



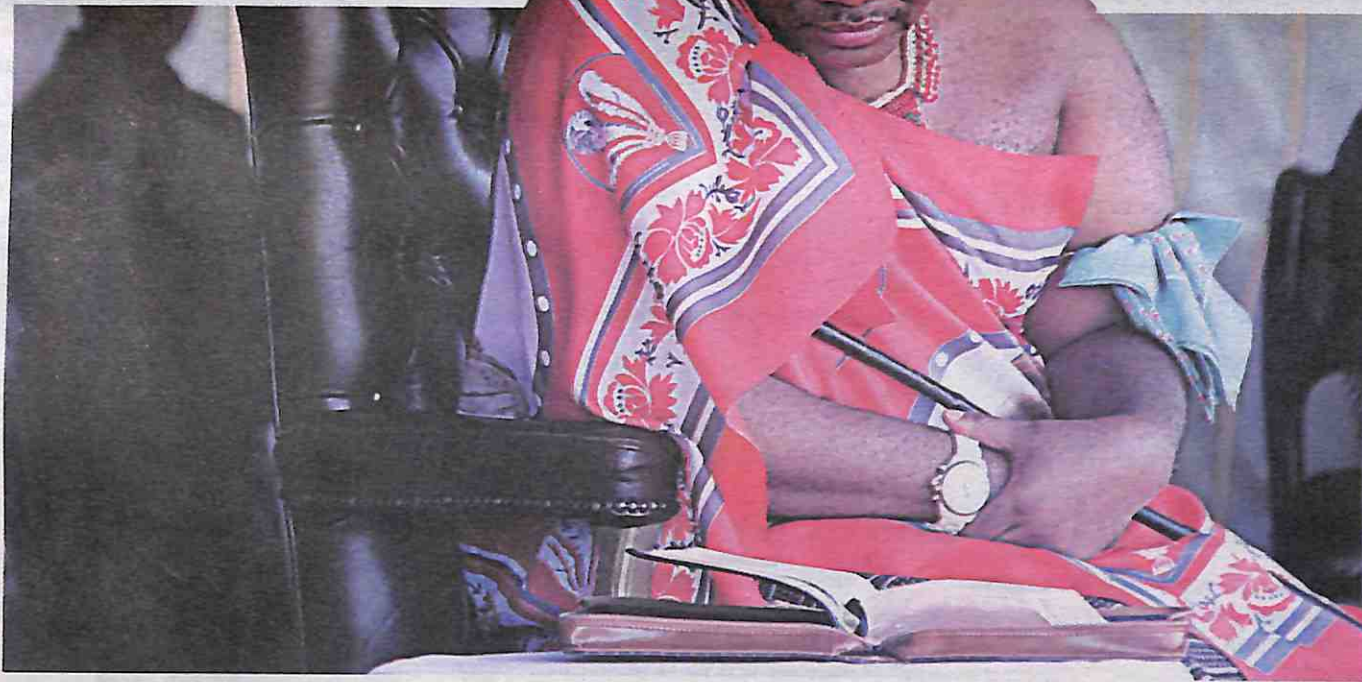
The Right Place

at Sunday



APRIL 1, 2018

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His Majesty King Mswati III going through the verses during the Easter service at Ngabezweni Royal Residence yesterday. The King met with church leaders where a number of issues were deliberated. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

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**SEC
TARIFFS UP
BY 15%
TODAY**

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**SWAZI TV
BOARD
SHOULD
RESIGN
- ICT
MINISTER**

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**WALTER
BENNETT
DEFENDS
MNGWENGWE**

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0.0% **SALARY** INCREASE FOR PARASTATALS

- New circular says enterprises not permitted to hike salaries
- Unions vow to challenge circular

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CLARIFICATION

NO SALARY INCREASE FOR PUBLIC

STORIES BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

...Govt sanctions zero per cent salary hike for Category A Public Enterprises as contained in the Public Enterprises Unit (PEU) Circular No.1/2018.

Government has sanctioned that there should be no salary increase for Category A public enterprises that is more than zero per cent without the hike being approved by the state.

This is contained in the Public Enterprises Unit (PEU) Circular No.1/2018. The Circular, which was directed to all chief executive officers (CEOs) of Category A public enterprises, is dated March 28, 2018. The two-page document was authorised by PEU Director Busangani Mkhaphi.

The decision not to increase salaries and wages for workers was reached during a meeting which was held on March 20 (SM5253). The PEU is under the ministry of finance.

The resolution by government will see workers from about 50 public enterprises, including the University of Swaziland (UNISWA), Swaziland Railway, Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF), Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC), and Swaziland Water Service Corporation (SWSC), to mention but a few, not getting a salary hike.

In the Circular, under the definition of 'Major' 2018 the Standing Committee on Public Enterprises



PEU Director Busangani Mkhaphi.

(SCOPE) directed that 'major' for salaries and wages should be zero per cent (0%). The enterprises are, therefore, not permitted to hike salaries to more than zero per cent without government

authorising the increase.

Government, on the other hand, has refused to effect cost of living adjustment (CoLA) on salaries for its civil servants. Government offered zero per cent to civil servants instead of the 9.15 per cent they (civil servants) demanded.

The Category 'A' CEOs are also asked to inform their respective Boards of the Circular.

"Kindly observe this requirement until further notice. See attached sheet on details of the applicability of the rate," read the Circular.

The Circular reads; 'in line with previous practice, the PEU advises all Category A public enterprises of SCOPE's annual definition of the rate increase for salaries, wages, conditions of service, fees, rates, prices, tariffs and other charges that is used to define 'major' as contained in Section 10 of the Public Enterprises (Control and Monitoring) Act, 1989.

The Circular further states that the meeting held on the above stated date, SCOPE decided that all such proposed increases, except salaries and wages, that exceed 5.25 per cent, must be

Unions vow to challenge 'major'

Public enterprises unions have vowed to challenge the PEU Circular No.1/2018 which might see their members not having any salary increase.

The Swaziland Union of Non-Academic Staff for Higher Institutions (SUNASHI) Secretary General Fundizwi Sikhondze said the Circular was shocking. He believed that it was 'doctored' because the major's Circular should be done according to economic calculations, including inflation rate, which is reportedly around 6.2 per cent. He noted that there are many unions who are affected by the Circular that have recognition agreements with the different enterprises. He said by law, it can only be through negotiations where during salary negotiations the employer can offer zero per cent after declaring the company's financial records. Therefore, it was for that reason that unions of the different parastatals are mobilising to challenge the 'major' in all possible ways. He talked of legal and mass mobilisation.

"If there was a huge crisis that was going to prevent salaries to hike, there are appropriate structures that government must follow to inform unions of the crisis," Sikhondze said.

He said these structures included social dialogue where after the matter has been deliber-

ated, the unions were going to inform its members of the salary and wages increase. He said this was to be done way before the Circular has been implemented. He viewed the move by government as a doctored meant to suppress workers' salaries and wages.

"We are going to challenge it with everything we have," the SUNASHI SG reiterated.

The SG added he was in possession of the Circular and he noted that all services would be hiked by 5.25 per cent but only the salaries and wages are not allowed to be hiked more than zero per cent.

"So, if the Circular was clear, salaries too were supposed to be hiked according to the calculations of the other services," Sikhondze said.

He wondered how the government reached the decision of not hiking salaries but hiking other services.

Salaries

He said should the salaries not be hiked, workers would find themselves in debts to survive. He explained that this would be because as the other services hike, the salaries of the unionists become depleted to the point where it cannot sustain that individual.

On the other hand, the Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) workers unionised under the



SUNASHI Secretary General Fundizwi Sikhondze.

Swaziland Electricity Supply Maintenance and Allied Workers Union (SESMAWU) also vowed to act against government's move.

Speaking on behalf of the unionists was their Secretary General Mluleki Sibandze. Sibandze who was not aware of the 'major' at the time he was contacted by this publication, expressed his shock on the matter.

"That's not possible, we can't let such a thing happen. We would challenge it," the SG said.

He echoed SUNASHI SG's words; saying it would be unfair to sanction no salary hikes when

SwaziBank branch flooded

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The Swazi Bank Mbabane main branch had to transfer clients and computers to the commercial branch as the ground floor was swamped with water.

It could not be ascertained where the water came from as those who were found at the scene shared a different version from that of Swazi Bank Public Relations Officer Phesheya Vilakati.

Officers from the bank were found removing computers and documents to the branch across the Gwamile Street which is located at the Bank's headquarters while personnel from the security company and a cleaning company were seen with hoovers and mops entering the Mbabane main branch which was temporarily closed.

Clients were requested by both the security personnel and bank managers to use the commercial branch which offered them services. Those found at the scene said the water is suspected to have come from a sink tap that may have been left open or from a burst pipe. One of the officials from the bank said he was not sure of the source of the water

that had swamped the bank but the security personnel who was working the night shift would be better placed to give a correct account.

"I am not sure since I was not around. I was also called at night and informed of the situation but the security who was working the night shift can shed some light," said the official.

A bank manager found at the scene said he was not aware of the cause and did not want to respond to further questions, saying he was not allowed to address the media and directed questions to the bank's PRO. Vilakati, on the other hand, said the source of the water was the rain, saying they had managed to wipe it out and assured Swazi Bank clients that the operations of the bank had not been interrupted as the branch will be operating on Tuesday. Vilakati disputed the accounts of those found at the scene. "It was raining; the weather cannot be controlled as it rained like anywhere. The clients were taken to the other branch for convenience purposes," he said.

Vilakati said he was yet to consult the branch manager to establish the time it took for them to wipe the water, noting that other details could be



Clients were told to use the commercial branch as the SwaziBank Mbabane branch was temporarily closed while cleaning services personnel arrived to clean the main branch yesterday morning.

available on Tuesday.

MANAGING EDITOR

Mbongeni Mbingo

e-mail: mbingo@observer.org.sz
Cell: 7602 9564 / 7904 8641

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

HOW TO FIND US

f SwaziObserver

t SwaziObserver

NEWS REPORTERS

Thembeke Dlamini - 7936 4936
Zwelethu Dlamini - 7946 0316
Fortune Ndlangamandla - 7946 0386
Email: sunday@observer.org.sz

SPORT EDITOR:

Qondile Ntshane - 7946 0316

SPORT REPORTERS

Sibusiso Masilela
Sibongiseni Zondi
Sibusiso Dlamini
Email: sport@observer.org.sz

SCENE EDITOR:

scene@observer.org.sz

SENIOR SUB-EDITOR

Futhi Dlamini - 7946 0345 / 7615 8517
Email: subeditor@observer.org.sz

NHLANGANO

Tobacco Company Complex, Cnr
King George, Masengule Street Opposite
SEDCO premises, Tel: 2207 5159
Starsky Mkhonta Cell: 7621 5081 / 7946 0346
starsky@realnet.co.sz

SITEKI

Siteki Market Office No. 15
Wonderboy Dlamini
CELL: 7643 6549 / 7968 3737

PIGG'S PEAK

Kai Kai Building opposite
Shoprite, Office No. 3, Tel: 2437 1083
Sizwe Dlamini Cell: 7670 0678 / 7946 0377
Email: observersipiki@realnet.co.sz

MANZINI

Makhaya Convenient
Centre, Office No. 25
Sifiso Nhlabatsi CELL: 7674 6378 /
7946 0374
Tel: 2505 2320, Fax: 25 05 7220

MARKETING MANAGER

Sipheshe Mkhonta 7605 2296 /
7946 0308 / 2404 8671 / 2404 8699
smm@observer.org.sz

CIRCULATION OFFICE

Bongani Simelane
7605 3707 / 7946 0338
circulation@observer.org.sz

ENTERPRISES

approved in writing by the responsible minister after having received SCOPE's approval.

CEOs that had any doubt regarding the applicability of the Circular are advised to consult the PEU.

The Circular allow Category A Enterprises to hike tariffs, prices, rates, fees and charges on their own if between zero and 5.25 per cent. Once greater than 5.25 per cent they cannot be applied without SCOPE's approval.

The same rule applied for investment, where the Circular say major if investment exceeds 5.25 per cent of total capital employed or 5.25 per cent of fixed assets.

The enterprises are also not to close, sell, liquidate or divert if the

unit contributes 5.25 per cent or more of revenue, or if the unit comprises 5.25 per cent or more of total assets, or if it is any part of the business even if it is below 5.25 per cent. For salaries and wages the Circular states that major if greater than zero per cent of total wage bill.

The CEOs are also advised to major if there are any changes in the current terms and conditions of services of staff.

The authenticity of the PEU Circular No.1/2018 was confirmed by PEU Director Busangani Mkhali. However, could only confirm knowledge of the document. She declined to get into details of the Circular and referred all questions to the ministry of finance.

0%

other services user fees are reviewed. He gave an example of electricity hike which he said was unaffordable in the country.

Sibandze noted that electricity was becoming a luxury more than anything else. He said the union would address the issue through their federation the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA).

"We're not happy with what is happening. We expect TUCOSWA to take the lead," Sibandze said.

TUCOSWA Acting Secretary General (SG) Mduduzi Gina viewed government's move as totally interfering with the collective bargaining process on state owned enterprises.

He said the interference by government is against Convention 98 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). He warned that should government not desist from this; TUCOSWA was going to take the matter to the ILO. Of note, the last time the federation

took government to ILO, the country lost its African Growth Opportunity Agreement (AGOA) status in January 2015 and only managed to regain it this year, January.

Authority

"We've already started processes where we are taking government back to ILO, I can say that with authority. This is not the first time we have shared our concerns over the PEU Act. Government is interfering," Gina explained.

He explained that the federation was not against government giving a mandate to its negotiating team as far as salary talks were concerned. However, he emphasised that it should not be implemented through the window of the legislature. He explained that this way, government would still control the salary hiking. Gina said it makes no sense for government to implement a Circular for parastatals which are productive and profitable.

Minister calls for Swazi TV board to resign

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

The appointment of new Swazi TV chief executive officer (CEO) has no doubt created hostility between the Board and Minister of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Dumisani Ndlangamandla, with the minister calling for the Swaziland Television Authority (STVA) Board to resign.

STVA board and the minister have been at loggerheads over the appointment of a new Swazi TV chief executive officer (CEO).

The situation started last year on June 1 when former Swazi TV CEO Bongani 'S'gokosiyancinca' Dlamini wrote a letter to the board of directors, telling them that he was not interested in having his contract renewed come December 1, 2017. The problem manifested itself when the board did not respond to Dlamini's letter written on June 1. In September, Dlamini had a change of heart and wrote another letter to the board, where he informed them that he would no longer retire on December 1.

At that time, the board had met and considered the June 1 letter and had started a recruitment process. According to unconfirmed reports Minister Ndlangamandla wants Dlamini's September letter to be considered.

However, according to the agreements of the contract between Dlamini and the Swazi TV, Dlamini was supposed to write a letter to the board, informing them if he was interested in renewing his contract or not; at least six months before his contract expired.

The situation intensified when members of Parliament (MPs) on March 12, in Parliament refused to approve a E10 million budget allocated to the station. However, when the budget was passed a fortnight ago MPs decided to suspend E2 million which was meant for STVA operations.

Initially, the MPs, especially Zombodze Emuva MP Titus Thwala instructed the minister to remove Dlamini from the TV station. This was despite that Dlamini's contract expired in December, 2017. The board has since wrapped up the process of recruiting a new CEO. However, there have been unconfirmed reports that Dlamini was likely to bounce back as CEO.



Minister of Information, Communication and Technology Dumisani Ndlangamandla.

In an interview with this publication on Thursday, Minister Ndlangamandla said he was not going to divulge what would happen to the board as yet, but promised that actions would be taken against them very soon.

"I was hoping that they would do the noble thing and resign. I think it would be proper for them to do that because it's clear they don't want to work with me," the Minister said.

Fire

He added that the board should not wait for him to fire them.

"The noble thing for them is to resign," Minister Ndlangamandla repeated, adding that the board should not be deceived by the fact that it was Parliament's final term.

"What happens if I am still the minister of ICT in the 11th Parliament?" he asked.

During the interview, the minister went on to accuse the board of sharing their decisions with the media even before they reported to him. He wondered if the board was not working with people who are against Tinkhundla system of governance. The minister accused the board of reporting matters to MPs instead of him.

When asked on how he was going to deal with the hostility between him and the board, the minister said he was going

to confront the matter head on. He said what the board was doing scared him a lot.

"I would be a coward if I let this issue slide just like that," the minister promised.

Outlining the process of appointing a new CEO, the minister said it was common practice that after a board has identified candidates for a post they would then make recommendations to him, which are subject to review by his office and all other stakeholders including his superiors.

He said as stated, the STVA board has shared the recommendations with the media instead, something that the minister said has the potential to create a state of anarchy because his office and all the relevant structures may reject their recommendations.

When contacted on the matter, STVA Board Chairperson Nozizwe Mulela said she could not comment on the subject as she was at the Ngwenya Border Gate and it was noisy.

Worth noting is that should the minister fire the board it would not be for the first time that an ICT minister has dismissed a board of directors.

In November, 2011, the then Minister Winnie Magagula fired the Swaziland Post and Telecommunications Corporation's (SPTC) board of directors in dramatic fashion.



Officials from SwaziBank carrying a computer and documents from the branch that was temporarily closed.

MPs unshaken by Gasa's woman MPs campaign

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

Members of Parliament (MPs) under Chief Gasa WaNgwane who publicly implored his subjects to elect female lawmakers for the coming national elections say they are not shaken by their leader's campaign.

The Swazi Observer on Monday quoted the leader asking his people to make him happy by electing one or two female MPs from his constituency. The Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) said there was nothing wrong with the Chief's statement.

However, this has been met with mixed feelings from members of the society with some giving the Chief a high five for his move which is in line with the UN's 'women in politics' map. Some members of the public are of the idea that the Chief

as the leader should not take sides when it comes to who must be elected to Parliament. In a telephonic interview, Matsanjeni South MP Sikiza Edward Mhlungu said he was not shaken by Chief Gasa's campaign. However, he mentioned that there are better strategies that should be used to push for female candidates. He said the strategies includes that the female aspirant MPs should mingle with the general public and also possess qualities that are wanted by the voters. He said it should not be made to look like the females are being given special preference. The MP said the campaign for aspirant females sounded like he was de-campaigning the current legislators.

"I am not happy with Chief Gasa's campaign it sounded like he was de-campaigning me," MP Mhlungu said.

However, he emphasised that he



Chief Gasa WaNgwane.

was not shaken by the call to vote for females by the community leader. He said voters know whom they want; he added that voters would determine the next MP of Matsanjeni South MP. On the other hand, David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala who is Qomintaba MP and also Minister of Sports Culture and Youth Affairs also confirmed he was not intimidated by the Chief's campaign. He

added it was within Chief Gasa's jurisdiction to speak about the vote for females campaign. Minister Ngcamphalala said the voters know whom to elect to Parliament so it was for that reason he was not shaken.

"The Constitution states that the general public chooses who will represent them. That's regardless of who was being talked and advocated for," the outgoing MP said.

He clarified that he was not bothered with Chief Gasa campaigning for the females to be voted into Parliament.

Somntongo MP Sandile Nxumalo, also echoed the other Parliamentarians, he said he was not even moved an inch by Chief Gasa's campaign. He added that only the voters will determine who goes to Parliament.

"We have not even reached primary elections so I am not bothered," the MP said.



Her Majesty the Indlovukazi singing after addressing the Christians yesterday.

Her Majesty the Indlovukazi welcomed by church leaders



BOW BEFORE THEIR MAJESTIES GOD WILL FORGIVE YOU, LET YOU IN HEAVEN - QUEEN MOTHER

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Her Majesty the Indlovukazi says people should honour and bow before Their Majesties, as such will earn them forgiveness from God and allow them to enter heaven.

The Queen Mother said this yesterday when addressing hundreds of Christian women from different denominations who had assembled at the Ludzidzini Royal Residence Arena as the Easter services entered day two where an offering of over E90 000 was collected.

"If you are a child of God, one day when you have left this world, Jesus will say I am forgiving you, because I have seen you travelling the journey to the extent of bowing to Their Majesties, enter in my Father's Kingdom," she said.

She added that it would be difficult for Christians

to please God if they failed to respect and bow before those in authority in their communities, saying the genesis of faith was respecting leaders.

Her Majesty the Indlovukazi said she was touched by the verse that was shared by the leader of the Women Inkhosikati La Msibi from old Nkhamba which says honour those in authority and pray for them for they are faced with difficulties. The Queen Mother contended with Msibi saying mothers also faced challenges in life which they could conquer by having places to pray where they can seek God's intervention.

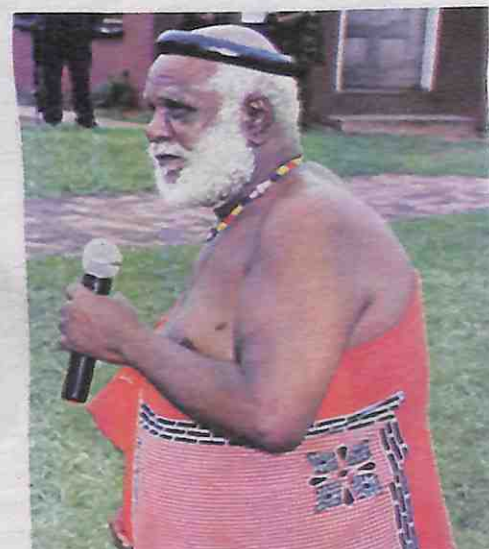
She agreed that there were challenges faced by those in authority and as such they needed prayer and support. "Let me make an example of bufaloes, when one is hurt the others support and assist it, so you must do the same," she added. Old Nkhamba Inkosikati sharing the word of God

before Her Majesty the Indlovukazi read from the book of **Romans 13:1-4** which talks about submission to governing authorities. She said it was paramount that the nation prayed for those in authority from their majesties to the community leaders such as chiefs and inner councils. She pointed out that there were disputes amongst higher authorities, chieftaincies and disrespect of the installed chiefs.

"People obtain land through *Kukhonta* but their land is then sold by others who then claim it belonged to their fore fathers and the money or the cattle is not given to the King," she said.

The verses that were read:

"For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a ter-



Acting Governor Indvuna Lusendvo Fakudze.

ror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer."



The thousands of Christian women from various churches bowing during the opening prayer. (Pics: Zwelethu Dlamini)



Live La lizembe song which was enjoyed by the women yesterday.

15 per cent electricity tariff hike effective today

BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

Today marks the day when the much frowned upon electricity tariff kicks in.

This was confirmed by the Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) Marketing and Corporate Communications Manager Sifiso Dhlamini last night in a telephonic interview. The mouthpiece said there were no new changes in the tariff hikes.

"Nothing has changed; the tariffs will go up by 15 per cent just like last year,"

Dhlamini said.

The hike was approved by the Swaziland energy regulatory authority (SERA) in February 2017. SERA approved a multi-year average electricity tariff increase of 15 per cent over the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 financial years. In a public notice that has been running in the media for some time it is written that all charges, including SEC access charge for 2018/2019 will increase by 6.4 per cent.

This means a unit rises from E1.48 to E1.75. This means with E50 a customer would now get roughly 28 units

whereas with E100 customers would get 57 units. The units can be calculated using this formula: amount divided by the price of the unit, for example: 50/1.75.

The 15 per cent multi-year tariff increase for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years, was announced by SERA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Vusumuzi Mkhumane during a press conference held at the regulator's boardroom on February 8, 2017.

Giving reasons for the hike, Mkhumane said the hike was based on written and oral submissions from various consumer groups and stakeholders as well as facts and evidence presented by SEC.

He said following the utility's application, the SERA board met on January 20, 2017 and later agreed on the 15 per cent electricity hike after a thorough adjudication on the state of affairs.

Mkhumane revealed that SEC in terms of Section 5 (1) (F) of the Energy Regulatory Act, as read with Section 32 of the Electricity Act, together with Section 5 and 6 of the Tariff Methodology Regulations, undertook the tariff review process after receiving SEC's request on November 1, 2016.

He said a number of factors influ-

enced the regulator to grant SEC the 15 per cent tariff increase.

Mkhumane said SERA's decision came after considering parameters such as the recent drought situation, which led to a shutdown of power generation stations, necessitating substantial imports of electricity from outside the country.

The electricity tariff hike should however not be mistaken with the proposed standard tax rate, 15 per cent VAT. Minister of Finance Martin Gobizandla Dlamini in his budget speech on March 1 also wanted to find a legal way of putting VAT into electricity charges.



His Majesty King Mswati III addressing church leaders at Ngabezweni Royal Residence yesterday. This was part of ongoing Easter Services which will be held at Somhlolo National Stadium today. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU

His Majesty King Mswati III yesterday said people were free to use muti as long as the Bible supports the use of that particular herb or tree.

The King said there is no harm in using traditional or western medicines as long as it is not against the Bible to use that particular medication. His Majesty said many people use either hospital or traditional medications to heal different ailments, something which he said was

not against the Bible.

His Majesty made the remarks when addressing church leaders at Ngabezweni Royal Residence which was part of the Easter Services. This is an annual event where pastors meet and discuss a number of issues using the Bible as reference.

His Majesty then joins them where he is briefed about the topics of the day and the King gives direction or clarity on the issues raised on the day.

The issue on the usage of muti in the church was raised by Bishop Bhozongo Simelane and supported by Reverend Ephraim 'Tube'n Tyre' Magagula.

His Majesty said there are exceptions of special herbs and medications that become harmful to others, which he said people must desist from using. The King said even in the Bible, God blessed the usage and eating of any fruits, vegetables and herbs found in the Garden of Eden, but specified that certain herbs and fruits were not to be eaten.

"This is proof that God blessed the usage of all the trees which He created. Even Adam and Eve were given specific instruction not to eat certain fruits in the garden. We are free to use these God created plants to heal and cleanse ourselves from

the many ailments, including *inyongo*. I know for a fact that even pastors use *tiwasho* to cleanse themselves from different ailments, something which I do not find wrong because you are using such for a good purpose which is more like going to the hospital and get certain medications," the King said.

On the issue of *lobola* which was raised by Reverend Jabulani Mkhonta, His Majesty said the culture of paying dowry for a wife dates back from the biblical times, stating that it is not a Swazi thing as some may perceive.

Practice

He said it is important for a man to pay *lobola* for his wife since this is also found in the Bible. His Majesty said that most of the cultural practices and norms were in harmony with the Bible. The King said *lobola* is not a practice that was created by the Swazi.

His Majesty quoted the story of Jacob found in **Genesis 29 verse 20** where it states that for the love of the lady, Jacob worked for seven years which was a way of paying *lobola* for Rachel whom he loved so dearly.

"Upon completion of the seven years, Jacob was given the elder sister to Rachel because culturally, the younger sister could not be married

before the older one. Jacob had to work another seven years for Rachel because she was the one he loved. During those times, it was cultural that when the man does not have *lobola*, he worked for seven years in his in-laws to be family so that he qualifies to marry the lady he loves," the King said.

His Majesty said this was their way of paying *lobola* in the event one did not have those cows or whatsoever the family required as *lobola* for their child.

The King said the Swazi way of life was biblical. On the issue of the preferred day of worship between Saturday and Sunday, His Majesty said the nation must strive to worship God every day of their lives. He said Christians must not leave a vacuum between themselves and God as such could allow the devil to take charge.

He said to say a specific day was the right one to worship God, it would mean on the other days one takes a break from serving God.

"The issue of going to church is just for revival purposes because at some point, you need to get together with other brethren and share the Word of God. In church is where you get to meet people who are gifted in interpreting the scripture so that it makes sense," the King said.



Emakhosikati LaNgangaza, LaMahlangu and Liphovela LaMashwama listening to the speech delivered by the King.



Pastor Senzo Hlatshwayo leading the gathering in prayer.

'Enemies of our peace and stability will perish.'

Meanwhile, Religion Affairs Overseer in the country Prince Simelane said all those who are enemies of the country's peace will perish.

The prince said the nation must not be afraid as God will fight all the enemies who want to cause chaos and confusion in the country. He thanked His Majesty for keeping the nation united with peace and

stability prevalent. He said he was aware that there were certain elements who want to cause disruption.

"The peace we have as a nation is our special gift from God and all those who are against this peace are against God Himself," the Prince said.

The Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini thanked the King for always ensuring that he brings together the nation. He

praised the King for allowing the nation to worship God at all times and ensuring that he joins Christians in worshipping God.

The service was attended by throngs of church leaders from around the country and beyond. Emakhosikati, members of the royal Family, chiefs and members of different royal councils also came through to be part of the service.



Emalangenis and chiefs also came through to join the King and the pastors during the service.



A section of the many church leaders who attended the event.



Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini.

Good news as VAT, fuel and other taxes not effected yet

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The nation can take a sigh of relief as the finance bill of 2018 proposing increase in taxes and tariffs including Value Added Tax (VAT), fuel tax and other user fees will not be effected pending finalisation of passing the bill.

These were proposed to be effective as of today by the ministry of finance.

Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini stressed in his national budget speech that the increase of VAT and other taxes was one of several measures that the government is introducing to increase the country's revenue.

"Mr. Speaker, revenue is expected to increase by two per cent in 2018/19 to E16.7 billion excluding grants.

The increase is attributed to policies expected to be implemented in 2018/19, which are aimed at reducing reliance on SACU revenue.

These include: collection of license fees from mobile companies, review of the VAT Act to allow taxation of electricity at the standard rate to encourage domestic electricity generation," he said.

The minister said this review would enable them to increase the VAT standard rate from 14 per cent to 15 per cent in order to be aligned with the new rate announced by the Republic of South Africa and to maintain the 'Sekulula' refund arrangement.

Dlamini added that other policy measures include the additional taxation of alcohol and

tobacco products which he said; is aimed at controlling the consumption of these products.

"There are also plans to increase the fuel tax rate by 20 cents from the current E3.00 effective April 1.

"Several user fees have not been increased for a long period, whilst the cost of providing the services has continued to increase. In this sense, we are planning to review these fees to raise funding for adequate provision of the various services," he added.

He said the ministry of finance has been engaging different ministries during 2017/18 financial year, encouraging them to investigate possibilities of revision.

This was met with negative reactions from the private sector and trade unions as they said it carries the risk of unintended consequences, especially on cost of living, business sustainability and employment. Similarly, parliamentarians also shared the same sentiments.

Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) has organised a mass petition delivery for April 13 to different ministries as they are complaining about these proposed changes among other issues. TUCOSWA Secretary General Mduduzi Gina has warned government against passing the bills saying such would breed a fully fledged mass protest from their affiliates.

These imposed hikes in tariffs are to be effected through the Finance Bill, 2018 which is still going through the legislative process and is currently with the ministry of finance portfolio committee.

“

There are also plans to increase the fuel tax rate by 20 cents from the current E3.00 effective April 1. Several user fees have not been increased for a long period, whilst the cost of providing the services has continued to increase

BENNETT DEFENDS ACC,

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Former Senator, Businessman Walter Bennett says the arguments advanced by the former minister of justice and constitutional affairs Senator Sibusiso Shongwe in his corruption case are unfounded since he condoned the matters he is now raising in court during his tenure.

The former minister has challenged the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commissioner (ACC) and the appointment of the former ACC Commissioner Advocate Thando Mngwengwe saying these were unconstitutional.

On Wednesday, during the adoption of the committee reports, Shongwe expressed his happiness at the exit of Mngwengwe accusing him of taking the country on a ride on many occasions without divulging instances or explaining how. Notably, Shongwe is one of the politicians that had been slapped

...says Senator Shongwe should not use law selfishly



Businessman Walter Bennett and former ACC Commissioner Thandwa Mngwengwe.



with corruption charges during Mngwengwe's tenure in office.

Shongwe's joy is said to have emanated from the fact that the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) is looking for a local ACC commissioner which means the former does not qualify. This is the same

submission that Shongwe made when challenging his arrest in court. His submission was followed by an advert of the post by the JSC which also stated that the candidate should be a Swazi citizen.

Bennett on the other hand, has come

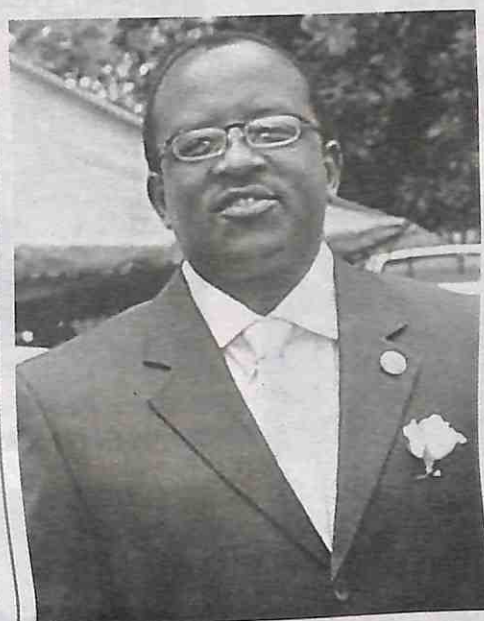
The Mngwengwe files

Advocate Thando Mngwengwe can be credited for having worked on one of the biggest cases of grand corruption that ironically involved a minister that oversees his portfolio in former Minister Senator Sibusiso Shongwe.

The former minister is implicated in the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) and Impuzi case where over E1m is said to have been deposited into his account.

It is the arrest of the then minister that triggered the dismissal of the former Chief Justice Michael Ramodibedi of Lesotho.

It is the arrest of the then minister that triggered the dismissal of the former Chief Justice Michael Ramodibedi of Lesotho



Marwick Khumalo

On the contrary, in 2013 matters brought by the ACC involving the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Chairperson Marwick Khumalo and another involving ACC Deputy Commissioner Lilian Zwane in August 2015, the CJ allegedly signed search warrants of arrest, search and seizure of property.

Zwane was subsequently apprehended by the ACC using the warrant which stated that she committed crimes of contravening Sections 16, 24 and 27

Gideon Dlamini and others

In October 2016, the Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala stopped a move by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to arrest dismissed minister Gideon Dlamini and two business people, Fred and Sindile Ngeri who are Directors of Ngeri Group Holdings (NGH), a company that entered into an agreement with SEDCO through a public private partnership arrangement.

The axed minister was said to have played a role in sealing the deal, which sought and received about E1.3 million donations from local businesses and the Embassy of Qatar.

The donations were reportedly aimed at marketing small businesses and their products online, which was not true, according to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The ACC then filed an application to be granted a warrant to search the trio's premises or officers, seize property and arrest them on charges

of corruption.

However, the chief justice dismissed the application and said the Anti-Corruption Commission failed to establish a prima facie case against the respondents (to produce enough evidence) to prove there had been acts of corruption surrounding the establishment of the partnership and its intentions.

The chief justice then issued a stern warning that the urge to uproot corruption in the country should not be done at the expense of fundamental human rights and freedoms of individuals guaranteed by the constitution.

The commission claimed the former minister abused his power and public office to set up the business deal with his long-time friends in the Ngeris. The chief justice stated in an open court, that certain Sections 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act are unconstitutional.

Articles

In mid-February, 2017 a local newspaper published contents of what was termed a classified letter directed to the CJ by four 'top investigators' from the ACC alleging that that some of the high-profile suspects were arrested without evidence.

The article also mentioned several allegations about the commission and the commissioner which included abuse of court processes, unfair promotions, and abuse of task team funds.

Following that article, the ACC ran a full-page advert disputing those allegations saying they were unjust and without substance. The ACC said the letter was part of an attempt to discredit and undermine their work by people who wanted to seize control of the institution and were also trying to cover their corrupt practices.

In March 2017, another weekly publication reported that the judiciary wanted to remove Mngwengwe and to destabilise the ACC and further discredit its commissioner

before the King.

The article reported that there were high profile people within the JSC who wanted Mngwengwe out claiming he posed a threat to those who engaged in corrupt practices as he was not afraid to arrest anyone regardless of his status in the country.

These were said to have colluded with the aggrieved ACC investigators who had earlier signed a letter suggesting that they were arresting people without evidence.

Letter

This letter was said to be undermining the CJ's integrity in that he was the one who had been issuing arrest warrants after satisfying himself that the investigators had provided enough evidence against the suspects.

In February 2018, the Observer on Saturday reported that government was working around the clock to deal with the expired contract of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Commissioner Advocate Thanda Mngwengwe.

MNGWENGWE



Senator Sibusiso Shongwe.

