

50 AREAS
ENTER
2018 IN
THE DARK

Page 2

Swazi OBSERVER

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MAN'S
TONGUE CUT
OUT, ANOTHER
ELECTROCUTED

Page 3

TUESDAY JANUARY 2, 2018

REVIVED, RELIABLE AND READ

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SWAZI MOBILE/UMLILO CROSSOVER PACKS OVER 20 000



COME DUZE 2018:
'Gawuzela' in song as he
performs at the Swazi
Mobile-Umlilo crossover
on Sunday night. Over 20
000 people crammed the
Mavuso Trade Centre
Arena to be part of the
crossover. (Pic: Simon
Shabangu) MORE ON
PAGES 25, 26, 27

NEW YEAR HAD IT ALL AND MORE... 2018: BLACKOUTS, FLOODS, MURDER, STORM

...famous teacher stabbed
while 1 000 homesteads
got hit by storm and 50
areas enter 2018 in the dark

STORY ON PAGES 2- 3

KING TO COMMISSION INGATJA TODAY



MORE ON PAGE 4

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EXPECT A COLD TO COOL FIRST WEEK OF 2018

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane**FORECASTERS have predicted a cold to cool week ahead.**

According to information sourced from the Swaziland

Meteorology Services, today it will be cold especially in the Highveld.

"Temperatures will reach a low of 17 Degrees Celsius in the Highveld while in the Lowveld temperatures will reach a maximum of 23 Degrees Celsius," reads the

statement.

Temperatures are expected to slightly rise to 20 Degrees Celsius in the Highveld and 23 Degrees Celsius in the Lowveld.

"Tomorrow and Thursday temperatures will be cool to warm."

Today, there will be drizzle and fog mainly on high grounds, otherwise cloudy with partly cloudy intervals and cool but cold in the Highveld.

14/17 15/18 16/20 14/19 15/22 17/23

Tomorrow, there will be morning fog, otherwise partly cloudy and cool to warm in the Lowveld with a few afternoon thunderstorms.

12/20 13/21 14/23 12/22 13/25 15/26

On Thursday, there will be morning fog otherwise partly cloudy and cool to warm in the Lowveld.

13/20 14/21 15/23 13/22 14/25 16/26

**IN THE DARK:** Customers rushing in as the Mr Price outlet re-opened after the blackout. (Pic: Zwelethu Dlamini)

BLACKOUT: 50 areas start New Year, 2018 in the dark

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane**The Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) has apologised for the power outages that left close to 50 areas in the dark as they crossed over to the New Year, 2018.**

The country experienced unplanned outages two days in a row.

SEC has pleaded for calm as they continue to restore power in all the affected areas.

Cities

SEC technicians have had to work tirelessly the past weekend to see to it that Swazis are not in the dark following an unprecedented power blackout on Saturday that saw many parts of the country including the two major cities Mbabane and Manzini in the dark for at least an hour.

The second outage took place on Sunday and saw some areas still in the dark by the end of business yesterday. They crossed over in the dark literally.

This outage was caused by

thunderstorm that the country experienced on Sunday afternoon. The storm left close to 50 areas in the dark.

Speaking about the outages, SEC Marketing and Corporate Communications Manager said the Saturday outage was an unprecedented one.

"We haven't seen anything like that in the last 10 years. When we went to bed last Friday it was all systems go and it wasn't something that could have been anticipated. We woke up on Saturday to this challenge and our technicians worked hard to have the fault corrected such that by end of business on Saturday our systems were restored," he said.

Dhlamini explained that the outage on Saturday was caused by a technical fault in a voltage transformer at Edwaleni Power Station and about three quarters of the country was affected by the blackout which lasted for about an hour.

Fast forward to Sunday, the country experienced heavy thunderstorms in the afternoon.

The thunderstorms resulted in power outages in many areas.

Dhlamini said this too was something they wouldn't have known because it was caused by something they had no control over.

Customers

"We woke up again on Sunday and it was all systems go until in the afternoon when the country experienced hailstorms in some areas that damaged houses, fields and off course we were not spared hence the power outages. Again our technicians worked hard but the damage was widespread hence some areas as we speak are still in the dark," he said yesterday. Dhlamini said while these outages were not of their own making, they still felt it appropriate to apologise to the nation. "What happened this weekend was very unfortunate and we want to apologise to the nation and assure them that we are working around the clock to have things restored to normal," he said.

Affected areas after the thunderstorms.

2018: FLOODS, BLACKOUTS,

The New Year weekend had it all and more.

A famous teacher was stoned and stabbed to death

in Manzini by unknown thugs, a man was also swept away by floods, over 1 000 homesteads hit by a hail-

storm that also resulted in power outages. Over 50 areas entered 2018 in the dark. Some areas were

FAMOUS TEACHER STONED, STABBED TO DEATH IN NEW YEAR ROBBERY

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini**A famous teacher around Motshane Lucky Ndelela was hijacked and brutally murdered in the early hours of the New Year, 2018.**

Ndelela who was in his 40s was stoned and stabbed to death by two unknown men near SEDCO offices.

It is suspected that the deceased had parked his car relaxing with a female friend in his vehicle when the two criminals struck.

They first hit the passenger's window with a stone.

Sources close to the matter revealed that Ndelela alighted from the car to check what was happening and in the process he was stabbed and stoned by the attackers.

They then ransacked his car taking all valuables they could lay their hands on including money and cellphones.

It is said a woman who witnessed the inci-

dent immediately reported the matter to the police. It could not be established what happened to the female friend Ndelela was with.

Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba confirmed the matter. Mamba said Manzini police were investigating at murder case, where a 33-year-old woman of Fairview reported that she discovered a 42-year-old man stabbed and stoned to death by two men while next to SEDCO.

When asked if there have been any arrests, Mamba said there were none but stressed that police were still investigating the incident.

Information gathered is that the deceased, fell victim to one of the gangs who have been terrorising the area during the festive season. Worth noting is that just recently some of the people who have been spreading terror among Manzini residents pounced on one local comedian Lungelo Gina known as Smallz.

The criminals managed to take money amounting to E1 400 from the comedian. However police were quick to sort the case as they apprehended the perpetrators on the same night.

Beheaded woman's lover 'helping' cops

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak**THE boyfriend to the beheaded woman Gcinile Msitsini (25) is currently 'helping' Pigg's Peak police with investigations.**

Msitsini is the young woman who had her head, breasts as well as hand brutally chopped off last Thursday evening.

The name of the boyfriend has been withheld by this publication because he has not been charged but merely 'helping' for now.

Speaking to the Swazi Observer yesterday, sources suggested that the Pigg's Peak police were close to a breakthrough in the murder case that has left residents in fear.

"The police are close to a breakthrough in the case, current information dispels the rumours that a ritual murderer is on the loose, we as the police see this case as very sensitive to the public and we don't want people to become hysterical, it is police procedure to always speak to close friends and relatives of the victim, this does not always indicate that the close friend or relative in question is a suspect," he said.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the investigation but said that the individual is currently assisting the Pigg's Peak police.

“

sources suggested that the Pigg's Peak police were close to a breakthrough in the murder case that has left residents in fear.

DEPOT:

Manzini:

Big Bend:

Hluthi:

Malkerns:

Matsapha:

Stonehenge:

Pigg's Peak:

Nhlanguano:

AFFECTED AREAS:

Nsingweni, Mbelebeleni, Dalagubhe, Mcengeni

Big Bend and surrounding areas with seven broken structures

Maloma, Nsoko, Ncandweni, Hlatikhulu and surroundings

Mankayane, Lushikishikini, Mahlangatsha, Malkerns,

Mahlanya, Bethany, Green Valley, Ngabani, Ntontozi

Boyane, Nkamazi, Lozitha, Sigombeni, Vusweni, Bahwini,

Sigcineni

Ntsintsa, Nhlakomeni, Ndlozini, Buka, Elangeni, Dlangeni,

Nkanini, Lobamba, Ezulwini, Ngwenya, Motshane,

Malolotja, Maphalaleni, Glen Township

Nedsor, Mpanza, Madulini, Gege

NHLANGANO RECORDS HIGHEST NEW YEAR RAINS

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

Nhlangano recorded the highest rainfall of 23.6 mm during the weekend showers received by the country. Nhlangano was followed by Mayiwane with a rainfall recording of 22.4 mm

while Lubovane recorded 14.4 mm. The rain fall recordings were extracted from the rains that started on New Year's Eve until yesterday morning. Other areas that received better rains included Nyonyane an area next to Madlangemphisi in the Hhohho region. It recorded 10.3 mm.

Vuvulane in the Lubombo region also received better rains when compared to the other areas, it received 9.0mm. Sikhuphe in the Lubombo region received the lowest rainfall with the figure at 1.0 mm. The capital city was another area that recorded the least rain. Mbabane recorded 2.3 mm.

BELOW ARE RAINFALL RECORDINGS READINGS:

Area	MM
Nhlangano	23.6
Mayiwane	22.4
Lubovane	14.4
Nyonyane	10.3
Vuvulane	9.0
Musi	6.0
Piggs Peak	6.6
Matsapha	5.9
Mbabane	2.3
Sikhuphe	1.0

MURDER, SUICIDE, DD

happy with the rains received. Police also had a busy weekend arresting 121 motorists for driving under the influence. A kombi driver committed

suicide while a man was found with a tongue cut out in Pigg's Peak. We have more in segmented reports.

Man in critical condition after his tongue cut-out

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

A man is currently in a critical condition at the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital after his tongue was allegedly cut-out.

The yet to be named man was discovered face down along a secluded gravel road that acts as a short cut in-between Malanda and Killamey Sports ground.

Jogging

The incident happened last Wednesday morning.

Speaking to this publication on Sunday, sources said the man was jogging like he usually did only to get attacked by unknown assailants.

"The man in question was jogging only to be attacked early on Wednesday morning, it is impossible to know the

details of the incident since the individual is yet to fully recuperate and narrate his side of events.

Blood

What is apparent is that the man was discovered by another individual who noticed the blood on the back of the victim's shirt in the tall grass," he said.

The bystander phoned the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) who responded promptly and rushed the victim to the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital for emergency treatment.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba said he heard about the incident but it was difficult to confirm it since he awaited feedback from Pigg's Peak police.

Pigg's Peak Hospital confirmed that a man was brought in after his tongue was cut out.

121 arrested for DD in New Year weekend

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

At least 121 motorists were arrested for violating traffic rules (drink-driving) during the New Year's celebrations weekend.

The figures were announced by Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba yesterday.

Last year, during the same time, about 68 motorists were arrested for driving under the influence on New Year's weekend.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba attributed the increase in the number of defaulters to "zero tolerance and comprehensive arrangement by the Royal Swaziland Police" said Mamba.

He said the increase of the num-



CONFIRMED: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba

bers may be caused by the fact that there were many events happening around the country and the fact that it was month-end.

"There were 121 drink driving cases reported over the past week-end."

KOMBI DRIVER COMMITS SUICIDE HOURS BEFORE 2018

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

A kombi driver who drove one of the public vehicles servicing the Manzini-Fairview route committed suicide by hanging himself while at Fairview area on Sunday morning.

Information gathered is that the deceased was living with his girlfriend at Fairview.

It is alleged that before the day of

the incident, the deceased was spotted at one of the local drinking spots in the company of his girlfriend. It is reported the two were in a jolly mood enjoying alcoholic beverages.

The two are said to have left the drinking spot together and headed towards their rented flat. It is alleged that in the morning the deceased's girlfriend left for work leaving him behind. It is not clear what drove the deceased to take his own life but it is said he was later found hanging from the roof with a rope tied around

his neck. Close friends stated that they did not suspect anything wrong with the deceased as he was in a jolly mood when he left one of the popular drinking spots around Fairview.

They said they were shocked when they received news that the deceased committed suicide.

What puzzled his friends is that the deceased didn't even leave a suicide note behind.

Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba confirmed the incident.

Drunk driver crashes into cop's home

By Sisho Magagula
Mbabane

A drink driver has been fined E2 000 for driving recklessly and crashing into a police officer's home and damaging his fence.

Peter Mdluli yesterday appeared before the Mbabane Magistrate's Court charged with drink-driving.

He was arrested by traffic police officers from the Lobamba Police Station in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Mdluli, whose alcohol reading was 1.03mg/l, was also charged with reversing his car, an Opel Corsa without taking a proper look and failed to avoid an accident.

Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati found him guilty on both counts as per his own plea. In mitigation, Mdluli said he had visited the area's *bucophu* and were enjoying themselves in celebration of the New Year.

He said he was on his way back home when the accident happened just after midnight.

Fine

"I was not aware that the homestead I crashed into belonged to an officer of the law. Upon realising this fact, I tried to talk to the officer and apologised to him. I tried to reason with him and asked him not to involve the police. I further pledged to fix his fence but he heard none of it and called the police," he said.

Magistrate Vilakati sentenced Mdluli to 15 months in jail with a fine option of E1 500.

On the count of reversing his car without taking a proper look, he was sentenced to five months in custody or E500 fine.

On another matter, Zweli Mtetwa was also arrested for drink driving at Msunduzi yesterday morning.

He was nabbed while driving a Mazda Demio and his alcohol reading was 0.50mg/l.

In mitigation before sentencing, Mtetwa said he had drunk wine and was doing so for the first time.

"I then slept and was woken early in the morning and informed that my child was ill. I was arrested while rushing him to hospital," he said.

Mtetwa was fined E1000 or 10 months imprisonment.

Simphiwe Simelane also spent the few hours of the New Year behind bars after being arrested and charged for drink driving. He was arrested on New Year's eve at Extention Three in Mbabane.

His alcohol reading was 1.06mg/l. "I stay in Mbeni flats and we had been drinking in the house with my friends before we ran out of the drinks. I was arrested while we were on our way to get more drinks at KaMntjawe Lodge," he told the presiding officer.

Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati asked him why he and his friends did not

just take a walk because the distance from Mbeni to KaMntjawe is just a short distance. Simelane did not give a clear answer.

He was fined E1 500.

Leniency

Sibusiso Malaza was also arrested for drink driving at Msunduzi on Sunday night. His alcohol reading was 0.60MG/l. He told the magistrate that he was self-employed and pleaded for leniency. He begged the magistrate to allow him to pay the E1000 fine through instalments.

"I am reluctant to do that because people never come back to settle the balance. You are saying that simply because you want to get out of custody," said the magistrate. Magistrate Vilakati however, allowed Malaza to pay the fine, provided he will leave his vehicle with the police and collect it after finishing paying the instalments.

27 babies born on New Year

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

At least 27 babies were born on New Year's Day.

According to the Minister of Health Sibongile Simelane, 14 girls and 13 boys were born yesterday between midnight and 6 pm.

The minister who visited the Hlathikulu Government Hospital maternity ward yesterday once again emphasised the importance of exclusive breastfeeding.

Addressing the new mothers the minister said it was important that mothers breast feed their new-born for the first six months. The minister further encouraged two mothers who are university students to arrange with their institutions to miss out on the upcoming semester so that they can exclusively

breastfeed.

"I would like to encourage all others to exclusively breast feed. We also would like to encourage women of child bearing age to check their calcium levels so that they can be put on calcium supplements in the event they have a shortage before they can start having children," she advised.

"We are mostly pleased that all our mothers know their status and those that were found to be HIV positive were put on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and were also taught on how mother to child transmission could be prevented," she said. Simelane also stated that as a ministry they still advocated for exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months after child birth.

"As a ministry we encourage and expect nothing but exclusive breastfeeding," she said.

4 PICTURES

INGATJA READY FOR COMMISSIONING



IMBUBE: Ingwenyama dancing with emabutfo at Ngabezweni Royal Residence last night upon the arrival of Ingatja from the different regions of the country. Ingatja is ready to be commissioned by the King at Ngabezweni today.



IN DANCE: Lutsango from within the royal circles and beyond also came to support.



IN SUPPORT: Imbali also came through to welcome Ingatja in song and dance.

BAYETHE WENA WAPHAKATHI: They sang and danced with the King upon arrival.



IN DANCE: Umbutfo Luggedlemba leading Ingatja from the Royal Swaziland Police.



IN NUMBERS: A section of the many who arrived yesterday while others will be coming through today. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



YOUTHFUL: They came from all the corners of the country for royal duties and to celebrate their youth.



ENGOMENI: Inkanyeti in song and dance on the day.



IGCWELE: The full moon signaling the maturity of the Lusekwane picking.



IN SONG: Lacwebetelako in song and dance upon the arrival of the Ingatja.

BAD START TO NEW YEAR AS OVER 1 000 HOMES HIT BY TERRIBLE STORM

Stories by Mbono Mdluli
Maphalaleni

IT was a bad start to the new year for many residents in the country as over 1 000 homesteads were ravaged by storm.

The storm is said to have started on Sunday afternoon, which happened to be the last day of last year.

The disaster lasted until yesterday morning, when many people were celebrating the start of the current year.

Several chiefdoms have been affected by the storm. Maphalaleni was one of the chiefdoms that were heavily affected. Luvunjelweni, under Nkhamba Inkhundla, and Elangeni, under Lobamba Inkhundla are also said to be some of the areas affected.

The situation was so dire that other victims had to use tents as a shelter, while they try to find a lasting solution to the problem they found themselves in.

Other people had to seek refuge from their neighbours, whose houses were strong enough to withstand the natural disaster.

What was even worse was that some of the victims were treating their sicknesses and their tablets were swept

...The situation was so dire that other victims had to use tents as a shelter, while they try to find a lasting solution to the problem they found themselves in



TO ASSIST: An NDMA staff member upon arrival to help the victims of the storm.

away by the storm. Albert Khoza from Maphalaleni was one victim who was at sixes and sevens about his health because his tablets, and that of his wife, were swept away by the storm.

Situation

Khoza lived in a one-room house with his wife and five children. The roofing of the house was blown away, leaving their food and clothes severely damaged.

The situation called for the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)

to set up a tent for the Khoza family to live in, while their children had to seek refuge from their neighbours.

"The unfortunate incident started yesterday afternoon and our valuables were severely damaged. My tablets are nowhere to be seen and my identity card was found a long distance from our homestead. I do not know how I will manage my sickness," Khoza said.

Khoza's wife, Tfofotile Sikhondze said the situation was terrible at present as her own tablets were missing. However, she thanked the NDMA for coming to their rescue as they had the tent to use as their shelter.

Maphalaleni Indvuna Yenkhundla (Constituency Headman) Gabangani Dlamini said what had happened in Maphalaleni was unfortunate for them.

The Khoza family was in deep trouble as their treatment would be disturbed now that their tablets were nowhere to be seen.

Dlamini said they had to find ways to tackle the problems faced by the Khozas so that their lives could be normal again.



HELPING OUT: Maphalaleni Indvuna Gabangani Dlamini, Maphalaleni MP Mabulala Maseko and other Maphalaleni residents erecting a tent for the Khoza family, which was left with no shelter by the storm on Sunday. (Pics: Mbono Mdluli)

...Maize crops severely damaged at Maphalaleni

MAPHALALENI farmers are wondering if their hard work of farming will bear positive outcome as their crops were not spared by the storm.

The maize crops for most farmers at the place were broken and left leave-less as the storm wrecked havoc on most homestead in that area. Some homesteads whose houses were not blown had their maize crops severely damaged.

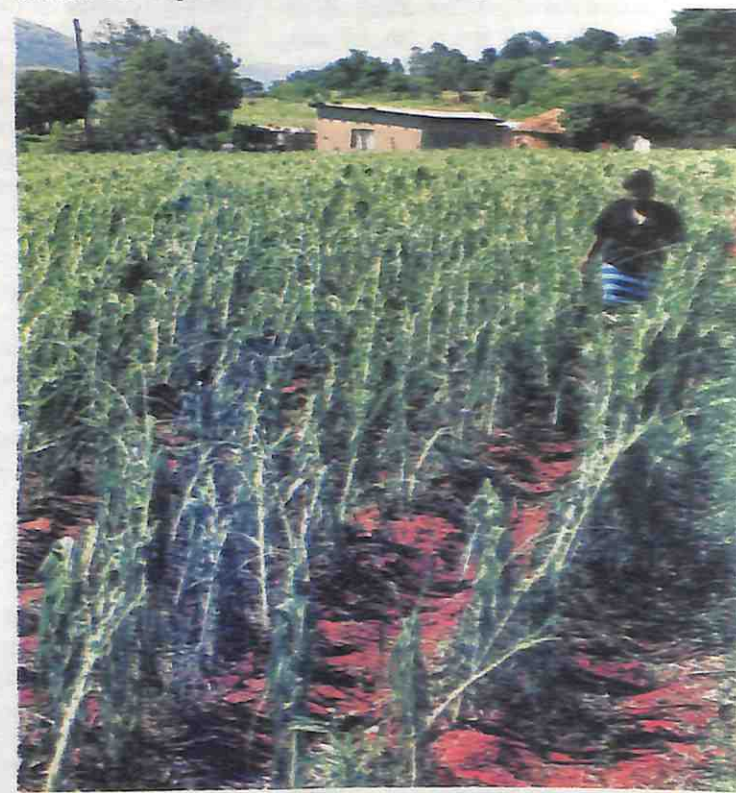
One such family is the Maphosa homestead. The houses were not affected, but the same cannot be said for the crops in that home-

stead. The crops had grown such that they could not be able to recover after a storm.

Control

Lungile Maphosa, who is a resident at the homestead, said she arrived on the New Year's Eve at her home, only to find the damage in motion. It was out of her control, so she could not do anything to stop it.

MP Maseko said he would engage experts from the ministry of agriculture to see if anything could be done to rescue the situation, as far as the crops were concerned.



MAIZE DESTROYED: Lungile Maphosa inspecting the damage done to her maize crops.

GOGO SUFFERS HEAD INJURY DURING STORM

AN old woman's life is now in danger after she was hit by a stone during the dreaded storm.

The senior citizen, who hails from Maphalaleni, wanted to be identified as Gogo Sikhondze when interviewed yesterday. She was found yesterday afternoon sitting under a tree at her homestead in Maphalaleni.

Her head was wrapped in bandages. Gogo Sikhondze, estimated to be in her 80s, said she was sitting inside her house when the storm ensued on Sunday. When the corrugated iron roof on her house was blown off by the storm, a big stone that had been placed on the roofing descended upon her head, causing her head injury.

Sikhondze thanked the officials from NDMA and Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society, who gave her first aid to ease the pain. She also thanked



INJURED: Gogo Sikhondze after receiving first aid as her head was injured.

Maphalaleni MP Mabulala Maseko and his team from the constituency centre for checking on them after the

storm.

She expressed hope that she would be fine, now that she received the help she needed.

Another senior citizen that was affected by the storm was Gogo Salinah Phakathi (78), who lived with her daughter Gugu Dlamini. She was found sitting with Dlamini, waiting for NDMA to come to her rescue, as some of her houses were blown by the storm.

Their valuable items were found littered all over the yard yesterday afternoon.

They tried to pack their items into their houses that were not severely damaged by the storm.

When the Swazi Observer news team left Maphalaleni yesterday, NDMA and Red Cross, led by MP Maseko, were still to attend to Gogo Phakathi's plight.



PHUMELELE HIGH / MATRIC SCHOOL

Matsapha behind Engine Garage

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MP accused of vanishing with association money, reported to cops

Stories by Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangano

AS December is usually a month for 'stokvels' to share their dividends after saving money from as early as January, such was not experienced in areas around Shiselweni I constituency as a member of Parliament (MP) allegedly disappeared with money belonging to an association which was supposed to be shared amongst members.

It is claimed that the MP is giving members excuses as regards repaying the sum of about E40 000 to the stokvel.

When members want to know when they will be getting their share of savings, no answer is given to them.

As a result of the MP's coyness on repayment continues, members had to approach the police where they made a formal report seeking the police intervention on the issue.

The MP is said to be a member of the said association whose members now want him to explain why he was holding on to their 'stokvel' money which they should be enjoying with their families right now.

It is said MP Mandla Nxumalo has been reported to the police by members of Siyaphambili Shiselweni Savings Association following his sudden unavailability when members want dividends to be shared.

It has been explained that the members were supposed to get their dividends on December 16, 2017 but to this day such has not happened because MP Nxumalo is said to be time and again claiming to be too 'busy'.

While no figures have been mentioned on how much the association's members



ACCUSED: MP Mandla Nxumalo.

were expected to share, the money supposedly with the MP is said to be in the region of not less than E40 000.

It is said the contributing members were making varied contributions as there was a group which contributed E100 monthly and there were others who were contributing E200. It's believed that the association is made out of 14 members.

"You find that others would contribute E300 but the agreed amounts were E100 or E200 per month a member," a source close to the matter disclosed.

The members also loaned the savings among themselves with the aim of being

repaid which the members adhered to.

The members are said to have waited for the MP to come forward with the money but after being patient without any signs that such would ever happen, it was then decided to approach the police at the Jericho Police Post where they made a formal complaint about the lawmaker in relation to the stokvel money.

"Some members previously went straight to the police at Jericho Police Post where they formally reported the MP," said a source. Other members are said to be now regretting having joined the association as the plan of saving was meant to assist them in enjoying the benefits during the festive period.

Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed that police were investigating the matter where members of a savings group have reported the lawmaker for having 'disappeared' with money they were supposed to share during this festive period.

"It is true that there is a matter we are investigating touching on a lawmaker who is accused by an association for now making himself scarce when they are supposed to share the money. We have been told that the members of the association decided to approach the police to intervene after their (members) attempts to get hold of him did not work. The police at Jericho Police Post where the matter was reported, we are told ended up being the ones requesting the MP to come to the station to see how the issue can be amicably resolved. The dividends were supposed to be distributed this festive period, we are told but to this day, this has not happened," said Superintendent Mamba.

MP says he owes no one

MANDLA Nxumalo, the Shiselweni I Member of Parliament accused of vanishing with stokvel money says he does not owe anybody a cent.

The MP said he was the one who formed the Siyaphambili Shiselweni Savings and for anyone to claim he disappeared with the money, it is insulting. He said what he was aware of was that members were failing to service the money given to some as loans.

He said when he formed the association, he had good intentions and he even started it by contributing a sum of E5 000.

He said as a founding member, he then advised the members on how best the money could be used including having them taking loans.

"I don't know what money they are talking about as I owe no one."

What I know is that others have not been paying the interests of what was loaned to them.

It's not like I am holding on anyone's money. It is information that is needed to see how much has been loaned to so and so and what interest that person is supposed to pay. It's fairness that I want to see and I should not be made a scapegoat for other members' failures to do what we agreed on. Right now, I am trying to gather all the information such as

the records on how savings have been handled and how much a member should get as dividends," said the MP.

About being reported to the police, the MP said he was not aware of that except that he was once called by the police at the Jericho Police Post who wanted to know about the same issue.

"If they think I have disappeared or I am now scarce, they know where to find me as I am always around, they are just trying to discredit me," said the MP.

Accordance

Asked when exactly the members would receive their shares, the MP said once all the necessary information has been provided by the relevant office, then members would get their shares in accordance to what they saved or according to their contributions.

"It's not me who should be blamed for the delay of having members getting their dividends as I have also not received mine as well."

We need to have our house in order first," said MP Nxumalo.

The MP could not state how much savings would be shared but stressed that the office of the secretary had all the details.

"I may not know how much we are supposed to share as that is the information kept by our secretary," said the MP.

Siteki records crime free crossover

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

AS the country had a busy weekend in celebrations of crossing over to the New Year, authorities of Siteki have reported a crime free weekend, an occurrence which has been listed as a milestone for the oldest town of the Lubombo region.

The town became a centre of entertainment on Sunday evening as most people from surrounding areas celebrated the end of year. The hottest spot of entertainment, Siteki Hotel was reportedly a hive of activity as it hosted popular entertainers from across the country. In the meantime, security forces were also deployed to ensure safety of the people and property.

Speaking during an interview, Lubombo Police Regional Commissioner Musa Zwane said the region was happy to record a crime free busy weekend. Zwane disclosed that police under the region had prepared for crossover events which held in a number of venues.

To ensure that the activities are held safely, Zwane disclosed that his office joined hands with the

Correctional Services which also provided officers who were subsequently deployed in strategic areas. This was mainly in the town centre and other areas which hosted celebration activities.

Earlier on the day, the security forces were deployed on roadblocks, town centre and other areas as part of visibility policing. Zwane said this was a strategy they used to assure members of the public of their safety. Late in the evening, thousands of people flocked to the hotel where they danced the night away.

The numbers increased just before midnight as other drinking halls closed down in adherence with their trading hours.

