamz Productions, offering start to finish, audio engineering and music producing. He founded the company in 2010, and was able to create more programs for an extraordinarily diverse clientele, including major corporations, non-profit organizations, universities, advertising and public relations agencies, national sports franchises and many others. These are some of the acts for whom Sabelo has produced chart topping singles and number one albums; HRH Princess Sikhanyiso (Hip-Hop), Pastor Bakhe (Gospel or Christian Faith Music), Siyinqaba (Hip-Hop), Phathwakahle (Gospel or Christian Faith Music), Sands (Afro Soul), Sunshine M (Gospel or Christian Faith Music), the late Sifiso Ncwane (Gospel or Christian Faith Music) South Africa, Amanda Mo (RNB), Black Jesus (Alternative Rock) - Australia, Qibho (Hip-Hop), Pyscholution (Hip-Hop), Leebombo (Afro Pop), just to name a few. He is up for a well deserving.



SYMPHONY

BEST R&B ARTIST



Born and raised in Mbabane Zanele Cele known as SYMPHONY burst into the scene in 2015 during the SWAMA T55 competition where she made it to the grand finale. Being the Bushfire Fire-Fly winner, she got herself a slot to perform at the MTN Bushfire Festival 2017. Symphony has not only serenaded her Swazi fans with her strong voice but her gift has taken her to bigger stages. She is hoping to bag this year's SWAMA awards; nominated for

MDUDUZI NEZINCEKU ZAMAGAWUGAWU

ARTIST OF THE YEAR AND BEST GOSPEL ARTIST.

Mduzuzi Nezinceku Zamagawugawu is a Zion-rooted gospel choir which was founded by Mduduzi E. Simelane aka President Gawzela in 1995. Back then it was known as Amagawugawu Asephuzamoya singing accapella until they

released their debut album in 2004 under the current name "Mduduzi Nezinceku Zamagawugawu".

Up to this date the choir has released 7 albums with their first album titled 'Ndikhokhelwa' being released in 2004. Their 7th and latest album 'Thuma Mina Baba' has received the most selling album in the Swaziland

Gospel Music Awards which sold over 30 000 copies after 3 months from its released date, November 2016.



A WOMAN

In celebration of women's month, Semusa Networks, a newly formed entity is offering all women of diverse spheres a chance to be part of their exciting event.

Semusa is a network made up of two individuals who came together for the purpose of providing life changing forums and projects.

As a result they are presenting a life changing women empowerment gathering Imbizo hosting three beautiful, powerful and professional women who are full of knowledge and life experiences that they believe will inspire each one of the women invited.

This event has been strategically and holistically designed to address the day to day challenges, spiritual lives and state of affairs as well as to encourage networking and fellowship with one another amongst women.

"We want our women to be informed and be able to have choices in life to better themselves," said Sisusa Dlamini who is the event's organiser.

"Imbizo is basically for every female be it young or old, working or still at school or tertiary level.

The aim of this movement as it has been promoted is to sow a great seed in the lives of young adults who are tomorrow's generation work force," she added.

This women's gathering is a different one since it will be addressing issues that women face in a holistic manner.

The public will gain a lot since the speakers are not just professionals

but women of God too; that will feed their souls, give everyone armour to face obstacles and moreover be inspired to get their dreams back into shape and make them come into reality.

"These are Swazi women and are all silent achievers in their different ways and no better platform than this one to encourage other Swazi women as some tell their story and uplift the women.

Their life stories are so real and so relevant to our day to day lives therefore we as Swazi women will relate easily to what they have to share with us," Dlamini elaborates.

Women often do not celebrate themselves as women, daughters, mothers, sisters, wives and yet they contribute a lot in society, in our homes, workplaces and the lives of every child. A number of women suffer the most in many situations and most times choose to keep quiet and this forum will help one to sustain herself and have a voice. Being informed or having knowledge is power. You are able to make informed decisions as well as planning well even when giving appropriate advice to the next person.

It is very important for women to know their worth and be able to understand that in some cases they deserve better. Such

events make one aware of what is right and isn't. So many young tertiary students are in abusive relationships and some don't even know where to turn for help be it financial or just their well being.

Such people need to be enlightened on not only relationships but in general.

That is why Dlamini is also calling on tertiary students, "women are queens and princesses and deserve to be treated well and treat themselves well too. They shouldn't wait for another person to do so. So this will be a treat for the ladies and at the same time getting empowered.

This is just a sign of loving yourself as a woman. I call it liberating our minds because

we get to think and simplify our thoughts in many different and interesting ways."

She went on to encourage people to come with their business cards since it will also be a networking forum. One should be able to make business contacts as a benefit. Dlamini said she wouldn't want any woman attending this forum to leave the event without absorbing or getting anything in return.

Women should not shun the fact that they have such conferences for a purpose and the purpose for this one specifically being to encourage and inspire one another.

There is hunger for knowledge and learning out there and this conference is addressing just that. People should come prepared by opening

their minds and hearts. By so doing attending this gathering will be worth participating.

"Personally I think the time of being selfish on sharing and keeping talent to yourself is over.

Things are easily achieved because there is information sharing which unites people that resulting to a better community or country. Swazis are very intelligent people who lack the forum to unleash that. We ought to change our mindsets to be able to achieve our goals and after this conference one should expect a shift in their lives.

I am happy to see men having interest in this forum and I am propelled to do something for them and I have set March 2018 tentatively to host their conference."



● The aim of this movement as it has been promoted is to sow a great seed in the lives of young adults who are tomorrow's generation work force



Phumzile Masilela is a lawyer by profession.

She is master of the High Court of Swaziland, vice president of Save the Children Fund, board member of Number Plates Board and the chairperson of Divine Healing Ministries Church Women's League.

She will be the first speaker and will address the importance of having a spiritual life as a woman. She will uplift everyone and renew their faith if they had given up. The reason Sisusa chose her to speak on this is because when they attend such gatherings, they often neglect that side of things and go for something that will just tickle so that people have a laugh or feel good and yet the inner man has to be fed too. She will give the base of our theme because you cannot be made anew without fixing your inner self. Her providing the base of such nature will make it easier for us to assimilate what our next speakers have in store for us.





UNISWA **ICT** ROADMAP 2022

SUPPLEMENT

ICT Fair 2017

VENUE: UNISWA SPORTS EMPORIUM

DATE: 27-28 OCTOBER

COMPUTER FAIR 2017 - SIYAPHAMBILI Nge-ICT

Introduction

The Department of Computer Science (CS), through the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) Computer Science Society (UCSS), and in partnership with the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP) and the Swaziland Investments and Promotions Authority (SIPA), is planning to host a computer fair on the 27th and 28th of October 2017, at the UNISWA Sports Emporium, Kwaluseni Campus.

The main objective of the fair is to raise ICT awareness in the country and help sensitize the entire Swazi nation on the major role that the right ICT skills and tools can play towards propelling the country towards attaining His Majesty's 2022 Vision.

What will be happening during the fair?

Apart from different ICT companies organizations showcasing their various products and services, the fair will also create a platform for different key ICT players in the country including government and ICT professionals to meet and discuss critical ICT issues that can help the country attain first world status by 2022. The list of events that will take place include, but are not limited to:

- Seminars
- Exhibitions
- Games
- Programming Contests
- Showcasing schools ICT projects
- ICT career camp
- Awards Session
- Dinner Party



POSSE Attendants: Dr S. G. Fashoto is 4th in the first row

UNISWA STAFF MEMBER WINS GOOGLE TRAVEL AWARD

Dr. Stephen Gbenga Fashoto, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Swaziland (UNISWA), was among the few people selected for Professors' of Open Source Software Experience (POSSE). The workshop sponsored by Google took place at The University of Bologna, Italy between 1st and 2nd of July, 2017. Over 10 countries participated in the POSSE workshop and these are: Brazil, Qatar, Scotland, Italy, Germany, Swaziland, Hungary, Spain, USA, England and India. Dr. Fashoto, representing UNISWA, was the only participant from Africa.

POSSE is for academia teaching programming language courses using open source software. POSSE program is organized to encourage and increase mutual collaboration between senior academia/instructors teaching Computer Science or Computer Science related courses based on the use of open source software to have a common goal on curriculum activity globally.

Our sincere thanks go to the UNISWA management for their moral and financial support for collaboration, training and research.



Royal Science &
Technology Park



Thinking *Digital*: Tech hubs in Africa



Luci Abrahams (PhD) is Director of the LINK Centre, Wits University (www.wits.ac.za/linkcentre and <http://www.tshimologong.joburg/>), building research on emerging digital economies in Africa. Her research publications include innovation in digital tech hubs; health e-services improvement; the history of the Internet in South Africa; and the electronic communications environment in the SADC region. She has worked in strategy design projects including universal access and service policy for Namibia; e-government monitoring and evaluation framework for the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG); provincial innovation strategy (GPG); broadband strategy statement (City of Joburg); and knowledge economy input papers for the Free State and KwaZulu Natal. Luci recently participated as a member of the Ministerial Review Panel on the Science Technology and Innovation Institutional Landscape (2015-2017). Luci is Corresponding Editor for The African Journal of Information and Communication.

In 2014, there were 108 tech developer spaces recorded for the African continent, in four categories. These spaces include 83 technology hubs, 74 business incubators, 24 hacker spaces and 14 university tech labs (BongoHive, 2012-2014).

This means that some tech innovation spaces combine these approaches in a single space. Some of the tech start-ups listed on the BongoHivecrowdmap then were Jjiguenne Tech Hub Senegal, Wennovation Hub Nigeria, iceAddis Ethiopia, and FabLab Namibia. In 2016, 314 active tech hubs were identified in 93 cities in 42 African countries (Du Boucher, 2016).

Some tech hubs operate independently, while others may be housed in a government innovation facility or a university innovation facility.

Swaziland's Royal Science and Technology

Park (RSTP), located at Phocweni, provides business incubation services to digital tech start-ups, amongst its other technology-oriented operations. You can watch the YouTube video of the RSTP vision at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wb0QW9Wgr3w>. The challenge presented by this vision is of great magnitude and will require significant infrastructure investment, as well as human skill and ingenuity to make it a reality.

WHAT DO TECH HUBS DO?

The broad term "tech hub" encompasses a variety of spaces and activities, where some form of digital manufacturing and/or data storage and/or data analytics takes place.

By digital manufacturing, we mean the design and development of software applications

(apps), software platforms, digital devices, 3D-printed manufactures and other digital artefacts. By data storage, we mean storage of terabytes (1012 bytes), petabytes (1015), and potentially of exabytes (1018) and zettabytes (1021) of data, available for analysis to produce business intelligence (e.g. for marketing), social intelligence (e.g. for health analytics), to visualise data and to produce scientific research.

Data storage often takes place in data centres, separate from creative tech hubs, but data analytics can take place in R&D firms and institutions, and in tech hubs.

Limiting

There are far fewer data storage centres on the African continent than tech hubs, limiting Africa's infrastructure capacity for data analytics. Mostly, African tech hubs produce digital apps, software platforms and 3D-printed goods. A tech start-up called Figtory Digital, partly located at the Tshimologong Digital Innovation Precinct in Johannesburg, has taken a few apps to the market.

These include the apps Livestock Wealth (fostering remote investment in livestock farming), Sambug (combining mobile technology and cognitive image analytics to advance pest management in the macadamia nut industry), and eGooma (a South African digital innovation in Internet of Things [IoT] for buildings and facilities management), see <http://www.figtory.co.za/>. In a different type of tech space, Gearbox Nairobi, encourages various forms of traditional machine-tool design and automated manufacturing, including 3D-printing, see <http://www.gearbox.co.ke/about-1/>.

Paritala, Manchikatla and Yarlagadda (2017) refer to the convergence of the natural environment (where we live), the built environment (infrastructure) and the digital environment (the Internet ecosystem) as one of the main influences on socio-economic development in the early 21st century.

While this convergence is taking place in many private sector and government-led enterprises, tech hubs represent collaborative working spaces where developers and entrepreneurs focus on the creative possibilities posed by this convergence. Here they can build business start-ups to explore these creative possibilities and produce new tech, with relatively low barriers to entry and at relatively low risk (though not at no risk).

WHAT HAS MADE TECH HUBS POPULAR?

Key words common across tech hubs include: Collaborative Working Space (also called co-working space, or co-location). Training (software coding and design). Incubation (providing mentorship and early stage business facilitation for tech start-ups).

Acceleration (providing business facilitation for operating businesses to expand their markets, products and services).

Finance (identifying and facilitating access to early stage forms of venture capital).

Community (networking, ideas and knowledge sharing).

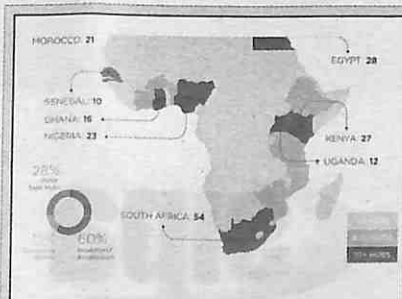
Possibly the greatest attraction of a tech hub is the collaborative working space, available at relatively low cost compared to traditional factory space or office space or other spaces available to business start-ups and small businesses. Typically, collaborative working space is more than just a space, but includes access to high-speed bandwidth, computing facilities, 3D-printing facilities and other automated machinery. But most importantly, tech hub spaces provide networks for knowledge exchange, whether that knowledge be about tech design, or potential clients, or finance, or marketing and other events.

Tech hubs specialise in events, including hackathons (typically a 48-hour design sprint or challenge), where software coders and developers, digital gaming enthusiasts, graphic designers and other tech developers build apps or games or other artefacts for particular purposes. One such event is the annual Fak'ugesi Digital Africa Festival at Wits University in Johannesburg, see the festival blog at <http://fakugesi.co.za/category/festival/>.

THE NATURE OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION IN TECH HUBS

The tech hub is a creative space. It is a knowledge sharing space. It is an innovation space. Digital innovation requires hours, weeks, months and years of design, trial, observation and re-design.

In the tech hub space, creative design focuses on "mass customisation" (Paritala, et al., 2017) rather than on mass production. Every customer or client, every hackathon or design challenge, every visitor or festival, presents a new opportunity to discuss an idea and translate it into a design. The relatively low cost structure of many tech hubs enables tech developers to design for both rural and urban clients, yet few tech hubs are located in rural environments, a creative-economy barrier still to be broken.



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A SIMPLISTIC PERSPECTIVE ON CLOUD COMPUTING

So many things have been said about cloud computing by both scholars and practitioners alike.

The conversation is forever growing, especially at practitioner level with less evidence of adoption in many organisations. What remains a major challenge is the slow practical utilisation of cloud computing offerings in many organisations.

Very few businesses have actively utilised cloud computing in running their Information Technology (IT) services. Despite major vendors like Amazon, Google, Microsoft and others making major investments in infrastructure for providing cloud services, it is not a surprise that a few of their clients are from the SADC region, with Swaziland not being an exception.

After reading a number of papers on cloud computing, my suspicion is that many writers and papers on cloud computing remain complex, vague or may not fully capture the extent of what cloud computing entails or represents, sometimes reporting how companies are making their solutions available in the "cloud" or how "cloud computing" is the way forward, but not examining or addressing the major concerns and challenges hindering its adoption.

The objective of this paper is to elucidate cloud computing by explaining and simplifying it to the level that it doesn't remain a myth and businesses understand the true benefit of adopting it as a business model within an organisation.

The paper will further attempt to address some of the pertinent fears and hindrances to its adoption.

Defining cloud computing

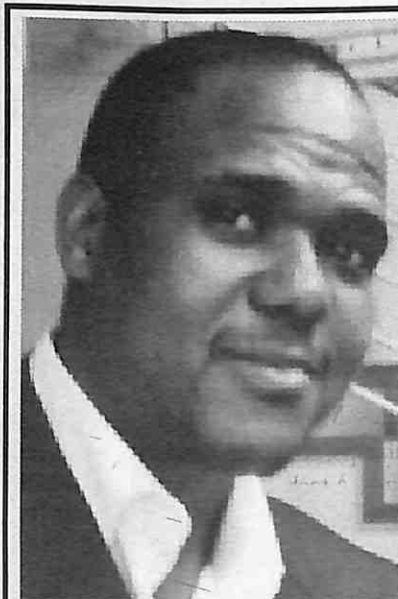
In a very simplistic definition, cloud computing is a subscription-based service where you can obtain computer services i.e. networked storage space, software, systems and computer resources over the internet.

The word "cloud" is coined from the long history of computer network diagrams using a cloud like figure to represent the internet.

One way to think of cloud computing is to reflect on your experience with internet email which most of us have. Your internet email service provider, such as Yahoo!, Gmail and Hotmail, takes care of housing all of the hardware and software necessary to support your personal email account. When you want to access your email from these service providers, you simply open your web browser, go to the email client, and log in. The most important part of the equation is having internet access and that's all.

Your email is not housed on your physical computer; you access it through an internet connection, and you can access it anywhere without investing in the necessary hardware and software and let alone in the skill to support it. This is one typical example of cloud computing.

Using the cloud an organisation could choose to subscribe for either or all of the following



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offerings: Software as a Service (SaaS)—in this case a business purchases the ability to access and use an application or system that is hosted in the cloud could be your Microsoft office or your billing system. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) - the subscriber completely outsources the storage and resources, such as hardware and software that they need. The business could have access to a server to install anything on. Platform as a service (PaaS) —in this case the subscriber purchases access to the platforms, enabling them to deploy their own software and applications in the cloud. It could be access to a database of your choice ready for you to install your own application database and upload your own data.

Why does it make sense?

Cloud services providers have identified the major challenges that businesses suffer from and successfully packaged these into services. Businesses buy computers and servers and use sometimes less than 50% of the available resources. The cloud infrastructure, regardless of deployment model, seeks to make the most of the available infrastructure across a number of users by ensuring that you utilise what you need and the rest given to someone else who needs it.

Cloud services providers also exploit the concept of dynamic provisioning of resources which allows for the provision of services based on current demand requirements.

Cloud service providers also allow dynamic scaling of resources, i.e. enabling the expansion and contraction of service capability, as needed while maintaining reliability and scalability. They have also revered the power of the internet as it allows the ease of deployment and accessibility from anywhere as long as there is internet access.

It also makes sense to pay for what you use. Businesses pay for services according to how much they have actually used or require during the billing period. This allows business to accurately understand the cost of information technology use in the business.

The different types of Clouds

There are different types of clouds services that you can purchase depending on your needs. In most instances, as a home user or small business owner, you will most likely use public cloud services.

1. Public Cloud - A public cloud can be accessed by any subscriber with an internet connection and access to the cloud space.
2. Private Cloud - A private cloud is established for a specific group or organization and limits access to just that group.
3. Community Cloud - A community cloud is shared among two or more organizations that have similar cloud requirements.
4. Hybrid Cloud - A hybrid cloud is essentially a combination of at least two clouds, where the clouds included are a mixture of public, private, or community.

The benefits of the cloud

The cloud makes it possible for you to consume its services without the always expensive investments required to set up an IT department. It removes the need for you to invest in IT resources such as hardware, software and people. This is especially helpful for businesses that cannot afford the same amount of hardware and storage space as a bigger company. Small companies can store their information in the cloud, removing the cost of purchasing and storing memory devices. Additionally, because you only need to buy the amount of

storage space you will use, a business can purchase more space or reduce their subscription as their business grows or as they find they need less storage space.

Another benefit is that you can access the same computer services from wherever you are with any device that can access the internet. This helps your business to function more smoothly because anyone who can connect to the internet and your cloud can work on documents, access software, and store data wherever they are. Imagine picking up your smartphone and downloading a .pdf document to review instead of having to stop by the office to print it or upload it to your laptop. This is the freedom that the cloud can provide for you or your organization.

Because cloud service providers use multiple redundant sites and replicate data across these sites to support business continuity and disaster recovery, a cloud service is reliable. We can all attest to the fact that our Gmail emails have been available since the day we received them. Another key benefit is that of scalability. Companies can start with a small deployment and grow to a large deployment fairly rapidly, and then scale back if necessary. Also, the flexibility of cloud computing allows companies to use extra resources at peak times, enabling them to satisfy consumer demands.

Current Concerns

Perhaps two of the more "hot button" issues surrounding cloud computing for most people centres around privacy and security of the information stored in the cloud. The inherent distance between you and the physical location of your data creates a barrier. It may also create more space for a third party to access your information. However, one must understand that information is not safe anywhere. Cloud service providers are aware of this fear and have invested a lot in securing your data, in most instances with superior technology than you would afford in your own data centre. It is therefore critical for you to understand the security measures that your cloud provider has in place, and it is equally important to take personal precautions to determine what type of data or service you want to consume through cloud technology.

Conclusion

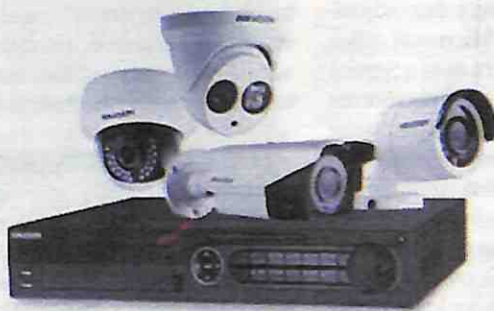
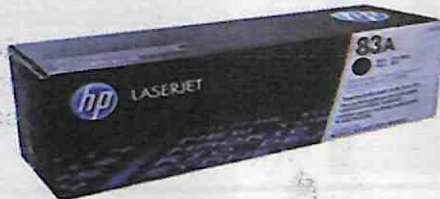
The lack of understanding and fears of the cloud has created too many hindrances to its adoption to mainstream business agenda. This is despite the many benefits that it provides for any business. If you are considering using the cloud, be certain that you identify what information you will be putting out in the cloud, who will have access to that information, and what you will need to make sure it is protected. Additionally, know your options in terms of what type of cloud will be best for your needs, what type of provider will be most useful to you, and what the reputation and responsibilities of the providers you are considering are before you sign up otherwise it is a viable business option.

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"Count on us for supreme quality Software Products, Software Services, Consulting, Training and Technical Support"

Technosol is an ISO 9001 Certified Company with more than 15 years in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) market. Technosol has been at the forefront of ICT services and IT Consultancy based on the latest technology. We pride ourselves in being a solution's designer and not just a company that offers "one size fits all" products.

The company operates as a wholly-Swazi owned private company. Technosol designs all its solutions with her motto in mind, "Keeping you ahead". Every solution has customer's needs in mind and strives to increase productivity, operational capabilities and to reduce operational costs. As an integrated ICT company with deep expertise, we know how to make technology work for you to keep you ahead.

Technosol prides itself in having long standing relationships with its clients, some stretching as far back as the company's inception. With customer's networks managed in Europe, US, Asia and remote parts of Africa, we have proven we are not bound by our locality. The network solutions we provide in various industries have given us invaluable experience with the unique solutions we provide every day. We have become a truly unique solutions provider that always has the solution for your needs.

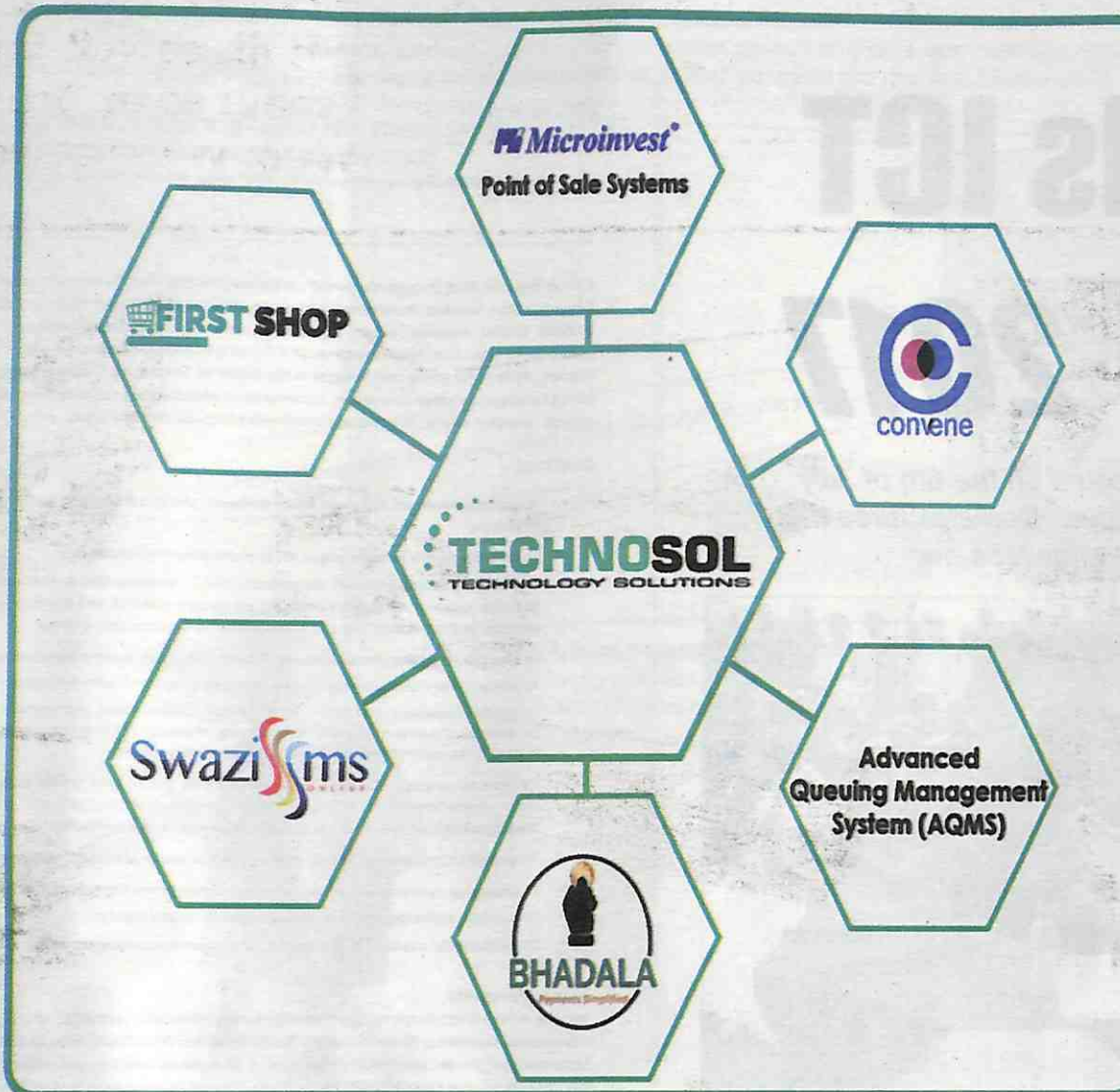
Our Objectives

Our key business objectives are to:

- To meet & deliver global standards of excellence, consistency & security
- To deliver quality as well as satisfactory services
- To give a right picture on all on-going projects
- To monitor, review, maintain, improve and analyse
- To develop high security & maintain confidentiality with our client's Data and Source Code - Intellectual Property Rights.