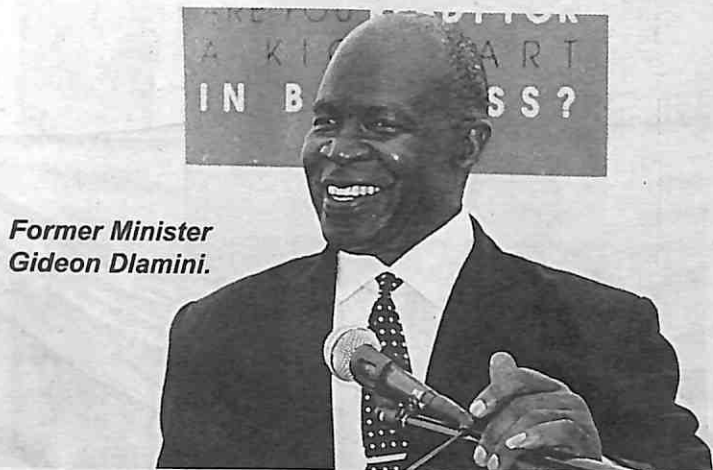
out guns blazing against Shongwe saying if there was something wrong with the ACC it should be corrected independently not because there is a case against the former minister.

"There needs to be equality before the law. The law should be universal and impartial so the ACC can-

not be unconstitutional or Mngwengwe's appointment cannot be illegal because there is his (Shongwe) case in court while other Swazis were being arrested and charged in court when he knew the situation. We must not use the law selfishly," he said.

Bennett said the anti-corruption commissioner did not become a foreigner over night, but he was one even at the time Shongwe was the minister of justice and as such if he had issues about him or the commission he should have addressed it at the time.

"Let not government correct a wrong because someone who oversaw the ministry possesses inside information. Why isn't that inside information not used for the benefit of the whole of Swaziland rather than the individual?" he asked rhetorically.



Former Minister Gideon Dlamini.

tional and contravene the principles of natural justice' He said the sections of the act that empower the anti-corruption commission (ACC) to enter and search people's premises in order to seize property and consequently arrest them without having notified the person first, flies against the provisions of the constitution which protects the dignity of a person and bars degrad-

ing treatment of a person.

The director of public prosecutions DPP appealed the judgement and to date the matter is pending before the Supreme Court.

Pending this judgement there have been no published reports of arrests by the Commission in the media to date presumable because of the CJ's judgement challenging some of the clauses of the Act.

Home affairs' E1.5m in unsupported claims amid passports crisis

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

At the height of public outcry over being grounded and business people failing to cross the borders to purchase stock outside the country, the ministry of home affairs staff made a jackpot of over E1.5m owing to overtime and the principal secretary allegedly flouting procedure on overtime claims.

On December 29, 2016, Swaziland travel documents were reported stuck at OR Tambo International Airport.

This was revealed by the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs Anthony Masilela who was stationed in Johannesburg for more than a week in a bid to safely secure the travel documents.

The travelling documents were from a private printing company in London. The shortage of passports was again reported in July 2017, the acting Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs Thandi Khumalo was quoted by the Swazi Observer saying that government had not really run out of travel documents.

She said they had stopped issuing them out after a realisation that the 30 page documents were too little; hence government was in the process of enlarging the document by adding the pages. Explaining to the Senate why the country had run out of such important documents, Home Affairs Minister Princess Tsandzile blamed government's procurement process saying it was tedious.

As a result of this, the ministry paid E25 004.74 to officers who acted in different posts without evidence of approval from the civil service commission. A senior planning officer was given E8 517.32 while their personal secretary got E8 517.32.

Some drivers and typist walked home with close to E50 000. An assistant accountant got E45 000 whereas one account officer was given E115 000. An immigration officer got E130 000. Even cleaners and laborers were given overtime money.

This is according to the auditor general's report for the year ended March 31, 2017.

The Principal Secretary Steven Masilela is alleged to have violated a government



Minister of Home Affairs Princess Tsandzile and Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs Anthony Masilela.

circular issued in 2010 stating that all over-time will be approved by Cabinet. Furthermore, the PS is said to have failed to adhere to General Orders A250 (2), A251 and Establishment Circular No. 8 of 2010 which regulate payments of overtime and specifies duties which require special consideration.

Claims

"I observed that the ministry paid over-time claims amounting to E1 579 564.81 with an open-ended authority, during the financial years 2015/2016 and 2016/2017.

"The ministry's request to officers to work overtime did not specify the authorised dates of the overtime to be worked by the officers," reads part of the report.

The AG adds that authorities supporting these payments were not produced at the time of the inspection. The Financial Management and Accounting Procedures Manual No. 12.1, states that prior authority must be obtained before embarking on any overtime work.

"I am concerned that due to unavailability of the authority, the ministry might process and pay invalid overtime allowances for services not rendered," notes the AG.

The AG also reported that during the financial years 2015/2016 and 2016/2017, the ministry paid acting allowances amounting to E25 004.74 to officers who acted for different posts. However, there was no evidence that the acting appointments were report-

ed to the Civil Service Commission, with justifications.

"Furthermore, I am not aware of the positions for which the officers were acting. Additionally, there was no authority granted by the civil service commission for the acting appointments. These documents together with officer's casualties are used to facilitate payments of acting allowances," reads part of the report.

Payments

However, the attachments supporting the payments could not be availed for inspection, thus violating General Order A132 (1) which states that if the Head of Department considers that an office should be filled in an acting capacity, he should report the matter to the civil service commission on CSB Form A with his recommendations, justifying the need for the acting.

"In the absence of the supporting documents, the ministry also violated General Order A132 (3) which stipulates that no officer should be deemed to have acted in an office without the appropriate instrument having been issued by the civil service commission," reads the report.

The ministry has paid out acting allowances without following the relevant procedures in accordance with the relevant laws, rules and regulations. It is worth noting that I was unable to assess the veracity of the allowances and whether correct amounts were paid.

April 20 unpaid holiday for some sectors

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Even though the Minister for Home Affairs has appointed Friday, April 20 as a public holiday in place of the annual date of the National Flag day Wednesday April 25 the appointed day we will be treated as a normal working day by some sectors.

This change had been accounted by the fact that the country will be having double celebrations being that of 50 years of independence and that of HIS majesty King Mswati III's birthday which will be on the 19th of April.

Sectors that do not recognise the 25th April 2018 as a public holiday in terms of their respective Wages Regulations Orders will treat April 20 as a normal working day.

Normally public holidays are paid at a higher rate than normal working days

APR 2018						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

but this will not be the case to some workers who will be working on this day in some sectors.

Some of the sectors that fall under this

category the Manufacturing and Processing, Textile and Apparel, the Agriculture and Plantations and others. Some of these sectors do not recognise April 25 as a "paid public holiday" in terms of their Wages Regulations Orders, they work those days as normal working days including holidays like the Ascension Day and the 22nd July.

A unionist said there was nothing wrong with workers from the sectors that do not recognise this holiday paying their workers at normal rate.

"So far nothing could be regarded as unusual or wrong until those holidays are included and counted among the paid holidays in their respective industries.

"This can be changed and improved during the negotiations at various Sector Wages Councils," said the unionist.

OBSERVER ON SATURDAY

February 10, 2018

ZIMBABWEAN PROPHET MAGAYA JETS IN FOR PRAYER



CORRUPTION GLANCE...

MNGWENGWE OUT OF CONTRACT



In March 2018, members of Parliament sought clarity on ACC cars that were reported missing.

Two days later, minister of justice and constitutional affairs reported

that these cars had been found. Parliamentarians had agreed that there be a probe into the ACC for corruption within the commission.

JC GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE



Pastor Xola Jones Nzo, the Senior Pastor of Change Bible Church, ministering the Word of God at Jesus Calls Worship Centre in Matsapha on Friday night. This was during the Good Friday service hosted by the church which started on Wednesday. Men of God from different countries were invited to minister to the congregation. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



The hosts Apostle Robert Kasaro and his wife Princess Lindiwe joined by the special guests hosted by the church.



1. Congregants listening to the sermon. 2. Pastor Xola Jones Nzo ministering to the gathering.



A section of the many brethren who attended the service.



Members of the royal family also joined the throngs of believers who attended the service.



Another section of Christians listening to the sermon delivered by Pastor Nzo.



(R) Elders of the church and guests following proceedings of the service.



Brethren came from near and far to be part of the gathering of believers.

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GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT LOBAMBA NATIONAL CHURCH



Her Majesty the Indlovukazi ministering to the congregation during the Good Friday service at Lobamba National Church on Friday. The service was attended by throngs of Christians from different denominations. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Her Majesty joined by DPM Paul Dlamini and Prince Masitsela during the singing of the National Anthem.



Emakhosikati following proceedings of the service where Her Majesty also delivered a sermon.



Preachers of the day listening to one of the sermons.



Members of the royal family, Cabinet ministers and special guests following proceedings during the service.



Ministers Chistopher Gamedze, David Ngcamphalala, Prince Sobandla, Macaleni Dlamini and Umngani Lusendvo Fakudze in song and dance as they see off Her Majesty off.

We pray for responsible use of the road this Easter



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BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

Government, through His Majesty's Correctional Services, lost E4 119 629 72 on the 2016/2017 financial year.

This is according to the auditor general's report for the year ended 31 March 2017. The money was lost through operating deficit/loss, dairy production (death of dairy cows) and broilers production (unaccounted for broilers).

The principal secretary in the ministry of justice responded by stating that it was her strong belief that the problem of broiler mortality was entirely eliminated. The objective of establishing the Prison Poultry Extension trading programme was to minimise dairy and meat costs incurred by government towards feeding inmates through internal production by the Correctional Services.

However, the audit revealed that the Prison Poultry Extension programme had instead become a financial drain to government, since it was not profitable and was financed from the general bank account, and does not operate its own trading bank account.

The financial records indicated that His Majesty's Correctional Services purchased a total of 21 000 chicks for rearing, however, there was no record of 6 853 broilers or chicks which are alleged to have died during the rearing or growing period.

The value of the dead broilers or chicks at market price of E50 per broiler totalled E342 650 000.

"I expressed my concerns to the principal secretary about the non-recording of the deaths as this may indicate a motive to override internal controls," the auditor general said in the report.

On operating deficit, total expenditure incurred from public funds amounted to E5 206 136 72 whilst the revenue collections from oper-

GOVT LOSES E4 MILLION ON CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OPERATIONS



Mawelawela Correctional Services entrance.

ations amounted to E1 548 857 00, which has resulted in the loss of E3 657 279 72.

The auditor general said he was concerned about the sustainability of the programme because the trend observed indicates that the Prison Poultry Extension trading activities were failing to generate enough revenue to cover the expenditure incurred and yield an economic benefit for government. Furthermore, the objective of reducing costs of feeding inmates is not being met, instead the costs have increased.

In her response, the principal secretary agreed that indeed the loss was made, but stated that this was a result

of capital investments made during the year under audit whose returns could not be immediately realised. She further stated that she had anticipated that the trading account would break even in the financial year 2018/2019. The controlling officer also blamed the losses on government procurement procedures which resulted in suppliers charging inflated prices.

Evidence

However, the auditor general said he was not satisfied by the controlling officer's response because she did not provide any evidence of profit forecasts in support of her assertion that the account would break

even in the financial year 2018/2019. Moreover, she did not explain how she intended to address the issue of supplier inflated prices. Therefore, the auditor general was not convinced that the Prison Poultry Extension Trading programme remains viable.

On the death of dairy cows, the auditor general noted that seven dairy cows valued at E17 100 00 each with the total value of E119 700 00 died in the financial period ended March, 31, 2017. The dairy cows were part of 21 cows purchased by the Department from Zaaiburg Dairy Farm in South Africa.

"Upon enquiry, I was informed by the livestock manager that all the

seven dairy cows died from a lung disease while they were being kept at the Correctional Services Bhalekane Farm," the auditor general said.

He went on to mention that he was concerned about the loss of government funds resulting from the death of the cows. He observed that the 21 cows purchased were initially kept in quarantine for three months and four calves were born during that period. He added that none of the cows died in quarantine. He said this raised more concerns whether the deaths of the livestock was due to poor management at the Bhalekane Farm.

When the auditor general asked the controlling officer, he was told that the cows arrived at the peak of the winter season which followed a severe drought. She explained that the cows died of pneumonia whose effects are exacerbated by cold and drought conditions which could have been compounded during the transit of the cows in a lorry over a long distance, departing in the a cold morning and arriving in cold evenings.

The auditor general said he was still worried that the controlling officer seemingly takes the loss to government very lightly and appears to suggest that nothing could have been done to avoid the deaths. The controlling officer had a responsibility to take preventive measures knowing that the cows would arrive in winter and after the drought season. "Necessary precautions could have been taken to avoid purchasing the cows during this period and moreover, moving them under such conditions," the auditor general said.

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

PROGRESSIVES DISAGREE WITH DR DLAMINI'S RESEARCH

Barely a week after University of Swaziland (UNISWA) History lecturer Dr Hlengiwe Dlamini announced her research paper suggesting that Tinkhundla is the best political system, progressives have disputed her findings.

Ngwane National Liberation Congress (NLC) and People's United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO) said despite that they have not read her article to ascertain her justification, they are not convinced of her conclusion considering that the Commonwealth report and those of other scholars always arrived to a contrary conclusion.

They said her opinion, that of Dr Cleopas Sibanda, and the outcome of their court case would not deter their call for multi-party democracy.

Dr Sibanda is the author of the book titled 'There is No Democracy at all in Government by Political Party Representatives' where he says political parties are by nature not demo-



Dr Hlengiwe Dlamini.

cratic, tend to mislead people, characterised by conflicts chicanery, fraud and corruption.

Dr Dlamini last week revealed that she had contributed in the New African Thinkers Agenda 2063 book where she described the Monarchical Democracy as An African System of

Good Governance.

Dlamini compiled a 22-page paper where she justifies the assertion that the Tinkhundla system of governance is the best in Africa.

Responding on her understanding of multi-party in Africa, the lecturer said each country tailors democ-

racy according to its own needs.

"Multi-partyism in Britain is different from the one in France, America, Canada, Australia, South Africa, etc. There is no uniform political system in the Western world as each country practices its own brand of democracy.

"The Kingdom of eSwatini felt the need to design a political system that corresponds to its development needs. The Swazi nation opted for electoral competition within the Swazi family and not between political parties. Africans have to make an effort to be creative without apologising to anybody," she said.

Fundamental

On the contrary, both NLC and PUDEMO are of the view that the current constitution interferes the fundamental right of association and representation in the decision-making process and as such it cannot be regarded as the best.

"It would be unfair to critic her, because I didn't see the paper that

Dlamini has produced, but there is one thing she cannot run away from; is that any institution of governance is forced to adhere to the first principle. This is the right of a person in any sphere, you cannot have a constitution without that right. The problem with our constitution is that it interferes with that right. You don't need to go to school to learn that," said NLC Secretary General Thami Hlatshwayo.

Hlatshwayo said, on one hand, the constitution gives the right to assembly and to associate while on the other, when it comes to politics people are denied that right as they are forced to take a certain policy for a certain political party, which he deemed as interference. He added that it was difficult for him to believe Dlamini's view when there are reports that the constitution does not adhere to a majority of the international protocols. These, he said, included those of SADC, African Union, Commonwealth and the United

BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

SVNET'S EXTRA E1.8 MILLION ON SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT

SVNet will get an extra E1.8 million, in addition to an initial E300 million, from the ministry of labour and social security through the scholarship loans' repayment project.

Last year, the company was given a mandate by the ministry to collect money owed by Swazis in respect of scholarships granted by government. Three companies - SV Mdladla, DataNet and TransUnion - were to work collectively on this project. According to the deal, SVNet was expected to collect E3 billion and it was agreed that the consortium would receive 10 per cent of the total collections, which was calculated at E300 million.

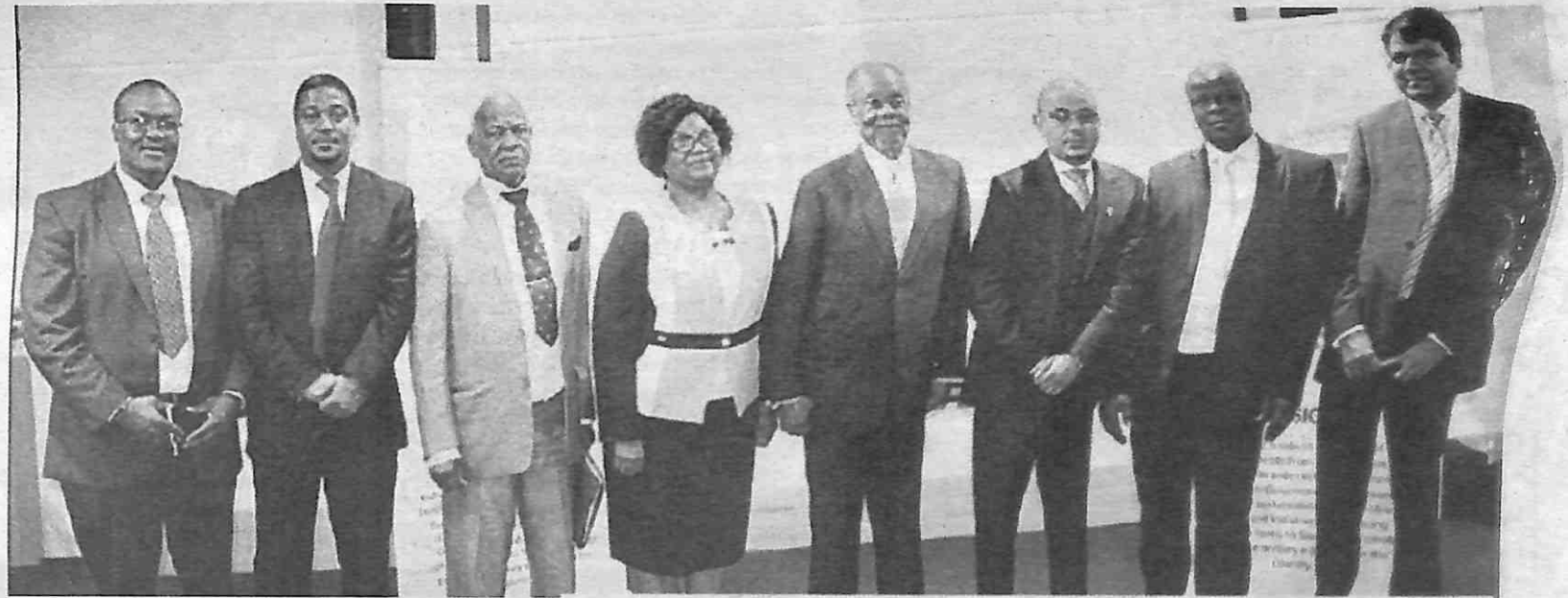
This publication has it in authority that the lucrative deal includes an additional E1.8 million, a portion of which would reportedly be used by government to purchase a system that stores the data on repayment of the scholarship loans. The system known as scholarship management information technology, would also enable students to apply for the government scholarships online. Government would reportedly only claim ownership of the system after having paid a certain amount.

According to Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula, government reached an agreement with SVNet in 2012. She said government asked SVNet to develop the system.

"Before it was agreed on the scholarship loans' repayment project, in 2012 SVNet was awarded a contract to develop a system that would enable students to apply for scholarships online.

The system does many things," Minister Magagula said.

She said SVNet was now done with developing the system and has handed it over to government. Magagula said the money would go towards developing the system so it has nothing to do with the scholarship loans' repayment project deal. She said gov-



Minister of Labour And Social Security Winnie Magagula with stakeholders.

ernment was to pay for the system after the ministry of information, communication and technology has approved it. She explained that this was because the system was to be run by government not SVNet. The minister added that the money that would be given to SVNet was the contract price agreed on 2012 before she was even appointed as the minister. Magagula said the money was the only extra cash that the consortium was going to get.

Payment

"All these years, government did not pay the company for developing the system," Minister Magagula said.

She said the delay in payment was in line with the terms and conditions of the contract agreement which said the consortium would be paid after

government had approved the system and it was fully operational.

On the agreement of scholarship loans' repayment project, she said it was settled that the consortium was going to get the 10 per cent on every collection made.

Worth noting is that in total, the consortium is expected to receive a substantial amount of E301.8 million from government. The onus now lies with parliamentarians on whether or not to approve the extra E1.8 million due to the consortium.

Budget

"The other portion of the E1.8 million will be used to pay the learned friends who are behind the collection of the monies," a source claimed.

Coincidentally, in the supplemen-

tary budget appropriation, the ministry of finance has allocated E1.8 million to the ministry of labour and social security for recurrent expenditure. Another source close to the matter claimed that this was the money that would be used to pay the consortium.

In the national budget, the ministry was allocated E400 644 092 for recurrent expenditure and E5 million for capital expenditure.

Loans

On Friday, a fortnight ago, Members of Parliament, particularly Nkwene MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini, said it was crucial that a select committee be established to probe how SVNet was awarded the scholarship loans collection project. The MP also mentioned that the consortium was also set to get the

additional E1.8 million.

When called to make a comment on the issue, the consortium's Project Coordinator Gugu Mahlalela said their contract with government does not allow them to discuss the terms of the contract.

"Having gone through your questionnaire, I realise that they touch mostly on the terms of contract we have with the Government of Swaziland, and unfortunately, our contract does not allow us to discuss the terms of our contract," Mahlalela explained.

She, therefore, advised the publication to forward the questions to the Principal Secretary (PS) Thulani Mkhalephi in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security as he was best placed to address the issues.

ON TINKHUNDLA

Nation since they argue that the elections lack credibility as well as other scholars because it is exclusive of political parties.

"There are other scholars who can bring her to order in terms of their own research. If you read the thesis of Justice Majahenkaba, on multi-party democracy, you will find different views, and that Dr of Joshua Mzizi, for instance, they are not the only ones. It also depends on the balance of forces which is the public. Let her engage us so she can defend herself," he added.

Similarly, PUDEMO member Mpandlana Shongwe said it was impractical to compare a one-party system with the multi-party system and wondered which other systems of governance she compared the local system with.

"Here we are talking about the human rights conventions, SADC protocol and African Charter. How can you compare one party system with a multi-party? I have not read the book, but I just wonder how she

compared the two," he said.

Shongwe said it was incorrect that Tinkhundla is the best system, saying if that was the case, the past three Commonwealth reports on the elections would not have not complained about them.

"The world is evaluating governments based on service delivery. Look at the poverty levels of the country; delivery can only come through competition which is only possible through plural systems where there is multi-party in place," Shongwe added.

He wondered why did the Vusela exercises come out with findings that people were content with the current system of governance if Dlamini's assertions were to be considered as true.

He said the pending case in court where the political parties are demanding to participate in the election will not deter their call for multi-party system. Shongwe said dialogue was paramount for progress in the matter.

NAPSAWU takes up govt over civil servants car loan subsidy

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

National Public Service and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU) says government has gone behind their back in stopping car loan schemes in some of the government ministries or departments.

NAPSAWU President Aubrey Sibiyi says the union has received several complaints from their members who are unable to access car loans as the banks require them to pay 10 per cent deposit for the vehicles that they want to purchase. Sibiyi said the union and government had an agreement when the car loan was being outsourced to banks that their members (civil servants) were to be subsidised by government when they took car loans.

He said initially, the car loan was offered by government to the civil servants and when the outsourcing was made, a circular to the effect that they will be subsidised was issued. This meant that the civil servants would not need to pay the deposits to the banks whenever they needed car loans and they would receive a seven per

cent discount on the value of the vehicle they wanted to purchase.

This is said to have been the case all along until recently where some of the civil servants were told that government cancelled the scheme, saying there is no money. As a result, some departments and ministries are not eligible, which means the workers are unable to access the car loans without paying the 10 per cent upfront and they are no longer getting the seven per cent discount they used to get.

"Some of the affected civil servants have car loans at Nedbank and they have not been subsidised. Some are under the Fire and Emergency Service Department while others are at the ministry of works," he said.

Sibiyi said this was wrong as the arrangement was cancelled without

any communication with the union yet they had been engaged in its initial stage and was agreed upon both parties. A Nedbank officer within the car loan department also supported the claim by the union, saying they had cases of departments which are not within the scheme where the civil

servants need to pay the deposit of 10 per cent of the car loans that they were seeking from the bank.

Sibiyi said the principal secretary in the ministry of public service said he was not aware of the matter. He said the PS stated that this would drive government into debts as this may mean that the civil servants had

to be refunded the deposit and the subsidy that is due to them. He added that the ministry said they would be investigating the matter to ascertain whether the cancellation of the scheme was within the ministry or with the treasury department.

"Some of the affected civil servants have car loans at Nedbank and they have not been subsidised. Some are under the Fire and Emergency Service Department while others are at the ministry of works"



DJ Fantasy feeling the music.



Mistosoul giving revellers a taste of his music.

Tipcee no show

Worth noting was that 'Is'cathulo' hit maker Tipcee was not present, though she had promised to come along.

According to the organiser of

the show Shadow, Tipcee had other bookings in South Africa; hence she could not make it.

However, DJ Tira gave them something to remember, an epic show.



DJ Crooks on the turntables.

Show almost spoiled by rain

During DJ Njebza's set, the rain started pouring and revellers rushed to seek shelter at the chill in bar, under

Deva Vu.

DJ Njebza played over 30 minutes without revellers on the dance floor due to the heavy rainfall.



DJ Njebza on the decks during his set.

TIRA GETS THEM DANCING

STORIES BY LUSITO TSELA

DJ Tira left revellers chanting 'Malum'uyalumana' as they danced up a storm at Ronde Vu, Esibayeni Lodge, during the Good Friday show with DJ Tira.

The DJ took to the decks at 2 am, and everyone was already screaming, calling for the DJ to mesmerise them with the latest gqom hit tracks.

The rain poured hard, and revellers danced harder under the rain, with some jumping the rails which prevented them from getting closer to the DJ. Some revellers wanted to touch him, while others gave him money, which he took and placed next to the decks.

One of the revellers gave him a E10 note while the second one gave the spinner E20 and the third one gave him a watch, in appreciation of his set.

The DJ brought with him his band and two dancers as per his promise prior to the show.

The dancers were on point with their dance moves, which saw revellers screaming and asking for more.



A fan dancing in front of DJ Tira during his show at the Ronde Vu, Esibayeni Lodge on Friday night. (Pics: Lusito Tsela)

The Afrotainment boss would leave the decks at intervals to dance with his dancers who danced with energy from the time they started till the end of his set.

Before then, DJ Njebza, Fantasy, Mistosoul, ID and Crooks had warmed up the stage for the DJ.

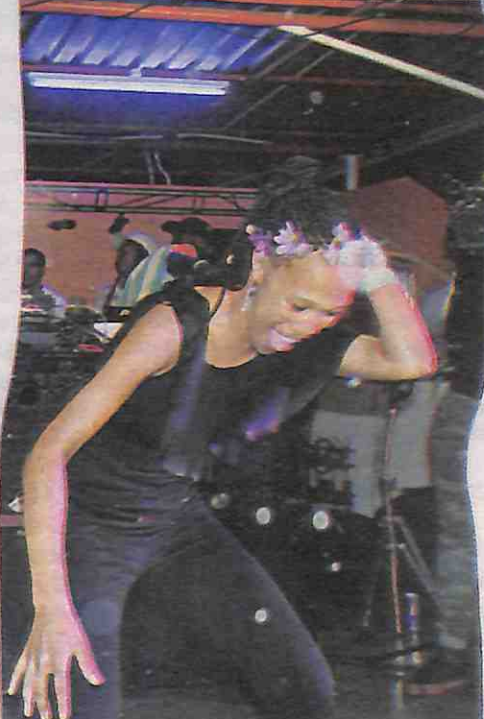
All the local DJs also brought their A

game as they got revellers dancing with their different sets. Tira's set had no particular trend as he would slot in lines from his olden songs, mixed with new ones, much to the jubilation of the revellers.

In an interview before the show, DJ Tira said, "I am known for giving my best whenever I perform, and today that



DJ Tira dancing with one of his dancers during his show. RIGHT - One of DJ Tira's fan Nozipho danced up a storm as it was her birthday.



DJ Tira's dancers doing the vosho dance.

UNDER THE RAIN



Tema, Beketele, Smiso and Musa dancing under the rain.

is what I will do.

'Kusazoba mnandi', am here to get my Swazi people dancing."

The DJ added; "I love Swaziland and it doesn't matter how many times I come to Swaziland, it will always be my second home; hence I always come whenever I am invited."

On the other hand, the organiser of the show, Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane was very impressed with the way rev-

ellers handled themselves.

"Over 1 000 revellers attended the show; hence there was no fighting or squabbles, it was a perfect show regardless of the rain."

He added; "When it started to rain, I was disappointed that things might not go the way we anticipated, but people continued dancing and having fun under the rain, and I have not seen something like that for a long time."



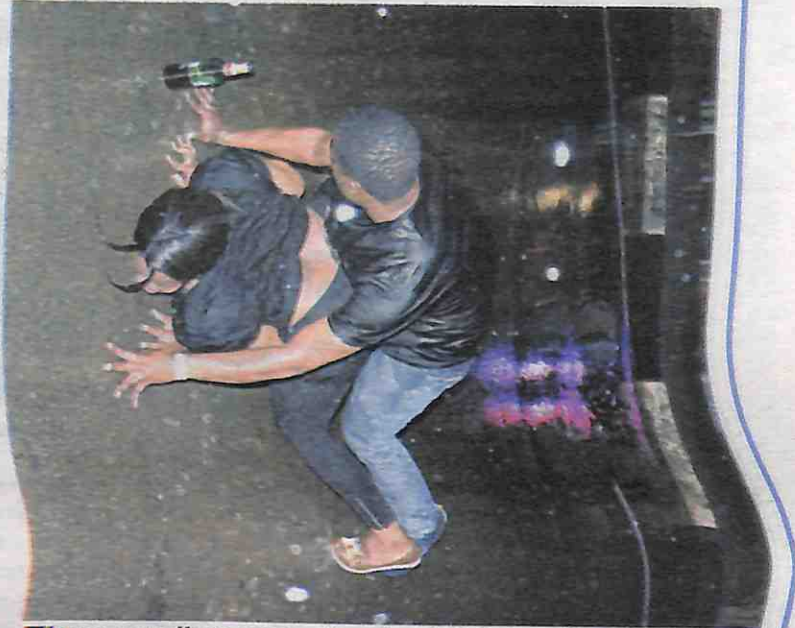
Tenkhosi Dlamini gestures as she follows the renditions.



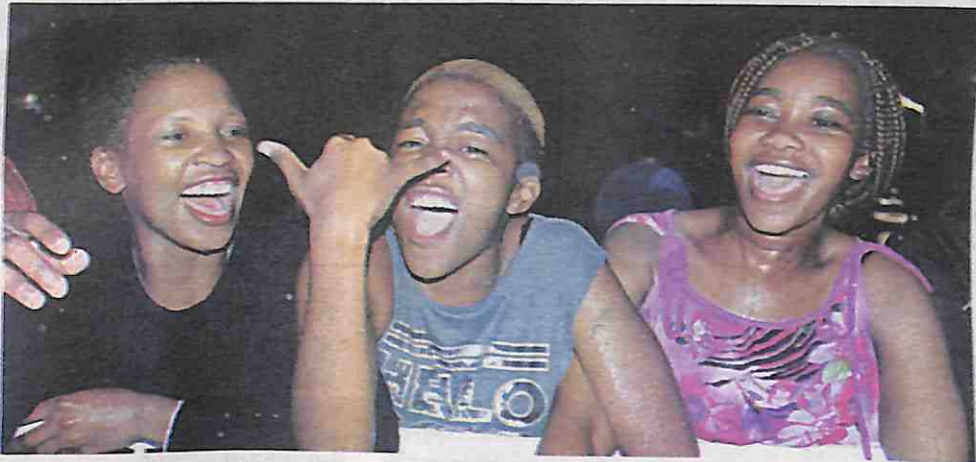
A section of the crowd reacting to DJ Tira's song 'Malume'.



A section of the crowd having a time of their lives.



These revellers were dancing to Distruction Boyz 'Omune phezu komune' track.



Nomie, Lwazie and Tenny enjoying themselves.



Beketele, Smiso, Musa, Angel and Zodwa having fun during DJ Tira's show.

NACAs PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

**VOTE FOR YOUR CHOICE OF AN ARTS AND CULTURE ARTIST
TO CELEBRATE THE 50/50 NACAs.**

THE NOMINEES ARE;

**SHONGWE AND KHUPHUKA SAVED GROUP, SANDS, NOTHANDO HLOPHE,
LINDA DLAMINI AND NOMALUNGELO DLADLA**

Name of artist.....Name of voter.....Cell Number.....

(Send in as many entries as you can to stand a chance to win a prize)

Fill in the form and send it to Swazi Observer offices as well as Swazi Mobile outlets

**VOTING
CLOSES
APRIL 28,
3PM.**

Sponsored by the Swazi Observer

**Swazi
OBSERVER**





The full view of the collapsing house that the family is using.

NO PLACE TO BE CALLED HOME

STORIES BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

Two sisters live in a dilapidated house with their brother and seven children, which is far from being conducive for human occupation.

But for the two, and their children, this is the place they call home. In an interview with this newspaper, Thandeka revealed that they had nowhere else to live because they were abandoned by their family. Sadly for them, and the children, this was after a rumour was spread that Thandeka gave her younger sister (*Nqobile) to her husband.

The shaky house is situated at the developing Ngwenya Village, less than 1km away from the police camp.

According to Thandeka, the rumour that they share her husband, often against their will was spread by a neighbour she referred to as her cousin when her younger sister fell pregnant in 2016.

"My family rejected us after this and we were told never to set our foot at our parental home ever again," Thandeka said this week.



The picture that was posted on Facebook.

Thandeka has four children while Ncobile has one child; the other two children belong to their relatives. They all sleep under the collapsing one room. At times, Ncobile spends her nights in a house where she is a helper.

When asked on reasons why they opted to stay with their children under the collapsing house, Thandeka said they have nowhere to take the children. She added that amongst in her in-laws there was no-one in good health who could take good care of the children especially with her mother being a sickly person. What is of concern to the

neighbours is that Ncobile was recently spotted with her face in bandages, sparking claims that she was assaulted by the man they live with. However, during the interview, Ncobile disputed the claims, saying that she was assaulted by her boyfriend not Ndwardwe.

Neighbours have requested that the deputy prime minister's office should intervene to rescue the children, especially as there is a female child who is 12-years-old being raised in this situation.

*NB: The names of the sisters have been concealed to protect the minors.

Facebook users want to build two bedroom house for family

The state of the home Thandeka and her family live in was the trending topic on social media, with Facebook users raising awareness on the health and security of the family.

As a result, compassionate Facebook users pledged to assist the family build a two-bedroom house, to rescue the children from this abject situation.

Of concern, however, was if the family occupied the land rightfully, and as well as the family status.

However, it was established by this newspaper that the land belongs to one of their relatives. The house used to be a four-room structure but now has only one room remaining with broken windows and a cracked door. Sadly, the family will not benefit from the new cellphone mast that is being built on the land they currently occupy.

Sisusa Dlamini shared the image of the collapsing house on her Facebook account requesting her friends to help build the family a two bedroom house. Dlamini's plea was positively received by the Facebook users. The post which was put up on Monday received 77 reactions and had been shared by 44 Facebook users by Wednesday afternoon.

In her post, Dlamini said her friend spotted the homestead while driving past Ngwenya Village. "This picture has touched quite a lot of people and they have pledged to build a two room house for the family. Swaziland, we plead for your support to save this family," Dlamini posted.

Some Facebook users committed to give clothes, blankets and money which could go towards building the structure. "I can do clothes for now,



Thandeka during the interview. (Pics: Dennis Malinga)

hopefully that would make a difference as Ngwenya can be very cold," one Facebook user commented.

The kindness of the Facebook users was most welcome by the family. Thandeka said they would be very happy if the public could build them a new structure. She said her and (Ndwardwe) her husband were working at one of the textile firms in Ngwenya, earning around E500 a month.

"We earn too little such that we can't even afford to rent a decent room or build our own homestead. We use all of our earnings to buy food and that's it," she said.

Those willing to assist the family can contact Thandeka on her cell phone number (+268) 7634 9066, or search Sisusa Dlamini on Facebook and can also contact the Swazi Observer at (+268) 2404 9600, fax line: 2404 6463 and email: sunday@observer.org.sz.