Guided

Security measures were then concentrated at the hotel which had an extension of trading hours. Zwane said as an office, they were delighted to note that members of the public behaved themselves well even without being guided by the police. "We commend members of the public for cooperating well with officers who were deployed in strategic areas as a prevention measure which has indeed yielded good results," he said.

Young man electrocuted at Gege

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

A 21-year-old man from Gege area was yesterday electrocuted by an overhead power line at his home yesterday.

The young man who had gone home to pay his parents a visit before crossing over to the New Year died on the spot after he was electrocuted by an overhead power line he had held for support.

Information gathered from well-placed sources is that the young man upon arrival at home decided to fix the roofing of his father's house that seemed to have been de-attached from the wood and wall holding it together.

Slipped

The sources state that while fixing the corrugated iron, the boy's feet lost grip and he slipped. This is when he held onto the overhead power for support.

Gege Member of Parliament Mbongiseni Malinga when reached confirmed the incident.

Malinga who was in a sombre mood, stated that the young man didn't live in the area fulltime and had just returned home to check on his father.

"He was home to check on his father



SOMBRE MOOD: Gege Member of Parliament Mbongiseni Malinga.

and while there he noticed that the roofing had been de-attached so he decided to climb up and fix it.

Nobody knows what disturbed him or what really happened thereafter but it is suspected that he might have slipped and held on to the power line for support," he said. Swaziland Electricity Company Marketing and Corporate Communication Manager Sifiso Dhlamini confirmed the news.

"Yes we have been made aware of the unfortunate incident and we would like to pass our condolences to the family,"



CONFIRMED: Swaziland Electricity Company Marketing and Corporate Communications Manager Sifiso Dhlamini.

he said. Dhlamini also warned the public to refrain from touching power lines.

"Can we also take this opportunity to warn the public from touching power lines, it is dangerous."

In the event they see something unusual on they must call us and not try to fix the problem," he said.

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

"Yes a young man at Gege was electrocuted," he said.

SWAZILAND'S ECONOMY DIVERSIFIED, NOT COMMODITY EXPORT DEPENDENT

Stories by Observer Reporter
Mbabane

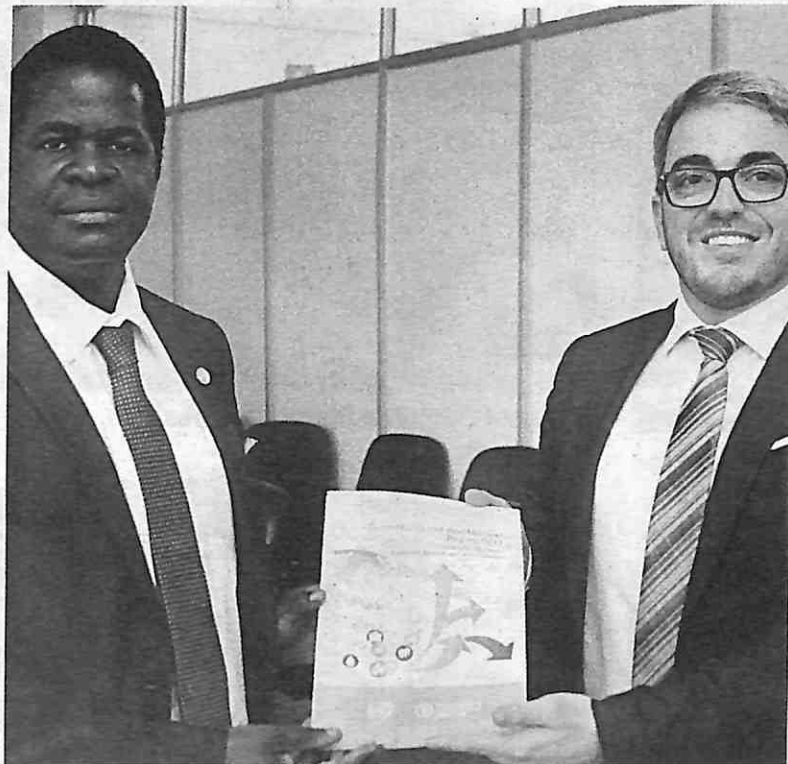
SWAZILAND together with Egypt and Mauritius have diversified their economies and are not categorised as commodity export dependent countries in the COMESA region.

According to the COMESA Secretariat the countries in the region that are commodity export dependent have been named as: Burundi, DR Congo, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Development

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has launched and presented the Commodities and Development Report 2017 to COMESA Secretariat. The Report has revealed that 16 COMESA countries have continued to be commodity export dependent leading to them recording low levels of development and high poverty rates.

The report is basing its findings on the recent commodity price boom of 2003-2011 which showed that strong commodity prices do not alter the long-term pattern of their terms of trade. The terms of trade of economies



LAUNCHED: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) launched and presented the Commodities and Development Report 2017 to COMESA Secretariat.

that dependent on primary commodities tend to deteriorate in the long run due

to the secular decline of primary commodity prices relative to the prices of

manufactured goods. In view of this, UNCTAD has made several observations on the disadvantages of being too dependent on export commodities for developing countries. It has also given different policy recommendations that countries should introduce in-order to bring about holistic and inclusive development.

Countries

The 16 COMESA countries that are commodity export dependent have been named as: Burundi, DR Congo, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Egypt, Swaziland and Mauritius have diversified their economies and are not categorised as commodity export dependent countries.

COMESA secretariat has since proposed that a joint study be conducted with UNCTAD to come up with permanent solutions to the dependency of commodities for export.

The 98-page document showcasing results of ten case studies conducted in twelve countries around the world namely: Costa Rica, Brazil, Argentina, Botswana, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Zambia.

Specifically, for Zambia, the report has recommended that the country introduces policies that will help build a resilient economy through countercyclical fiscal policy, pursuing diversification and promoting good governance. Other policies include expanding linkages of commodity sectors with the local economy and promoting inclusive growth through social protection, investing in human capital and pursuing transparent policies. Commodity export dependent developing countries derive the bulk of their export earnings from primary commodities such as minerals, ores, metals, fuels, agricultural raw materials and food. Export commodity dependence may cause potentially harmful impacts and affect all dimensions of sustainable development. Most of the developing countries that depend on commodity exports and/or imports are characterised by low human development. The annual Commodities and Development Report series is produced jointly by UNCTAD and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

It seeks to contribute to an understanding of the linkages between commodity markets and development outcomes by highlighting a number of transmission channels through which commodity prices impact an economy:

First, there are impacts that emanate from the terms of trade. Second, commodity dependence presents fiscal and monetary policy challenges. Third, developments on international commodity markets can affect consumers and producers at the micro level.

COMESA develops a peace and prosperity index

THE Governance, Peace and Security (GPS) Unit at the Secretariat has developed the COMESA Peace and Prosperity Index (CPPI) which will be used to track structural factors to peace and prosperity in the 19 Member States.

The Index offers a timely diagnosis of forecasted structural drivers associated with future peace and prosperity.

Uganda was the first member state to host a workshop on the country-specific consultations on CPPI forecasted drivers for 2018. Policy makers, technical officials drawn from the office of the president, office of the Prime minister, ministry of foreign affairs, ministry of Internal affairs and ministry of defence, civil society organisations as well as the private sector met in Kampala from December 11 – 16, 2017 to review the key forecasted structural drivers for Uganda that were forecasted by the COMESA Early Warning System (COMWARN) Structural Vulnerability Assessment model.

The multi-stakeholders' consulta-

tive forum was convened in response to a Decision of the 15th Meeting of the COMESA ministers of foreign affairs, that was held in Antananarivo in October, 2016.

Response

The COMWARN team who developed the CPPI in collaboration with the African Union Continental Early Warning System (AU-CEWS) were at hand to deliberate on the steps Uganda is taking to address the forecasted CPPI drivers and identify practical response options.

The meeting committed to the establishment of a national structure that will support the dissemination of SVA results and support response mechanism.

A Steering and Technical Committee that will oversee the implementation of the response option for the CPPI drivers will also be established. The proposed Committee will help in the dissemination of the CPPI forecasted drivers to a wider range of stakeholders at the lower levels as well as assist in the development of structured partnerships with other stakeholders

to ensure that the CPPI outputs are implemented.

Request

In addition to the establishment of structures to accelerate the implementation of response options from COMWARN, Uganda stakeholders also committed to formally request the AU Commission to provide the necessary facilitation to conduct a Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVMS) and the Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy (CSVMS).

This is a voluntary mechanism which has so far attracted the participation of Ghana. Once Uganda makes a formal request, AU and COMESA will assist the ministry of foreign affairs to establish a Situation Room.

One of the key challenges that faces early warning systems is the linkage between early warning and early response and therefore the outcomes of the Uganda multi-stakeholders consultative workshop was seen as a very important move towards bridging the gap between early warning and early response.

Matsanjeni people in prolonged power blackout

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangu

A number of people in areas around Lavumisa were ushered into 2018 experiencing a prolonged power blackout.

Other places started experiencing blackouts even before Christmas.

At Matsanjeni South power interruptions were experienced time and again while in other places it was complete blackout. It is said many families who had stocked perishable goods suffered as what they reserved to eat during the holidays especially meat and other food stuff, all got spoiled as fridges were not functioning due to lack of electricity.

Mandlakayise Matse who is Matsanjeni South *Indvuna Yenkundla* said together with other neighbours, it was a rude welcome to 2018.

He said the food they had stored with the hope of using it in the New Year, got spoiled in the fridges. "As we were excited for having electricity in our homes, the majority of the people experienced power blackout.

It's like we were targeted for this period, where we are supposed to relax and enjoy good meals with our families but the whole thing was spoiled by the power cuts or blackout.

The mood has been dampened by the blackout which in other com-

munities started being experienced just towards Christmas," said Matse. Matse said no clear explanations were given as to why there were power failures experienced.

"What we only hear is that some of the electricity poles had fallen. To some of us, the supply of electricity, as much as we appreciate that it is part of development, has brought misery because we don't enjoy benefits of such a service.

Mind you, we are a poverty stricken community and the little we save to eat with our families got spoilt in fridges, it's worsening our plight. As you are calling right now, we do not have electricity as it went off four hours ago," said Matse when contacted yesterday.

Elphas Ntshangase who is *Bucophu* of Lulakeni under Sigwe *Inkhundla* said a number of communities were disappointed to celebrate the start of 2018 experiencing power cuts and in other areas this started being experienced over a week ago.

"Here at Sigwe, I got a report that some families never enjoyed the festive holidays. Some are still in darkness as we speak.

I am also made to believe in another area, the problem is with the transformer. It's really sad and a rude welcome to 2018 when it comes to electricity supply service," said Ntshangase.

At Hluti, the residents were also in the same predicament as power cuts were also the order of the day.



8 PICTURES

TERRIBLE STORM **HITS** MAPHALALENI

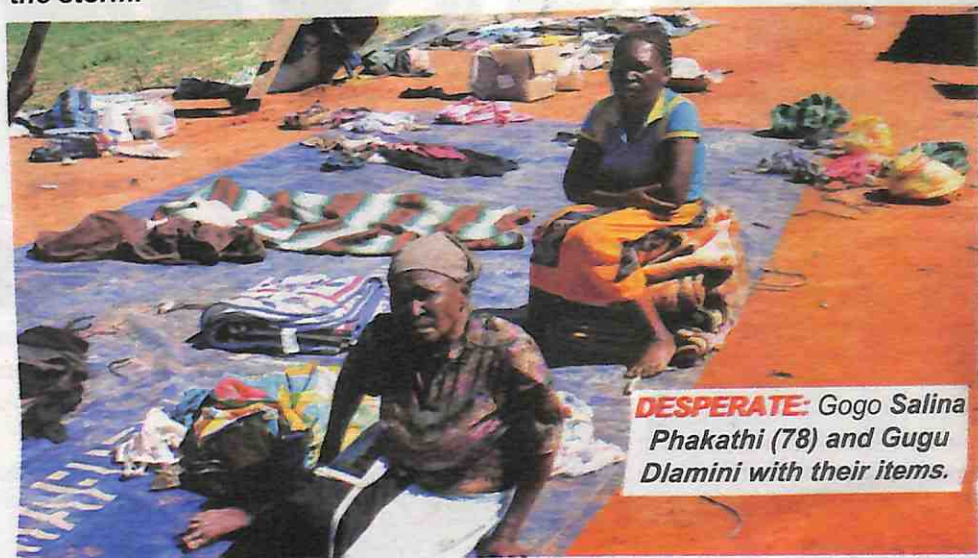


TO THE RESCUE: NDMA and Red Cross staff members erecting a tent for the Khoza family of Maphalaleni, with the help of Maphalaleni residents. The Khozas were the most affected victims of the storm, which left them with no place to sleep. The storm also affected places like Eluvinkelweni, Nkhaba, and Elangeni. (Pics: Mbono Mdluli)

REMAINS: Some of the damaged food and items at the Khoza home-stead.



BLOWN OFF: The Dlamini homestead, whose roofing was blown away by the storm.



DESPERATE: Gogo Salina Phakathi (78) and Gugu Dlamini with their items.



DOWN: One of the trees that were downed by the storm.



ROOF GONE: Some of the sheets of corrugated iron that were swept by the storm.



(L) DONATION: Maphalaleni Indvuna Yenkhundla Gabangani Dlamini showing some food items donated to the Khoza family.



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Energy for the Future

WIDESPREAD POWER OUTAGES

On Sunday the 31st December, parts of the country experienced a heavy thunderstorm that caused widespread power outages. The storm has affected a number of our transmission lines and reticulation network mostly in the southern region and some distribution and substations feeding Nhlanguano and Manzini resulting in extended power outages. Work is in progress in Big Bend to Riverbank, and customers may experience inconsistent supply.

Hard-hit areas include the following:

DEPOT:	AFFECTED AREAS:
Manzini:	Nsingweni, Mbebeleni, Dalagubhe, Mcengeni
Big Bend:	Big Bend and surrounding areas with seven broken structures
Hluthi:	Maloma, Nsoko, Ncandweni, Hlatikhulu and surroundings
Malkerns:	Mankayane, Lushikishikini, Mahlangatsha, Malkerns, Mahlanya, Bethany, Green Valley, Ngabani, Ntontozi
Matsapha:	Boyane, Nkamazi, Lozitha, Sigombeni, Vusweni, Bahwini, Sigcineni
Stonehenge:	Ntsintsa, Nhlokomeni, Ndlozini, Buka, Elangeni, Dlangeni, Nkanini, Lobamba, Ezulwini, Ngwenya, Motshane
Pigg's Peak:	Malolotja, Maphalaleni, Glen Township
Nhlanguano:	Nedsor, Mpanza, Madulini, Gege

Our technicians have been on the ground ever since, and are working around the clock to have power restored.

We request patience from customers as it takes some time for our teams to attend to all reported faults, with some taking a few days to resolve depending on the extent of the damage caused by lightening. Customers should be rest assured that as long as they have reference numbers, our teams will attend to them.

Faults should be reported on our 24-hour Call Centre toll-free number **800 9000** (for landline users) or on our paid for alternate number **2508 3333** (for cellphone users). You can also send an email to callcentre@sec.co.sz

We urge customers to exercise caution with fallen power lines, and report them to the nearest police station or our Call Centre.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

MARKETING & CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Swaziland Electricity Company | @SECswaziland | TOLL FREE 800 9000

NEDBANK (SWAZILAND) LIMITED

BANKING FEES EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2018



1. Personal Accounts	Fee/Charge Savings	Fee/Charge Current	2. Business Accounts	Fee/Charge Current
1.1. Savings or other Accounts			2.1. General Business Account	
1.1.1 Opening Fee	No opening fee	No opening fee	2.1.1 Monthly Maintenance Fee	140.00
1.1.2 Monthly Account Fee	30.00	45.00	2.1.2 Monthly Bank Statement	Free
1.1.3 Over the Counter Statement	30.00	30.00	2.1.3 Daily Bank Statement	30.00 per page
1.1.4 Balance Enquiry	5.00	5.00	2.1.4 Interim Bank Statement	30.00 per page
1.1.5 Cheque Deposit	35.00	35.00	2.1.5 Copies of Deposit Slips	100.00
1.1.6 Cash Deposit	Free	Free	2.1.6 Cash Withdrawal (OTC)	3% + E35.00
1.1.7 Cheque Encashment	N/A	3.0% + E35.00	2.1.7 Cash Deposit (OTC)	Free
1.1.8 Activation of Dormant Account	Free	Free	2.1.8 Cheque encashment (OTC)	3% + E35.00
1.1.9 Stop Payment	-	70.00	2.1.9 Cheque Deposit (OTC)	E55.00
1.1.10 Closing of Account	Free	Free	2.1.10 Balance Enquiry	5.00
1.1.11 First Withdrawal (Within a month)	3.0% + E35.00	3.0% + E35.00	2.1.11 Stop Payment	70.00
1.1.12 Subsequent Withdrawal (Within a month)	3.0% + E35.00	3.0% + E35.00	2.1.12 Closing of Account	Free
1.2. Loans - Administration Fees			2.1.13 Internal Debit Order	20.00
1.2.1 Short Term Loans (Educational Loans) 12 months (monthly)	65.00	65.00	2.1.14 External Debit Order	20.00
1.2.2 Personal Loans (monthly)	65.00	65.00	2.1.15 Activation of Dormant Account	Free
1.2.3 Mortgages (monthly)	65.00	65.00	2.1.16 Corporate Payroll Activity Fee	16.00
1.2.4 Vehicles (monthly)	65.00	65.00	2.2. Loans - Administration Fees	
1.3. ATM Charges			2.2.1 Administration Accounts (monthly)	65.00
1.3.1 Withdrawal (Own ATM)	Min E8 Max E36 [1.2%]	Min E8 Max E36 [1.2%]	2.2.2 Loan Application fee	2.50%
1.3.2 Withdrawal (Interbank Transaction on ATMs)	Min E8 Max E36 [1.2%] + E8	Min E8 Max E36 [1.2%] + E8	2.3. Payment and Clearing Charges	
1.3.3 ATM Cash deposit	Free	Free	2.3.1 Standard Cheque Book (51 - 100 pages)	250.00
1.3.4 ATM Cheque deposit	35.00	35.00	2.3.2 Cheque Dishonoured Due To Lack of Funds	100.00
1.3.5 Mini Statement (Own ATM)	Free	Free	2.3.3 Post-dated Cheques	100.00
1.3.6 Balance Enquiry (Interbank ATM)	Free	Free	2.3.4 Deposit Book (101 pages and above)	65.00
1.3.7 Inter-account transfer	N/A	N/A	2.3.5 Establish stop/debit order	70.00
1.3.8 Inter-Bank transfer	N/A	N/A	2.3.6 Amend stop/debit order	35.00
1.4. Card Fees			2.3.7 Cancel stop/debit order	35.00
1.4.1 Annual Card Fees	N/A	N/A	2.3.8 External debit order	20.00
1.4.2 Lost ATM Card Replacement	70.00	70.00	2.3.9 External stop order	20.00
1.4.3 Additional card issued	45.00	45.00	2.3.10 Stoppage of payment	70.00
1.4.4 Blocked card	Free	Free	2.3.11 Debit Order Unpaid	100.00
1.4.5 PIN replacement	65.00	65.00	2.4. ATM Charges	
1.5. Payment and Clearing Charges			2.4.1 Withdrawal (Own ATM)	45.00
1.5.1 Standard Cheque Book (20 - 50 pages)	-	165.00	2.4.2 Withdrawal (Other ATMs)	E45.00 + E8.00
1.5.2 Deposit Book (51 - 100 pages)	-	65.00	2.4.3 Declined ATM Withdrawal (No Funds)	-
1.5.3 Establish stop/debit order	70.00	70.00	2.4.4 Mini Statement (Own ATM)	Free
1.5.4 Amend stop/debit order	35.00	35.00	2.4.5 Balance Enquiry (Own ATM)	Free
1.5.5 Cancel stop/debit order	35.00	35.00	2.4.6 Inter-account transfer	N/A
1.5.6 External debit order	20.00	20.00	2.4.7 Account payment	N/A
1.5.7 External stop order	20.00	20.00	2.5. Card Fees	
1.5.8 Stoppage of payment	-	70.00	2.5.1 Annual Card Fees	N/A
1.5.9 Cheque Dishonoured Due To Lack Of Funds	-	100.00	2.5.2 Lost ATM Card Replacement	70.00
1.5.10 Debit Order Unpaid	-	100.00	2.5.3 Additional card issued	45.00
1.5.11 Post Dated Cheques	-	100.00	2.6. Other Electronic Services	
1.5.12 Special Clearance (min amount E20k)	-	200.00	2.6.1 Cellphone SMS payments notification (account access)	N/A
1.6. Other Electronic Services			2.6.2 Cellphone SMS payment notification (all transactions)	N/A
1.6.1 Cellphone SMS payments notification (account access)	Free	Free	2.6.3 Cellphone funds transfer	N/A
1.6.2 Cellphone SMS payment notification (all transactions)	Free	Free	2.6.4 Telephone Transactions	N/A
1.6.3 Cellphone funds transfer	N/A	N/A	2.6.5 Internet Transactions (Local)	12.50
1.6.4 Internet Transactions (Local)	12.50	12.50		
1.6.5 Telephone Transactions	N/A	N/A		
1.6.6 POS (Withdrawal)	N/A	N/A		
1.6.7 POS Debit card purchases (Local/International)	6.00	6.00		
1.6.8 Utility Bills Payment	5.00	5.00		
1.6.9 Airtime purchase	2.00	2.00		

see money differently

NEDBANK

SOMIZI DESCRIBES LATE AUTO ZONE BOSS AS AN ANGEL ON EARTH

By Observer reporter
Mbabane

SOUTH African Celebrity Somizi Mhlongo has paid tribute to the late Swazi businessman Thembinkosi Mabuza.

The flamboyant Somizi took to Instagram yesterday where he was talking about his successes for the year 2017. He said while 2017 had been a great year it had ended on a sad note as he had lost his brother-in-law.

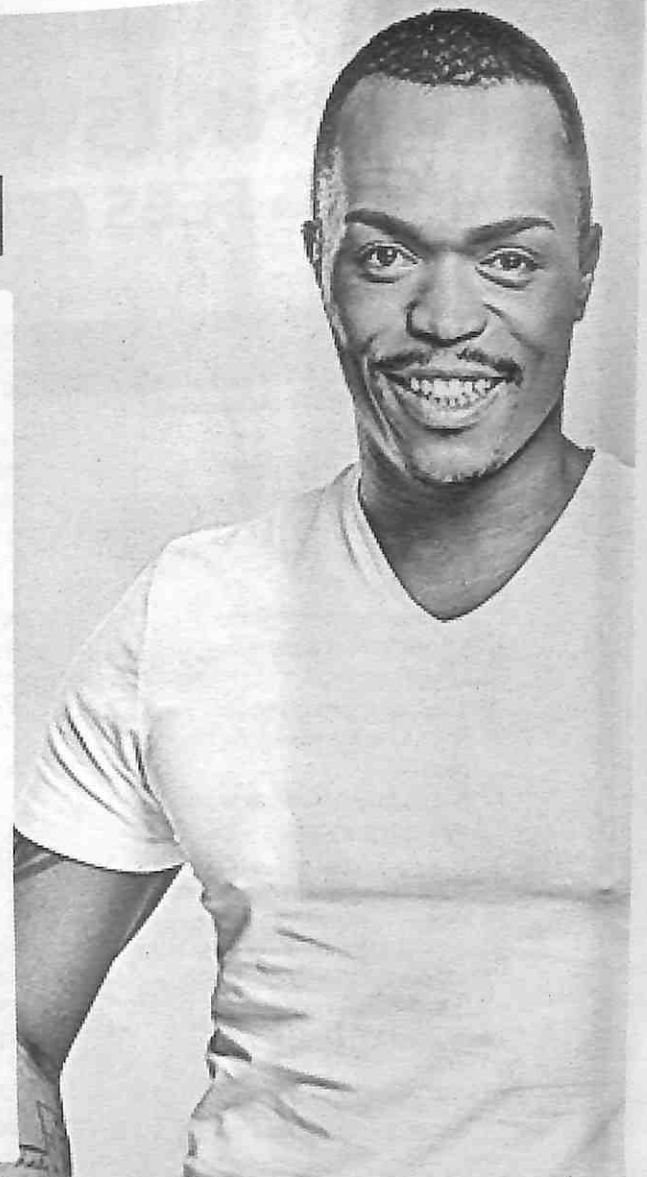
He said his trips to Swaziland would not be the same now that Mabuza had died. "Sadly my year ended on a slight downer when I lost my brother-in-law and I dedicate this video to him. You know when people talk about people who have passed, they say he was a nice person and all but he was the nicest person ever, and anyone who has met Thembinkosi Mabuza will know that Thembinkosi was an angel on earth and I dedicate this video to him. We love you and we will miss you. Our visits to Swaziland will never be the same without you," he said. Mabuza



TRIBUTE: Screen shots of the video which was posted by Somizi Mhlongo on Instagram.

was a well-known businessman and he reportedly died last Friday in Johannesburg where he was with his family for the festive season. Mabuza was noticed unresponsive and he was rushed to hospital

where he was declared dead. On the day of his demise Mabuza was supposed to go to Durban to attend the last lap of Somizi's birthday tour which took place in Durban on Saturday.



20-minute fireworks display at Pigg's Peak Hotel

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

ABOUT 240 guests at the Pigg's Peak Hotel welcomed the New Year in style as they were entertained by a pyrotechnic show which lasted for about 20 minutes.

This was during this year's crossover event at the hotel. Yearly, the hotel stages a crossover event which is characterised by the fireworks and some entertainment.

The firework display took place at the poolside of the hotel at midnight new years eve.

The bright and beautiful firework colours lit up the Pigg's Peak sky and reflected on the water in the swimming pool wowing the guests who had gathered outside to enjoy the spectacle.

The fireworks were just a small part of a larger New Year celebration at the hotel that included a dinner accompanied by live Swazi and authentic Italian music.

Present at the dinner were about 240 guests from Swaziland, Mozambique, South Africa and Taiwan.

The live entertainment at the din-

ner was provided by Floewe, Saki Karamitsos as well as classical Italian opera singer Nhlanihla Dlamini who entertained the crowd with his powerful vocals accompanied with sweet renditions of classic opera songs like 'Time to Say goodbye' originally sang by Italian mystro Andrea Bocelli in 1995.

Pigg's Peak Hotel's Pinkie Mahlalela said the hotel was fully booked again for the New Year's Eve dinner.

"We are happy with the attendance at the dinner, we had a diverse group of tourists, some were from South Africa, and others were Indian, Mozambican and Taiwanese nationals.

There were locals as well. The dinner had live music as well as prize giveaways like the hotel branded caps and T-shirts," she said.

The idea for the diverse live music line-up had been planned by the hotel two months prior.

The idea for the pyrotechnic show was also planned in advance.

"As the Pigg's Peak Hotel, we would like to thank all our visitors for coming to enjoy themselves with us this festive season and we hope to see more visitors in 2018," she said.



ZOOMING: Guests enjoying the fireworks at the Pigg's Peak Hotel New Year's Eve dinner. (Pics; Sizwe Dlamini)



FOCUSED: Fun lovers capturing the moment at the Pigg's Peak Hotel.



GOOD FOOD: Guest enjoying the New Year's dinner at the Pigg's Peak Hotel.



OUR MOMENT: Singer Floewe with Sifundza after presenting him with a cap at the Pigg's Peak Hotel.



POSE: Children were all smiles.



YOUNG ONES: Some of the children enjoying their new years dinner at the Hotel.



STRONG WINDS SPOIL THE FUN FOR BIG BEND FOLKS

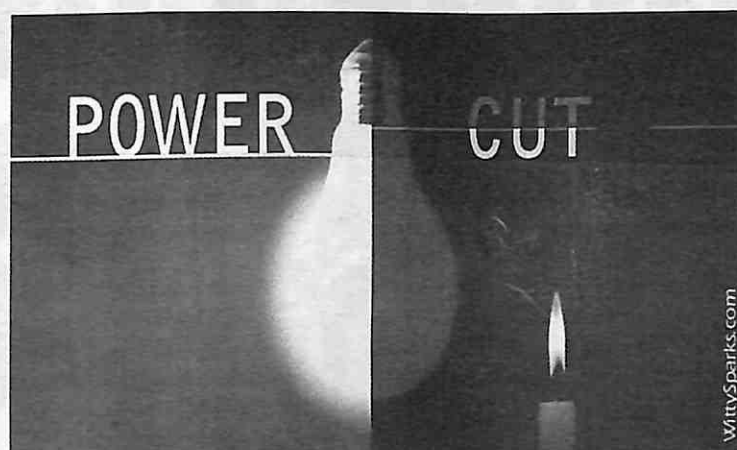
By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

IT was a gloomy crossover for residents of Big Bend and surrounding areas as strong winds caused an electricity blackout which lasted for over 12 hours.