Technosol Offers:

- IT Consulting
- Software Solution Provider
- Software Development, Web Development, Portal Development, e-Commerce Development, OS Commerce Development, Mobile Development, ITIL Services, Customized Application Development etc.



Electronic Document Management System (EDMS)

Businesses not only need to protect their electronic documents during the active signing process, but also need to store them securely. Maintaining documents securely while allowing them to be viewed and transacted by authorized parties is essential to providing reliability, trust and business efficiency. Solve your paper problems by replacing your manual processes with EDMS. It manages all types of records in all formats, paper and electronic, during their entire life cycle, from creation through to disposal and allows for the implementation of records management tools such retention and disposal schedules. It manages information, including word-processed documents, spreadsheets, emails, images and protected document formats.

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Improve productivity, reduce customer waiting with Technosol's AQMS. Queue Management is the ability to manage and streamline queues in order to improve customer waiting periods and staff productivity. It is specially designed to bring about order, efficiency and comfort in places such as banks, public utility offices, health care and other places where people have to wait in line to get a service. AQMS reduces real & apparent waiting time, speeds up service delivery, improves service quality & increases customer satisfaction.

We focus on solving the unique and challenging intricacies of building and supporting cutting-edge Software Products & Services. Our innovative approach, coupled with our core engineering strength, aims at "exceeding the expectations of the customer", consistently and continuously. Technosol's custom designed innovative solutions are driven by deep domain expertise, technologically superior products and services, backed by dedicated service desks, enabling businesses to be more agile and responsive to contemporary business challenges.

Mobile Marketing (SwaziSMS)

SwaziSMS is the world's most innovative marketing concept. SwaziSMS allows you to send bulk SMSes to a large number of recipients for marketing, information dissemination and surveys.

BULK SMS will help you to integrate SMS marketing solutions into your mix in order to maximize your next campaign. It can even help you develop comprehensive database of your consumers throughout Swaziland. Mobile SMS marketing and broadcasting are changing the way we communicate in Swaziland. Text messaging is now a serious distribution channel that gives you the power to deliver your message directly into the hands of your audience, and create new revenue generating opportunities in Swaziland.

Mobile SMS Marketing is an innovative method of promoting and advertising which uses technology of mobile and wireless communication to forward your company's messages to thousands of targeted customers. Marketing with SMS helps to achieve your promotion goals because the technology associated with this is measurable.

GIS Consultancy Services

Data meets geography at Technosol. We offer streamlined, powerful mapping and spatial data analytics technology that appeals your organization's specific needs. Our GIS consultancy services stretch from GIS enablement services to specialized expert services that will aid your organization move towards a more efficient era. Implementing GIS in your organization will increase cost savings from greater and improved efficiency, it will facilitate better decision making and improved communication internally and externally. GIS will improve your record keeping and change your outlook on managing your resources on the ground.

Microinvest (Point of Sale and Inventory Systems)

Microinvest is the ultimate solution for any shop. The solution provides the manager with control over all processes in the shop; deliveries, orders and it assists in effortless selling. The system provides high-quality accounting solutions, suitable for accounting companies, auditing firms and insurance and consultancy companies of all sizes, as well as other types of business-related software. It successfully automates all kinds of activities, related to the monitoring and controlling of stock, inventories, operations and documents. Our products provide you with the latest cutting-edge solutions for the optimization, management and efficiency improvement of all processes within your business.

Meeting and Collaboration Solutions (Convene)

Convene's intuitive user experience makes an easier transition from paper-based to digital board meetings. Convene is an advanced meeting and collaboration solution for secure and efficient meetings and communications. With Convene, every director and executive has the latest version of every document—wherever they are, so it's easier to make the right decisions every time. Apart from conducting efficient paperless meetings, boards and executive teams can use Convene to enhance the productivity of their day-to-day collaboration and decision making. Convene is designed to give you the easiest and best meeting experience.

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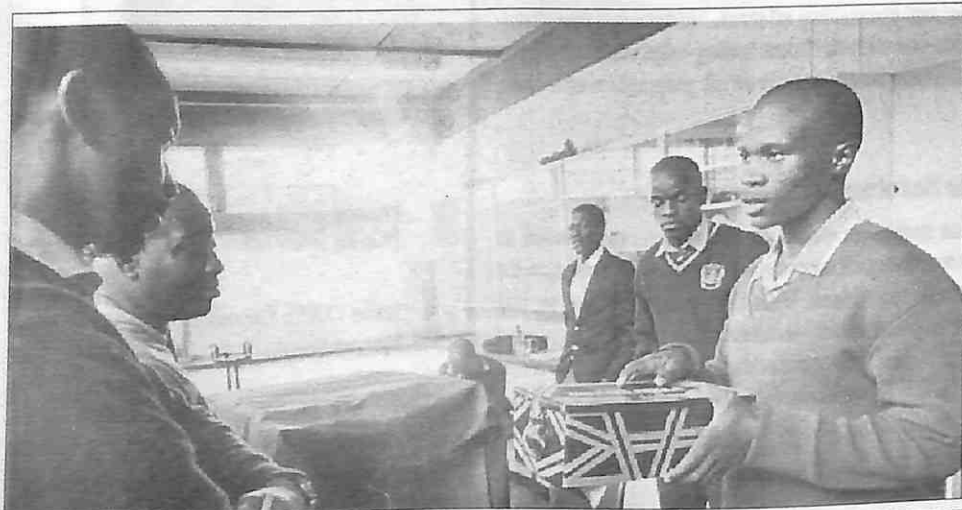
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Schools ICT Fair 2017

This years' Schools ICT fair was hosted on the 6th of July 2017, at UNISWA Kwaluseni Campus. Some pictures that were captured during the event are shown below;



SWAZILAND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

"Providing an effective and efficient platform for young technologists in the world of technology"

ICT FAIR

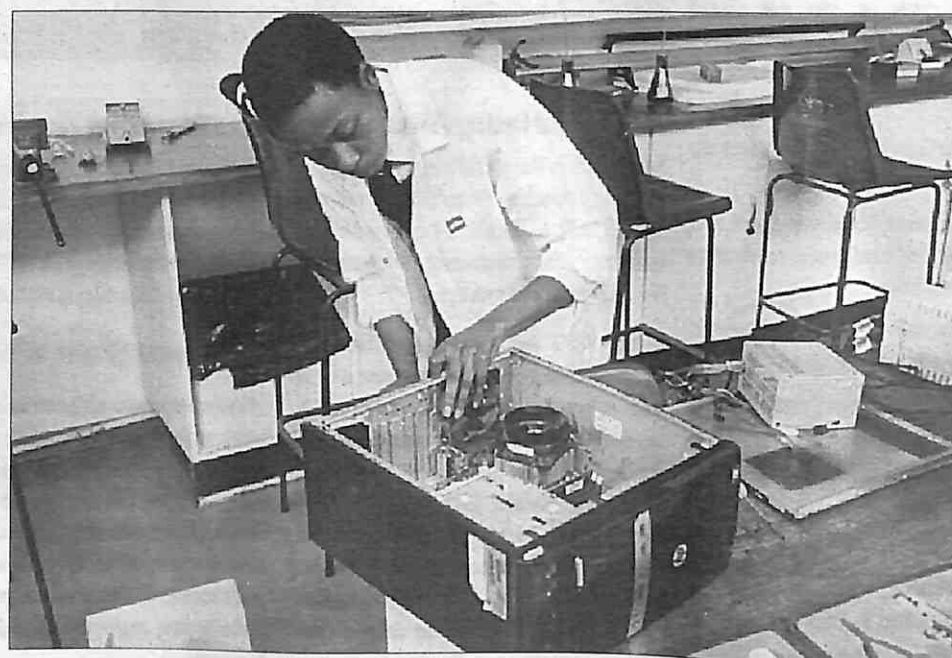
ICT Fair began in 2015 through the event's organisers SICTTA (Swaziland Information Communication Teachers Association) various sponsors (UNESCO, Swazi MTN Foundation, UNISWA, SCCOM, Webcast Cellular, Slomoos, PC Systems) to mention but a few and stakeholders. One of the main objectives of ICT Fair is to provide an effective and efficient platform for young technologists in the World of Technology. Students from across Swaziland converge at a venue, to compete in various categories which include ICT projects, problem solving, ICT quiz and troubleshooting just to name a few.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide means of communication between persons interested in ICT and computers in education;
- To disseminate information about ICT and computers in education;
- To promote the recognition of the potential of ICT and computers as a powerful aid to learning in a wide range of curriculum areas, to encourage research and development to realize the potential and to support the use of computers in teaching and learning;
- To improve computer literacy among students, teachers and the community in general;
- To promote the establishment of long term and short-term interest groups;
- To provide a platform and forum for all persons, stakeholders and learners whose views and positions or activities may assist in stimulating interest in ICT and computers in education, and in developing methods of computer education in Swaziland;
- To promote co-operation between and undertake liaison with similar associations and with other associations of members of similar interest generally with the other States of the Commonwealth and in other countries outside the Commonwealth;
- To establish a resource of people to assist and/or advise about ICT/computers in education;
- To encourage research and development activities in the field of educational computing;
- To facilitate exchange of ideas between education and industry;
- To promote the cause of ICT/computer education in a suitable manner;

Future Prospects

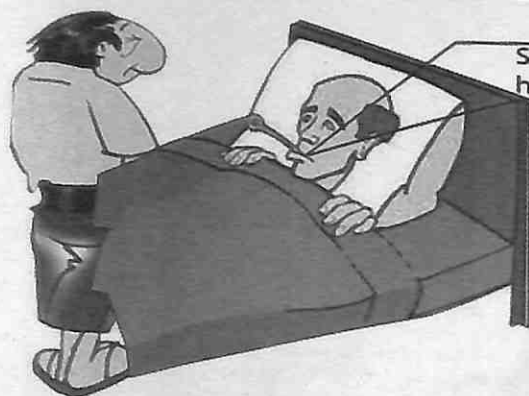
We wish to take Gold medalists, accompanied by the committee and MOET official for the International Technology/Science Expo in South Africa and BOLESWA Fair to be held in Lesotho in September. For this we anticipate a maximum of 12 students who can and proceed to the International Science Expo in South Africa. These may be accompanied by 4 SICTTA executive committee members and an officer from the Ministry of Education and Training.



UNISWA ICT ROADMAP 2022

Supplement

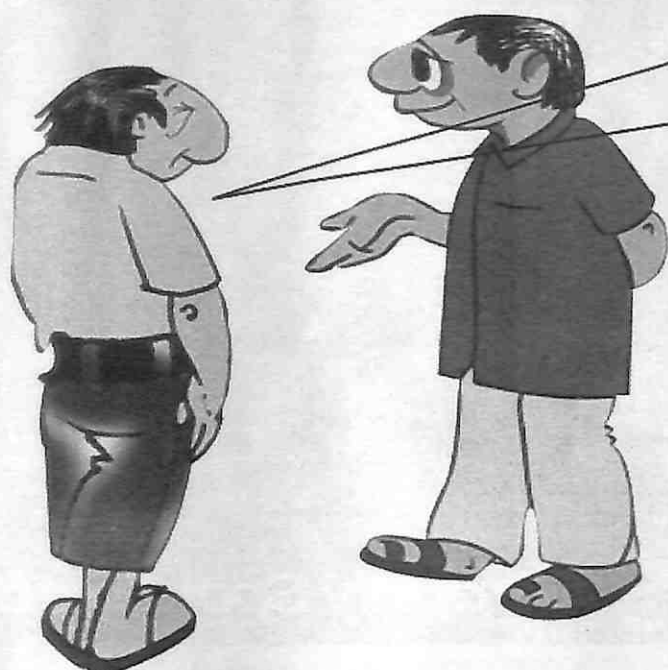
7



Senzo my son, I am too sick. I cannot go out and do some banking. You're the only one who can help since your mother left us. I trust you; you are my son. Please go to the ATM and get me some cash



Oh man. How does this machine work? But dad said it was easy ...



(A friend comes along.) Max my friend, do me a favour. My dad is sick at home and sent me to get him some cash from this ATM. But this machine is not cooperating. Can you help? (Friend excuses himself to go use the toilet)

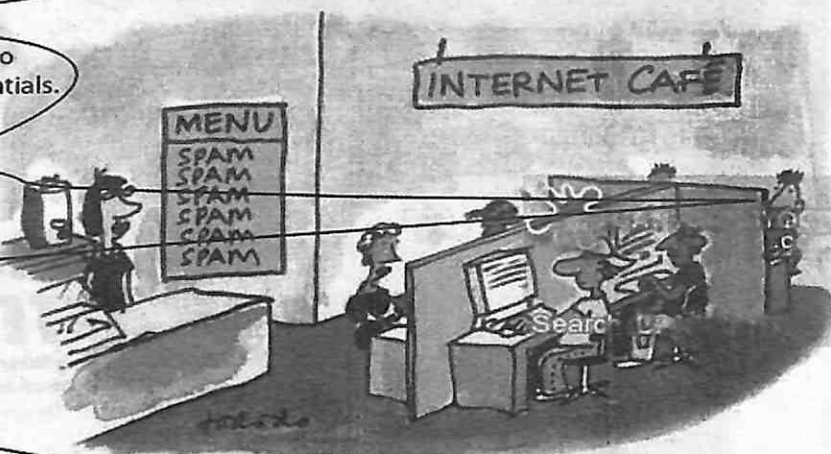


(At the toilet he calls his thug uncle who lives in another country). Wonderful smart Max, your friend wants you to help him get his dad's money from the ATM. Well, well, well, that's a great opportunity for us to get some money into our account. Here is what you must tell your friend ...

(Max goes back to Senzo.) Ok now listen my friend. Here is a simpler way to do this. Go home and get your father's cell phone and your father's online banking log-on credentials. Bring everything here and I will help you. Meet me in the internet café in 30 minutes.

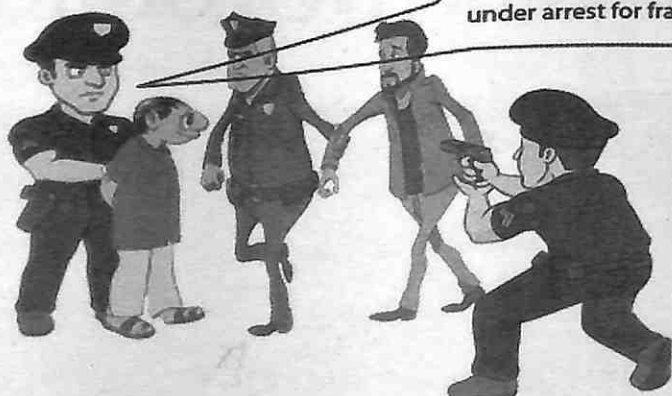


(At the internet café.) Max and uncle get Senzo's dad's log-on credentials and transfer his funds into Max's uncle's account.



(Max and his uncle:) Y - - E - - S!!! we did it. It's a jackpot!

(Max and his uncle getting arrested.) You are both under arrest for fraud. Please remain silent...



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SUPPLEMENT

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MADE ANEW



SPONSORS OF THE EVENT

Women are the bedrock of any society, and it is only through the support for this bedrock that wealth will be created.

When a woman is equally qualified, competent, committed and courageous she simply excels in bringing about positive change in the family, the

workplace, the community, the nation and the world over. She always leaves a legacy. As women leaders we therefore need to always know when to change gears in life by adapting to the environment and thinking outside the box.

Therefore the Consultancy and Training Centre a wing from University of Swaziland

has sponsored a short training course "Basic Leadership and Management Certificate" training for three days (duration) since it's an empowerment meeting.

To qualify, there will be a raffle draw for the first 100 ladies that will arrive early so keep time.

ABOUT Consultancy and

Training Centre (CTC), it offers short-term certificate courses that are customised ranging from three days to three months to meet your training needs.

These professional courses are delivered in a participatory and engaging manner to blend theory, practice and application. The short courses are

affordable but of high quality standard. The mission of the centre is to contribute to the development of Swaziland by providing quality skills training and consultancy services to government, non-governmental organizations, institutions, parastatal organisations, public and private sector as well as individuals.

Qhakazile Dlamini is also a professional lawyer, human resources practitioner and a board member of Institute of People Management.

She will be the second speaker, talking about life challenges that women normally experience in their lives.

She will be sharing skills or ways to overcome those challenges.

Most of the time people see challenges as monsters instead of seeing them as mind sharpeners as they have to think in order to have solutions and come out of those challenges. Sometimes people ought to be patient until it is over and even embrace those challenges because some do not go away or change, they simply become a part of your lives.



Lungile Mkhabela is a physiotherapist by profession, runs her own practice ML Physiotherapy as well as a property business Lungelwandle property. She is there to encourage and give everyone hope that after all has been said and done it is possible to make it in life. She will basically tell her story by sharing how she was able to achieve so much despite all challenges met. She will impart the drive, focus and determination.

When all is said and done, Sisusa is asking for clothing donations and anything in between. "I don't want it to be just an event but a new start. I want us to form groups and start visiting those destitute places to give out a helping hand where we can. What good is any meeting when it all ends there, it should add value to the next person's life. We cannot wait for the government to take such initiatives of gathering women to empower them. It is upon us to do so. So I invite every woman to come join us as this a very good and unique platform to network, learn and be informed," she said. Thus it is encouraged that employers buy their employees tickets too. As everybody knows health and wellness is not about managing finances going to gym and eating well. It's about how sound the person is in managing her affairs. And as an employer there are places you can't really dig into as others fear to express their issues therefore affecting their work. This is a more relaxed environment where there are many possibilities to find solutions and yet unwind at the same time. It is more like therapy in a different form. Buying tickets for your employees to attend this conference is a win-win situation for both parties. Employers should see it as a team building exercise.



Women empowerment is the ability for women to make decisions and take charge of their lives and work, and be given equal rights in all spheres.

This includes decision making in personal, social, economic, political and legal. Nowadays women empowerment is the talk of the town. Women are getting empowered in life and professions, allowing them to realise their fullest potential.

We all know that women empowerment is the buzzword in the twenty first century, and they are also leaving their mark. Now we have women working alongside men in all spheres. They profess an independent outlook, either living inside their home or working outside. They have gained control over their lives and taking charge of their own decisions in an all rounder.

One such woman is Sylvia Nonhlanhla Mthethwa. SCENE got the opportunity to interview this phenomenal woman who is not only the first female Regional Administrator (RA) for the Lubombo Region in Swaziland, but the first female to be a regional administrator ever. She let SCENE know that she believes women can do anything they set their mind into. Hence she feels it is necessary to help women challenge the political issues that hinder their development. According to her the 2005 Constitution made it possible for women to buy and own land under their own names was a major shift politically, it presented women with various opportunities.

In your own words, what is Women empowerment?

Women empowerment is the ability to provide a solid foundation to nurture the inner strength, creativity and self-esteem of women from all walks of life. Women empowerment educates and empowers women, who are homeless, with the skills and confidence necessary to secure responsible positions in society at large.

As the first woman Regional Administrator how does your

'I AM ALWAYS INSPIRED BY MY HUMBLE ACHIEVEMENTS...'



appointment assist other women?

Women are doing everything in the power to positively intergrade in the workplace that has been dominated by men from time immemorial. In this regard, my appointment to the leadership position of regional administrator serves as a source of inspiration and encouragement to women to aspire for senior positions in society. Therefore, it becomes imperative that I should discharge my duties and responsibilities with precision bearing in mind that others will be considered for senior positions based on the results of my performance in the work place.

What projects have you, as RA initiated or assisted in the empowerment of women from the Lubombo Region and countrywide?

As the political head of the Lubombo Region I urge and encourage women at all levels to participate in a range of areas in which they excel in, be it in social, economic or cultural activities.

I also speak in different for women empowerment both at regional and national levels. Within the Region I have spearheaded the Mlawula/Magadzavane Challenge Walk and Lubombo Business Initiative, amongst others.

What would you say is the most important thing practically

or theoretically wherein empowering women?

Women need to be encouraged in all their endeavours particularly because they have been disenfranchised for a long time. As women, we should encourage men to support women to achieve their potential by establishing various support structures. With this base well established women must be able to go out into the World, prepared to handle any challenge with skills, confidence and grace. They should come to the forefront, where they become agents of peace and positive social

change for themselves, their family, other women and their society.

How have you managed to stay on top of your game all these years?

I am always inspired by my humble achievements. It is this inspiration that drives me to apply all my energies in wanting to achieve better results. I stay in competition with myself by raising the bar of measuring my successes; by taking back to the community through motivational talks. As well as by looking for best business opportunities that are out there. Respect of all human kind and honesty and transparency in my delivery.

What advice would you give other women on being the best they can be?

Women should look up to other successful women; seek advice and guidance from them in so far as developing capacity to achieve their dreams. Honestly women should think out of the box, don't be afraid to try new things. Women should know their limits; they must start small but dream big. Women must fight amicably against things that seem to hinder their development. Women must seek family support through respect. Women must use what is within their means to establish businesses and attend business meetings to enrich themselves.

What are the factors that you feel let women down in quest for success?

- Low esteem
- Lack of exposure
- Lack of knowledge and skills
- Too much focus on their gender rolls



BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA

DJ DUKS, THE PEOPLES CHAMP

Arguably one of South Africa's most adventurous DJs Bom Duncan Groening and raised in the sugar belt, Dj Duks has slowly but surely natured his love for music. Beat on Beats caught up with him to find out more about is love for the music.

Briefly tell us about DJ Duks

I am a passionate, talented and gifted personality, well-spoken, articulate and professional DJ with excellent communication skills and a good sense of timing and co-ordination. Smart fashionable, friendly, confident and outgoing personality. Extensive knowledge of the music industry and sound technical person who possess an extensive collection of the 80s to the latest and most popular music and state-of-art musical gear. I started my career in 2009 playing at different clubs around Swaziland up until now.

How did the love for house music come about as well as becoming a DJ?

I listen to all types of music but Electro Dance Music just chose me from a young age. It was during my early teens in high school where I'd collect and listen to as much rave music as possible. All my peers were into the r n b

kwaito, hip hop and house music and didn't share my type of genre. So I vowed to become an EDM deejay and get everyone to share my passion.

What have been your career highlights and pitfalls?

Well to be honest I don't feel I have really given my deejay life much effort. This is why I decided to go the extra step this year and go into music production. I have a new single coming up in the beginning of September. I can't say much about it now but I've been working on it with a few great artists and I feel that this song will be a hit. In fact I KNOW this song will be great! It's taken a while to get this debut single of mine ready because I wanted it to sound right and according to what I had envisioned. I'm very excited about this song and I hope everyone else will once they hear it in September.

What are your views of the Swazi entertainment industry, taken from your perspective as a DJ?

Quality of local music has improved so much over the years. Unfortunately, I still feel that we could get better support from the people of this lovely country in regards to less need to watch and listen to foreign artists on shows and other forms of media and more desire to watch a local artist. There are now more and more rappers and singers that have come up and released great songs that I believe could be internationally accepted and recognised. But of course it starts with getting support from the people and the event organisers and promoters. Deejays need to get into the business of music production as well as playing music. We see it happening all over the world so why can't we do it as well.

Advice to young people who aspire to be DJs?

To the young people coming up I say don't stop trying. If u love what you do then continue with it. I was laid back and wasted a lot of good years of which I know I could have achieved much more than I already have. Think hard push hard be hard! And those are my words to from The Peoples Champ!!

THE RENAISSANCE OF HOUSE MUSIC

If you are a house music junky like me then you would agree if I said that house music manages to touch the soul in ways that no other genre can. Through the years there has always been a house song that takes us to midnight and crosses us over to the New Year.

That is how rooted house music has become in many of our lives.

Being an avid house head I find myself keeping my ear to the ground, making sure I'm in the loop with what's new and who's who in the house industry.