Govt farm workers down tools in protest

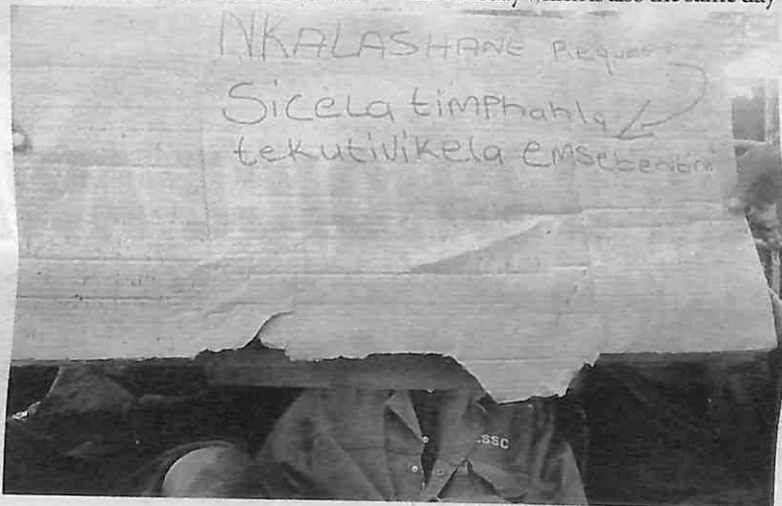
BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

This past Tuesday, some farm workers on government farms resorted to down tools demanding protective clothes.

Particularly, this means livestock belonging to government and the royal family has been left unattended as the workers charged with herding it (livestock) have decided to engage in a boycott.

According to one of the shop stewards in one of the farms, government last provided the workers with protective clothes three years ago. Government's farms are Mphisi Farm, Bhalekane, Magoga, Nyonyane Sisa Ranch, Kubuta, Nsalitshe, Emanyonyaneni, Mlindazwe, Enkalashane and High Veld Ranch. By Wednesday workers who had engaged in the boycott were those from Mpisi Farm and Enkalashane.

The livestock on these farms is estimated to be over 10 000. Each farm is likely to have 19 employees but it depends on the size of the farm. At Enkalashane, the workers at first gave government an ultimatum of 14 days to sort out the issue. The 14 days elapsed



the boycott began. This publication visited two of the affected farms and witnessed the state of the workers protective clothes. This includes worn out overalls, damaged to be and repair gumboots with some

having worn out soles. It was noted that due to this worn out protective wears, the workers are exposed to snake bites and piercings following that they work in thorny bushes in the Lowveld region. The Lowveld is known for its thorny trees like *sifwetfwe* and *lusekwane* but most particularly for being snake infested.

The aggrieved workers pointed out that what makes things worse is the fact that they can't afford to buy themselves the necessary protective following that their wages have been stagnant over the years.

Advised

"We liaised with our union on the matter, and the union advised us to stay away from work as a safety precaution," said one of the workers who is a member of the National Public Services and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU).

NAPSAWU Secretary General (SG) Celumusa Tembe said the problem was widespread among government departments that needed protective clothes.

He said this was because government was not complying with the Health and Safety Act. The SG made an example of workers at the ministry of public works and transport who are also affected.

"Government doesn't take serious the issue of protective clothing seriously," Tembe said. Ministry of Agriculture Principal Secretary (PS) Bongani Masuku said he was aware of the boycott happening on some of the farms. However, Masuku added that he was still waiting to be briefed on the matter so as to be able to comment in detail. The PS said as far as he was concerned they were ongoing negotiations between government and the workers adding that the failure to provide protective wear to the workers was generally a result of a limited budget.

"This issue is not only affecting the ministry of agriculture but a problem cutting across all government ministries. I was talking to some of my colleagues and they also have the same woes as us," PS Masuku said.

BAD NEWS FOR ALOE FUND MEMBERS: NO REFUNDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The 20-year long wait has not paid for thousands of Swazis who invested in the Aloe Funds Group as there were no funds left for them after liquidation process resulting in members, investors and creditors losing whatever amount they invested or were owed by the company.

This follows a pronouncement made by Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS) dated March 7.

The company registered as P and T Electrical Investment was trading as Aloe Funds and/or Aloe Funds Group Funeral Benefit Scheme and or Nelson Nxumalo and others which were known as Aloe Funds. The director of the company was Nelson Nxumalo.

The company's accounts were frozen in 2008 by the Central Bank of Swaziland on suspicion it was operating an unauthorised deposit taking business. Later in the year, the company denied such claims saying it was doing a micro-lending business.

In papers filed at the High Court, the directors of the company submitted that they were involved in a micro-lending business. This is in the mat-

ter where they were seeking their accounts to be unfrozen. Information submitted to the Central Bank by the company was that Aloe Funds gave loans against cash security.

Aloe Funds Director Nelson Nxumalo submitted in his founding affidavit that the Central Bank of Swaziland failed to give Aloe Funds reasons why it was concluded that the company engaged in unlawful deposit-taking business. On the contrary, in a letter dated November 25, 2008, the Central Bank wrote to the director of Aloe Funds that their investigations concluded that the nature of the business the company was operating under was in fact a violation of the Financial Institutions Act.

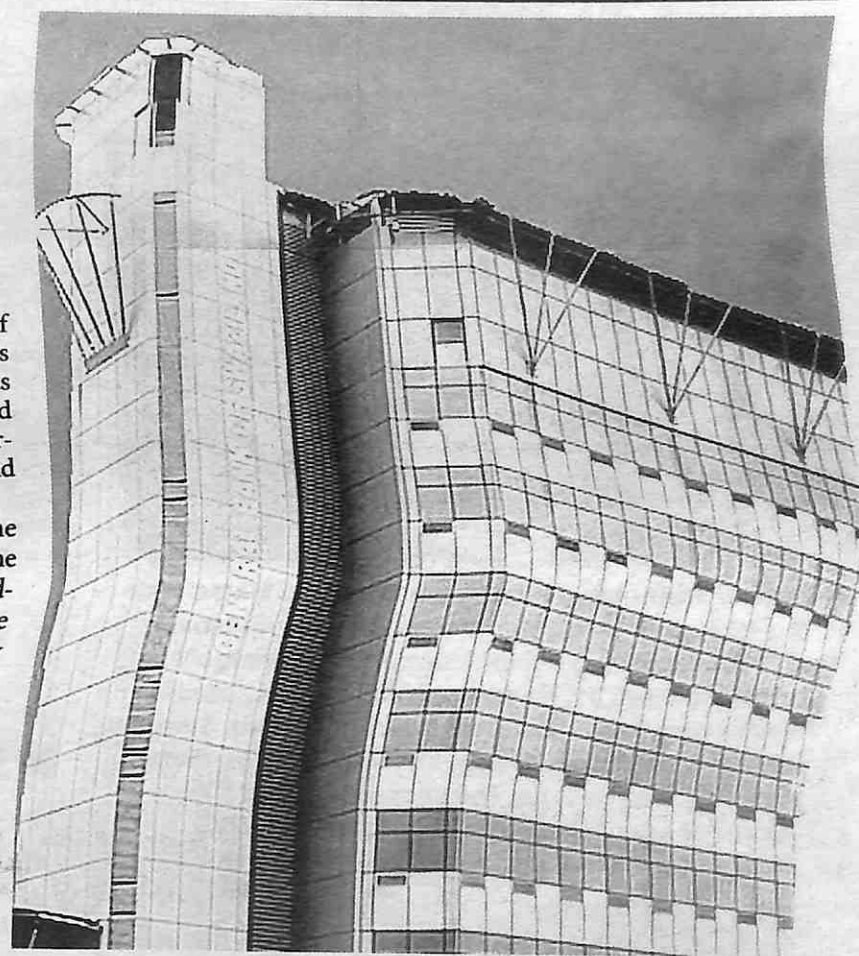
The Central Bank named Aloe Funds, Channel S Club and Diamond Africa as companies that were operating illegal deposit-taking which was confused by many to mean pyramid schemes. As a result, the bank seized all accounts of the said companies. The matter, together with that of the other companies, had been dragging in court till last year where they were revisited and PricewaterhouseCooper's Advisory Services Pty Ltd (PwC) was appointed as liquidator of the entities.

The High Court ruled in favour of the CBS and approved the liquidator's account of the distribution of funds deposited with Aloe Funds and issued an order declaring the scheme operated by Aloe Funds to be finally wound up.

The liquidators declared that the deductible expenses pertaining to the liquidation proceedings and the winding up of the Aloe Funds exceeded the recoveries made from the company and as such, no funds are available for distribution.

This is one reason the CBS had always warned members against taking part in the schemes classified as deposit taking, pyramid, or Ponzi schemes as they drag in court and the members are at risk of losing their investment or getting less.

"Among the reasons for notifying the public to refrain from engaging in illegal deposit taking schemes, was precisely the reason of the time due legal processes take and the risks associated with the results of liquidation, being that, only what is recovered and found becomes available for distribution and in most times, it is less or nothing at all, since the illegal deposit taker would not have invested nor kept



in safe custody the proceeds obtained from the deposit making public," reads part of the warning from CBS. CBS adds that likewise, the issue concerning fees and costs related to liquidation, are governed by law on how a liquidator's fees are paid and when (which is by law, before even the creditors of the liquidated estate are paid (distribution). This is a cost borne by

the liquidated estate or fund.

"No time frames can be given this time and, on such matters, due to their protracted and complicated nature and owing to the legal process variables involved. The prime objective is to liquidate in full compliance with the law, since any derogation may result in legal liability on the Bank," further reads advice by CBS.

Armed forces won't repay govt's training money

BY FORTUNE
DLANGAMANDLA

At a time when broke government is out to reclaim money from scholarship loans beneficiaries, security services would not repay a cent for government resources utilised during training in their drilling institutions.

These security services are the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP), Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF) and His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS).

The government, through the scholarship loans' repayment project, is doing every possible thing to get back money from individuals who were awarded scholarships loans to pursue their higher education in training institutions. Three companies - SV Mladla, Data Net and Trans Union - were to work collectively on this project. The civilians are awarded the scholarship loans by the ministry of labour and social security. Meanwhile, the USDF money comes from the ministry of defence and constitutional affairs while RSP is in the prime minister's office.

The collecting of the money from civilians has sparked a debate as concerned citizens of the country questioned why the three armed forces were exempted from repaying money used to cater for their utilities while undergoing training in their different drilling institutions. USDF recruits are drilled at Mbuluzi Infantry School; RSP recruits are trained at the Royal Swaziland Police College while HMCS recruits are trained at Matsapha Correctional Services Staff College.



President of the Swaziland National Union of Students (SNUS) Brian Sangweni said the issue has not yet been discussed in a round table. However, he said in the Scholarship Fund, the principle should be that everyone who used government money in their training should pay back the money.

In this particular case, the principle would be that the armed forces must also pay back the money.

He viewed the exemption of security services from paying government's money as being an unfair practice.

"The preference given to armed forces is unnecessary and unreasonable," President Sangweni said.

Additionally, Acting Secretary General (SG) of the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) Mduduzi Gina also called for the armed forces to repay government's money they

utilised why in their training institutions. The acting SG said it would be a mistake if the armed forces would not pay a portion of the money used to cater for their utilities during their trainings. He added that they should also pay back the money used on them just like all other civilians.

"One could argue that they were trained to protect the country; I would say that doesn't hold because some of them at some point get jobs outside the country," Gina explained.

The unionist went on to add that the skills acquired by the army personnel during their training give them qualifications for specific jobs. He said TUCOSWA's position would not compromise when it comes to this matter. However, the three armed forces' spokespersons have justified their exemption from repaying govern-

ment's money. Interestingly, the trio referred to their training colleges to institutions of higher learning. They all said their training was different because when one was absorbed to the forces, it means they had automatically been hired. They likened the training of recruits to in-services training. Worth pointing out, unlike other trainees, these recruits are paid monthly salaries while still on training. According to www.macmillandictionary.com, in-service training is designed to develop the skills of people who are already working in a particular profession. This definition is contrary to what is happening at the security services as some of the people recruited do not have any qualifications to make them professionals of any job.

USDF Public Relations Officer (PRO) Lieutenant Nkosinathi Dlamini confirmed that while the recruits are drilled at the Mbuluzi Infantry School, their expenses are catered for by the ministry of defence. He said such expenses are paid because the recruits are considered to be fully employed by the ministry. The Army PRO added that there was nothing sinister by the recruits not paying for their uniforms as they are already employed by the provider, which is the ministry of defence. "The uniform is government's property given to every recruit. They only buy the tracksuit which they wear outside the training school," Dlamini explained.

However, he clarified that all professionals hired by the ministry of defence pay their scholarship loans. He made an example of himself, saying he was also paying the loan.

On the other hand, Deputy Chief Police Information and Communications

Officer (DCPICO) Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati echoed the USDF PRO's words. She said after one was recruited to the police force, that individual was automatically on government's payroll. She also referred the training process to an in-service. Vilakati said it was for that reason the police are not expected to pay back the money utilised for their needs while in the college. She noted that the issue was wide as it touches on so many government ministries.

Lastly, HMCS's Public Relations Officer Senior Superintendent Gugulethu Dlamini also echoed USDF and RSP mouthpiece in saying that by being recruited to the force, the recruits were automatically hired. The mouthpiece said once one was recruited, that individual was then expected to pay their utility bills. She went on to add that the recruits pay for their food. According to the PRO, the recruits pay monthly food installments to a certain eatery which was awarded a deal to supply them (the recruits) with food.

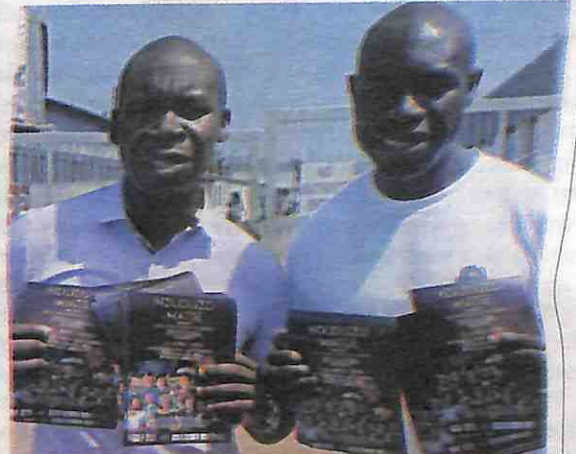
"All in all, our trainees are trained to work on a specific job so while in training they're hired for their specific jobs. It's unlike in general institutions," Senior Superintendent Dlamini explained. She went on to state that through stop orders, government claimed the money spent for the recruits' utilities. "They pay even for staying in the college," she said.

She added that the recruits also pay for their electricity bills. However, this is contrary to investigations carried by this publication as it was gathered that the recruits only pay for food. The impeccable sources alleged that army recruits don't pay any bills incurred during their training.

NDUDUZO MATSE PROMOTES HIS UPCOMING LIVE DVDRECORDING



Multi-award winning gospel artist Nduduzo Matse took to the streets of Matsapha to promote his upcoming live DVD Recording set for Metropolitan Evangelical Church on April 21. He met up with African Alliance Partner and Swazi Observer Board Chairman Sthofeni Ginindza and Dvokodvweni MP Stezi Dlamini during their lunch at Galito's. The show is dubbed 'The Atmosphere of Glory, Best of Africa CD & DVD Recording #Gelekece'. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



1. Zama from Channel Swazi interviewing Nduduzo's fans during the tour. 2. Lungelo Matse also joined his brother Nduduzo in the promotional drive.



Nduduzo urging his fans not to miss the show.



Nduduzo's fans were in a jubilant mood as they got to meet him and had kodak moments.



It was a happy day for the fans as they mingled freely with the Best of Africa Award winner.



Children from Mbutfu Neighbourhood Care Point had a happy day as Swaziland Tourism Authority management and staff visited the area where they also painted their centre and distributed food parcels to the local community and caregivers. This was a charity initiative carried out by the STA staff recently. (Courtesy pics)



Acting STA CEO Gcinithemba Fakudze and Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini pose with a future leader at Mbutfu NCP last Saturday.

Fakudze also got his hands dirty and joined the staff in painting the building.



STA PAINTS SCHOOLS



This is how Mbutfu NC looked like before STA staff painted it.



Nelly Mngomezulu addresses caregivers before handing over food stuff donated by the STA to Mbutfu NCP.



This is how Mbutfu NCP now looks after STA staff refurbished it.

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● The heart of rural and remote living is found in the sense of community that people have. Communities are friendly; everyone knows everyone else, so people have a rich history of coming together and supporting each other.

COUNTRY LIVING HAS ITS BENEFITS

Swaziland is a beautiful country. We have vast panoramas that will sweep off your feet if you just take a moment to really look around you.

For those of us who have lived here all our lives, it's amazing to look at the same old scenery and find new ways to appreciate how glorious this place really is. When deciding where to buy or build a home, there are many factors to consider, but the first question is always, "Where do you want to live?"

Having access to Swazi Nation Land means that many of us have grown up or spent a lot of time in the rural areas, and thus have an appreciation for the peace and quiet that comes with that kind of seclusion. But if you've got children of school-going age or need to commute to work on a daily basis, you may need to sacrifice that peace for the convenience that comes with living in a suburb of town.

Health benefits

According to a scientific study undertaken by the University of Michigan,

USA, more people worldwide are leaving rural areas for towns and cities in search of better opportunities. They are, in effect, following the money, which tends to be made and spent in towns and cities all over the world. While the fresh air and beautiful scenery of a rural area such as Hlatikhulu is great for your overall wellbeing, there just aren't that many job opportunities to be found there. Studies have shown, however, that people living in areas where there is a lot of greenery experience less air pollution, which has been linked to asthma and heart disease.

At least ten studies have also shown that people living in rural areas are less likely to develop psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, and the available evidence has shown that at least one third of all schizophrenia cases may be related to (or greatly exacerbated by) environmental factors in an urban setting.

Rural residents are also less likely to develop anxiety disorders, and exposure to green environments has been shown to positively affect both stress and depression.

Cost of living

Cost of living in rural settings is generally cheaper than living in an urban area. If you've built on SNL, there are no rates to pay, and investing in a borehole means you will never see another water bill again. While access to amenities such as shopping and public transport can be limited, planning your shopping trips with times when you need to commute to town anyway will save you money by limiting the number of trips you have to make. With the expansion of Swaziland's road network, many rural areas are now a relatively short drive away from town centres, making it easier for people working in the urban areas

to

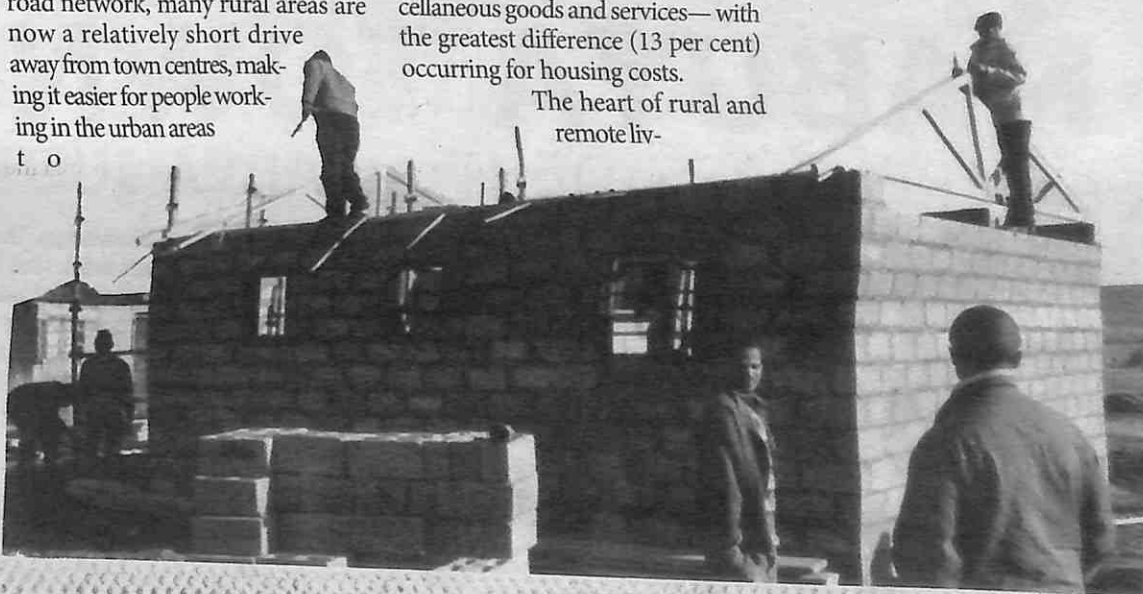
commute to and from home every day.

The cost of transport and other incidentals is often still cheaper than it would be to pay rent or bond on a property in town, which requires additional money for rates and water. Research in the International Regional Science Review found that the average urban resident pays 6 per cent more for all six major categories of goods—groceries, housing, utilities, transportation, health care, and miscellaneous goods and services—with the greatest difference (13 per cent) occurring for housing costs.

The heart of rural and remote liv-

ing is found in the sense of community that people have. Communities are friendly; everyone knows everyone else, so people have a rich history of coming together and supporting each other.

Rural life certainly provides opportunities to be alone when you want to be, but a smaller population to draw on means a heavier reliance on your neighbors, friends, and family, and that can be a beautiful thing.





As always, use caution with an open flame, and keep away from children and pets.

DIY

CITRONELLA CANDLE OIL LAMP

If the cold and rainy weather at the beginning of this week was anything to go by, we are in for a cold winter! I thought I would take advantage of the last few weeks of really good summer weather by encouraging everyone I know to have a braai, and not only because meat cooked over an open flame is one of my favourite things.

My secondary motivation for asking people to host me was so that I could show off my DIY skills with these Mason jar oil lamps. Outdoor entertaining in summer is all fun and games until the mosquitoes come, so this is a great way to provide light in the evening, as well as chase away the annoying mosquitoes. Citronella is an essential oil that, unlike other varieties of pesticides, does not kill mosquitoes. It repels them and other pests instead, reducing the number of mosquitoes that land nearby. One benefit of using citronella as mosquito repellent is that it is safe and non-toxic to humans and animals, and even to the insects themselves.

When I saw these cute DIY Mason jar citronella candle oil lamps online, I just had to give it a try.

Here's what you need:

At least two small to medium Mason jars, or any glass jar with a metal lid. The bigger they are, the more citronella you'll



need.

100% cotton rope. Nylon will melt, sizzle and stop burning. You can also purchase wicks made specifically for tiki torches, if you can find them.

100mls citronella essential oil
Hammer
Screwdriver

Step 1: Hammer a hole in the center of the jar top. You can hammer both

lids at one time.

Step 2: Wrap the tip of the rope with tape; this will keep the rope from unraveling when you place it in the jar lid. Run the desired length of rope through the hole in the lid, remove the tape and set aside.

Step 3: Pour 50ml citronella oil into each jar.

Step 4: Tightly close the lid and make sure that there is enough rope so that it is immersed in the oil at the bottom of the jar. Let the jar stand for about ten to fifteen minutes so that the oil can penetrate the rope strands.

Step 5: Stand back and light up your torch. When the rope wicks are first lit, they will burn high. After a few minutes the flame will be more like a candle burning. Take them outdoors and let them work their magic on keeping the mosquitoes away. As always, use caution with an open flame, and keep away from children and pets.

cooking



PERFECT VANILLA COOKIES

There's nothing like the moment when you bite into the perfect cookie. I like mine crispy on the edges and softer towards the middle, and that's exactly what this recipe is going to give you. Baking cookies is pretty simple, so it's a great place to start if you aren't too sure about your baking skills. I'm also going to share a few tricks I've learnt through many trials and lots of error that will help you make a perfect batch, every single time. My nephew and nieces absolutely love this recipe and it's so easy to halve or double that you'll be looking for an excuse to make them.

Vanilla cookies | Makes 24 medium cookies

Prep time: 15 mins | **Cooking time:** 10-12 mins

Ingredients

2 and 3/4 cups flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 and 1/2 cups sugar
1 cup softened margarine
1 tsp vanilla essence
1 egg
A pinch of salt

Tools

Two large bowls
Measuring jug or spoons
Wooden spoon
Two large cookie sheets
Foil, clingwrap or wax paper

Directions

Step 1

Sift the flour, baking powder and salt into a large mixing bowl and stir to combine.

Step 2

In another bowl and using your wooden spoon, mix butter and sugar together until creamy and smooth. Add the egg and vanilla and combine. Gradually stir the flour into the egg mixture, incorporating the flour about half a cup at a time.

Step 3

Tear off a large piece of clingwrap, foil or wax paper and lay it out on

your work surface. Spoon half the cookie dough in a line at one end and roll the dough into a sausage about as thick as the hole made when you put your index finger and thumb together. Wrap the ends tightly and set your dough in the freezer. Repeat with the remaining dough and freeze for at least 30 minutes.

Expert tip Double this recipe and make four cookie dough logs, that way you'll have a batch sitting in your freezer. When you're ready to bake, take the log out of the freezer and defrost for 5 minutes in the fridge, checking that the dough is still firm and cold to the touch before slicing and baking.

Step 4

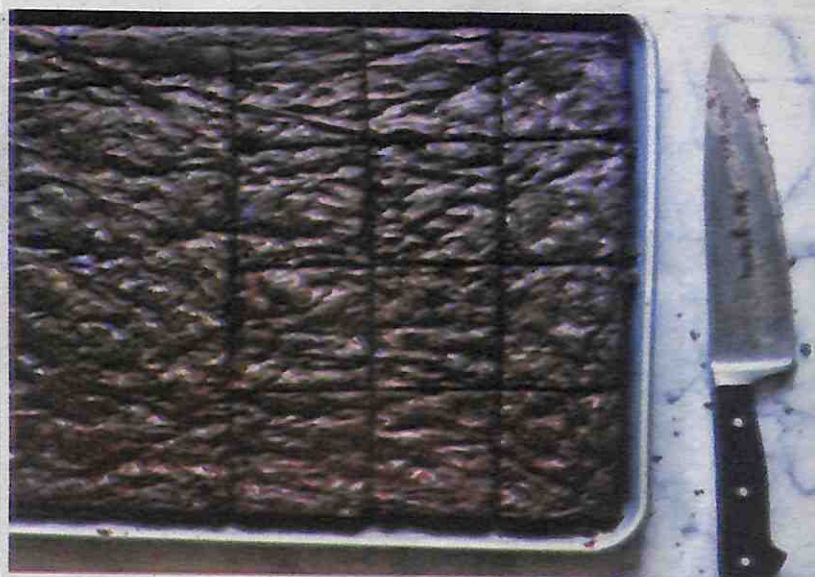
Preheat your oven to 190°C and grease a baking sheet. For crisp, crunchy cookies, slice rounds about half as thick as a slice of bread from the frozen cookie dough, and bake for 8 to 10 minutes on the middle shelf, until the top is a lovely golden brown, with darker edges. For cookies with a softer centre, slice off rounds about as thick as a slice of bread and bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until the tops are pale golden brown.

Step 5

Once baked, use an egg turner to remove the cookies from the baking sheet. Be gentle as they are still soft and malleable. Lay them out to cool on a cooling tray.

Variations

Melt a slab of dark chocolate in a glass bowl over a simmering pot of water. Add a tablespoon of butter and combine. Remove the chocolate from the heat and cool slightly by stirring continuously for about five minutes. Dip one half of each cookie in the melted chocolate, and place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper to set. Add one cup of chocolate chips at the end of Step 2. Lightly dust the chocolate chips in flour first so they don't sink to the bottom of the cookies.



CAKE MIX HACKS

We've all been there. You walk past the box of cake mix in the supermarket and are sorely tempted to commit the cardinal sin of not baking from scratch.

While I usually recommend making everything yourself where possible, I also live in the real world and know that cake emergencies do happen. And though kitchen queens like myself hate to admit it, some days you just don't have the energy to measure two cups of this or a pinch of that. The benefit of using a cake mix is that once you find a good one, there are so many things that you can do with it, cutting your prep time in half while still delivering delicious results. What I like to do is take the money I save by buying a mix and use it to create an exquisite icing, that way I don't really feel like I have cheated anyone.

Use muffin mix to make a cake

My life hasn't been the same since the first time I did this. My nieces and nephew LOVE red velvet cake, and it can be a pain to make it from scratch at short notice. So for my last birthday, I bought a box of Snowflake Red Velvet cupcake mix for E30 and had them help me bake my birthday cake; this is a great way to get young children involved in baking without the pressure of measuring out precise amounts of different ingredients. Prepare the recipe as instructed, adding an extra egg for the richness that you would have in a homemade cake. Cooking time will vary depending on your cake tin and oven, but start with an extra ten minutes baking time, then

check every five minutes with a toothpick. For a larger cake, use two boxes and make them individually, then assemble. I used the Snowflake Blue Velvet mix when my younger brother asked me to bake him something, and made a blue velvet loaf with blue butter cream icing. A loaf takes longer to bake, so start with fifteen minutes extra baking time and then check at regular intervals. You won't be sorry.

Box brownies are the best brownies

I've seen (and tried) a million different recipes for chocolate brownies, yet I can't help but go back to my first love, Ina Paarman's box brownie mix. While it is almost always sacrilegious to imply that box brownies could ever be better than their from-scratch counterparts, I dare you to try these and let me know if they don't make you believe in unicorns. When I was in my second year of university these were my go-to for birthday dinners; give me half an excuse and I'll make them for you right now. Retailing for about E60 at supermarkets, these are quite costly for a box mix, but the Snowflake variety is almost as good and costs half the price, if you can find it (I haven't seen it anywhere locally but it is available at Makro in South Africa). Make these exactly as instructed and add chocolate chips or crushed nuts to take them to the next level. There's a recipe for the most delicious chocolate icing I have ever had, right on the box, so try it and let me know just how much it has changed your life!

HOT CHOCOLATE MIX

What goes better with cookies than a nice, tall glass of cold chocolate milk or hot chocolate? Besides the delicious taste, chocolate milk makes a great snack for hungry kids walking in the door after school; it will hold them over for a few minutes while you get their lunch ready.

And we all know how comforting hot chocolate can be on a cold winter night. You can make it as light or as rich as you want, or add mini marshmallows for that extra bit of decadence!

While the store bought version tastes great, it's filled with anti-caking agents and other chemicals that just aren't good for our bodies, and I always prefer to make something myself from scratch when I can. This recipe is very easy, and it only takes three minutes to put together,

giving you about a litre of hot chocolate mix that will last six months stored in the pantry.

Hot chocolate powder | Makes 1 litre

Ingredients

2 cups icing sugar
1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
2 cups powdered milk

Tools

Large bowl
Wooden spoon or whisk
Sieve
1 litre re-sealable storage container

Directions

Sift two cups of icing sugar and one cup of unsweetened cocoa powder into a large bowl. Add two cups of powdered milk to the mix and stir or whisk it all together until combined. Store the hot chocolate powder in a big container in your pantry; it will keep for up to six months.

When you want to make hot chocolate, combine the mix and hot water in whatever ratio works for you. I like to put the hot chocolate mix in the cup and add the hot liquid on top, then stir, in order to not get any lumps. If you're making chocolate milk, add enough warm water or milk to the powder to make a paste, then top up with equal parts cold water and cold milk.



WRITER'S NOTE...

By Sibusiso Dlamini

Greetings once again dear readers and welcome to yet another beautiful Sunday where we get to bring to you ASPIRE, your favourite youth section that ASPIRES INSPIRE young people to be the best version of whatever they might ASPIRE to be.

In today's read, we bring you a talented artist who goes by the name 'Mawat'. 'Mawat' is a Durban raised, Johannesburg based rapper who has made a decision to follow Jesus Christ as his Saviour. This is something that is mostly unseen in the rap scene as most of the stars are known for their inappropriate behaviour linked with the devil and demons.

He talks us about his childhood, how he accepted the Lord, and his musical journey so far. This young man has worked with established names in the industry such as Ambitious Entertainment's Sjava and the late gospel star Sifiso Ncwane. Read about this and more on Mawat's story on the next page.

On page 23, we bring you coverage of the 'Clean up' Nhlengano campaign where young people in the Shiselweni region were taught on how to prioritise and make the right decisions in order to succeed in life. The event was supported by the Swaziland National Youth Council (SNYC) and organised by Shintja Swaziland. We also have our poem of the week on the very same page and today's main title is on art.

On the last page, we bring to you our regular LIVE YOUR DREAM column. Today we talk about the seven enemies of progress and success. We also talk about the 17 steps to attaining success.

Well on the entertainment front, things are looking busy this weekend as fun lovers are having the time of their lives at the different venues in the country. It is also the right time to spend quality time with your family, something our generation has kind of gotten unaccustomed to.

This past Tuesday, South African rapper A-Reece who has graced our cover dropped a three-track project titled 'Gwan Big Up Urself' in celebration of his 21st Birthday. Next week, we will be reviewing the project and also discuss on the invite we have received to his celebration.

Remember, you can also get to be part of the discussion by conversing with us at sbusisodlamini@gmail.com.

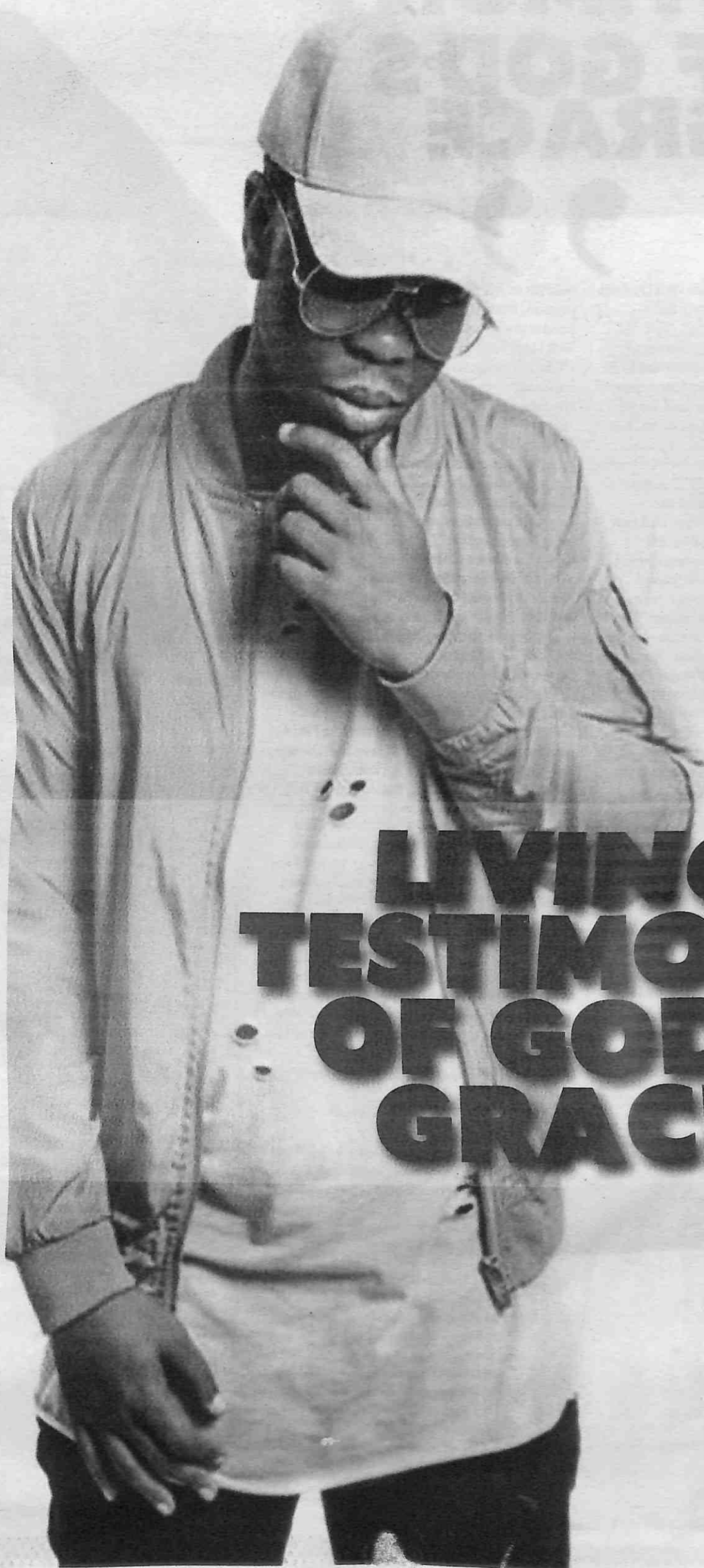
Till next week

Have a good read and blessed Easter Holidays

Aspire

April 1, 2018

A Youth Section On Youth Issues By The Youth



LIVING TESTIMONY OF GOD'S GRACE

LIVING TESTIMONY OF GOD'S GRACE

”

‘Mawat’ real name Siyabonga Xulu is a Durban raised, Johannesburg based rap artist.