On Sunday afternoon, some parts of the Lubombo region experienced strong winds which threatened the mood for the crossover into New Year.

The south easterly wind was experienced just after 1500 hours, leaving a mark in areas such as Big Bend, Gamula, Mahlabaneni and parts of Siteki.

The Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) said this resulted in power cuts to some areas after transmitters in some depots were reportedly affected. Nkilonko Constituency



headman Nkosinathi Mamba yesterday confirmed the power blackouts in some areas under the constituency.

Mamba said the wind which lasted for less than 30 minutes left some areas in total darkness after some electricity lines were affected. He said for instance, a number of areas

close to Big Bend remained in the dark for the entire night. This was at a time when members of the public hosted celebratory parties as per the norm for crossing over into a new year. Residents were therefore compelled to cut their parties short and resign to their respective houses. This was until just after 9am yesterday.

terday. Mamba said even though the strong winds caused a power blackout which lasted for over 12 hours, there was no further damage reported.

Blackout

"The only problem we faced was the power blackout with no further damage reported so far," he said. It is recalled that during the 2016/2017 crossover, a heavy storm caused havoc in the same area, including Siphofaneni and Lubuli. Hundreds of homesteads were blown away by strong winds which were accompanied by hailstorm. Meanwhile, other places which are reported to have experienced a power blackout include Maphungwane and some parts of Siteki. The areas are said to have experienced the blackout just after 1500 hours until late in the evening when electricity was restored.

CRIMINAL EXTRACTED FROM ROOF OF BAR

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

A man was extracted from the roof of Entfweni Bar on New Year's Day, then arrested.

The man had broken into the bar through the roof and locked himself inside after employees of Entfweni bar had called for him to come outside.

The incident happened late on New Year's Eve.

The name of the individual who was arrested is currently withheld.

Sources who are close to the matter said the man was working alone, only to be seen by employees of Entfweni Bar who were enjoying



beverages at the opposite drinking spot Pholani.

"The employees of Entfweni Bar

had locked up their place of business only to go to the opposing bar to have a few drinks. It is at this

time that they noticed that their place of work had the inside light switched on then off very quickly, this raised the alarm that led to them going back to their place of employment to investigate," said the source.

The two employees then tried to open the main door but it was locked from the inside, they waited outside the bar and phoned the Pigg's Peak police.

During the wait, the employees then climbed on to the roof into the bar and extracted the criminal through that original point of entry.

The police came and arrested the intruder.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the attempted robbery and resulting arrest.

Nurses want answers on lost E200 million

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

NURSES want answers on money amounting to E200 million which was lost by the fund managers at the Public Service Pension Fund (PSPF) through the Steinhoff scandal.

According to the Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) government must brace itself in 2018 as the nurses will be fighting tooth and nail on issues affecting them including among others the cost of living adjustments.

SWADNU Secretary General Sibusiso Lushaba said the nurses' union was equally aware of the close to E200 million nurses lost at PSPF through the Steinhoff scandal.

Lushaba said as SWADNU they need a detailed and frank discussion on the state of the fund in light of this



AWARE: SWADNU Secretary General Sibusiso Lushaba.

scandal that threatens the social security of their members.

He said they therefore called upon members to be ready in 2018 as they prepare for a serious show down with government on the cost of living adjustment.

He said they remained resolute on the nine per cent cost of living adjustment.

Lushaba said no hibernation could water down the nurses' resolve on the matter. "We will continue to lobby our sister unions in the public sector on the same," he said in a statement.

Looking back at 2017 Lushaba said the challenges they faced as nurses during the course of the year were met by an equal opposing force from the SWADNU at all levels.

He said nurses worked under strenuous conditions characterised by a plethora of challenges including lack of medication, lack of decent accommodation, lack of transport and lack of continuing education opportunities among other things.

The secretary general said such led to nurses being on the streets more in 2017 demanding among other things that nurses and nursing assistants in particular are allowed to fur-



ther their education, and that was achieved.

He said they were also able to organise and mobilise nurses to the streets on the issue of shortage of drugs and supplies and the continued onslaught on the nurses' profession by the medical profession in charge of the Ministry of health.

Lushaba said nurses displayed unprecedented levels of militancy and professionalism as they came out

ZWEMART VENTS FRUSTRATION OF FACEBOOK

By Sisho Magagula
Mbabane

EDITOR of the now defunct Swaziland Shopping newspaper, Zweli Martin Dlamini has vented his frustration on the closure of his newspaper on Facebook.

Dlamini's tabloid was shut down by government through the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology after it was declared to be operating illegally since it was not registered. The newspaper was fast becoming controversial for publishing highly defamatory articles about high profile individuals in the country.

Yesterday, Dlamini published a post on his facebook timeline where he blasted government and likened his situation to that of Saul in Biblical times.

"The decision by the government of Swaziland to shut down my newspaper reminds me of King Saul in the Bible, who killed prophets who were a conduit in helping him with information from God. When Saul's enemies attacked him, he remembered that God would advise him on how to conquer through prophets. Here is a captured Swazi government ordered by the corrupt to kill and bury a newspaper that was disseminating information to help the country, its citizens and authorities. Now security agents of the very same government want details of a story that was in an 'illegal' and buried newspaper. It's very interesting," he posted.

His post attracted over 60 comments, with some of his friends sympathising with him.

A weekend publication reported on Sunday that Dlamini was wanted by the police and had fled to South Africa.

However, in an interview with the Swazi Observer yesterday, Police Chief Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba refuted that Dlamini was on the police wanted list.

"He is not necessarily on our wanted list. However, we do need to ask him a few questions. *Nasimbona sitamkhulumisa, kukhona lesifuna kumbuta kona*," he said briefly.

The Swaziland Shopping newspaper remains closed. Dlamini is also a self-made private investigator operating from an office in the capital city.

LITTLE INCWALA

HEAVY RAIN DIDN'T DETER

By Simon Shabangu
Buhleni Royal Residence

INGWENYAMA braved an almost one hour long heavy down pour dancing to Incwala songs as he commissioned the *Ingatja* from the Hhohho region on Saturday afternoon.

The heavy downpour did not disturb the King and the throngs of regiments from the dancing which had already begun when the heavy rain started.

It was expected that the King would cut the dancing short to avoid the heavy down pour, but he continued dancing as though nothing was happening. The skies showed signs of rain, but it was not anticipated that it could be heavy.

It started building up after the second song of the dancing which usually takes no less than two hours on



RAINY DAY: His Majesty King Mswati III joined by throngs of regiments as he danced under the heavy down pour at Buhleni Royal Residence on Sunday. This was before the commissioning of the *Ingatja* from Hhohho region. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

a daily basis. By the time the singing of the *Incaba Kancofula* started there

was already a heavy downpour but that did not change the order of things

as dancing continued. The loin skins, *imidada* and the shields were soaked

but that did not deter the gathering from dancing.



EMALANGENI: Emalangeni came through to dance with the King.



IN THE AIR: Umbutto Mhlathuze leading the way.



IN FLIGHT: The rainy weather did not dampen the spirit of the elated *Ingatja*.



EMAKHOSIKATI: Inkhosikati LaMbikiza, LaMahlangu and Liphovela LaMashwama joined by Sigodlo in song and dance.



ROSES: Imbali in action as they danced to one of the Incwala songs.

LITTLE INCWALA

INGWENYAMA FROM DANCING



BEST FOOT FORWARD: His Majesty joined by Emalangeni and throngs of regiments moments before the start of the heavy down pour.

The light thunder and lightning was also not a threat to the determined regiments who seemed to be happy to be dancing with their King in the rain. Also part of the gathering was *Emakhosikati* LaMbikiza, LaMahlangu and *Liphovela* LaMashwama, *Emazinyane*, *Sigodlo*, Chiefs, *Imbali* and *Lutsango* who had come in their numbers to witness the ceremonies of the day.

This was part of the on-going Little Incwala which began on a high note about a fortnight ago and continues

to attract more people daily in all the royal residences where it was danced.

The King started at Ludzidzini Royal Residence where he danced for three days. He proceeded to Ngabezweni Royal Residence where he also spent about the same number of days before moving to Shisewleni, Mbangweni Royal Residence where he spent Christmas and Boxing Day dancing.

On Wednesday night, the King moved from Mbangweni to Buhleni and started dancing with the Hhohho people on Thursday until Sunday where he

commissioned the *ingatja*.

His Majesty is expected to commission the *ingatja* and accompany them on a long march today for the cutting of the *Lusekwane*. This part of the events unfolding indicates that the main Incwala will be held in a few days to come.

While the King was doing the rounds in all the royal residences, Her Majesty continued to dance at Ludzidzini Royal Residence and will do so until the main day of the ceremony in a few days.



ENGOMENI: His Majesty in action with the regiments as the dancing progressed.



SOAKED: Senior officers soaked dancing in the rain.



LOVING IT: *Emazinyane* and *Imbali* from the royal family singing.



COME RAIN OR SUNSHINE: Sandile Nxumalo, Victor Gamedze and Umbutfo Constable Mahhunga Mndzebele were also there.

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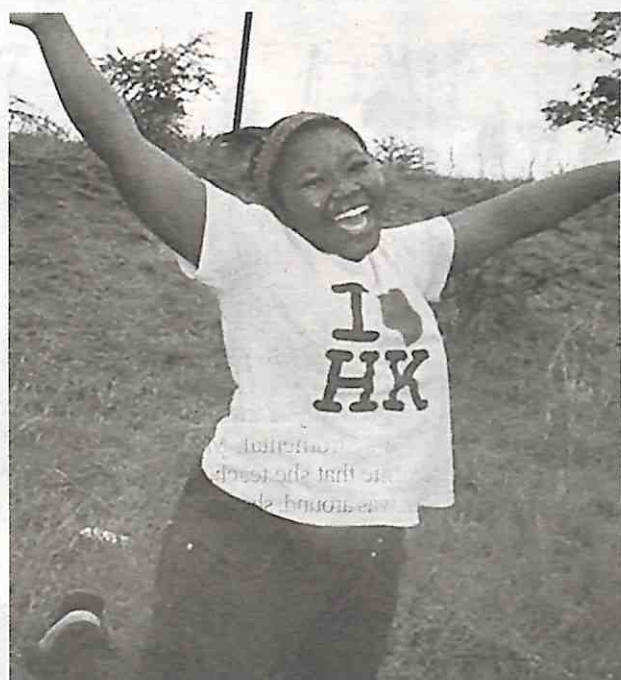
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LUBOMBO NEWS

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Wonderboy Dlamini

CONGRATULATIONS: Vuyile Ndlangamandla got 79 per cent aggregate and was position eight countrywide. Aiden Dlamini reacted with a smile after the good news were disclosed to him. He managed a 76 per cent aggregate. (Pics; Wonderboy Dlamini)

LUBOMBO REO APPLAUDS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS FOR GOOD RESULTS

THE Lubombo Regional Education Office is over the moon and applauding school administrators for producing much improved 2017 Standard Five results as compared to those of 2016.

The region has managed to move from the bottom to number three, beating the Manzini region. Moreover, the region had several schools listed amongst the best performing schools in the country. These include Thembelisha Preparatory, Tjaneni Primary, Imbuyiselo Academy and Ubombo Primary, amongst others.

Acting Regional Education Officer Dzabulase Mthupha has commended the school administrators, saying that their effort has been notable. Speaking during an interview, Mthupha said the region was happy to note that it has been able to move at least one position up. He said this was an indication that there was something right being done by the administrators and their staff members.

Mthupha noted that for the past years,



PROUD MOTHER: Vuyile being embraced by her mother Neliwe upon learning of the good news.

the region was always listed at the bottom, with several of its schools also listed as the worst performing schools.

This is however now history as most of these have produced improved results and moved away from the 'red zone'.

For these achievements, Mthupha also thanked the regional's schools inspectors for ensuring that schools which were listed as worse performers in 2016 also have improved results in 2017. Mthupha disclosed that at the beginning of the year, the regional office sent inspectors to the schools which seemed to have challenges in carrying out their mandate. The schools were thereafter assisted in attending to their various challenges.

Mthupha said this seemed to have paid off as reflected by the improved results of 2017. "Through this exercise, we have seen an impressive improvement by schools which were listed at the bottom in the previous year, and this is highly commendable," he said. He further applauded the cooperation between principals of schools and the regional office in ensuring that their core mandate of educating the child is well carried out.

Feeding scheme did wonders for poverty stricken schools

THE Lubombo Regional Education Office has thanked government for the provision of breakfast meals for pupils in schools which have been greatly affected by drought.

Acting Regional Education Officer Dzabulase Mthupha said this has somehow levelled the ground for schools in rural schools with those in urban areas. Mthupha noted that in the past, rural schools have always been on the disadvantaged side when compared with those in urban areas due to the environment they live under. The situation would be worse during drought. To intervene in this situation, government started providing breakfast for pupils in rural schools through the feeding scheme

known as *zondle*. Mthupha said this has translated to tremendous improvement in performance of the pupils as reflected by the 2017 Standard Five results. He pointed out that the exercise also reflected that the region has equally capable teachers who can produce the best results under a normal environment. "With this programme put in place, the children were able to concentrate on their lessons without worrying about hunger as school became their best place to be," he said. Apparently, children from some areas are said to have been happier during school days than on holidays as they knew that at least they would be guaranteed of two meals per day when at school.

St Boniface Principal sing praises for dedicated staff

ST Boniface Primary School is without a doubt a school which has shown massive improvement amongst others in Siteki and surrounding areas, scoring a 100 per cent pass rate.

The school has also been listed amongst the best performing schools in the country. As if to add icing to the cake, the school also had one pupil listed amongst the top 50 bracket in the country. This was one Riberio Emmanuel Samantha who passed with a merit after accumulating a 76 per cent aggregate. The school further produced 13 first class passes, 38 second class passes and two third class passes.

Principal of the school, Fikile Dlamini has attributed these good results to her hard working teachers who made their intentions of getting improved results known just at the beginning of the year. Dlamini said the good results were nothing else but evidence of a good cooperation between the teachers, parents and the children.

Dlamini disclosed that the school

implemented extra classes for the external class as early as the first term. This helped the pupils to cover their syllabus early in the year and start preparing for the exams. On this part, the principal thanked the teachers for sacrificing their leisure time and used it to conduct holiday classes. Dlamini also thanked parents who also released their children to attend the holiday classes.

"The results are mainly a reflection of an existing good relationship between the school administration and parents who are always willing to cooperate with us", said the principal. She also thanked the commitment shown by the pupils who have been in the forefront of the learning process. In conclusion, Dlamini said the 2017 results would be their target as they will be working on ensuring that they better results in the coming years. "We hope to improve our results with each passing year and be the school that every parent wants to send his or her child to", said Dlamini.

Maphungwane residents want intensified security patrols

WITH allegations of ritual murders gripping the area, residents of Maphungwane are calling for intensified security patrols this year.

The area had a number of incidents which were linked with ritu-

al murders last year. A number of residents claimed to have survived the claws of suspected ritual murderers on different instances. At one point, the Royal Swaziland Police had to engage community police on patrol programmes.

Following an incident which saw a man allegedly being dragged with a motor vehicle for several kilometres about two weeks ago, residents of the area say their fear for ritual murders has been revived. The incident has however been

tagged as an 'accident' by police. One Skhumbuzo Maziya from the same area has suggested that authorities of the area must dispatch a strengthened squad of community police to conduct patrols in the area. Maziya stated that there is a need

for prevention measures to be implemented and increase the safety of the people. "While police are continuing with their investigations on the recent incident, let us ensure that the people are safe from suspect murderers," he said.

TOP PUPIL SAYS TEACHERS PLAYED A PROFOUND ROLE

Stories by Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlango

SIHLELIWE Dlamini, one of the top pupils in the Standard Five examinations says her teachers played an important role to her.

Sihleliwe from Evelyn Baring Primary recorded 78 per cent and is position 16 countrywide.

She also thanked her parents saying both were instrumental hence she managed to record good results.

Sihleliwe's mother Futhi Dlamini is a Senior Inspector at the Ministry of Education based in the Shiselweni region while her father Mabuya Dlamini is a boarding master at Mpaka High School.

"Teachers in all the subjects have been of great assistance to me. My parents also played their part and made sure I spent less time watching TV," said Sihleliwe.

The 13-year-old girl said she was aware that she would pass as even in the other classes; she never got anything above position three.

"In class positions, since my Grade One, I have been getting position one to three and not above that," said the little girl beaming with



HAPPY: Sihleliwe Dlamini (Evelyn Baring Primary) flanked by her parents Futhi Dlamini and Mabuya Dlamini. She recorded 78 per cent. (Pic: Starsky Mkhonta)

confidence throughout the interview.

Sihleliwe wants to pursue a career as a dentist upon reaching tertiary.

She is expected to enroll for her next class (Form One) at Evelyn Baring High School. Asked what gift she expected from her parents, Sihleliwe said she would like a school bag of an expensive label as well as Nike footwear.

"There is a lot I am expecting from my parents but a school bag

of high quality and Nike footwear would make me feel great."

Meanwhile, the girl's mother said her daughter was never a loser and she hated to be categorised under failures. She said her daughter possessed all the potential and if she wanted to achieve something, she does not give up until she has achieved it.

"She is a go getter and we are not surprised that she made it," said Futhi Dlamini, the girl's mother.

Her father said he was proud of her and being among the best, it was a great achievement.

"As parents, we are excited and it shows that our child appreciates all the good things we do for her. We are providers and she should pay us back by doing well in school. It's what a parent expects from a child and Sihleliwe has just done that," said Dlamini, the long serving Mpaka High School boarding master.

Baring pupil thanks parents, aunt

VUYELWA Mayisela, a pupil from Evelyn Baring Primary who got 78 per cent and position 16 countrywide says she is thankful to her mother and aunt for being there for her when preparing to write exams.

Vuyelwa's mother Zanele Mayisela is a teacher at Nhletjeni High School.

The girl said her relatives as well as teachers and some of her classmates all played a role which contributed to her success.

She said she knew she would make it and what she did not however expect was to be counted among top performing pupils. She said she was focused and never rested when it was time for exams.

"I think my aunt who I live with has been instrumental. My mother as well despite that she teaches far away, when she was around, she made time and assisted with my school work," said Vuyelwa.

Vuyelwa wants to be doctor.

She will enroll for her Form One at Evelyn Baring High School. She is expecting a new phone as well as new clothes as gifts from her parents.

Meanwhile, her mother said she never doubted her daughter's capabilities.

"We are celebrating my girl's hard work today.

That she has passed has not come as a surprise. We are thankful because examinations are dicey and anything could be expected," said the girl's mother.

Little School whiz kid attributes success to prayer

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

SPC 2017's fourth best pupil Nokwanda Lukhele is from the prominent Little School and got an aggregate of 80 per cent.

Lukhele said her passing was through the power of prayer.

"I dedicated all my time to my studies and it came as no surprise that I achieved great results," she said joyfully.

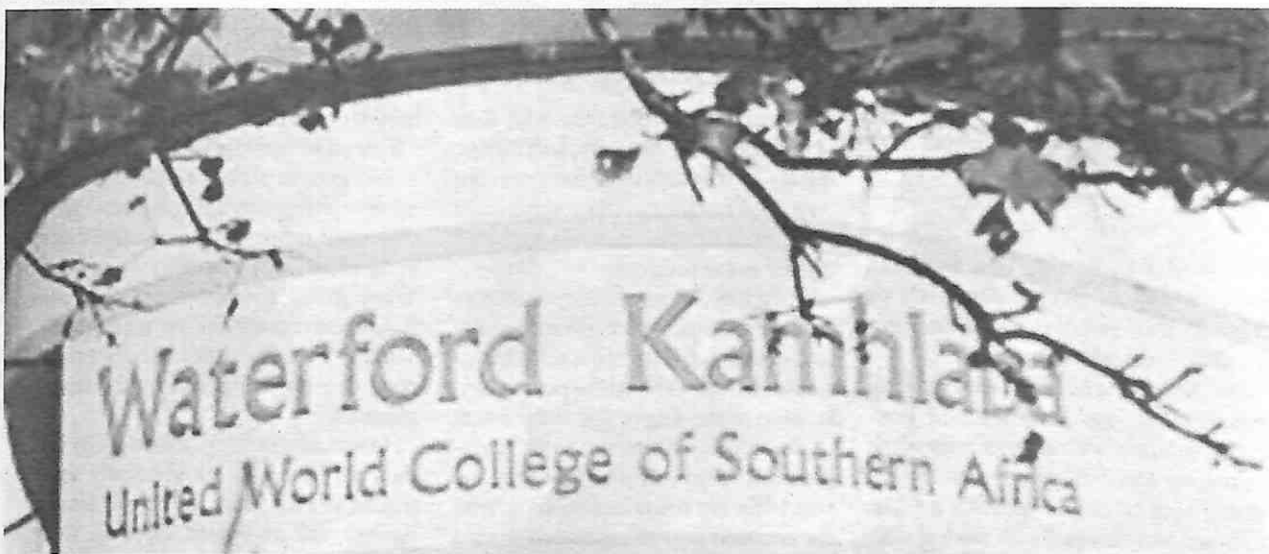
Lukhele is among only four pupils who attained 80 per cent in the SPC 2017 results as well as Sifundzani duo of Vumile Dlamini and Stephanie Henwood as well as Manzini Central

Primary's Lucky Shongwe.

The gifted Lukhele girl is friends with Emuhle Masinga from Little School, who was also among the best performing pupils as she attained 76 per cent.

The pair was the only two from the school to have made it to the list.

"I was studying together with Emuhle and we would seek help from the teachers when we faced difficulties as we studied," she added. Lukhele said she was obsessed with reading and she would like her parents to get her as many books as possible. She also wishes to enroll at Sifundzani High School for her secondary education.



Meliswa already a Waterford pupil

By Sibusiso Dlamini
Manzini

13-year-old Meliswa Mthethwa is already a Waterford pupil after passing an interview and then validating everything by being the 50th best pupil in the SPC 2017 results in the country.

The shy young lady said knowing very well that she has secured a place in an institution which would give her the opportunity to market herself to the whole world gave her unexplainable joy.

"I have always wanted to do

my high school at Waterford, and when I passed the interview, I knew that the results were the only thing between me and my goal. Now, I am very proud to have done so well because it certainly guarantees that I will be there. I will now be able to do my tertiary at any university in the world, this is the perfect opportunity for me to go global," she said.

Mthethwa said she aspired to be a medical doctor.

"I want to become a doctor, and this is inspired by the fact that no one in my family has ever done it before, so I want us to make them proud and also add

a bit of variety to the experts that we already have as a family."

She then advised her peers who were keen on good marks to start studying early in the year.

"You have to love your books, which means a whole lot of studying and sacrificing leisure time. I studied two subjects every day and dedicated an hour to each subject.

I started quite early, just when we had closed for the first term, and I continued with my routine consistently. Don't start late, they'll be way too many things to grasp and once, and you may find yourself performing dismally."



BRAINY: SPC 2017's fourth best pupil Nokwanda Lukhele from Little School.

Guns drawn in fields' war

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlango

A long standing family feud almost turned ugly when a family member opened fire, almost gunning down another.

Police had to be called when members of a Mhlango family at Sibovu area near Mahlalini caused drama last Wednesday afternoon as they argued over the ownership of family fields.

It is claimed gunshots which scared neighbours were heard coming from one of the houses.

It is said within the Mhlango family, members are in embroiled in a serious dispute over fields.

It is believed that the squabble is between blood relatives.

On the day in question, it is said one of the family members was ploughing the disputed fields with a tractor when another member ordered him to stop as the fields were supposed to be ploughed by him.

Without paying much attention to the 'order', it was then when the family member who had issued the order pulled out a firearm threatening to blow off the driver's brains.

With the tractor driver arguing and insisting that he had all the rights to plough the fields, that was when the other family member made his intention known and pulled the trigger of the firearm, firing several shots at the tractor but missed the targets and only hit the tractor's tyres which were then left



CONFIRMED: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba.

punctured.

"It was frightening and when I dashed out of the house as we are neighbours with the family, I saw many people already crowding the scene. Other residents were brave to draw closer with some also trying to intervene.

Punctured

We are still not sure of the one who was carrying the gun, if his intention was to shoot the driver of the tractor or he purposely punctured the tyres to have it not continue ploughing the fields.

Police arrived later and recorded statements from those who were at the scene," said a resident.

It was gathered that after the family member who had carried a gun had fired the shots which left the tractor grounded, he then escaped. Residents said there has been tension within the family as

the feud over fields has been going on for years.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba said Nhlango police got a report that a family squabble almost resulted in bloodshed after someone opened fire.

He said police went to the area and recorded all the details needed to help establish what actually happened.

"We are told that the family's feud is over fields and last Wednesday it almost turned nasty as one of the family members threatened to kill another by opening fire.

Fortunately, the bullets missed the intended target and only hit the tyres of the tractor. The family member who opened fire, then escaped and police are still looking for him," said Supt Mamba.

MASEYISINI SPORTS FIELD OPEN AGAINST AUTHORITIES WILL

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlango

THE refurbished Maseyisini sports field is opened for use against the will of the of Evusweni umphakatsi authorities.

There is a tug of war between the *inkhundla* (Maseyisini) and the leadership of Evusweni on who exactly has full control or authority over the facility.

The *inkhundla* is located within the *umphakatsi* boundaries and the elders are allegedly claiming to have authority and should know whatever activity is staged within the facility.

It is said the *umphakatsi* decided to lock the gates leading to the sports field after phase one of the project was completed and since there are usually soccer games staged during the festive season, there was a debate on whether they would take place following the bad blood between the *inkhundla* and the *umphakatsi*.

With the elders of Evusweni insisting that nothing should take place within the sports field without them being notified, it is said to their (*umphakatsi*) shock, they found that the padlocks were replaced and the soccer games also started taking place.

This infuriated the *umphakatsi* authorities and it is reported they are still considering taking action against those to be fingered as responsible for 'breaking' the padlocks and replacing them.

The inner council has been consulting so as to discover if there was no element of crime on what

had taken place.

According to Reggie Lukhele, the headman of Evusweni *Umphakatsi*, they were taken aback upon realising that the sports field was now open for use without the elders' permission. He said he was aware who were behind all this and where they were getting the support.

"This shows how authorities such as chiefs are not taken serious by certain individuals. Chiefs are undermined by people who should be exemplary in society. In our case, we know those involved in breaking the padlocks and allowing activities to take place without the leadership's blessings. By breaking the padlocks, that on its own it's a sign of disrespect. We have briefed the *umphakatsi* authorities on what had taken place and I am sure soon those responsible will explain why they have done this. There is an office which I believe has been supporting the people that do not recognise the area's authorities.

It's well documented that this office has been taking sides and it supports certain people who do not respect the leadership of Evusweni," said Lukhele.

Lukhele said time would tell as some of these individuals who were supporting people disrespecting *umphakatsi* could one day be held responsible for their action.

"I know that office is against the leadership of Evusweni and it supports the people who are rebellious. The same office is the one which gave the go ahead in staging the games without the area's authority's permission to use the stadium," alleged Lukhele who also hinted who exactly he was referring to.

Man fined E2 000 for 'boxing' another on Boxing Day

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

INITIALLY, Boxing Day is meant to be a day of presenting gifts to friends and relatives and sharing quality time with family.

One Mancoba Mabila however took this day and engaged in a fierce 'boxing' encounter with another man while at a drinking spot. Mabila appeared before at the Magistrate Court after he was arrested and charged with assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. He was alleged to have wrongfully and unlawfully assaulted one Andile

Matsenjwa by hitting him with fists several times on the body, and further hitting him with a beer bottle on the face. This resulted in the complainant sustaining serious injuries and was rushed to the hospital.

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused person pleaded guilty to the charge. The crown however elected to call witnesses to prove commission of the offence due to the extent of the injuries sustained by the complainant. The complainant told the court that his misunderstanding with the accused person emanated from a minor incident. He stated that his sin was cautioning the accused person who had just stepped on him while

they were at the drinking spot.

Instead of apologising, the accused is said to have picked a fight and started assaulting the complainant. This was until other patrons stopped the fight which was evidently one sided. When given an opportunity to cross examine the complainant, the accused said he had no questions and was not disputing anything said by the complainant.