The early 2000s must have been the

time when house music really shook the industry and the masses. A new sound derived from Kwaito beats to be mashed up with unforgettable vocals created a sound that bridged a gap that most people didn't even know existed. It was here to stay! From that period house music has been on a rise, to a place where house DJs/Producers are like rock stars. Filling up arenas and earning international recognition like the likes of Black Coffee. Now there is a change in energy, the ground that the genre sits on is shaking. We have reached an age where technology has encouraged the volume of

new talent to increase exponentially and we are blessed with new, different and experimental sounds on a daily basis.

Artists are pushing the boundaries and even blurring the lines that separate the different kinds of house; soulful, instrumental, commercial, EDM etc.

Swazis are still only gaining an understanding of the deep house genre. Local DJs and producers have influenced the SA music scene by being true to my own brand of music. The genre is still classed as underground music at the moment but like everything, it will



take a bit of time but will inevitably blow up."

DJs have been breaking down dance floors all over the country with their sweet house sound and flawless mixing style creating direct contact with house heads on the dance floors and feedback

gained from an ever increasing and faithful following. One can only be excited and optimistic on what the future holds for Swaziland

What a time to be alive! THIS IS AN ERA OF REBIRTH.

By Thandukwazi Hadebe

WOMEN FARMER OF THE YEAR PREVIOUS WINNERS

2009 WINNER WINILE ZULU (KASHIBA - MHLOSHENI SANDLENI CONSTITUENCY)

Winile is a vegetable farmer who entered the competition in 2009 for her vegetable farming enterprise. She also does piggery production besides being a seasonal maize farmer.

Since winning the competition she has managed to grow her business, she has constructed two grocery stores and a restaurant in her Chiefdom.

Zulu is also a beekeeper and manages 20 bee hives. She has been able to provide employment for 10 individuals in her community, with four of the individuals hired as permanent staff. She also works with government extension officers in the Regional Development Area centres (RDA's) to motivate and mentor aspiring women and young farmers in her community and surrounding areas. As a member of the chiefdom inner council (*bandlancane*), and Zulu is committed in various com-



Winile Zulu second from right taking a picture with previous winners of the competition and the founder of the foundation Sonia Paiva

munity development projects; such as working with other women in her community to facilitate access to communal land for farming (especially with regard to vegetable production). She doesn't end there she works collaboratively with other leading women farmers in her region to create a pool for donations to aid OVC's in their communities

with food and clothing, tuition payments and school uniform acquisition. Zulu was honoured with a medal of honour by His Majesty the King for her efforts with regard to community development. She attributes her passion for farming and development to her upbringing; born into a family that lived and survived through agriculture.

2013 WINNER KHABONINA DLAMINI (MAFUTSENI - NGOGOLA MANZINI REGION)

Khabonina entered the competition for her vegetable production. Her enterprise has experienced challenges with regard to the lack of water for irrigation in her area.

She however has not despaired in her passion for agriculture as she has ventured into indigenous chicken production, broiler production as well as cultivating fruit trees.

Winning the competition has improved her recognition in her community as a woman farmer as she is also a member of the chiefdom inner council, partakes and influences developmental projects or activities

in her community. Dlamini is not only an agricultural Entrepreneur but also an academic currently pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy in Entrepreneurship and development, skills that will benefit not only her livelihood but also her community and the nation at large.

She is an active farmer who empowers the youth and women to initiate Agribusinesses through the media. She assists community members by providing them with seedlings (especially fruits) in an effort to ensure a food secure community in her area of residence.



2015 WINNER FIKILE SUKATI (MPEMBEKATI, MANZINI NORTH)

Fikile entered the competition in 2015 for her vegetable production. Sukati is a

dynamic woman that works with the youth and other women in her community and surrounding areas

providing mentorship as well as guidance in agricultural activities, assists them with market linkages

and facilitating market linkages. With her existing links to some formal markets she is able to provide an opportunity for the farmers she mentors to sell their produce. She has experienced challenges with regard to destruction of her irrigation equipment by uncontrolled veld fires, although that has not hindered her from continuing with her enterprising.

She is chairperson of the water development project in her community and also a committee member for the youth care committee where she engages the youth with regard to participating

into business.

She has a responsibility of training the youth on issues with regard to record keeping and drafting a business plan.

Twenty OVCs benefit greatly from her farm produce that she donates, and also works to assist the vulnerable children with the same material needs.

Woman Farmer Foundation has improved her recognition and status in her community.

She attributes the recognition she now receives in her community to having been a winner of the woman farmer of the year competition.

2011 WINNER THULISILE NHLABATSI (HAWANE MOTSHANE CONSTITUENCY)

Thulisile entered the competition in 2011 for her dairy farming enterprise.

She has since diversified her farm production to also include vegetable production.

The capital inputs she received as prizes during the competition: two point portable milking machines assisted her efficiency in conducting her work while also contributing to her growth.

Her dairy enterprise is now also a site for practical demonstrations

and trainings that may be facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Swaziland Dairy Board, and the University of Swaziland (Faculty of Agriculture in collaboration with the Dairy Development Board).

Experience

University students are also attached for their internship programs by the University to gain experience in the field of work.

Her community recognises her efforts so much that at a point she was nominated to be a member of

parliament for her constituency although she never attained the position. She is however a board member of the Swaziland Dairy Development Board and chairman of the dairy development committee with the dairy board.

Nhlabatsi was also honoured with a medal of honour by His Majesty the King for her efforts and contributions towards agribusiness and community development in the country.

She mentors aspiring dairy farm-



Thulisile Nhlabatsi second from right in the front row taking a picture with community women she had been mentoring working with the Swaziland Dairy Board

ers and young children and she donates some of her produce to

OVC care points and to nearby needy schools.

MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



In our previous two reviews, we have been dealing with redundancy, an error which has various forms.

Its four main forms, to reiterate, are tautology, verbosity, pleonasm, and circumlocution, also known as periphrasis. In the second of the two reviews, that is, our last one, we were trying to adduce the prevalence of one of the various hues of redundancy.

In other words, we were trying to provide evidence to support the proposition that one type of redundancy is more common than any other of its forms. And the commonest form, we dare aver, is pleonasm.

The last case which we provided to that end was this sentence: "There are mixed feelings concerning the deportation of Asians out of the country, as some feel they should be used as a benchmark in how to run businesses."

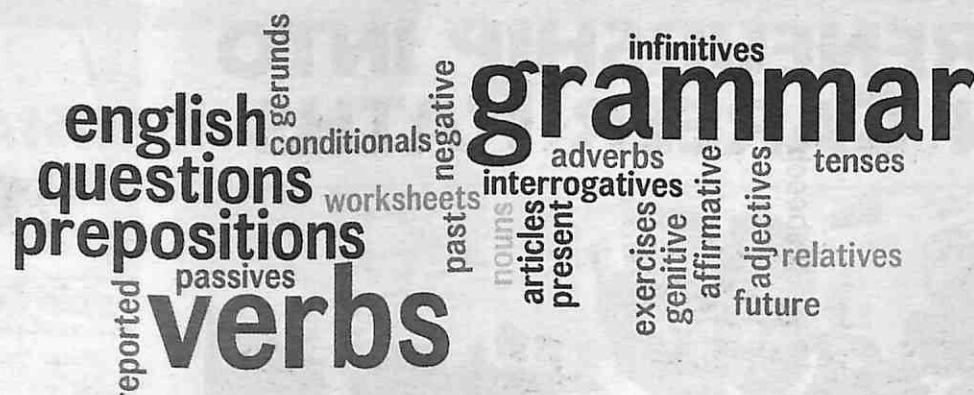
In that sentence, we find the very form which seems to be the predominant type of redundancy, to wit, pleonasm. To be sure, pleonasm involves using a word whose meaning is implied in the meaning of some other word in a sentence.

The aforementioned sentence is pleonastic because of two elements in the phrase, "the deportation of Asians out of the country." Specifically, the two elements are the noun, "deportation," and the preposition, "out of." And this is what makes the sentence redundant.

"Deportation" is a word of Latin origin, and its first syllable, "de-", is a prefix which means, "away from" or "out of." That being the case, the preposition, "out of," is unnecessary in the sentence because its meaning is already implied in "deportation." This is an example of pleonasm which we may characterise as covert, hidden, or disguised. Covert pleonasm invariably occurs when a writer does not know the nature of the English word he or she is using. Its opposite is overt, obvious, or plain pleonasm.

As we should expect, covert pleonasms are more difficult to spot than overt ones. Check out this sentence: "This phenomenon permeates through to the other sectors of society and, if not addressed, may thwart development." This is the fourth paragraph of a commentary in the Times of Swaziland, August 29, 2014,

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: PREVALENCE OF PLEONASM



with the title, LEADERSHIP CHALLENGED.

Can you find the factor that makes that sentence redundant? Well, let's shine the spotlight on those two words, "permeates through." "Permeate" is a word of Latin origin. And in Latin, "per-" is a prefix which means "through."

I am sure you can see clearly, now, why the sentence is pleonastic. Once we have used the word, "permeate," we can no longer use the word, "through," because the meaning of the former word is implied in that of the latter. Accordingly, the sentence needs to be revised, thus: "This phenomenon permeates the other sectors of society and, if not addressed, may thwart development."

That is an example of covert pleonasm, which can also be found in the following sentence. "This is a topic that has been discussed throughout the ages, even within our own series, yet the true extent to which gender stereotyping permeates throughout our lives is beyond measure."

This sentence is the first in the second paragraph of an article in the Swazi Observer of July 26, 2017, one with the title, WOMEN AND MEN; SAME CONVERSATION BUT DIFFERENT RULES.

The error in the foregoing sentence is the same as that in the previous one, except that, here, the preposition is "throughout," instead of "through." The pleonasm is covert because of the Latinate word, "permeate," which makes the word, "throughout," unnecessary. The watchword for dealing with redundancy is: "Don't Use Unnecessary Words," or DUUW, for lovers of acronyms!

From the obscure to the obvious, here is an example of the overt pleonasm, and it comes from the same article as the sentence we have just dealt with. "It influences the decisions we make, the statements we speak, the opinions we hold in our daily lives at all levels."

It is not redundant to say that we "make decisions," but to say that we "speak statements," I would say, is redundant, for when we state, we speak! The meaning of the former word is implied or involved in the meaning of the latter.

Anyway, if you are not convinced that that is redundancy, specifically, a pleonasm of the overt type, you should be convinced about the nature of this pleonasm. "The court heard how two sibling brothers orchestrated a plan to get rid of unwanted girlfriend by first locking her out

and later hacking the woman in the head after a heated argument with her boyfriend." This is the opening sentence of a news story with the headline, BROTHERS TEAM UP TO GET RID OF UNWANTED GIRLFRIEND, Swazi Observer, June 6, 2017.

The reason that sentence is overtly pleonastic is obvious. The word "sibling" means, "a brother or sister." As it is, the writer needs to choose which of the two words is more appropriate for the purpose of the sentence. If you ask me, I would choose the word, "brothers." It is more familiar and expressive.

Tell me, is this sentence an example of tautology, verbosity, or pleonasm: "The country's achievement of attaining ILO's first vice chairperson calls for the whole country to celebrate." This is the opening of a news story in the Swazi Observer of July 3, 2017, with the headline, "Bennett a happy man, praises minister, princess."

At times we tend to see what we want to see. Because I was predisposed to finding pleonasms, my first impression was that the sentence was pleonastic. But, upon second thought, I was wrong. The phrase, "achievement of attaining," is a tautology. Or what do you think?

The following sentence does not leave me with any doubt at all. It is the lead of the top story in the Times of Swaziland, May 16, 2017. And it reads: "Can laughter be a possible cause of death?"

That sentence of eight words suffers, of course, from redundancy. And for anybody who cares to look at the sentence very closely, it is a pleonasm of the overt type. Let us first correct the sentence, as follows: "Can laughter be a cause of death?"

Can you see what has been done to the sentence? The word, "possible," has been removed. That is because it is unnecessary. "Possibility" implies something that can be done. I would classify this as an overt pleonasm. But you may see it otherwise.

Here is an example of a pleonasm that we hear or read very often: "The reason for her humiliation is because of her age." Correction: "The reason for her humiliation is her age."

The word, "reason," has a meaning that is implied in the meaning of the phrase, "because of." Alternatively, we may correct the sentence, thus: "She was humiliated because of her age."

By the way, the sentence we have just examined is the one that begins the second paragraph of an article in the Swazi News of January 31, 2015. It was titled, SANITY FINALLY PREVAILS.

Of the various forms of redundancy, the one that seemingly prevails is pleonasm. Like redundancy as a whole, pleonasm can be easily corrected when we realise that the use of certain words makes the use of some other words in a sentence unnecessary.

A sound knowledge of the words we use reduces the chances of using unnecessary words in our sentences a great deal.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Please allow to air my views on the proposed new traffic fines. These fines show an increase of about 800 per cent.

Firstly, one wonders why there is this proposal by the minister to increase traffic fines. Is it because our extravagant government is desperately in need of money? Is it because neighbouring South Africa has higher fines than those in Swaziland? What exactly necessitates the proposed increase?

Secondly, why are the traffic fines in Swaziland lower? Why have they not been increased for so many years? The answer for that is simple: Swazis cannot afford high traffic fines, because of their lower standards of living they are perpetually subjected to.

The average Swazi earns very a little salary to afford a traffic fine of E 200.00. For example most civil servants earn an average of E 800.00 per month. So if you impose traffic fine of E 1000.00, that is 1 eighth of his salary (12.5 per cent). Can he really afford it? What about those who earn lesser than the average civil servant? The reason why traffic fines have not been

increased for all these years also has to do with the increases in salaries. Be it civil servants, bank employees, company employees or factory workers. You cannot increase traffic fines by 800 per cent when you cannot increase salaries by the same percentage, let alone 50 per cent.

Comparison

Many Swazis compare our traffic fines with those of South Africa and find that they are higher in the neighbouring country. The question is why look at traffic fines only when making the comparison. Also compare the salaries and living conditions. Also compare the insurance companies, the car dealers and the spares. There are higher traffic fines in South Africa because they earn better salaries, many affordable insurance companies to choose from and

a variety of spares.

These are two different countries, so Swaziland intends to increase traffic fines, salaries must be increased and living conditions be improved, just like in South Africa. Comparing Swaziland's traffic fines with those of South Africa is like finding which one has more loaves of bread between Mtfwebaba Grocery in Lavumisa and Prime Bakeries.

Necessitated

What led to the high traffic fines in South Africa? Firstly, it is the high number of accidents. South Africa has a higher population (about 51 000 000 people) than Swaziland (about 21 50 000 people). Secondly, they have a high rate of reckless drivers/drink drivers.

Thus the government resorted to stiffer traffic fines. Before these high

fines were gazette, there was a lengthy period (about six month) of consultation and debate. They did not just impose the fines overnight. The question is: is it reasonable to make a motorist in Swaziland to pay a traffic fine of up to E 2 000, when he has been failing to pay a fine of E 60.00?

It is true that traffic fines in Swaziland have not been increased for decades but E 60.00 is still a fair fine, considering the lower rate of accidents and the affordability to pay the fine. Only traffic offences relating to drink and driving are beginning to increase, thus necessitating an increase in fine. Such may be increased by about 20%. We do not want a situation where many Swazi's will end up in jail until those facilities run out space. We also don't want a situation where Swazis would be made poorer each day. I believe the intention of gov-

ernment is not to rip off citizens.

Traffic cops

This comes the issue of some (not all) traffic cops who enrich themselves with traffic fines. Are we putting them to more temptation if we increase traffic fines by 800 per cent? One wonders how much a corrupt cop would make at the end if the proposed traffic fines can be imposed. How safe are motorists from traffic officers who would grab the opportunity and demand more money in the name of enforcing the new traffic laws.

Traffic fines must be commensurate with the living standards of the people. Swazis will not afford high traffic fines, hence the proposal must be thrown out and the current fines be maintained.

HM Magwegwe

YES, A BIG 'NO' TO THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC FINES

ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO INFUSE ENTREPRENEURSHIP INTO CHOSEN CAREER PATHS



One may argue that the most successful entrepreneurs like Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg are college drop-outs and never really had to invest in any career path in order to gain the success the we now know of. However, I have to make mention of the fact that education does provide credibility for any business area.

I find myself very concerned whenever I revisit the high youth unemployment statistics in our country. They are currently standing at 53 per cent. What is even more worrying is the fact that these statistics comprises of qualified young people who have gone through tertiary education to try and secure an academic qualification for themselves.

One would expect such young people to have a competitive advantage but unfortunately that is not always the case. Most institutions when looking to employ a person, the level of previous work experience always carries some weight in deeming the candidate fit for employment. This, therefore, implies that young people should consider becoming entrepreneurs at a very early age in order to gain a certain level

of business experience which they can combine with their academics to formulate a viable business as opposed to seeking employment.

The first encounter that we get among in school youth most of the time when we present our programmes is the fact that young people want to gain qualifications and therefore find a job in their chosen career path. As we engage and work with them more, they then become aware that they can use their career choice to actually start a business.

We often make the example that if a young person wishes to become a medical doctor, rather than seeking for employment from someone, why not consider opening a private practice, that way you are guaranteed that the service you provide will benefit you

directly as clients pay for it. Young people then realise that in the process of becoming an entrepreneur, one does not have to give up on their dream to 'settle' for entrepreneurship but the idea is to live your dream in a broader perspective where you use your skills and talents to become an entrepreneur.

One may argue that the most successful entrepreneurs like Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg are college drop-outs and never really had to invest in any career path in order to gain the success the we now know of. However I have to make mention of the fact that education does provide credibility for any business area.

There are business fields where one has to rely on the qualifications of the individual in order for them to be able to engage in business with them. For



instance, if I am to require the services of a lawyer, I would want to utilise the services of a reputable law firm led by someone who knows the in and outs of law. This, therefore, means that for a lawyer to open a law firm, it becomes a viable business for them because they will have the academic qualifications to back their legal claims. After all, credibility in a business can make or break your reputation which is why we encourage young people to invest in education in order to become service providers as opposed to employees.

Education in entrepreneurship becomes vital also in assisting how one negotiates business deals in a corporate set-up. It is often said that if one cannot negotiate their way through a round table meeting then chances of advancing in business become limited. Education has a special element that it gives one confidence to pursue their business interest with whomever no matter their level of education. One of the most popular ways of conducting business in Swaziland is bidding for government tenders.

A lot of screening goes into the process of tender allocation. Presentations are made and one gets the chance to convince a panel of government officials as to why they should be given a tender as opposed to their competitors. Having your education can assist one present their ideas convincingly in such cases.

One other key element in entrepreneurship is research. This means one has to invest intensively in acquiring information about a business, its competitors, the target market and be able to

use all this information as a good base to start a business. Such information can be readily available to inform the decisions of an entrepreneur. However, this information can be easily missed if one does not possess a certain level of education. Educated entrepreneurs, therefore, have an advantage whereby they use information as a tool to make informed decisions and also expand their businesses. It is so very fortunate that investing in education as an entrepreneur is not limited to any period. One can, at any given time, choose to infuse knowledge into their businesses.

At Junior Achievement Swaziland, we value education and at every platform we encourage young people to invest their time and efforts into becoming educated entrepreneurs. The reality is that the world of business is a fast paced environment. It requires one to keep evolving in order to stay ahead in business. If you are a young person and you have been fortunate enough to have an academic qualification then do not waste your talents, get into business and use your skills to stay ahead in business. There should never be an excuse for graduates to stay at home with their qualifications when they can have an opportunity to infuse those skills into business. JA Swaziland is willing to assist young people claim their economic ambitions through the use of entrepreneurship. Recently our sister organisation, SEDCO introduced the graduate enterprise program; this is an opportunity for young people to turn their status and create their employment through business.

VOICE OF BUSINESS



Like all institutions where money is used as a core enabler for health care provision, Medical Healthcare Programmes are not immune from fraudulent activities.

Whilst the full extent of health care fraud cannot be precisely measured, it is estimated that internationally the

HEALTHCARE FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE REMAIN COSTLY CHALLENGES TO

The health and well being of patients can be jeopardised when they are exposed to unnecessary and dangerous tests and procedures.

average fraudulent losses to public and private health care programmes can easily add up to three to 10 per cent of the total health care spending bill.

The above statistics were raised as serious concerns during the 18th Annual Conference of the SADC Board of Healthcare Funders' (BHF), held in Cape Town on 17th to 19th July 2017.

The conference greatly benefitted from various presentations of reputable international and regional experts on healthcare provision, who ably shared the risks associated with this industry. All presenters acknowledged that

efforts to curb fraud in the healthcare industry, requires aggressive, innovative and sustainable methods and cooperation from all stakeholders in the various entities of the healthcare sector. Governments and the private sector were encouraged to closely work together to ensure that the healthcare sector becomes more efficient, reliable and accessible to users and beneficiaries.

An opinion was advanced at the conference that the private sector needs to collaborate and partner with law enforcement authorities and health funders to curb criminal and fraudulent activities

in the healthcare sector.

Data generated by the Board of Health Funders (BHF) showed that in South Africa alone about seven per cent of all medical aid claims are fraudulent. It was estimated that between 2009 and 2013 fraudulent claims cost the South African National Health Department about R22 billion a year and about R24 billion in irregular expenditure was recorded for regional health departments.

A South African senior clinical adviser at Medscheme's forensic unit, Gregory Pratt, says fraud and abuse posed a

material threat to the affordability and sustainability of medical aid schemes, and to any national insurance scheme. He submitted that there appears that there is a culture of entitlement among service providers who sometimes charge triple the amount for patients who suffered a condition covered under the prescribed minimum benefits. He cited a psychologist who had charged R4.3 million in 102 days; pharmacies who had claimed more than R100 million in three days and more than R5 million being paid to a radiographer in one year, as examples of how practitioners abused the system. These staggering figures may be extrapolated to the Swaziland healthcare environment to estimate the impact of fraud in the healthcare sector.



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BONGANI DLAMINI

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BRAND STA AND #ILOVESWAZILAND REACHE 400 000 PEOPLE

The grading of accommodation establishments in the country is indeed the first and much-needed step to crossing the bridge to a more competitive and efficient tourism industry.

The craze over the serene tourism industry in Swaziland has not gone unnoticed in the digital world.

Over the last two months, massive numbers have been ogling stories that mention the Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA) as well as the organisation's official social media campaign tagline '#iloveSwaziland' attracting a combined total of 650 000 people. Of these, the #iloveSwaziland hashtag and handle reached 388 000 people between June and mid-July, while mentions of STA reached about 258 000.

These statistics were released this past week by Meltwater.com; a credible and internationally-reputable internet tracking site for brands and organisations.

Taking marketing to social media platforms is one of the most revolutionary, innovative and internationally recommended step to success. Social media has sold Swaziland to African and international visitors in the most unconventional yet modern way. STA, through its hashtag #iloveSwaziland as well as its twitter and instagram handle @ILoveSwaziland have capitalised on such opportunities.

Meltwater further revealed that STA continued to receive many more conversation mentions online than her hashtag #iloveswaziland, in the same

June-July 2017 period. Considering the amount of work STA puts into hosting bloggers, travel writers and tourism experts to boost their recognition in world standings, the title is much deserved.

Significant credit should also go to hosted media which was in the country recently courtesy of the STA, particularly Kaya FM. The radio station published a recap online after their trip to Swaziland, about their trip: tweeting live to tens of thousands of their followers. Meltwater says this trip got social media tongues wagging, as people could not stop expressing their undying love for the kingdom and thus giving #iloveswaziland the upper hand in the month of June. But, STA still maintained more conversation mentions than #iloveswaziland in the same month.

Meltwater also revealed that the themes behind the success of these two brands was the increased search for new untainted destinations in terms of nature, wildlife, and culture – something which put Swaziland at a higher pedestal compared to other countries in the region. Extensive tourism operations, arts, festivals and the African Responsible Tourism Awards were some of STA's best guns, while #iloveswaziland relied on the undisputed Bushfire Festival,



incredible attractions and city monuments. This catalogue of themes led to #iloveswaziland winning the round by virtue of reaching a larger social media population.

On the other hand, STA got more conversation mentions because they highlighted themes inclusive of blogger and travel addicts, the weather and travel features. Whereas, #iloveswaziland focussed on traditional Swazi dancers, rhinoceroses and #unzipAdventure, among others.

These themes sought to illuminate one of the local tourism's most prized assets, their visitors and supporters. It is worth noting that STA and #iloveswaziland are brought to a balance by the sweet fact that they both give the country the exposure it needs to flourish in the international market.

We are very grateful to Swazis as well for tagging @ILoveSwaziland on Twitter and Instagram as they attend various events in the country. We urge people to continue

tagging us as well as using the hashtag #iloveSwaziland so as to reach out to their friends and followers from all over the world: Remember, we once said marketing our destination is everyone's responsibility.

Wishing you a good Sunday. Till next week.

A lot of screening goes into the process of tender allocation. Presentations are made and one gets the chance to convince a panel of government officials as to why they should be given a tender as opposed to their competitors. Having your education can assist one present their ideas convincingly in such cases.

MEMBERS, BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT

The conference highlighted that the impact of fraudulent activities, i.e false and inflated claims, go beyond cost it impacts the quality of health care provision.

The health and well being of patients can be jeopardised when they are exposed to unnecessary and dangerous tests and procedures. Some patients have become 'paper pawns' through fabricated histories that threaten their future insurability.