The youngster grew in the dusty streets of Durban as he describes it and says he had to fit in the life of the ghetto. “I grew up in the dusty streets of Durban. Life was never easy for me growing up but the fist defining moment that opened my ears was when my father passed away and my mother was arrested whilst trying to fend for us. That was hard. My grandmother wasn’t as concerned and just called us to pray.” He says it was the first time he had ever prayed in his life, and admits that he felt relieved after the prayer. “I don’t want to lie. I had never prayed before and to be frank I wasn’t getting this whole thing *ugogo* was about, but I felt relived after that prayer.” The Xulu family ritually prayed and in three weeks, his mother was released from prison. “It was the first time seeing God in action although I don’t acknowledge it at the time. My mother got out of prison without bail or any fancy lawyer. She just called us and told us she was coming home.” Mawat’s life of the streets eventually caught up with him when he was hunted down by three men who wanted to kill him and he remembered prayer. “You know that the violence game will always catch up with you and that happened to me as well. I was hunted down by three men who took it to a point of killing two innocent people in a club with my cousin watching just to send a message to me. My mother was concerned about me being outdoors, even going to church was a risk, but I took it.” In about a month of fasting and prayer ‘Mawat’ learnt that all the three men who wanted him dead were killed in horrific accidents. When I learnt that the men who wanted to kill me had died, I took an oath to serve the Lord, Almighty. I knew it was nothing but his power and grace that had saved me. From there onwards, I served the Lord, diligently and he has showered me with his blessings and love ever since.” Mawat’ is a qualified sound engineer and states that he

believes in learning to enhance your craft and passion, than to just be in the market. “I learnt producing because it’s something I loved, and well I was kind of tired of busy asking people to make my beats, so I decided to take action and make my own.” Since then ‘Mawat’ produced the famous FIFTY-50 FAMILY album which won the Crown Gospel Awards in 2011; was nominated for the SAMAs in 2012; and also received two nominations at the Africa Music Awards held in the UK. With the group he has shared stages with celebrated acts Ernie Smith, Joyous Celebration and Grammy award winning rapper Lecrae. “I would like to make this clear, I am not a Christian rapper. I am a man who shares the truth. I do not lie and talk about things that make one perish, but things that give life. I share my life experience, because I know I’m a testimony.” With his single I PRAISE GOD being nominated for the 2013 Crown Gospel Awards, He was also the face for TEVO speakers in 2012, and partnered with the global cause against women violence: 1 BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE. Awards. He has a hit a hot single on air with S’java ‘and the late Sifiso Ncwane, and is also working on his sophomore project titled ‘Passion.’ ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE On passion paying the bills – Passion will always pay the bills. Just don’t be scared to take the risk, because winners are risk-takers. Also dedicate yourself and brace yourself for some hard work. Nothing will ever come easy in life. But if it’s what you love, then God will make sure it unfolds. ON DRUGS – Do not waste your time, money and eventually your future. I won’t want to elaborate much. On girlfriends/boyfriends – Let be frank with you, if you are chasing a goal, keep your eyes to it, don’t chase love. If you chase your passion, love will come to you.

2011: Crown Gospel Awards – Best R&B Gospel Fifty-50 Family – Thina Sobabili

2011: Crown Gospel Awards – Best Rap Gospel Fifty-50 Family – Can’t Give Up

2012: South African Music Awards – Best Urban Gospel Fifty-50 Family – Kazi Kuyoba Njani

2012: Africa Gospel Music Awards – Afro Gospel Rap of the Year Fifty-50 Family

2013: Crown Gospel Awards – Best Rap Gospel Mawat – I Praise God

2014: Crown Gospel Awards – Best Rap Mawat – No Other Way Awards won

• 2015 – Independent Gospel Music Awards (INGOMA) | Best Rap Gospel | Mawat – Rebirth

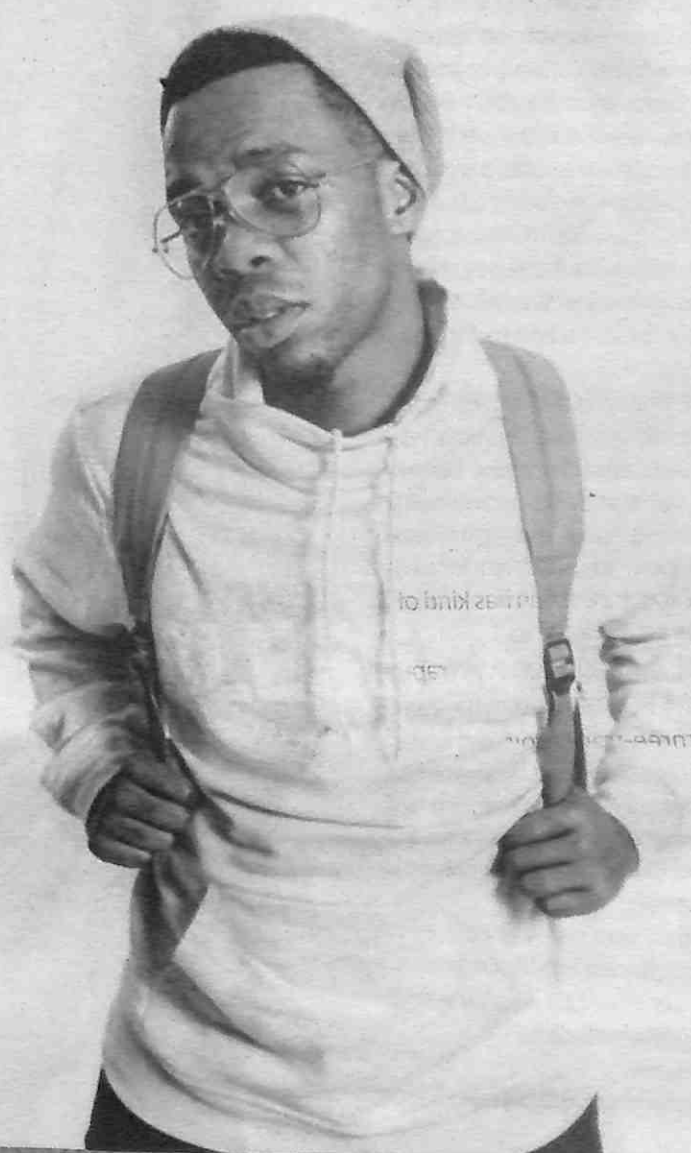
• 2014 – Crown Gospel Awards | Best Rap Gospel | Mawat – No Other Way Mixtape

• 2011 – Crown Gospel Awards | Best Rap Gospel | Fifty-50 Family – Can’t give up Awards nominations

• 2013 – Crown Gospel Awards | Best Rap Gospel | Mawat – I Praise God

• 2012 – Africa Gospel Music Awards | Afro-Gospel Rap Group of the Year | Fifty-50 Family

• 2012 – South African Music Awards (SAMA) | Best Urban Gospel | Fifty-50 Family – Kazi kuyoba njani



SundayObserver
Scene

THE CHURCH ISSUE

BEING A
PASTOR'S KID...

WRITERS NOTE

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

Since it's the Easter holidays, we decided to take SCENE to church.

On this week's issue we discuss a very important topic: Pastor's kids (PKs). We all know the argument that is around preacher's kids. People tend to have different opinions when it comes to how PKs need to live their lives.

PKs are a special group of adolescents who often receive strong pressure from their parents to be model children. Popular perception and unreliable evidence have suggested that this leads PKs to be either the best or

the worst behaved among their peers.

SCENE set out to find PKs of all age groups around the country. They gave us a clear picture on who they are and how they live their lives. These young people shared their deepest thoughts on the pressure that is put on them just because they hold the title 'Preacher's kids'.

First we discuss the pressures that PKs face in our modern society. We look at triggers of these pressures and misconception that people have of PKs. Next we get opinions on preacher's kids from around the country; they give insight on what they think about themselves as preacher's kids.

We also look at the issue of rebellious preacher's kids. This might be taken lightly but the consequences of the pressures are real and can affect massively one's life. Maybe after reading this section our views on rebellious PKs will change.

SCENE also took time to talk a couple of preacher's kids to spread awareness of how they live their lives and what they would like people to know about the title that they hold. First we speak to Sibusiso Mazibuko a young man who is saved and who has since started to look at the brighter side of the pressure that is put on them. With the help of Clifford we also managed to get a photo-

shoot of Sibusiso and his parents during the Easter's service at the church. I would like to also extend my heartfelt gratitude to Rev J.V and Pastor R. L Mazibuko for allowing us to take pictures of their family especially during a service.

We also got to talk to singer Nondumiso Nhleko, who says being a pastor's kid should not come with any pressure because it is not fair on them as preachers' kids. We continued to talk to Hlelolwenkosi Mamba a preacher's believing in that as a preacher's kid she was called into the ministry alongside her father. The author of 'The Preachers kid' shares some light into the life of a K.

Scene also got to sit down with Precious Zikalala, daughter of a minister who says in her opinion the misconceptions of how preachers kids live their lives are absurd and sometimes hurtful as she does not see herself different from any other person in church. We hope this clarifies those questions that we always ask ourselves, and mostly we hope that issue helps inform people on the consequences of judging people because of their behaviour pastor's kid or not, let's spread peace and love instead.

Till next week,
Enjoy
Happy Easter's.

DO PASTORS' KIDS HAVE IT TOUGH?

Khaya
Mthethwa.

Growing up can be tough, but preacher's (PKs) seem to face an extra element, the added pressure to keep up appearances and not give in to temptation. The call to the ministry is a high honour and privilege, but it also brings a special responsibility to the family of the man called. In the strictest

sense it is a call to the man to be the minister. In another sense, however, it is a call to the entire family. The husband/father's call is also the family's call to ministry.

Growing up in church myself, I always viewed my pastor's children as angels, was I wrong? Definitely, but most people often have their own opinions and views on how preacher's kids should live their lives. Some people even go the extra mile by telling them how they should act and behave especially in church. This is where most of us get it wrong. We

never sit

and

take

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just like us.

The mis-

conceptions

that surround

being preachers

kid end up

putting on

unnecessary pres-

sure on them. Most

of these miscon-

ceptions are then

translated into guide-

lines and beliefs that

this is how PKs should

go about life.

No matter which

denomination they are

from, the struggles PK's

go through are all the

same. Being a pastor's kid

might look cool or glam-

orous from afar, but it's a lot more com-

plicated and requires one to

thick

skin.

From an early age, they are forced to share their parents with the whole community, they move multiple times throughout their childhood and yes, they face high expectations and their lives are often under public scrutiny. These challenges and opportunities affect PKs well into adulthood.

It must hard. Society expects them to be perfect forgetting that they are human despite the title of their parents. They can't really wear what they want because they will be judged. "I don't know if we are expected to dress like old people." How do you live your life knowing that people can't wait for you to make that one slip and fall?

Is it time for people to drop these stigmas? I mean we've heard even famous people who are pastors' kids complaining about how people treat them because of the way they act and the career paths they choose. I personally think people tend to forget that they are not their parents. I guess every title comes with its perks and detriments, chosen or not, in this case never chosen. This PK topic has been swept under the carpet a lot of times, especially when brought up by preachers' kids. This brings up a whole different issue that preachers' kids face on a daily basis, the issue of opinions. Sometimes pastors' kids find it hard to raise their opinions in church gatherings or meetings because they may be viewed as "forward" or it may seem as if they have a right to say something because their parents run the church.

This topic has also brought up studies that research the lives of PKs. Some studies suggest that there is a "preacher's kid syndrome", in which children of clergy reject religion and the church. This view is seen as a stereotype. I mean not all PKs reject the religion; this goes to show that PKs are viewed as rebellious and disobedient. Most PKs grow up and become examples for young people in the community. Of course there is always an exception to every rule but then again, many children out there grow up and lose focus in life. The implication that preachers' kids are supposed to maintain certain moral standards only intensifies the ridicule and shame they receive if they fail to do so.

Of all challenges that are faced by PKs not seeing their parents and not being able to spend their time with them, must be the hardest. I recall a minister commenting that his daughter was always talking so fast to him. He asked her to slow down. She replied that she needed to talk fast before his attention was diverted to the preparation for the service.

The minister spends significant time studying the Scriptures. It is easy to do that in order to turn out a sermon, but, at the same time, fails to bring it to bear on one's own life and family. Often the children are neglected or given little

attention.

This topic has opened my eyes to many things. I also took time to reflect on why people come up with these perceptions and mistaken beliefs. The obvious reason was, obviously because pastors, deacons and elders of the church sort of set the rules and regulations for the church.

How to live according to the bible, how to conduct yourself, what to not say as a child of God, all these principles and guidelines are set for us in the church and usually by the pastor. It is only natural that people will then develop a mindset that will put pressure on their children expecting them to be the ones that follow the instructions more than everyone else.

Well, we cannot put 100percent of the blame on the community, let's be honest some pastors tend to use their children as examples all the time, especially when demonstrating good behaviour, this obviously suggest that their children are always on good behaviour.

It is sad though that we attach these perceptions on sometimes innocent children. It is obviously not fair to expect a perfect life from them, particularly since our own lives aren't. Maybe if we took the time to realise and understand that PKs are entitled to their private lives and have the right to live their lives however they want despite their parents' positions in the church.

PKs are as normal as people get. They are born with a variety of gifts, inclinations, propensities, and talents just like all the other kids. PKs aren't born different. There isn't some peculiar pastoral DNA they have inherited that messes with their heads and hearts. They aren't born any more messed up than anyone else. Neither born less messed up as if some of the assumed pastoral sanctification has rubbed off on them.

Sometimes these struggles are so embedded in the souls of PKs that they don't even know if they really believe what they grew up believing. Sometimes they can't diagnose the struggles at all and have no idea they even exist.

PKs face unique obstacles that create an environment that can lead to significant spiritual, identity, and lifestyle challenges; on top of that they have to deal with life problems in general. Isn't that too much already?

The easiest way to begin breaking down barriers is by seeking understanding. I believe it starts with actually getting to know PKs better, not just making judgments and determinations based on what is thought to be known about them.

The difficult part of being a preacher's kid is you suffer alone. You don't want to share your dirty laundry because the preacher isn't supposed to have any.

This is just a glimpse into the realities PKs live as they are pressure-cooked in the ministry of their parents. If I was to write a rule, especially after this topic, it would definitely be "let PKs

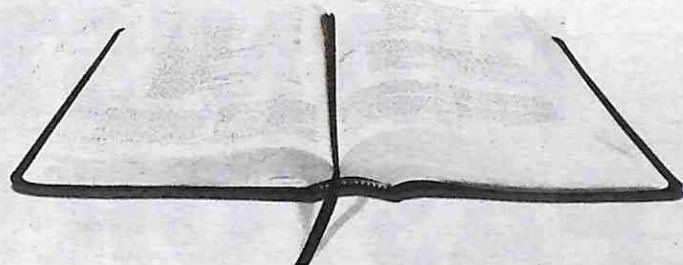
SHEDDING SOME LIGHT ON PREACHER'S KIDS REBELLION

It is possible to be a good preacher's kid and not be a Christian at all. Likewise it is possible to be a preacher's kid and totally ignore the religion and way of living that your parents live.

We've seen it happen, PKs refraining from church duties and activities. It comes as a shocker to most people as opposed to "normal" kids.

When preacher's kids rebel, it is seen as a taboo. In most cases these children are neglected simply because of the fact that they "bring shame to the church." It should appal us to know that some kids end up abusing drugs and worse living on the streets, simply because the community failed to understand their differences.

Maybe we underestimate the pressure that we put on them; we should really ask ourselves why so many preacher's kids resent the ministry. Maybe then we could find a solution for the problem.



Preacher's kids who leave the faith may do so for a variety of reasons. Young people see the anger and conflict that can arise in even the best of congregations, and they conclude that the "religion" these people profess can't be real. Young people see these conflicts as hypocrisy. They then begin to question their own faith.

Certainly those who have spent their childhood in the front row seat of the sanctuary are given a unique vantage

point of church, for better or for worse. If it's for the worse, one might understand how this could contribute to a rejection of the faith later in their life.

Preacher's kids are raised in a unique culture of expectation. They share the name of the one in charge, and as such, they often live in the awareness that their words, attitudes and actions are a reflection of the family's spiritual position. But while their parents may have been called to ministry, the social

expectations placed upon them can leave some pastors' kids thinking, "I didn't sign up for this."

Knowing a few pastors' kids, a few admitted to not living according to the expectations of the church or even their parents. They attributed their rebellious behaviour to the pressures and expectations that come with the title.

It is very strange that some preacher's kids do not consider their actions as bad behaviour. They simply think that it is for most teenagers, especially, to act a certain way.

We've seen shows like 'preachers kids' on Vuzu TV, where PKs displayed their lives in front of the world. It is safe to say some of these PKs were not ashamed of the way they lived their lives, even though they lived what is believed not to be "a Christian" way of living.

Which begs the question? Should people let PKs live their lives and not

judge them for the path they choose? I mean if this is some of the reasons PKs end up neglecting the church maybe letting them do whatever they want without the scrutiny, they might just turn out alright.

A local pastor said that "Pastors are also feeling the pressure."

Their children are living in a moral and spiritual fishbowl; their actions are evaluated by all sides in the church. This constant assessment gets worse with the rise of social media and always-on leadership.

In actual fact this should be a warning to us as pastors to make sure that we improve our parenting style and remember that as much as our children need the gospel but they need their fathers as well."

Preachers and church leaders need to understand what their children go through, and then try to help them through the challenges that they face. "Pastors should aspire to be a great example to their children first before the community."



Pastor's daughter Babes Wodumo.

You hear a lot of criticism these days about how preacher's kids turn out.

The refrain is often heard that the preacher was so busy delivering mimeographed sheets to Sunday school teachers that he had no time for his family. We, of course, deplore that phenomenon. But few talk about the bright side of the picture. There are a lot of PKs out there who feel their parents contributed quite a bit to their lives.

In addition to the above, we never hear PK's talking about

this issue to us, only to themselves.

How they in their own perspective view this issue. Some say this is because they feel like their voice is not heard, and people often react differently to their opinions, hence their silence on the issue.

Imagine if everyone heard what preacher's kids think, how they perceive themselves and most importantly how they actually want this issue to be treated.

Maybe the misinterpretation

Pastor's kid Faith Makunda

of their roles would be solved, maybe it could change the way we see them and maybe it would change also the misconceptions that we have.

Well, we went out to find preacher's kids in all races, all age groups and all parts of the country. This is what they had to say.

1. Temasiko Mabuza

Being a PK is okay, you find a way through. You just need to embrace your individuality and accept the fact you will never be perfect the way people expect you to be. There is a lot of pressure for a pastor's child to be perfect but you need to forget that. Being a PK is an honour; imagine having the pastor at your disposal 24/7. Yes it is not all rosy but I feel like you get to learn faster and you grow spiritually because you get to ask for clarity whenever I do not have to make an appointment with the pastor. So it is definitely a blessing.

2. Thandiwe Dlamini

Most people think that we are these wild and rebellious kids who only pretend to be good for their parent's sake. Yes there are those of us who act wildly but some of us are not forced to act the way we do.

Secondly, people think that all or most decisions are made for us (by



our parents of course) when they see us they see a bunch of perfect kids from perfect families. I remember one time at church during a family fun day, we had a Bible contest and I won and I overheard someone say I kind of cheated (implying that ekhaya we always read the Bible day and night). Lastly, most people think that just because your dad or your mom is pastor and then one of the kids is also going to be a pastor that mentality should stop asikabitiwa sonkhe hahaha!

We are constantly judged if we're not living up to people's expectations. It's definitely not fair; no one is perfect not even our parents. They should allow us to grow and part of growing is making mistakes and learning from them.

3. Faith Makunda

Being a PK is one of the most difficult titles one can hold. Every step or decision I make is under scrutiny, any slight mistake becomes a big issue. Society expects PKs to be perfect; this then puts a lot of pressure on us. I, for an example, sometimes find myself living my life according to what society expects from instead

of living my life how I want.

There is no method I can use to deal with the pressure that is put on us so I have learnt to live with it. I try my best to live a normal life, to carry myself in a manner that is respectable and acceptable to me first, my parents then the society.

I would love people to know that PKs are human beings and we are bound to make mistakes, just because we were raised in a Christian background does not mean we are immune to making them.

4. Xolani Gama

Bases from the siSwati adage "umfundisi akamutali umfundisi" the number one misconception has to be the PKs are expected to be saints, be PKs (perfect kids) not

only just preachers kids.

I think people should know that we

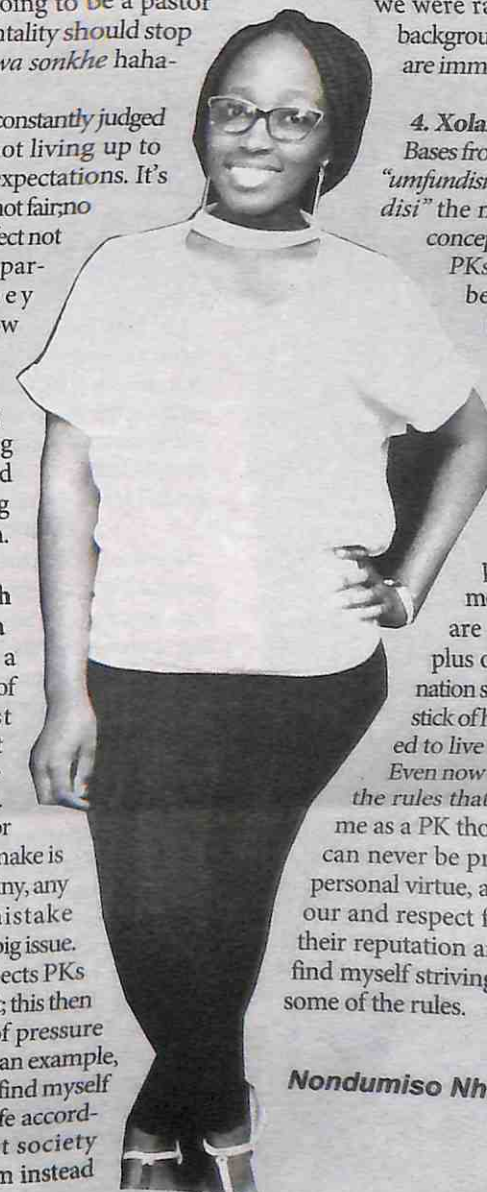
not the angels that our parents

preach about but most importantly we

are our own beings, plus our parent's ordination shouldn't be a yardstick of how we are expected to live our own lives.

Even now I still conform to the rules that are set out for me as a PK though reputation can never be proportionate to personal virtue, and due to honour and respect for my parents, their reputation and ordination I find myself striving to conform to some of the rules.

Nondumiso Nhleko.



GUITARIST, PIANIST AND PASTOR'S SON

SIBUSISO MAZIBUKO

feels like if he misbehaves they will find out. So having strict parents has helped him continue to live a righteous life.

One of the misconceptions people have of pastor's kids is that they are free to say anything and contribute to the decision making of the church; this is far from the truth, or at least where Sibusiso is concerned. He says he believes every church has a hierarchy of leadership so in order for one to make huge decisions that involve the church one must hold a high position in the hierarchy.

Pastor's kids or not all church members follow that leadership hierarchy. It is otherwise acceptable for anyone to make any contribution if however is given the power to make that input. Of course some contributions are simple to make.

Like every household, as a child you get told what to do, and most of the time with no questions asked. You are told when to go to church, what to do when you get to church and sometimes how to behave inside church. As you grow older you accumulate a lot of responsibilities and you begin to see the change in how your parents address you and the expectations they have. Being a PK as an adult comes with more freedom because you do almost everything out of your own discretion.

"I noticed that I grew up and became a son, because I believe there is a difference between being a child and a son. Being a PK as child, the Christian path is sort of laid out for you but when you become a son, you have the freedom to choose your own path."

HOUSEHOLD

One question that people always have is "are preachers' kids allowed to date?" It is common in most churches that dating is not allowed but Sibusiso says some rules are just unannounced that you realise later in life that they actually existed. He grew up knowing that dating is forbidden in his household.

"Dating is always a tricky subject because as much as I would say I wanted to follow the 'do not date' rule, puberty is real. When you hit the teenage stage you always feel like experimenting on different things. To be honest I've tried dating and I now know that the lectures we get from our parents are actually important, like my dad always says "if there is no future in whatever you are doing then there is no point in continuing with it". After all we are human and we all have feelings and it is only natural for us to pursue our feelings.

The most outrageous misconception Sibusiso has heard was that peo-



Reverend JV and Pastor RL Mazibuko with their son Sibusiso.



your life, some even go as far as asking you if you are really your father's child because of the way you act.

The base guitarist says he wouldn't mind being a pastor if called into the ministry but he sometimes sees the pressure that is put on his parents and then he makes a little prayer and asks God to continue to make him grow in his own ministry which is playing the keyboard and ministering through the art of music.

Sibusiso, 24, is the third born of four children; his parents Mbabane Alliance Church preachers, Rev J.V and Pastor Rose Mazibuko, who he thinks are the coolest parents, have raised him in church. Growing up as a PK has had negative and positive impacts on his life.

Being a pastor's kid is like being a pastor in the background for this young man. He says as a PK, you support the 'p' in PK, because what the pastor preaches, you as a PK need to back whatever that is being taught in church in order to make it easier for your parents. "It is our role to follow the instructions of our pastors, this will make it easier for the church as well to follow the rules, because they are not only seeing the example but they also see that it is actually possible to live the kind of life that is preached to us on a daily basis."

He feels that the saying "charity begins at home" applies to this topic because as a PK you need to first support the vision and the work that their parents do and what better way to do that than to obey the rules and guidelines of the church.

STRICT

Sibusiso states that having strict parents like his, helps immensely in how you behave as a PK. "I have strict parents, my dad will say no to some of my requests and not even have a reason for his response. They are very straight forward and are very consistent with their parenting style." Although he says that now that he is grown he does not think they are as strict as he thought they were growing up, because he realises that some of their actions and advises were just logical.

Having strict parents benefits one, because you get protected from 'worldly' things and behaviour. Not to forget that parents are older and they know better than us young people. So at the end of the day they parents are basically looking out for us more than trying to ruin our lives as we sometimes may think.

Even now that he is studying at the University of Zululand, he still lives by their teachings, and sometimes

Precious Zikalala



Contrary to all the **misconceptions** and theories that **preacher's** kids wish they were not, Precious Zikalala enjoys being a PK. She does not think it is as horrible as people may say or even think. "Being a PK is not harder than being anyone else's kid. It's just different. For too long we've used the image of a fishbowl as though that's a bad thing. All of my life I've heard stories about what it's like to be a pastor's kid. Curiously many of those stories are told by those who are not pastor's kids. I'm certainly not denying that PKs receive more attention than other children in the church and am sure it's true that some people in the church hold unrealistic expectations of PKs. On top of that we have all read stories of high-profile PKs who **bemoaned** the burdens of being a PK. Being a

BEING A PK IS A BLESSING

PK is a blessing."

"As a child it was a lot easier I will not lie, because as you grow up the expectations change for an example, we suppose to know better, we can't make mistakes because it's embarrassing for the church, people are watching us, people tell us how to act, they don't expect us to struggle whereas we are always humans like them we not Angels. Some people forget that PKs are voluntary members of a church, we are not paid staff. While as a child people really didn't care what you do, even if they did I don't think you notice because you are still too young."

Precious says her love life is forever affected, since she is not allowed to walk around with guys especially those who are not known at church or home. It also affects her positively and negatively depending on the perspective of how I see my parent's love life. They have a responsibility of portraying this holy matrimony with dignity because not only the church members are looking up to them but they looking up to the church as well. She says it's very tough sometimes but with God on their side they are able to manage.

"We face a lot of struggles. Living a double life is one of the most demanding things we face. We are live



Pastor Phumlani Zikalala and daughter Precious.

in a glass bubble. Some people may have a habit of forgetting that all children were born in aim including PKs. Many congregation members absolve their guilt about third children's behaviour by pointing out the flaws that are in PKs. We sometimes feel over controlled, we miss out a lot of things and we sometimes we feel we should not be called PKs at all.

"However, I love being a PK and I wouldn't ask for different parents."

Nondumiso Nhleko the girl with a sensational voice also happens to be a preacher's kid. For her being a PK means nothing more than the simple fact that her father is a pastor.

Growing up she learnt not to think a lot on the subject nor give full attention to people's perceptions.

"As a child being a PK was all good, I didn't know anything aside being a Sunday school. As I grew up I joined the praise team, youth, etc. and got more and more involved in the church activities, things really changed. As a PK you are really exposed to things that make you at times even question Christianity. Things that other Christians do not know."

Choosing her music career was obviously influenced by her upbringing in the church.

Back in the day when her family lived under one roof they would pray as a family EVERY day, and her parents would always say hlabelani! (sing) and when no one would start a song, Nondumiso's father would just shout Nondumiso cala ingoma (Nondumiso start a song) they all knew that if she does not sing they were all in trouble. So as much as she did not like it growing up this is what ignited her love for gospel music.

The NACA nominee says she does not think preachers kids face problems that are different from other people, it may seem like that but "to be honest the struggle that I go through many other women (not all PKs) have gone through the same, others worse.

But growing up as a PK, Nondumiso's biggest struggles were trying to figure out when her dad was a father and when her dad was pastor. "You know there are things you discuss with your pastor that you would really be uncomfortable discussing with your father, so I had that issue. My father is my pastor". She says she really struggled through making a clear line between the two.

With her dad being strict and her mom being the total opposite the songstress says she would get beaten for the smallest things by her father. She says he did not tolerate things like, waking up late, playing in church, not kneeling down when bringing him food, lies, boys, he would tell you what time he wants them back from school

NONDUMISO NHLEKO



"You know there are things you discuss with your pastor that you would really be uncomfortable discussing with your father, so I had that issue. My father is my pastor".

and if they got home late they better have a good reason.

"People always perceive pastors to be strict parents. I can safely say they are right on that one at least where my dad is concerned," laughs

Young Nondumiso sometimes wished her parents had different occupations but as she grew up she knew she had awesome parents, their teachings were and are still priceless to her. She says wouldn't trade them for anything. She now understands the work and the responsibility they have as leaders of the church.

At the age and maturity level that she is in now, Nondumiso says she is not easily

pressured, especially concerning pressures of being a PK. She knows what is wrong and what is right and she chooses to live according to what she knows and by all means try to follow God's word and His commands rather than trying to impress other people with a perfect-fake image.

"People always ask me if I would become a pastor, I never know how to answer the question because being a pastor is a calling," Nondumiso says she would definitely not say no, even though the title comes with so many sacrifices but obeying God is one of her fortes.





BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA



A VOYAGE TO SGONIAN REPUBLIK

Philani Mpanza is a Siteki born and bred creative entrepreneur with interests strongly aligned with the business of fashion, business com-

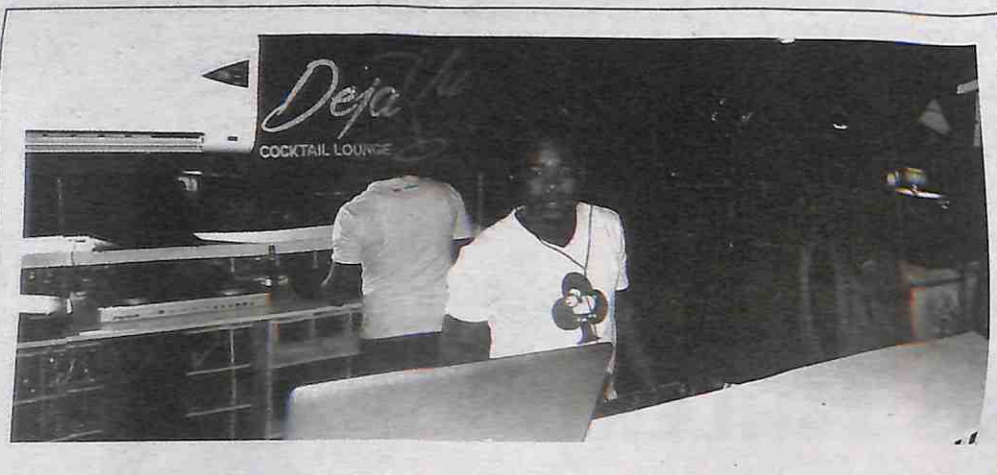
munication [marketing, advertising and public relations]. Alongside founding and running what could just be the country's foremost clothing brands SGONIAN REPUBLIK (SR).

He is also a founding partner of The.Brand.Ad.Arktekts, Swaziland's newest business communications shop and so much more.

Podcasts

He also once ran what was once

one of Swaziland's pioneering deep/soulful house/deep-tech podcasts with DJ Yugo long before he blew up. Beat On Beats caught up with Sgonia to get his views on the house music scene in Swaziland.



LOVE FOR HOUSE MUSIC

My journey with this bliss was conceived through excessive indulging on the works of Big Fun's finest: DJ X-Stacy and Waar Was, during that glorious "Big Fun era" at Tinkers over the course of 2008/9 in what was probably one of the best eras of the Swazi entertainment industry...along the way, I was introduced to the glorious works of DJ Crooks, Mabongza [MHSRIP].

The likes of what are now Swaziland's trailblazers in the scene, the likes of DJ Yugo, Smish, Cup, Katz, Rekorder and MakiE have only made the fire rage even deeper!

MISTAKES AND LEARNING

Around 2011/12 in collaboration with DJ Yugo we started a house-music-meets-fashion podcast ["A Voyage to SGONIAN REPUBLIK"] show-casing Swaziland's finest house music talents and it fast grew to be one of the most influential in the region, hosting some of the game's finest spinners - for some reasons, perhaps SR's insurgence I stopped the podcast, I think around 2013, which was a blooper on my part, I think by now we'd be one of the biggest and more influential podcasts around.

But we live and learn, we resurrect it mid-April with the musically gifted Mmely [of The Antidotes] in some funk - and once again it will be quite an experience.

May the tasteful masses kindly wait.

VIEWS

The industry has been growing in beautiful leaps and bounds. The Antidotes and +268 did well to show the world just what excellence Swaziland has, along came the likes of Slotta and !Sooks who have been blazing quite a lush trail for Swaziland featuring on some of the scenes biggest compilations by revered recording companies [e.g. Lars Behrenroth's "Deeper Shades et al].

What we need to improve: more of what Swazi boy, Mega Sound, Claiming Ground, Big Fun and Deja Vu - more collaborations around a shared vision; treating the Swazi consumer to the best of Swazi talent under one banner. One must laud the strides taken by Swazi Mobile and

TOP 5 LOCAL SPINNERS

1. DJ Rekorder
2. Crooks
3. Yugo and Smish
4. DJ X-Stacy and Waar Was
5. Cup and Katz.

*this list is obviously not conclusive. You can see the confusion written all over it.

TOP 3 HIDDEN SWAZI GEMS

1. S'gegedze
2. MakiE
3. Mdubasa

These three gents owe Swaziland so much!

Swazi MTN - getting on board this train: uplifting the Swazi arts so they can in turn uplift "Brand Swazi" through celebrated excellence. Perhaps more of corporate Swaziland can delve into this, also Swaziland Beverages is onto something beautiful here. The industry needs more feminine hands too, a lot.

PRODUCTION

Did I mention Slotta?, !Sooks?, The Antidotes? and +268? These champs are crafting out a very beautiful narrative for the Swazi house music scene - reason for which one can safely say the future looks neat!

ADVICE TO ARTISTS ON EDUCATION

It's not always about having something to fall back on, but something around which to rise even higher. Education beyond tilts one's thinking forward, moulds behaviour and importantly makes for some decent leverage at the negotiation table and obviously may do lots of good to one's "personal brand". Don't sell yourself short, learn.

NETWORKS:

Craft these carefully, as they will greatly speak to and influence your brand's narrative and trajectory.

BRANDING

A logo is not a brand. Think beyond the logo, think beyond the "merchandise". What is your promise? And how is it being delivered? Is the merchandise enough?

TOP 5 HOUSE JAMS

1. Nick Holder - Summer Daze
2. Atjazz - Please You [Original Extended Mix]
3. Nomalungelo - Imiyalo [The Antidotes Chill-Out Mix]
4. Agoria ft. Scalde - Dust [Rocco Vision Mix]
5. Fabrizio Ortella - Battleground [Original Mix]



BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA



DJ CUP'S TOP TEN

1. DeeJay Cup - Afro Warrior's
2. Pierre Johnson - Movin On
3. DaCapo - Medusa(Chronical Deep Remix)
4. The Normalites - The Sun Rising(Shur I Khan Dub)
5. I Sooks - Hattisn
6. Pacific - Memory Man
7. S-Tone - Let It Be (Gruvbasement Mix)
8. Carissa Nicole & Reggies Steele - Stuck On You
9. Brewed Souls - Vivious Rumours
10. Ta-Ice - Fantasy(Original Mix)



Welcome Zama Maseko aka DeeJay Cup. He has been a full-time DJ for over seven years and has performed at over 30 events in Swaziland and South Africa. Born and bred in Mhlambanyatsi, the spinner started his career as an artist and music collector back then in 2005, then went to become a disc jockey around 2007 after being assisted by senior deejays in the industry. After being associated with best Swaziland DJs and clubs in the last seven years, he confides in his abilities to deliver a cutting edge music and stands true to his reputed profile.