He was accordingly found guilty by the court and was subsequently sentenced to two years in a correctional facility with an option to pay E2 000 fine. Half of the sentence was however suspended for a period of three years.

REVEALED: Reggie Lukhele.



Fears of a ninth festive season drowning in Cape Town

CAPE TOWN - It is feared a 25-year-old man who went missing while swimming at Monwabisi beach on New Year's Day could be the ninth drowning victim in the Cape this festive season.

It follows extensive warnings issued by the NSRI about dangerous surf conditions and stronger than normal tides due to the supermoon which rises this evening. The full moon's proximity to Earth will have an added effect to rip tides as well.

"NSRI Strandfontein, WC Government Health EMS, the EMS/AMS Skymed rescue helicopter, Lifeguards, Law Enforcement



DROWNED: Fears of a ninth festive season drowning in Cape Town.

Marine and a Law Enforcement Marine rescue craft, the SA Police Services, Cape Town Fire and Rescue

Services, a Police Dive Unit and Metro police conducted an extensive search," NSRI spokesperson

Craig Lambinon said about the man who went missing at Monwabisi.

"NSRI rescue swimmers and Law Enforcement Marine officers also did a sweeping line free dive search in an area on a beach at Monwabisi that is quite a distance away from the lifeguard protected beach area but no sign of the man has been found.

"Police have opened an investigation and a Police Dive unit will continue in an ongoing search operation assisted by lifeguards and Law Enforcement," said Lambinon.

The City of Cape Town's executive director for safety and security, Richard Bosman, said there had already been at least eight confirmed

drownings in the Cape this festive season; three at Mnandi, four at Strand/Gordon's Bay, and another at Soetwater. Last Friday, four men and a woman were rescued by the NSRI. They had run aground on a sand bank in shallow water at Shark Bay, in the Langebaan Lagoon.

"The sea rescue craft Spirit of Surfski 5 was launched and on arrival on the scene the crew were found safe," said Lambinon.

"Other incidents reported were in Hermanus, Jeffreys Bay, Witsand and Port Alfred. All people involved in the incidents reported at these beaches were found safe and unharmed," said Lambinon.

Cape Argus



FEATURES & OPINION

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TIVE
LEADERSHIP
CENTER



... With
**Kholwaphi
Mdziniso**
Guest Writer

IT'S a new year, which means that it's also time to imagine new beginnings and better futures. It's time, in short, for New Year's resolutions.

Gratitude, in particular, has become a popular resolution. For many of us, living gratefully seems to promise more happiness in our lives.

But what if we've got gratitude all wrong?

I began writing my book "The Art of Gratitude" because I too believed that gratitude might offer an antidote to the anger, fear and resentment that characterise contemporary life. But as I read one self-help book about gratitude after another, it had the opposite effect on me. The more I read, the less grateful I felt.

I came to ask, does the problem lie in how gratitude tends to be defined?

The debt of gratitude

Gratitude is often defined as a feeling of obligation and indebtedness toward those who give us a gift or help us out in some way. Consider how often many of us use the phrase, "I owe you a debt of gratitude," or "One good turn deserves another."

The debt of gratitude idea dates back to the foundations of Western culture, to Aristotle, Cicero and the New Testament.

According to a leading contemporary expert on gratitude, UC Davis Psychology Professor Robert Emmons, "To be grateful means to allow oneself to be placed in the position of recipient – to feel indebted and aware of one's dependence on others." Or, as Emmons argues elsewhere, gratitude is "an acknowledgement of debt," and ingratitude "the refusal to admit one's debt to others."

In this framework, people are debtors

and the givers of debt. According to philosopher Shelly Kagan, "If someone does you a favour, you owe them something; you owe them a debt of gratitude." People judge the value of others based on what they can offer. Emmons writes:

"Gratitude requires that a giver give not only a gift but also a gift dear to himself – a 'pearl of great price,' as it were. ... The degree to which we feel gratitude always hinges on this internal, secret assessment of cost: It is intrinsic to the emotion, and perfectly logical, that we don't feel all that grateful for gifts that we receive that cost little or nothing to the giver."

In other words, gifts and kindnesses involve a calculation of "cost," which extends to repayment.

Gifts are calculated gestures that must be repaid with an expression of thanks and, if possible, reciprocal gifts.

Thinking in such terms might encourage people to see their relationships in economic terms – as transactions to be judged by market criteria of gain and loss.

To that end, the Christian radio show host Nancy Leigh DeMoss advises-

keeping a gratitude journal just like a bank statement or a checkbook registry, as a place to manage gratitude debts.

"I want to encourage you to think of gratitude as being a debt you owe, the same way you're called upon to pay your monthly bills."

The art of gratitude

Gratitude is about more than individual happiness. My happiness is bound with yours and with everyone else's.

Gratitude authors, who urge us to focus on the debts we owe to others, are reminding us of this fact. I, however, argue in "The Art of Gratitude" that the rhetoric of the debt of gratitude sets us down a dangerous road. The trouble is that the value of our relationships cannot be calculated with numbers on the page, and trying to do so might make us miss out on what is most important.

Take, for example, a recent gift I received – of a nice aluminum water bottle. A friend said that she saw it and thought of me. Of course, I thanked her. But rather than immediately calculate the cost of the gift and determine how I would repay her, I asked:

"Why did you choose a water bottle?"

She told me where she grew up in the United States, she did not have access to clean water.

I travel a lot, and she wanted me to take clean water with me wherever I went. Moreover, she hoped that it would help to cut down on plastic bottle waste, because, she said, we all share this planet.

I might have missed all of this had I only pondered on how best to repay it. Instead, this gift prompted a conversation that reminded me of our fundamental interconnectedness. My actions, she was saying, impacted her life, just as her actions impacted my own.

This interconnected world

It is crucial to recognise that our daily practices of gratitude have broader social and political implications.

Say I feel gratitude for access to clean air in Central Pennsylvania. I feel this gratitude because I grew up with asthma, and I know how hard it can be to breathe polluted air. I need not feel indebted to anyone for this clean air. Clean air is not a gift. I am grateful because clean air is neces-

sary for life.

Same is true for clean water. There is currently, however, a potentially grave challenge to clean water in Centre County, Pennsylvania, where I live.

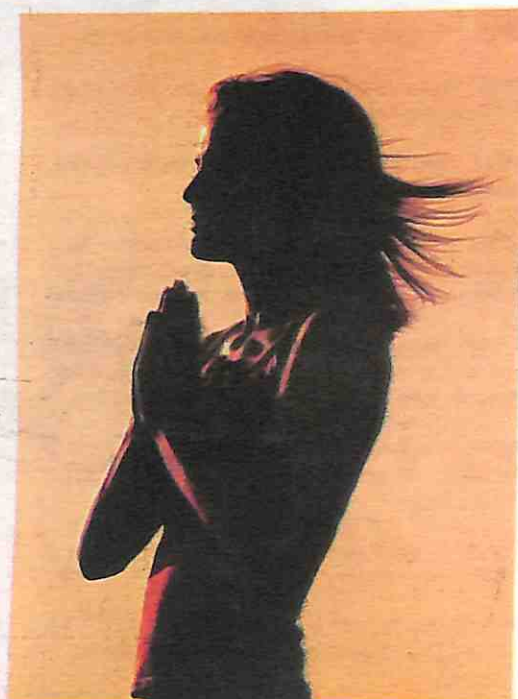
Looking through grateful eyes, attuned to the support necessary to live and thrive, I can recognise a threat to clean water as a personal threat. Though it is personal, it cannot be remedied alone.

I must reach out to others who will also be affected, so that we can act together to manage it. The takeaway of my book is that indebtedness is not the only way to relate. Examples like these prove that all of us are deeply dependent upon the material support of the earth, and that also speaks to our interconnectedness.

My resolution this year is therefore to practice the art of gratitude by imagining my life, and the world in which I live, as an opportunity, not a debt. I resolve to focus on what is necessary, and to work together with others to make it possible for all to live and to live well, because we live together. I hope that you will join me.

The Conversation

This new year – rethinking gratitude



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NHLANGANO

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ON THIS DAY

...JANUARY 2

1929 - The United States and Canada reached an agreement on joint action to preserve Niagara Falls.

1935 - Bruno Richard Hauptmann went on trial for the kidnap-murder of Charles Lindbergh's baby. Hauptmann was found guilty and executed.

1942 - The Philippine capital of Manila was captured by Japanese forces during World War II.

1949 - Jack Benny's television show aired on CBS for the first time. The show had previously been aired on NBC.

1953 - "The Life of Riley" debuted on NBC-TV.

1955 - Panamanian President Jose Antonio Remon was assassinated.

1957 - The San Francisco and Los Angeles stock exchanges merged.

1959 - CBS Radio ended four soap operas. "Our Gal Sunday", "This is Nora Drake", "Backstage Wife" and "Road of Life" all aired for the last time.

1960 - US Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

1965 - "Broadway" Joe Namath signed the richest rookie contract (\$400 000) in the history of pro football.

1968 - Fidel Castro announced petroleum and sugar rationing in Cuba.

1971 - In the US, a federally imposed ban on television cigarette advertisements went into effect.

1974 - US President Richard M. Nixon signed a bill requiring all states to lower the maximum speed limit to 55 MPH. The law was intended to conserve gasoline supplies during an embargo imposed by Arab oil-producing countries. Federal speed limits were abolished in 1995.

1983 - The final edition of Garry Trudeau's comic strip, "Doonesbury", appeared in 726 newspapers. "Doonesbury" began running again in September 1984.

1983 - The musical "Annie" closed on Broadway at the Uris Theatre after 2 377 performances.

1985 - The Rebels of UNLV beat Utah State in three overtime periods. The final score of 142-140 set a new NCAA record for total points in a basketball game (282). The game took over three hours to play.

1991 - Sharon Pratt Dixon was sworn in as mayor of Washington, DC. She was the first black woman to head a city of that size and prominence.

1996 - AT&T announced that it would eliminate 40 000 jobs over three years.

1998 - Russia began circulating new rubles in effort to keep inflation in check and promote confidence.

2004 - NASA's Stardust space probe collected samples from the comet Wild 2. The samples returned to Earth on January 15, 2006.

2008 - The price of oil hit \$100 per barrel for the first time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Cuba Gooding Jr
(Movie Actor) -
January 2, 1968 (50
years old)



Jilly Anais (Pop
Singer) - January 2,
1996 (22 years old)



**BISHOP
KEITH
HARRINGTON'S CORNER**

AS we have entered the year 2018, we wish to thank God that we all made it.

Not because of our own wisdom, knowledge or power, but because of His everlasting grace and loving kindness. Every year, each church and minister of the gospel, seems to be inspired by the Lord to have what I call a seasonal word or Prophecy, given by God to maintain that part of the body of Christ during the year.

In some circles it's referred to as the theme or vision for the year. As for me, I feel that God is saying that 2018 will be a year of breakthrough and success for many who have been stuck in certain situations for long.

Scriptural

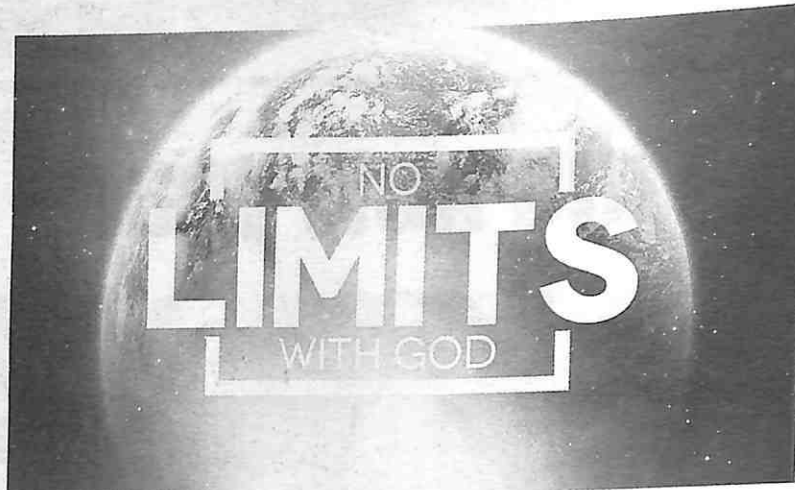
On this first Tuesday and first week of the new year, I'd like to look into the subject of how to overcome limitations. We will get our scriptural reference in the book of **Genesis 15 verse 1 - 7:**

1 After these things the Word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine

BREAKING THE SPIRIT OF LIMITATIONS - PART 1



heir.

4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

7 And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. (KJVLite)

Let me first start by giving a clear cut definition of the subject.

What is a Limitation? It's a limiting condition, a restrictive weakness, lack of capacity an inability or handicap.

A limited man is a restricted man who suffers in the midst of plenty. He cannot go beyond the limit the enemies have set for him.

Though he may see or know where he belongs or what he should attain but find it difficult to get there.

Limitation makes a man to suffer in the midst of opportunities and possibilities.

One of the indications of a destiny that is tampered with is that the owner of such destiny suffers limitation in life. There is a spirit called the spirit of limitation and until this spirit is dealt with and conquered, the victim remains limited in every sphere of life - academically, maritally, socially, politically, spiritually, financially and even in business.

To suffer limitation in life is to have one's level of joy, success and achievement determined by other people, especially one's enemies. A barrier is placed in such people's way to greatness. They may have the potentials for greatness, excellence, and prosperity, but there is an extent to which they are allowed to go in life.

Such people have spiritual ropes on their necks that limit them. Every one who wants to enter his destiny must be free from this spirit.

The destiny of man is a progressive destiny, however certain forces arise to hinder the flow of progress

in life.

One of these forces is the spirit of limitation. To be limited is to be restricted, resisted and restrained. The spirit of limitation delays destinies from getting to their ordained expected place. The spirit of limitation is a force that must be broken out from if you will fulfill destiny in grand style. The spirit of limitation makes life to perform below capacity and frustrates people from being all they could be.

If you don't break out of the yoke of limitation, you can never get to where God has designed for you to get to and thereby not enjoy all that has been prepared for your destiny.

Limitations will not just disappear, you have to deal with it. If you do not work to remove them, it remains.

Limitation can be personal, internal or external. Limitation has no respect for anyone.

Effectiveness

The instrument of your limitation can be ancestral. Human beings can be your limitation. Parental limitation can pull you down. It limits ones effectiveness and hinders from fruitfulness.

Limitations bring retrogression as it has frustrating powers and demoting powers.

It wages war against advancement. It inserts sorrow and is a silent evil worker and destiny destroyer.

Limitation is suicidal, sponsors failure and discourages hope. Anybody that his/her suffering is as a result of parental mistakes, shall possess his/her possessions in 2018 in the name of Jesus. The power of God will break the power of limitation in your life in Jesus' name. We will continue next week.

The dangerous world of South Africa's deep-level mining

IT is another world - dark, cramped, unbearably hot, the air laden with harmful dust, earth tremors an ever-present threat, and the normal world of safety and sunlight a barely imaginable four or more kilometres above, well beyond reach in a moment of crisis.

This is the dangerous world of South Africa's deep-level mining.

It is unquestionably an environment of high risk - but any outdated conception of antediluvian toil in the depths of the earth overlooks the strides in technological sophistication that define South African mining today.

Increasing mechanisation relieves miners of any number of dangerous activities; new technologies make mines safer and more comfortable places to work; advances in rescue procedures and mining processes significantly reduce risks; and great efforts are being made to improve compensation for miners with silicosis and various other



eases contracted underground.

All this emerges from the latest @Liberty report - "Deep and Dangerous: Health and Safety in Our Mines" - from the IRR (Institute of Race Relations).

But what is also clear from the report, written by the IRR's Head of Policy Research, Dr Anthea Jeffery, is that, for all the advances made, significant problems remain.

Not the least of them is legislation that is demonstrably open to misapplication, corruption and the mustering of ideological hostility. In combination, such abuses risk crippling a sector that has the potential to grow jobs, tax income, foreign earnings and the investment the country desperately needs to boost economic growth.

Jeffery argues that reforms are urgently needed to "strike a more appropriate balance" in safeguarding both mineworkers and the sustainability of the mining industry.

Better law, the report contends, would reinforce gains in an industry that has reduced fatalities from an average of 624 a year between 1971 and 1990 to an average of 90 deaths a year since 2012. As a result, annual fatalities in mining are not much greater than those in the con-

struction industry.

The industry's achievements in reducing fatalities are praiseworthy. But the government and many commentators remain hostile to it and seem unwilling to acknowledge the gains notched up. Legacy issues have much to do with this, and help explain why the sector is still awkwardly snared between past and future.

Jeffery points out that mining has a potentially bright future, given the country's "virtually unparalleled mineral riches", estimated in 2010 at some \$2.5 trillion, well ahead of both Australia and Russia, whose resources are estimated at \$1.6 trillion each.

And, though mining's contribution to GDP has declined as the economy has modernised, "it remains vital to employment, investment, tax revenues, and export earnings".

That mining is the bedrock of the modern South African economy is a testament to both its importance and its vulnerability. **News24**

'ANC should be commended for its policy decisions'

IT is no secret that the 54th national elective conference of the ANC took place when the movement was deeply divided and gradually losing the confidence of members of society.

The conference took place just after the party suffered a loss in some of the most important metros in South Africa.

There are different opinions as to why the party was divided and losing the confidence of the people; some attributed it to the leadership and others to the party's refusal to take radical positions regarding the direction that the country ought to take.

What was nonetheless obvious was the fact that the party of Oliver Reginald Tambo needed to do something to regain the trust of the people and ensure that the revolution bears the fruits that it promised.

The fractures within the ANC saw the birth of breakaway parties such as COPE, the EFF, and most recently, the formation of Change. All these parties were formed by erstwhile members of the ANC and they all left with a considerable constituency of the ANC.

These are not the only recent blows that the ANC suffered. In the past two years we've seen an increase in protests by civil society where South Africa was dubbed as the protest capital of the whole world.

We also saw what seemed to be a student uprising where the students were demanding free and decolonised education and the ANC seemed reluctant to listen to the demands of the students. I give this background of recent developments and challenges faced by the ANC to highlight that the 54th conference would be an important one in determining the future of the ANC.



Many had already prophesied that the ANC would come out of the conference even more divided. This was because of violence that ensued in some of the provincial and local gatherings of the ANC.

This did not happen. In fact it seems that the opposite happened. The ANC left the conference singing in unison and was able to take very bold and radical resolutions. It is some of these resolutions that I want to briefly discuss.

To everyone's shock the ANC resolved on the implementation of free higher education for the poor starting from the 2018 academic year. This pronouncement follows almost three years of protests by students demanding that the ANC live up to the promise of the Freedom Charter that states that the doors of education shall be open to all.

The brave decision by the delegates, confirming the prior decision of President Jacob Zuma, shows that indeed the ANC is still the Parliament of the people.

What is commendable about this resolution is not only the substance

but also the urgency in which this substance must be treated. One need not rehash the importance of the speedy implementation of this resolution on the economy of South Africa.

What could prove to be the most important resolution the ANC has taken after 1994 is the expropriation of land without compensation.

The land question has been at the epicentre of the liberation struggles of South Africa.

The courts have been engaged in a tug of war over this question, particularly on expropriation without compensation. Should this resolution be implemented it would mean a complete paradigm shift of the socio-economic conditions as we know them.

If this resolution is implemented correctly, learning from the mistakes of other countries, South Africa will be able to close the gap between the rich and the poor.

It is this gap that has been the main source of tension in this country. In the words of Frantz Fanon, the return of the land will not only give the

people bread, but it will also give them their dignity. Corruption has been used to militate against the ANC by opposition parties. It is commendable that the conference resolved that there is an urgent need to isolate and root out corruption. Successfully doing this will render opposition parties redundant.

It is no lie that there were elements of corruption within the movement and the fact that the ANC was able to look inward and admit that there is a problem is the first step to dealing with corruption.

I want to also add that the issue of corruption is one that must be looked at through the lens of history. White people in South Africa have been corrupt for a very long time and are still corrupt. When the ANC uproots corruption it must uproot it from both the public sector and private sector.

Where corruption happens in the private sector it is disguised with all these fancy names like collusion or price fixing instead of calling it what it is. This bias must not be tolerated by the ANC.

In conclusion, I would like to commend the ANC on being decisive and disciplined at a time when these virtues were most needed.

The ANC must ensure that the resolutions are implemented speedily. Policy that looks good only on paper does not translate into the material change of the conditions of the people. To regain the trust of the people and demonstrate our genuineness to the complete liberation of African people it is necessary that practical steps are taken to see through the realisation of the 54th national conference resolutions.

- Dlamini is a former Wits SRC President and student activist.

News24

Get ready for 2018's big clean-up

2017 tested our resilience as a young, rising people, still navigating our way between uncomfortable truths and historical disgrace as we path a way into this brave new world.

We were outraged by the audacity of a certain family of Indian origin who treated our fuscus as their personal piggy-bank; by the greed of a corporate gangster from Stellenbosch who wiped away billions of pensioners' rands in one fell swoop; and by the sheer incompetence and lack of empathy by those entrusted to care for the most frail in our society at Life Esidimeni.

We were thrilled by the jubilation of our neighbours up north as they ousted their dictator of 37 years (albeit in an imperfect fashion); by the incredible efforts of aid organisations, emergency services and communities who

pulled together to shelter and feed the people of Knysna after their town was gutted by menacing flames; and by the incredible achievements of the EFF's young leaders to lead from the front in championing education.

In a way, 2017 represented a microcosm of everything that is right and wrong in our beautiful land – all packed into 365 days of outrage, sorrow and ecstasy.

Phew! As the Twitter generation would say, 2017 had zero chill. In the rest of the world we saw the fall of powerful men who were exposed as sexual predators by a new generation of #metoo activists – a tide that will surely hit our shores in the near future. Two other powerful men – the one an orange "American dotard" and the other a baby-faced "sick puppy" – continued their war of words, threat-

ening with nuclear war as if it was a pillow fight between school-boys.

Down Under, the Aussies finally endorsed gay marriages. Welcome to the modern world, mates! With the ANC contemplating the least dramatic way to get rid of President Jacob Zuma, emboldened by the Constitutional Court's dramatic ruling last Friday that Parliament should initiate proceedings that could lead to Zuma's impeachment, 2018 will be no less dramatic. Expect a number of #OMG push alerts on your phone from News24 this year!

The Big Clean-up by newly-elected ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa is expected to start with haste after the ANC has negotiated Zuma's exit, which could be a fast or a protracted, tumultuous process.

Irrespective of Zuma's move, Ramaphosa – backed by a slight

majority in the ANC's national executive committee – will push for a judicial inquiry into state capture to commence without further delay. This will undoubtedly be the biggest "show" coming to your screens in 2018.

Private sector scandals engulfing the likes of Steinhoff, KPMG, McKinsey and MultiChoice, will lead to a new wave of business activism, inside and outside of big corporates. Expect to see and hear more Magda Wierzyckas in 2018, pressuring businesses to clean their houses before they cast stones.

The toxic mix of poor basic education, a declining economy, rampant corruption and institutionalised racism will pose the biggest challenge to Ramaphosa when he becomes president in 2018 (if he doesn't, he is not really in charge of the ANC, which equates to a national calamity).

News24

Wit and Wisdom

"She looked at nice young men as if she could smell their stupidity."
- Flannery O'Connor

"You're something between a dream and a miracle."
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning

"there are two types of people in the world: those who prefer to be sad among others, and those who prefer to be sad alone."
- Nicole Krauss, *The History of Love*

"The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which."
- George Orwell, *Animal Farm*

"They're certainly entitled to think that, and they're entitled to full respect for their opinions... but before I can live with other folks I've got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience."
- Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

"A love like that was a serious illness, an illness from which you never entirely recover."
- Charles Bukowski, *The People Look Like Flowers at Last*

"Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart"
- Eleanor Roosevelt

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."
- L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

"It's hard to enjoy practical jokes when your whole life feels like one."
- Rick Riordan, *The Last Olympian*

"Holding people away from you, and denying yourself love, that doesn't make you strong. if anything, it makes you weaker. Because you're doing it out of fear."
- Sarah Dessen, *This Lullaby*

"There are perhaps many causes worth dying for, but to me, certainly, there are none worth killing for."
- Albert Dietrich, *Army GI, Pacifist Co: The World War II Letters of Frank Dietrich and Albert Dietrich*

"I feel free and strong. If I were not a reader of books I could not feel this way."
- Walter Tevis

"This is where it all begins. Everything starts here, today."
- David Nicholls, *One Day*

"Sometimes, the best way to help someone is just to be near them."
- Veronica Roth, *Divergent*

"The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper."
- W.B. Yeats

BUSINESS UPDATE

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.75%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	5.4%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.25%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E12.80 per litre
Replacement	E12.85 per litre
Diesel	E12.00 per litre
Paraffin	E 8.95 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 29 DEC 2017

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	12.3700	12.4200
British Pound/SZL	16.6550	16.7223
Japanese Yen/SZL	9.0749	9.1099
Swiss France/SZL	12.6457	12.6955
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2494	1.2619
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.6548	9.6951
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.8534	9.6951
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	14.7834	14.8431
Gold	1,295.3600	
Oil	66.4800	

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Standard Bank

DISCOUNT RATE AT 7.25% FOR DECEMBER-JANUARY

Stories by Majaha Nkonyane

THE Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS), together with the Monetary Policy Consultative Committee (MPCC), held a meeting to consider the appropriate monetary policy stance for the Bank for two months.

This is according to Monetary Policy Statement released by the CBS on November 24, 2017. "The appropriate monetary policy stance was taken after a detailed look at international, regional and domestic economic conditions, which the Bank envisaged would have an effect on its price and financial stability mandate.

The Bank decided to keep the discount rate unchanged at 7.25 per cent, effective November 25, 2017," the statement said.

According to the statement the underlying reasons of keeping the discount rate unchanged is because in October 2017, inflation remained unchanged at 5.4 per cent, same as it was in September 2017 down from 5.9 per cent in August 2017.

The Bank has observed continued moderation in food inflation



since February 2017, which has contributed to better overall inflation outcomes and to better overall inflation outcomes.

"The Bank's inflation forecasts for 2017 remain unchanged at 6.52 per cent. Inflation in the third quarter of 2017 averaged six per cent, closer to the Bank's projection of

6.14 per cent.

"The Bank's forecast for the fourth quarter also remains unchanged at 5.96 per cent. The Lilangeni exchange rate against major currencies remains the main upside risk to inflation whilst the continuing moderation in food prices poses a downside risk to inflation," the statement said.



In adding the statement further revealed that Year-on-year, credit extended to the private sector grew by 10.8 per cent at the end of September 2017, indicating an improvement from the 6.2 per cent growth recorded in July 2017.

The improvement was supported by accelerated growth in credit to the Businesses and Household sectors.

According to the report credit for other sectors like other financial corporations, local government and parastatals also increased but at a slower pace compared to the previous review period.

Credit for the Businesses sector grew strongly from 3.2 per cent in July 2017 to 16.7 per cent at the end of September 2017.

TRAILBLAZER SUMMIT TAKING SHAPE

IN the spirit of entrepreneurship in the New Year, Sky reach communications is working on their final preparations towards the Trailblazer summit.

The entrepreneurship summit that will be held at (Ezulwini) Woodlands is scheduled for January 27.

The summit will have five speakers Bakhe Dlamini, Celumusa Dlamini, Hugues Hakirizimana, Bonkhe Shabangu and Sethule Maziya who will be addressing different topics on entrepreneurship and income generating streams.

"We are happy to be hosting the summit which is aimed at giving perspective towards starting the year on a strong note.

"We will host five speakers on the day who will be addressing different topics in the area of entrepreneurship.

"Our target audience is both young people and the corporate space," Organiser Xolani Mngomezulu said.

The speakers will be addressing topics such as: creating multiple streams of income, turning talent into income, careers and social



ONE OF THE SPEAKERS: Bakhe Dlamini.

entrepreneurship.

"From the summit attendees can expect to hear more on social entrepreneurship as opposed to the capitalistic entrepreneurship.

"This is the use of the techniques

by start up companies and other entrepreneurs to develop, fund and implement solutions to social, cultural, or environmental issues," Celumusa Dlamini said.

According to Dlamini social entre-

preneurship can provide solutions to some of the problems that are encountered by entrepreneurs.

Through social entrepreneurship assistance is created where entrepreneurs who are breaking into the market can be assisted with ideas and with financial support which comes from already existing entrepreneurs in the market.

The organisers of the event are promoting the summit by running a campaign where the first 70 people to buy tickets will have free lunch after the event.