The majority of healthcare claims are submitted electronically. Due to the sensitivity of health matters, claims are usually processed based on predictable edits applied to representations on the claim, and paid on a claim-b-claim basis with limited verification that the services were actually provided or were

necessary. Additional analysis is needed to determine whether a series of claims, each of which may appear legitimate, demonstrates a pattern of potential fraud or abuse when taken together.

Perpetrators see healthcare fraud and abuse as a low-risk crime. The insurance industry offers an abundance of easy targets.

Claims operations are geared toward processing massive amounts of claims efficiently and rapidly—with a focus on coding, not fraud. Electronic data exchange and other technological advances can present another kind of exposure for payers and patients to create new schemes to defraud the system.

Ignoring fraud creates risk, allows

the problem to grow unchecked and increases avoidable pay-outs. This leads back to the individual health funder as premiums for health cover are increased unabatedly.

The view of The Voice of Business in Swaziland is that healthcare funding deserves urgent attention. Any amount of money lost due to fraud is money wasted; money that could have been used to keep premium rates in check and money lost towards improving patient care.

It is incumbent upon all stakeholders in the healthcare value chain to minimise and curb fraud and abuse. Full-scale anti-fraud and abuse programmes need to be put in place to minimise drainage of healthcare funds and resources.

Responsibility, ownership, and consequences for fraudulent actions must cross the continuum at the level of individual health care user; healthcare beneficiary, healthcare service provider, at organisational, national and regional levels.

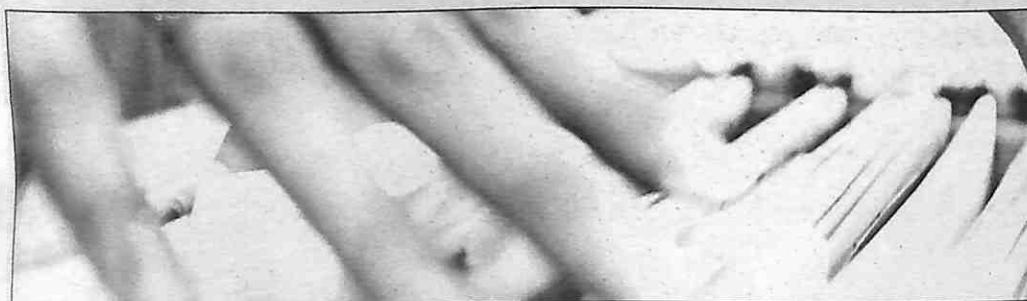
Providers as well as consumers must be committed to providing appropriate documentation to address fraud and abuse cases and take a moral and ethical stand against fraud in the healthcare environment. This may mean taking advantage of the whistle-blower laws to identify fraudulent claims to the appropriate national authorities. Healthcare providers and organisations must invest in offering education and training programmes, creating coding, fraud and abuse committees, and utilising data mining and model-

ling software.

Finally, the government must be diligent in prosecuting providers, healthcare organisations, manufacturers/retailers, and individuals who commit fraud and abuse in an organised and systematic manner.

Although the vast majority of doctors are honest and committed to their patients' welfare, fraud schemes often exploit the trust relationship between doctor and patient. Regrettably, for a small number of doctors, ethical duty sometimes becomes subordinate to financial self-interest. Doctors who solicit or accept kick-backs, whether in the form of a cash bribe, an inflated return on an investment, or a sham consulting or other agreement, do so at the expense of the patient and the system.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT



BY Comfort Mabuza

It is wrong for a Public Service Broadcaster (PSB) that is financed by Tax-payers to charge organisations for providing it with content.

As a matter of fact, it should be the other way round. NGOs which share information to the populace should be paid instead for providing their services. By virtue of its mandate, PSB is funded by subventions from government and cannot be seen charging entities for sharing information to the people.

Advertising yes they can charge for, because they will be selling and promoting their products, but content NO. It is denying citizens access to information and a daylight-robbery to those providing information to charge for providing content. All stakeholders who provide state broadcasting with such content should be paid instead.

The role of PSB is to inform and educate the masses, and one wonders why such a rip-off is allowed to thrive in Swaziland. PSB is a forum for democratic debates providing diversity of programmes for all by showcasing people's culture and a vehicle for national development agenda. It certainly cannot be for profit.

THREE-TIER BROADCASTING

The Windhoek Declaration, which Swaziland is a signatory of, as well as the African Charter on Broadcasting promote access to information by all.

SBIS is a PSB while, commercial/private broadcasting entities like Voice of the Church in our case and community radio broadcasting which we currently do not have in the country, are necessary to help citizens access information.

In all my working life, Swaziland has been dominated by state broadcasting and that needs review. It is such a pity that after having been independent for 49 years the coun-

try is not making headways in freeing the airwaves. By refusing to allow the three-tier broadcasting, government is denying citizens multiple voices and alternative views. This is against the Windhoek Declaration on pluralistic and free press and by extension defeats the intentions of the African Charter on Broadcasting. Why do we want our beloved country to be viewed negatively, when the country's leadership should be seen as being supportive to the King's vision of becoming a First World country by 2022? We are certainly not respecting the wishes of the King and his good intentions and this defeats the gains and milestones the country has attained since gaining independence.

MANDATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING

At the apex of its mandate, PSB must be seen keeping citizens informed and giving them a voice.

It is a great crime when citizens are deprived of information and kept in the dark.

The mere fact that radio remains the cheapest and most popular source of information for the general populace makes it wrong to charge entities that freely provide useful information.

The marginalised and vulnerable people must not be kept in the dark in accessing the basic information services they deserve.

Accessing information keeps citizens informed and that is what democracy entails, giving a voice to the people.

South African Broadcasting Association says: "public broadcasting, in providing access to a wide range of information and ideas, serves as an instrument of popular empowerment through its programming."

Why then charge organisations and entities for providing critical information? It defies logic that programmes for children, women and the vulnerable sector of society are deprived access to information.

Dare I say that SBIS is wrong to charge such entities for providing programmes and content that has public interest at heart, because it is their duty to disseminate information to the members of the public?

Those who are facing an uphill

battle and paying exorbitant fees for providing information are being given a raw-deal. Instead the public service broadcasters should be paying them. It is only adverts that should generate some cushion for running expenses. But let us be very blunt here, all service providers should not be charged as it is the mandate of the PSB to ensure that citizens are informed. So in short, those who go out to record and interview people in communities on issues of development at community level cannot be charged for providing using a PSB. Stop this abuse of and day robbery please. It is a violation of accessing information by the masses and this must be challenged.

COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE BROADCASTING

By virtue of their mandate, commercial/private radio stations are established for profit.

They thrive on being professional and competing for space and they survive on selling space for entities to be heard. It is, therefore, understandable if they decide to air information that is meant for profit gain.

At the heart of commercial radio is the resolve to make money and be sustainable. I have no qualms with those as they do not get grants from the government.

They must meet operational salaries and other related costs a business. When they charge any person providing information or adverts, it is within their business rights and that is how they operate. Channel S and VOC must be charging people who use their facilities because they have chosen to, however, that cannot be said of PSBs.

COMMUNITY RADIO BROADCASTING

Community radio broadcasting is ordinarily an initiative run and coordinated by communities themselves.

The ultimate goal is ensuring that the community development agenda and sharing information within the very communities is part of empowering them so that they develop and meet their needs. We certainly do not expect profits from such initiatives because they are meant for citizens' empowerment. They are generally run by volun-

teers and normally funded by local based businesses. Unfortunately, Swaziland has not made much progress in granting broadcasting licenses to such initiatives, a case in point being the Lubombo community radio forum. I have always been shocked that an initiative that has been around for so many years cannot be given a licence by the state. I wonder why are we so much afraid of giving communities a voice to be heard. Lubombo has many challenges like malaria, poverty issues and health related matters. It certainly does not sit well with some of us who have worked tirelessly to promote the three-tier broadcasting to see such a noble idea being frustrated by people who have no clue what the community of Lubombo which provides Swazi gold, stands to benefit from such. The continued refusal by the powers that be to grant licences renders the line ministry ineffective in advancing community development initiatives. Can someone assure the principals at the ministry of information, communications and technology that it's all about development? Citizens must access information and be given a voice and platform to openly discuss issues affecting them without any hindrance. This is their fundamental right.

FREE THE AIRWAVES

A country that is at peace should not be seen frustrating citizens to access information. Such a right is catered for in the Constitution, and those who do not promote it are an enemy of the very peace Swaziland is respected and well-known for.

Broadcasting permits and licences are given by an independent licensing regime (regulator) with clear guidelines and provisions of what is permissible and promotes stability and peace.

If for any reason, a broadcasting house commits a crime, their licences can be revoked.

Otherwise, only an Independent regulator should listen to complaints lodged against a broadcasting house which is seen not following its licence provisions. It is all about development good people and ensuring access to information that remains the reason for calling for the freeing of airwaves.

People must not be denied the right to share opinions on the daily challenges they face.

A government that does not promote transparency and openness is then viewed with suspicion and as an enemy of free speech and freedom of thought.

I do not think a country like Swaziland known for being peaceful would really want to be viewed as repressive and not allowing free expression.

UNESCO sums the mandate of PSB being an informing and educating tool for all, accessible to all and meant for all should appeal to the imaginations.

No one should be charged for availing such content aimed at informing the populace about services which ordinarily is the mandate of the PSB.



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

Today, in ending heroes month, I celebrate 21 years of my spiritual journey, after completing on July 31 1996 at the Right Brain Research Institute in Montreal, Canada.

Firstly, my sincere condolences to families of the departed formidable women. Condolences to Litchfield and Shongwe families on losing Aunt Mavis, a phenomenal woman who contributed to this country in international relations. As legal advisor, high commissioner and most significantly as chief protocol for His Majesty King Mswati III, she was our role model and a generous soul. Condolences to the Dlamini family for the loss of Make Thandi, my cousin Sifiso Makhubu's mother. Last December we celebrated his traditional wedding in hindsight, she bid us farewell. The Mkoko and Ndwandwe family for the loss of Aunt Dudu, sister to Babe Knox Nxumalo, shy and gentle soul who lived a simple life devoted to God and her family.

VISIONS, INSIGHTS

I am my own hero, for accepting vision, insights on my spiritual journey, evidently marking the tremendous transition from religion to faith.

Religious upbringing, educates use of the heart, to achieve the immaculate heart of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Therefore, the transition of my spiritual journey required following vision, insights emanating from the soul, and accepting how the soul is the essence of God. The soul cannot be lied to and cheated like the heart and how the heart takes decisions that are informed by family, community and society. Insights emanating from how the soul requires going against the heart, as the heart is always vulnerable to pleasing humanity. Appeasing people is what the heart is socialised to achieve, and the heart accepts humiliation, hypocrisy, competition, jealousy and envy as normal human behaviour.

Insights emanate from the soul, revealing God's Divine Plan and Love for humanity, and therefore they are disputed by families, communities and nations. Insightful spiritual life is suppressed and yet Jesus Christ stated 'Give Me Souls and Take Away the Rest.' But this does not serve purpose of the manipulative world, souls are suppressed because they express God's Divine Plans. Souls are engraved with truth, but humanity cannot tolerate truth as it takes away their power to manipulate. Souls are blessed with visions, insights revealing deceptive behaviour, prior to manifestation, as God's protection from humiliation, hypocrisy, competition, jealousy and envy. When a soul is free of these human behaviour, humanity cannot manipulate this spiritual person, thus, enabling visions originating from God.

SPIRITUAL IMMERSION

Vision and insights are how God detoxes the soul in preparation for spiritual immersion. This requires letting go and letting God, integral parts of becoming a spiritual hero. Letting go of family subjugation such as being bullied by men and women who were themselves subjugated in their upbringing.

God through letting go, detoxes lack of faith in God, as we are socialised to have faith in family and not God. Letting go, is how God ensures immersion in faith in God, and not faith in the church and its hierarchy of bishops, priest, pastors and prophets. Spiritual immersion enables the mission and calling to see the spiritual nakedness of humanity.

The nakedness of souls that stand in front of the room, yet are shallow embody all earthly behaviour.

In the meantime these earthly institutions are forcefully causing attritions into my spiritual

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



journey.

As they realised the insightful revelations that God is manifesting spiritual immersion. Earthly institutions drill atrophy to distract spiritual immersion, as they fear losing their power over you so they judge to weaken your flesh. And yet that is the moment when God is spiritually immersing you to understand that atrophy, through letting go of money and materialism, rising above the power of sex, is spiritual immersion. That enables the soul to realise how the cultural life of this country will sink into atrophy unless you follow your spiritual mission and calling.

The spiritual immersion, I experienced in creatively participating within traditions and culture as part of my spiritual journey. Thus the realisation how earthly institutions whether the religious, economic, political, social, traditional healing, traditions and cultural institutions are in dispute.

This immersion revealed how God's plan was not to create conflict between earthly institutions, but healthy tensions such that they coexist towards social cohesion and peace.

The current dispute in earthly institutions is ungodly, as at every possible platform, one is bashing the other. God, revealing how earthly institutions driven by ego, are not listening to the Almighty, but egocentric prophecies on being 'the godly.' Hence becoming earthly judges of each other, and yet judgment is God's prerogative, not humanity's.

CREATION AND PRESENTATION

Creation and presentation is part of the spiritual journey, requiring the manifestation of the metaphoric mind. This evokes the soul that was suppressed by the heart and earthly institutions.

The metaphoric mind evokes the soul, consciousness, which has been suppressed by the rational mind, ruled by the heart and earthly institutions. Creativity manifest from the metaphoric mind, revealing atrophy that is fragmenting the cultural life of country, hence research and preservation of indigenous knowledge. God revealed how this country and Africa is experiencing earthly institutions disputes, hence one listens to religious institutions bashing traditional healers and cultural institutions. Traditional healers bashing religious institutions on how they consult them in darkness. Political institutions bash traditional and cultural institutions, economic and social institutions ruled by disrespect, creating disputes. Creation and presentation is my spiritual journey, evident in the academic pursuit, ultimately towards achieving prophet and professor status.

Thus enabling creativity to ensure future generations do not stand up in public plat-

forms, spreading unresearched, untruths about their cultural life. God created all earthly institutions to experience tension as they contribute towards social cohesion and peace. God did not create earthly institutions to create conflict, as God is a God of Love and not conflict.

Therefore, my spiritual journey began with insights, immersion and now at creation and presentation, is to intervene in conflict prevention. God has revealed how current disputes between earthly institutions must be prevented through creation and presentations, particularly on indigenous dignity, *Ubuntu*.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, my spiritual journey is misrepresented by the rational minds who use the heart to believe negativity such as, I am looking into the past. They reveal their shallow and superficial knowledge of God, as they lack depth on how God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Hence my creations and presentations reveal God as a continuum and not fragmented, as this is my peace mission as a prophet. Next week will be presenting at the Institute of Dispute and Conflict Resolution on how indigenous dignity is key in dispute resolution. As lack of indigenous dignity has created egocentric earthly institutions that disrespect God, by assuming godly status, with huge potential as sources of conflict.

The current disputes within earthly institutions, indicates lack of indigenous dignity towards ensuring social cohesion, indigenous dignity begins with mutual respect. Earthly institutions require indigenous dignity, *Ubuntu*, I am because you are, in order to connect with the essence of God resonating within the soul.

I am because you are, *Ubuntu*, is indigenous dignity given to Africans by God, which must be disseminated within religious, economic, political, social, traditional and cultural institutions, including traditional healing institutions.

I am because you are, *Ubuntu*, indigenous dignity, critical in my spiritual journey of transforming it into contemporary imperatives, as I celebrate 21 years, *Ubuntu* is the future.

Souls are engraved with truth, but humanity cannot tolerate truth as it takes away their power to manipulate. Souls are blessed with visions, insights revealing deceptive behaviour, prior to manifestation, as God's protection from humiliation, hypocrisy, competition, jealousy and envy.



THE RED PEN

Phila
Dlamini -
Vilakati

FOLLOW YOUR PASSION

I often tell my students to follow their dreams. It was not until recently that I realised how frustrating it can be when people advise you, "just follow your passion!" Yeah, sure, you'd love to—if only you knew what your passion was.

Perhaps you're the kind of person who works hard, with commitment and persistence. When you know what you're doing, nothing will stop you. Do you, however, comprehend that before you can become unstoppable, you need to know what you're starting. Before you can follow your passion, you have to find it.

If perhaps as a student or adult, you're feeling stuck, here are a few interesting ways to discover what you really want to do with your life. Take time to work through the process and know that, no matter what, you'll be getting closer to where you want to be.

● The right perspective

If you went into a restaurant with the strong opinion—"I'm not hungry. There'll be nothing here I want to eat. I don't want to be here"—the menu isn't going to look appealing. You won't explore it with due time or attention, and it's unlikely you'll find food you'll enjoy eating.

The same principle applies to passion-seeking. If you're convinced that finding your passion is hard, or that it's not going to happen for you, you'll remain closed to possibilities. You'll block the little nudges, pulls, and signals that guide us all. After all, how can you expect to find fulfilling work if you don't believe it exists?

Choose to adopt the perspective that you can do what you love with your life. You should love what you do. One of the best ways to strengthen this point of view is to surround yourself with people who are living examples. How many of your friends and family are following their passions? If it's not many, it might be time to expand your circle; associate with—and be inspired by—people who are inspired by their work.

● Your metal detector

Once you've decided that your passion is findable, it's time to look for evidence of what you already love to do. If you scan the landscape of your life, you'll notice certain experiences peak up. It's so valuable to delve into these 'peak moments' and extract the key ingredients.

Consider yourself a beach-trawler, discerning between the gold and the cheap metal. For example, one of my favorite vacation jobs once involved conducting aptitude tests to teenagers. I might assume the key ingredient was the traveling part itself, as we covered all the schools in Swaziland. It was a fantastic experience just dealing with young people too.

When I paid attention to my metaphorical metal detector, it became clear that the bleep went off when I was being a leader within the class (as young as I was), and discovering that the survey itself brought something of great value to them. That's exactly what I do now in my work—but without the travelling; which I still love to do during the school holidays.

Make a list of the ingredients that truly mattered in your peak moments; don't be distracted by the counterfeits.

● Look for the umbrella

When you look at all the ingredients that matter to you, they might at first seem entirely disconnected. Let's say you love French, drinking coffee, playing with numbers, analysing and categorising, and maybe fashion. How could you construct a career from these? It'd be like peering into your cupboard and seeing cocoa powder, peanut butter, and carrots and wondering: How could I possibly make something delicious that includes all of these?

This is the time to look beyond the ingredients and seek an umbrella; something that all of these ingredients can fit beneath. For example, my colleague and friend Suriya, a teacher of French, got tired of the classroom situation and left for South Africa to start a new life. Her diverse passions are described above. In SA, she is now running a funky French lifestyle boutique, and French words pepper her own copy, giving her brand that special 'je ne sais quoi'. Some of her patrons have hired her to be a private French tutor for their children. Oh—and she has become known as a forerunner for those who want to communicate effectively with their potential clients as she helps business owners to find the right French vocabulary to fit their brand. All of these passions fit under the overarching umbrella of her business; they've all found a home there, and the variety actually helps her to stand out and attract her perfect clients.

What might be your umbrella?

● Discern Between a hobby and a profitable passion

It might be that, through this exploration, you fall head over heels in love with an activity that engrosses you; something that lights you up and makes your heart sing. But now you have to ask yourself the next question: Who would benefit from (and pay for) this?

Well, if you want to contribute your passion to society and make an income from it, you need to get realistic about whether this could actually turn into a career, and what you would need to do to make that happen. Moreover, think about if you would even enjoy doing those things; for some people a passion is just fun, and turning it into work changes it from a 'love to do' to a 'have to do.'

● Expect the Mutiny

When you seek your passion, there'll be parts of you that go into rebellion. I'd guess that this article itself might be provoking some of those resistant parts! We all have a huge number of fears (around failure, success, visibility, and vulnerability) that speak in sensible voices, instructing us that we mustn't do what we love.

If you let these voices win, your passion will remain out of your grasp. Instead, look for the fear beneath each supposedly reasonable voice. Uncover the years of conditioning; from parents, school, partners, and colleagues, and reassure the mutinying parts that your ship is sailing in the right direction.

● Find the limits of your bravery

My younger brother Melusi, aka Zox has taught me a lot about passion. It's like he has mostly lived by the motto: "leap and the net will appear." You can never find the new until you say farewell to the old. With each step you take into the unknown—you reach your destined purpose.

I've often called him brave, though the folks didn't always see it that way; he has simply been more committed to his own happiness and freedom than to staying cozy with the status quo. Find your own version of brave. Discover what risks work for you.

The path of passion is where you do things that scare you enough, without leaving you in a constant state of fear. Expand your comfort zone, rather than leaving it.

The world needs your passion, so decide right now that it's possible to find it, and use this guidance to gain clarity. When you find your passion, be assured: it will always guide you right.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION?

BRIEFS

Suspected Boko Haram militants issue video of 3 kidnapped oil survey team members

BAUCHI - Suspected Boko Haram members released a video yesterday that shows three kidnapped members of an oil exploration team in northeastern Nigeria, one of whom asks the government to reduce the use of force against the jihadists.

The team, which included university staff and employees from Nigeria's state oil firm, was kidnapped by suspected members of the Islamist militant group while searching for oil in the conflict-ridden northeast on Tuesday. A rescue attempt on Wednesday ended in the deaths of at least 37 members of the original prospecting team and the rescuers, including Nigerian military and armed vigilantes, according to officials and military sources. *Reuters*

Gunmen attack Kenyan Deputy President Ruto's residence

NAIROBI - Unidentified gunmen attacked Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto's residence in the western town of Eldoret yesterday when Ruto and his family were absent, local television stations reported. A police officer guarding the residence was wounded, KTN News reported. NTV News said gunshots could still be heard from the scene. Police and officials from Ruto's office were not available for immediate comment. *Reuters*

Removing Zuma the first step to reviving SA's fortunes

CAPE TOWN - Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane yesterday raised the possibility of an early general election, saying the political tide in South Africa is beginning to turn and the country is on the cusp of change and renewal. "The motion of no confidence in President Jacob Zuma, which I tabled in March this year, is set to be debated and voted in 10 days' time - on 8 August," he said following the DA's two-day federal executive (FedEx) meeting in Cape Town.

"This motion comes at a critical juncture in our country's young democracy. The political tide in South Africa is beginning to turn; the ANC has never been weaker and we are on the cusp of change and renewal. *African News Agency*

Egypt sentences 8 to death in police killings

CAIRO - An Egyptian criminal court has preliminarily sentenced eight people to death over charges of murder during an attack on a police station in a Cairo suburb in 2013. Yesterday's ruling referred the case to the Grand Mufti - the country's top theological authority - to solicit his non-binding opinion on the sentences, a formality in cases of capital punishment. The court will issue final sentences on October 10 in the case which involves a total of 68 defendants. *AP*

Mugabe 'would not let me resign' says ex-VP Mujuru

HARARE - Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's ex-deputy, Joice Mujuru, says her former boss refused her a chance to resign when she was still in government because the veteran Zimbabwean ruler would have been "portrayed as someone who did not want to leave office". Mugabe, 93, who has ruled the southern African country since independence from Britain in 1980, was recently endorsed by his ruling Zanu-PF party as its presidential candidate for the 2018 general elections. Mugabe was currently on a whirlwind tour of the country's provinces addressing youth rallies. *NEWS24*



SUNDAY OBSERVER AFRICA NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

GRACE EYES ZIM'S TOP JOB

HARARE - "To be a national mother (Grace Mugabe) who fails to control two children.

How can we allow that? She must first deal with her two sons then think of leading a village," says a man in a short video doing Zimbabwe's social media rounds.

Many say the speaker was Victor Matemadanda, Secretary-General of the National Liberation War Veterans Association speaking informally after a press conference in Harare on Friday in which he and a small group complained about the "first family" after Grace Mugabe went public and for the first time called on her husband to name his preferred successor.

President Robert Mugabe told the Zanu PF women's league, of which his glamorous wife is the First Secretary, that the ruling Zanu PF should consider amending its Constitution to allow for a third vice president who must be a woman.

...but she's no mother of the nation



Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and his wife Grace.

"We have heard your complaints and recommendations. I also have two suggestions...we leave things as they are at the top and consider the idea of three vice-presidents to add a woman to the two".

The first family's two sons, Robert Jnr, 25, and Chatunga, 21, were recently kicked out of a luxury flat in Sandton for bad behaviour, including allegations

both were drunk and wrecked the apartment. They were both seen in Harare's top shopping area in the last few weeks, and it is not certain whether either of them will return to South Africa to study. Grace Mugabe, 52, the largest property 'owner' in Zimbabwe, has not denied her sons' behaviour and says they were overtaken by "evil spirits." *AFP*

Zim piling up gold, diamonds to back new currency

HARARE - Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa says the cash-strapped Zimbabwe government is piling up reserves of gold and diamonds to back a new local currency.

But he did not say when the new currency would be introduced.

In November 2016 the central bank introduced "bond notes", bank notes which are tradeable only in Zimbabwe and have no value outside its borders.

But the bond notes, like the forex Zimbabwe has depended on since the worthless Zimbabwe dollar was abandoned in 2009, are in critically short supply.

"We are building up reserves



Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

of gold and diamonds which if they reach a certain level... will then allow us to introduce our own currency that will be backed by those minerals," Mnangagwa said.