DeeJay Cup specialises mostly in deep house music. This highly organised and experience deejay also does deep house podcast mixes. DeeJay Cup has become one of Swaziland's most exciting entertainers, experienced and fun. Clients just love his

personality of professionalism and his one of Swaziland Arts and Music Association (SWAMA) deejays.

KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Smart fashionable appearance. Friendly, confident and outgoing personality. Extensive knowledge of the music industry. Can mix Deep House, RNB/Hip Hop and Dancehall.

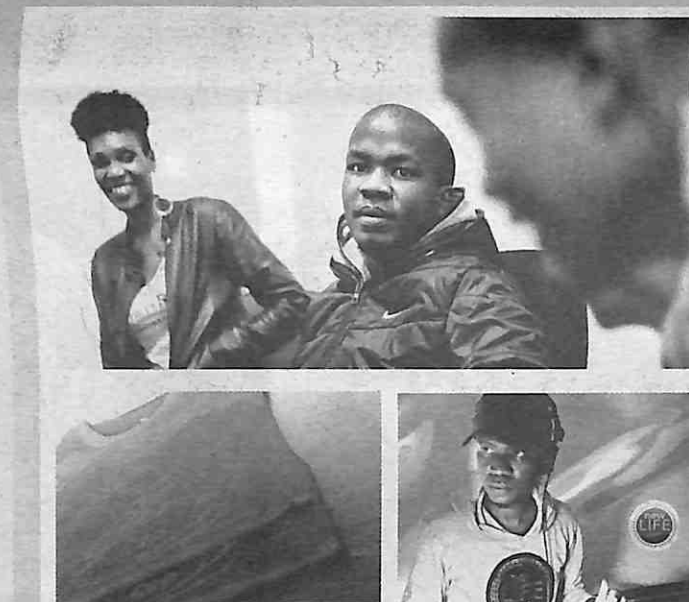
Comprehensive knowledge of DJ equipment, lighting, speakers, lights & decks. Possessing an extensive collection of the latest and most profound music CD's.

A keen personal interest in different genres of music. Excellent knowledge of vinyl and CD turntables, microphones, amplifiers and sound mixers.

PLACES HE HAS PLAYED AT

Mzansi Bar (Sebekeng In South Africa) & Lejweng In Vanderbeilpark South Africa & Caliber Lounge (Tembisa) & Cappelos Park Town (JHB)
Swaziland venues being: Ocean Waves

DJ CUP - MY STORY



// Game On // White House // Umcwembe Braai // Solanis Lounge // Esbayeni Lounge // Ron - Deh - Voo etc.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Currently working on an upcoming EP with three deep house tracks produced and recorded at New Life Records featuring Swazi artists.

DESCRIPTION OF DEEJAY CUP IN A SENTENCE

Deep House Music deejay and affiliated to New Life Entertainment.

Motto: Be you!

Personal Skills: Clear speaking voice, communication skills, organisational skills.

Entertainment stable: New Life Ent

CONTACT DETAILS

Cell: (+268) 78269 170 // Email: deejaycup@gmail.com

NEW LIFE ENTERTAINMENT TO HOST 7 ASIDE TOURNAMENT

New Life Entertainment will on the 7th of April host a seven aside soccer tournament at Mhlambanyatsi Country Club now known as In The Woods. This activity aims at incorporating local companies to come together play and braai while donating funds to assist in the Donate a Pad (DAP) initiative.

The DAP initiative has identified four Schools, one from each Region namely; Ndabazwe High School (Shiselweni), Nkalashane High School (Lubombo), Zombodze National High School (Manzini) and Nkhaba High School (Hhohho).

As the King's vision of making our country a better place in 2022, the DAP initiative aims at distributing the sanitary pads to these schools on monthly basis starting from May 2018. "Our desire is keeping the girl child hygienically clean and focused in their studies without any disturbance pertaining their monthly sickness".



Twelve companies are expected to participate in the first edition of the DAP seven-aside soccer tournament whereby each company contributes a donation of E3 000-00, as a joining fee. We also have an opportunity for them to sponsor the event in the form of marketing/branding the event, providing prizes, venue payment and sourcing artists to perform in the event. However, donations are accepted even if your do not have a soccer team at your workplace in a form of cash or the sanitary pads.

This initiative aims at soliciting, buying and distributing sanitary pads to under-privileged girls in four high schools in the four regions of the country.

Eight companies have already registered and these are Swazi Mobile, Data Net, Standard Bank, Swaziland Branding Design, The Times of Swaziland, Multi-choice Swaziland, Webster Print and Universal Panel Beaters. Swaziland Branding Design amongst them has assumed the position of being one of the main sponsors. Branding Design will brand the event and supply other advertising material. Interested companies can still register as there is still space for the remaining four companies who want to share the vision of improving the well-being of the girl child through improved hygiene. Registration forms are available at New Life ENT offices at Mbabane Portuguese Club first floor or call 24047215.

Corporate companies will be afforded a chance to exercise their social responsibility by giving back to the community and enforcing the healthy well-being of employees through sports for a good course. In addition, the girl child will be an employee or customer at one of these companies in the future. This event will not be a once off activity but will be a quarterly event which is aimed at growing bigger by each quarter through the support of like-minded companies. Entry to the event will be free to the public and more fun is expected to be rendered by the schools as well as local artists. New Life will also host Pad A Girl Foundation from South Africa as our guest during the event. They will be educating on how a girl can manage the menstruation cycle, and also donate pads for

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

All black, glow in the dark was the theme for Zipho's birthday party held at Solani's Restaurant on Thursday evening.

The likes of Dj Touch Of Soul, Diba Diba and South Africa's Dladla Mshunqisi graced the stage as they provided music to the audience. It was a 'lit' show without a doubt.

The theme was a bit difficult to follow but some fun lovers stuck to it. The event was packed with people wearing all kinds of fashion styles and of course the music was there to complete the show.

Here are more pictures from the event, where party lovers, friends came out to support and celebrate with Zipho.



BIRTHDAY PARTY



Also celebrating her birthday was Natalie on the right with her friend Sarah-Lee.



Part of the fun were Phephile, Magayva, Mkabayi and Tema.



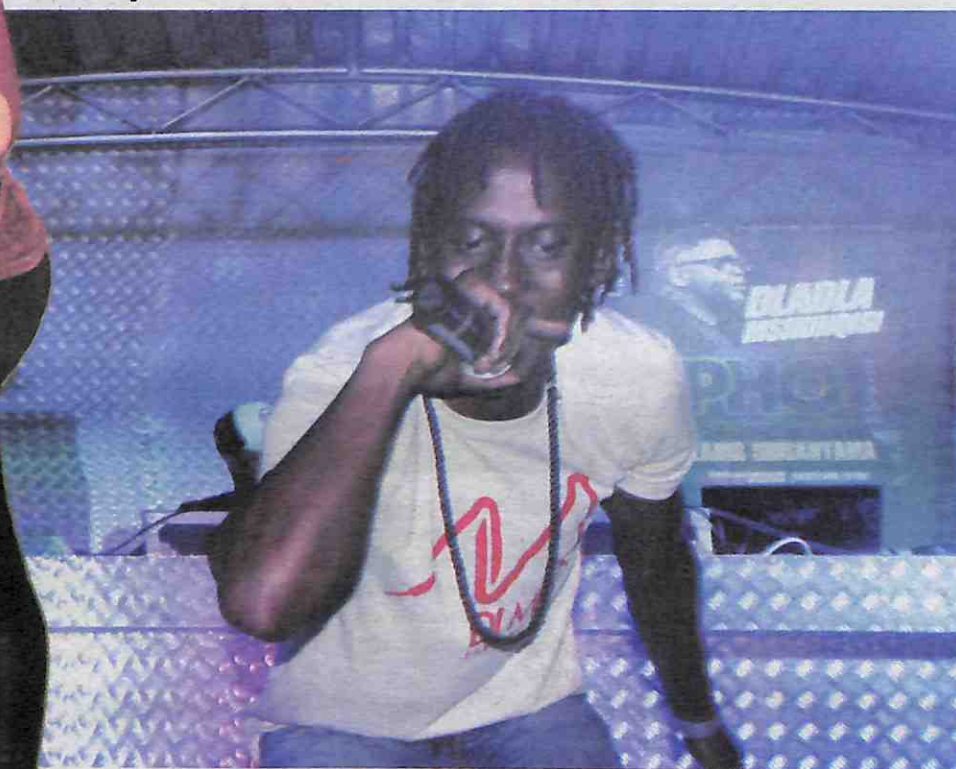
The birthday boy Zipho and friend Sanele.



The girls, Nono, Robin, Sarah-Lee, Natalie, Nokwanda and Kadidja.



Tandziswa and Njabu could not miss out on the fun.



Diba Diba performing his latest songs on stage



Yugo and birthday boy Zipho posing for a picture.



BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SNYC 'CLEANS UP' NHLANGANO TOWN

About a fortnight ago, 'Shintja Swaziland' with the support of the Swaziland National Youth Council (SNYC), hosted a 'clean-up' campaign in Nhlanguano.

According to the council through its senior Communication's Officer Tanele Hlophe, the main objective of the event was to mobilise Shiselweni youth and bring them in one forum in an effort to sensitise them on the importance of education since education is one aspect that will define their career.

Also, it was to educate them on the importance and advantages of keeping their town healthy. The event was graced by the council's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Makhosami Dlamini, veteran artist Mshikishi Mndzebele, representative from the ministry of health, a representative from Nhlanguano Town Council and a representative from the police under the Crime Prevention Unit.

When delivering his speech, SNYC CEO Makhosami Dlamini urged the young people to understand that they are at a critical stage in their lives, which calls for them to make decisions and choices they will live by and further be proud of through their lifetime.

"Being young is a passing stage of life. It's a stage meant to entertain yourselves and grow academically.

The following equation to be replayed in your minds.

Youth plus school equals to career, but youth plus sex equals to school dropout. Youth plus crime equals to jail time," he said.

In essence, this equation touches on the different spheres of life. It talks to youth on criminal activities which are very much discouraged in society and that it's youth that should be on the lookout for any criminal acts which should be reported to local authorities.

The importance of completing school as by so doing these criminal activities will be eradicated alongside drug and substance. Young people must also delay sexual debut since early debut results to school dropouts due to pregnancies, and to exposure to STIs," he further said.

On the day, the young people were further briefly schooled on how SNYC is positioned to empower them in the different spheres, namely arts, leadership and development, entrepreneurship, communication

and marketing, just to list a few programmes implemented through SNYC stakeholders and partners.

"SNYC finds it imperative that our local artists are given the support that will help soar them to greater heights which is why we had youngsters showcasing their talent

today," said Hlophe.

**SHINTJA SWAZILAND
- THE HOST**

A fairly new organisation led by young people and established for the purpose of being a support struc-

ture for youth empowerment.

Artists that performed on the day were young unearthed talents, namely; rap artist T Star,

Jack Plugka, The Saints, Future Makers from Elangeni High School, Wave and the Nhlanguano African Dance Group.



POETRY

God Letter

Everybody is doing trigger warnings now, so To Whom It May Concern, I hated God when my sister died, I didn't know it was coming, but we were at the hospital in a private room for family, and our pastor was there, the one who baptised me, and he said Let us pray, and I kept my eyes open to watch everybody, but listened, and when he said Sometimes God has to take back his angels, I was smart enough to know, I was 14, that he was saying she was gone or going and I loathed him so much, he didn't see the look on my face, that blazing anger blank heart f-you-forever look, but then my parents told us we were going to take her off life support, and I died then, and after they took away the machines we had solitude, family time the five of us, mom, dad, me, my brother, and my sister.

Holding her body she was warm she wasn't conscious but she could hear us I know it, then they opened the door for other family to say goodbye and I was hugging her back in her bed, my face against her face, my tears wetting her cheek it was flush and her wavy hair, I wanted to hold her forever I was hurting but felt selfish like other people wanted to say goodbye too so I let go, and her head kind of tilted to the side and I straightened it so I was a mess then goodbye goodbye we left there to clean the house for mourners to come.

LIVE YOUR DREAM

ENEMIES OF SUCCESS AND PROGRESS

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Good day young people and welcome once again to Live Your Dream column, a forum where we raise issues on following your passion and dreams.

Today, we kick-off things with enemies of success and progress. No human being is perfect, which is why the most successful men and women on earth have had to correct certain weak spots in their personalities before they began to succeed. You have to do it if you are a dreamer. Acknowledge your weaknesses so that you can deal with them. The most outstanding of these weaknesses which stand between men and women and success are;

• INTOLERANCE

The unwillingness to accept views, beliefs that differ from one's own is something that will work against you. You need to be willing to listen and learn from other people's opinions, and then take decisions from then. Do not think that everything that you think is right is right. Also consider other people's views.

• CUPIDITY

Some people's greed for money or possessions will tend to sway them away from their ASPIRATIONS, because they are more concerned about materialistic things instead of achieving complete happiness.

• GREED and JEALOUSY

The extreme or rather excessive desire for something, often more than one's proper share. The old saying that goes 'good things come to those who wait' is really true because this means that you have to be patient as you work for what's yours.

Also, envying someone or their achievements and advantages is also a problem.

• REVENGE

The action of inflicting hurt or harm on someone for an injury or wrong suffered at their hands. That simple means you haven't healed and you haven't moved on either. Until you fully move on, whatever you are revenging will still haunt you, hence you will never achieve your goal.

• EGOTISM and CONCEIT

The practice of talking and thinking about oneself excessively because of an undue sense of self-importance is one other enemy of success. If you always think about yourself or excessive pride in oneself.

• To reap where they have not sown, and the habit of spending more than they earn

Once you take credit for what's not yours, then just know that karma will get you and again, once you decide to spend more than you earn, the money issue (our topic in last week's Sunday Podium), then you are doomed. Financial prudence is vital for anyone trying to attain a level of success.

All of these common enemies of mankind, and many more not mentioned here, are covered by the Law

LIFE BEGINS
AT THE
END OF YOUR
COMFORT ZONE

of Success course in such a manner that any person of reasonable intelligence may master them with little effort or inconvenience.

Principles of Success

1) Develop Definiteness of Purpose
Success and progress towards achieving your goals in life begin with knowing where you are going. Any dominating idea, plan, or purpose held in your conscious mind through repeated effort and emotionalised by a burning desire for its realisation is taken over by the sub-conscious and acted upon through whatever natural and logical means may be available.

Your mental attitude gives power to everything you do. If your attitude is positive, your actions and thoughts further your ends. If your attitude is negative, you are constantly undermining your own efforts.

The starting point of all human achievement is the development of a definite major purpose. Without a definite major purpose, you are as helpless as a ship without a compass.

2) Establish a Mastermind Alliance
A mastermind alliance consists of two or more minds working actively together in perfect harmony toward a common definite objective. Through a mastermind alliance, you can appropriate and use the full strength of the experience, training, and knowledge of others just as if they were your own.

No individual has ever achieved success without the help and cooperation of others. The value of "gathering together those of a like mind"

is self-evident. A group of brains coordinated in a spirit of harmony will provide more thought energy than a single brain, just as a group of electric batteries will provide more energy than a single battery.

3) Assemble an Attractive Personality
A positive mental attitude is the right mental attitude in any given situation. Courtesy is your most profitable asset, and it is absolutely free!

Emotions are nothing but reflections of your mental attitude, which you can organise, guide, and completely control. Your personality is your greatest asset or your greatest liability because it embraces everything you control - your mind, body, and soul.

To be happy, make someone else happy!

4) Use Applied Faith

Faith is awareness of, belief in, and harmonising with the universal powers. Faith is a state of mind which must be active not passive, to be useful in achieving lasting success.

Close the door to fear behind you and you will quickly see the door of faith open before you. Fear is nothing more than a state of mind, which is subject to your own direction and control. Faith will not bring you what you desire, but it will show you the way to go after it for yourself.

We have 17 SDGs and to achieve the 17SDGs, we must apply the 17 Principles of Success. All 17 principles must be applied on each goal though we can match an SDG and a success principle

5) Go an extra mile

Strength and struggle go hand-in-hand. Render more and better service than you are paid for, and sooner or later you will receive compound interest from your investment. The end of the rainbow is at the end of the second mile. The quality of the service rendered, plus the quantity of service rendered, plus the mental attitude in which it is rendered, equals your compensation. The more you give, the more you get.

6) Control Your Attention

Keep your mind ON the things you want and OFF the things you don't want! It is much easier to focus your attention on something you believe will happen than on something you believe is unlikely. Controlled attention is the act of coordinating all the faculties of your mind and directing their combined power to a specific end. Positive and negative emotions cannot occupy your mind at the same time. Independence starts with self-dependence.

7) Inspire Teamwork

There is no record of any great contribution to civilisation without the cooperation of others. Enthusiasm is contagious and teamwork is the inevitable result. A good football team relies more on harmonious coordination of effort than individual skill. Most people will respond more freely to a request than they will to an order. Helping others solve their problems will help you solve your own.

8) Learn From Adversity and Defeat

Everyone faces defeat. It may be a stepping-stone or a stumbling block, depending on the mental attitude with which it is faced. Failure and pain are one language through which nature speaks to every living creature. You are never a failure until you accept defeat as permanent and quit trying. Edison failed 10 000 times before perfecting the electric light bulb. Don't worry if you fail once. Every adversity, every failure, and every unpleasant experience carries with it the seed of an equivalent benefit which may prove to be a blessing in disguise.

9) Cultivate Creative Vision

Creative imagination has its base in the subconscious and is the medium through which you recognise new ideas and newly learned facts. Synthetic imagination springs from experience and reason and creative imagination springs from your commitment to your definite purpose. Imagination recognises limitations. Creative vision sees no limitations. Your imaginative faculty will become weak through inaction. It can be revived through use.

The man who dipped a chunk of ice cream in chocolate and called it 'Eskimo Pie' made a fortune for the five seconds of imagination it took to create the idea!

10) Maintain Sound Health

To maintain a positive mental attitude and develop a healthy mind and body, you must conquer fear and anxiety. Anything that affects your physical health also affects your

mental health. A positive mental attitude is the most important quality for sound mental and physical health. Exercise produces both physical and mental buoyancy. It clears sluggishness and dullness from body and mind. If you haven't the willpower to keep your physical body in repair, you lack the power of will to maintain a positive mental attitude in other important circumstances that control your life.

11) Budget Your Time and Money

Tell me how you use your time and how you spend your money, and I will tell you where and what you'll be 10 years from now. Take regular inventory of yourself to learn how and where you are spending your time and money. The secret of getting things done is: DO IT NOW! Time is too precious to be wasted on arguments and discontent. Some mistakes can be corrected, but not the mistake of wasting time. When time is gone, it's gone forever.

12) Use of Cosmic Habit force

It takes a habit to replace a habit. All of your successes and failures are results of habits you have formed. The orderliness of the world of natural laws gives evidence that they are under control of a universal plan. For every result, there is a cause, and results are brought about through the use of cosmic habit force. First you get a habit, and then it gets you.

13) Create Personal Initiative

It is better to act on a plan that is still weak than to delay acting at all. Procrastination is the archenemy of personal initiative.

Personal Initiative: is contagious and succeeds where others fail.

Procrastinators are experts in creating alibis. Personal initiative is the inner power that starts all action.

14) Build a Positive Mental Attitude

A positive mental attitude is the single most important principle of the science of success, without which you cannot get the maximum benefit from the other 16 principles. Success attracts success and failure attracts more failure. Your mental attitude is the only thing over which you, and only you, have complete control.

A positive mental attitude attracts opportunities for success, while a negative mental attitude repels opportunities and doesn't even take advantage of them when they do come along. A positive mind finds a way it can be done... a negative mind looks for all the ways it can't be done.

15) Control Your Enthusiasm

To be enthusiastic-act enthusiastically! Enthusiasm is to progress toward success, as gasoline is to a car's engine. It is the fuel that drives things forward. Enthusiasm stimulates your subconscious mind. By feeding your conscious mind with enthusiasm, you impress upon your subconscious that your burning desire and your plan for attaining it are certain.

Enthusiasm is a state of mind. It inspires action and is the most contagious of all emotions. Enthusiasm is more powerful than logic, reason, or rhetoric in getting your ideas across and in winning over others to your viewpoint.

16) Enforce Self-Discipline

Self-discipline is the process that ties together all your efforts of controlling your mind, your personal initiative, positive mental attitude and controlling your enthusiasm. Self-discipline makes you think before you act. The subconscious has access to all departments of the mind, but is not under the control of any.

If you don't discipline yourself, you are sure to be disciplined by others. Without self-discipline, you are as dangerous as a car running downhill without brakes or steering wheel.

17) Think Accurately

Thoughts have power, are under your control, and can be used wisely or unwisely. Accurate thinkers accept no political, religious, or other type of thought, regardless of its source, until it is carefully analysed. Accurate thinkers are the masters of their emotions. Accurate thought involves two fundamentals. First, you must separate facts from information.

Secondly, you must separate facts into two classes, the important and unimportant. Accurate thinkers allow no one to do their thinking for them.

SUNDAY COMMENT

Electricity goes up

Today is April 1, 2018. It is officially, the beginning of tough times.

For starters, effectively today, electricity tariffs went up by 15 per cent from midnight. This means you will now have to pay more for electricity.

This is not an April Fool's prank—it is the reality we have been dreading for a while.

The electricity hike was effectively agreed to last year in February when the Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) was granted its wish of a multi-year average increase of 15 per cent.

This meant that SEC did not need to go back to the Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority (SERA) for an application on another tariff increase, but simply had to effect the agreed tariff hike last year.

It is understandable that members of the public would have been caught off-guard by this increase, especially given the outrageous attempt by the government to introduce a value added tax (VAT) on electricity, which would have meant an additional 14 per cent.

Stopped

The introduction of the VAT on electricity tariff was stopped by Parliament, during the debate of the national budget. It is worth pointing out that had that been on the cards, this would have meant that users would have been looking at something closer to 30 per cent increase on electricity.

Not only unthinkable, but outrageous given the economic situation.

Yet, here we are, about to feel the impact of the 15 per cent tariff hike, which itself is tough on the consumers.

This has a direct bearing on a lot of things too; because manufacturers now have to factor in the cost; and so a lot of things will go up as a result.

The impact, therefore, will be on the inflation as food prices are definitely going up, as well as other commodities.

Signed

As if this is not enough, we can also expect difficult times ahead; the introduction of a percentage increase on VAT is on the cards, even if this is not with effect from this month; several user fees are set to go up, thankfully because the finance bill of 2018 has not yet been signed into law.

When it does, it will come with additional user fees going up, a cost that will be passed on to the consumer.

It is clear that government needs additional revenue to finance the budget; however, it is difficult to see us turn the corner ahead.

To top this all up; Category A state enterprises have been told there will not be any salary increase this financial year; a logical decision, but not one that is practical.

This is firmly the tough times knocking on the door.

Analysis & opinion

JUDICIARY HAS BEEN HIJACKED - AGAIN



BY MBONGENI MBINGO

Sibusiso Shongwe's comments of 'good riddance' to the former Anti-Corruption Commissioner Advocate Thanda Mngwengwe should send shivers down our spines—well, at least those of us who genuinely care for this country.

The senator, whose fall from grace is well documented, had the audacity to brag about Mngwengwe being out of contract, to the point he referred to his exit from the ACC as a blessing in disguise. Not only did he do that, but he stooped to that level of insulting Mngwengwe in something that has undertones of xenophobia. For a senator that really is bad. On many levels, this should worry Swazis. His comments, and the posturing of many people regarding the status of the ACC, say a lot about what is happening in the country, particularly, that the Judiciary has been captured again. If not, you would not find a senator standing up to stick the middle finger to the man who has been holding fort at the ACC, and who has been responsible for the arrest of that very senator—and many other so-called 'big fish'.

Yet, events within the Judiciary showcase a frightening situation of late, that have all the hallmarks of the previous regime of Michael Ramodibedi, ironically, which had the same Sibusiso Shongwe right in the thick of things.

It is well known how the Judiciary was back then captured, how justice was for sale, how everything was organised so that there was a powerful elite that pulled the strings behind the powerful Judiciary corridors, so that those without connections and money would have no chance inside a court of law, and selected lawyers found themselves in the land of milk and honey. It is well documented how some judges even had their judgments written out for them, sometimes well before a case was concluded; or lawyers who would know which judge to appear before, if they were to win a case.

If you have not paid attention, rub your eyes once more, and see if this is not where we are headed—especially if we are to understand what Senator Sibusiso



Anti-Corruption Commissioner Advocate Thanda Mngwengwe.

Shongwe's comments really mean to anyone who stands on the right side of the law.

If you do not believe this, ask yourself why, for instance, Advocate Mngwengwe is out of contract; and why within days of the same Shongwe challenging the nationality of the ACC Commissioner, an advert published in the Times made it clear that the candidate ought to be a Swazi national. You should ask yourself why the ACC has not taken any case to the High Court of Swaziland since October 2016—and why at this point, the Supreme Court has not deliberated on the chief justice's landmark ruling on the Gideon Dlamini case.

You should ask yourself why Parliament is suddenly interested in probing the Anti-Corruption Commission, even if there may be concerns regarding its operations. The very idea that someone thinks that the dealings of the ACC, an entity that should be allowed to its autonomy and as well not be made to answer to the Legislature, clearly given the very visible issues of conflict, should be a clear warning to emaSwati that there are people who have been working very hard to bring the ACC to its knees.

Corrupted

These are people who have been working to remove a foreigner on the seat because he cannot be corrupted; because he cannot fall for the subtle threats of using His Majesty's name as intimidation.

So, when a senator stands up to say that he is happy to see the back of the ACC Commissioner, and to the point that he will call him names, we should see it for what it truly is. It is evidence of successful moves to oust him, because he has been a problem. It is also a clear dance of victory.

Clearly, the senator has an axe to grind with the commissioner, and that is acceptable. He is after

all, fighting to clear his name in court, something that he initially announced he welcomed, because he would clear his name. Anyone interested in clearing himself in the court of law will want to do so within a framework that allows for the integrity of the courts to be seen to be free and fair.

It is evident that Shongwe, who vouches to be a born again Christian, bears grudges and an unforgiving heart. He is not leading by the example set by Christ, hence on this other level of religion and Christianity, his comments last week were a major disappointment. I wondered to myself if Shongwe should not, at least, have allowed the opportunity to pass without him saying what he said. Calling Mngwengwe names was not just stooping low, it was abusing the position that he holds as a legislator, especially a big human rights issue.

But, here's what should concern you and I regarding the state of the Anti-Corruption. For quite a while now, MPs have been having a field day on the ACC; they want to know details of the covert operations by which people are probed, asking for details relating to cars that are used to probe. They want to probe the ACC because they want to lay bare the operations of how they gather information.

MPs have not lifted a finger regarding these issues, despite that they speak to a bigger plot to ensure the ACC is dismantled, so that it has no power over certain individuals. To even contemplate a parliamentary probe, is a scandal bigger than we have ever seen for what it would do to the commission and the work it has been doing. MPs have not bothered to find out why cases are not being referred to the High Court; or if at all the ACC is still being able to do its work with-

out fear and intimidation, especially following Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala's comments on the Gideon Dlamini's case.

Instead, they want to know where cars that were bought for investigations are parked; for what good reason? Isn't that exposing the officers who carry out such work, similar to intelligence officers?

What boggles my mind is when politicians with blood in their hands are allowed to set the agenda against the Judiciary, and especially the ACC. How dare people have that arrogance to speak openly and publicly knowing that they have cases pending before the courts? And, what then of us, if people can be allowed to display such clear and obvious conflict?

There is a clear indication that all is not well within the Judiciary; that even the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has a hand in the disruption that is happening right in front of our eyes. This disruption is no different to that of the Michael Ramodibedi era. In fact, it smells and looks like his hand is alive behind some of these things that are now happening behind the corridors.

It is evident that Thanda Mngwengwe's removal from the ACC is victory on many levels and that the ACC is now firmly a toothless dog that has had its good days behind it. Sadly, these people orchestrating and castrating the anti-corruption fight, are the same people who want to appear before Their Majesties as though they mean well. His Majesty has always made it clear that he wants us to fight corruption. He has stood up against it. Yet, these people around him are watching, if not contributing, as the ACC is stopped dead in its tracks.

That is why we should be concerned with what Sibusiso Shongwe said in Senate on Wednesday last week, for it is totally against the wishes of His Majesty and the Nation, and definitely not Swazi that we would be seen to be dancing on a dead man's grave. It is even worse if that man was a good man who served the nation well.

Anyway, for all its worth, Sibusiso Shongwe must not think that we have all forgotten what happened in the past. More importantly, Sibusiso Shongwe must not forget what happened in the past.

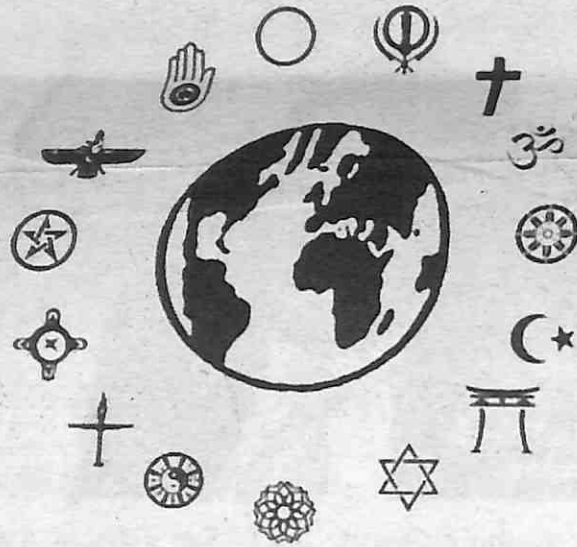
While he is entitled to this celebration, he must remember that history has a way of repeating itself. We know this.



By Comfort Mabuza

RELIGION AND MULTI-FAITHS SHOULDN'T ABUSE CITIZENS' RIGHTS

...This weekend marks the Holy Week in the Christian calendar with the commemoration of Christ's death and subsequent resurrection. Interestingly, so many things have come to play as we were going through the Lent in preparation for the holly weekend



Swaziland is a constitutional state now and as such, the protection of freedom of conscience and religion is provided for in Section 23 (1) "A person has a right to freedom of thought, conscience or religion." It further states (2) Except with the consent of that person, a person shall not be hindered in the enjoyment of freedom of conscience, and for the purposes of this section, freedom of conscience includes freedom of thought and of religion, freedom to change religion or belief, and freedom of worship either alone or in community with others. What these two salient sub-sections provide for is that Swaziland is a multi-faith society and no one person can claim control and moral high ground to question other people's beliefs.

What is certainly not adequately catered in this sections is, where do citizens go to, if there is a feeling that their freedom of religion and conscience is manipulated and abused? How do we ensure that citizens whose religious rights are under threat where there is subtle abuse of their very beliefs' system by those claiming a higher moral ground in manipulating innocent people?

While imploring freedom of religion in Swaziland's constitution, there is need to protect citizens from any undue perceived heresy and subtle spiritual abuse.

Citizens must enjoy protection from some of the claims propagated with no accountable structures to call those making such disturbing utterances accountable. Even though freedom of religion and conscience is allowed, as responsible human rights we must safeguard the interests of vulnerable masses needing protection, because they end up being attracted to these claims of religious meetings out of desperation and personal spiritual hunger. They must be assisted to determine truth from error and that is why in Christendom, we speak of sound theology that is allowing teachings that sound.

HOLLY WEEKEND

This weekend marks the Holy Week in the Christian calendar with the commemoration of Christ's death and subsequent resurrection. Interestingly, so many things have come to play as we were going through the Lent in preparation for the holly weekend. What has become quite alarming is the many themes from different church formations that are all over and some falling off the mark of the Passover theme. One is really even shocked that it would seem as if sacred calendar dates for that matter are no longer given due attention and consideration which one would have thought influences themes? I am taken aback by some of the themes that have no bearing on the Resurrection story and message and that should be indicative that people's religious rights are being abused. The message of the Cross is no longer being pursued and one wonders what is becoming of God's church in particular we

will be so blind to this and not help masses reflect on its significance of late. From financial breakthroughs to empowerment conventions, we are losing the meaning of this Holy Week. May we revisit the basis for the Passover celebrations and reflect more on the implications of the message of the Cross. While we live in a world of choices, but let us not violate religious rights and ensure we respect the Passover theme and message.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

The constitution has rightly provided what a religious community can do in an attempt to organise itself Section 23 (3) states, "A religious community is entitled to establish and maintain places of education and to manage any place of education which that community wholly maintains, and that community may not be prevented from providing religious instruction for persons of that community in the course of any education pro-

vided at any place of education which that community wholly maintains or in the course of any education which that community otherwise provides." Basically, what this sub-section provides, is for multi-faith formations to establish schools as part of enjoying their religious freedom and practise their faith with no limitation. Ideally, people should be allowed to teach and exchange ideas around their dogma and practises of a given religion. However, what then becomes a great concern is if members of the public feel there are some elements of heresy where there is manipulation of people's beliefs how are they protected? Faith formations should have a written down dogma stating what they stand for, so that whatever they say can be subjected to some peer review. In goes without saying that there will be concerns raised about practises that are seen to be abusive. Take, for instance, if virgin girls are taken in and married without their parental concern as part of religious rites, then we would have serious issues with such unethical behaviour as human rights defenders. Not that one is against the religious rights, but because anything that violates rights and fundamental others must be put on spotlight. As multi-faith is thriving in Swaziland, we still must subject religious practises to some scrutiny and ensure their behaviour is normative. When people are seen practising and teaching their dogma, it certainly should not be violating others' rights. Hence such teachings must be subjected to some peer review and that attempts to normalise them be given due attention. No religious dogma or teaching should go against what is considered normative. When citizens are manipulated and given a raw deal, then the Commission of Human Rights and Public Administration should play its part on monitoring

such cases because if abuse of religion is allowed to thrive, certainly people must be called upon to account for their action. Ideally, we should ensure that any unbecoming behaviour in the name of religious rights must be brought under a spotlight. We surely cannot afford to have the free for all and the members of the public are being taken for a ride.

ROLE OF ECUMENICAL BODIES

Reflecting on the mushrooming faith formations we are concerned that somehow there seems to be no regulations, and we have every reason to be asking, where the Ecumenical Bodies are tasked with regulating such? In a normal society, which Swaziland is, we have different organisations concerned about matters of conduct and behaviour of religious formations. In a normal set-up, every religious formation needing to be registered, names of the founders should be known. Also, their statement of faith must be scrutinised accordingly by a reputable body within each given religious organisation. Locally, we have three that we know of: League of African Churches; Swaziland Conference of Churches and Council of Swaziland Churches. Other multi-faiths are free to operate following the due process of registration through the ministry of home affairs and that of justice and constitutional affairs. All these attempts are meant to safeguard the interests of the populace in ensuring there is order. Faith organisations must meet certain agreed standards. It is such a great pity that some entities have mushroomed overnight and one wonders what to do with such if they are seen bringing about confusion in the name of religion. We appeal for the protection of the citizens from these heretic tendencies and falsehoods that end up clouding the very essence of a desired multi-faith society.

STOP FALSEHOODS IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

As we commemorate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us uphold what He stood for. His mission was to resurrect hope and show love to humanity and save them from all kinds of injustices. The mission of the Christian message, therefore, is that of bringing hope and is well summed up in Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind to release the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." From a human rights perspective using the very pronouncement by the Christ who came to seek and save the sinners, we can deduce that the mandate of every Christian should be that of liberating and freeing God's people from all kinds of oppression and to declare the year of God's favour. It certainly raises questions the unbecoming behaviour of some religious groups that end up manipulating God's people. Religion should empower people and affirm them as created in the image of God. Any brainwashing of people religiously rendering people as hopeless and without dignity should be stopped.

VOICE OF BUSINESS



From our previous article titled 'How can we cope in an ailing economy?' we addressed the effects that the current economic atmosphere has on the employer and employee.

The need to put business before our interests was emphasised categorically because we all depend, not only on the existence, but the sustainability of business. Collective bargaining was cited as a process that requires a meticulous approach if we are ever going to co-exist in the workplace and further the common goals of business and sustenance of our weak economy.

THE CHANGING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Evolution of The Business Landscape

The Swazi economy is highly dependent on the South African industry, thus the findings made there become relevant and, to a large extent, are salient in our business situation. This is the reason this article keeps referring to South Africa.