In addition the organisers are also working on finding four school leavers who will get free tickets to the event and will also be pampered with lunch on the day.

"We are working on inspiring school leavers by giving them free tickets to the event and have lunch with them.

"We are also going to cater for their transport on the day. We will also be having lunch with the first 70 people to purchase tickets, tickets will be available from today and can be found with the organisers," Mngomezulu said.

TOURISM TO PLACE COUNTRY ON MAP IN 2018

By Majaha Nkonyane

As the business sector operates on a New Year plan, the country's tourism sector is also working on boosting the tourism sector even more.

The newly built Hilton Hotel is said to place the country on the map, this is according to Africa global village.

"In a country that's long been recognised as safe, with an excellent tourism infrastructure and always has short journeys, it's no wonder the international hotel chain have chosen to bring their brand to the country. The Hilton Garden Inn will open in the capital city in April," the report tates.

The New Year according to the report is also promising to be a year full of celebration for the country as 2018 marks his Majesty's 50th birthday celebration and the country's 50 years of independence. "Businesses are set to enjoy a boost as the country celebrates His Majesty's 50th birthday and 50 years of independence. This will also attract tourists and investors who will boost the economy as they pump in money into the country," the report reads.



THE ORDER: The Hilton Hotel which stands tall among the buildings around it has already changed the landscape of the Mbabane City Centre. The construction of the hotel is nearing completion as it takes shape exposing its state of the art design. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

The country is said to be an explorer's playground with a remarkable variety of new activities to enjoy. From white water rafting, zip wire canopy tours, caving and abseiling, to leisure hikes, exploring on mountain bike and horseback safaris,

The country now packs an even bigger punch for thrill seekers, as no less than six United Kingdom (UK) tour operators have added new stand-alone Swaziland itineraries to their offerings for the first time – showing its increased appeal to travellers.

According to the report tourists are spoilt for choice as they have numerous establishments to choose from, these different establishments are found in different locations within the country which include:

Ezulwini Valley, this is where most

of country's tourism infrastructure is concentrated. A lush valley filled with flowering jacarandas and bright orange flame trees. Beyond the beautiful woodland scenery, the Valley of Heaven (as Ezulwini translates in English) is home to some excellent places to spend the night in the countryside and also the country's best hand ircraft shopping.

"There is also Lobamba Village which is the seat of the Swazi monarchy. The Royal Embo State Palace was built in grand proportions by the British to house the entire Swazi royal family at one time. If you want to get a feel for Swaziland's history, you can head to the National Museum near the Parliament building in Lobamba."

Creates

In addition Eco Arts and Crafts is home to Ngwenya Glass; a business that creates stunning products for the home using 100 per cent recycled glass as their raw material, disused engine and cooking oil to fuel their furnaces and old newspapers to shape and pack the glass. Building the country's indisputable reputation for arts and crafts, Ngwenya Glass is a must-see experience.

Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary.

Spend your last 24 hours exploring the nearby Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary. One of a number of parks & reserves in the country, it was the Kingdom's first protected area, created in the 1950s by conservationist Ted Reilly on his family farm. Mlilwane is home to baboon, hippo, vervet monkeys, leopards and many more. It is known for its unique safari options, including hiding, mountain biking and horseback riding.

BUSINESS EXTRAS

Trump bump on Wall Street sees bonuses rocket: US payouts 20% higher than for City bankers

NEW YORK - US bankers are set to come up trumps as Wall Street prepares to splash out on bumper bonuses for 2017.

With payouts up to 20 per cent higher than their European counterparts, it is a positive start to the new year for President Donald Trump's economy.

And the mammoth payouts have already begun, with Goldman Sachs paying an early bonus of \$100million to its top executives in a bid to avoid an increased bill ahead of new year tax changes.

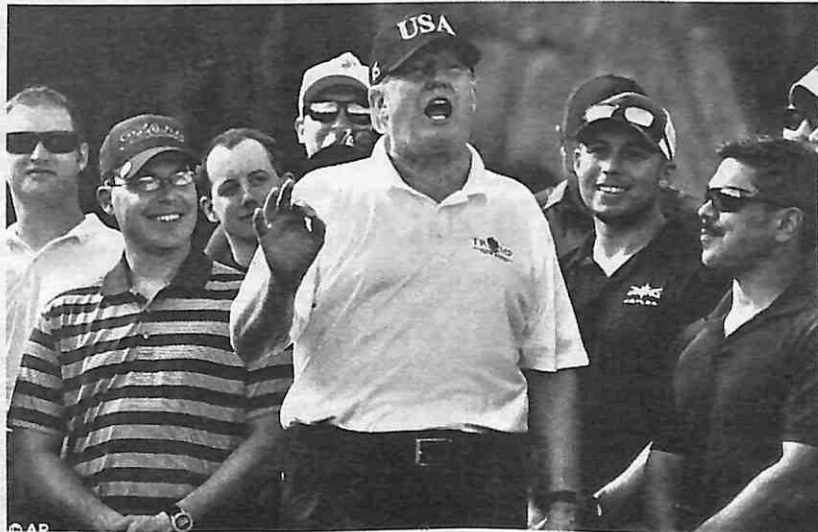
Shares in US banks have soared since Trump was elected in 2016, with hopes of profits being lifted by his ambition for faster economic growth and lower taxes.

Trump's business-friendly policy has already helped boost the fortunes of two of the world's richest bankers this year by a combined £240million.

Earlier this year, JP Morgan Chase boss Jamie Dimon, 61, saw the value of his shares leap by £125million in addition to being paid £22million.

Lloyd Blankfein, 63, who heads up Goldman Sachs, enjoyed a £116million boost to his shares while raking in £17million in pay and bonuses.

Planned bumper bonuses for the US will likely leave a sour taste with bankers working in the City of London, as employees of European banks are expected to receive next to nothing in terms of a bonus.



BANKERS' PAYDAY: Wall Street is paying out bumper bonuses this year after reaping the rewards of President Trump's tax policies.

Bosses at Credit Suisse and Barclays have already suggested that bonuses are unlikely to be extravagant.

UK bankers' hopes were raised in November when Bank of England governor Mark Carney hinted that the European Union-imposed cap on bonuses could be scrapped after Brexit.

The cap was introduced in 2014 and means that firms are restricted to paying bonuses worth a maximum of twice an

employee's salary.

The bonus gap between US and European bankers is expected to widen further this year as US stocks are predicted to keep rising thanks to a major cut to the corporate tax rate.

Last year bankers in the City of London collected an average bonus of £247 000, compared to £317 000 for their Wall Street counterparts.

Fin24

The FTSE 100 stocks tipped to be next year's dividend heroes

LONDON - Centrica has been tipped to pay its shareholders the most out of all the income stocks in the FTSE 100 in the new year, according to an online stockbroker.

The Berkshire-based utilities company is forecast to dish out eight per cent in dividends payments - 0.3 percentage points more than Direct Line in second place and 0.4 higher than Taylor Wimpey in third, according to research by AJ Bell.

Centrica has been tipped to pay its shareholders the most out of all the income stocks in the FTSE 100 in the new year, according to an online stockbroker.

Russ Mould, investment Director at AJ Bell claims that financial services firms (23 per cent), oil and gas explorers (20 per cent) and miners (8 per cent) will provide the largest source of dividend income next year - accounting for 51 per cent of the index's total dividend payments.

Royal Dutch Shell, Hargreaves Lansdown and BP are among the ten companies forecast to have the highest dividend yields.

When dividends exceed profits, the ratio is below one, so anything above that figure suggests dividends are more sustainable and affordable for companies to pay out.

So while, for example, BT ranks seventh on the top ten list, it boasts the highest dividend cover ratio of 1.73 times and therefore has the potential to climb up the list a couple of years down the line.

In fact, the ten companies with the lowest dividend cover in the FTSE 100 features three of the prospective highest dividend yields Centrica, Direct Line and BP and all but two of them (Hargreaves Lansdown and St James's Place) are predicted to yield significantly more than the FTSE 100 average.

Mould said: 'The issue of skinny dividend cover refuses to go away. Earnings cover for dividends remains much thinner than ideal at 1.63 for 2018 and there has been little real improvement here in 2017.'

'Ideally earnings cover needs to be around the two level to offer a margin of safety to dividend payments, should there be a sudden and unexpected downturn in trading at a specific company, or indeed the UK and global economies as a whole.'

'Pearson and Provident Financial are both examples of what can happen in the event of a profits stumble under such circumstances, as both had been offering apparently juicy yields but with skinny earnings cover.'

Mailonline

SCANDAL POINTS TO MAJOR GAPS IN STOPPING UNETHICAL CORPORATE BEHAVIOUR

PRETORIA - A corporate scandal unfolding around one of the largest businesses coming out of South Africa, Steinhoff, has become a major cause for concern.

A corporate scandal unfolding around one of the largest businesses coming out of South Africa, Steinhoff, has become a major cause for concern. It threatens to wipe out hundreds of billions of rand invested on behalf of many people – rich as well as ordinary South Africans. Sibonelo Radebe asked Jannie Rossouw to interrogate the saga.

What do you read from these allegations of corporate corruption?

The Steinhoff scandal is disturbing because it points to a serious gap in the checks and balances in the investment management space. A scandal of this magnitude should not have occurred if the systems with their multiple layers were working.

It's still early days but it seems as if a multiple of highly paid professional lawyers failed investors. This includes auditors, asset managers and non executive directors who in their different roles should ensure that the company's accounts are as close to the truth as possible.

Steinhoff share price collapsed by more



than 90 per cent, wiping off nearly €10 billion in shareholder value in about three days following the resignation of the company's CEO, Markus Jooste, after news that German prosecutors were investigating the company for alleged massive accounting fraud. Steinhoff is listed on both the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

Steinhoff shares were the darling of most fund and asset managers in South Africa and across the globe. We must ask questions why these entities, which draw enormous fees, failed to pick up the alleged irregularities when it seems like they should have done so if they were doing their jobs properly.

How big is the damage caused by this scandal?

It's still early days but some people are already tagging this scandal as the biggest corporate failure in the history of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. With more than 40 retailing brands in over 30 countries, Steinhoff was positioned as one of the largest companies by market capitalisation on the exchange. Its market value of close to R300 billion as recorded earlier this year placed it in the top 10, flanked by other South African corporate giants like media giant Naspers, luxury products specialist Richemont, resources giant Anglo American, petrochemicals firm SASOL as well as two big banks Standard Bank and FirstRand. If Steinhoff's stock doesn't recover the capital losses of share investors who bought at inflated prices will be massive. *Fin24*

China manufacturing activity slows last month

CHINA - China's manufacturing activity edged down in December, official data showed Sunday, but largely maintained momentum despite increased curbs on heavy industry aimed at taming the country's chronic air pollution.

The manufacturing Purchasing managers' Index (PMI), a gauge of factory conditions, stood at 51.6 in December, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, compared to 51.8 in November.

Anything above 50 is considered growth while a figure below that number points to contraction. The number was in line with the expectations of analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News.

China has curbed activity in heavy industries in the country's northeast in an effort to reduce

surplus capacity and the heavy smog that typically blankets the region during the late autumn and winter months.

In the face of public discontent over chronic pollution, the world's second largest economy has signalled that it is willing to tolerate a slowdown in economic growth in exchange for an improved environment.

But the move to cut back on heavily polluting industries like steel has so far not had a major impact on the country's manufacturing sector.

"2017 has been a year of stabilisation for the Chinese economy, after a recovery in 2016," Bloomberg News quoted Chen Long, an economist at Gavekal Dragonomics, as saying.

AFP



How hotels will take a different direction in 2018

INTERNATIONAL - In response to the many geo-political, sociological, and technological changes that took place in 2017, five-star hotels are making changes; some small, some large.

Here's what to expect, based on predictions from a panel of leading industry insiders: Tina Edmundson, global brand officer at Marriott International Inc.; Bjorn Hanson, Clinical professor at NYU's Tisch Center for Hospitality and Tourism; John Vanderslice, Global head of luxury and Lifestyle Brands at Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc.; and Guy Langford and Marcello Gasdia, of Deloitte LLP's travel, hospitality, and services group.

Hotels in major US markets will become more expensive next year as the practice of adding resort fees, once reserved for getaways in exotic locales, becomes more and more common at urban properties—often with a nightly price tag of \$25. NYU's Hanson has noticed them most in New York, where high occupancy rates leave picky travelers with few alternatives. (They're also rumoured to be popping up in Chicago and Los Angeles.) Budget for the fee on business trips, as transparency is not yet what it should be. There is one slight silver lining: "This is better than hotels raising their room rates," says Hanson, "since the fees aren't subject to occupancy taxes." Pay your respects to those chocolates on your pillow, while you still can. "More and more hotels are making turn-down service optional for two reasons. One is cost," says NYU's Hanson. The second, he says, is privacy. "We go through cycles when people are more private and more open, and right now—for reasons I can only speculate about—people are feeling more private about their personal space. *Bloomberg*



The big winners, spectacular losers on UK stock market in 2017

LONDON - From Provident Financial's 66 per cent plunge in a day, to Carillion shedding two thirds of its value in three sessions, there was no shortage of drama in UK stocks in 2017.

The biggest losers of 2017 have been marked by sensational and rapid declines, while the winners – including Games Workshop's 266 per cent rally – have been gradual triumphs.

There was no unifying theme, though analysts suggested a degree of investor complacency and a lack of foreign buyers under the shadow of Brexit may have exacerbated selloffs.

Investors are "maybe not quite so well prepared for the surprises", due to the overall quietness in stock markets, IG Market Analyst Chris Beauchamp said in an interview, noting that funds would rather cut the losers completely than give companies a chance to redeem themselves after profit warnings. At the same

time, the UK's impending departure from the EU has dissuaded overseas fund managers who may in the past have stepped in to buy stocks at bargain prices, according to London Capital Group's Senior Market Analyst Jasper Lawler. That's making declines for individual UK stocks "specifically noticeable", Lawler said. Here's a curated list of the FTSE All-Share Index's biggest winners and losers of the year:

Games Workshop: up 266 per cent; The maker of Warhammer figures upgraded profit expectations three times in 2017. The weak pound has made its products – tabletop fantasy war games – cheaper for overseas customers, who account for more than half the company's revenue. A positive reception for a new edition of board game Warhammer 40 000, which takes the game out of its Lord of the Rings-style roots and into a far-future conflict, has also helped the stock. *Fin24*

Global corporate optimism hits record high but Brexit gloom lingers in UK, study finds

LONDON - Companies around the world are starting the new year more optimistic than they have been in decades, but the prospect of Brexit is casting a considerable shadow over sentiment in the UK, a new survey reveals.

The comprehensive report published by accounting firm Grant Thornton reveals that 58 per cent of firms around the world feel optimistic as they head into 2018, which is the highest level in the survey's 25-year history.

Confident

Possibly fuelled by this upbeat mood, 36 per cent of firms say they feel confident enough to increase the prices of their products and services over the next 12 months – the highest rate in nearly three years – and 50 per cent expect to record higher profits in 2018 than they did last year.

The global picture contrasts sharply with the state of sentiment in the UK, where Grant Thornton found that optimism among companies was at just 12 per cent in the final three months of 2017. That's a three percentage point increase from the previous quarter, but it still marks a 14 percentage point drop from the same period in 2016 and a staggering 61 percentage point decline from the equivalent period in 2015.

"UK businesses have effectively been kept in a holding pattern since the vote to leave the European Union

in June 2016, with very few details over Brexit negotiations causing significant uncertainty since," said Robert Hannah, Head of Operations for Grant Thornton in the UK.

He also added, however, that "the past few weeks have given businesses a degree of clarity over the process", which could translate into a pick-up in optimism over the coming months.

Agreed

"The 'breakthrough' deal agreed in Brussels, along with earlier details on the government's industrial strategy and corporate governance reforms, have all given businesses a lot to consider over the holiday period," he said.

Also, somewhat encouragingly, the study found that UK firms are showing a growing appetite for increasing their exports, with 24 per cent expecting to do so in 2018, compared to just 15 per cent this time last year.

Hannah said that to help further address and allay UK businesses' concerns, the government should now focus on agreeing a Brexit transition period. That would provide certainty in the short term and remove the possibility of a "cliff-edge" Brexit in March 2019, he explained.

He said that if no deal is reached by the end of the first quarter of 2018 "we could expect to see more firms implementing their 'no deal' contingency plans".

Independent

World News

Trump looks to US midterm elections in year - end tweets

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump tweeted right to the end of the year on Sunday, boasting of his accomplishments in his turbulent first year in office and throwing down the gauntlet for the US midterm elections.

He highlighted his tax cut and a surging stock market in a series of New Year's Eve tweets that seemed to set the table for next year's fight for control of the US Congress.

"Why would smart voters want to put Democrats in Congress in 2018 Election when their policies will totally kill the great wealth created during the months since the election," he said.

"People are much better off now not to mention ISIS, VA, Judges, Strong Border, 2nd A, Tax Cuts & more?"

Ring in the New Year

"2nd A" appears to refer to the constitutional right, under the Second Amendment, to keep and bear arms, though it was unclear what action, if any, Trump has taken in that regard.

Trump is ringing in the New Year at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida before returning to Washington.

He goes into 2018 with the lowest approval ratings of any modern first-year US president, after a year in which he shattered political expectations, strained long-standing alliances and courted controversy on race and immigration.

In a tweet late on Thursday, Trump addressed criticism of his often incendiary use of social media with an attack on a favourite target, the press.

"I use Social Media not because I like to, but because it is the only way to fight a VERY dishonest and unfair 'press,' now often referred to as Fake News Media. *AFP*

Israel ruling party votes for push to annex West Bank

JERUSALEM - The central committee of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party on Sunday voted for a resolution urging Likud parliamentarians to push to annex the occupied West Bank.

The non-binding vote by the party's decision-making committee called on its MPs "to spread Israeli sovereignty over Judea and Samaria (the West Bank)".

Netanyahu, who is a member of the central committee, was not present for the vote.

The prime minister says he still supports a two-state solution with the Palestinians, although he has also pushed for Jewish settlement expansion in the West Bank, which has been under Israeli occupation for 50 years.

In October, Netanyahu decided to postpone a vote on a controversial Bill that critics say would amount to the de facto annexation of Israeli settlements surrounding Jerusalem.

The Bill had been expected to be voted on by a ministerial committee in a move that would fast-track its progress through Parliament. Israel occupied the West Bank, including east Jerusalem, in the Six-Day War of 1967. It later annexed east Jerusalem in a move never recognised by the international community.

It sees the entire city as its indivisible capital, while the Palestinians want the eastern sector as the capital of their future state. *AFP*

+++ NORTH KOREA CRISIS +++



LONDON - NORTH Korea and the US are heading for a nuclear showdown in 2018 as the two sides sit on the brink of "hot conflict", it has been warned.

Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un are on a path of "spiralling escalation" after a year of intense rhetoric and military muscle flexing.

North Korea has tested dozens of a missiles and their most powerful nuclear bomb ever, while the US held unprecedented war games flexing its military muscles.

And both sides have threatened to annihilate the other, with the US president warning of "fire and fury" and

promising to "totally destroy" the rogue state at the UN.

Nuclear expert Dr Bruce Blair warned this descent towards war is only going to continue in 2018.

He told Daily Star Online: "I think we are on a trajectory of spiraling escalation that is going to lead to a showdown."

Dr Blair, a former nuclear launch officer, added the "odds are increasing we will come to blows" as he gave a grim evaluation of the New Year.

Co-founder of nuclear disarmament group Global Zero, he said: "The two sides will be brought closer to the brink of conflict in 2018."

"There are a number of paths to the outbreak of hot conflict, both through intentional and inadvertent escalation."

North Korea has fired 23 missiles in 2017 as Kim works to perfect his missile technology to get the US in range.

The rogue state believes nuclear will protect the regime from any attempt by the West to depose Kim.

Pyongyang's ruling elite fears a situation such as those involving Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein or Libyan warlord Muammar Gaddafi where the US spearheaded efforts to remove them. *AFP*

Zim military pushed Mugabe out for 'selfish reasons', opposition claims

HARARE - Zimbabwean opposition parties have reportedly criticised the appointment of Vice President and former military chief Constantino Chiwenga as the country's new defence minister.

Chiwenga, 61, who led a military takeover that helped end Robert Mugabe's 37-year rule in November, was last Thursday sworn in as one of the country's two vice presidents.

According to NewsDay, Chiwenga, however, retained his stranglehold on the military after he was - on the same day - allocated an extra duty to administer the affairs of the ministry of defence and war veterans, a portfolio previously held by his coun-



GET SLICE OF POWER: Vice President Constantino Chiwenga.

terpart, Kembo Mohadi, who will now be in charge of the

National Peace and Reconciliation organ. The opposition, however, slammed Chiwenga's appointment, saying that it "brings full circle a sinister scheme by the military to push out former president Robert Mugabe for selfish reasons". A New Zimbabwe.com report quoted the Morgan Tsvangirai led Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party as saying that the development showed exactly that Chiwenga was the "real power" behind the recently inaugurated President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

In a statement, MDC spokesperson Obert Gutu maintained that the real power behind Mnangagwa's presidency was the military. *News24*

Liberia's elections declared free, fair

JOHANNESBURG - Liberia's election run-off has been declared free and fair.

Former soccer star George Weah was the outright winner with 65-per cent of the vote. Weah takes on the presidency after incumbent Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's 12-year rule. Liberia is one of the

poorest countries in the world. More than 80 per cent of the population lives in extreme poverty and hundreds of thousands of children are not at school.

Weah's supporters have high hopes for the president-elect to fix the country's problems.

This is the country's first demo-

cratic transition in over 70 years.

National Democratic Institute Observer, Atifete Jahjaga said: "The December 26 voting and counting processes were peaceful, well conducted and showed marked improvements as compared to the October 10 polls."

AFP

BRIEFS

Rebels storm paramilitary camp

SRINAGAR - Five Indian soldiers and two suspected militants were killed on Sunday after rebels stormed a paramilitary camp in disputed Kashmir, officials said. Separately, Indian and Pakistani soldiers traded gunfire along the highly militarised line dividing Kashmir between the two rivals, killing an Indian soldier, India's army said. In the incident at the paramilitary camp, gunmen in combat dress entered the camp near southern Lethpora village early on Sunday firing guns and grenades at the sentry, said paramilitary spokesman Rajesh Yadav. He said soldiers inside the camp were responding to the attack, which left at least three soldiers wounded. *AP*

12 die in plane crash in Costa Rica

AN JOSE - A plane crashed in Costa Rica on Sunday killing at least 12 people, most of them foreign tourists, the country's security ministry said. The reason for the crash is not yet known. It took place in the mountainous area of Punta Islita, which is popular with tourists, in the province of Guanacaste, about 230 kilometers (140 miles) west of the capital of San José. *Reuters*

5 247 Muslims die from Boko Haram

YOLA - The Adamawa State chapter of Nigeria's Muslim Council says at least 5 247 Muslims have been killed in the past four years in the northern state because of Boko Haram. A report presented on Sunday adds that more than 5 100 Muslims in the state have been injured since 2013. The report was presented to the Adamawa Governor, Alhaji Muhammadu Bindo, calling for more support for victims and reconstruction of places of worship and schools. *AP*



Death toll between truck, bus rises

NAIROBI - A police official says a collision between a truck and a bus in western Kenya has killed at least 36 people. Rift Valley Traffic Commandant Zero Arome said on Sunday the accident involved a bus heading to the capital city, Nairobi, from Busia County and a truck heading from Nakuru County to Eldoret town. Arome says the bus's brakes are suspected to have failed. The National Transport and Safety Authority has been criticised for failing to reduce road accidents, which account for around 3 000 Kenyan deaths every year. While authorities have blamed careless road users, unroadworthy vehicles and speeding for the accidents, other observers say poor road construction and maintenance are to blame. *AP*

'Iran tested by its own citizens'

BRUSSELS - Nikki Haley, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, said on Sunday Iran's government is "being tested by its own citizens" after three days of protests against the clerical regime. "We pray that freedom and human rights will carry the day," she said in a statement. Haley's comments echoed those of US President Donald Trump, who earlier on Sunday said the United States was watching closely for human rights violations. "Big protests in Iran. The people are finally getting wise as to how their money and wealth is being stolen and squandered on terrorism. *AFP*

Focus on SA scene

PRESIDENT ZUMA'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

JOHANNESBURG - President Jacob Zuma has called for renewed efforts to boost inclusive economic growth and improve the lives of poor and working-class South Africans.

In a statement released on Sunday, he touched on the country's economic woes in 2017 and said improving the quality of life of the South African people, especially the poor and the working class, remained a key priority of the government. "Significant strides" were made in 2017 in fighting poverty, inequality and unemployment, Zuma said, without addressing rising unemployment further.

"Despite serious challenges on the economic front, together we made substantial progress in providing basic services such as electricity, housing, roads, water and sanitation, healthcare, social grants, as well as accessible education.

He touched on free tertiary higher education for low- and middle-income families, but again failed to discuss how it would be funded.

Full statement:

Fellow South Africans

We have come to an end of a very eventful and productive year, which we had dedicated to our leader, the late Oliver Reginald Tambo.

The improvement of the quality of life of our people, especially the poor and the working class, remains a key priority of government, as we work to achieve the type of society that OR Tambo fought for. In pursuit of this mission, significant strides were made in 2017, in fighting poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Despite serious challenges on the economic front, together we made substantial progress in providing basic services such as electricity, housing, roads, water and sanitation, healthcare, social

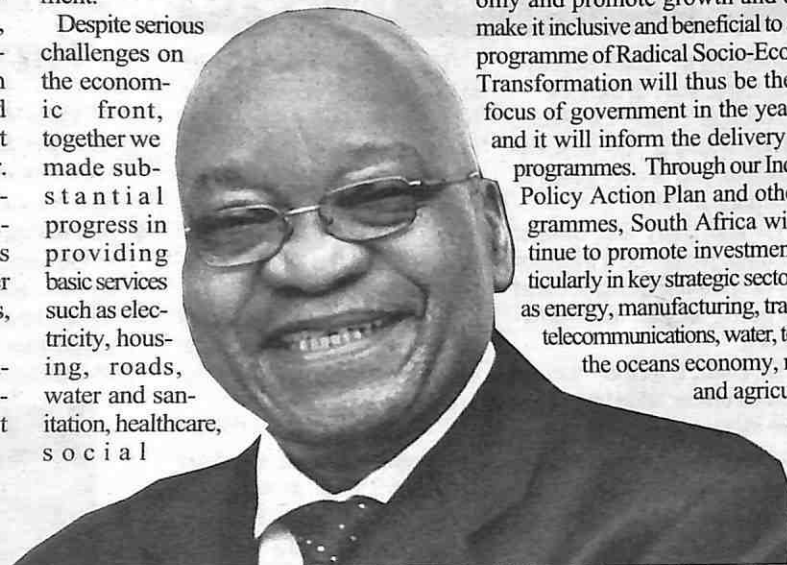
grants as well as accessible education.

On the economic front, following a turbulent 2017, we are pleased that we emerged from the technical recession.

The country's GDP began to show welcome improvements.

In the New Year, we will need to put extra efforts together, to reignite the economy and promote growth and also to make it inclusive and beneficial to all. The programme of Radical Socio-Economic Transformation will thus be the main focus of government in the year 2018 and it will inform the delivery of our programmes. Through our Industrial Policy Action Plan and other programmes, South Africa will continue to promote investments particularly in key strategic sectors such as energy, manufacturing, transport, telecommunications, water, tourism, the oceans economy, mining and agriculture.

eNCA



ISSUED STATEMENT: SA President Jacob Zuma.

Zuma must resign as SA president for ANC unity to happen in 2018 - stalwarts

JOHANNESBURG - The stalwarts and veterans of the ANC have said in their "New Year's resolutions" that for the party to achieve unity, President Jacob Zuma had to resign as leader of the country.

The stalwarts shared their reflections for the party on the eve of the last day of 2017.

They congratulated Cyril Ramaphosa on his election as President of the ANC, saying they hoped his leadership would be a breath of fresh air. They said he would not have an easy road, given the challenges the ANC faced. The group said that the unity which was talked about in 2017 needed to become a reality in 2018.

"It cannot be that difficult to see what our country sees is wrong with our movement," they said.

'Unacceptable behaviour'

The stalwarts said the ANC leadership needed to know the days of unacceptable behaviour were over and the president of the country needed to give the new leadership of the ANC the opportunity to prepare for the 2019 elections. "A starting point and a clear message to the country, would be for our country's president to voluntarily step down in the interests of country and the African National Congress. If the president really loves the ANC and wants it to remain in power by 2019 he would assist it by

handing over the leadership of the country to the newly elected president of the ANC to better prepare for the 2019 elections," they said.