"I am not at liberty to disclose

to you the level that we want those minerals to reach before they can back our own currency," he said, in comments carried Friday by the state-run Herald.

The revelation comes amid reports the government had extended its quest for precious minerals into previously protected areas, including national parks.

Mnangagwa was addressing a meeting in the south-eastern cane-growing town of Chiredzi, where he was questioned on the currency shortages, said the Herald.

Mnangagwa said the only forex the country was getting was from exports, NGOs, loans, or foreign investment. *NEWS24*

Mugabe accuses military of plotting a coup

HARARE - President Robert Mugabe has ticked off Zimbabwe's military for getting involved in politics, though they've played a key role in maintaining his own hold on power and will likely influence who takes over from him, analysts say.

On Thursday, Mugabe said military involvement in the internal politics of the ruling Zanu-PF party was tantamount to "a coup".

"The military has no right you know, to be interfering with the political processes," Mugabe told a meeting of his party's Women's League.

He said the army should only play a supporting role based on "the principle that politics shall always lead the gun and not the gun politics."

Back

Senior officials in the army, police and war veterans are thought to back a faction led by Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa, a former defence minister said to have his eye on the presidency. But Mnangagwa's faction is opposed by one linked to First Lady Grace Mugabe.

Analyst and historian Takavafira Zhou said Mugabe's criticism of the military top brass came from "a paradigm shift", with the president trying to prepare the party's militaristic support base for someone with "no liberation history", possibly his wife.

"Mugabe is trying to whip the army so that they would accept whatever he may do in the future," Zhou told News24.

He said it wouldn't work as the army top brass were only "amenable to people who have ruled them in the past" and would favour someone who could protect their personal business interests.

On Thursday Mugabe told the Women's League that the party could soon restore its policy of having a female vice president. Grace Mugabe, as head of the Women's League, would be the obvious candidate.

Political analyst Pedzisai Ruhanya said Mugabe's anger with the army would not dilute their role in succession politics.

NEWS24

Italy approves naval support to Libya to fight trafficking

MILAN - Italy on Friday approved sending Italian naval units to help the Libyan coast guard combat migrant trafficking following a request by the North African nation.

The measure is part of efforts to reduce the hundreds of thousands of migrants who leave Libya each year, heading toward Italy in unseaworthy smugglers' boats.

Premier Paolo Gentiloni said the initiative to help Libya patrol its shores "can give a significant contribution to reinforcing Libyan sovereignty. It is not an operation that we take against Libya sovereignty."

Details about the operation, including the rules of engagement, were not disclosed following the Cabinet's

approval, but Gentiloni said Italy would "not be sending a huge fleet or air squadrons."

The European Union on Friday announced \$53m in funding to help Italy implement the programme.

Human Rights Watch warned, however, that the Italian action could amount to a naval blockade that "could expose migrants and asylum seekers to even greater abuse."

"Given the horrible treatment of migrants in Libya, it is difficult to imagine how any European government could disembark anyone there, or hand anyone over to Libyan authorities, while also protecting their rights," Judith Sunderland, the associate Europe director at HRW, said in a statement. *AP*

Top Madagascar politician dies of gunshot wounds

ANTANANARIVO - A veteran political figure in Madagascar has died of gunshot wounds at his home, police said on Friday, after posting about personal problems on social media.

Mamy Rakotoarivelo, a former Parliament speaker and a key figure in talks that resolved a political crisis that dogged the country in the early 2000s, was found with a gunshot wound to the head.

In recent days he had posted details of problems with his finances and love life to his personal Facebook account. A firearm was recovered from the scene, officers said in a statement. Rakotoarivelo served as a chief of staff to former president Marc Ravalomanana and was instrumen-

tal in resolving a dispute with the outgoing administration of Didier Ratsiraka following the contested 2001 election.

The Indian Ocean island nation was paralysed by protests and violence following the disputed poll results which badly divided the country.

In January 2002 Ravalomanana, a businessman and mayor of the capital Antananarivo, sent his supporters into the streets claiming victory in the first round of presidential elections held in December 2001.

Ravalomanana refused to organise a second round of voting, while Ratsiraka declined to concede defeat, plunging the country into seven months of violence. *AFP*



SUNDAY OBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday



Second long-range missile test puts 'entire' US in range - North Korea

PYONGYANG - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said yesterday the second flight test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) demonstrated his country can hit the US mainland, hours after the launch left analysts concluding that a wide swathe of the United States, including Los Angeles and Chicago, is now in range of North Korean weapons.

The Korean Central News Agency said that Kim expressed "great satisfaction" after the Hwasong-14 missile reached a maximum height of 3 725km and travelled 998km before accurately landing in waters off Japan. The agency said that the test was aimed at confirming the maximum range and other technical aspects of the missile it says was capable of delivering a "large-sized, heavy nuclear warhead".

Analysts had estimated that the North's first ICBM on July 4 could have reached Alaska, and said that the latest missile appeared to extend that range significantly.

Immediately after the launch, US and South Korean forces conducted live-fire exercises. South Korean Defence Minister Song Young-moo called for the deployment of strategic US military assets - which usually means stealth bombers and aircraft carriers - as well as additional launchers of an advanced US anti-missile system. Japanese government spokesperson Yoshihide Suga said the missile, launched late on Friday night, flew for about 45 minutes - about five minutes longer than the first. The missile was launched on a very high trajectory, which limited the distance it travelled, and landed west of Japan's island of Hokkaido.

BBC

Britain lifts laptop ban for some flights from Turkey

LONDON - Britain on Friday lifted a ban on personal electronic devices for flights from Istanbul's Sabiha Gokcen airport, but will keep restrictions for Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and other Turkish hubs in place.

Britain's transport ministry said passengers would be allowed to carry large phones, laptops, and tablets in the cabin on all UK-bound flights from the airport.

The ban "will be lifted on a case-by-case basis once the UK government has verified that airlines have put in place alternative security measures, and that it is safe and proportionate to do so," it said.

Turkish Airlines reacted to the news

in a tweet saying: "Now you can enjoy your electronic devices in the flights to the United Kingdom. Have fun!"

But the restrictions remain in place for Istanbul Ataturk, Turkey's biggest airport, as well as the Mediterranean coastal cities of Antalya, Bodrum, Dalaman and Izmir, which are popular with tourists. The United States instituted the laptop ban in March for eight North African and Middle East countries based on intelligence that the Islamic State group was working to build a bomb into a tablet or laptop. For the same reason, Britain followed suit and banned similar-sized electronics from being carried into cabins on direct flights from six countries. **AFP**

TRUMP JUST TOLD POLICE OFFICERS THAT THEY CAN BE MORE VIOLENT DURING ARRESTS

NEW YORK - Donald Trump has appeared to endorse police brutality.

During a speech to law enforcement officials on Long Island, New York, the President suggested that officers shouldn't protect suspects' heads when they're pushing them into police vehicles. "And when you see these thugs being thrown into the back of a paddy wagon - you just see them thrown in, rough - I said, 'Please don't be too nice,'" Trump said.

"Like when you guys put somebody in the car and you're protecting their head, you know, the way you put their hand over? Like, don't hit their head and they've just killed somebody - don't hit their head. I said, 'You can take the hand away, okay?'" he added.

His remarks were greeted with loud applause and laughter.



US President Donald Trump.

Trump also asserted that laws were "horrendously stacked" against police officers, saying that that will change.

"For years and years, laws have been made to protect the criminal," Trump said. "Totally protect the criminal, not the officers. You do something wrong, you're in more jeopardy than they are. These laws are stacked against you. We're changing

those laws."

In response to the President's address, the Suffolk County Police Department said it does "not and will not tolerate roughing up of prisoners."

"The SCPD has strict rules and procedures relating to the handling of prisoners. Violations of those rules are treated extremely seriously," the department tweeted. **Independent**

...Trump to impose fresh sanctions on Russia

WASHINGTON - Donald Trump is to sign a bill in the coming days that imposes fresh sanctions on Russia, the White House said.

The US Senate voted almost unanimously for the crackdown earlier this week for the legislation which forces Trump to seek approval from Congress if he wishes to ease the sanctions.

As a result, the US leader will have to take a hard line with Moscow after US intelligence agencies concluded that the Kremlin meddled in the 2016 presidential election to help Trump pull off his shock victory.

It dashes his pledge for better ties with Moscow as the agencies investigate whether his campaign colluded with Russian hackers to dig up dirt on his then White House rival Hillary Clinton.

Russia hit back after the sanctions were approved overwhelmingly in the Senate, accusing Washington of "extreme aggression in international affairs".

Its foreign ministry also ordered the US to cut back its diplomatic staff in Moscow by 1 September and to shut down its embassy recreational retreat on the outskirts of the capital.

The White House last night issued a statement saying Trump

would sign the bill after reviewing the final version.

"President Donald J. Trump read early drafts of the bill and negotiated regarding critical elements of it," the White House statement said. "He has now reviewed the final version and, based on its responsiveness to his negotiations, approves the bill and intends to sign it."

Analysts said the US president was under pressure to sign the bill or face anger from Republicans. His new White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci told CNN that the US president may veto the legislation.

Independent

Australia's Labor opposition vows republic referendum

CANBERRA - Australia's Labor opposition has vowed to hold a referendum on whether the country should formally become a republic if it wins the next election.

Its leader, Bill Shorten, said the move "does not change our respect to the Queen for her service, but we are not Elizabethan, we are Australians".

He was referring to PM Malcolm Turnbull's description of himself as a "very strong Elizabethan", before meeting the Queen this month.

The last referendum was held in 1999. Australia is a federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy, with the Queen as head of state.

Mr Shorten revealed the policy deci-

sion at the party's Queensland state conference in Townsville.

The referendum would be held in the first term of a Labor government, he said. The Turnbull government returned to power in the 2016 federal election but with a razor-thin majority.

Barring dissolution, the next election must be held between August 2018 and May 2019 for half of state senators and before 2 November 2019 for the House of Representatives and for Senators from territories.

Mr Shorten said: "We will put a simple Yes or No question to the Australian people - do you support an Australian republic with an Australian head of state." **BBC**

BRIEFS

Democrats, Republicans negotiating to avert healthcare crisis

WASHINGTON - Bipartisan talks are taking place behind the scenes in Washington to end the impasse over US healthcare. With the Senate voting against repealing Obamacare, there are mounting fears that the US healthcare system could collapse. The crisis has been heightened by Donald Trump threatening to cut off cost-sharing subsidies worth around \$7 billion (£5.3 million) a year. The Politico website reported that around 40 members of the House of Representatives have been holding discreet talks over how to stabilise Obamacare and prevent the system unravelling. **Telegraph**

Schoolgirls in Iraq's Mosul aim to catch up on lost years

MOSUL - Despite having fallen three years behind their peers elsewhere in Iraq, it's been mostly smiles all around for the girls at Mosul's Trablus school since it reopened its damaged gates after the jihadists fled. With a blast from her whistle to signal the end of recess, a supervisor in a black robe and white headscarf called the teenage girls back to class, during a recent visit to the school. The girls chatted all the way back to the classrooms, each packed with an average of 90 pupils. **AFP**

Ivanka Trump meets with United Nations Secretary-General

UNITED NATIONS - Ivanka Trump, US President Donald Trump's daughter and informal adviser, met with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for lunch at the UN headquarters in New York on Friday to discuss women's economic empowerment. Her visit to the United Nations came as the president has been pushing to slash funding for the world body. Ivanka is seen as an important influence on her father, and her husband, Jared Kushner, is a top adviser to him. Ivanka said Guterres asked her to lunch after they both attended the World Bank launch of a loan programme during the G20 in Germany earlier this month. That programme was aimed at providing more than \$1 billion (£13.01 billion) for women entrepreneurs in developing countries. **Reuters**

Palestinian President leaves hospital after 'routine checkup'

RAMALLAH - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was discharged from hospital in the Israel-occupied West Bank yesterday after a brief "routine checkup", the official Wafa news agency reported. The 82-year-old president "was admitted to hospital in Ramallah for a routine check-up to last only a few hours", his Spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeineh said in a statement. Wafa later reported: "The president left the Istishari hospital in Ramallah after routine health tests." A doctor at the hospital told Palestine TV all test results were "reassuring". **AP**

Sri Lanka signs \$1.1 bln China port deal amid local, foreign concerns

COLOMBO - Sri Lanka signed a long delayed \$1.1 billion deal yesterday to lease its southern Hambantota port to China ignoring an appeal by opposition parties to debate the pact in parliament. The deal was signed between the two state firms - Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) and China Merchants Port Holdings (0144.HK) to handle the commercial operations of the Chinese-built port on a 99-year lease. The Chinese firm will hold 70 stake in a joint venture with SLPA to run the port, part of a plan to convert loans worth \$6 billion that Sri Lanka owes China into equity. **Reuters**

Focus on SA scene

BLF actions dangerous for SA democracy - Mbalula

CAPE TOWN - The riotous behaviour of Black First Land First (BLF) supporters is dangerous for South Africa's democracy, Police Minister Fikile Mbalula said on Friday.

He called on BLF supporters to "win hearts and minds" through cogent debate, instead of disruption and intimidation.

I am deeply disheartened to see a group of educated Africans denying others the rights they themselves fought to have in our laws," he said in a statement. On Thursday evening, BLF supporters disrupted a debate about state capture and the Gupta emails, hosted by the amaBhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism. This was despite a High Court interdict granted to the South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF) on July 7, to stop the BLF and its leader Andile Mngxitama from harassing, threatening, or intimidating journalists, or going to their homes.

Mngxitama claimed a "white man" punched him. He demanded an apology from event organisers. During the altercation, BLF supporters pushed audience members off their chairs and shouted slogans like "we are coming for the land".

Mbalula did not say if, or when, BLF

members would be arrested for allegedly contravening the interdict.

He said without a free press and free media the country was left without freedom to information. It would be "the end of freedom as we dreamt it".

SANEF applied for the interdict against the BLF after Business Day editor, Tim Cohen, was assaulted as he tried to take a picture of BLF supporters outside Tiso Blackstar Editor-at-large Peter Bruce's house in Johannesburg.

SANEF chairperson, and News24 Politics editor, Mahlatse Gallens, on Thursday evening condemned the actions by BLF at the amaBhungane gathering.

"It is quite despicable that the BLF has no respect for the rule of law and our Constitution. They are now trying to shut down spaces for free expression," Gallens said.

amaBhungane is a non-profit company founded to develop investigative journalism in the public interest.

Together with the Daily Maverick and News24, amaBhungane has led the investigation into the emails leaked from the Gupta family. These have exposed the extent of the family's influence in the South African public sector. *News24*

GUPTAS A BAD INFLUENCE - GIGABA

CCAPE TOWN - Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba has made a U-turn on the Guptas and said he was worried about their influence in doing business with the government.

He said he backed a judicial commission of inquiry into the state capture.

Speaking on Talk Radio 702 on Friday, Gigaba said the allegations uncovered in the leaked emails on the influence of the Guptas were damaging to investor perceptions.

"I am very worried about that. I think we need to establish fact from allegation."

"The fact there are allegations against an individual does not mean those allegations are true. That is why it is so important that we should fully support a judicial commission which will establish the truth and be able to provide clarity as to who has done

what how did they do it who was complicit in the doing of that wrong and we then take the necessary decisions" Gigaba said.

He also said the Guptas had a negative impact on how lenders and ratings agencies view the state-owned entities.

"The allegations are quite damaging to investor perceptions, as well as ratings agencies, of the governance of our state-owned companies."

Gigaba's comments came a day after Eskom Chief Financial Officer Anoj Singh was placed on suspension pending an investigation. This came after Gigaba and his Public Enterprises counterpart Lynne Brown intervened after the Development Bank of Southern Africa threatened to recall a R15billion loan to Eskom if no action was taken against Singh. The bank had appar-



Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba.

ently flagged R3bn in expenditure that flouted the Public Finance Management Act.

Gigaba has been accused of having appointed Gupta associates to SOE boards when he was public enterprises minister. Recent reports alleged he vetoed senior officials who refused to grant citizenship to the family after they did not meet requirements.

On reports that some of the problems dated back to his days in the department, Gigaba said it was important the portfolio committee established how far the problems went. "The issues that are under consideration relate to the audit findings over the past financial year when I was no longer in the Department of Public Enterprises. *News24*

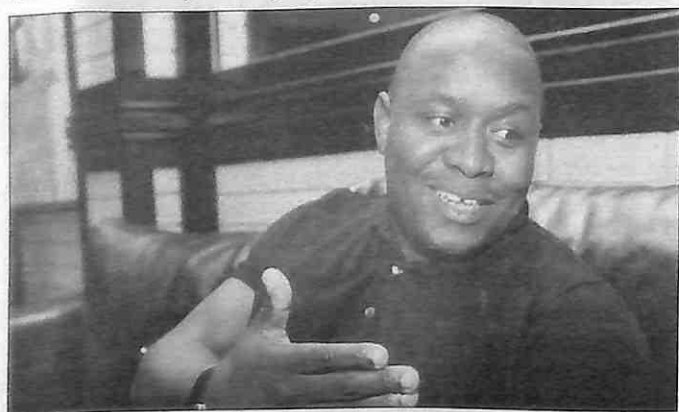
SA's Human Rights Commission a 'vile dog' - Edward Zuma

DURBAN - President Jacob Zuma's son Edward Zuma has lashed out at the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), calling it a "vile dog unleashed to maul the black majority". The commission this week found that an open letter penned by Edward Zuma promoted hatred on the basis of race and had violated the constitutional right to freedom of expression. The open letter was addressed to former senior Cabinet ministers Derek Hanekom and Pravin Gordhan, fired by Jacob Zuma in his midnight Cabinet reshuffle earlier this year.

In the diatribe, Edward Zuma called Gordhan, former finance minister, a sell-out and "one of the most corrupt cadres of the ANC who thinks African natives are no better than just being sugar

cane cutters who must be forever subservient to a master like him for sustenance". Former tourism minister Hanekom, according to Edward Zuma, was a "white Afrikaner askari" and sell-out.

The SAHRC said it would seek appropriate redress for the contents of Edward Zuma's open letter. In his response to the SAHRC, received by ANA yesterday morning, Zuma said: "One is not surprised by the continuous senseless suppression, censure, bias, and native witch-hunt which is continuously wedged (sic) by institutions such as the SAHRC - as in the case against me but really in essence, broadly, the case against me is the suppression of the articulation of black pain, historically experienced by millions of natives in our country. *African News Agency*



President Jacob Zuma's son Edward Zuma.

Energy minister promises energy plans by end of 2017

CCAPE TOWN - Energy Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi says her department will have integrated resource and energy plans ready by the end of this financial year.

She says these will pave the way for a decision on sourcing energy from independent power producers.

Kubayi says she wants Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille to withdraw her High Court application she filed this week. De Lille is asking the court to allow the city to buy from independent producers without the minister's permission.

The mayor says Cape Town consumers deserve to have a wider range

of cheaper energy options.

But the minister says de Lille is wasting taxpayers' money by taking the department to court.

She says a more holistic approach is needed to determine what the country's power needs are.

In May, Kubayi put on hold pending agreements with independent power producers.

She says de Lille is being too hasty. "She can't just rush to court before we can even talk. She hasn't even asked for anything."

Kubayi says her department has already considered the public comments on two key plans that will outline the country's energy needs. *Ewn*

DA calls on Mbete to 'stop dithering' on secret ballot issue

CCAPE TOWN - The Democratic Alliance has again called on Speaker of the National Assembly Baleka Mbete to stop dithering and make a decision on whether the vote on the motion of no confidence against President Jacob Zuma will take place by secret or open ballot.

Speaking after a meeting of the party's federal executive, DA leader Mmusi Maimane said yesterday that the DA's stance on the motion was clear: "Secret ballot or no secret ballot, the DA MPs will be voting with

their conscience and voting to remove Jacob Zuma once and for all. The country expects ANC MPs to do the same."

Moreover, if Zuma is removed from office through the motion of no confidence, an early general election must be held, he added.

"Parliament ought to be dissolved and the choice must be put to the people as to who their next president and national government should be. Indeed, the sooner the electorate can elect a new government the better," Maimane said. *Sunday Times*

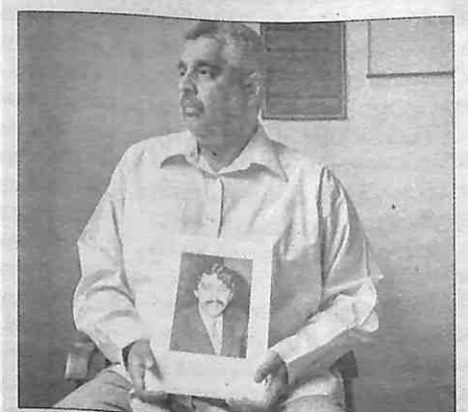
Timol most likely pushed out of John Vorster square - inquest witness

JOHANNESBURG - It would have been impossible for Ahmed Timol to jump to his death from a 10th storey window and land three metres from the building.

That's according to a trajectory expert who's testified at the inquest into the death of the anti-apartheid activist.

He says evidence suggests he could have been pushed. According to Thivash Moodley, "I think that somebody jumping out of the window and only landing three metres away is not possible, they would have landed at least between four and a half metres away... Given the way the window opened it would be difficult for individuals to orientate his body leaving perpendicular to building rotate mid-air and pass through building rotate in mid air in three seconds and pass halfway through building in horizontal position he would have had to left in that particular position."

eNCA



Ahmed Timol's nephew, Imtiaz Cajee holding a portrait of his uncle.

Focus on SA scene

SA ECONOMY LIKELY TO BOUNCE BACK: RESERVE BANK GOVERNOR

PRETORIA - The South African Reserve Bank said economic growth is likely to recover in the second quarter.

These figures are due for release in September.

Governor Lesetja Kganyago was addressing the SA Reserve Bank's annual general meeting when he said the country's sluggish economy has turned the corner.

"We believe that the worst is behind us and that growth in the second quarter of this year will be positive," said SA Reserve Bank Governor, Lesetja Kganyago. The economy contracted in the first quarter of the year, following a similar decline at the end of 2016. This plunged the country into

recession for the first time since 2009, as it grapples with international credit downgrades. But the bank predicts the economy will grow by 0.5 per cent this year and by 1.5 per cent in the next two years. "This is clearly too low to make any meaningful inroads on unemployment," said Kganyago. Unemployment is at a record high of almost 28 per cent.

Interest

Last week the bank slashed its key interest rate for the first time in five years, following better than expected inflation figures. The governor reiterated that the bank's main role was to defend the value of the currency. His response follows recent political attacks on its mandate and

proposed remedial action by the public protector.

"Our Constitution is very clear: the core mandate of the South African Reserve Bank is to protect the value of the currency in the interests of balanced and sustainable growth in the South African economy," said Kganyago.

The Reserve Bank will brief Parliament next week about the economic outlook and present its annual report.

It will also elaborate on the role and mandate of the bank after the public protector's recommendation it focuses on the economic well-being of citizens. *eNCA*

Reserve Bank Governor, Lesetja Kganyago.



SA woman rescued from sex-trafficking ring in Malaysia

CAPE TOWN - A 24-year-old Bloemfontein woman has been rescued from a suspected sex-trafficking enterprise in Malaysia, and is expected to return home to South Africa by tomorrow. Minister of Police Fikile Mbalula said on Friday evening that the woman had been lured to Malaysia under the false impression that she would take part in a model competition.

"We are working to safely get our girl home by Monday (tomorrow) latest, in the meantime she is safe and has been seen by our embassy representatives in Kuala Lumpur," said Mbalula.

"The issue of human trafficking is extremely serious and I want our young women in particular to know that they are the most vulnerable group to sex traffickers who later harvest human organs from them for trade in illicit organ transplant markets."

Mbalula said he was alerted to the woman's plight on Wednesday evening. She and 14 other women were rescued in an operation conducted with the assistance of Interpol, the Malaysian Police, the Hawks and the South African Ministry of Police. *News24*

Mamoepa honoured as principled communicator, 'committed cadre' at funeral

CAPE TOWN - Former SABC acting Chief Executive Phil Molefe paid tribute to long-time government spokesperson Ronnie Mamoepa as a candid journalist and skilled government communicator at an official funeral taking place in Pretoria yesterday morning.

"It was [a] brief candle because we had expected Ronnie to live much longer. He was a communicator par excellence. Ronnie could convince even the hardened editors not only to write a story, but to get that story as a lead story," said Molefe.

Mamoepa died on July 22 at the age of 56, after complications arising from a stroke.

The funeral is currently taking place at the St Alban's Cathedral in the Pretoria city centre.

It is being attended by a number of dignitaries, including President Jacob Zuma, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, ex-president Thabo Mbeki and former AU commission chair Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

Speaking to Mamoepa's family, Molefe said: "It's been six agonising weeks and every day you were hoping for a miracle, a miracle that Ronnie would bounce back... it was never to be."

Molefe, a friend and former editor of Mamoepa's, said he came from a "special breed of media", anchored in the alternative press of the 1980s.

He also gave some insight into Mamoepa's sense of humour.

Speaking of a time when their newspaper was trying to get an article about the release of ANC leader Govan Mbeki, and an interview with Harry Gwala published, he said: "We spent a night at the Kensington Inn. In the morning, when we were served breakfast - Ronnie loved his food - the bacon was not well prepared and the eggs didn't look good. *News24*

Mbete urges people to learn from Mamoepa's respect for others

PRETORIA - African National Congress (ANC) national chairperson Baleka Mbete says people must learn from veteran spokesperson Ronnie Mamoepa and not speak ill of those they differ with.