The Swazi Government launched the e-Government Communication Strategy on 3rd July, 2017 which was hailed as a defining moment of change that will move the country to the next level in the programme to apply digital technology in government processes. The strategy was presented as an important tool to promote and market e-Government services to the public to allow extensive use of the services and presenting to citizens and the business community, the benefits brought by technology.

This is evidence that we are a country that does not want to be left behind in the advent of defining technological changes. South Africa is also on the e-Government path. We will look at the subject of collective bargaining in the face of the technology wave sweeping across business processes. As presented by Dr Geoff Heald, Senior Lecturer negotiation from University of Witwatersrand, collective bargaining as it is currently understood and conducted, in South Africa, and across the world, is being fundamentally challenged by the integration of new digital technologies that are arising from the Fourth Industrial Revolution. These new digital technologies will determine many aspects of the future of employment, in the world over the decades to come. They are changing the nature of employment and therefore, the

law of contract and indeed how contracting is conducted. The prevailing worldview that informs how collective bargaining is practiced has not addressed the potential impact of disruptive innovation on the wide scale obsolescence of many present business models, including business models in the professions. This worldview is currently locked in the second industrial revolution of the 1920s and obsolete. Crucially, there has been no systematic national assessment of the knowledge and skills requirements that are necessary to be employable in this new world of work, he asserts. We, therefore have not diagnosed the challenges and made prognoses of what needs to be done to ensure employability in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Unless we seriously engage with the employment implications of the Fourth

Industrial Revolution, we will be educating our children for unemployment.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution

The Fourth Industrial Revolution, according to Schwab and Samans (2016) of the World Economic Forum, involves a completely new and dramatic alignment of automation, robotics, crypto-currencies, 3D printing, genetics, artificial intelligence, crowd platforms, cloud functionality, nanotechnology, self-healing materials with micro vascular techniques, biotechnology and other forms of computerisation "that are building up and amplifying each other. It is blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological spheres." The phrase "amplifying each other" is key, because these changes are cur-



**JOY NDWANDWE'S
LEADERSHIP
ZONE**

Institute of African Renaissance Studies (IARS) at University of South African hosted a conference on 'Pan Africanism and African Renaissance in the 21st Century.'

Thus providing appropriate academic space for my activism, whilst deeply listening to researched contents and contexts. As an indigenous knowledge researcher and expect, it enhances my thoughts to be in the mist of scholars and academics. In Swaziland, I continuously experience academic isolation, as the current preoccupation within the country is sex, greed and materialism, lower levels in Maslow hierarchy of needs. These predominate societal menaces are contemporary society's weapons of mass destruction, dominating social spaces whilst impeding human growth opportunities. Experiencing these weapons of mass destruction, sex, greed and materialism has been a healthy barometer on my commitment to intellectual property investment. Hence, attending conferences relives this academic isolation, thus, providing opportunity to listen deeply whilst filling the void of isolation in Swaziland.

PAN AFRICANISM OR AFRICANNESS

Pan Africanism was an important pillar of the liberation from enslavement and colonialism, within Africa and its diaspora. This notion affirmed by His Excellency Ambassador George Ayisi-Boateng, High Commissioner of Ghana, who shared with conference delegates on how he was proud of being Ghanaian, rooted in Pan Africanism and African Renaissance. Hence, these two must be pillars of African development, to drive change and transformation towards the global agenda. Moreover, the attainment of improved quality of life, through harnessing of knowledge towards the advancement of African and its diaspora. As these pillars create intriguing discourse on connectedness, causal relations, social relations, dialects and change and the social theory of self-reliance, hence Pan Africanism is a tool for development to produce a renewed Africa.

These intriguing thoughts affirmed by insightful analysis, Professor Mogobe Ramose, 'wiping away the tears of the ocean, ukusula izinyembezi zolwandle.'

This analogy brought into this academic space the notion, whether we are transforming from Pan Africanism to Pan Africaness. The epitome of this discourse was the issue of blackness, and this inspired my thoughts, reflecting on how a few years ago I stated, I am not black, misrepresented thoughts to try-

PAN AFRICANISM AND AFRICAN RENAISSANCE 2018!



ing to be 'white.' Professor Ramose, within the analogy of wiping away tears of the ocean, blackness, which came with the ocean in ships that brought, colonises who made us believe we are black. Colonizers came with the view of creating a black and white world, thus misrepresenting 'pink vs white' as the white world symbolises clarity. Whilst the black world represents the darkness of the night, evoking inferiority whilst suppressing the African souls, which must be reawakened. In this post-colonial era, the ocean is the body, which must wipe tears away to enable Pan Africaness.

Pan Africaness, critical for this era when we wipe tears away, dealing with the expanded trading partners, China leading, India, Korea, Brazil and Turkey who are emerging. We require Pan Africaness to transcend from blackness, when trading and collaborating in potential technological exchanges. We can no longer afford self-imprisonment of blackness, trading and collaborating with leading and emerging partners, as the current inferiority complex reflects self-imprisonment by colonialism and coloniality.

As Pan Africaness will enable this continent to develop partnership manifesting in productive capacity building as opposed being donor and grant recipients.

This Pan Africaness as a developmental tool, evoking the potential value add to African export prod-

ucts, as opposed to inferiority complexes manifesting in exporting primary goods. Pan Africaness will evoke potential for technology and innovation, particularly embedded within indigenous knowledges, values and ethics. Thus creating academic and leadership space for African leadership and technocratic elite with capacity to ensure global partnerships.

AFRICAN RENAISSANCE

His Excellency stated how the African Renaissance must not be a mirage, as it is a product of Pan Africanism. Hence, there must be a linkage between the African Renaissance and Pan Africanism to ensure patriotism at all levels of society. Professor William Gumede from Wits University, on 'Democratising the African Union', affirmed this notion as this would ensure the African Union success. The current form of African Union insulated; hence democratising would enhance peace, inclusive development and ethnic inclusivity currently stifling progress.

Thus rendering African Union irrelevant for our times, we are living in uncertainty and globalisation, therefore what is the meaning and benefit of having a continental centralized structure. In Professor Gumede's view, African Union required restructuring, refocusing and reenergising such that it begins to pull markets, develop markets, building genuine democracy whilst

ensuring project development and implementation. This would create an enabling environment for the African Renaissance, to release and beat all colonial powers, for a non-black and white world to emerge, an uncertain world.

The uncertain world that requires political unity within the African continent, led by a democratised African Union. This requires a three-tier peer review system for the African Union, with core group of countries leading in economic and governance policy, next being those trying very hard and then hopeless cases to be left by the wayside. As regional or continental organisations face severe issues and challenges, hence they require peer review processes. According to Professor Gumede, these organisations turn to focus on state or sovereign security, which will not lead the continent or regions to African Renaissance, hence they should focus on human security. When reflecting on all the deaths and vulnerabilities of ordinary citizens, it is critical to have African Renaissance transformative interventions from African states solidarity towards human solidarity. Thus requiring critical engagement on how to facilitate the protection of individual Africans vs. sovereignty of African states. Moreover, this can be achieved through African citizens having direct influence in decision making, voting in African union, voting on African Union referen-

dums, democracy must be underlining ideology and most significantly pulling market's by harmonising industrialization.

Professor Gumede's contributions to this conference made me reflect on these impediments towards the African Renaissance. The continent, challenged in terms of managing Africa's growth with all natural resources, which requires peer review on economic and governance policies. The element of human security is critical as lack of economic and governance policies, has manifested in deaths and vulnerabilities such as black diamonds, state capture, statelessness and refugees status and most significantly poverty. This peer review and human security would enable managing natural and human resources, attracting partnerships for investors with potential to develop new discoveries and innovation. Africa requires increasing its energy sector to pull markets by harmonising industrialisation. Therefore, this three-tier peer review and human security and solidarity would increase the potential markets, including the energy sector. Thus resulting in income increases and growing the middle class, whilst managing the most vulnerable citizens, women and youth, as they are a huge strategic resource.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, living in Swaziland where I am labelled a theorist creates academic isolation, hence such conferences illuminate and ignite my passion as an African Renaissance activist. My passion of integrating indigenous knowledges, values and ethics to be part of Pan Africaness and African Renaissance. This conference reignited my passion for Africa women's indigenous dignity, the Queens of Knowledge who must rise with feminine power, to influence Pan Africaness and African Renaissance.

As an activist when raising my voice, reigniting indigenous dignity of women, as a Queen of Indigenous Knowledge, hoping to raise voices of African women.

Hence, have transcended from sex, greed and materialism, impediments suppressing voices of Queens of Knowledge globally; personally have experienced resistance within young women, as an African woman declaring her standards, Happy Easter!

rently in a process of escalation, creating a perfect employment storm, not only in South Africa, but across the globe as well. The Fourth Industrial Revolution will, in due course, introduce many new forms of employment, but it will also render a large number of current and familiar forms of employment, as we know them, redundant. Two researchers from Oxford University, Frey and Osborne (2013:44) identified 702 jobs on the probability of their obsolescence because of automation and computerisation. They found that many clerical and administrative positions would simply become redundant by virtue of labour saving computer applications. These authors predict that "most workers in transportation, and logistic occupations, together with the bulk of office and support workers, production workers are at risk" of automation. The Scientific American (2014) concurred with Frey and Osborne's (2013) research and estimated that 47 per cent of all current American jobs would

become eligible for automation over the next decade or so. It is reasonable to hypothesise that at least a similar proportion of South African jobs will become redundant, across the same period of time because of disruptive innovation. The extent of redundant jobs that could be lost in South Africa might be much more, because the overwhelming majority of employees in South Africa perform semi-skilled and unskilled work. These jobs are precisely those that are easiest to eliminate through automation and computerisation.

The Way Forward

Disruptive innovation is changing all aspects of employment, and indeed of the nature of work. Industrial conflict accelerates mechanisation and computerisation. It, therefore, is fuelling a switch from mechanistic mental models to systems mental models. The entire South African society should be urgently educated and trained to contribute to the new world of work. This is a fun-

damental, and difficult, challenge, because no one clearly understands what the new nature of employment and career requirements will be. Disruptive innovation is not restricted to unskilled employment, and will extend into highly skilled work, and the professions over the next several years as well. All aspects of the economy will be affected by this development, including manufacturing, mining, education, finance, retail, entertainment, trade, agriculture, education, energy and health, to name but a few. Both management and union negotiation teams have naturally focused on the "here and now" of wage negotiations, because it is a practical and important next step, in improving the day-to-day working conditions of employees. They have failed to systematically foresee the bigger picture, of the radical changes that are taking place, in the basic nature of employment. It appears that this critical information has not been conveyed to the employees and communities in which they

operate. They have also failed to invoke a viable public process that will ensure employment creation. Business and labour, as negotiation counterparts, have, therefore, generally failed to create effective feedback loops that enable employees to understand, cope with, and fully appreciate that disruptive innovation is redefining the fundamental nature of employment. The negotiation counterparts have also failed to create a feedback loop between the imperative to discover satisfiers to fundamental human needs, and how these might be integrated into the collective bargaining process. It would be far wiser to predicate collective bargaining on a feedback loop, that is based on a systems worldview of the intense fragility and potential redundancy of jobs, employment and the accelerating obsolescence and half-lives of most business models, as well as the availability of new jobs, new careers and new business models in the digital age that are overwhelming the old. Collective bar-

gaining is failing because in its present form, it is treating the symptoms and not the root causes of the conflict between employees and employers, which is that both parties are caught up in a radical change process that is revolutionising the nature of work and business.

The consequences of the Fourth Industrial Revolution have been manifesting with ever greater intensity over the past few years and are projected to accelerate exponentially into the future. If the changing nature of employment is not seriously, and systematically, addressed, critically youth unemployment problems could become intractable, and lead to profound and endemic unrest. Much investment will need to be devoted to re-skilling and re-educating employees, whose skill-sets have become obsolete. The re-training, re-skilling and re-education of employees across the whole employment life span, will clearly become a major educational and skills requirement.



**NOKUKHANYA
GAMEDZE**

JA BOARD CHAIR

A CASE STUDY OF BICRENOLOUS PRODUCTION SERIES 3

For every in school mini-company that is assembled, great emphasis is made on the fact that each product developed by young people should become a solution to a certain social problem identified.

This is the exact formula that has been used by learners from Manzini Nazarene who have over the years produced products that bore solutions to some of the socio-economic issues that they identified in their surroundings. Worth noting is the fact that Manzini Nazarene is one of the school which have consistently done well in the JA in school programmes with young people emerging to create real enterprises from their in school business ideas. This week, we took time to speak to Bicenolous production, a company established in 2017 which produced beauty soap and washing bar as their core products. This mini company is still thriving presently and has great potential to become Swaziland's first ever cosmetics manufactures.

The company name Bicenolous was derived from the names biosafety, creativity, innovation and lustrous. These are all the objectives that the company hopes to achieve whereby they aim to produce bio safe, creative and innovative products, they also aim to add a little spark of shine to individuals who utilise their products. The company currently has 57 shareholders which is a decline from the 87 who were involved in the inception of the business. They produce natural soap extracted from calendula flower. As teenagers, they were exposed to a lot of their peers with acne related skin problems, hence they decided to provide a solution to this challenge. They also discovered that living in a hostel set up, the borehole water that they use left a lot of scam on their garments as the soaps used had difficulty to dissolve in hard water. Speaking to Thabani Bhandu, the Chief Executive Officer as well as Oliver Springle, the Production Manager, it was established that these young people ensured that they created a strong marketing strategy to ensure absorption of their product in the market. "As we sold our products to dif-



ferent clients, we asked for reviews on how the product was treating them. As we established the success stories, we decided to document them. These were the very instruments that assisted us gain credibility in the market as clients raved about the product. The demand for the products then increased as word of mouth coupled by the documented pictures saved as evidence of the transformation made by the use of our product. At present, the demand for our product is not only in Swaziland but in neighbouring countries such as Lesotho, Botswana and South Africa after we had an opportunity to present the product at a convention that had representatives from these countries present," said Bhandu.

These young people communicate big plans for their business as they identify that it has great potential to become a multi-million enterprises. "Having made research on the availability of competitors locally, we have discovered that there are no soap manufactures locally. We, there-

fore, want to break into the cosmetics industry where we will not only offer our soap but diversify into having a variety of cosmetics products that will cater for all skin types with the guarantee of using natural ingredients in the production process. We have also been very fortunate to receive support from the school, whereby they have decided to back our business through the establishment of a structure within the school premises that will allow for mass production. In the long run, in order to fully explore the potential of the business, we wish to move out of the school structure and establish our own, independently," said Springle.

A frequently asked question with regards to young people who choose to work on their business while still in school is whether or not it affects their school work and focus. Bhandu explains that it is all about creating a healthy balance between the two. "What we decide to do as a company, specifically because we are in Form Five, a completing class, is



working on our business on week-ends. We focus on mass production during this time to ensure that when it is time for class, we just have ready and waiting stock for sale. We also have our client liaison person in the form of our teacher, Mr. Sabelo Dlamini who handles ordering for us during school time. Of course every once in a while, we find ourselves receiving a wakeup call when the business life interferes with the school life and we simply go back to setting our priorities straight," said Bhandu. These young people are determined to make their company grow. "We have already secured the company name at the registrar of companies. In actual fact we are in the final stages of fully registering our business and trading as a legal entity. We have received a health clearance certificate from the Southern Africa Nazarene University for safety to use our product which adds on to our credibility. The director of health services in Swaziland also took samples of our soap for testing with

different doctors who all vouched for the safety of our product. We still require more support as we have identified different production machinery that will make the production process faster, priced at E140 000 in Taiwan which we are still looking into how we end up securing," said Springle.

Conclusion

It has been so inspiring for me these few past weeks to share with you some of our success stories. The mandate we have at JA Swaziland is to have more young people realise their entrepreneurial ambitions and become supported in every way to ensure that they reach their fullest potential. Manzini Nazarene High School is fully committed in supporting the dreams that young people have as evident by their commitment to provide a structure that these young people can use to advance their businesses. This is exactly what we wish to advocate for, creating an enabling environment in which young entrepreneurs can thrive.

BY PAUL BUTLER

Every person is valuable. Hugely valuable because we are made in God's image and loved so deeply that Jesus died for us. Increasingly, employers are realising that we humans seek to discover our value through healthy work as part of fulfilled lives. A happy workforce is a productive one. So they are investing in office spaces with soft furnishings, meditation sessions, flexible-working options and even pet office dogs, all seeking to keep workers happy.

Yet as companies get multimillion-pound makeovers, a large body of UK workers face multiple pressures – insufficient pay to meet living costs,

unpaid overtime, working through lunch breaks, and the uncertainty of the gig economy and zero-hours contracts. Perks for average and high earners are a world away from the experience of the estimated 5.5 million workers paid under a real living wage, based on the cost of living.

These individuals and families are often too exhausted to participate fully in society and our communities.

Even with a welcome increase to the government's minimum wage due on 1 April, too many people still have to choose between a hot meal and putting the heating on, or skipping meals to ensure children don't go to bed on empty stomachs.

That's why this Easter, we

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? PAY WORKERS A LIVING WAGE



Too many people still have to choose between a hot meal and putting the heating on, or skipping meals to ensure children don't go to bed on empty stomachs.'

need to renew our collective resolve and ask more employers go beyond the government minimum by pay-

ing a higher real living wage. That way workers won't struggle to survive but have a chance to thrive, and

live with dignity.

Paying a real living wage allows workers to reduce excessive hours



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BONGANI DLAMINI

STA Marketing Manager

Email: mm@tourismauthority.org.sz



TOURISM MINISTER'S EASTER MESSAGE

The Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Christopher Gamedze this past Wednesday delivered his annual Easter Message at a press conference which was held in Mbabane. Below are excerpts from his message:

"The Easter holidays remind us of the resurrection of Jesus Christ our saviour. It is the time where we commemorate our saviour's triumph over sin, and we take pleasure in spending this special time with family and friends. During this time, we reflect on the many blessings that fill our lives. Let us as a nation give thanks to the Almighty, who made us in His image and redeemed us in His love.

As we begin the holidays, we shall be guided by our values that have made us stand out from other nations. Those values have made us a preferred tourism destination in the region and the continent. Swazis humility and friendliness to visitors continues to be the most valuable asset this country possesses. I would urge everyone to continue being courteous towards our visitors, something which comes naturally with Swazis.

For many people, the Easters are signified by the traditional family road trips, as people visit friends and relatives, as well as places of interest. I therefore plead with drivers to follow all the road signs and rules, so as not to expose themselves, passengers, and pedestrians to risk. We need to maintain our reputation as a safe destination.

May I also urge you all to take time and enjoy our tourism offering in the



Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Christopher Gamedze.

country. We ask every Swazi to play their role by being good hosts to throngs of people who will be in the country for the Easters.

When we all play our part, we make the work of our frontline personnel very easy, as they make the first impressions to our guests.

May I commend them, as well as other stakeholders who include the Royal Swaziland Police, EMS Swaziland, among others, for being of good service to our

visitors. The growing number of visitors to Swaziland is testimony of your sterling work in your respective areas of duty.

I also encourage all Swazis to ensure that our country remains clean during these holidays.

We can all play our part by avoiding littering our communities, roads, and places of worship. Those who will be on the road are encouraged to use litter bags in their vehicles and avoid throw-



ing away litter through windows. We encourage people to use dustbins and other suitable containers when throwing away litter, or keep same until they find a dustbin. This will ensure a clean and friendly environment for all.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Swaziland to our visitors.

I personally would like to thank each and every one of you for making a great choice for choosing the Kingdom of Swaziland as your Easter holidays' destination. I urge you to relax and enjoy and a royal experience.

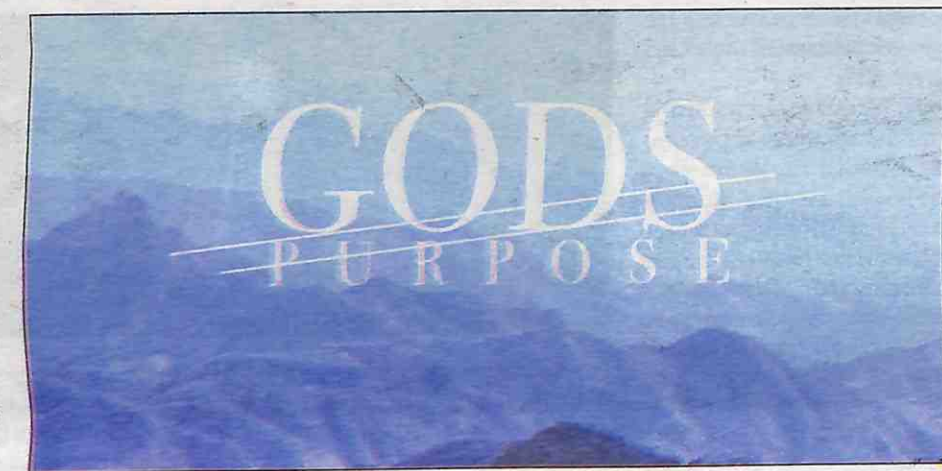
Lastly, may I wish everyone Happy Easters. May God bless us all."

and spend more time with their children, to socialise, or enjoy life's joyous moments such as a birthday meal in a restaurant or a family day out by the seaside.

Workers on the government minimum (£7.83 for people over 25 from 1 April) get £30-£40 less a week than the real living wage, making these sort of small comforts out of reach. A poll of parents earning less than the real living wage revealed the damaging, corrosive effect low pay has had on family life and relationships, with almost a quarter of low-paid parents saying their pay rate had negatively affected their relationship with their children.

We must also not forget that many young people are paid less than the minimum rate. Young people want to achieve independence from their parents, build relationships and fulfil the hopes and dreams as independent adults. This is simply not an option for many of them.

The well-documented decline in industry in the north-east of England makes it a region with one of the highest propor-



tions of low-paid jobs in the UK, according to the Living Wage Foundation, a body set up following a successful campaign for a real living wage rate. So here, it really matters.

So how do we turn these aspirations for dignity in work into real action? At the end of last year, Sara Bryson, community organiser for Citizens Tyne and Wear was among other speakers at an event

called 'Rethinking Poverty with the North East Child Poverty Commission'.

The report urges us to "start with the society we want, rather than framing poverty as a problem to be solved". In the north-east, our new Citizens alliance is campaigning for more employers to sign up for the real living wage, and we recently celebrated Newcastle Building Society, Convatec and Newcastle CVS joining the

movement. But there are many more employers in the north-east who don't pay a wage based on the cost of living. We intend to call out those big employers who could easily afford it but don't pay it.

And there are other alliances up and down the country doing similar fantastic work, such as in Nottingham, where I started my time as bishop before moving to Durham. Community organisers from Citizens UK work with faith institutions, schools, women's groups and other community-led institutions to collaborate and campaign on behalf of the greater good.

Workers receiving the government minimum tell us what a difference a real living wage (paid to all aged 18+) could make to their lives.

But businesses who opt in to pay the real living wage also report that the benefits are far-reaching. Staff will be more motivated, rested, productive, happy and fulfilled and will be able to find a new purpose: to live, not just to exist.

MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



Actually, this is our third DATE, and I presume that you know what we are talking about, precisely!

You see, once in a while on MIND THAT ERROR, we take you out to participate in this etiological exercise which involves Detecting And Terming Errors, an exercise we fondly abbreviate as DATE. Experience teaches us that if you can detect an error and give it its technical name, chances are that you can correct the error.

That is an observation which we can verify readily by providing you with sentences which are in error to see whether you can carry its first two steps or not. So here we go!

Here is the first sentence on our DATE today. "The year 2018 is a year for action where social players in South Africa take steps to transform the economy," said Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa. This is the lead of a news story, "2018 the year to transform SA economy - Ramaphosa," Swazi Observer, February 12, 2018. How fast things change! In less than two months, Mother Time has removed 'Deputy' from the man's title, and he is now President Cyril Ramaphosa.

But I digress! In the first sentence on our DATE, today, can you detect any error? And if you do, can you name it, technically, that is, term it? Oh, yes, you must have detected one error, if not two. It has to do with the word, "where." The word, "where," is an adverb of "place." And it is in error because, if you look at the words that precede it, you will not find any element of place which it would have rightly modified. To be exact, "The year 2018," which is the noun of the sentence, is an element of time, not place. The correct adverb that should follow it, therefore, is the adverb of time, "when," or something similar.

It is perhaps easier to detect an error than to give it its technical name. So can you term the error?

Well, you may call it an error of faulty adverb. But that name is not precise enough. What we have here is the error known technically as shift in construction. As it were, the adverb, "where," has caused a shift in the sentence - a shift from Time to Place. A sentence is a verbal construction.

The point of DATE, to reiterate, is that there is a very high probability that anybody who can carry those two steps - detecting an error and

OUR EASTER DATE!

terming it - can also correct the error. This is very true because, as you can see, all that you now need to correct the error in our first sentence today is to remove "where" and substitute "when" or any other appropriate element, such as "during which," and the sentence would have been corrected, thus: "The year 2018 is a year for action WHEN social players in South Africa take steps to transform the economy," said Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Hey, can you sense something else wrong with the sentence? I do. The verb, "take," methinks, is not proper. It should be in the imperative mood. See whether this revised edition sits better with you or not. "The year 2018 is a year for action WHEN social players in South Africa MUST (or NEED TO) take steps to transform the economy," said Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa. Gone is the error of faulty tense!

Say, can you detect any error in the second sentence on our DATE, today? It comes from an opinion piece in the Times of Swaziland, February 12, 2018, with the title, ANGER, VIOLENCE DEFINE EMASWATI NOWADAYS. The sentence reads, as follows: "The violence on the streets, at home and just about everywhere else may be a manifestation of worse to come at national level."

Oh, well, can we say the sentence actually has any error? Have you detected any? To tell you the truth, I had to read the sentence over and over to convince myself that what I felt while reading it was indeed in error, or something we might pass for just a weakness.

Let me show you in capital letters what I did to the sentence before I could heave sigh of relief; then leave it to you to determine what it is. "The violence on the streets, at home and just about everywhere else may be a manifestation of worse VIOLENCE to come at THE national level."

To be sure, two words have been added to the original sentence, the noun, VIOLENCE, and the limiting

adjective, THE. For me, the inclusion of VIOLENCE in that sentence filled a void, which, for want of a better word, I'd call the nominal void. As you well know, adjectives modify nouns, and when the noun does not follow it, the construction becomes wanting - there is something amiss, and the reader might try to fill the void with anything that comes to his or her mind. In this case, instead of VIOLENCE, one could also fill the void by saying, "worse THINGS to come at the national level."

The error referred to generally as omission of obligatory words is quite common in writing. Some cases are more salient and disturbing than others. But we need to recognise the fact that leaving out necessary words from a sentence can make the reader uneasy or uneasy. Mind this error which can make a person yell, OOW! This yelling, of course, stands for the name of the error: Omission of Obligatory Words.

I can bet that our third sentence for the day will make you yell, OOW, besides making you do something else. "We should put ourselves in their shoes" is the title of a comment in The Star of April 29, 2015. Our third sentence is the opening of this piece, and it runs, thus: "Many of us have read Martin Niemöller's lamentation on the dangerous effects of indifference on wrongs that happen to others around, but not to us, many times." We can detect two errors in that sentence. Interestingly, the error in the first case, which is that of faulty preposition, can be corrected from what we see in a subsequent sentence, viz.: "Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak for me..." wrote Niemöller of his indifference to how the Nazis increasingly found opponents to deny their humanity.

The correct preposition that follows the word, "indifference," is the preposition, "to," as we find in the second sentence, and not "on," as is the case in the first sentence. The second error is the one that provokes the yelling, OOW! The word, "us," has

been omitted from the sentence, for the preposition, "around," needs to be complemented by the pronoun, "us."

To put all that together, we should revise the sentence, thus: "Many of us have read Martin Niemöller's lamentation on the dangerous effects of indifference TO THE wrongs that happen to others around US, but not to us, many times." There is completeness to this sentence - or don't you think so?

Be that as it may, let's see if you can find what is common to our fourth and fifth sentence in our DATE, today? Our fourth sentence reads, thus: "Starting from government's spokesperson and has permeated to PS" as well. "The sentence is an extract from the first paragraph of an opinion piece with the title, GOVT NEEDS TO BE OPEN WITH MEDIA, Times of Swaziland, September 24, 2015.

And our fifth sentence reads, thus: "The crown contends that whereas the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty is not absolute in that there are instances where a person's right to liberty can be tampered with if it is in the interest of justice to have him kept in custody." It is the fourth paragraph of the top news story of the Swazi Observer, February 13, 2018, with the headline: SIPHO SHONGWE WANTS TO KILL 'DZODZO', NCAZA - COPS.

What we can say about our fourth and fifth sentence on our DATE today is that none of them is a sentence. Both are fragments, sentence fragments. We can turn the first sentence fragment into a sentence by revising it, thus: "Starting from THE government's spokesperson, IT has spread to PS's as well." To be sure, IT here refers to what the writer was complaining about, as you can discern from the first sentence of the piece, which reads, thus: "I have been observing a trend with government, that of snubbing questionnaires from the media and just wondered what government seeks to achieve by doing that."

The second sentence fragment can be made whole by removing just one word, "whereas." Read it now and sense the wholeness. "The Crown contends that the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty is not absolute in that there are instances where a person's right to liberty can be tampered with if it is in the interest of justice to have him kept in custody."

Let us note, however, that the original construction, that is, the sentence fragment, was rendered a subordinate clause by the conjunction, "whereas." As such, it may be corrected by supplying a main clause for it. This alternative correction maybe effected if you do not consider the sentence too windy, already. I certainly believe it is.

"When bulls fight" is the title of the first editorial in the Times of Swaziland, October 23, 2015. The last sentence of the fourth paragraph of the piece is the sixth sentence on our DATE today. It reads: "For the sake of progress, a compromise should have been made, there is almost no other way to smooth over professional disagreements."

Remember the premise of DATE, to wit: If you can detect an error, and term it, chances are that you can correct it. So can you detect any error in our sixth sentence? Well, here it is: the comma after the word, "made." The comma here is doing a job that is beyond its power - it is a usurper! The job is doing here belongs to a semicolon or a full stop. A comma used in the way it has been used in this sentence causes the comma splice, which is also referred to as a run-on sentence.

Accordingly, the sixth sentence on our DATE today may be revised, thus: "For the sake of progress, a compromise should have been made; there is almost no other way to smooth over professional disagreements." Alternative, it may be corrected, thus: "For the sake of progress, a compromise should have been made. There is almost no other way to smooth over professional disagreements."

If you don't mind, let me ask you the final question on our DATE today: "Honey, which of the two revisions do you prefer: comma or full stop?"

By Wilton Mamba



YOUR ETERNAL LIFE BEGINS NOW

in the High Priestly prayer that He may give eternal life to all those God had given Him.

Eternal life, while commencing now for the believer, will be completely fulfilled in the future when we are bodily redeemed. Romans 8:23 'And not only this, but we too who have the first fruits of the Spirit (a joyful indication of the blessings to come) even we groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for (the sign) of our adoption as sons - the redemption and transformation of our body (at the resurrection).

John 5:28-29, "Do not be surprised at this; for a time is coming when all those who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and they will come out - those who did good things to a resurrection of life, but those who did evil things to a resurrection of judgment (that is to be sentenced) (Dan 12:2; Rev 20:11-15).

The greatness of this spiritual reality constitutes a wonderful incentive to vigorously proclaim the Gospel to those who are still dead in trespasses and sins. Ephesians 2:1 'And you were dead and separated from



Him because of your transgressions and sins.'

So in conclusion, when you receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour, you will have eternal life right from the moment you receive the Lord. That is why Jesus said to His disciples there were those who would not die before they received the Kingdom of God. Luke 9:27, "But I tell you truthfully, there are some among those standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God."

Because you are an eternal citizen of heaven, everything you touch, the Lord will bless and everything you desire (for the glory of God),

the Lord will provide.

"For this is my will and purpose that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life and I will raise Him up in the last day." Note carefully the chronological order of things in this statement: Jesus does not say He will raise us first before He gives us eternal life; He says (he, that is man) "I will have eternal life and I will raise Him up (from the dead) on the last day."

It is, however, just as important to note that as you enjoy your eternal life from now henceforth, always remember you are a sojourner in this world.

While the Lord will surely bless you in everything you do as a citizen of heaven, who is sojourning through this world, 'do not love the world, nor the things in the world; for if anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him...the world passes away and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God lives forever (1 John 2:15-17). As you rise to prosper in Christ everyday of your eternal life, remember these warning statements and use them as a guiding light:

John 6:27, "Do not work for food that perishes, but for food that endures to eternal life which the Son of Man will give you. For God the Father has authorised Him and put His seal on Him."

Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there your heart (that is, your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centres) will be also."

To some eternal life seems to lie somewhere in the distant afterlife; and very much out of our control.

But this is not what our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ teaches. In John 5:24, Jesus says: 'I assure you and very solemnly say to you, the person who hears my word and believes and trusts in Him who sent Me, has eternal life and does not come into judgment and condemnation, but has passed from death into life.'

One of the primary features that we have in Christ is the guarantee of eternal and everlasting life.

This truth completely changes how we look at our present lives and how we look into the future. If eternal is to be seen as something we possess now, then our living in the present must reflect or be some kind of a prototype of the future - which is eternity. Jesus says in John 10:28, "And I give them eternal life and they will never ever perish; and no one will ever snatch them from my hand."

We have entered into a new personal relationship with God that gives us a spiritual vitality and fullness of life that we lacked before. Jesus says in John 17:3, "Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." Jesus prayed

Focus on SA scene

PRAY FOR CHANGE - ZUMA

DURBAN - Former president Jacob Zuma again blamed "a minority group" for his fall and urged religious leaders to pray for the second coming of Jesus Christ to cleanse the world of its sins.

The former president was addressing thousands of eThekweni Community Church congregants during an Easter Good Friday service in Durban.

Zuma, who also attended the annual Diakonia Council of Churches' early morning Good Friday service at the Durban Exhibition Centre, was accompanied by ANC provincial interim committee co-ordinator Sihle Zikalala and eThekweni Mayor Zandile Gumede.

Meanwhile, President Cyril Ramaphosa caused a cyber-stir when he was spotted, snapped and posted flying economy class to Durban on Friday morning. He attended a service of the Covenant Fellowship Church in eSikhaleni on the KZN North Coast.

He was accompanied by ANC provincial convener Mike Mabuyakhulu and national executive committee (NEC)



Former president Jacob Zuma at a Good Friday service.

member Senzo Mchunu.

Ramaphosa told his congregation that unity was needed in the party.

"When the ANC is united, that is when we are stronger, and I know this church is praying and continues to pray for the unity of the African National

Congress," he said.

He said corruption had eroded the trust of people in the party.

"The ANC must serve the people of South Africa where there was corruption, we must say goodbye to corruption." *News24*

More than 200 witnesses lined up for Zuma graft trial

DURBAN - More than 200 witnesses have been named in the State's case against former president Jacob Zuma as he faces charges of money-laundering, corruption and racketeering.

He will appear in the Durban High Court on April 6.

The State narrowed down its list of witnesses to 207; however, it is likely that not every witness will be called to the stand.

The witness list includes many people from KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), arms deal critics, former SARS employees, auditors and councillors.

Others expected to testify are being brought into the country from the UK, Australia and New Zealand.

One of the KZN-based witnesses, Lynette Brink, said that although her name was on the list, she doubted she would be called to testify.

"I worked at the school his children attended and now those children are married with kids and I am retired. I didn't play such a big role in evidence so I doubt I will be called this time either," she said.

Brink said she had also been named as a witness during Schabir Shaik's trial, but at that time the Scorpions had told her she might not be called to testify.

"In any case, I have not even received any official communication that I am a witness in this case as yet," Brink said.

Former KZN DA leader Roger Burrows is also on the list of witnesses. He said

he had received a call three months ago "just to check if I am still alive and living in South Africa".

"Beyond that call, I have not received any other communication," he said.

Burrows said he was prepared to be called to testify as he was still in possession of all documents and affidavits he made during the initial charges against Zuma.

"If I am called, I will just go through all that. I have to refresh my memory; as you know, with this being such a high-profile case, you can never be too prepared," Burrows said.

Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille told Independent Media a week ago that she was going to testify in the trial. *News24*



SA President Cyril Ramaphosa.

ANC must bid corruption goodbye - Ramaphosa

JOHANNESBURG - President Cyril Ramaphosa has called for an end to corruption in the ANC and the government.

He was speaking at a church in eSikhaleni on KwaZulu-Natal's North Coast.

Ramaphosa also thanked congregants for praying for the ANC during its elective conference last December.

"Prior to that conference, there was no unity the ANC must be united and be renewed. The ANC must serve the people of SA as

the governing party. We must say goodbye to corruption and put it behind us and it must be dealt with in our country."