The stalwarts added that there needed to be a departure from the party's unacceptable tolerance of corruption.

"In 2018 no one should ever again believe that they can avoid their day in court because of their position in society. Real action against corruption has to happen, with the urgent appointment of a new head of the National Prosecuting Authority and the politicisation of our law enforcement agencies."

The stalwarts also said they wanted to encourage new members to join their ranks, particularly the youth and women. "The recent elective conference was not only a sad articulation on divisions, slates, factions and deals, but an indictment of the present state of both these leagues [youth and women]; the failure to elect women and youth into our new leadership and an expression of the continued patriarchy within our movement and wider society."

The stalwarts said they also wanted to see legitimate ex-members of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) unified under one organisation, as they never again wanted to see youngsters in uniform on the street "playing at being soldiers". *News24*

Fourteen injured in chemical spill at Cape Town shop

CAPE TOWN - Fourteen people were injured during a "chemical spill" at a shop off the Brighton Road in Kraaifontein in Cape Town on Sunday afternoon, Western Cape paramedics said.

"ER24 paramedics arrived on the scene to find the fire services and metro already treating the patients. Several people were found outside the shop while several more were found inside," ER24 spokesman Russel Meiring said.

Paramedics assessed the patients and found that 14 were experiencing breathing difficulties. Fortunately, no serious injuries were found on the scene.

Happy new year from the Mandela family

JOHANNESBURG - The Royal House of Mandela has wished South Africans a happy new year as it welcomes the Nelson Mandela centennial celebrations in 2018.

In a brief statement reflecting on the year that was, Chief Mandela Mandela spared no blushes for certain individuals and organisations.

"It sometimes felt that certain parliamentarians were frivolously trying to set a Guinness Book of Records for the most votes of no confidence in a year in 2017," Mandela said

of opposition parties, and in particular the Democratic Alliance (DA) proposing a number of motions against President Zuma.

"2017 was a big year for publishers and power peddlars who collectively revealed... raw ambitions of those who would stop at nothing for self-aggrandisement," reads the statement. The Chief also touched upon scholars who were writing matric exams this year as well, as on issues of the international community. *eNCA*

Durban's drunk driving fiasco

DURBAN - Durban's fight against drunk driving could be dealt a major blow after it emerged this week that metro police could have outsourced a crucial function to an unregistered, allegedly unqualified nurse.

The unit could now find itself facing civil suits from hundreds of motorists who were arrested and fined for drunken driving after the Chatsworth Magistrate's Court threw out a case when it learnt that a part-time nurse, Irfaan Bux, hired by the city police for roadblocks, was not registered with the South African Nursing Council.

Now, the National Prosecuting Authority has launched an investigation to determine the scale of the problem, while the metro police have removed the man from his role of drawing blood from drivers at roadblocks and claim that he submitted fraudulent documents to get the job.

It all came to a head when Durban motorist Poobendren Pillay, 44, was arrested at a roadblock on Higginson Highway, Chatsworth, in April this year.

Driving under the influence of alcohol charges were dropped when he challenged Bux's credentials in the matter that was later struck off the court roll. *eNCA*

Ramaphosa not courageous, betrayed constitution - Khoza

DURBAN - Cyril Ramaphosa, the new ANC leader, does not have the courage to deal head-on with national executive committee members he was recently elected alongside, claims former ANC MP Makhosi Khoza.

Khoza said although she had no business with the outcome of the ANC's 54th national elective conference, she still had an interest in how it elected its leaders as it had a bearing on her as a citizen.

She said there had been a general view if Ramaphosa ascended to power he would be able to change South Africa's "tragic economic path".

Ramaphosa did have some good traits, as one of the architects of the constitution, but he had betrayed the constitution, she said.

"He was not courageous when he had an opportunity as the deputy

president of the country, a position higher than any Nkosazana (Dlamini Zuma) ever held. "When he (President Jacob Zuma) took the decision to recall the entire Treasury, he comes out and tells us that he dissociates himself with this decision, but the following day he changes his position and no longer disagrees."

"The challenge with Cyril is that I don't think having Ace Magashule and DD Mabuza in the top six is going to enable him to deal with the situation of the rot and corruption," Khoza said. Despite her own challenges with Dlamini Zuma, Khoza said the former AU Commission chairperson had the guts and abilities to tackle any challenge no matter how big.

She said Dlamini Zuma had compromised herself by not running in her own name but as part of a dynasty.

Sunday Tribune



NOT COURAGEOUS: Former ANC MP Makhosi Khoza.



FIASCO: Part-time nurse, Irfaan Bux.

SWAZI MOBILE/UMLILO GOSPEL CROSSOVER



IN NUMBERS: Mduduzi Simelane aka Gawuzela in song during the Swazi Mobile/Umlilo Gospel Crossover at Mavuso Centre Arena on Sunday night. The show attracted over 20 000 gospel music lovers who stayed up all night enjoying the music. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



PERFORMING: Malibongwe Gcwabe also performed on the night.



ZULU WAY: Rebecca Malope showing her fans how it is done the Zulu way.



1. DOING IT: Mayibongwe Mthimkhulu during her performance which thrilled the audience.



2. BEHIND THE MIC: Bishop Gcina Masuku leading his group in song.



3. HAPPY: Gospel fanatics singing along to one of the favourite songs rendered by Gawuzela.



ENERGETIC DANCE: Sphumelele Mbambo in her usual energetic dance moves as she performed on the night.



(L) WE ARE IN: Elated gospel music lovers celebrating the crossover.



CONTROLLING THE CROWD: Police and security officers had a tough time controlling the crowd which wanted to get closer to the stage.



THIS HOW WE DO IT: Sphumelele Mbambo joined by Doctor Myeni as she went closer to her audience after her rendition.



PRESENT: Nay Maps joined by the Miss Cultural Heritage queens on stage.



BACK-UP: 'Gawuzela' joined by his back-up crew during his lively set.



YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME: 'Gawuzela' introducing Tshwane Gospel Choir founder Bheki Langa.



NEWS
REVIEWS
STAR SIGNS
CELEBRITY WATCH
CARTOONS



SPINNING INTO THE NEW YEAR: Mduzi Simelane aka Gawuzela captured during his performance before the packed Mavuso arena during the cross-over on Sunday night. Over 20 000 people came through for the cross-over. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



IN PRAYER: 'Gawuzela' leading the nation in prayer after crossing-over.

GAWUZELA PACKS OVER 20 000 AGAIN

Stories by Nomfundo Sifundza

GAWUZELA once again packed a crowd exceeding highs of 20 000.

This was at the Swazi Mobile Umlilo Crossover that took place at the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre on Sunday, New Years Eve.

The biggest crossover event saw the legendary Dr Rebecca Malope presenting songs to the country from her 36th album.

This was after the man of the night Mduzi 'Gawuzela' Simelane Nezinceku Zamagawgaw had ushered the lot into the New Year 2018 with his old time song 'Thuma Mina.'

The usual beautiful sight was created when the clock hit midnight, lights were switched off in the stadium, leaving shimmering lights from candles held by many in the audience and there went the sound, stars and smoke from fireworks marking the beginning of a New Year.

Going down on his knees a humbled Mduzi 'Gawuzela' Simelane thanked the Swazi people for their unwavering support.



EXHILARATING: Tshwane Gospel Choir rendering their performance of the night.

Other local acts that took to the stage included Linda 'Live Wire' Dlamini, Mayibongwe Mthimkhulu who clearly has a big following as witnessed from the screams and singing along to all her songs by the audience.

Frans Dlamini, Tshwane Gospel Choir, Nonhle Mthethwa also left the audience yearning for more. However, most acts were given a

maximum of no more than 20 minutes to do their best in order to satisfy the more than 20 artists on the line-up.

Energy

Former Joyous Celebration vocalist Siphumelele Mbambo once again did her usual, her constant high energy levels were not to be ignored. She jumped all the way from the stage closer to the crowd not once, not



IN SONG: Linda Dlamini at his best during his captivating performance.

twice but many times.

Worth noting was that the singer was backed by three Swazi singers consisting of Nomsa M, who is a recording artist herself.

Although Nomsa M could not bolt into her usual dance frenzy due to her heavy pregnancy, her willing heart and artistic heart proved willing.

The well attended show also saw

a number of food vendors having a good business run as revelers visited their stalls.

Pop corn, *shisanyama*, tea stands and the like were the most filled with revellers satisfying their hunger.

A stand that did not get the desired profit was that of the maize cobs as at around 6am the maize was still on display waiting for customers that only walked by.



ELECTRIFYING: Mayibongwe Mthimkhulu joined by Gcina Masuku, during her electrifying performance.

...LaZwide no show on stage

HER remarkable voice blasted the speakers but she was nowhere in sight.

Wife to Mduzi 'Gawuzela' Simelane affectionately known as LaZwide skipped the group's energetic performance as she sang from the comfort of a vehicle parked closer to the stage.

Recognise

However fans did not recognise the first lady of the group was missing on stage due to high levels of excitement.

It was not until 'Gawuzela' questioned if they would love to know why his wife was

not on stage that the excited lot aroused deafening screams.

"LaZwide is here with us but she is not physically fit to join us on stage," he informed.

Applause

The statement was confirmed by the lead vocalist as she then greeted the audience saying "good evening Swaziland," much to ululation and applause from the friendly audience.

When information was sought on the condition of the singer, 'Gawuzela' said his wife was fine just not so



AGAINST ALL ODDS: LaZwide backing her husband from inside the car as she could not make it to the stage as she had just came back from the labour ward.

fit to dance hence she had to sing from the car.

Gawuzela was coy to reveal any further details about his

wife's condition but applauded her strength for carrying the group through in their hour long performance.

The stage was very dangerous - Dr Rebecca Malope

LEGENDARY Dr Rebecca Malope was dissatisfied with the stage condition.

The singer described the stage as 'dangerous' and a health hazard. "Let us talk about the performance, the stage was very dangerous. May you please report this, It was not safe for any artist that was performing there," she stated.

Verily so, from a side view the stage had sunk in at the centre and during Dr Rebecca's performance with her three backup singers and

three terrific Zulu dancers the stage would shake now and again.

Malope complained that the stage condition was limiting because she could not risk her life in fear of breaking bones or anything worse that might happen on such a stage.

Humble

"Last year the stage was perfect and this is just a humble request to the promoters that next year, the stage must be set up like the previous year, this here is just not working," she elaborated.

...Nay Maps shines bright

HE is known by the Swazi audience only as an actor but Nay Maps proved his multi-talents when he belted in song.

The actor is widely known for his wayward character on SABC's Uzalo 'Mxolisi'.

He thrilled when he projected his voice well singing 'uyisixalo nesiphetho.'

The audience sang along at the

same time marveling at his many talents.

Clad

The actor, clad in an all white outfit taken from his collection of the 'Nay Maps' clothing merchandise brand, vowed to return to the country.

"I am definitely coming back here and I want you all to know I love you," he said.



AIRFORCE: Rebecca Malope joined by her dance crew as she rendered her electrifying performance.



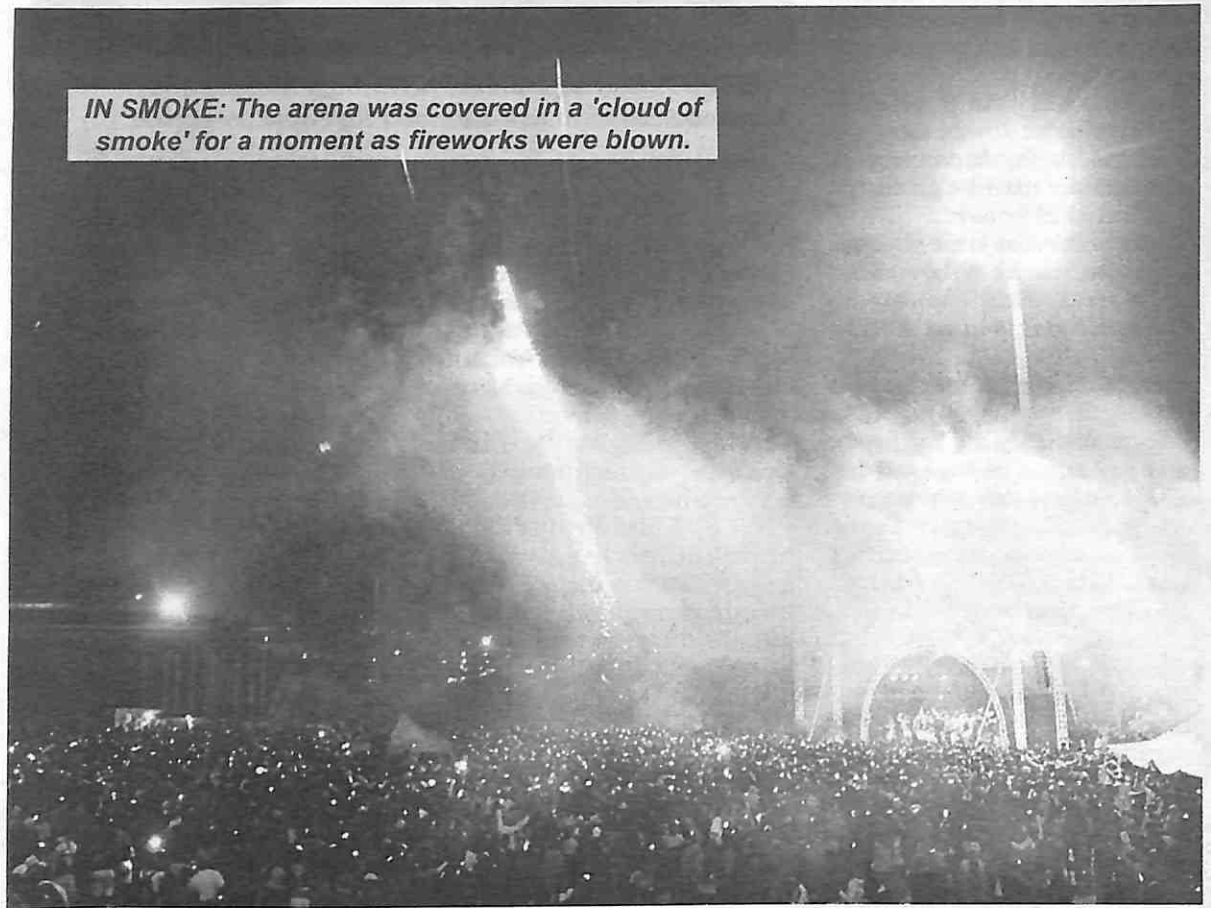
SHINES: Mduduzi Simelane and Macford Sibandze introducing Nay Maps, Mxolisi Xulu's of Uzalo whose real is Nkosinathi Maphalala. He was the guest MC of the night.



CROSSOVER EXCITEMENT



HAPPY: It was an exciting moment for the people present when they finally made it into the New Year.



IN SMOKE: The arena was covered in a 'cloud of smoke' for a moment as fireworks were blown.



WITNESSED: The multitudes who came through to fellowship together on the night.

Police scuffle with Channel S journalist

By Sicelo Maziya

Channel S TV journalist Linda Dlamini was involved in a scuffle with a police officer.

Dlamini emerged from the crowd with his camera after taking a few cutaways but an uncompromising officer pushed him back to the crowd barricaded by other officers and private security services.

The scuffle ensued when Dlamini pushed and shoved with the police officer telling the officer he was also doing his job by recording the event.

Evicting

Another junior officer joined to help his fellow officer in evicting the journalists who was seen as an intruder.

The situation was calmed by the intervention of a senior officer who was nearby when the confrontation with the jour-

nalist ensued.

The journalist was later freed to continue recording the event and joined other fellow journalist. He later explained to fellow journalists that the police officer did not want to listen even when he tried to explain that he was a journalist from Channel S.

The event continued peacefully as artists rendered their well choreographed performances in style.



MAGWINYAGWINYA: Frans Dlamini performing at ACASWA Siyewela crossover at Worship Centre. (Pics: Lusito Tsela)

ACASWA CROSSOVER GETS THEM CHANTING 'AYEYE'

By Lusito Tsela

'AYEYE' was the chant on every reveller at Worship Centre during the ACASWA crossover event dubbed 'Siyewela.'

The chant went on for artists, Worship Centre and the Association of Christian Artists in Swaziland (ACASWA)

Headliner Donny Ngonyama was not in the midst, however gospel giants in the likes of Frans Dlamini, Phathwakahle, and ACASWA President Mzwakhe Myeni rolled back the years and got everyone dancing the entire time they were on stage.

It is worth noting that gospel songbird Phathwakahle stole the show with her energetic singing and dance moves, as the audience could not get enough of her and asked for more.

Phathwakahle took to the stage and her presence was felt as she rendered her hit tracks like 'Sekonakele', 'Emathambo', and 'Awthath'usbheke' to mention a few.

France Dlamini rolled back the years as he sang 'Magwinyagwinya' and the audience sang along and had fun the entire time he was on stage and they didn't want him to leave the stage.

The gospel giant also rendered tracks like 'When an enemy comes in like a flood', 'Kukhon' obiz' igama lami', 'Yala nami Nkosi' and 'Udeka itafila' to mention a few.

The crossover was directed by gospel singer Thabile Myeni who in turn would show her dance moves whilst singing each artist's song before she called the artist on stage. Myeni proved she still had an angelic voice which can wake the heavens and that singing is in her blood streams.

Myeni handled the entire service per-



PRESENT: Nomsa Dlamini, Nokuthula Kunene and Nomcebo Dlamini also attended Siyewela crossover.

fectly and whenever she was on stage everyone would be singing and dancing, and at times ushered into the spiritual world through her singing.

Other artists who made their mark on stage were Khanyisile Myeni, Phetsile Masilela, Nomsa Dlamini, Pastor C.M Simelane, Zodwa Sambo, Voice of an eagle, Banele Dlamini, Nonhle Mthethwa and P.D Manana to mention a few.

At 11:50 pm, Apostle Justice Dlamini took to the stage and ushered everyone into a blessed crossover to 2018.

Mass Prayer

Everyone went outside at exactly midnight for a mass prayer. The Apostle helped everyone in prophesying for a better 2018 as everyone prayed after him and were in a jolly mood as that was followed by large and beautiful fireworks. The fully packed service saw notable faces in the likes of Veteran videoman Phesheya Dube and Police Information Communications Officer Khulani Mamba dancing up a storm.

Congregants from across the border also came in their numbers to be ush-

ered into a great crossover.

Apostle Justice Dlamini passed his gratitude to ACASWA and the members of the public who have made the crossover a possible success.

The Apostle in his quest to usher everyone to a perfect crossover, related a story where he saw a group of young people, two boys and two girls going down the forest and he stopped his car, took them to church and payed for their entrance fee so they can be ushered into a perfect cross over.

ACASWA Public Relations Officer Ronnie Dlamini said he was very happy with the turn up. "I am very happy with the turn up. Considering that the new committee has been in office for less than three months but have managed to come up with an almost perfect masterpiece, it means great things are coming our way," he said. Dlamini further passed his gratitude to everyone who attended for they have managed to make the crossover a success. Dlamini added that he wishes everyone a better and prosperous 2018.



KUKHON' OKUZOKWENZEKA: Phathwakahle Mabuza performing during the crossover.



VOSHO: Make Simelane and the triplets entertained the audience with their dance moves.



ITS 2018: The congregants making their vows and prophesies for 2018.



GENTLEMEN: Come to Jesus performing during Siyewela crossover.



LETS DANCE: A section of the congregants having some fun as they dance in appreciation.



WE ARE HERE: ACASWA National Coordinator Thabile Myeni directing the proceedings.



SET: Voice of an Eagle performing during the crossover.

'ZIYAMPOROMA' CROSSOVER SONG AT BIG FIVE PARTY

● Over 3000 fun lovers attend

● All three dance floors packed

● Gqom music dominates after 12

Stories by Ayanda Dlamini

A full house is an understatement to describe how packed Esibayeni Lodge was during the Swazi Mobile 24 Hour party on New Year's Eve on Sunday.

The cold weather tried to sabotage the show but failed as it eventually cleared up and fun lovers went cruising into 2018.

History was made yet again, Swazi music won as Nomalungelo Dladla's 'Ziyamporoma' was the crossover song.

Right after Diba Diba's rendition, Nomalungelo mounted to the gqom stage from the hip hop dance floor as she gave a beautiful rendition of 'Ziyamporoma' for the second time. She was a marvel on stage as she gave a beautiful Ingadla dance.

The 24 hour party saw over 3 000 fun fanatics dancing the night away to different kind of genres on three different dance floors; the gqom dance floor, old school dance floor which was only for VIP holders an access and the hip hop/ deep house dance floor.

DJs and artists from the Big Five joint venture entity which comprises of SwaziBoy Entertainment stable, MegaSound Events, Claiming Grounds, Big Fun Entertainment



FULL HOUSE: Music fanatics and fun lovers packed at the Swazi Mobile 24 Hour Party on New year's Eve, at Esibayeni lodge. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)

and Esibayeni Déjà Vu gave all their best.

Speaking to SwaziBoy Entertainment Director Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane, he said he was impressed with the turn out and how people supported the strictly local acts show this year, "this is a dream a come true for us, we've always wished to fill up this place to a maximum with only local acts and today finally it happened.

The artists bought their A- game. We would to thank the nation for

supporting us, our partners; Swazi Mobile, GIGI PSI and the media at large for making this event successful," said the overwhelmed director during an interview with this publication.

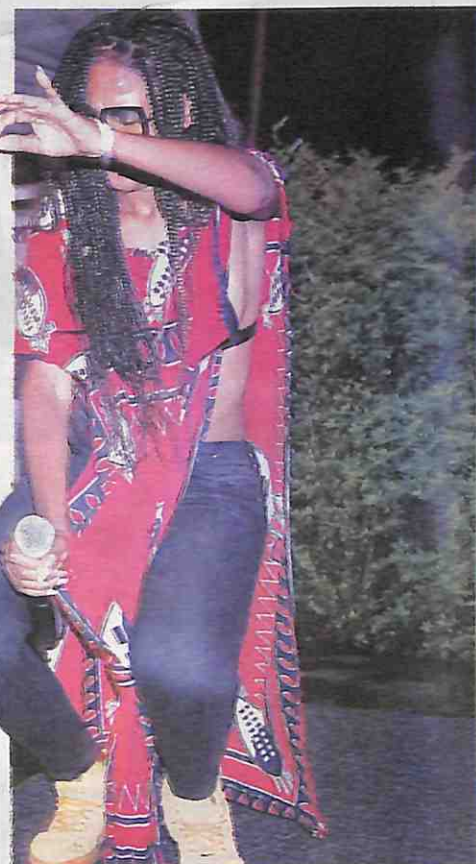
Gqom

All three dance floors were packed, from the gqom to the hip hop/ deep house dance floor. The gqom stage saw Lyrical Busta warming up the stage with a lively performance with Ncwiki. Symphony warmed up the hip hop/ deep house stage

while DJ Paps serenaded the VIP holders with some old school tunes at the DeJa vu stage.

Another highlight on stage was King Terry's performance with Mandisa and Mozaik as they did a beautiful cover on 'Mis Behave' and Mandisa did the most on stage with her dance moves in red swimming costume as she looked sexy.

KrTC was also a thriller stage as he rendered 'Amen', 'Gwayimane' amongst the other songs he performed.



ZIYAMPOROMA: Nomalungelo performing 'Ziyamporoma' which was a crossover song at the 24 hour party.

Gqom music dominates after 12 till dawn

THE new 'it' genre gqom music was the order of the night as it dominated the late hours.

All spinners made sure they render popular songs such as 'Omunye Phez' omunye' by Destruction Boyz, 'Midnight Starring' by Busiswa featuring DJ Tira and Maphorisa, 'Malume' by DJ Tira, 'Yinde' by Heavy K with Bucie and Nokwazi to name a few. The MegaSound director sealed the show when he took over the turntables as he rendered strictly gqom music. His rendition received a resounding response from the crowd as they screamed for each and every song he played.



TRIO: King Terry performing 'Mis Behave' with Mandisa and Mozaik on the gqom stage.



GENTS: Swaziland Beverages Mxolisi Dlamini, Diba Diba, KrTC and Lyrical Busta posing for the lenses at the show.



PLAY IT SAFE: MC Ndosh giving away GIGI PSI hampers to the crowd.



ON THE DECKS: DJ Papz serenading the VIP ticket holders with some old school tunes on the old school dance floor, DeJaVu.



LOVERS: Happy couple gestures during the 2018 countdown.

KWESTA LEAVES THEM YEARNING FOR MORE

By Lindokuhle Lukhele

THE SPIRIT of the KaGogo Crossover was on Kwesta as fun lovers could not get enough of him.

The South African award winning rapper sent fans into a frenzy when he performed his latest hit single 'Spirit' featuring American

star Wale.

Patrons started shouting for Kwesta's performance as soon as the clock struck midnight only for the South African rapper to take to the stage after 3 am.

Immediately after taking to the stage with his 'Nomayini' track, he followed through with 'Do Like I do' and paid homage to the late Flabba whom he regarded as one of the best to come out South Africa. Kwesta performed at least nine tracks with his producer Makwa 6eat and T.L.T.

performing 'inamba.'

Amanda and her younger sister Kim Du Pont kept patrons entertained with 'Mthimbawawa' rotating between the sisters as hosts.

Kim started off in a sweet pink outfit, from there on her elder sister Amanda took over and that got patrons excited.

She made her entrance with 'Sister Bettina' and let patrons know that she was in Swaziland just for them and if they wanted selfies she was available.

Omunye Crossover Song

SOUTH Africa's gqom duo **Distraction Boys'** Omunye track was KaGogo's crossover song. Patrons crossed over with Buffalo Souljah's DJ Backspin who played the track.

Surprisingly there were no fireworks, not just at the event but even the surrounding places.

Mthimbawawa said that they as a team did not want to scare off animals. "We are looking out for our nature, however, we will pop these bottles as substitute," he said as they opened a bottle of champagne.

The show which saw local artists and deejays dishing major tracks also fell short when locals felt disrespected by South Africa's rap group T.L.T. who did not want to leave the stage when their time was up.

DJBisto who was in charge of the stage made it known that he felt disrespected when the duo started showering him with insults when he cut their music off because of time.

Besides that incident, all advertised performers performed as promised with Kwesta and Buffalo Souljah being the highlight of the event.

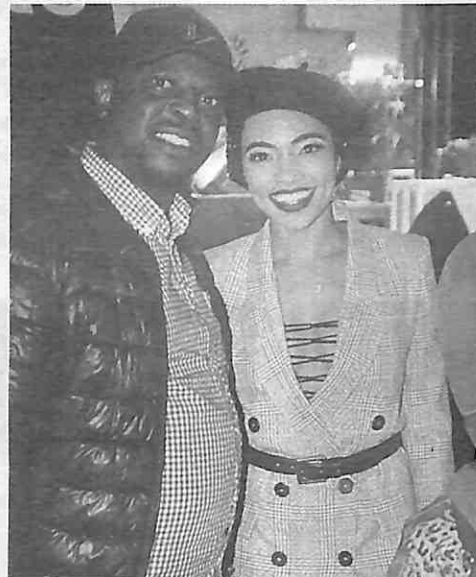
T.L.T.'s Nice Life Problems was one song that patrons asked for twice.



IN NUMBERS: Some of the patrons who were at the KaGogo Crossover. (Pics; Lindo Lukhele)



SONG BIRD: Thabsie performing her hit single African Queen.