Mamoepa died last week after complications brought on by a stroke.

Mbete says the spokesperson's funeral must unite the ANC and not divide it.

She was speaking at his funeral at the St Albans Cathedral in Pretoria.

The ANC's national chairperson says Mamoepa has taught

the party important lessons.

"To always inform our people never to lie, seek fame and to claim cheap victory. Never hide information and the truth."

Mbete says he showed respect even to those he didn't agree with.

Debate

"To believe in the power of debate, not to talk across each other and not to speak ill with those we differ with."

With the race for the ANC presidency already causing divisions in the party, she says Mamoepa's funeral must encourage unity.

ANC Gauteng Chairperson

Paul Mashatile says the ANC countrywide is in agony following Mamoepa's death.

Struggles

Mashatile says Mamoepa fought in the front lines in the struggle against apartheid leading to his arrest and detention on Robben Island at the age of 18.

The ANC provincial chairperson says the ruling party dips its flag in Mamoepa's honour.

He added that the fulfilment of the government's promises to South Africans will be a fitting tribute to Mamoepa.

EWN

State in Karabo Mokoena case confident it will have forensic results by August

JOHANNESBURG - The prosecution in the case against murder accused Sandile Mantsoe has assured the court that it will have forensic results ready by the end of August.

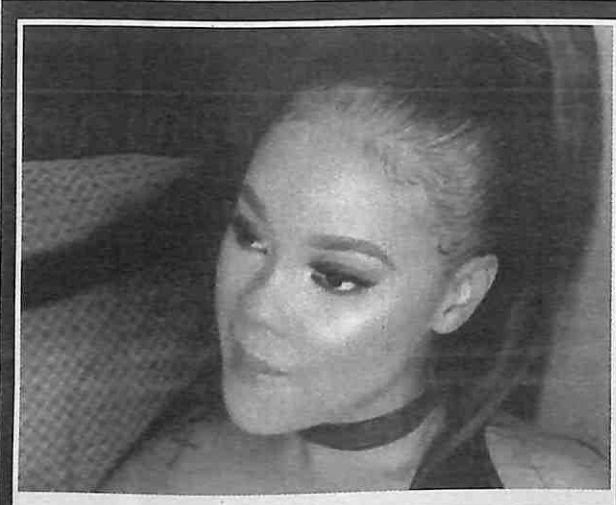
Mantsoe made a brief appearance at the Johannesburg Magistrates Court yesterday for a second attempt at bail.

He's accused of killing his ex-girlfriend Karabo Mokoena, setting her body alight and dumping it in Lyndhurst in May.

The prosecution has cited delays at the National Health Laboratory Services as a reason why forensic results in the case against Mantsoe have not been made available.

However, Magistrate Piet Du Plessis has dismissed this saying the prosecution only approached the lab two weeks ago.

He's threatened to strike the



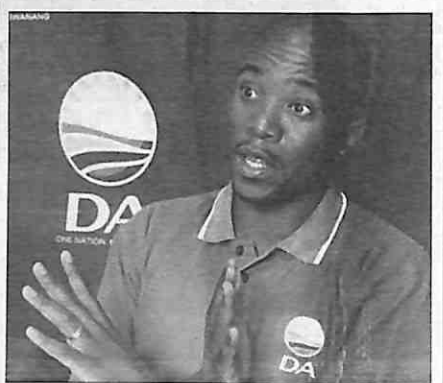
Karabo Mokoena.

matter off the court role if the prosecution does not have the results ready for the next appearance.

Lawyers for the accused have

not ruled out the prospect of applying for bail for a second time if there continues to be delays in the case.

ENCA



'Stop using Bell Pottinger' - Maimane to PR firm's clients

CAPE TOWN - Democratic Alliance (DA) leader Mmusi Maimane revealed yesterday that he has personally been writing letters to clients of embattled British public relations firm Bell Pottinger, asking them to stop using its services.

Maimane made the announcement in a statement yesterday about the outcomes of the DA's recent federal executive meeting in Cape Town. "Bell Pottinger must face consequences for their collusion with the Guptas using a hateful and divisive campaign to divide South Africa along the lines of race," he said. "This was [a] co-ordinated campaign to further Gupta financial interests, and ensure the captured ANC continued to provide lucrative contracts that lined Gupta pockets."

The DA previously lodged a complaint against Bell Pottinger with the UK's Public Relations and Communications Association (PRCA), asking the public relations body to investigate how Bell Pottinger conducted their campaign in South Africa.

In the statement Maimane said that, while legal action was effective, "corporations respond to their bottom line faster than they do to judges". *News24*

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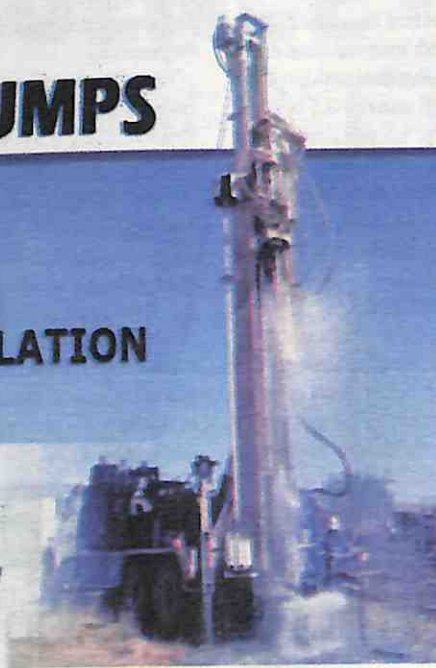
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Contacts

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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 1st and 3rd Tuesday of

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Contacts 2404 0979



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Year of Double Glory

24-25 JUNE 2017

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Ezulwini

Saturday: 11h00

Sunday: 09h00

MAIN SPEAKER:

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BARCELONA TO REMAIN 'DISCREET' IN PURSUIT OF LIVERPOOL'S COUTINHO



LONDON - Barcelona consider Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho to be "a great player", but plan to remain "discreet" in pursuit of any transfer.

The Brazil international continues to be heavily linked with a move to Camp Nou, possibly as a replacement for fellow countryman Neymar – who is a top target for Paris Saint-Germain. Liverpool have sought to play down the exit talk surrounding their prized asset, with there an understandable reluctance on their part to sanction a big-money sale.

Barca appreciate that stance and have vowed to carry out any recruitment business in a professional manner away from prying eyes. Club President Josep Maria Bartomeu told reporters

in America ahead of an International Champions Cup clash with Clasico rivals Real Madrid: "Coutinho? He's a great player, but we can't say anything. You have to be discreet."

"[Ernesto] Valverde wants a competitive team that understand his needs very well."

"More players will come, certainly one in the middle."

Long-serving Andres Iniesta is among those currently occupying a spot in the midfield engine room, but he is now 33 years of age and seeing his influence wane at Camp Nou.

It has been suggested that he could be allowed to move on at some stage, ending his career-long association with Barca, but Bartomeu insists he has no intention of letting the World Cup winner leave.

He added: "Iniesta? We want him to have a contract for life with us. He's our balance."

"He has Ronaldinho's smile and the magic of Messi. We want him to go on forever."

Iniesta's current deal is due to expire in 2018 and no extension has been put in place as yet. **GOAL**

Ronaldinho urges Neymar to 'follow his heart'

BARCELONA - Former Barcelona star Ronaldinho has encouraged Neymar to "follow his heart" amid speculation over a move to Paris Saint-Germain.

The latest reports in France suggest the Brazil star could finalise a move to the Ligue 1 side as early as tomorrow of next week after agreeing terms over a world-record €222million transfer.

Barca players including captain Andres Iniesta, striker Luis Suarez and defender Gerard Pique have publicly urged Neymar to stay at Camp Nou, but the 25-year-old's future became further clouded in doubt following a training-ground bust-up with Nelson Semedo on Friday.

Ronaldinho left PSG to join Barca in 2003 and went on to win two La Liga titles and the Champions

League, among a host of individual honours, during a superb five-year spell in Spain.

And the 2002 World Cup-winner has advised his compatriot to follow his instincts when it comes to his own career.

"I can only tell him to follow his heart and be happy, to do things that his heart tells him," Ronaldinho told a media conference.

Neymar is said to be interested in the move to PSG after growing unsettled in Catalonia and eager to escape the shadow of illustrious team-mate Lionel Messi.

Messi and Suarez are reported to have spoken directly to the player to persuade him to stay but Barca President Josep Maria Bartomeu admitted this week that Neymar's future would be out of the club's hands if his buy-out clause was met. **GOAL**

Chapecoense survivor Alan Ruschel to play Barcelona

CHAPECO - Plane crash survivor Alan Ruschel will return to the field for Chapecoense in a pre-season friendly against La Liga giants Barcelona next month.

It has been a time of mourning and rebuilding for Chapecoense since a plane carrying the Brazilian squad, technical commission and a number of journalists for the first leg of the Copa Sudamericana final against Atletico Nacional crashed en route to Medellin two days before the match was due to take place, killing 71 people on board, in November.

Ruschel was one of three players to survive the crash – along with Neto and Jackson Follman.

And the 27-year-old defender is set to make his remarkable comeback in the Joan Gamper Trophy match at Camp Nou on August 7.

A statement from Chapecoense read: "Alan's return represents an important step in his recuperation as well as for the club's reconstruction."

"Considering the exceptional relevance, the importance and mag-

nitude of the match against the classic Spanish team – in one of the temples of world football – it was understood that the game is the ideal occasion for a return."

Victims

Barca and Chapecoense – who sacked head coach Vagner Mancini just seven months into the club's rebuild – will pay homage to the victims in the 52nd edition of the Joan Gamper Trophy, with the Spanish powerhouse hoping to "help Chapecoense rebuild institutionally and recover the competitive level it had before the tragedy".

With the help of a large number of loanees, Chapecoense have undergone a remarkable revival in 2017.

The Brazilians won the Santa Catarina state championship in May, after edging Avai in a two-legged play-off to retain the title they claimed in 2016, while they also made their Copa Libertadores debut – finishing third in the group stage after being deducted a point for fielding an ineligible player.

GOAL



Alan Ruschel.

Leicester City reject AS Roma second bid for Mahrez

LONDON - AS Roma have seen their second bid of €32 million (£35million) for Leicester City winger Riyad Mahrez rejected by the former English champions, Goal understands.

The Italian outfit had been hopeful of signing the Algeria international at their second attempt, but that ambition has faded in thin air despite improving on their initial bid of £20m.

And despite the 26-year-old disclosing he wants to leave the King Power Stadium, Leicester City Manager Craig Shakespeare insisted Mahrez would remain a Fox until the club received a suitable offer.

"Riyad is our player until I am told otherwise from the

board that a bid has been accepted," Shakespeare told media. "He is turning up for training, has been very professional, got about his business and you see that from his performances."

"Riyad was honest enough to come out at the beginning and say he would like to move to a top six club. He was putting out offers for that."

"We are aware of the situation and until we get an offer that is suitable, he stays with us."

According to the Serie A sporting director Monchi, Roma will not make a third offer for the winger with Leicester reportedly seeking a fee of £50 million. Mahrez joined Leicester from French second-tier side Le Havre in 2014 and played a starring role in their Premier League triumph in 2015-16.

Goal



Riyad Mahrez.

Zidane wants 'no changes' in Real Madrid squad amid Bale exit talk

MADRID - Real Madrid head coach Zinedine Zidane insists he does not want to see any more of his players sold during the transfer window.

Speculation has emerged again this week concerning the future of Gareth Bale, who is reportedly a target for Manchester United.

Rumours in Spain and England have suggested that United could make a move to bring Bale back to the Premier League, with Madrid prepared to sell in order to fund a world-record bid of €180million for Monaco star Kylian Mbappe.

Zidane has admitted he cannot guarantee the futures of anyone in the Madrid squad, but he does not want anyone else to follow the likes of Alvaro Morata, James Rodriguez, Danilo and Pepe in leaving the Santiago Bernabeu.

"I'm relaxed and I'm delighted with the squad. We have the best, we won and we want to do the same again," he told a media conference.

"The squad is very good and I don't want changes. It's only Cristiano [Ronaldo] who isn't with us [on pre-season] but we know that it's going to be a difficult year. Everyone will want to win and that's more beautiful for us."

Ronaldo has been on an extended break since Portugal's Confederations Cup campaign and the 32-year-old will miss today's International Champions Cup clash with Barcelona in Miami.

"It doesn't bother me that Cristiano isn't here for tomorrow (tomorrow)," Zidane said. "He has to make the most of his holiday. **Goal**



Pacquiao visits troops in Philippines

MANILA - Boxing hero Manny Pacquiao lifted the spirits of Philippine troops in a visit yesterday to a southern city where soldiers have been battling pro-Islamic State militants for over two months.

The boxer-turned-senator, dressed in a military camouflage uniform, joked that he would join the fight in the city of Marawi where militants have been on a rampage, holding hostages and burning buildings while flying the black IS flag.

"You are the real heroes, not Manny Pacquiao. I am just a boxer but you give your lives for our country," he told soldiers in a camp in Marawi City.

"Hopefully, I can come back here and greet you again when the fighting is done and if it isn't finished when I come back, then I will be the one who will go over there," said Pacquiao, referring

to a battleground outside the camp where gunshots and explosions could be heard.

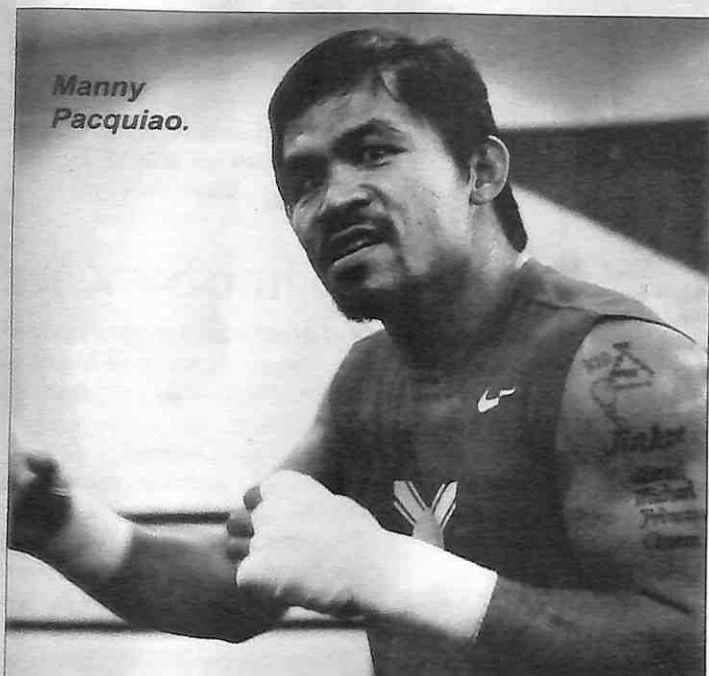
The fighting in the Mindanao region has claimed 630 lives, including 471 militants, 45 civilians and 114 government troops, the military has said.

Pacquiao, who was made a lieutenant colonel in the military reserves in recognition of his boxing achievements, remains a hugely popular figure in the Philippines.

He rose from poverty to become a millionaire world boxing champion in an unprecedented eight weight divisions, using his celebrity status as a springboard to get elected to the powerful Philippine senate.

But Pacquiao's star has dimmed in recent years, with the 38-year-old fighter losing his world welterweight title to Australian Jeff Horn in a major upset last month.

AFP



Manny Pacquiao.

Bavuma leads SA fightback against England

LONDON - Temba Bavuma's grit, Vernon Philander's courage and Morne Morkel's suspension of disbelief in his batting ability helped South Africa diminish their deficit in the third Test at The Oval yesterday.

England were 20 without loss in their second innings at lunch on the third day, a lead of 198.

Rain ended the session 15 minutes ahead of schedule and more has been forecast for the rest of the day.

The home side scored 353 in their first innings and dismissed South Africa for 175 with debutant Toby Roland-Jones taking 5/57.

Alastair Cook was six not out with Keaton Jennings on 10, but Jennings was lucky to still be there.

He would have been out for six had Dean Elgar at third slip been able to hang onto a chance earned by Philander, who spent Friday night on a drip on hospital battling a virus. Bavuma batted for more



South Africa's Temba Bavuma playing a shot.

than three hours and faced 120 balls for his 52, an innings that started after South Africa had been reduced to 47/4 on their way to a crash of 61/7. It was his ninth half-century and his fifth in a fighting cause.

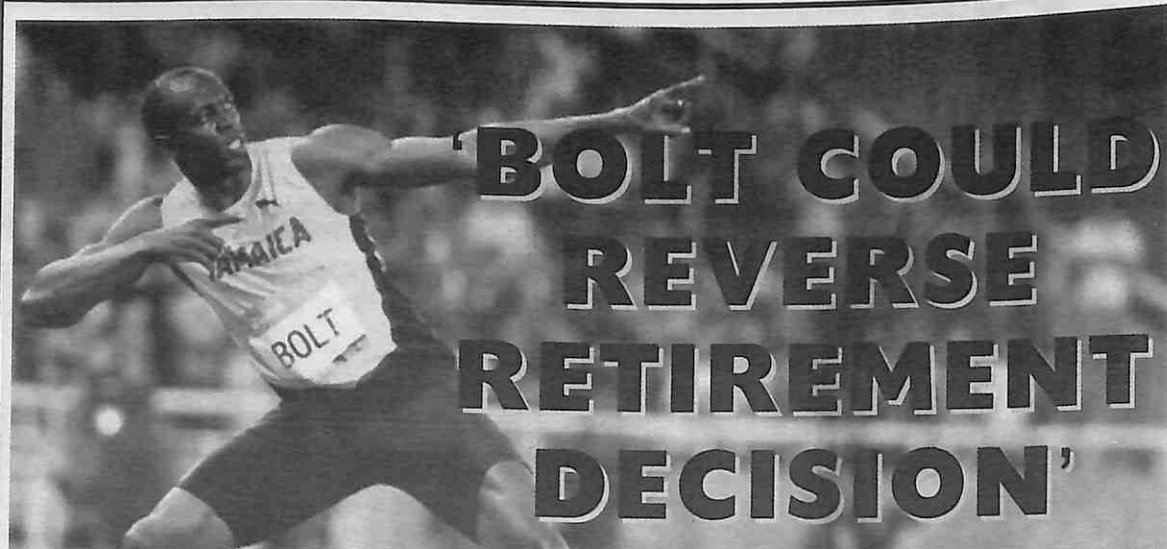
Bavuma and Morkel ensured South Africa averted the prospect of following on, a goal that was 27 runs away when the visitors resumed on 126/8. It was accomplished with the ninth ball of the day,

which was bowled by Stuart Broad and put away through the covers for four by Bavuma.

Morkel's flinty effort was snuffed out at 17 when he edged James Anderson to first slip to put paid a useful partnership of 47.

Philander joined Bavuma to score an unbeaten 10 before Bavuma was caught behind off Roland-Jones to end the innings.

Timeslive



'BOLT COULD REVERSE RETIREMENT DECISION'

KINGSTON - Usain Bolt could be tempted to reverse his decision to retire from athletics after next month's world championships, his American sprint rival Justin Gatlin said on Friday.

The great Jamaican, who has won eight Olympic and 11 world championship gold medals, is planning to quit the track after competing in the 100m and 4x100m relay in the global event in London.

However, Gatlin, who was beaten by Bolt in the last two world championship 100m and 200m finals and at last year's Olympics in Rio, believes

the 30-year-old could one day find a return impossible to resist.

"Why not? He has that rock star mentality where he can travel the world, have fun, party in different places and then say: I want to take this seriously one more time," Gatlin told reporters at the US team's training camp in Birmingham.

"He has the opportunity to come back, once he leaves he can have a year of rest and say: 'I love track so much I can't leave it too soon.'"

The 35-year-old Gatlin, twice banned for doping violations, has only beaten Bolt once in a world championship

final, in 2005 in Helsinki when the Jamaican was still a teenager.

But with the main man of athletics due to depart the sprint scene, Gatlin predicted an exciting new era.

"It makes you a little more jittery. Who's going to step up to fill that void, who's going to rise to the occasion and want to be the next superstar?" he said.

"Now you're not worried about the Usain Bolt Show. Now you're more concerned about the head-on competition, people rising to the occasion and saying: 'I will do it for me and my family now I have the opportunity to run from the front.'" Reuters

Vettel takes Hungarian GP pole

BUDAPEST - Sebastian Vettel stormed to pole position for the Hungarian GP as the world championship leader topped a Ferrari front-row lockout ahead of team-mate Kimi Raikkonen.

Vettel's stunning lap of 1:16.276 set a new track record at the Hungaroring as he claimed his 48th F1 career pole position.

Lewis Hamilton chasing a record-equalling 68th pole position of his own was just fourth after abandoning his first top-ten shootout run and frequently complaining of vibrations from his tyres.

Vettel leads the drivers' championship by a single point from Hamilton ahead of the final race before the summer break.

Sky F1's Paul di Resta, called up less than an hour before the start of the session to replace the unwell Felipe Massa, qualified 19th in a Williams car he hadn't previously driven.

In a highly respectable effort, the Sky Sports pundit split the two Saubers and lapped within a second of team-mate Lance Stroll as both Williams fell at the first hurdle. Jolyon Palmer, told it was critical that both Renaults finish in the points this weekend, qualified ninth, two places and

eight tenths of a second behind team-mate Nico Hulkenberg. The under-pressure Englishman remains the only driver yet to out-qualify his team-mate in any session this weekend.

Birthday boy Fernando Alonso, who turned 36 yesterday, was eighth as both McLarens reached the top ten for the first time this season.

The team, mindful that their power weakness will not be exposed around the tight and twisty Hungaroring, have identified this weekend as their best chance of the year so far to climb off the bottom of the Constructors' Championship and are well placed to secure their first double-points haul of 2017.

Reuters

Singh chasing PGA Tour oldest winner record

OTTAWA - Former world number one and 2004 champion Vijay Singh rolled back the years to sit two shots back of the second round lead at the Canadian Open on Friday, while Open Championship runner-up Matt Kuchar battled late to make the cut.

Seeking to become the oldest winner in PGA Tour history, the 54-year-old Fijian mixed six birdies with two bogeys in his round of 68 at Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville, where Martin Flores led a trio of fellow Americans by one stroke.

Singh, a 34-times winner on the PGA Tour who has not triumphed since 2008, is off to his best tournament start all season after opening with a 66.

"Doing everything good... this is a golf course where if you are on the fairway you can attack the pins," said Singh, who could have competed in this week's Senior British Open. "I practised my putting pretty good last week, so it's working out."

Flores was a model of consistency, firing a second successive 66 in a bogey-free round which boasted an eagle on the par-five second and three consecutive birdies from the 16th to the 18th.

American Gary Woodland soared up the leaderboard with a 10-birdie round of 63, the day's lowest, to vault into second alongside compatriots Matt Every (68) and Brandon Hagy (68).

Having started two strokes adrift, world number one Dustin Johnson shot a 69 to lie four off the pace.



Vijay Singh.

Kuchar (68), who battled dizzy spells in the first round, did well to offset a back-nine double-bogey with an eagle at the par-five 13th, but still needed some magic to stick around for the weekend.

The 39-year-old American caught fire with birdies at the final three holes to reach a five-under total of 139, one shot inside the cut-line.

Reuters



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MARKET INFLATED BY NEYMAR AND MBAPPE.

ARSENE WENGER ADAMANT ARSENAL 'REMAIN ACTIVE'

LONDON - Arsene Wenger insists Arsenal 'remain active' in the summer transfer market, but admits 'huge inflation' is making top deals difficult.

The Gunners have been relatively quiet in their business so far, when compared to a number of their Premier League rivals.

While the likes of Manchester United, Chelsea and Manchester City have been spending £100 million-plus on new recruits, Wenger has drafted in free agent Sead Kolasinac and France international striker Alexandre Lacazette.

There is the promise of more to come, if the right opportunity presents itself, but the interest being shown in the likes of Barcelona forward Neymar and Monaco striker Kylian Mbappe has helped to raise asking prices across the board.



Wenger told Arsenal's official website on his plans for the remainder of the summer window: "What's next is to remain active."

"The difficulty is to bring top-level players in because you pay a huge amount of money for very normal

players at the moment. As well, all the big clubs are chasing the same players and that provokes huge inflation.

"Maybe this will be the first time we [football clubs] pay over £200m, maybe over £300m with Neymar and around £200m with Mbappe.

"So there is a huge inflation. But we are active, we are working hard and I think we have done well with Kolasinac, we have done well with Lacazette and we are continuing to work.

"There's the usual acceleration in the final part of August but I think you have always to be on alert every day, because a good opportunity might turn up.

"Sometimes people you are after for a long time are not available and suddenly they become available. So you have always to be on alert. That's what we do." *Goal*

West Ham to firmly block any Liverpool move for Lanzini

LONDON - West Ham are ready to block any Liverpool approach for Manuel Lanzini, should Barcelona prise Philippe Coutinho away from Anfield.

Brazilian playmaker Coutinho is being heavily linked with Barcelona this summer, with the Reds having already rejected a £72 million offer and telling the La Liga giants the player is simply not for sale.

Yesterday's Paper Talk discussed the three Premier League stars Barcelona want to sign this summer, but should they succeed in their efforts to land Coutinho, it seems Liverpool are already

drawing up alternatives.