He added that poverty must be dealt with in a more effective way.

"This new dawn means we are going to address the issue of poverty. Many of our people are still poor in fact more than 50 percent of our people in South Africa are still poor. Our new dawn must mean that we are going to address the challenge of poverty and we are going to address it in the most vigorous." *eNCA*

We are not going to steal or grab land - Ramaphosa

DURBAN - President Cyril Ramaphosa on Friday told South African landowners that land would not be illegally seized following weeks of national land invasions.

He was addressing the Good Friday service at the Covenant Fellowship Church in Esikhaleni on the KwaZulu-Natal north coast.

"We are not going to steal or grab land, but we must ensure our people get back their birth right to unlock great benefits."

"We are in a period full of great hope. We must do everything correctly within the law. ANC leaders must work for our people. Our leaders must be accountable for what we do. We must do everything in fear of our people. And do everything in service of our people. We must go down and humble ourselves to serve our people with dignity."

Ramaphosa caused a stir when he was spotted flying economy class to Durban early on Friday morning. He was accompanied by ANC provincial convener Mike Mabuyakhulu and national executive committee member Senzo Mchunu.

Ramaphosa said unity was needed in the party. "When the ANC is united, that is when we are stronger and I know this church is praying and continues to pray for the unity of the ANC," he said.

He said corruption had eroded the trust of people in the party.

"The ANC must serve the people of South Africa where there was corruption, we must say goodbye to corruption."

Ramaphosa said the new youth employment service would create jobs and expropriation of land without compensation must be done within the confines of the law.

He added the ANC was committed to the implementation of radical socio-economic transformation to ensure that black people played a part in the economy.

"As we said in our 54th national conference, the land of our forefathers must be returned to our people without compensation. The ANC-led government is going to return the land. The land is the birth right of our people."

He further promised that he would sign all required documents to ensure that people get their land back.

Meanwhile, former president Jacob Zuma on Friday urged religious leaders to pray for the second coming of Jesus Christ to cleanse the world of its sins.

Zuma was addressing thousands of eThekweni Community Church congregants during an Easter Good Friday service.

He is expected to appear before the Durban High Court on Friday on 16 charges related to fraud, corruption and racketeering in connection with 783 payments he allegedly received as part of the arms deal. *News24*

If old SA flag is banned, gay flag could be next - AfriForum

JOHANNESBURG - If the old South African flag is banned because it's offensive to certain people, then the rainbow "gay flag" could be banned too - according to AfriForum.

"Setting the threshold for the banning of symbols at the level of offence is a slippery slope that could lead to the banning of the Rainbow Flag", AfriForum's Ernst Roets argues in papers filed at the Equality Court this week.

AfriForum is challenging an Equality Court application by the Nelson Mandela Foundation, in which it is seeking an order declaring the "gratuitous" display of the flag flown during apartheid as "hate speech, unfair discrimination and race-based harassment". The foundation says it believes that while the old flag is part of history, it belongs in museums, documentaries and other creative works and not on public display. But AfriForum says many people have suffered "atrocities" at the hands of the African National Congress, South African Communist Party and the British and may be offended by these organisations' flags and the Union Jack. *Citizen*

Listeriosis death toll climbs to 189

JOHANNESBURG - The NICD says 982 laboratory cases of listeriosis have been reported since January.

The death toll from the current listeriosis outbreak has been amended by the National Institute for Communicable Disease (NICD) to 189 - up six deaths from its last update.

The NICD on Thursday said it had determined that 189 out of 678 cases of listeriosis have resulted in death based on the final data available. The mortality rate is now at 28 per cent.

"As of March 26, a total of 982 laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases have been reported to NICD since January 1, 2017. Most cases have been reported from Gauteng Province (59 per cent, 576/982) followed by Western Cape (12 per cent, 121/982) and KwaZulu-Natal (7%, 71/982) provinces. Cases have been diagnosed in both public (65 per cent, 634/982) and private (35 per cent, 348/982) health-care sectors," the institute said on its website.

The NICD has warned that more

new cases of listeriosis have been confirmed since the source of the outbreak was identified as ready-to-eat processed meat products manufactured at Enterprise Foods' Polokwane production facility was announced on March 4.

"A total of 23 laboratory-confirmed cases are reported since the recall on March 4. Of these 23 cases, 17 persons have been interviewed; ten consumed implicated food products and two had direct contact with recalled food products. All exposures occurred prior to the recall."

The NICD said the reasons for the post-recall new cases may be due to:

The incubation period of listeriosis can be up to 70 days. The implicated food products have a long refrigeration shelf life, and it is possible that despite the recall some products were not removed from retail/home settings, and consumption might occur. The possibility of cross-contamination of other types of foods in the retail or home setting may result in additional cases. *Citizen*

BRIEFS

Hunger and conflict push northern Burkina Faso into crisis

DAKAR - Food shortages and a jihadist uprising in northern Burkina Faso risk plunging the region into a humanitarian crisis if urgent action is not taken, aid agencies said on Thursday. Much of West Africa's Sahel, a semi-arid belt below the Sahara, is facing its worst hunger in years after erratic rains caused little vegetation to grow. Nearly a million people in Burkina Faso are expected to need food aid in the coming months, with one in ten already suffering acute malnutrition in the north, government statistics show. But escalating violence will make it difficult for aid agencies to help in the remote area about 250 kilometres north of capital Ouagadougou, the Red Cross and the United Nations said. **AFP**

Death toll in Nigerian herding village attack rises to 36

LAGOS - The death toll from an attack by suspected cattle rustlers on a herding village in northern Nigeria's Zamfara state has risen to 36, the local traditional ruler said on Friday. Motorcycle-riding gunmen stormed the village of Bawon-Danji on Wednesday, opening fire on herders and forcing many to flee into the bush. Police and local officials on Thursday said 12 herders were killed on the spot and three were shot dead later in a second attack, which targeted mourners at a funeral. **AFP**

Kinshasa disputes estimates of displaced people in DRC

KINSHASA - Around 230 000 people have been driven from their homes in Democratic Republic of Congo, the government estimated Friday, a vastly different figure from the reports of humanitarian groups in the conflict-torn country. Kinshasa put the figure at "231 241 internally displaced people" compared with the more than four million estimate of NGOs. Bernard Biango, Humanitarian Affairs Minister said at a governmental meeting broadcast on public television. At the same, Biango confirmed DRC's "non participation in the Geneva conference" on April 13, called by the United Nations and the European Union to raise \$1.7 billion for humanitarian needs in the vast central African nation. **AFP**

Microsoft delivers dozens of computers to school that went viral

ACCRA - Computer giants Microsoft have donated dozens of computers to the school where a Ghanaian ICT teacher stole the hearts of social media users when he drew features of a Microsoft Word processing window on a chalkboard. The innovative Ghanaian teacher instantly became a social media sensation after pictures of him drawing the features went viral early this month. According to This is Africa.com, Okwura Kwadwo had no computer to demonstrate Microsoft Word to his students, so he drew it on the chalkboard. **News24**

ISIS claims car bomb attack in eastern Libya, six killed

TRIPOLI - Libyan authorities say six people were killed when a suicide car bomber struck a checkpoint in eastern Libya, in an attack claimed by the local affiliate of the Islamic State group. The bomber targeted the eastern gates of Ajdabiya, said Fawzy al-Mansouri, head of the city operations room. He added that members of one family were among the dead and that five soldiers were wounded. ISIS claimed responsibility on Friday on its Amaq news agency. The attack comes less than a week after a US airstrike killed two al-Qaeda militants, including a top recruiter, Musa Abu Dawud, in southern Libya. **AP**



SUNDAYOBSERVER AFRICA NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

GRACE FILES CHARGES AGAINST GOLD MINERS LOOTING FARM

HARARE - Zimbabwe's former first lady has reportedly filed complaints against at least 400 artisanal gold miners who have looted her Mazowe Farm and are threatening her children's livelihood.

According to *New Zimbabwe.com*, Grace Mugabe confronted the invaders but the alleged gold miners were reluctant to move and instead threw profanities at the former first lady.

Grace has since filed a police report and alleged that the suspected gold miners have damaged her state of the art irrigation equipment.

In her report, the former first lady also claimed that cases of theft have also occurred at her farm. "On March 29 at around 11:30 I was touring my farm, Smithfield; when I arrived at Lemon Pool section, I was shocked to find a group of approximately 400 men illegally panning gold. I then asked them to stop their activities since I am the owner of



Former Zimbabwe first lady Grace Mugabe.

the farm and I am the holder of a special grant for the whole area. However, the crowd, which was being led by one Nyazvingo started to shout obscenities at me and continued with their unlawful activities," a statement by the former first lady reportedly said.

According to *NewsDay*, a visible angry Grace said that the looting at her farm was politically motivated.

She said: "Does it mean that if

President [Emmerson] Mnangagwa is removed tomorrow, he will be disposed of his investments? Is this how he wants to be treated with his investments?"

"This is politically motivated, as you can see that when we got there, they were singing 'kutonga kwaro garwe' (a song that was famous during Mnangagwa's rise to power."

The Grace Mugabe farm was under constant police and ruling ZANU-PF youth protection during her husband's reign as a results hundreds of families were evicted. The villagers of Manzou farm in Mazowe, north of Harare, were evicted by armed police in a series of operations launched in January 2015.

The farm was allocated to Grace during her husband's presidency. But since her husband was forced to step down last November, the first lady has faced a number of obstacles regarding her properties, including a court judgement compelling her to pay damages to the evictees. **News24**

Egypt's Sisi wins second term with 96.9% of vote - state media

CAIRO - Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has won a second term with 96.9 per cent of valid votes, state media reported on Friday, raising a previous tally from the preliminary count.

The flagship state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram also raised its estimate of turnout in the March 26-28 election to 42.08 per cent, saying 25 million of Egypt's 60 million registered voters had cast ballots.

On Tuesday, the paper had reported that Sisi was reelected with 92 per cent of the vote on a turnout of just over 40 per cent. It gave no explanation for the upward revisions.

Sisi, who as army chief ousted Egypt's first freely elected president - Islamist Mohamed Morsi



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

- after mass street protests in 2013, won his first term in 2014 with 96.9 per cent of the vote.

The only other candidate on the ballot paper this year, Moussa Mostafa Moussa, won 3.1 per

cent of the vote, Al-Ahram said.

Moussa, a little-known politician who is himself a supporter of the president, registered immediately before the close date for applications, saving the election from being a one-horse race. The National Election Authority is scheduled to announce the full official result tomorrow. Moussa conceded defeat on Wednesday evening, saying he had hoped for 10 per cent of the vote but knew all along that he was up against the "immense popularity" of the president.

More heavyweight would-be challengers were all sidelined, detained or pulled out.

Opposition groups had called for a boycott of this week's vote which they labelled a charade. **Reuters**

Nigerian NGO begins enlightening electorates ahead of 2019 elections

KADUNA - The League of Democratic Women (LEADS Nigeria), says it has embarked on massive enlightenment of the electorate ahead of the 2019 general elections, to guarantee the success of the polls.

Rebecca John, the Executive Director of LEADS said on

Friday in Kaduna that part of the enlightenment programme included the distribution of manuals to guide voters in making informed choices.

"The manual will serve as a guide to citizens as well as strengthen their engagement in the electoral process of the country", she said in a message

delivered on her behalf by Mr Daniel Abah, a Programme Officer.

The executive director explained that the manual, which would be distributed to communities, would arm voters with knowledge on the Dos and Don'ts of the election process. **AFP**

Congo main opposition to be led by founder's son

KINSHASA - The Democratic Republic of Congo's main opposition party yesterday chose the son of its founder, a historic opposition figure, as its leader and presidential candidate in long delayed polls due at the end of the year.

The Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS) said Felix Tshisekedi, the son of former premier Etienne Tshisekedi, who died in Brussels in February last year, will "be the presidential candidate" for the December election, after a night-long meeting in the capital Kinshasa.

Tshisekedi was also chosen to lead the party with an overwhelming majority, getting 790 of the 803 votes.

"I am convinced that the UDPS will come to power this year to set things right in the country," he said.

Elections for DRC's head of state are due to take place on December 23 after two postponements that have stoked fears the sprawling, volatile state could spiral into war.

President Joseph Kabila has been in power since 2001 and should have stepped down at the end of 2016 after he reached his two-term constitutional limit. **News24**



Felix Tshisekedi.

Sierra Leone heads to polls after bitter campaign

FREETOWN - Voters in the West African state of Sierra Leone were called out to vote yesterday in the final round of a presidential campaign marked by verbal sparring, sporadic violence and a last-minute legal battle.

A wafer-thin margin separated the two frontrunners after the first round on March 7, adding to tensions in a country where political loyalties are often divided along ethnic lines and traumatic memories of civil war run deep.

Opposition challenger Julius Maada Bio of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) had a narrow edge over Samura Kamara of the ruling All Peoples' Congress (APC), in a ballot with a turnout of more than 80 per cent.

"The race is too close to call," Edmond Abu, Director of the Native Consortium and Research Centre, told AFP on Friday.

The key to victory lies with whoever wins Kono, a diamond-rich district in the east of the country, Abu said.

The runoff should have taken place on Tuesday but was delayed so the High Court could hear a complaint by the APC that some ballots had been tampered with. **AFP**



SUNDAY OBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

TRUMP DECLARES APRIL 'SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS' MONTH

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump, who has himself been repeatedly accused of sexual misconduct, on Friday designated April 2018 'National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month' amid a national debate over the issue.

"Sexual assault crimes remain tragically common in our society, and offenders too often evade accountability," said a proclamation from Trump released by the White House. "These heinous crimes are committed indiscriminately: in intimate relationships, in public spaces, and in the workplace."

"Too often, however, the victims of assault remain silent. They may fear retribution from their offender, lack faith in the justice system, or have difficulty confronting the pain associated with the traumatic experience," it continued. "My administration is



US President Donald Trump.

committed to raising awareness about sexual assault and to empowering victims to identify perpetrators so that they can be held accountable." At least 20 women have publicly accused Trump of engaging in sexual assault or harassment prior to becoming president. The White House has maintained that the women are

lying. Last month, Trump described allegations that he kissed a receptionist without her consent as "Another False Accusation" in a post on Twitter, calling instead for coverage of "the story of the women taking money to make up stories about me. One had her home mortgage paid off."

AFP

Russia accuses British govt of 'blatant provocation'

MOSCOW - The Russian embassy has accused British authorities of 'another blatant provocation' after an Aeroflot flight was allegedly searched by Border Force officers at Heathrow. An embassy official suggested that the jet, which had arrived from Moscow on a scheduled return trip, had been searched in connection with the diplomatic crisis over the Salisbury spy poisoning.

The row intensified on Friday after the Kremlin ordered Britain to reduce the number of diplomats in Moscow down to the same amount that Russia has in London.

It came as ambassadors from more than 20 countries were called into the foreign ministry



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (centre).

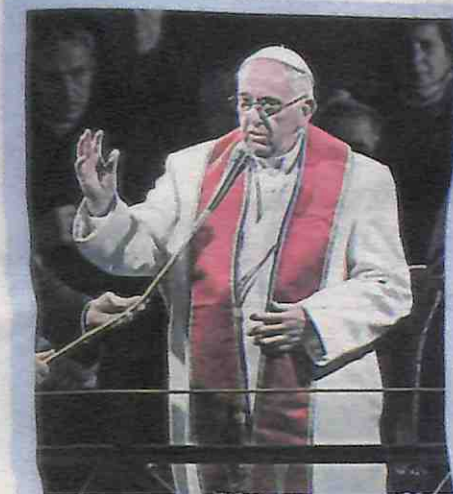
in Moscow to be told of the latest wave of retaliatory measures being imposed.

As the crisis notched up, the Russian embassy in London said British officials had searched an Aeroflot jet that had landed at Heathrow from Moscow.

According to an embassy offi-

cer Border Force and customs officers at first tried to search the plane without the crew, although the captain was eventually allowed to be present.

"Today, we have witnessed another blatant provocation by the British authorities," the official said. *Daily Mail*



Pope Francis.

Pope presides over Good Friday amid security, controversy

VATICAN CITY - Pope Francis presided over solemn Good Friday services amid heightened security at Rome's Colosseum for the Via Crucis procession and a new communications controversy at home.

Italian police, carabinieri and soldiers were on alert, with Holy Week coinciding with a spate of arrests of suspected Islamic extremists around Italy and warnings from law enforcement about the return of foreign fighters from Iraq and Syria. At the start of the most solemn period of the Catholic Church calendar, Francis lay prostrate in front of the altar in St. Peter's Basilica before the chant-filled Good Friday evening service got underway.

Later Friday, Francis travelled to the Colosseum to preside over the Way of the Cross procession re-enacting Christ's crucifixion - the seminal event in Christianity leading to Christ's resurrection celebrated on Easter Sunday. The solemn commemorations coincide with a new communications controversy in the Vatican over the pope's reported assertion - at the height of Holy Week - that hell doesn't exist. The Vatican hasn't denied Francis' comments to the La Repubblica newspaper, saying only that the journalist reconstructed a conversation. It was the fifth time in five years that Francis has spoken to Repubblica's founder, Eugenio Scalfari, a devout atheist who admits he doesn't record or take notes during interviews. Nearly every time a Francis interview has appeared on Repubblica's front page, the Vatican press office has insisted the pope's words weren't necessarily accurate, without denying them outright. That has prompted questions about why the pope continually lets himself be quoted by Scalfari. *AFP*

Sixteen dead as thousands of Gazans march near Israel border

GAZA CITY - Clashes erupted as tens of thousands of Gazans marched near the Israeli border in a major protest, with 16 Palestinians killed and hundreds more wounded in the conflict's worst single day of violence since the 2014 Gaza war. Israel's military targeted three Hamas sites in the Gaza Strip with tank fire and an air strike after what it said was an attempted shooting attack against soldiers along the border that caused no injuries. Protesters, including women and children, gathered at multiple sites throughout the blockade territory, which is flanked by Israel along its eastern and northern borders. *AFP*

UK must bring home 'just over 50' of its diplomats from Russia

MOSCOW - Russia has told Britain it must send home "just over 50" more of its diplomats in a worsening standoff with the West over the poisoning of a former Russian spy and his daughter in Britain. Russia has already retaliated in kind against Britain and ejected 23 British diplomats over the poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia. London says Moscow stood behind the attack, something Russia denies. British Ambassador Laurie Bristow was summoned again on Friday and told London had one month to cut its diplomatic contingent in Russia to the same size as the Russian mission in Britain. *Reuters*

Protests erupt in California after shooting of black man

SACRAMENTO - About 200 demonstrators squared off with police in riot gear overnight in California's capital and more protests were planned for yesterday, after an autopsy on Stephon Clark contradicted the police account of the shooting of the unarmed black man. Waving signs and chanting the 22-year-old's name in unison, the protesters gathered at city hall before marching into the Old Sacramento part of the city, filled with bars, restaurants and tourists. Protesters, some with megaphones and black masks covering their faces, shouted "Shoot us down, we shut you down," along with expletives directed at the police. *Reuters*

North Korea prepares for another nuclear test

PYONGYANG - Foreign Minister Taro Kono said: "(North Korea) is doing everything possible to prepare for the next nuclear test: it is currently extracting earth from an underground tunnel where the previous test was carried out." He earlier said that North Korea "does not reveal its intentions to the outside world in terms of denuclearisation." China claimed the country was committed to denuclearisation this week after Kim Jong-un travelled to Beijing. It was the tyrant's first known trip outside North Korea since he assumed power in 2011. *Daily Star*

Malala visits Pakistan district where she was shot

ISLAMABAD - Malala Yousafzai visited the Swat valley yesterday for her first trip back to the once militant-infested Pakistani region where she was shot in the head by the Taliban more than five years ago. "I left Swat with my eyes closed and now I am back with my eyes open," she told AFP, referring to how she was airlifted out in a coma after the attack in 2012. "I am extremely delighted. My dream has come true. Peace has returned to Swat because of the invaluable sacrifices rendered by my brothers and sisters," she said. *Daily Star*

N Korea to take part in 2020, 2022 Olympics - IOC chief

PYONGYANG - Kim Jong Un is committed to sending North Korean teams to the Tokyo and Beijing Olympics, IOC chief Thomas Bach said yesterday after a rare meeting with the leader of the nuclear-armed regime in Pyongyang.

Bach, the President of the International Olympic Committee, also said the IOC will make a proposal for a "potential joint march" and other shared activities between the North and South Korean teams

at the 2020 Games in Japan.

Last month's Winter Olympics in South Korea saw competitors from the two countries march together at the opening ceremony and field a joint women's ice hockey team. The Winter Games triggered a fast-moving rapprochement that will see Kim sit down with the South's President Moon Jae-in in late April, with a US summit with President Donald Trump planned for May.

Bach told reporters after landing in Beijing that his talks with Kim

on Friday had been "very open and fruitful".

"They announced (to) us that they will definitely participate in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 as well as at the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 and all editions of the Youth Olympic Games," Bach said.

"And this commitment was fully supported by the supreme leader," he said.

North Korea's official KCNA news agency said Kim thanked Bach for helping to bring about a "dramat-

ic thawing" of tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Bach arrived in the country on Thursday and his visit, which concluded yesterday, was the result of an invitation extended by Pyongyang in January.

The isolated regime rarely hosts foreign dignitaries but recent weeks have seen a flurry of diplomacy, with Kim making his first foreign trip as leader to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and inviting him to visit Pyongyang. *AFP*

LEBRON JAMES BREAKS ANOTHER MICHAEL JORDAN RECORD

LOS ANGELES - LeBron James continued his assault on the NBA record book, passing Michael Jordan for consecutive games with at least 10 points in the Cleveland Cavaliers 107-102 win over the New Orleans Pelicans on Friday.

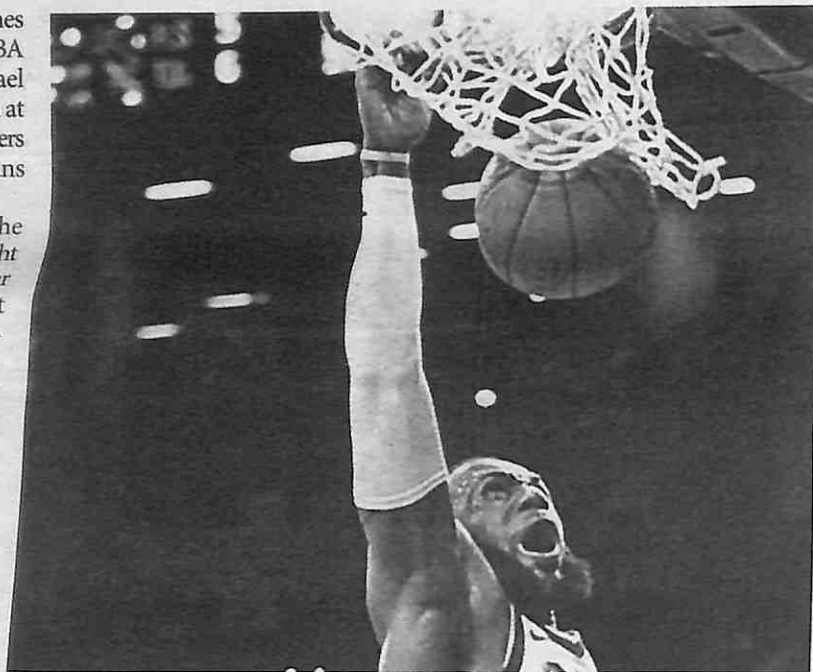
James wasted no time getting the milestone, doing it for the 867th straight time in his 15-year illustrious career when he finished off a dunk with just under six minutes left in the first quarter.

That gave him 11 points en route to his 27 point, 11 assist and nine-rebound performance at Quicken Loans Arena. James was honoured during a stoppage in play as the crowd of 20 500 gave him a big ovation, and he was handed the game ball.

"It will probably go in my trophy case with a lot of accomplishments in my life," James said of the ball.

"That's a good moment, a special moment not only for myself, but for my family and for so many kids that look up to me for inspiration, to know that you can actually go out there and do it.

"You know, where I've come from, brought up 30 minutes south of here, and the statistics is always stacked up



against you.

"And for me to be in this position today, being able to accomplish something that a lot of people thought would not happen again or be able to break a record like that, it means a lot for me."

The last time James didn't score at least 10 points in a game was January

5, 2007 when he had eight points on three-of-13 shooting against the Milwaukee Bucks.

Jordan's streak lasted from March 1986 until December 2001.

Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is third on the double-digit streak list with 787 games.

AFP

'Real Madrid don't need Neymar'

MADRID - Real Madrid do not need to sign Neymar, according to former star Savio, with the likes of Marco Asensio and Gareth Bale more than useful alternatives.

The Blancos continue to be heavily linked with a big-money raid on Paris Saint-Germain to bring the former Barcelona forward back to La Liga. It is less than a year since the Brazilian departed Camp Nou in a record-breaking €222 million transfer, but similar figures are being floated ahead of the next window.

Savio, though, believes that Real already have enough attacking quality on their

books, regardless of what Neymar may add. A man who won three Champions League crowns with Madrid between 1998 and 2003, told Marca: "I always think the greats will join Real Madrid, it's fantastic. Individually and in the imagination it is the best, but I don't think they need him right now."

Quizzed as to which players at Santiago Bernabeu he enjoys watching, Savio added: "It is difficult to compare because they are different, but Marco Asensio and Lucas Vazquez can decide a match in one move."

"I also love Gareth Bale. He is different than the rest, you can always expect something from him, in a dribble, a shot, a header."

Goal



Neymar.

'Only Messi, Ronaldo are better'

NICE - Mario Balotelli considers himself to be at a similar level to "Neymar, Antoine Griezmann and Paulo Dybala", with only Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo on another tier of quality.

The enigmatic striker is set to drop into the free agent pool this summer, with his contract at Ligue 1 side Nice running down.

His agent, Mino Raiola, has suggested that the 27-year-old would fetch around €100 million were he to be available on the open market.

Balotelli doubts that he would justify such a lofty valuation, but does believe that he will be quite the catch for whoever secures his signature.

He told Gazzetta dello Sport: "I don't think anyone is worth €100m. For the last four years, all the big transfers have been based on crazy figures."

Mino wanted to say that some players were bought for that sum, so I'm on roughly the same level as them.

"Whoever gets me will get a great deal, because my contract with Nice expires in June, so I'll be a worth zero! But if I

were to have a price tag, it'd be the highest it's ever been, because my goals speak for themselves.

"I do think I'm in the top 10 in the world. Goal



Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

It's a player's heaven, says Tiger Woods of Augusta

AUGUSTA - Tiger Woods' odds of winning the Masters have shrunk with every birdie of his 2018 comeback campaign, but in reality, the 42-year-old superstar faces a daunting task in his bid to add a 15th major title to his resume a decade after his last Grand Slam victory.

Since his 2008 US Open triumph at Torrey Pines took his tally of major titles to 14, injuries and well-publicised personal woes have taken a toll, raising doubts that he would ever surpass Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 major titles.

Woods won Masters titles in 1997, 2001, 2002 and 2005, but his last top-10 finish at Augusta National was a tie for fourth in 2013.

Woods says he missed the "rush" of competing for a Green Jacket as back trouble sidelined him in 2016 and 2017.

Now playing without pain after spinal fusion surgery last April, Woods is relishing a return to the storied Georgia course.

Creative

"Just being out there on those greens, hitting putts and being creative, there's no other golf course like it in the world and there's no other golf tournament like it," Woods said. "It's a player's heaven."

Woods won his first Masters title in 1997 in historic style. His 18-under total put him 12 shots ahead of runner-up Tom Kite, and made him the youngest player and first African-American to win the Masters.

It was a great two weeks of being in contention again. I feel like I'm getting a little better. Great playing by Rory today to win at the King's place. Arnie would have been proud of golf today and the charges!!!

Another dominant win in 2001 gave Woods the "Tiger Slam" - making him the first golfer to hold all four of golf's major titles simultaneously.

AFP

French club in SA to watch Sundowns talisman Tau

JOHANNESBURG - Following his stellar performances for Mamelodi Sundowns in the past few seasons, striker Percy Tau has attracted interest from three European clubs.

The speedy attacker has not only showed his quality for the Brazilians, but he has continued to display his finest attacking prowess at national team level for Bafana Bafana.

In the recent FIFA international break, he netted one goal as

they beat Zambia in the Four Nations tournament in Ndola where they overcame the Chipolopolo 2-0.

The 23-year-old Witbank-born striker has made headlines in this current term as he continues to find the back of the net and providing crucial assists for Pitso Mosimane's men.

He is the club's leading goalscorer with nine goals and trails the Premier Soccer League top scorer, Rodney Ramagalela (who has 10 goals) by one and are sitting at the top of the PSL standings.

On the other hand, he has also led Sundowns' attack in the CAF Champions League as well scoring their only goal at the 2016 FIFA Club World Cup in Japan against Jeonbuk Hyundai from

South Korea. However, the man tipped to walk away with the 2017/18 PSL Player of the Year Award could leave the 2016 African champions as he is courted by clubs in Greece, Denmark and France.

According to the club's spokesperson, Thulani Thuswa, he revealed yesterday morning that a French club is in the country to watch him against Cape Town City in the Nedbank Cup this afternoon.

"There are clubs from Greece, Denmark and one in France interested in Tau, but the one from France has sent scouts who are already in the country to watch him play against Cape Town City," Thuswa said to Umhlobo Wenene FM (SABC radio station). Goal



ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



SALAH STRIKES AGAIN AS LIVERPOOL EDGE PAST PLUCKY PALACE

LONDON - Mohamed Salah scored in the 84th minute to hand Liverpool a come from behind 2-1 win over Crystal Palace in an English Premier League match at Selhurst Park yesterday afternoon.

The home side were afforded a chance to open the scoring early on when Loris Karius committed a clumsy foul inside the box and the referee pointed to the penalty spot.

Luka Milivojevic stepped up for Palace and made no mistake from the spot to give his side the lead in the 13th minute, 1-0.

Drawn

On the half hour mark Liverpool thought they had drawn level when Sadio Mane found the back of the net, but his goal was disallowed due to him being in an off-side position.

A minute before the break Mane came close to scoring again when he met an inch perfect cross into the box, but his 12-yard header was superbly pushed around the post by the Palace keeper.

The half ended 1-0 in favour of the home side.



Salah's 37th goal of the season secured victory for Liverpool, who battled bravely to overcome Palace.

Mane did finally find the back of the net four minutes into the second half when he drove into the box from the left and fired the ball into the corner of the goal to level matters, 1-1.

On the hour mark Palace nearly retook the lead when Christian Benteke made a yard of space for himself inside

the box, but his powerful shot sailed inches over the target.

Liverpool pushed forward after that and found the winner six minutes from time when Mohamed Salah got on the end of an Andrew Robertson pass and made produced a clinical finish from close range, 2-1. *Daily Mail*

Mourinho rules out signing a striker to replace Ibrahimovic

MANCHESTER - Jose Mourinho has ruled out Manchester United signing a striker in the next transfer window despite the departure of Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Swede Ibrahimovic left Old Trafford to join MLS side LA Galaxy having made just seven appearances in his second season at Old Trafford.

Still, without the services of the 36-year-old, who scored 28 goals in 46 games and won the EFL Cup and Europa League in his debut campaign in England, United do not have an obvious replacement for Romelu Lukaku in their current squad, should the Belgian get injured.

Yet Mourinho - who signed Alexis Sanchez from Arsenal in the January transfer window - insists he already has enough attacking options at his disposal, particularly with Marcus Rashford able to play in a number

of positions.

"We have Lukaku and Marcus Rashford as number nines, and of course Marcus can play right and left, but Marcus is a striker," he told the media.

"Alexis can play as a striker, [Anthony] Martial can play as a striker, so without having another Lukaku, we have three more players that can play as a nine."

Revealed

The Portuguese coach also revealed he would consider switching formations should he be without the services of leading scorer Lukaku.

"If we don't have Lukaku for different reasons, we can change systems and play with two and give more mobility to, for example, Marcus and Martial together, Marcus and Alexis together, so we are not going to go for another number nine," Mourinho added.

Goal

Lampard, Lineker, Drogba all send best wishes to Ray Wilkins

LONDON - Frank Lampard, Gary Lineker and Didier Drogba have been among those sending best wishes to former England midfielder Ray Wilkins who is critically ill in hospital following a heart attack, according to reports.

The 61-year-old ex-Chelsea, Manchester United and Rangers player fell in the wake of the cardiac arrest, his wife Jackie is quoted as telling the *Daily Mirror*.

"He's in hospital, he's had a cardiac arrest and is in intensive care," the newspaper quoted her as saying.

"He's not in a good state at all, I'm afraid. He's critically ill."

"The cardiac arrest led to a fall which has meant he's had to be put in an induced coma. It's very, very bad."

Following the news of Wilkins' illness, there has been an outpouring of support from former players, with Lampard posting a photo and a message on his Instagram account, with Lineker and Drogba also sending him their best wishes on Twitter.

Ruud Gullit, who crossed paths with Wilkins at both Milan and Chelsea, tweeted a photo of the midfielder in his Milan kit, with the message: "Stay strong my friend".

Wilkins had carried out media duties on talkSPORT and Sky Sports - he is a regular on both platforms - shortly before suffering the heart attack.

Winner

A winner of 84 England caps, he became the fourth player sent off while playing for his country when he was dismissed during the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico in a game against Morocco.

Wilkins - known in the game by his childhood nickname 'Butch' - played for 12 sides and was on the coaching staff of several more, but is commonly associated with Chelsea. The club tweeted after hearing about his heart attack.

He started his career there and spent six years with the Blues, while also having numerous stints as assistant manager. On one occasion, he led the side on a caretaker basis.

Carlo Ancelotti, under whom Wilkins worked at Stamford Bridge, once described him as having "real blue blood".

Teamtalk

'Tottenham clash a must-win' game'

LONDON - If Chelsea failed to beat London rivals Tottenham Hotspur at Stamford Bridge in the Premier League today it would significantly reduce their chances of clinching a top-four spot this season, defender Marcos Alonso has said.

Last season's champions Chelsea are fifth in the league table with 56 points, five points behind Spurs as both teams bid to qualify for next season's Champions League.

"It's not over until it is mathematically impossible, but it would be very difficult for sure if we lost," Alonso told British media.

"It is definitely a must-win game. Here at Chelsea, we have to fight until the end for every target we can achieve, and next year we have to be in the Champions League. On Sunday, we have to get a win," the Spain international added. Tottenham have not beaten Chelsea away since 1990, when former England striker Gary Lineker scored the winning goal in a 2-1 league victory. However, Mauricio Pochettino's Spurs side are unbeaten in the Premier League in 2018, with seven victories and three draws, and come into the mouthwatering clash high on confidence.

"I don't think the past will have an influence. I don't like stats, I think it will be a different game and we will have to give everything and be fully focused to get the three points," Alonso added. "It's a massive game. We have a very important target, which is arriving at the end of the season in the top four. Starting on Sunday, it's the first important three points for us."

Tottenham could be without their injured top scorer Harry Kane but Alonso said Chelsea's defenders could still not afford to let Kane be stepping up his recovery from an ankle injury he picked up in this month's 4-1 win at Bournemouth and will be assessed before the match. *Teamtalk*



Chelsea boss Antonio Conte and Mauricio Pochettino.

Pochettino finds unlikely ally in Chelsea chief Conte

LONDON - Chelsea boss Antonio Conte has defended Mauricio Pochettino's failure to deliver silverware at Tottenham.

Argentinian Pochettino has been in charge of Spurs for almost four seasons but has so far been unable to end the club's 10-year wait for a trophy.

Chelsea Manager Conte, meanwhile, won the Premier League last season in his first year in English football. The pair go head-to-head at Stamford Bridge today with their teams battling to secure top-four finishes and Champions League qualification. "I consider Mauricio Pochettino a really good manager," said Conte.

"I think that, if Tottenham grew a lot in this period, he has a lot of credit for that. "We are talking about a team who, in the last period for many years now, they are competing to win

the title.