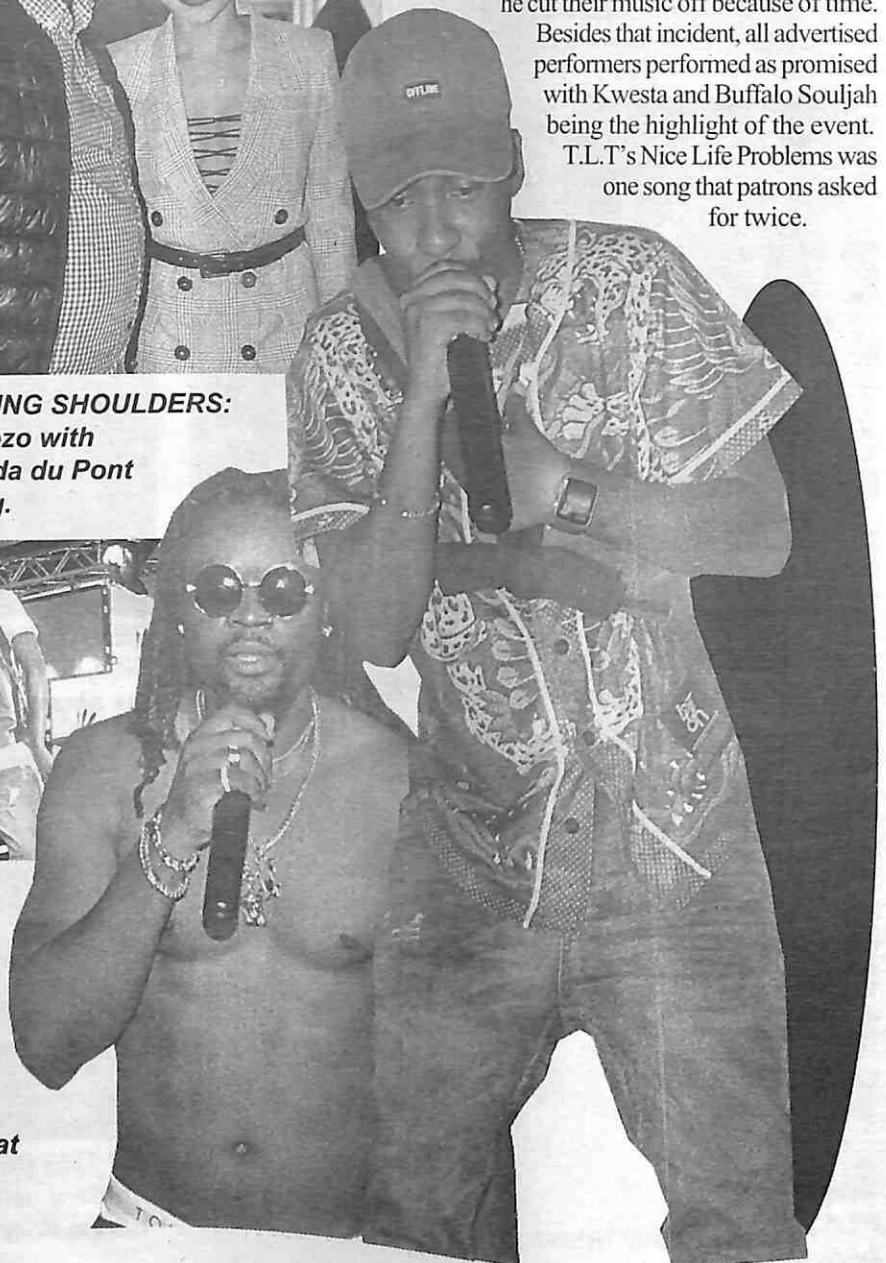


RUBBING SHOULDERS: Mthizozo with Amanda du Pont posing.



IN SONG: TLT performing their hit single Nice Life Problems which was performed after fans requested.

RESPECT: Kwesta performing 'Do like I do' in memory of the late, Flabba. (C) Buffalo Souljah took off his shirts while performing which seemed to have excited most of the ladies. (L) Award winning producer Makwa 6eat performing for the crowd. He is the producer behind Kwesta's latest single Spirit.





TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Aries march 21 - April 19

You may have your ups and downs today, Aries. You could get at least one phone call of the "good news, bad news" variety, and this could have your moods swinging back and forth like a pendulum. Try to stay centered. Take the good news as encouragement, and as for the bad news, try to consider it objectively and figure out ways to turn it to your advantage.



Taurus April 20 - May 20

Normally you tend to be a very spiritually oriented person, Taurus, but today you might find metaphysical concepts of all kinds rather baffling. Whether these are ideas you've embraced for a long time or new ones you've just discovered, you may find nagging little doubts creeping in, temporarily causing your faith to waver. This is a healthy development, however.



Gemini May 21 - June 21

Today you might learn something about a friend that could be rather disconcerting, Gemini. There could be a dark side to this person that you weren't previously aware of, and this could cause you to want to withdraw for a while and reevaluate your involvement with this individual. When considering it, remember that we all have our dark sides.



Cancer June 22 - July 22

Outside responsibilities might temporarily interfere with your love life, Cancer. You may feel a strong desire to get together with a love partner early in the evening, but circumstances may necessitate your working odd hours. This can be frustrating, as you've been looking forward to this for a long time, but you could meet your friend later in the evening. Don't be afraid to ask. Most people understand when situations like this crop up.



Leo July 23 - August 22

Today you're likely to find your routine too boring for words, Leo, and may have a sudden powerful urge to cut loose and play some serious hooky. Still, you may feel the pull of obligation. This conflicted feeling should pass. If it persists beyond today, however, you might need to reevaluate certain areas of your life. There are lots of opportunities out there, and life is too short to be stuck in a situation that doesn't allow you to grow.



Virgo August 23 - September 22

You could be feeling especially sensual and passionate today, Virgo, and you'll want to get together with a love interest. However, other responsibilities could get in your way. This could provide you with the perfect excuse to sink into gloom, but don't fall into this trap. Get whatever business you're facing handled and out of the way. Or perhaps you can arrange to finish it tomorrow. Then set up that hot date!



Libra September 23 - October 23

You may feel a bit of disappointment today, Libra. You might tend to view whatever snags you've hit on the path to accomplishing your goals as personal failures, and if you let it, this idea could persist with you throughout the day. Try to remain objective, and don't lose sight of the big picture. You haven't even lost a battle - at worst, it's a minor conflict! Chances are that if you continue working hard you'll still win the war!



Scorpio October 24 - November 21

A rather disheartening phone call could come to you today, Scorpio. This might bring news of a setback in one of your projects that is only temporary but nonetheless frustrating. You'll probably have to deal with some trivial little details you'd rather not bother with, and this could take up too much valuable time. Hang in there - you're still doing well! Don't let your frustrations get the best of you.



Sagittarius November 22 - December 21

After the rush of energy over the past few days, Sagittarius, today you may feel a powerful letdown. Not every day can be filled with adventure and excitement. For now, you just need to take care of the routine matters that are a byproduct of life on Earth. However, keep in mind that there are many weekends coming up, and with the right kind of planning you can get excitement back into your life.



Capricorn

A goal that you've been trying to reach may be temporarily stalled, Capricorn, and you could be tempted to slip into despair, wondering if it will ever really happen. Remember that the keyword for today is "temporary." Whatever obstacles are in your way will eventually be overcome and your goal should be to continue to advance in the direction you want.



Aquarius January 20 - February 18

Today you might realize that you need to make a certain purchase, Aquarius. Perhaps your home or car requires some important repairs, or maybe some new equipment is necessary for your work. This could prove rather disheartening, as it might involve spending money that you'd rather use for something more exciting. Think of the trouble this expenditure should save you, however, and you'll see the value of it all.



Pisces February 19 - March 20

The weight of too many responsibilities, perhaps involving family, a job, or group affiliation, could be very much on your mind today, Pisces. You may feel like Atlas, carrying the world on your shoulders! You're tired. Perhaps you need to reevaluate your commitments - your innate kindness may have caused you to make too many. Fulfill the ones you have, but think twice before making any new ones.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



GOLFERS WORD SEARCH

PUZZLE CHOICE

W Q O M Y G P B R O O K S K O E P K A J Z B C
F P D M S I G I N P X T W Q E R W Y P U A I R
T S H Q A T C S O L J T O D X W A L B S C L D
R Y I I W A C J Q M A O N I V V J Q C T H L U
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H B X Z H M S A J V O S D U S I D J H N O H T
E I H E F A I F M R N M R I B S J I K R H O I
N X K U N B M C Y W D A A O B B D R V O N R N
R O R I H Q R K K N A D A D R E A I K S S S J
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J R X J L R L H Y C V G T C Q A H A V N J W S

PUZZLE CHOICE

ADAM SCOTT, BILLY HORSCHER, BROOKS KOEPA, BUBBA WATSON, CHRIS KIRK, DUSTIN JOHNSON, HENRIK STENSON, HIDEKI MATSUYAMA, J.B. HOLMES, JASON DAY, JIM FURYK, JIMMY WALKER,

JORDAN SPIETH, JUSTIN ROSE, KEVIN NA, MARTIN KAYMER, MATT KUCHAR, PATRICK REED, PHIL MICKELSON, RICKIE FOWLER, RORY MCILROY, SERGIO GARCIA, VICTOR DUBUISSON, ZACH JOHNSON.

I SHOT THE DOGS

A young man from the city went to visit his farmer uncle. For the first few days, the uncle showed him the usual things - chickens, cows, crops, etc. After three days, however, it was obvious that the nephew was getting bored, and the uncle was running out of things to amuse him with. Finally, the uncle had an idea.



"Why don't you grab a gun, take the dogs, and go shooting?" This seemed to cheer the nephew up, and with enthusiasm, off he went, dogs in trail. After a few hours, the nephew returned. "How did you enjoy that?" asked the uncle. "It was great!" exclaimed the nephew. "Got any more dogs?"

USELESS FACTS

1. The most miles ever put on a car is 1 615 000 miles on a 1966 Volvo P-1800.
2. Renee Descartes, the 17th century philosopher and mathematician, is the person responsible for "x" being the universal variable in algebra.
3. If you counted at the rate of 100 numbers a minute and kept counting for eight hours a day, five days a week, it would take a little over four weeks to count to one million and just over 80 years to reach one billion.
4. Every day, more than 1 000 gallons of water are lost into space from the top of Earth's atmosphere. Yet there is about as much water on Earth as there was three billion years ago.
5. Les Miserables has a three-page, 823-word sentence which is divided by 93 commas, 51 semicolons, and four dashes. Rumour has it that someone suffocated from lack of oxygen in the 1940's just short of the 73rd comma while giving a dramatic reading from the work.

BRAINTEASERS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FRIDAY'S BRAINTEASERS

1. Some months have 31 days, others have 30 days. How many have 28 days?

Answer: All months have 28 days.

2. Larry's father has five sons named Ten, Twenty, Thirty, Forty... Guess what would be the name of the fifth?

Answer: Larry! He would be the fifth son.

TODAY'S BRAINTEASERS

1. There was an airplane crash, every single person on board died, but yet two people survived. How is this possible?

2. What goes up and down, but still remains in the same place?



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NEWS



NEW DRAMAS ON MZANSI MAGIC THIS JANUARY

THERE'S a new drama coming to Mzansi Magic where it takes just one night for things to fall apart.

They say life is like dominoes - it takes one fateful move for everything to fall apart. Such is the case in the new drama series, Nkululeko, premiering on Mzansi Magic this January 2018.

From new storytellers, Dumile Films, Nkululeko is a coming-of-age story set in the windswept streets of one of South Africa's most infamous township, Khayelitsha. Here we meet the lead, Nkululeko Zwai played by newcomer Aphiwe Mkefe, who is a talented mathematician preparing for a competition that could change his life and destiny forever.

When he makes an impulsive decision in a moment of blossoming love, he suddenly finds himself in deep trouble and everything he has worked so hard for falls apart - leaving his future in jeopardy.

It is at the centre of Nkululeko's unravelling that we are introduced to Sibulele Nginda (Ziyanda Nyoka) who is the daughter of Khayelitsha's well-known Brigadier. Sibulele is exceptionally smart, independent and while the two are drawn

to each other like moths to a flame, it is their meeting that ignites a series of events destined to change their world forever.

Taking on the roles of Nkululeko's side-kicks are Mandla (Tiisetso Thoka) and Buhle (Abongile Salli) who have to face their own demons while helping their friend come to terms with his life choices.

Hustler

Buhle is a colourful hustler from a poverty-stricken family. He believes money can end all his problems and is not afraid to dabble in criminal activities to acquire it, while Mandla is a "Cheese Boy" who is struggling to find where he belongs.

And what is a drama without protective parents? Nkululeko's father, Thami Zwai (Chris Gxalaba) is a caddy at a golf course whose wife left him for greener pastures. His primary focus is to give his son all the opportunities he never had, and so does the Brigadier (Sizwe Msuthu), who's determined to protect his daughter at all costs - especially from the influence of the troublemakers.

"Through the lives of the youngsters in Nkululeko, we'll delve into the dynamics of society to explore the complexities of the journey to adulthood in modern day South Africa. At the heart of this story are great lessons about life, consequences and fate," said Renelwe Sema, Director of Local Entertainment Channels at M-Net.

Joining the cast for compelling 13 episodes is Tina Jaxa, Abongile Matsai, Andile Mxakaza and Jet Novuka.

"Nkululeko is a socially relevant story that we are proud to tell. Having grown up in Khayelitsha, I am humbled by the opportunity given by Mzansi Magic to showcase local stories, providing a platform to a new breed of storytellers. Partnering up with the great Bomb Pictures has enabled us with the support to express our noteworthy stories that will be enjoyed by South Africans," said Sibulele Siko-Shosha of Dumile Films.

Tune in to Nkululeko on the 7th of January 2018 on Mzansi Magic (DStv Channel 161) at 20:00 to see the youth of Khayelitsha navigate the challenges of the maze that is life.



...Ikhaya

Mzansi Magic has become known for telling authentic stories and they continue with this commitment as they launch the brand new drama series called iKhaya.

Come Monday, 8 January 2018 at 20:00 iKhaya will explore the theme of secrets, truth versus lies and the extreme measures one would take in the name of love for his family.

iKhaya follows the story of a man whose circumstances threaten to put his world in turmoil when a secret he has maintained is on the verge of coming out. Family values are challenged in this series when iKhaya explores the lives two families unknowingly headed by one man.

Produced by Urbanbrew, iKhaya is set against the backdrop of Daveyton and the rural village of Ga-Modjadji, Limpopo where the tangled web of deceit starts to unwind. The narrative kicks-off with Eddie (Saint Seseli) caught

in two worlds, with two wives Raisibe (Molobane Maja-Mbatha) and Cebile (Nqobile Sipamla) as he lives on the edge of hope that his two worlds will never collide... As the story unfolds, viewers will learn how Eddie found himself with two wives and two lives which he successfully kept secret.

Stories

"As Mzansi Magic, we want to tell stories that are authentic and challenge our viewers while creating meaningful conversations. We believe iKhaya is a compelling and captivating story that the audiences will appreciate" says, Renelwe Sema, Director of Local Entertainment Channels at M-Net.

Also on the cast of iKhaya is Mike Mvelase, Mpho Molepo, Aubrey Makola, Laki Khoza, Thulane Shange, Sphamandla Dhludhlu alongside upcoming talent Khomotso Manyaka, Mbasa Msongelo and Amanda Manku.



VUZU AMP REBRANDS TO 1MAGIC



NEW year, new look! DStv customers are in for a treat in 2018 when a new channel makes its debut on DStv Channel 103!

Yesterday the curtains fell on Vuzu AMP to make way for 1Magic on DStv channel 103 - a new channel that will deliver the hottest local and international entertainment to DStv Premium and DStv Compact+ customers at great value.

On this rebranded channel, DStv viewers can look forward to an array of exclusive and riveting local pro-

gramming like The River, Unmarried and Kheth'oMthandayo.

Together with audience favourites and the edgiest international series such as the much-anticipated season finale of The Fixer as well as Ballers, Queen Sugar, Insecure, Survivor's Remorse, this channel promises to provide the best in urban entertainment.

Vuzu AMP fans will certainly not miss out on any of their favourite programming as 1Magic will continue to serve a mix of compelling, relevant and

entertaining shows adding to their existing, exciting viewing.

“Together with audience favourites and the edgiest international series such as the much-anticipated season finale of The Fixer

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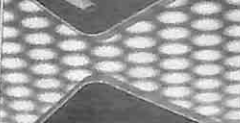
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NIKE ADVERTISES COUTINHO BARCA SHIRT

PARIS - An apparent gaffe by Nike has fired speculation that Philippe Coutinho could leave Liverpool for Barcelona in the January transfer window.

The sportswear giant, who manufacture Barcelona's kit, advertised a Barca shirt on their website with the Brazilian midfielder's name on it.

Headlined "Where the magic happens", the page, which has since been taken down, continued with the message: "Philippe Coutinho is ready to light up Camp Nou."

Coutinho is sponsored by Nike and wears their boots. He handed in a transfer

request in August after Barcelona had a bid for the Brazilian rejected, but the Reds then turned down a further two offers.

The current La Liga leaders had offered over 100 million (\$135 million), but Liverpool owners Fenway Sports Group publicly stated Coutinho was not for sale. The 25-year-old missed the start of the season with a back problem but has been in outstanding form recently, scoring seven goals in his last eight games.

AFP



Halep, Sharapova off to flying 2018 starts

SHENZHEN - World number one Simona Halep began the year in emphatic style with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Nicole Gibbs as Maria Sharapova also romped through her first-round match at the Shenzhen Open yesterday.

Romania's Halep, who will be seeking her maiden Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in two weeks' time, struck 12 winners to blitz the 110th-ranked American in one hour and nine minutes.

"We had a big crowd, which was nice to play in front of," Halep said after her first-round match in the southern Chinese city, where she won in 2015.

Halep won the first set with the help of an aggressive forehand and then opened the second set with a crunching backhand winner down the line before running away with the match.

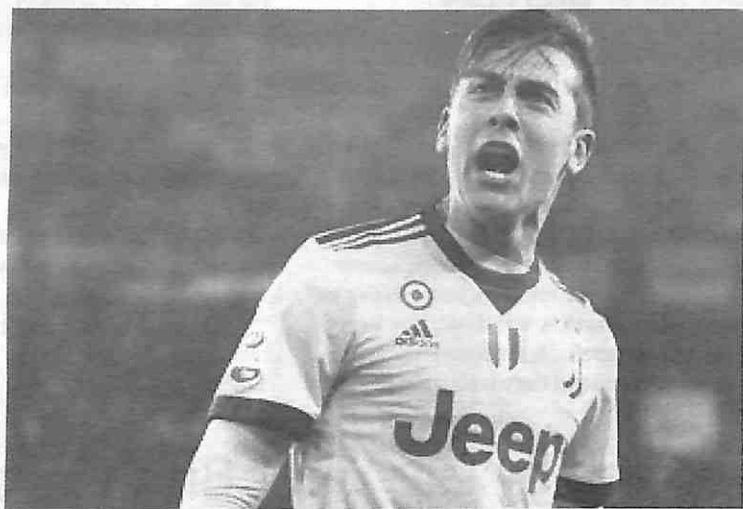
"It's always nice to play here in Shenzhen," she added. "I won a title here three years ago already. It's my first victory this year as number one in the world, so I'm just happy and enjoying the time."

Five-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova, making her Shenzhen debut, also despatched Romania's world number 56, Mihaela Buzarnescu, 6-3, 6-0 in an hour and 20 minutes.

The Russian, who is embarking on her first full season since returning from a 15-month doping ban in April, sealed her straight-sets win after striking 18 winners to 20 unforced errors. "It's quite remarkable to see a full stadium for a first round," she said. "It's my first time here, so I didn't know what to expect."

Halep will face China's Duan Yingying ne3xt, while Sharapova will play American Alison Riske in the second round.

AFP



DONT WORRY: Juventus' Paulo Dybala.

Allegri: Dybala must ignore Messi, Ronaldo comparisons

VERONA - Paulo Dybala should avoid worrying about comparisons with Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo if he wants to become the best player in the world, said Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri Saturday.

The 24-year-old Argentine - linked with a possible move to Manchester United - has not hit the heights of last season despite scoring 14 goals in 19 Serie A games including a double in Saturday's 3-1 win at Verona.

Dybala had been on the bench in the previous three games but started on Saturday and ensured the six-time defending Serie A champions won for the first time in Verona since 2001.

"It's important that Paulo found the net again," said Allegri. "After the goal, he started to play better, as he was in a delicate moment where things weren't quite going his way."

"Psychology is everything in football and confidence is key."

"You have to be focused and determined. I think the only advice for Paulo is to think just about his football and his journey, not worrying about comparisons with players like Leo Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo."

"In the next three years he will be, together with Neymar, the most important player in the world. Today there are Messi and Ronaldo and it is difficult, but his path is that he has to improve physically, technically and mentally."

Blaise Matuidi scored Juventus's earliest goal this season after six minutes, finishing off a Gonzalo Higuain rebound. The hosts pulled level just before the hour mark when former Juventus player Martin Caceres scored from 20 yards.

Dybala then hit his five-minute double, the first on 72 minutes when Sami Khedira slid a through-ball to

AFP

PSG youngster makes eye-catching La Liga

PARIS - Paris Saint-Germain have got people talking after their appearance at the La Liga Promises tournament in Tenerife, even though they were knocked out in the group stage.

The club reportedly had to provide evidence that one of their players, Bitshiabu El Chadaille, is 12 years old due to his remarkable height and size.

The defender towers over his teammates in the PSG squad picture taken from the competition.

And another picture - of an Atletico Madrid player grappling with him at a corner with the thankless task of trying to mark him - has gone viral.

El Chadaille joined PSG in April from Saint-Denis Union Sport and is highly regarded in the youth setup of the French champions.

But despite his talent and obvious physical advantages, El Chadaille was unable to help his side to victory. Atletico defeated PSG 3-2 to reach the quarter-final of the tournament, which was eventually won by Barcelona.



They defeated Valencia 1-0 in the final to win the competition for the third consecutive year - their sixth triumph in seven seasons.

Daily Mail

Dembele disrespected Celtic team-mates

GLASGOW - Moussa Dembele's head is away. The way he behaved after being substituted on Saturday perhaps proved that.

This was something that I didn't pick up on until I got home. The fact that he got substituted in an Old Firm game - and went straight down the tunnel, got a shower, put his tracksuit on and only then came back out.

Now, if Rangers had scored the winning goal against us when I was in the shower all the players would have been having a go at me after the game.

Quite rightly, they would have been asking: 'Where were you? Why weren't you supporting your team-mates? Why weren't you out there watching the game on the bench?'

Look, if Celtic were winning 4-0, you could imagine the coaches saying: "Listen, Moussa, you've done your job mate. Brilliant. Go grab a

shower and come back out."

But other players in that Celtic dressing room are right to say: "We're playing and trying to win a game here. And you're in there having a shower, getting changed..."

From a player's point of view, I wouldn't like it. If you are injured, yes, you go and get an ice pack on. But it made me think. Is he that bothered? Is the intent there? Is he that bothered about the result?

I infamously had my own dugout incident in 2015 after being substituted against Molde in a Europa League game. I regret it to this day and made a public apology for the disrespect I showed to the management team. But on Saturday, Dembele was disrespecting his team-mates.

Perhaps his head is away and he wants to leave. That really struck me - that probably his time is up.

Daily Mail



OUT: Moussa Dembele After being subbed off he went straight down the tunnel to the dressing room for a shower.



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BRIEFS



MAN CITY'S WINNING RUN ENDED

LONDON - Manchester City survived late penalty drama at Crystal Palace on Sunday but saw their 18-match Premier League winning run halted as Arsene Wenger overtook Alex Ferguson's record for games in charge. Pep Guardiola's men travelled to their match in London with a 13-point lead over second-placed Chelsea and strongly fancied to match Bayern Munich's record for the big five European leagues of 19 straight victories.

AFP

YOUNG CHARGED WITH VIOLENT CONDUCT

MANCHESTER - Manchester United's Ashley Young was charged with violent conduct by the English Football Association (FA) on Sunday after his altercation with Southampton midfielder Dusan Tadic in the Premier League the previous day.

Reuters

STAMPING INCIDENT: NAUGHTON BANNED

LONDON - Swansea defender Kyle Naughton will be suspended for his team's next three games after a review of a stamping incident in their 2-1 Premier League win over Watford on Saturday. Television images showed Naughton appearing to tread on Watford forward Stefano Okaka's leg and he was charged with violent conduct by the English Football Association after the game at Vicarage Road.

Reuters



PALACE STAY FOR ZAHA

LONDON - Crystal Palace striker Wilfried Zaha has said he has no intention of leaving the London club in the January transfer window, dampening the hopes of potential suitors in the Premier League. Zaha has had a productive season with 17th-placed Palace, scoring four league goals and providing an assist while adding energy and dynamism to their attack. According to British media reports, the Ivory Coast international, who had an unsuccessful spell at Manchester United, has come under the radar of Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal. Asked if he is staying at Crystal Palace following their goalless draw with league leaders City, Zaha told BBC Sport:

Reuters



MANCHESTER - Jose Mourinho wants Antoine Griezmann to save Manchester United's season.

Mourinho is ready to pay the French star £300,000 a week to snub Barcelona and move to Old Trafford instead.

United are out of the title race following three draws in a row and facing a battle just to finish in the top four.

To make matters worse Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been ruled out for a month with a knee problem, while Romelu Lukaku will miss the next two games after suffering concussion following a clash of heads against Southampton on Saturday.

United tried to sign Griezmann last season but failed to strike a deal with Atletico Madrid and turned to Lukaku

in a £90m deal instead.

But Mourinho remains a huge fan of the attacking midfielder and believes he can still hijack Griezmann's likely move to Barcelona if United meet the buy-out clause of £100m in the January transfer window.

Position

Barca are believed to be in pole position to land Griezmann in the summer after targeting him as Neymar's replacement.

But United know Atletico are reluctant to sell him to one of their biggest rivals and will try to tempt him to Old Trafford with a mega money deal.

United are reluctant to spend big in this month's window, but know Griezmann, 26, is a long-term investment and that there is no point in wait-

ing until the summer to make their move.

Mourinho admits United's faltering campaign is in danger of going down the pan, ahead of their trip to Everton.

He said: "I feel unlucky, yes. The boys are trying, but we have lots of problems."

"We lost Lukaku and we lost Ibrahimovic for a month. To lose him for a month means he stops his run to recovery. He has been running for many months."

"In the period where what he needs is to play and have minutes, we now lose him for a month."

"We lose Lukaku, I don't know for how long."

Daily Mail

Wenger party spoiled by late West Brom leveller

WEST BROMWICH - Arsene Wenger's record-breaking day as Arsenal Manager ended in frustration as his disjointed side were held to a controversial 1-1 draw at West Bromwich Albion on Sunday.

The Frenchman took charge of his 811th Gunners league game, taking him past Alex Ferguson's Premier League record of 810.

But his side were denied victory by Jay Rodriguez's 89th-minute penalty, awarded for handball against Calum Chambers to the fury of Wenger and his players.

Arsenal had taken the lead six minutes earlier after a deflected Alexis Sanchez free-kick found its way into the West Brom net via a deflection off James McClean.

The Gunners had been frustrated for much of the game by a resolute Albion. Arsenal made the brighter start but might have found themselves trailing to the first chance of the game on six minutes.

A weaving run down the right flank by Matt Phillips ended with a cross for Rodriguez, who leapt highest but headed too close to Petr Cech and the



TOUGH LUCK: Arsene Wenger.

Arsenal goalkeeper made a solid save, diving to his left. Cech handed the Baggies another chance moments later when he spilled a high cross by Kieran Gibbs at the feet of Hal Robson-Kanu.

The Wales striker's effort was blocked and Arsenal then snuffed out Jake Livermore's effort to keep the move alive. That sparked an Arsenal counter-attack as the Gunners worked the ball to the edge of the area, where Alexandre Lacazette hit a shot that deflected

wide. And on 16 minutes a neat pass by Sanchez found Alex Iwobi, who wriggled away from Jonny Evans and bent a shot just past the angle of post and crossbar. West Brom continued to pass the ball neatly but the Gunners threatened on the break and a long-range effort by Granit Xhaka was saved comfortably by Ben Foster, who then turned another shot from distance from Iwobi behind for a corner. AFP

City's Guardiola pleads for player protection

LONDON - Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola has demanded more protection for players after seeing Kevin De Bruyne narrowly avoid serious injury as his side's 18-game winning streak came to an end.

De Bruyne was stretched off after being hacked down by Crystal Palace's Jason Puncheon as City broke in search of a late winner at Selhurst Park on Sunday following Ederson's penalty save from Luka Milivojevic.

The Belgium midfielder's injury is not as bad as first feared but Guardiola said he was unlikely to be ready to face Watford at the Etihad today.

Worse

There was worse news about City striker Gabriel Jesus, who hobbled off in the first half with a knee problem that will sideline the Brazilian for at least "one month, maybe two months", Guardiola said.

His main concern, though, was the tackle by Puncheon, the latest in a series of challenges the manager believes could have inflicted serious injury on his players in recent games.

"I admire the physicality in the Premier League but the referees have to protect the players," said the Catalan. "Not just the best players. All the players."

"I haven't spoken to the FA (Football Association) about it."