And if Coutinho is prised away, the Reds reportedly want to sign Lanzini from Hammers, with the player a long-term target of Jurgen Klopp.

However, West Ham are determined to keep the 24-year-old and build their team around the player.

Hoped

Lanzini came into his own last season when Dimitri Payet returned to Marseille and it's hoped the player can prove the creative driving force alongside quality new additions Javier Hernandez and Marko Arnautovic.

The London Evening Standard claims West Ham believe that selling Lanzini would send out the wrong message after the club worked to strengthen their squad.

The Argentine, who has scored 15 goals in 70 appearances for the Hammers, has become a huge fans favourite at the London Stadium, having initially joined the club on loan from Al Jazira Club in the summer of 2015.

Team Talk



Mauricio Pochettino demands respect from rival managers

LONDON - Tottenham Hotspur Manager Mauricio Pochettino wants rival Premier League managers to show some respect after Chelsea boss Antonio Conte questioned the North London side's ambition ahead of the new season.

Earlier in the week, Conte said it would not be a 'tragedy' if Tottenham failed to lift trophies next season as their expectations are not the same as rivals Chelsea, Manchester United, Arsenal and Manchester City.

"I am not a manager who likes to speak about another club, another Manager," Pochettino told reporters ahead of Spurs' pre-season match against Man City in Nashville yesterday.

"I like to show respect. I expect

the same from the people who compete with us.

"For different clubs who have spent a lot of money, the expectation and pressure is massive. For us it is the same. It is our own pressure and ambition."

Triumph

Spurs have come close to clinching their first top division league title since 1961 but could only finish in the top three during the last two seasons. They are yet to win a major trophy since the League Cup triumph in 2008.

With English top division clubs spending more than \$1 billion on transfers since the end of last season, Pochettino said Spurs, who are yet to sign a player, would rather wait for the right moment in the current window. *Reuters*



Man City smash Arsenal wages offer to lure Sanchez

LONDON - Manchester City are reported to have offered Alexis Sanchez Premier League record wages of £320 000 a week in a bid to tempt the player from Arsenal.

The Chile forward has under 12 months left on his current Gunners deal and has so far refused to sign an extension, with the Gunners reported to have offered Sanchez wages of £275 000 a week.

But the Daily Mail claims City are ready to blow away their Premier League rivals by offering the player almost £50 000 a week more; further-

more it's claimed City's offer will be topped up by performance-related add-ons and image rights which would bring the deal closer to £400 000 a week.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger has regularly insisted Sanchez will not

be allowed to leave this summer, and even in the event of his refusal to sign a new deal, the player will not be sold.

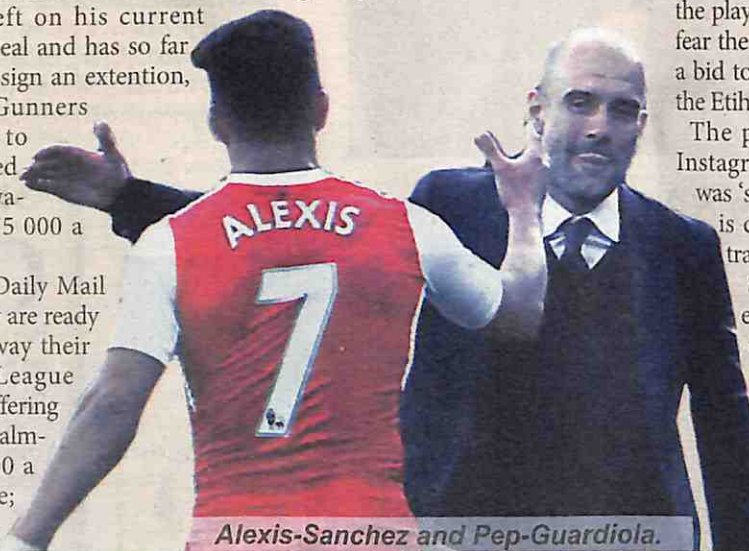
Claimed

However, with City reportedly offering £50 million to Arsenal for the player, it's claimed the Gunners fear the player could go on strike in a bid to force through the move to the Etihad.

The player posted a photo on Instagram on Friday claiming he was 'sick', just two days before he is due to return to first-team training at Arsenal.

Sanchez was granted an extended holiday after playing for Chile at the Confederations Cup but is due back to training with Arsenal today, the same day Wenger's men face Sevilla in the Emirates Cup.

Team Talk



Alexis-Sanchez and Pep-Guardiola.

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South African SOCCER

Siyanda Xulu to finally leave Kaizer Chiefs next week

JOHANNESBURG - Former FC Rostov defender Siyanda Xulu is expected to officially part ways with Kaizer Chiefs next week.

According to Siyavuma Sports Agency spokesperson, Xulu's contractual dispute with Amakhosi will be finalised tomorrow.

"We have found an amicable solution with Kaizer Chiefs on Siyanda Xulu's matter. We have reached an agreement with the club, and Monday (tomorrow) we will conclude everything," Gumede told IOL.

Gumede confirmed that Xulu will have a new club in the next few weeks.

"I can confirm that Siyanda is leaving Chiefs, and in the next few weeks, he will be playing for a new club," he said.

Goal confirmed a while ago that Cape Town City and Orlando Pirates were among the clubs keen on the 25-year-old KwaMashu-born centre-back.

He has also been linked with a possible move to Indian Super League (ISL) outfit Atletico de Kolkata.

However, his representatives are yet to confirm the names of the clubs they have been talking to over the services of Xulu.

Xulu has been keeping fit on his own after the club barred him from training with the first team despite having a running contract with them.

GOAL

ROGER MAJAJA LOOKING TO REKINDLE HIS CAREER AT CELTIC

BLOEMFONTEIN - KickOff.com has picked up that former Orlando Pirates winger Roger Majafa is currently on trial at Bloemfontein Celtic in the hope of reviving his career.

Majafa was one of many players released by Pirates at the start of last season after he played most of his time at the club with the MultiChoice Diski Challenge team.

Bucs signed him from Polokwane City at the start of 2015/16 but he only featured in few games under then coach Erick Tinkler.

The 26-year-old, who was also the captain of Pirates' MDC team at that time, had no club last season in the PSL and is now plotting

to make a strong return under new Celtic coach Veselin Jelusic.

According to the well-placed source close to this website, it has been revealed that whilst Majafa is yet to be signed a deal may be on the horizon.

"Majafa has not been signed yet by the club but it looks positive," a source tells this website.

Majafa is part of the Bloemfontein Celtic side that will feature in the inaugural Prince Mangosuthu Legacy Cup in Ulundi, a tournament named after IFP chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, in the north of KwaZulu-Natal.

The tournament also features PSL returnees AmaZulu, a Zululand

District XI and Swaziland giants Mbabane Swallows.

Meanwhile, Celtic MDC coach Duncan Lechesa, the club spokesperson in KZN, revealed yesterday on stage that they encouraged young Zululand District players to display their talents and not be deterred by playing against them, adding that one of them will be signed on a pre-contract if they are impressed.

If Majafa is signed by Celtic he will become the club's eighth signing following the capture of Roggert Nyundu, Ali Bondo, Jacky Motshegwa, Victor Letsoalo, Sipho Jembula, Lucky Baloyi and Ndimiso Mabena.

Kickoff



Former Orlando Pirates winger Roger Majafa.



Hunt to decide fate of striker Abraw

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits coach Gavin Hunt is currently busy assessing former Kaizer Chiefs striker Camaladine Abraw.

The Togo international is hoping to secure a deal with the reigning Premier Soccer League (PSL) champions after parting ways with Chiefs last month.

Jose Ferreira, the Wits Chief Executive Officer, says Hunt will

have the final say on whether the club signs the 26-year-old free agent or not. "Of course, he is training with the team. But Hunt (Gavin) is the one who has the final say regarding the signing of players" Ferreira told Isolezwe.

"We offloaded Cuthbert (Malajila) and Mokgakolodi (Ngele), who returned to their parent club (Mamelodi Sundowns). We have Caf

(Champions League) games next season," he continued.

"I do not know what will happen to Abraw, but Hunt and his technical team are still assessing him," he added. The Clever Boys will be hoping to defend their PSL title next season. "All the PSL teams will be eager to beat us as we will be the defending champions in the new season."

GOAL

Booyesen buoyed by Bafana captaincy

JOHANNESBURG - Capetonians to have worn the captain's armband in a Bafana Bafana jersey include, among others, Benni McCarthy, Shaun Bartlett and André Arendse.

Another name was added to the list when Mario Booyesen skippered the SA national team for the recent African Nations Championship (Chan) home and away victories over Botswana.

The event is designed for countries to use only players performing in local leagues - and, as such, it is seen as a developmental tool for national teams to build the international experience of younger, emerging footballers.

Bafana Bafana coach Stuart Baxter admits that, in the past, the Chan tournament and the COSAFA Cup (in which only countries from the southern region of Africa participate) were not all that high on South

Africa's priority list.

But the former Kaizer Chiefs and SuperSport United mentor, at the same time, believes that he can use the competitions positively.

Already, and especially in the manner in which 28-year-old Cape Town central defender Booyesen has led the side, Baxter is learning more about the next level of talent available to the national squad.

"Mario Booyesen has done very well as captain," said Baxter. "He started a little sloppy, but he grew into a giant at the finish. He took respon-

sibility, he is always talking to the players and always willing to help. For him, the team is always more important than the individual."

There's no doubting Booyesen's ability as a player and he has now also showed his leadership qualities. In a career that is still trying to take root, the tall defend-

er has hopefully proven that he is worthy of a more permanent starting place at a PSL club.

He started his professional career in the Mother City at Ajax Cape Town before going on to play for Bloemfontein Celtic, Maritzburg United, SuperSport United and Mamelodi Sundowns.

Unfortunately his career is littered with loan spells at various clubs because of his inability to tie down a starting place. Perhaps, now, after his Bafana experience, and Baxter's complimentary words, things can finally fall into place for the Cape defender.

Booyesen spent last season on loan at SuperSport (during Baxter's coaching tenure at the Pretoria club), but he will be returning to his real employers Mamelodi Sundowns this season. At this stage, it is not yet clear whether he is in Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane's plans - if not, then he certainly deserves to move on and find a club that appreciates his undoubted ability.

Booyesen spoke highly of the experience he gained from being part of the Bafana set-up.



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STONES ADMITS MAN CITY STRUGGLES HURT

LONDON - John Stones admits that criticism, both personal and external, "hurts" after enduring a testing debut campaign at Manchester City.

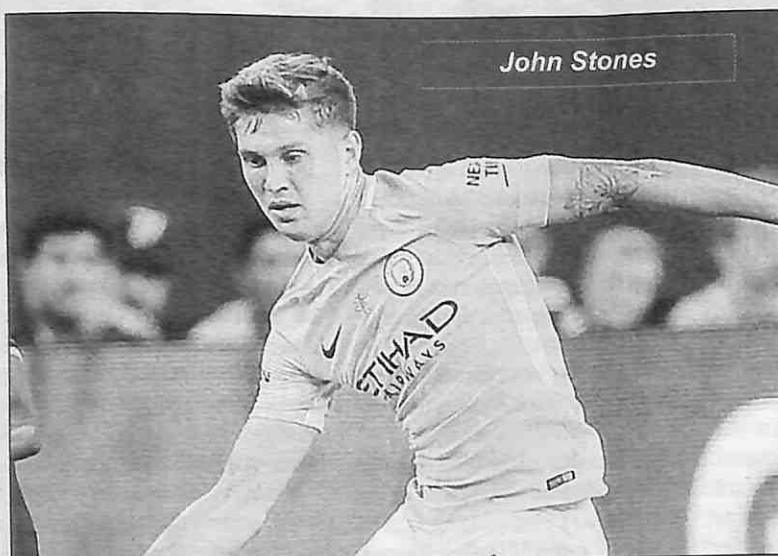
The highly-rated centre-half completed a £47.5 million transfer from Everton in the summer of 2016.

A lofty price tag placed him under the spotlight as a Premier League title hopeful, and Stones concedes that his performance levels fell below the required standard at times.

He is, however, his own biggest critic and remains confident that the 2017-18 campaign will be more productive, with fellow big-money defenders Kyle Walker and Benjamin Mendy having joined him at the Etihad Stadium.

Stones told ESPN FC ahead of an International Champions Cup clash with Tottenham: "People do focus on the transfer fee, but that's football. It's all part of the game, but I'm just focused on getting into the team, playing well and making sure that the team wins."

"If you are focused and driven as



John Stones

I am, I don't think the outside influences should have an effect.

"I am not saying that it doesn't, though. Every player has been there, or been through a bad patch.

"For me, it's not about what pressure comes from the outside, it's about me, knowing that I haven't done my job as well as I should have done.

"It's about making mistakes in games and probably beating myself up more than I should do, really.

"You take it out on yourself because you think that you have let your teammates down and yourself down, and that's what hurts."

Stones made 41 appearances for City in all competitions last season, netting two goals. **Goal**

'I HAVE NINE OFFERS, I'M NOT CONSIDERING NATIONAL TEAMS'

KAMPALA - Orlando Pirates and Zamalek target Milutin 'Micho' Sredojevic has confirmed that he has received offers from African clubs and national teams.

The Serbian tactician officially parted ways with the Uganda Federation of Football Associations (FUFA) yesterday after terminating his contract with the organisation due to unpaid salaries.

Goal understands that Egyptian giants Zamalek are leading the race for Sredojevic's services, while the Libyan Football Federation (LFF) are reportedly eager to appoint him as their new head coach.

However, the 47-year-old has made it clear that he is not considering offers from national teams at the moment.

"I have had eight offers, Uganda is the 9th. At the moment, I will not consider national team offers," Sredojevic told the media.

"I will now seek for rehabilitation. Just like some one break-ups with some woman whom you have been in love with, I seek rehabilitation," he added.

Pirates are believed to have earmarked Sredojevic as under fire



Milutin 'Micho' Sredojevic.

Kjell Jonevert's replacement ahead of the 2017/18 season.

"Uganda still has a VVIP apartment in my heart. You are still a DNA in my body I am happy to leave as the minister in charge of happiness for many Ugandans," he explained.

"Life goes on. I want to thank God and my Namungoona church," he concluded.

FuFa are said to be owing Sredojevic an equivalent of \$64 000 (around R830 000) over six months.

Goal

Shakespeare eager to finalise deal for Man City striker Iheanacho

LONDON - Leicester City boss Craig Shakespeare is hoping to finalise a deal for Manchester City striker Kelechi Iheanacho soon.

Reports have claimed that a deal in principle has been agreed for the Nigeria international, with Leicester set to pay a fee that could rise to £25 million.

Minor details concerning the player's contract and possible buy-back clause are said to have held up the transfer, but Shakespeare hopes to have the 20-year-old at his disposal before their Premier League campaign begins against

Arsenal on August 11.

"I'm hoping so, but I am like every other manager at the moment. I think we all find it frustrating but it is the current market," he told Sky Sports News following Friday's 0-0 friendly draw with MK Dons.

"You saw with the Harry Maguire one, we got that done quick. When he is in the door, we can announce it. At the moment, of course, we are interested in players as most of the

Premier League is, but you can see that clubs won't really talk about it until they are over the line." **Goal**



Kelechi Iheanacho

Bartomeu warns PSG: Pay release clause or Neymar stays

BARCELONA - Neymar will not leave Barcelona unless his €222 million release clause is paid, Club President Josep Maria Bartomeu has said.

The latest reports in France have claimed that the Brazil star has agreed personal terms with Paris Saint-Germain ahead of a world-record transfer, meaning that a deal could be completed as early as next week. It has been suggested that PSG will offer Angel Di Maria in a part-exchange deal in order to reduce the cost of bringing Neymar to Parc des Princes, but Bartomeu insists that nothing less than the full buy-out clause stipulated in his contract will be accepted.

"They have to pay the clause, down to the last peseta," he told ESPN.

"We want Neymar to stay but the clauses are there. If he wants to go, they can pay it and he goes."

Bartomeu also suggested that PSG could find themselves in danger of flouting UEFA's financial fair play restrictions if they pursue the transfer.

"UEFA has fair play controls and if any club exceeds them, they will be punished," he said.

Talk in Spain has begun to turn to possible replacements for Neymar at Camp Nou, with Liverpool



Neymar

star Philippe Coutinho among those to be linked. Barca reportedly began talks with the player in London this week but, although he indicated that they are looking to sign a player who can play in midfield, Bartomeu would not be drawn on the Brazilian.

"He's a great player but we can't say anything.

You have to be discrete," he said. "Head coach Ernesto Valverde said a few days ago that he wants a competitive team who understand our needs

very well. More players will come. One in the middle, for sure."

Goal

Liverpool line-up £21 million German alternative to Naby Keita

BERLIN - Schalke's Leon Goretzka has been touted as a possible alternative if Liverpool fail to sign RB Leipzig's Naby Keita.

The Reds have pursued Keita for the majority of the summer window, but Leipzig have so far refused to sell, knocking back bids of £58 million and £66 million for their star midfielder.

In and amongst rumours of a final take-it-or-leave-it £70 million offer for the player, Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp has begun looking at a contingency plan, and believes countryman Goretzka would be a suitable alternative, according to the Daily Mirror.

Goretzka, 22, has been linked with Arsenal and Bayern Munich this summer, and is out of contract next season.

A fee of £21 million has been mentioned, but Schalke have previously insisted the player is not for sale.

And discussing his future at Schalke last month, Goretzka insists he pays little attention to media speculation.

"I'm not going to give state-of-play updates, but if there are facts, I will announce them," he said.

"I'm not the type to be impressed by newspaper reports, I know what my qualities are, but I will not build myself up. I won't talk on possible switches to a different club [during the tournament]," Goretzka added. "As soon as there are facts, I will be providing them and publicising them on what my decision is. But now there is no news in that respect." The central midfielder made 41 appearances in all competitions for Schalke last term, notching eight goals and six assists, and also featured regularly for Germany as they won the Confederations Cup this summer. Liverpool have made just three signings so far this summer in the form



Naby Keita.

of Dominic Solanke, Mohamed Salah and Andrew Robertson.

Their public pursuits of both Keita and Southampton's Virgil van Dijk have not been successful so far, as the Reds struggle to close deals for their main remaining transfer targets.

TeamTalk

Bayern duo Ribery and Robben told they are too old for Chinese Super League

BERLIN - Bayern Munich duo Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben are now too old to be of benefit to the Chinese Super League, says Shanghai SIPG Director Mads Davidsen.

Both wingers have been linked with moves to Asia in the recent past, but have opted to remain in Europe.

Neither have offered any indication that they intend to head to the Far East any time soon, but they have been warned that the opportunity to take advantage of such riches may have passed them by.

Ribery and Robben are now 34 and 33 years of age respectively, with the CSL eager to move away from veteran performers and towards players with potential to contribute in the present and future.

Davidsen told Sport BILD: "It's a misconception that makes me really angry when players in Europe believe they can freely choose the time to move to China."

"This was the situation three or four years ago but those times are over."

Ambitious

"If Ribery had an offer two or three years ago from China then that was his chance, but an ambitious Chinese team like Shanghai SIPG wouldn't sign him or Robben now."

"Why should a Chinese club sign a 33 or 34-year-old when they can get 27-year-old stars like Axel Witsel or Alex Teixeira, or Oscar at 25?" Robben claimed in January that he would never rule out a move to China, saying: "my family comes first, but the life experience, living elsewhere - in the USA, in China - might come. But maybe not. Maybe I'll go back home to the Netherlands. I do not rule out anything."

He was, however, speaking after committing to a new 12-month contract at Bayern and will be going nowhere until at least the summer of 2018.

Goal

Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben. (Daily Mail)



Iniesta urges Neymar to stay at Barca

BARCELONA - Barcelona captain Andres Iniesta said he would rather have Neymar at the club than a massive transfer fee, with speculations linking the Brazilian to Paris Saint-Germain in a world record deal.

PSG have reportedly held discussions with Barcelona about a transfer for the 25-year-old that would smash the world record £89 million Manchester United paid for France midfielder Paul Pogba last year.

"I do not think £200-300 million will be more beneficial for Barcelona than having Neymar," Iniesta told a news conference ahead of yesterday's pre-season friendly against Real Madrid.

"He is one of the best players in the world and I always want the best players in my team. I have no doubt that we all

wish him to continue with us."

"We would like you (the press) to not keep asking (about Neymar) so much, but to end this, there is only one way: Neymar will speak." Neymar, whose buy-out clause at Barcelona was set at over €200 million, cancelled a personal appearance in China next week because he was said to be "busy with transfer business".

Iniesta also confirmed the training bust-up between Neymar and teammate Nelson Semedo on Friday but played it down, saying it only held more significance due to the recent transfer speculations.

"It's true that there was that incident, which can be part of a training session," Iniesta added. "But because of the situation and what is being said about Neymar, which is worldwide, it has much more significance. For those of us who are training however, it's nothing." *Reuters*



Arsenal forced to abandon top midfield chase

LONDON - Arsenal are facing further frustration in their hunt for Thomas Lemar, with Monaco reportedly resolved to keep him at the club.

Arsenal have, according to the Telegraph, made a third bid for the midfielder of around £45million, which has not been successful.

Monaco have spent all summer

fielding interest in their top stars from the biggest clubs in Europe following their Ligue 1 triumph last season.

Benjamin Mendy and Bernardo Silva have both joined Manchester City in a near-£100million double deal and £40million Tiemoué Bakayoko has also been plundered, signing for Chelsea. *Team Talk*

AS UFC CHAMPION SHARES BEHIND-THE-SCENES SNAPS AHEAD OF MAYWEATHER CLASH:

CONOR MCGREGOR KNOCKS DOWN SPARRING PARTNER

LONDON - Conor McGregor is thought by many to have just a puncher's chance against Floyd Mayweather on August 26, but what a punch that can be.

The Irishman shared four pictures of a knockdown during one of his sparring sessions and boasted it was simply 'another day for me'.

Boxing referee Joe Cortez was officiating and is seen frantically rushing to intervene as McGregor stands menacingly over his opponent who is crumpled on the canvas.

The Irishman is in the habit of sharing training footage with the possible added effect of unnerving Mayweather.

In these images the UFC lightweight champion is seen ready to go in for the kill MMA style with some ground and pound, obviously illegal in boxing, but something to get in the head of Mayweather.

McGregor's oft-recited mantra: "Precision beats power, timing beats speed," rings true but it is his explosive left hand that tends to separate his challengers from consciousness.

That power could be his X-factor against Mayweather who is yet to taste defeat in his 49-fight career.

August 26 is less than a month away and as both men continue their phys-



ical preparation, the hype will build to a climax.

The Las Vegas showdown is expect-

ed to draw record-breaking viewing figures and couldn't be further from just 'another day'. *Daily Mail*

Herrera closes on new Man Utd deal

MANCHESTER - Manchester United have held new deal talks with Ander Herrera, amid fresh reports Barcelona are preparing a bid for the midfielder.

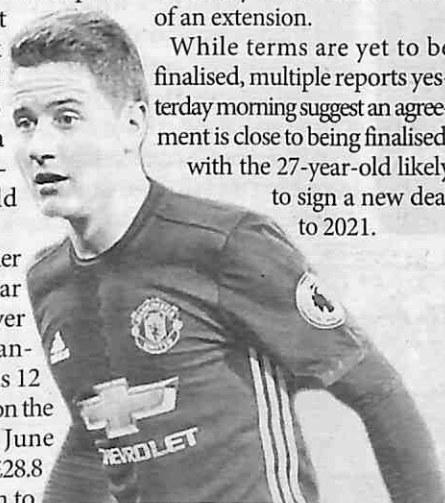
Representatives of the Spain star have been out in the US for talk with senior United figures as the club bids to tie Herrera down to an extended contract at Old Trafford.

Herrera, the former Athletic Bilbao star and reigning Player of the Year at Manchester United, has 12 months left to run on the deal he signed in June 2014 following his £28.8 million move from to

Old Trafford, albeit with the option of a further year.

Arturo Canales, Herrera's agent, was in America during the final week of United's 18-day tour and met with the club's hierarchy to discuss the terms of an extension.

While terms are yet to be finalised, multiple reports yesterday morning suggest an agreement is close to being finalised, with the 27-year-old likely to sign a new deal to 2021.



After a difficult second season at United under Louis van Gaal, Herrera was switched into a more defensive midfield role by Jose Mourinho. The change proved something of a masterstroke as the player not only gave Paul Pogba the freedom to adjust to his new surroundings, but also saw the Spaniard's game improve significantly.

His form has brought about international recognition with Spain - something he was unlikely to ever see in his more advanced midfield role - as well as admiring glances from Barcelona.

Reports in Spain suggest new head coach Ernesto Valverde is planning an approach for Herrera, but an extension to the midfielder's contract will end that hope before it has begun. *Team Talk*

Bizarre own goal steals show as Inter beat Chelsea

SINGAPORE - Inter Milan's Geoffrey Kondogbia entered the annals of sporting infamy with a remarkable own goal but the Italian side held on to win 2-1 and condemn Chelsea to a successive pre-season defeat yesterday in Singapore.

Inter led by two goals from Ivan Perisic and Stevan Jovetic, before what was supposed to be a routine backpass from

substitute Kondogbia looped over his own goalkeeper and nestled into the top corner of the net from fully 40 yards, stunning the crowd of over 32,000.