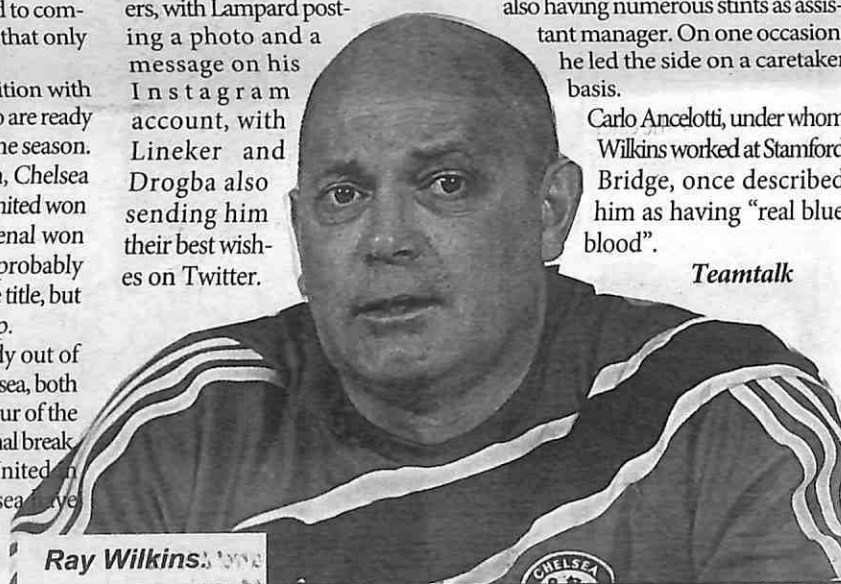
"Two years ago, they were very close to winning the title when Leicester won it. Last season they tried to compete with us. "Don't forget that only one team can win the title."

"You start every competition with six teams, six top teams who are ready to win something during the season."

"For example, last season, Chelsea won the title, Manchester United won the Carabao Cup, and Arsenal won the FA Cup. "This season, probably Manchester City will win the title, but they dropped in the FA Cup."

Although the title is already out of reach of Tottenham and Chelsea, both sides progressed to the last four of the FA Cup before the international break. Spurs face Manchester United in the semi-finals, while Chelsea have drawn Southampton.

Teamtalk



Ray Wilkins



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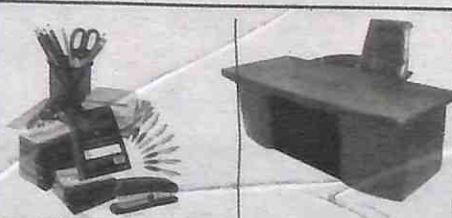


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GUARDIOLA'S MEN ONE WIN AWAY FROM TITLE

LONDON - Manchester City warmed up for a season-defining month with a commanding 3-1 win over Everton at Goodison Park to set up a potential Premier League title party against rivals United.

Pep Guardiola's side face Liverpool over two legs in the Champions League quarter-final and welcome their bitter Manchester rivals to the Etihad Stadium in April, when they will also travel to Tottenham.

It is a run of games that could see them win the Premier League and take a huge step towards European

glory, making yesterday's dominant triumph a timely one as a victory next weekend would seal the top-flight crown. The damage was done inside 12 minutes against a lacklustre Toffees team, with Leroy Sané and Gabriel Jesus on target, the former capping a fine move. Everton won this fixture 4-0 last season, serving Guardiola with the biggest league loss of his managerial career, but the hosts - who also grabbed a draw in Manchester in August - were well off the pace on this occasion. Guardiola's 50th English top-flight victory -

which saw City become only the third team to beat all 19 opponents in a single Premier League campaign - was wrapped up before the break as Raheem Sterling got in on the act, with Yannick Bolasie's consolation goal doing nothing to prevent the leaders restoring their 16-point advantage at the summit.

The visitors soon forged ahead in eye-catching fashion as Aymeric Laporte and David Silva brilliantly linked up, the latter driving the ball across goal for Sané to expertly volley in from eight yards. Bolasie then

missed a glorious chance to level things up, heading over from close range, and Everton were quickly punished. City sprung forward and Jesus converted his first league goal since November from Kevin De Bruyne's cross to put the champions-elect in control. A near-miss from Leighton Baines' curling free-kick showed Sam Allardyce's men carried some attacking threat, but it paled next to the brilliance of his counterpart's well-oiled team. Silva shot narrowly wide from just outside the box and then returned to his familiar role of provider, laying on a simple finish for Sterling at the end of a rapid City counter-attack. Fernandinho's deflected strike called Jordan Pickford into action early in a second half during which Everton finally sought to challenge their opponents' authority.

Goal

Perez winner extends unbeaten home run

NEWCASTLE - Newcastle United took a huge step towards Premier League safety and extended their fine home run with a 1-0 victory over Huddersfield Town at St James' Park.

Ayoze Perez's 80th-minute winner settled a nervy contest yesterday, Newcastle deservedly taking the three points after missing a series of first-half chances.

Dwight Gayle was most guilty of wastefulness, but it was Kenedy - twice a scorer last time out - who was cool enough in the closing stages to pick out Perez to break the deadlock.

After a run of five straight defeats on Tyneside, Rafael Benitez's side are now unbeaten in seven at home in all competitions, winning the last three to move within two victories of the 40-point mark targeted by the Newcastle manager for top-flight survival.

Huddersfield's situation is a little graver, David Wagner's men having not scored in four matches as they face a tough run-in in their own bid to preserve Premier League status.

Newcastle enjoyed the better of the play from the off in a feisty opening to the game, Jonjo Shelvey fizzing the first chance of note just wide from 20 yards after quarter of an hour.

Reuters

Arnautovic gets London Stadium smiling again

LONDON - West Ham gave their supporters plenty to cheer as they boosted their Premier League survival hopes with a 3-0 victory over fellow strugglers

Southampton. Three weeks on from the angry pitch invasions during West

Ham's capitulation to Burnley, the Hammers turned on the style yesterday, amid increased security at London Stadium. Home fans were more than happy to stay in their seats as David Moyes' side moved five points clear of the relegation zone, a first-half double from Marko Arnautovic coming after Joao Mario had broken the deadlock. There was added significance for Arnautovic as he proved to be Mark Hughes' tormentor for the second time this season, the Austrian - who scored against Hughes' Stoke

City in December - coming back to haunt his former boss on his league debut in the Saints dugout.

Charlie Austin's return did little to boost the visitors - who failed to have a shot on target - as Hughes slipped to a fourth loss in a first match in charge of a new Premier League club. The Saints remain embroiled in a relegation fight with seven games to play, Southampton now two points from safety and five behind West Ham - who rise to 14th.

Goal

LUKAKU JOINS PREMIER LEAGUE 100 CLUB

MANCHESTER - Romelu Lukaku's 100th Premier League goal helped Manchester United to a 2-0 win over Swansea City yesterday.

The Belgium international's milestone effort, followed by an Alexis Sanchez strike, were enough to seal all three points at Old Trafford and move United back above Liverpool into second place in the table. Swansea had only lost on two of their previous five visits to United in all competitions, but they never recovered from



Romelu Lukaku was quickly mobbed by his team-mates after scoring for United in the fifth minute against their Welsh opponents.

Lukaku's fifth-minute opener, as Jose Mourinho's side, for whom Paul Pogba was restored to the starting line-up, produced a largely commanding performance to claim their fourth league victory in a row. Sanchez, whose last goal came in the 2-0 win over Huddersfield Town in February, deservedly doubled the lead after 20 minutes of arguably his best performance in a United shirt. Carlos Carvalho's

visitors improved after the break, with David de Gea making fine saves to keep out Tammy Abraham efforts, but they rarely looked likely to snatch a draw that would have lifted them four points clear of the relegation zone. United's win takes them two points above Liverpool, having played a game less, and back to within 13 of league leaders Manchester City ahead of their trip to Everton. **Goal**

Maritzburg edge Celtic to make semis

PIETERMARITZBURG - Goals from Lebohang Maboe and Andrea Fileccia saw Maritzburg United defeat Bloemfontein Celtic 2-1 in a Nedbank Cup quarterfinal at the Harry Gwala Stadium in Pietermaritzburg yesterday afternoon.

The Team of Choice were more ruthless in attack to earn their spot in the semi-finals, while Phunya Sele Sele will reflect on several missed chances as they crash out of the competition.

Maritzburg started the match with perhaps the fastest goal of the season, as Lebohang Maboe scored with less than 30 seconds on the clock.

Andrea Fileccia charged down an attempted clearance and the loose ball fell kindly for the forward, who showed great composure to open up space and send a low, left-footed shot into the bottom corner of the net.

On 26 minutes the hosts should have doubled their advantage, with Bandile Shandu latching onto a loose ball after some poor defending to run clean through on goal, but his effort hit the crossbar and rebounded away to safety.

Just before the half-hour mark, Celtic nearly drew level on two occasions: first Lucky Baloyi had his effort from the edge of the box turned away by Richard Ofori, while the subsequent corner kick saw Ronald Pfumbidzai hit the woodwork with a header.

United pushed for another goal early in the second half and they should have claimed it in the 51st minute, with Deolin Meko given a clear sight of goal in the penalty area, but he took too long to get a shot away and his effort was half blocked and then easily saved by Celtic's 'keeper.

The Bloemfontein side often looked dangerous from set pieces and on 64 minutes they nearly drew level through a shot direct from a free kick by Kabelo Dlamini, but once again Ofori was on hand to turn the ball away for a corner kick.

It seemed only a matter of time until Celtic claimed an equaliser and on 76 minutes substitute Jacky Motshegwa managed to control the ball in the box from a corner kick, turn and get away a shot which deflected through a group of defenders and hit the back of the net to make it 1-1.

Yet parity lasted just four minutes, as Maboe provided a fine pass to put Fileccia through on goal and the Belgian striker provided a superb, first-time finish to beat Dambe and secure a 2-1 triumph for the Team of Choice.

Backpage TXT



MTN Premier League 2017/18

PREVIEWS

'BIRDS' OUT FOR REVENGE AGAINST MAMBA

Mbabane Swallows vs Green Mamba
King Sobhuza Stadium, 3pm

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

SOCCER- Mbabane Swallows have a quick chance at revenge when they take on Green Mamba in the MTN Premier League tomorrow.

Green Mamba shocked the 'Birds' three weeks ago, beating Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati's charges 1-0 to knock them out of the SwaziBank Cup at the last 16 stage. That defeat was Swallows first domestically this campaign,

ing a run of 27 matches without defeat. However, Vilakati's men have responded well to that loss, winning all two of their matches since. They beat Zambian side Zanaco 1-0 on March 17 in a CAF Champions League first round second leg match at Somhlolo National Stadium before eating Royal Leopard 2-1 in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup final last Sunday. Now, Swallows face Caleb Ngwenya's Green Mamba knowing that a 16th league win edges them ever closer to their coronation. The Birds are four points clear of second placed Young Buffaloes on the log standings. With the army side facing Manzini Sundowns at the same time tomorrow, Swallows know they cannot afford any slip ups. Vilakati will hope on form captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze as well as anchorman Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu once again inspire the leaders to victory. For Green Mamba, this match is about solidifying their hold on third place. Ngwenya's charges are six points clear off fourth placed Matsapha United and a win tomorrow will go a long way in strengthening their grip on third place.

end-

Struggling Red Lions face 'Bull'

Red Lions vs Mbabane Highlanders
Somhlolo National Stadium, 1pm

SOCCER- The equation for Red Lions is simple, lose tomorrow against Mbabane Highlanders and relegation to the National First Division will be confirmed.

Red Lions can reach a maximum 24 point if they win their remaining four matches. That would be enough to save them from relegation provided one of Tambuti (22 points) and Vovovo (23 points) don't reach that 24 point mark.

It's a mountain to climb for Red Lions, who on top of Highlanders also have Manzini Wanderers, Royal Leopard and Matsapha United waiting. When Highlanders and Red Lions met in the first round back in October, the Mbabane side won 2-0. Not a good sign for the Fairview side. Highlanders beat Green Mamba 3-1 in

their last league match and are riding a wave of positivity having also reached the quarter-finals of the SwaziBank Cup.

They know they need to do better in the league however. Highlanders occupy 7th spot on the standings with just eight wins from 22 matches so far. Mlungisi 'Proffesor' Ngubane knows that improvements are needed.

Buffaloes take on Sundowns

Young Buffaloes vs Manzini Sundowns
Mayaluka Stadium, 3pm

SOCCER- Young Buffaloes will continue in their relentless pursuit of the league title when they take on Manzini Sundowns tomorrow at Mayaluka Stadium.

Buffaloes are four points behind leaders Mbabane Swallows with four league matches left. With both league title chasers in action at the same time tomorrow, Buffaloes know they have to win to capitalise on any probable slip ups by Swallows.

The army side has won 14 times this season and have lost only twice. Sundowns know they will be facing

an uphill battle against a side that is hard to breakdown.

The two sides drew 1-1 in their first round encounter back in October. Sundowns sit in eighth place on the log standings and will be hoping to win to climb up the standings.

Relegated City host Matsapha United

Midas City vs Matsapha United
Prince of Wales, 3pm

SOCCER- In the only single header of the round, already relegated Midas City will take on Matsapha United at the Prince of Wales.

City's relegation has long been confirmed but they have not thrown in the towel. They beat Red Lions 2-1 in their last league match back in March. Matsapha meanwhile have won just two of their last five league matches. Their last league win was a 3-2 victory over Tambuti in February. Matsapha strengthened their squad in the January transfer window and will be hoping their new signings help them to a strong finish in the league.

Lower mid-table battle as Pirates face Malanti

Moneni Pirates vs Malanti Chiefs
King Sobhuza Stadium II, 1pm

SOCCER- Moneni Pirates and Malanti Chiefs will face off in the MTN Premier League tomorrow in what will be a lower mid-table battle.

Both sides find themselves languishing in the lower parts of the table with Pirates three points behind their opponents in 10th place. The two sides are clear of any relegation threat but will still hope to collect as many points as possible in the final four games of the season.

For Malanti the campaign can be considered a successful one

considering that this is their first season back in the top flight after winning promotion from the National First Division. For Pirates however it has been a season of disappointments.



Ernest Mavuso's side has won just five times in the league this season, only relegated Midas City and fellow strugglers Red Lions have won less. Pirates have won just once in their last eleven league matches. They were beaten 2-0 by Manzini Wanderers in their last match and will need to improve

against a Malanti side that they drew 1-1 with in the first round back in October.

Revived Leopard face inconsistent Wanderers

Royal Leopard vs Manzini Wanderers
Somhlolo National Stadium, 3pm

SOCCER- Royal Leopard, fresh from their defeat in the final of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup, will take on Manzini Wanderers in the MTN Premier League tomorrow.

Leopard were beaten 1-2 by Mbabane Swallows in the final of the prestigious competition last Sunday. That defeat aside, the police side has been revived in the second half of this campaign and look back to the menacing side they were a couple of seasons ago. Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane's charges have won three of their last five League matches and are also into the quarter-finals of the SwaziBank Cup.

Ntibane will have been pleased to see trusted playmaker Zweli 'Mlilo' Nxumalo as well as versatile midfielder Sifiso 'Sushi'

Nkhambule perform well in that final on Sunday. The Leopard coach will bank on those two midfielders to once again lead his side's charge against an unpredictable Wanderers tomorrow.

Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe's charges can be beautiful and dreadful in one match but the progress the Welsians have made and continue to make under the experienced coach is evident to see. Wanderers dearly need a league win. They have won just two of their last eight matches but have found solace in the SwaziBank Cup where they have won their two matches so far to reach the quarter-finals.

Wanderers are currently fifth on the league table, tied on 38 points with fourth placed Matsapha United who have a better goal difference. Leopard are a point behind on 33. It is a match that will go a long way in deciding who finishes highest between the two sides.

Relegation six pointer as Tambuti face Vovovo

Tambuti vs Vovovo
Mayaluka Stadium, 1pm

SOCCER- Whoever wins the match between Tambuti and Vovovo tomorrow will have guaranteed their stay in the league for next season.

Red Lions, who occupy the last relegation spot, can reach a maximum point haul of 24 meaning both Tambuti (22) and Vovovo (23) are not safe just yet. One of these two sides can steer

clear of danger tomorrow in what is a big match at the bottom of the table. Tambuti beat Malanti Chiefs 2-1 in their last match, a victory that was a huge boost for their survival hopes.

Vovovo meanwhile have lost three league matches in a row. Tambuti also won the last meeting between the two sides in October 3-0. They will hope to do the same against their opponents tomorrow. Buffs are out to pile pressure on Birds.



MEDIA SOCCER TOURNAMENT



Swazi TV's Phathizwe Msibi turns an SPTC defender. This was during a media tournament held at Eveni Sports Ground yesterday. (Pics; Sibongiseni Zondi)



An SPTC defender marks Swazi TV's Mlamuli.



Wandile Motsa of Swazi TV in a tussle for the ball with an SPTC midfielder.



Swazi TV fans in a jovial mood during their match against SPTC.



Swazi TV's Wandile controls the ball while an SPTC defender closes in.



An SPTC defender tries to get the ball from Swazi TV's Wandile.



A substitution for Swazi TV as Mangaliso Ndzinisa replaces Mangaliso 'Elfoe' Masilela.



Swazi TV's Wandile Motsa and an SPTC player fight for the ball.



Mfanimpela Masuku of Swazi TV moves forward with the ball while an S'dumo Zwane chases.



Supporters carrying refreshments.



The SBIS team refreshes after their match against the Times of Swaziland.



A section of the people who came out to watch the games.

LEOPARD'S NTIMANE OUT OF WANDERERS CLASH

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

SOCCKER- Royal Leopard defender Sikhumbuzo 'Chaka' Ntimane is set to miss his side's MTN Premier League clash with Manzini Wanderers tomorrow due to injury.

The left back was substituted in the first half of Leopard's 1-1 tie to Mbabane Swallows in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup on Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium. Ntimane has suffered a hamstring injury and faces a spell on the sidelines according to Leopard PRO Frank Hurube.

"Barry (Steenkamp) and all the others are okay.

"The one who has problems is Sikhumbuzo. His injury is a lot more serious. It looks like a hamstring injury

so the doctors have advised us that he will be out for some time. So, definitely he is out of the match against Wanderers," Hurube said.

Ntimane's hamstring problem is the latest setback in what has been an injury ravaged campaign for the left back. The defender missed a huge chunk of the first round as he struggled with a knee problem.

On top of the four remaining League games, Leopard also have the SwaziBank Cup within their sights.

The police side is one of eight sides left standing in the tournament.

Royal Leopard defender Sikhumbuzo 'Chaka' Ntimane.



Corban Build Hardware's E10 000 for Ngculwini teams

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

SOCCKER- Corban Build Hardware has pumped in E10 000 towards a knockout competition involving football clubs from Ngculwini, Mafutseni and Mtfongwaneni.

The tournament, which involves a total of 16 teams, started on Good Friday and ends tomorrow on Easter Monday. The champions of the tournament will take home E3 000 according to Mantjonga League Chairman Sikelela Matse.

"We really appreciate what Corban Build has done for us. They have told us that this is their way of giving back to the community. We really appreciate it. The runners-up will get E2 000 while the third placed side will get E900," Matse said. The chairman added that the

tournament was one of the ways they were using to fight crime in the community.

"We want to see crime levels decrease. We appreciate the support we have received from the police in providing us with security and ensuring that there is peace and safety during the games," he added.

Motsa then announced another tournament, this one for social teams from Mafutseni sponsored by Lady Joe Investments.

"Lady Joe Investments has put up E2 000 for eight social teams for an Easter tournament. We had a similar tournament in December and once again, Lady Joe wants to give back to the community. The champions will take home E800 plus a soccer ball," Matse, who is also PRO of Lady Joe Investments, said.

Mvasi League's E4 000 boost from Catch Up

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

SOCCKER- The Mvasi League, the leading football competition at the University of Swaziland main campus in Kwaluseni, has received a boost in the form of a E4 000 sponsorship from Catch Up Advertising Agency.

The sponsorship package will be channelled to a one day four-team knockout competition which will be played

on April 19 at the Butchery Sports Ground at Kwaluseni Campus. In order to qualify for the tournament, the 16 teams from the League have to garner enough votes to qualify for the top four spots in voting.

"The teams have to get votes. The method of voting is simple, you just go to the Catch Up website and vote.

Voting is free of charge. However, you can vote only once a day," said the Mvasi

League's Secretary Jabulani Dlamini.

Voting began on March 10 and will close on April 12.

The champions of the tournament will pocket E2 000 while the runners up will receive E1 000.

Prize Breakdown:

Champions: E2 000

Runners-up: E1 000

Semifinalists (x2): E500 each

EL Under-17 action on Easter Monday

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SOCCKER - It's a great chance for parents to come and witness their children's soccer skills tomorrow as the Esibayeni Lodge Under-17 league games will be on.

It will be humdinger of a triplederby delight at the Manzini Club as police side Royal Leopard, capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders and Mbabane Swallows will be hosting Matsapha United, Manzini Wanderers and Young Buffaloes, respectively.

The first match of the day will see Matsapha United taking on Royal Leopard.

Matsapha United have shocked the whole league with their drive in their debut season.

They are currently placed on the driver's seat after eight games.

Royal Leopard, on the other hand, have been blowing hot and cold, and their inconsistency has landed them to mid-table.

They will, therefore, be looking to improve from their poor start to the season, whilst Matsapha will look at the match as the perfect opportunity to consolidate their top spot.

Kick-off is 10m. The next match scheduled for noon pits capital city giant's juniors Mbabane Highlanders against Hub counterparts Manzini Wanderers.

Both teams haven't been performing well, especially the 'Weslians.' The Percy Mngomezulu-led charges have been the opposite of last season's form which has seen them lose seven matches in eight games, collecting just a mere point, out of a possible 24.

They are also facing a Mbabane Highlanders side who are placed just above the mid-table following an emphatic 5-1 massacre of Fairview based side Red Lions in the last match.

The last match will be the headliner.

Mbabane Swallows take on the defending champions in army side Young Buffaloes. Buffaloes are still proving their dominance this season as they are yet to set a foot wrong so far, but instead are proving stronger by each passing game.

Their opponents in Mbabane Swallows are also a very improved side this season, hence will also pose a threat to Mbongwa Dlamini's charges.

Kick-off is at 2pm.

City Warriors players to share E15 000

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCKER - 2018 SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup Regional Champions City Warriors players will share a sum of E15 000 for winning the second edition of the regional games.

The Siphofaneni based side went home E40 000 richer after beating Young Movers 2-1 during the final played at the King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium about two months ago.

This was disclosed by the club's Chairman Mzimela Simelane during their official crowning at the Somhlolo National Stadium last Sunday.

"We are happy with the progress of the team, especially after being crowned the regional champions of the Ingwenyama Cup. We have decided to give our players a sum of E15 000 to share among



themselves as a way of appreciating their efforts," "We are confident that they will continue work hard in the League so we can achieve our goal of gaining promotion to the National First Division

at the end of the season," he said.

City Warriors have joined Manchester United in the regional tournament 'hall of fame' after the Northern Hhohho based side won the first edition last year.

Bavuma half-century puts SA in commanding position

JOHANNESBURG - Temba Bavuma's unbeaten half-century has tightened South Africa's grip on a first home series win over a scandal-hit Australia in almost 50 years, steering his side to 400 for seven at lunch on the second day of the fourth and final test at the Wanderers. Bavuma (61 not out) and Quinton de Kock (39) added 85 for the seventh wicket before the latter top-edged spinner Nathan Lyon (2-124) to Mitchell Marsh at mid-on as he attempted to up the scoring tempo yesterday.

Bavuma will resume after the interval with Vernon Philander (six) as

the home side look to take the game further out of Australia's grasp with the visitors' chances of winning to level the series slipping away.

New Australia captain Tim Paine had complained after the opening day that his side were "flat" at times and they appeared so again, the usual intensity in their performance visibly lacking. They created few other opportunities on a helpful wicket and with a relatively new ball, and with rain predicted later in the test, Australia's hopes hinged on restricting South Africa to a first innings score they could surpass quickly and build a first innings lead.

The hosts resumed their innings on 313 for six under cloudy skies that should have made for a bowlers' morning. Bavuma and De Kock initially showed patience with the bat, with the former adding just a single run to his overnight score of 25 in the first hour of play.

But he was more expansive after the drinks break as South Africa looked to drive home their growing advantage.

It will also be a personal relief for Bavuma after he returned to the side in the last test in Cape Town with two failures following three months out with a finger injury. **Sport24**



MUSA MAMBA QUILTS VOVOVO

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – With only four games remaining before the curtain closes, Vovovo coach Musa Mamba has resigned from his duties as head of the technical bench.

Information gathered is that the two parties cut ties shortly after their exit in the Swazi Bank Cup at the hands of Manzini Wanderers about three weeks ago.

A source close to the matter revealed that the coach had a fallout with the team's management committee and players, which resulted in him quitting the team.

"The relationship between the team

...Team believed to be after the services of Madze Bulunga

and coach had turned sour and the coach resorted to resigning from his position," said the source. The source added that the team was now in talks with former Sihlangu head coach Harries 'Madze' Bulunga. "The director is still talks with 'Madze' and hopefully they will be concluded soon," added the source.

Mamba confirmed the news when sought for comment yesterday afternoon.

"Yes, I am no longer part of Vovovo. I felt my contribution was no longer needed in the team, hence resigned. I am open to other offers but for next season," he said.

Efforts to get Vovovo Public Relations

Officer Wandile Shongwe proved futile as his mobile phone rang unanswered when called several times yesterday.

A text message was also sent to Shongwe but there was no response at the time of going to print.

Mamba joined Vovovo earlier in the season, replacing Caleb Ngwenya who left the blue and white ensemble for Green Mamba.

He becomes the second local coach to quit his job after Red Lions mentor Mlamuli 'Sputla' Zwane.

The Premier League side will face Tambuti in their MTN Premier League at the Mayaluka Stadium in Big Bend tomorrow.

Pirates looking to raise E200 000 through fans

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

SOCCER- Moneni Pirates have embarked on a fundraising drive aimed at raising E200 000 through their supporters.

Pirates have been hit by financial troubles this season coupled by their struggles on the field of play. As a response to these troubles, the club has decided to engage its supporters countrywide to raise money.

"The team is looking at

raising a minimum of E200 000 through its numerous fans that can be found country-

-wide. We

believe the team

has a large fan

base and this is

one way we can

prove that we have

a large following as

everyone who will con-

tribute via Mobile Money

number will be counted and we will

have proven statistics," the club's

PRO Jabu Ndzingane said in a state-

ment.

Ndzingane explained that this

money would help the club going

into the 2018/19 season.

"The purpose for raising such a

large amount is to ensure that we

are in a healthy financial status as

we head into the off-season. We

will not wait until pre-season to begin our preparations for the 2018/19 season as we would like to be well prepared for the coming season so we can perform much better than we are currently. Our supporters are requested to donate a minimum of E20 for the next four weeks," Ndzingane added.

The supporters can donate the money through MTN Mobile Money on the cellphone number: 7622

4466.



Ndzingane then invited the club's supporters to their MTN Premier League match against Malanti Chiefs which will be played at King Sobhuza Stadium tomorrow.

"On Monday, all roads lead down south to the King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium in Nhlanguano. We are looking forward to this game as we would like to erase the last memory we have of Malanti Chiefs as we remember how they dumped us out of the Swazi Bank Cup competition. This is a redemption game for us to prove that the loss was a mistake," the Buccaneers PRO concluded.

We won't undermine Red Lions - 'Professor'

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SOCCER – Mbabane Highlanders coach Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane says they will not undermine struggling Premier League side Red Lions.

The two sides will meet in a league encounter slated for the Somhlolo National Stadium tomorrow starting at 1.30pm.

Interviewed earlier this week, the South African born mentor said they were

preparing hard for the clash.

"This is a very big game and I will have to make sure that the team is motivated so they don't undermine our opponents. I have told them that they need to fight and get the three points."

"We have played a friendly game at Mhlume so the boys know what I expect from them on Monday," he said.

Highlanders are currently placed seventh on the league table while Red Lions remain second from bottom.

The coach also highlighted that they were determined to do well in the Swazi Bank Cup.

"As a coach, you always want the best of your players so we need to go all out for us to make it far in this tournament. There are eight teams remaining now and they all want to win this tournament. "But my players are well aware that we need to win a trophy, especially for our supporters who are always behind the team," he said.



The national Under-20 squad posing ahead of their AFCON 2019 Qualifiers clash against the Junior Flames of Malawi. (Courtesy pic)

National U-20 hold Malawi to goalless draw

Malawi (0)0
Sihlangwana (0)0

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – The National Under-20 squad boosted their chances of advancing to the next round of the 2019 AFCON Under-20 qualifier after playing to a goal-less draw against the Junior Flames.

This was the preliminary round first leg encounter played at the Kamuzu Banda Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The team's Coach Dumisani 'DU' Makhanya started with six Premier League players in the likes of goalkeeper Lwethu Simelane,

Mkhuleko Magagula, Senzo Shongwe (All Manzini Sundowns), Lindani Matsenjwa (Moneni Pirates), Linda Dlamini (Midas City), and captain Vusi Vilakati from Mbabane Highlanders.

Interviewed after the match, the coach commended his charges for a good showing during the encounter.

"I am happy with the team's performance, as they frustrated the opposition for prolonged stages of the match. We knew they were going to fight for an early goal but then my boys kept them at bay until the end,"

"I am now looking forward to the return leg but we still need to work as a team in order for us to advance to the next round of the

competition," he said.

Leading the host side was former Mbabane Highlanders coach Meck Mwase who, however, could not be reached for comment at the time of compiling the report.

The team will host the Malawians in a return match slated for April 21. The winner in this encounter will meet with Angola next month.

Swaziland

Lwethu, Bandile, Evra, Mkhuleko, Vusi, Lindani, Mkhuleko, Melissa, Senzo, Linda Dlamini, Mphotho

Malawi

Charles, Hadji, Kelvin, Auspicious Kazongola, Felix Dumakude, Chinsisi Maonga, Francisco Madinga, Peter, Abel, Chikondi

'Flamingo' joins SuperSport United Academy

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER- Forgotten former Sihlangu and Manzini Wanderers midfielder Mphumelelo 'Flamingo' Gamedze has joined SuperSport United Academy.

The former Bidvest player is now part of the technical team at the 2017 CAF Confederation Cup runners-up development side.

A source close to the matter asserted that the former midfield kingpin assumed his new role as U-13 coach about two months ago.

"He is now part

of the Super

Sport United

academy and

is in charge of

one of the junior

sides. His main

mandate is to pro-

duce players for the senior

team," the source said.

Efforts to get SuperSport United Chief Executive Officer Stan Mathews proved futile as his cellphone was not available.

Gamedze is working hand in hand with former SuperSport United captain Ricardo Katza who is also part of 'Matsatsansa' junior coaching ranks.

Gamedze last played for Hub giants Wanderers during the early 2000 under the tutelage of the late coach Dumisa 'Dodge' Mahlalela.

The former midfielder played together with the likes of Zwelabo 'Mrico' Nxumalo, Doctor Nxumalo, Sive 'MaTromphies' Dlamini and Jerry 'Mbazo' Gamedze at the maroon and white ensemble.



RESULTS

NEDBANK CUP		
Kaizer Chiefs	1-0	Baroka FC
Ubuntu Cape Town	1-1	Free State Stars
Free State Stars goes through 4-2 on penalties		
Maritzburg United	2-1	Bloemfontein Celtic
PREMIER LEAGUE		
Everton	1-3	Manchester City
West Brom	1-2	Burnley
West Ham United	3-0	Southampton
Brighton & Hove Albion	0-2	Leicester City
Newcastle United	1-0	Huddersfield
Watford	2-2	AFC Bournemouth
Manchester United	2-0	Swansea City
Crystal Palace	1-2	Liverpool

SPANISH LA LIGA		
Sevilla	2-2	Barcelona
Las Palmas	0-3	Real Madrid

FIXTURES

Today		
Nedbank Cup		
15:00 Cape Town City FC	vs	Mamelodi Sundowns
Premier League		
14:30 Arsenal	vs	Stoke City
17:00 Chelsea	vs	Tottenham Hotspur

Chiefs down Baroka to secure Nedbank Cup semi-final spot

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs advanced to the Nedbank Cup semi-finals after defeating Baroka FC 1-0 in a highly entertaining clash yesterday evening.

Bakgaga took the match to Amakhosi in the opening exchanges, seemingly eager to draw first blood. Steve Komphela's charges were sloppy in midfield and showed nerves in the first quarter of the match while the visitors were always first on the ball and confident.

However, Ryan Moon nearly gave Amakhosi the lead in the 16th minute with a header at the back post but Bakgaga goalkeeper Ayanda Dlamini made a brilliant low save. Baroka striker Gift Motupa nearly caught Amakhosi goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune off his line on 25 minutes, but his lob sailed over the target.

Ramahlwe Mphahlele should have sent Komphela's men ahead on the half-hour mark after a poor clearance fell kindly on his lap at the back post but his shot was saved by Dlamini.

Moon was unfortunate not to find the back of the net in the 35th minute for the Soweto giants as his curling shot hit the upright from inside the box, while the follow-up from man of the match Hendrik Ekstein was denied by the keeper. However, Eric Mathoho did break the deadlock for the hosts a minute later with a header from Siphiwe Tshabalala's corner after a period of sustained pressure, 1-0.

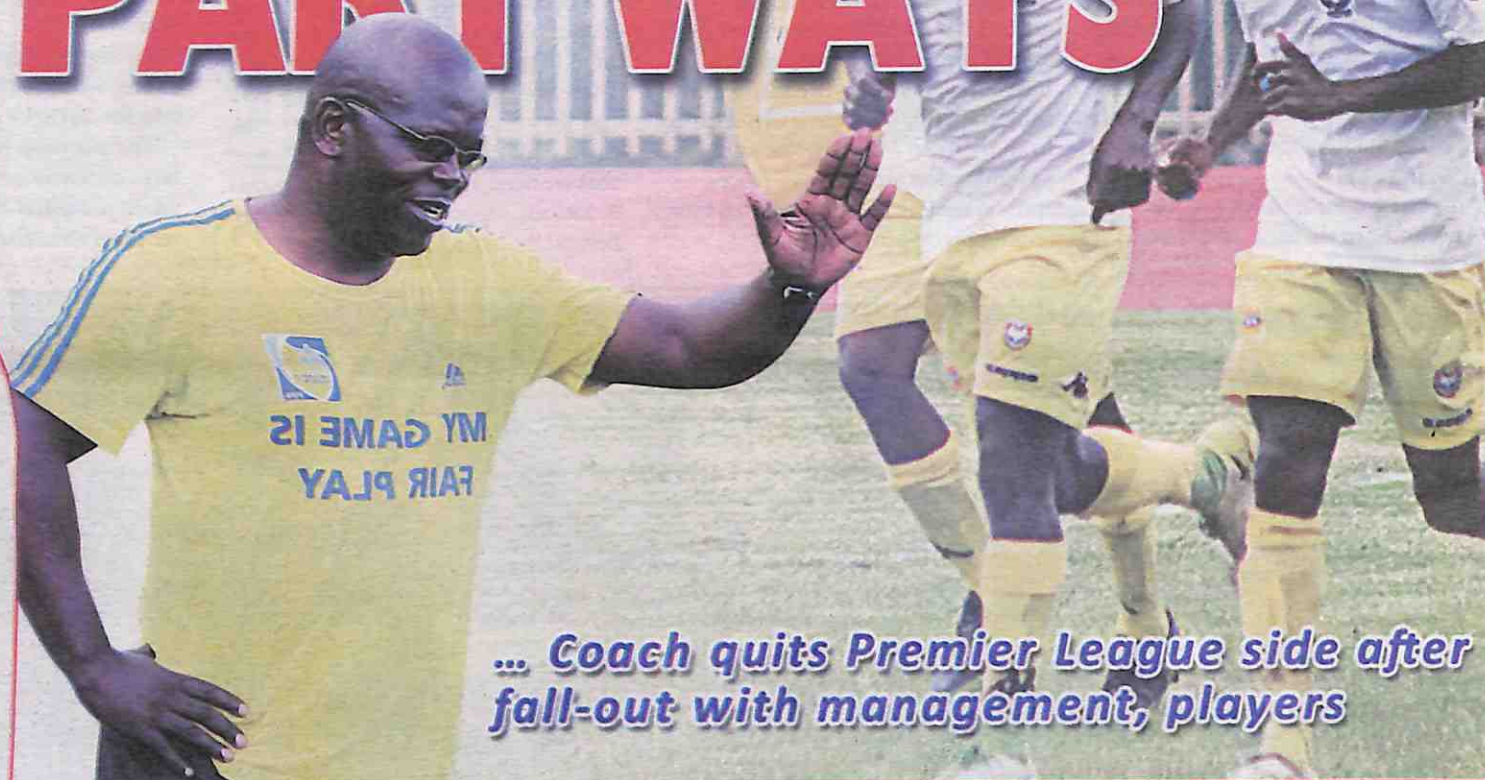
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Sunday Observer SPORTING

APRIL 1, 2018



MUSA MAMBA, VOVVO PART WAYS



... Coach quits Premier League side after fall-out with management, players

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