The Frenchman's embarrassing mishap overshadowed what had otherwise been an impressive performance by Inter, and in particular Manchester United target Perisic.

The Croatian winger played a central

role in the game and scored the Serie A side's second goal in the 53rd minute, latching on to a pass from Jovetic before applying a smart finish.

Inter dominated the early stages. In the first few minutes a defence-splitting Milan Skriniar pass found Antonio Candreva, reportedly a Chelsea transfer target, who forced Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois into a fingertip save.

AFP

The new June start will reduce club-country wrangles but the weather could be a problem and the increase to 24 teams is a terrible idea

On 26 October 1863 the representatives of 11 schools and football clubs met at the Freemasons' Tavern near Covent Garden in London and founded the Football Association, seeking to establish a unified set of laws, essentially so that those who had gone to different public schools could play against each other when they met at university. Ever since, it feels, the notion of the sport as an end in itself, as a good to be cherished and protected, has been dwindling. Short-term self-interest rules.

Suggestions

The Confederation of African Football at least last week decided that the Cup of Nations will, for now, be played in Africa and will feature only African teams, rejecting suggestions from its marketing committee to explore the possibility of inviting three or four nations from elsewhere and playing the competition outside the continent. But as of 2019, the tournament will be played in June and July rather than January and February and it will comprise 24 rather than 16 teams.

Clash

To which the reaction can only be a weary sigh as another great tournament goes the way of the World Cup and the Euros. The shift of date is problematic (not least in that the 2021 tournament will clash with the Confederations Cup) but there are arguments for it. African players at western European clubs will no longer find themselves with competing claims on their attention every other season – which should benefit the players,



AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS CHANGES WILL DO FAR MORE HARM THAN GOOD



the clubs and the countries, and lead to fewer wrangles such as that between Liverpool and Cameroon over Joël Matip this year.

But there is a reason the Cup of Nations was held in January and February: weather.

The next tournament is scheduled to be hosted in Cameroon. In June in Yaoundé the mean daily high temperature is 27 degrees, with average monthly rainfall of 170mm and 85 per cent humidity.

Clubs

These are not ideal conditions for football. Whether it is worth that compromise to satisfy European clubs is open to doubt; it would certainly not have happened when Issa Hayatou was the CAF president.

The expansion to 24 teams is not even debatable. It is a terrible idea, diluting the quality and rendering the group stage a slog of largely meaningless football. There will be those who claim an expanded tournament gives a chance to smaller nations and point to the experiences of Wales, Iceland and Northern Ireland at the 2016 European Championship, ignoring the fact that all three would have qualified for a 16-team tournament.

In France last summer it took 36 games to reduce 24 teams to 16.

Development

Based on the qualifying record, that in effect meant substituting the Republic of Ireland and Hungary for Austria and the Czech Republic. Neither reached the quarter-finals. This is supposed to be elite sport, not a GLC sports day. Perhaps even that could be tolerated if there was any evidence an appearance at a Cup of Nations is an aid to development. Have Botswana or Niger kicked on since qualifying in 2012? Have Malawi benefited from being there in 2010, or Namibia from 2008? Or has the decade since Togo and Angola reached the World Cup been a golden age for football in either country?

Besides which, 24 is an awful number for a tournament if filtering to a last 16*, because it entails best third-placed teams. Comparing between groups always feels artificial and can lead to anomalies that, through the fault of nobody but the format, seem unfair.

At the European Under-21 Championship this summer, for instance, the teams in Group C had a clear advantage because, playing

last, they knew what was necessary for, in this case, a best second-placed team to progress: Germany, trailing to Italy, had little incentive to press for an equaliser because they knew a 1-0 defeat gave them a semi-final against England while a heavier defeat would have seen them miss out to Slovakia, the second-placed team in Group A.

At the Gold Cup, meanwhile, Honduras qualified ahead of Martinique as a best third-placed side entirely because they were awarded a 3-0 win for a game against French Guiana that had initially finished 0-0, Martinique were punished in effect because French Guiana had wilfully played Florent Malouda despite knowing he was ineligible. Then there is the problem of hosting. A 16-team tournament requires four stadiums and even that is not always easy. In 2015, for instance, two of the quarter-finals were switched at the last minute from Ebebiyin and Mongomo because the infrastructure there was simply not good enough.

That, perhaps, is an exception given Equatorial Guinea had stepped in with a month's notice to replace Morocco as hosts but recent tournaments are littered with new-built sta-

diums that will never be used again (this, perhaps, is the underlying logic of the proposal to move the tournament to a different continent: rather than the Chinese constantly funding and building stadiums in Africa, there perhaps comes a point at which it is easier to take the tournament to pre-existing Chinese stadiums). A 24-team tournament means a minimum of six stadiums and that not only reduces the number of potential hosts but means increased investment in white elephants.

Cameroon is already behind schedule in its preparations for 2019, while struggling with increasing tension between the Anglophone and Francophone parts of the country. These decisions have at least given it an extra five months to get ready but it will now have to prepare two additional venues. Morocco, having pulled out of hosting duties for 2015 over Ebola fears, is standing by (June temperature in Marrakech 32 degrees, precipitation nil).

But this is about more than 2019. It is about more than Africa. It is about sporting authorities acting not in the interests of the sport but for short-term financial gain. Increase the number of finalists by 50 per cent and you decrease your chance of missing out. More than that, you decrease the chances of the vital markets of Nigeria and South Africa missing out.

Will the football be better or meaningful? Will it help African sides prepare for the challenge of the World Cup? Is this, in any broad sense, good for the game? Of course not but who still cares about that?

[*This is an academic point because nobody would ever do this but if 24 filtered to quarter-finals, you could have eight groups of three and avoid dead rubbers so long as you had flexibility in the scheduling so the fixtures in each group went A v B followed by C v the loser of A v B followed by C v the winner of A v B].

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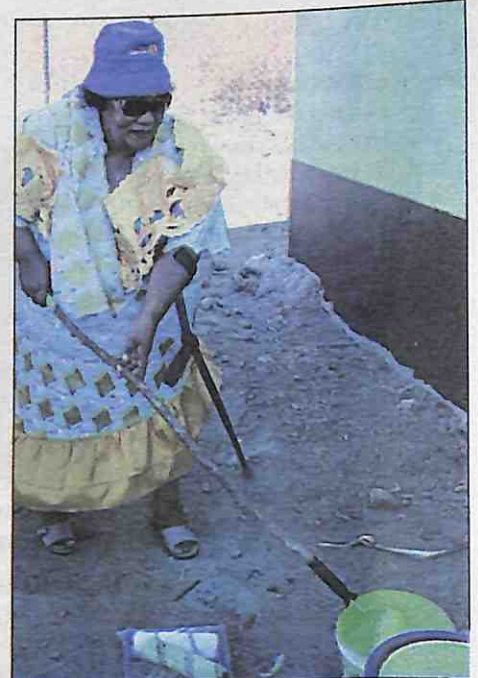
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Founder of KaGogo Nde Orphanage Thabile Simelane with SPTC Managing Director Petros Dlamini, SwaziTelecom Charity Cup PRO Lington Gule, PLS COO Pat Vilakati and Indvuna of Zenzile Mageza Mazibuko. This was during the SwaziTelecom Charity Cup community visit at KaGogo Nde Orphanage in Hlatikhulu yesterday where they painted a kitchen (behind them), cleaning a piggery house and gardening. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



SwaziTelecom General Manager Francis Dlamini hard at work.



Gogo Nde doing her part.



PLS COO Pat Vilakati, SPTC MD Petros Dlamini and SwaziTelecom Charity Cup PRO Lington Gule clearing the garden.



SPTC employees having fun.



The players making sure that they leave the piggery house clean.



Some of Gogo Nde beneficiaries listening to speeches.



Gogo Nde and SPTC MD showing them how it's done.



Mbabane Swallows supporters John Nkambule, Linda 'Sithawula' Tsela and Langa Magagula posing with some of SPTC staff members.

ZAKHELE DLAMINI, NEW TAEKWONDO PRESIDENT

STORIES BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

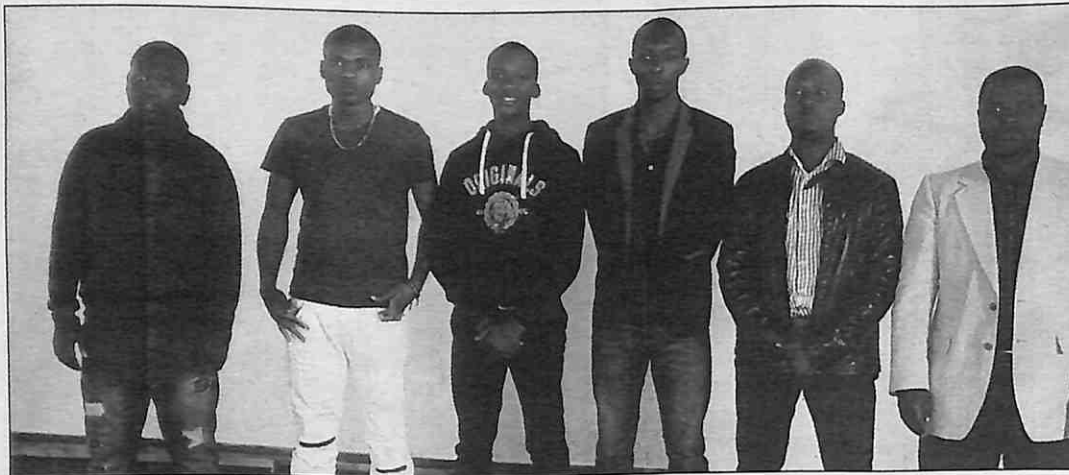
TAEKWONDO - Top local Taekwondo coach Zakhele Dlamini has continued to climb the executive ladder in the Taekwondo fraternity after he was elected as the new president of the Swaziland Taekwondo Association (STA).

Dlamini, who served as the vice president in the outgoing executive, got a total of 12 votes beating second placed Sizwe Mabuza with nine votes and assumed the vice presidency from Bongani Manyatsi.

Sweeping

The sweeping revolution unfolded yesterday during the association's annual general meeting held at the St Michael hall.

Executive member Mbongeni Nsibandze assumed the Secretary General position with 11 votes replacing Sandile Mchunu who was not nominated for the position. Nsibandze managed to beat Mbuso Hleta and Kenyanya Chepline for the position as the two got nine and three votes respectively.



The Newly elected Swaziland Taekwondo Association executive after the elections held yesterday at the St. Michael's Hall. (Pics: Sibusiso Masilela)

However, Hleta assumed the Vice Secretary General by virtue of being the second best finisher.

Bheki Nkhambule was elected as the Treasurer after securing a total 16 votes ahead of Thabiso Mdluli and Sanele Ginindza.

Speaking after the election, the newly elected President Dlamini thanked the Taekwondo family for having faith in his leadership skills

"I am humbled and honoured by the taekwondo family who have shown faith in me and I promise to work towards the improvement of the sport in the country.

Work

I want to work towards the revival of the regional taekwondo body Confederation of the South Africa Taekwondo Association COSA-TA which is something that would

help improve competitiveness within the region," he said.

The new Taekwondo Executive:
President: Zakhele Dlamini

Vice President: Sizwe Mabuza

Secretary General: Mbongeni Nsibandze

Treasurer: Bheki Nkhambule

Members: Mancoba Motsa, Sanele Ginindza

STA receives E250 000 worth equipment from WTF

TAEKWONDO - The Swaziland Taekwondo Association has received E250 000 worth equipment for the point scoring system from the world governing mother body world Taekwondo Federation.

The equipment comprises of two sets of playing gear, electronic timing devices and was delivered before the members during the annual general meeting held yesterday.

The equipment will help the local association improve the timing system during local competitions and further help local artists familiarise themselves with international standards.

Elected

Newly elected President Zakhele Dlamini thanked WTF for the equipment and further urged the members to make good use of the equipment. "We are grateful to WTF for assisting us with the PPS aimed to improve the sport in the country through this innovation that comes with the equipment.

The PPS would help improve the counting of points during matches and we are appealing to members to make good use of the equipment. We hope to get more of these in due course in order to improve the standards of local competitions," he said.

Summary of financial reports Income 2016/17

SNSRC: E26 525

Member contribution: E12 134

Grading: E0.00

Total income: E38 660

Surplus Deficit: -E1 080

2015 /16

SNSRC: E58 133

South Korea: E65 796

Member contribution: E42 442

Grading: E42 442

Deficit: E264

MEMBERS QUESTION AUDITORS

TAEKWONDO - Local Taekwondo members questioned the credibility of their auditors from GN Gule and Associates.

The members said the reports were not satisfying and called for the removal of the auditors from the financial issues of the association.

"I am not happy with the way in which the financial reports are being presented by the auditors as they have mixed up some of the finances of the association which is not good for us. The reports also don't have stamps which leaves a

lot to be desired in as far as legitimacy is concerned."

"We are appealing to the association to get us another auditing company for the sake of transparency," he said.

Difficult

Former President Bongani Manyatsi said it would be difficult for the association to remove the auditors since they are provided by the Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council.

"We appreciate the concerns of the members but we don't have much control over the situation since the auditors

have an agreement with the council. We are going to take concerns of the members to the council," he said.

The current financial statements shows a massive decline in the income of the association from the previous financial year of 2015/16 where the association raked in E406 551 compared to the E39 740 made in the current year of 2016/17.

A large chunk of the association's income came from the membership subscriptions amounting to E12 134 and a sum of E26 526 received from the SNSRC.



Newly elected local Taekwondo President Zakhele Dlamini explaining how the new Point Scoring System equipment donated by the World Taekwondo Federation works to the members.

Zithande see positives from bootcamp tour

BY SABELO MAJOLA

SPORTS - Zithande athletics group has expressed delight over the positives derived from their ongoing three-hour bootcamp tour.

The team was at Big Bend yesterday where it hosted a bootcamp at Big Bend Club and club coach Nsizwa Thwala said they have been winning people over, joining the team to become full time athletes.

"People are buying into the culture of running and they want to join us to become full time athletes. We have even come to the conclusion that we should open a branch here and have one of our members monitoring them," he said.

Thwala said prior to the bootcamp, they had a 30km run which started from Siphofaneni to Big Bend and the club's prominent runners used it to prepare for the Mandela Day run which would be held at Pietermaritzburg later next month as well as upcoming local races.

"We have been attaching the 30 km run to our bootcamp because the club's runners are using it to prepare for both local and international runs.

So far the whole initiative has been a good one and we are happy with the turnout," he said.



Zithande athletes after the 32km run from Siphofaneni to Big Bend yesterday.

Two new teams at SNDA

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

DARTS - The Swaziland National Darts Association welcomed two new teams in the League for the 2017 /18 season.

The new members are Police College and Nhlanguano Town who will now be part of the exciting Swaziland Royal Insurance Corporation (SRIC) sponsored League.

The two teams were welcomed by the charismatic SNDA President Michael 'Scara' Gama who said the move is aimed to improve the standard of the sport in the country.

"Our mission is to spread the sport in the four corners of the country, hence we have allowed these teams to join the league.

We believe they will add more value into the sport," he said.

Gama further said they would soon conduct an outreach programme at Matsetsa where they will be teaching the sport to people that are physically challenged.

"We have seen it necessary that we give every Swazi citizen an opportunity to play the sport and we will donate a darts board at Matsetsa and further offer basic skills of the sport.

We are very much grateful with the support that we have received from our sponsor SRIC and government and I am appealing to the darts family to support SRIC products," he further said.

PLS CHAIRMAN MISUNDERSTOOD - PS

STORIES BY SABELO MAJOLA

SOCCKER- Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) acting PS Bhekithemba Gama applauded Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Chairman Victor Gamedze for his aspiration to see the tournament make more funds which then help the needy.

Gama said the PLS introduced a new format for teams who play in the tournament and people misunderstood it yet it was solely introduced for the purpose of getting the stadiums full to make more money that goes to help the less privileged.

"The aim of the tournament is to make money to help the needy hence the chairman introduced the format which concurs with the objective of the competition but he has been under a lot scrutiny because the move was misunderstood by many," he said.

Initiatives

Gama thanked the PLS for allowing SPTC to use the organisation and its teams in pushing their good initiatives.

"Gogo Nde wishes to have an orphanage where the children can be placed, not just here at home but the financial muscle doesn't permit so we urge the nation to help out so that she realises her dream.

We also hope that the contributions by SPTC would one day be enough for her to push for her desire to be a



Premier League of Swaziland chairman Victor Gamedze.

reality," he said.

PLS COO Pat Vilakati thanked SPTC for choosing soccer as their vehicle in the initiative to help the needy and his remarks were also in line with that of the PS.

"We saw it fit to change the format in the previous edition and the stadium was full to the capacity with the Royal family joining the football lovers in witnessing the action.

There was no violence or any unbecoming behaviour but all went well. It is through the good attendance that

we raise good money that is then contributed to the needy to serve the purpose of the tournament," he said.

Vilakati then applauded the vision of PLS Development officer Banele Masondo in developing football youngsters into superstars that go on to play for the national team.

The Swazi Telecom Charity Cup will be underway on the 27th of August. Manzini Sundowns and Moneni Pirates will first fight for a slot to make the four teams of the tournament and the match will be played on the 20th.

GOGO NDE GETS E1 000 GIFT FROM SPTC MD

SOCCKER- SPTC Managing Director Petros Dlamini gave Gogo Nde a sum of E1 000 which he said was a gift from his family.

Making his remarks during the Swazi Telecom Charity visit to Gogo Nde orphanage at Hlathikhulu yesterday, Dlamini commended Gogo Nde for her aspiration to educate the children

at the house as some of them are now in tertiary. He said that one of the children has been offered an internship at the company.

"Gogo is very good with children, they are all responsible and respecting. On the aspect of education, some have even landed scholarships to study as far as Sri Lanka while some are at local universities and that is a good

thing. It is a given that homes need a father figure but she is managing all alone but we urge men of this community to help out where necessary to enhance the livelihood and education of the children," he said.

Dlamini then thanked the media and all team PRO's for promoting the tournament to be the success that it has been over the years.



DISCARDED 'BULL' PLAYER RESURFACES AT MATSAPHA UTD

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCKER - What was a rejected stone for Mbabane Highlanders could soon turn out to be a cornerstone for Matsapha United, following news that discarded 'Bull' youngster Thabo Mabuza is now training with the MTN Premier League rookies.

Information gathered is that Mabuza started training with the 'Deep Blue ocean' on Thursday afternoon after being shown the exit door by the Black Bull where he was deemed as surplus to requirement.

The former Stumbo XI player is now hoping to win a contract with the Saul Chaminuka led charges ahead of the new season after spending the previous campaign at Highlanders. A source close to the

matter revealed that the player is now hoping to win contract with United. "The player is now training with United after he was offloaded by Highlanders and is looking to impress the Matsapha United technical bench and further win a contract," the source said.

Mabuza was offloaded by Highlanders together with three other youngsters in Ndimiso Mabuza, Peter Dlamini and Melusi Dlamini.

Efforts to get United acting Chief Executive Officer Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini were futile after he cell phone rang unanswered when tried several times last night.

Mabuza could become fifth former Highlanders player to join United after Jimmoh Moses, Vusumuzi Zungu, Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze and Xolani 'Papi' Sikhondze.

KING BLESSES NEW STADIUM

BY SIMON SHABANGU

SOCCKER- HIS Majesty King Mswati III has blessed the proposed site for the construction of a 50 000 seater stadium below the Mavuso Exhibition and Trade Centre in Manzini.

His Majesty told Minister of Public Works and Transport Lindiwe Dlamini that the work can begin at the proposed site after satisfying himself that the site was good enough for the proposed project. This was after the king inspected the place and satisfied himself that the project would be indeed good at the proposed site.

His Majesty toured the site on Friday where the public works minister and his technical team which included the ministry's Principal Secretary Makhosini Mndawe and minister of sports David Cruiser Ngcamphalala among other ministers. Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini was also part of the entourage that visited the site.

The principal secretary explained in an interview that this was the first stages of the project as this was just an inspection of the proposed sites by the King for him to appreciate the area and give blessings. He said the next step which has already started was sourcing proposals for the architecture from companies which will then determine the magnitude of the work as well as the funds to be invested in the whole project.

He said the plan is to have international standard stadium which will be able to take at about 50 000 people. He said this will be an elevated stadium which will have different levels as well as have other components like dressing rooms, running tracks, meeting areas, curio

shops, restaurants like all other world class stadiums. "The site is opposite the Old Trade Sports ground and the idea is to have the new stadium overlapping to that side if there is a need. But all this will be determined by the architecture which will propose by the different companies who will show interest. Adverts calling on companies to supply in this regard have been out and we will soon be going through the proposals and see which will be the best. It will be that process which will determine the land needed and the monies to be invested into this project" he said. Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David Cruiser Ngcamphalala said he was excited that the king has blessed the site. He thanked His Majesty for his visionary leadership stating that when the King talks about vision 2022 he wants to put it to reality. He said the infrastructure development is the main focus when it comes to development. He said the country was the only one lagging behind when it comes to stadiums. "The approval of site shows that there is light in the tunnel as now the King will be motivating them to kick-start the project. The project will put the county on the map and we will now be able to host international tournaments which will in turn improve tourism and bring revenue to the country" he said. He said the stadium developments was the only missing link stating that the country is doing well in road infrastructure projects. "I have seen a number of stadiums in Kuwait, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa and I must say that I envisage a world class project as commanded by the King who tells no lie. We shout Bayethe" he said.

'BIRDS' TO START OFF WITH AMAZULU

BY OONDILE NTIWANE

SOCCKER- Mbabane Swallows will take on AmaZulu in the Prince Mangosuthu Legacy Cup.

The Mbabane giants will clash in the second final of the tournament to be played at Ulundi Stadium today starting at 11 am.

The first match will see Bloemfontein Celtics battle it out against peak team from Ulundi.

The draw was conducted during a dinner held at the Garden Court Hotel at Ulundi on Friday.

The dinner was attended, by amongst others, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi whom the tournament is in honour of.

Interviewed on the draw, Mbabane Swallows Trainer Siyabonga Bhembe

said the game was a must win for the red and white outfit.

He said the clash was important to the team as it would gauge them ahead of the new season.

"We are more than ready for AmaZulu. We are



headed for a new season so this game will help us determine our readiness for the new season especially because we want to do better than the previous one.

THE DRAW

Ulundi XI vs Bloemfontein Celtics 9 am
AmaZulu vs Mbabane Swallows 11 am.

"Mbabane Swallows Chairman believes in a winning team hence we are looking forward to an even better showing in all domestic leagues and in Africa," he said.

He then assured their supporters of victory in this tournament.

"Our supporters will be coming here in great numbers and the challenge is that they are used to winning so we need to make sure that we put a smile to their faces at the end of tournament," he said.

Meanwhile, AmaZulu head Coach Steve Barker said they would not take Mbabane Swallows lightly.

"I have watched Mbabane Swallows on TV and am well aware of what they are capable of. We also know of their striker Ndzinisa. But we have prepared for the game against them and will do all in our power to win it and advance," he said.

TWO DIE IN SOWETO DERBY STAMPEDE

JOHANNESBURG - A stampede at the Soweto derby yesterday left two people dead and at least 19 injured.

Stadium management says a crowd tried to push through the gates and triggered the stampede.

The two victims died of blunt force trauma, according to Stadium Management SA CEO Jacques Grobbelaar.

One person was critically injured and 18 have minor injuries. A child is believed to be among the injured.

Johannesburg Mayor Herman Mashaba extended his condolences to the families of the two people who died.

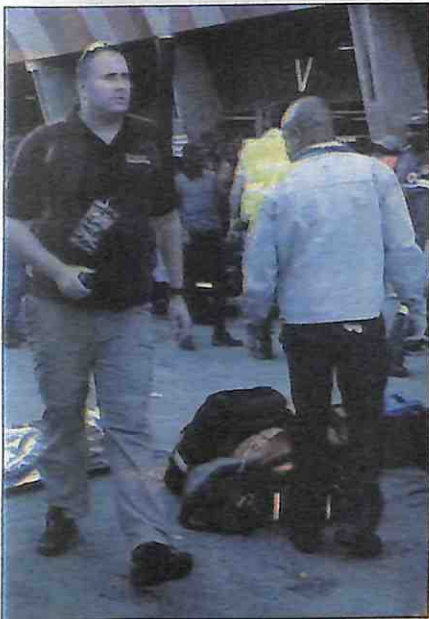
Future

He said the police were investigating the cause of the stampede.

The city's emergency management services, the Johannesburg metro police department and the disaster management unit were at the stadium, Mashaba said.

"This sad loss of life at such a highly anticipated event is indeed a tragedy and the city will work with all the relevant authorities to prevent tragedies such as this in future."

eNCA



Bodies of the two people lying on the floor. They were killed yesterday in a stampede at the Soweto derby.

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SWAZITELECOM CHARITY CUP
'The Cup of Hope'



ICT PS DEFENDS PLS



...says the new Telecom Charity Cup playing format has been misunderstood by many yet it serves the purpose of getting the stadium full to raise more funds for charity contributions.



PREDICT & WIN



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Predict the 2017 Swazi Telecom Charity Cup Champion

Answer:

Name and Surname:

Address:

Telephone Number:

1st Prize: E10 000

2nd Prize: E5 000

3rd Prize: E2 500

4th Prize: E1 500

5th Prize: E1 000

Competition closes on the 26th August 2017

in touch...

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