AFP

Schedulers are against us, says Wenger

WEST BROMWICH - Arsenal Manager Arsene Wenger has hit out at the Premier League fixture schedulers who he claims have handed Chelsea a pre-match advantage ahead of their London derby tomorrow.

Wenger launched a tirade against the fixture list and the standard of Premier League refereeing after his side were held to a 1-1 draw at West Bromwich Albion, with even Gunners legend Thierry Henry coming under fire from the Frenchman.

Wenger broke Sir Alex Ferguson's record of 810 Premier League games as a manager but he was in no mood to celebrate as he looked ahead to his side's next game.

"You cannot give West Brom five days to prepare for a game like that when we have three," said Wenger.

"I am ready to play every day as long as our opponent has played the same time recovery over Christmas. It is not normal."

AFP



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TRANSFER NEWS

PLAYERS WHO COULD BE COMING AND GOING

LONDON - The start of January means diets, resolutions and, most importantly, the beginning of the winter transfer window.

Every Premier League side will have their own ideas of what they will do over the first month of 2018, whether that means incomings or outgoings as they tackle the second half of the season.

Sportsmail's Simon Jones has put together a guide to what each top flight club might do in January.

ARSENAL

NEED: Winger, mid-fielder, defender

TARGETS: Riyad Mahrez (Leicester City), Thomas Lemar (Monaco), Nabil Fekir (Lyon), Leon Goretzka (Schalke)

WHO COULD GO? Alexis Sanchez, Theo Walcott (loan), Olivier Giroud, Mohamed Elneny (loan)

BUDGET: £70m



HUDDERFIELD TOWN

NEED: Goalkeeper, full backs

TARGETS: Danny Ward (Liverpool, loan), Terence Kongolo (Monaco, loan), Joe Bryan (Bristol City)

WHO COULD GO? None

BUDGET: £20m

SWANSEA CITY

NEED: Right-back, centre-back, striker

TARGETS: Kyle Walker-Peters (Tottenham), Andy Yiadom (Barnsley), Daniel Opare (Augsburg), Andre Ayew, Diafra Sakho (West Ham), Theo Walcott (Arsenal, loan)

WHO COULD GO? Alfie Mawson, Ki Sung Yueng

BUDGET: £25m

LEICESTER CITY

NEED: Full back, attacking midfielder

TARGETS: Andre Almeida (Benfica), Hatem Ben Arfa (PSG)

WHO COULD GO? Islam Slimani, Ahmed Musa, Leonardo Ulloa, Riyad Mahrez

BUDGET: £30m



BOURNEMOUTH

NEED: Full back, forward

TARGETS: Omar Richards (Reading), Dujon Sterling (Chelsea), Theo Walcott (Arsenal, loan)

WHO COULD GO? Lewis Grabban, Benik Afobe, Harry Arter

BUDGET: £30m

STOKE CITY

NEED: Right back, defensive midfield, striker, winger

TARGETS: Daniel Opare (Augsburg), Daniel Sturridge, Danny Ings (Liverpool), Etienne Capoue (Watford), Amin Younes (Ajax)

WHO COULD GO? Charlie Adam, Glen Johnson, Jese Rodriguez

BUDGET: £30m plus sales

EVERTON

NEED: left back, defensive midfield, striker

TARGETS: Cenk Tosun (Besiktas), Steven Nzonzi (Sevilla), Patrick van Aanholt (Crystal Palace), Adama Soumaoro (Lille), Aaron Cresswell (West Ham), Josh Earl (Preston)

WHO COULD GO? Oumar Niasse, Mo Besic, Ross Barkley, Kevin Mirallas

BUDGET: £70m



LIVERPOOL

NEED: Midfielder

TARGETS: Sergej Milinkovic-Savic (Lazio), Leon Goretzka (Schalke), Thomas Lemar (Monaco), Jean Seri (Nice)

WHO COULD GO? Divock Origi, Philippe Coutinho, Marko Grujic (loan), Harry Wilson (loan), Danny Ings (loan), Ben Woodburn (loan), Ovie Ejaria (loan), Lazar Markovic

BUDGET: £80m

TOTTENHAM

NEED: Left back, striker

TARGET: Ryan Sessegnon (Fulham), Luke Shaw (Man Utd), Malcom (Bordeaux), Jann-Fiete Arp (Hamburg), Gorka Guruzeta (Athletic Bilbao)

WHO COULD GO? Michel Vorm, Danny Rose, Georges-Kevin N'Koudou

BUDGET: £35m plus sales

BRIGHTON

NEED: Striker, mid-fielder

TARGETS: Moussa Dembele (Celtic), Oumar Niasse (Everton), Ze Luis (Spartak Moscow), Josh Vela (Bolton)

WHO COULD GO? Jamie Murphy

BUDGET: £30m



CRYSTAL PALACE

NEED: Goalkeeper, left back, centre back, striker

TARGETS: Sam Johnstone (Man Utd), Thomas Holy (Gillingham), Bartosz Bialkowski (Ipswich), James McCarthy (Everton), Mohamed Elyounoussi (Basle), Khouma Babacar (Fiorentina)

WHO COULD GO? Jason Puncheon, Patrick van Aanholt, Scott Dann, Jordon Mutch

BUDGET: £40m

MANCHESTER CITY

NEED: Defender, defensive midfielder, striker

TARGETS: Inigo Martinez (Real Sociedad), Jonny Evans (West Brom), Ryan Bertrand (Southampton), Julian Weigl (B Dortmund), Alexis Sanchez (Arsenal)

WHO COULD GO? None

BUDGET: £90m



NEWCASTLE UNITED

NEED: Left back, mid-fielder, striker

TARGETS: Kiko Casilla (Real Madrid), Kenedy (Chelsea), Danny Ings (Liverpool), Islam Slimani (Leicester), Theo Walcott (Arsenal)

WHO COULD GO? Aleksandar Mitrovic, Jonjo Shelvey, Jack Colback

BUDGET: £15m plus sales



BURNLEY

NEED: Left wing, centre back

TARGETS: Aaron Lennon (Everton), Joe Worrall (Nottingham Forest), Jordan Jones (Kilmarnock), James McClean (WBA), Jozo Simunovic (Celtic)

WHO COULD GO? Nahki Wells

BUDGET: £20m

SOUTHAMPTON

NEED: Centre back, striker

TARGETS: Jack Hendry (Dundee), Alfie Mawson (Swansea), Ryan Sessegnon (Fulham), Theo Walcott (Arsenal, loan), Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool), Moussa Dembele (Celtic)

WHO COULD GO? Manolo Gabbiadini, Shane Long

BUDGET: £80m

CHELSEA

NEED: Left back, winger, striker

TARGETS: Alex Sandro (Juventus), Philipp Max (Augsburg), Ross Barkley (Everton), Thomas Lemar (Monaco), Yannick Carrasco (Atletico Madrid)

WHO COULD GO? Kenedy, Baba Rahman, David Luiz, Michy Batshuayi

BUDGET: £100m



MANCHESTER UNITED

NEED: Full backs, midfielder, winger

TARGETS: Danny Rose (Tottenham), Ryan Sessegnon (Fulham), Leon Goretzka (Schalke), Sergej Milinkovic-Savic (Lazio), Malcom (Bordeaux), Justin Kluivert (Ajax), Thomas Lemar (Monaco), Christian Pulisic (B Dortmund)

WHO COULD GO? Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Matteo Darmian

BUDGET: £80m plus sales

WATFORD

NEED: Goalkeeper, centre-back, midfielder, forward

TARGET: Pontus Dahlberg (IFK Gothenburg), Islam Slimani (Leicester City), Amin Younes (Ajax)

WHO COULD GO? Etienne Capoue, Troy Deeney

BUDGET: £40m plus sales. (Daily mail)



BRIEFS

Maluleka weds Wagner

JOHANNESBURG - This past weekend saw Kaizer Chiefs midfielder George Maluleka wedded his long-term partner Larelle Wagner, and the two simply looked stunning. Did you see how "Mido" reacted to his nuptials though? The former Ajax Cape Town and SuperSport United midfielder has been with Larelle for several years now, where they have built a family around their young daughter. After years of courtship, they decided to tie the knot in a traditional ceremony, and Maluleka couldn't help but express his joy in having entered the New Year on the right note. *SoccerLaduma*

Mahashe would love to play more

JOHANNESBURG - Baroka FC defender Mzwanele Mahashe says he is happy with how things went for him in 2017, though he spent less time on the pitch in the second half of last year. Mahashe, whose contract with the club is set to expire in June, was key for Baroka as they survived relegation via the play offs in June, but the addition of new players at the start of the current campaign saw him having to watch more of the team's matches from the bench. The 29-year-old has made seven league appearances for Bakgaga, who are in fourth place in the ABSA Premiership. *KickOff*

Free State Stars reach agreement for Momi

JOHANNESBURG - After completing the signing of Congolese striker Aris Chilumbu last week, Free State Stars head coach Luc Eymael says the club have now reached an agreement with Moroccan side Raja Casablanca for the services of Central African Republic international Hilaire Momi. According to Eymael, the 27-year-old striker is currently having a salary dispute with Raja together with several other players. "We've finally signed Aris Chilumbu, number 10 international from Congo Brazzaville. We signed him for a year and a half," Eymael tells Kickoff.com. *KickOff*

Sono backs Mokwena's move to Pirates

JOHANNESBURG - Jomo Cosmos boss Jomo Sono says Rhulani Mokwena's decision to join Orlando Pirates was a good move. Mokwena, who was assistant to Pitso Mosimane at Mamelodi Sundowns when they won the CAF Champions League last year, joined Pirates in August on the recommendation of coach Milutin Sredojevic who replaced Kjell Jonevret. Mokwena is the son of Pirates legend Julius 'KK' Sono and Jomo Sono is in uncle. *KickOff*

NDORO SIGNS FOR AJAX CT

CAPE TOWN - Ajax Cape Town on Saturday announced the signing of Zimbabwe international Tendai Ndoro.

He has committed his services to the club for the next two seasons after successfully passing his medical and has already started training with his new teammates at Ikamva.

Ndoro joins the Urban Warriors from Saudi Arabian outfit Al-Faisaly for an undisclosed fee. He joined Al-Faisaly from Orlando Pirates in August.

The forward will add firepower to an Ajax Cape Town outfit eager to climb the ABSA Premiership standings, starting with a favourable result against Maritzburg United next week Friday; the first of six league matches for the club in January 2018.

The former Mpumalanga Black

Aces striker reunites with Muhsin Ertugral in Parow, having previously worked with the Ajax Cape Town head coach in Soweto.

Ndoro scored 12 goals in 30 league appearances during the 2016-17 season for the Buccaneers, before moving to the Middle East two games into the ensuing campaign.

"Having a player of Tendai's magnitude and calibre on board for any coach is a massive boost, he is a great player and hopefully he can rise to the occasion," said Ertugral.

"I am very excited to work with him once more, in South Africa he will be a very valuable player to any team and I am confident he will do very well for us.

I am very, very pleased to have him at the club and thank you to the club's management for making this transfer happen. Ertugral continued: "He is the complete pack-



DEAL DONE: Ex-Pirates striker Tendai Ndoro.

age, he has played overseas, performed for big clubs in the past and his experience will be a valuable asset.

There are a lot of talented youngsters at the club and Ndoro will help

them in reaching their potential. "He [Tendai] is firing on all cylinders and hopefully we can get back to winning ways for our loyal supporters," Ertugral concluded.

African News Agency

Comitis says they have made a big offer for captain Johannes

CAPR TOWN - Cape Town City owner John Comitis says they have made a big offer to keep captain Robyn Johannes at the club, as he quashed talks about a move to Bidvest Wits as "fake news".

Having already lost striker Lehlohonolo Majoro to the Clever Boys, the Citizens will be looking to keep their 31-year-old skipper at the club.

Johannes has six months left on his current deal with the club and can now talk to interested parties, but Comitis will move swiftly to ensure the former Mamelodi Sundowns and Orlando Pirates player stays in the Mother City.

"Robyn is not going to Wits. There is a big offer on the table for the captain," Comitis said.

Johannes, who replaced European based Lebogang Manyama as captain earlier this season, has made 19 appear-



BIG OFFER: Captain Robyn Johannes.

ances in all competitions for City this season.

He is highly rated by coach Benni McCarthy, who will want his best players available for when they make their maiden appearance in the CAF Confederation Cup next month.

His experience will come in handy when the Citizens embark on their journey on the conti-

nent. Comitis, meanwhile, also added that the club has released striker Letsie Koapeng.

Koapeng, a former junior international who was tipped to be a future star when he burst onto the scene, joined City last season after spending some time in the National First Division.

KickOff

Buchanan set for Chiefs exit

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs playmaker Keagan Buchanan looks set to leave the club imminently with a return to Cape Town mooted ahead of the January transfer window.

Goal South Africa revealed that Cape Town City are in advanced talks with Amakhosi over a temporary switch for the technically gifted midfielder, who struggled to earn a regular starting-berth at Naturena since joining the club from Bloemfontein Celtic in 2016.

Maritzburg United was also said to be keen on his services after failing with a move for the former FC Cape Town playmaker in the off-season.

However, Chiefs prefer the offer from the Citizens, as they would like the 25-year-old to return at the end of the loan spell.

With only one assist in three league appearances, Buchanan would arrive at Benni McCarthy's title-chasing side well short of match fitness - but the head coach of the Blue and Gold Army was vocal of securing experienced players in a bid to handle the rigours of continental football.

Sport24

Khumalo insists his time in Europe was not a failure

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits defender Bongani Khumalo does not feel his time in Europe was a waste, as it helped both him and people closest to him.

The former Bafana Bafana captain signed for Harry Redknapp's Tottenham Hotspur side in 2010 at the age of 23. Often compared to Bafana and Leeds United legend Lucas Radebe, Khumalo was expected to shine after playing a key role in SuperSport United's 2009/10 title winning campaign.

The 30-year-old, however, never broke into the Spurs side and was loaned out six times before returning to the PSL in 2015 to rejoin Matsatsantsa as a free agent.

The Swaziland-born defender says he cannot control what people think

of his time in Europe, but he believes he achieved so many things there. "At the end of the day, I had a dream as Bongani. I had a family supporting my dream, I had questions about the higher level of football, [and] I wanted to know what is like to play in England.

"I spoke to Lucas and Benni McCarthy [about] how it is there. You get injuries and some people call it bad luck or whatever it is. I can't sit here and say 'well, I didn't live up to expectations' but at the end of the day I gave it my heart and soul and I had an incredible experience.

"In fact I changed the life of my family, I changed the life of my friends because I was exposed to such an incredible level of football.



And yes I would've wanted to go to Spurs and play every single game,

[but] that wasn't to be for whatever reason." *KickOff*

THE SPORTS DIARY FOR 2018

Swazi Observer Tuesday January 2, 2018

JANUARY

DARTS

1: PDC World Championship final, Alexandra Palace
Phil Taylor v Rob Cross
6-14: BDO World Championship, Lakeside, Surrey

CRICKET

3-8: Ashes, 5th Test, Sydney
14, 19, 21, 26, 28: Australia v England ODIs

FOOTBALL

5-8: FA Cup 3rd round

Carabao Cup semi-final 1st legs
9: Man City v Bristol City
10: Chelsea v Arsenal
19-21: Scottish Cup 4th round
Carabao Cup semi-final 2nd legs
23-24: Carabao Cup semi-final 2nd legs
27-28: FA Cup 4th round
SNOKER
14-21: Masters, Alexandra Palace
TENNIS
15-28: Australian Open, Melbourne

FEBRUARY

RUGBY LEAGUE

1: Super League season starts

World Club Series

16: Melbourne v Leeds Rhinos
17: South Sydney Rabbitohs v Wigan Warriors, St George Illawarra Dragons v Hull FC

TENNIS

2-4: Davis Cup 1st round, Marbella, Spain v Great Britain
7-10: Fed Cup, Tallinn, Estonia: GB in Euro/Africa Zone Group I

RUGBY UNION

NatWest 6 Nations
3: France v Ireland, Wales v Scotland
4: Italy v England
10: England v Wales, Ireland v Italy
11: Scotland v France
23: France v Italy
24: Ire v Wales, Scotland v England

CRICKET

Tri-Nations Series
3: Australia v NZ, Sydney
7: Australia v England, Hobart
10: Australia v England, Melbourne
13: NZ v England, Wellington
16: NZ v Australia, Auckland
18: NZ v England, Hamilton
21: Final, Auckland

One-day Internationals

25, 28: New Zealand v England

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

4: Super Bowl LII, Minneapolis

WINTER OLYMPICS

9-25: Pyeongchang, South Korea

FOOTBALL

10-11: Scottish Cup 5th round
Champions League last 16, 1st leg
13: Juventus v Tottenham, Basle v Man City

MARCH

ATHLETICS

1-4: World Indoor Championships, Birmingham

BOXING

3: Kell Brook v Sierhei Rabchanka, Sheffield Arena

CRICKET

One-day Internationals
3, 6, 9: NZ v England
22-26: 1st Test, Auckland, NZ v England
Mar 30-Apr 3: 2nd Test, Christchurch

FOOTBALL

3-4: Scottish Cup quarter-finals
6-7 & 13-14: Champions League last 16, 2nd leg
8: Europa League last 16, 1st leg
15: Europa League last 16, 2nd leg
17-18: FA Cup quarter-finals

23: Holland v England, Amsterdam
27: England v Italy, Wembley

RUGBY UNION

NatWest 6 Nations
10: Ireland v Scotland, France v England
11: Wales v Italy
17: England v Ireland, Italy v Scotland, Wales v France
Mar 29-Apr 1: European Champions Cup and Challenge Cup quarter-finals

RACING

13-16: Cheltenham Festival

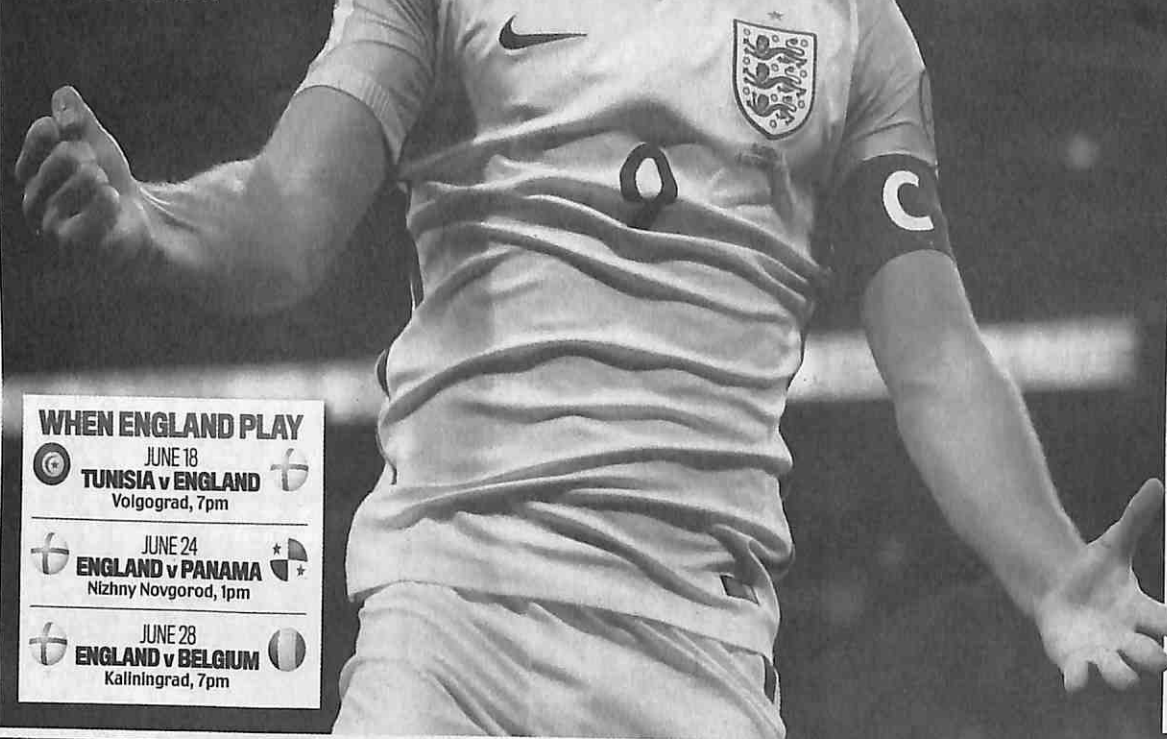
ROWING

24: The Boat Races

FORMULA ONE

25: Australian Grand Prix

CAN HOTSHOT KANE DELIVER FOR ENGLAND IN RUSSIA?



Marksman: England's hopes in Russia rest on Kane's shoulders

WHEN ENGLAND PLAY

JUNE 18
TUNISIA v ENGLAND
Volgograd, 7pm

JUNE 24
ENGLAND v PANAMA
Nizhny Novgorod, 1pm

JUNE 28
ENGLAND v BELGIUM
Kaliningrad, 7pm

APRIL

FOOTBALL

3-4: Champions League quarter-finals, 1st leg
5: Europa League qtr-finals, 1st leg
8: Checkatrade Trophy final, Wembley
10-11: Champions League quarter-finals, 2nd leg
12: Europa League quarter-finals, 2nd leg
14-15: Scottish Cup semi-finals
21-22: FA Cup semi-finals
24-25: Champions League semi-finals, 1st leg
26: Europa League semi-finals, 1st leg

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

4-15: Queensland, Australia

GOLF

5-8: The Masters, Augusta

TENNIS

6-8: Davis Cup quarter-finals

FORMULA ONE

8: Chinese Grand Prix
15: Bahrain Grand Prix
29: Azerbaijan Grand Prix

CRICKET

13: County Championship begins

RACING

14: Grand National, Aintree



Scottish hope: Eilish McColgan

RUGBY UNION

20-22: European Champions Cup and Challenge Cup semi-finals

SNOKER

Apr 21-May 7: World Championship, Sheffield

ATHLETICS

22: London Marathon

MAY

FOOTBALL

1-2: Champions League semi-finals, 2nd leg
3: Europa League semi-finals, 2nd leg
4-20: European Under 17 Championship
5-6: Final round of Football League fixtures
5: Women's FA Cup final, Wembley
13: Final round of Premier League and Scottish Premiership fixtures
16: Europa League final, Lyon
19: FA Cup final, Wembley; Scottish Cup final, Hampden Park
26: Champions League final, Kiev; Championship play-off final, Wembley
27: League One play-off final, Wembley
28: League Two play-off final, Wembley

CYCLING

3-6: Tour de Yorkshire
4-27: Giro d'Italia

BOXING

5: Tony Bellew v David Haye, O2 Arena

RUGBY UNION

11: European Champions Cup final, Bilbao



Rivals: Haye and Bellew

12: European Challenge Cup final, Bilbao
19: Premiership semi-finals
26: Premiership final, Twickenham

CRICKET

11-15: 1st Test, Malahide, Ireland v Pakistan
May 17-Jun 7: Royal London One-Day Cup group matches
24-28: 1st Test, Lord's, England v Pakistan

FORMULA ONE

13: Spanish Grand Prix
27: Monaco Grand Prix

TENNIS

May 27-Jun 10: French Open, Roland Garros

WORLD CUP FIXTURES

June

14: Group A - Russia v Saudi Arabia
15: Group A - Egypt v Uruguay
Group B - Morocco v Iran, Portugal v Spain
16: Group C - France v Australia, Peru v Denmark
Group D - Argentina v Iceland, Croatia v Nigeria
17: Group E - Costa Rica v Serbia, Brazil v Switzerland
Group F - Germany v Mexico
18: Group F - Sweden v South Korea
Group G - Belgium v Panama, Tunisia v ENGLAND
19: Group A - Russia v Egypt
Group H - Colombia v Japan, Poland v Senegal
20: Group A - Uruguay v Saudi Arabia
Group B - Portugal v Morocco, Iran v Spain
21: Group C - Denmark v Australia, France v Peru
Group D - Argentina v Croatia
22: Group D - Nigeria v Iceland
Group E - Brazil v Costa Rica, Serbia v Switzerland
23: Group F - Germany v Sweden, S Korea v Mexico
Group G - Belgium v Tunisia
24: Group G - ENGLAND v Panama
Group H - Japan v Senegal, Poland v Colombia
25: Group A - Saudi Arabia v Egypt, Uruguay v Russia
Group B - Iran v Portugal, Spain v Morocco
26: Group C - Australia v Peru, Denmark v France
Group D - Iceland v Croatia, Nigeria v Argentina
27: Group E - Serbia v Brazil, Switzerland v Costa Rica
Group F - Mexico v Sweden, S Korea v Germany
28: Group G - ENGLAND v Belgium, Panama v Tunisia
Group H - Japan v Poland, Senegal v Colombia

June 30-July 3: Last 16

July 6-7: Quarter-finals

10-11: Semi-finals

14: Third-place play-off

15: World Cup final



AUGUST

CRICKET

England v India
1-5: 1st Test, Edgbaston
9-13: 2nd Test, Lord's
18-22: 3rd Test, Trent Bridge
Aug 30-Sep 3: 4th Test, Southampton
Sep 7-11: 5th Test, The Kia Oval
23-26: NatWest T20 Blast quarter-finals

ATHLETICS

7-12: European Championships, Berlin
18: Diamond League, Birmingham

GOLF

9-12: US PGA Championship, Missouri

FOOTBALL

4-5: Football League starts
5: Community Shield, Wembley
11-12: Premier League season starts
15: UEFA Super Cup, Tallinn



Focused: India's Virat Kohli

DISABILITY SPORT

20-26: World Para-Athletics Championships, Berlin

RUGBY LEAGUE

25: Challenge Cup final, Wembley

CYCLING

Aug 25-Sep 16: La Vuelta, Spain

FORMULA ONE

26: Belgian Grand Prix

TENNIS

Aug 27-Sep 9: US Open, Flushing Meadows

SEPTEMBER

FORMULA ONE

2: Italian Grand Prix
16: Singapore Grand Prix
30: Russian Grand Prix

CYCLING

2-9: Tour of Britain
22-30: Road World Championships, Innsbruck

FOOTBALL

6-11: UEFA Nations League group matches, Matchday 1 & 2

CRICKET

7-11: 5th Test, The Kia Oval, England v India
15: NatWest T20 Blast finals day

ATHLETICS

9: Great North Run, Newcastle

TENNIS

14-16: Davis Cup semi-finals

RACING

15: St Leger, Doncaster

GOLF

28-30: Ryder Cup, Paris

Showdown: can McIlroy help Europe triumph?

OCTOBER

FORMULA ONE

7: Japanese Grand Prix
21: USA Grand Prix
28: Mexican Grand Prix

RUGBY LEAGUE

13: Super League Grand Final, Old Trafford
27: England v New Zealand, Hull



Title defence: Lewis Hamilton

TENNIS

22-28: WTA Finals, Singapore

FOOTBALL

11-16: UEFA Nations League group, Matchday 3 & 4

NOVEMBER

RUGBY UNION

3: England v South Africa, Twickenham
10: England v New Zealand, Twickenham
17: England v Japan, Twickenham
24: England v Australia, Twickenham

RUGBY LEAGUE

3: England v New Zealand, Liverpool
11: England v New Zealand, Leeds

FORMULA ONE

11: Brazilian Grand Prix
25: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

TENNIS

12-18: ATP World Tour finals
23-25: Davis Cup final



Golden boy: Adam Peaty

DECEMBER

SWIMMING

11-16: World Championships, Hangzhou

DARTS

TBC: PDC World Championship, Alexandra Palace

RACING

26: King George VI Chase, Kempton

By Noel Munzabwa
Guest Writer

SWAZI SOCCER 2017 IN RETROSPECT:

SOME GAVE US HOPE BUT SOME DESTROYED IT

CONQUERING Mbabane Swallows, trouble house Mbabane Highlanders, marauding Young Buffaloes (not sure if they are still young), ambitious Matsapha United and losing streak losing creating Midas City are the major highlights of the 2017 to which we had a faltering Pieter De Jongh and his Sihlangu.

From the winning colour, to the heart breaks then to the shock results and emotional outbursts from the terraces were all part of the year's package in which soccer must kiss thank you the floodlights for good behaviour in a year they didn't claim any match.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been a roller coaster in which some words may just not be enough to retell the stories in full but just tit bits.

Mb. Swallows' CAF exploits

The year 2017 was a flying one for the birds both locally and internationally.

On the local front, they won the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup, the MTN Premier League of Swaziland unbeaten before adding the SPTC Charity Shield.

It will not be worthy the mention if the marvelous CAF Confederations Cup run is not incorporated.

They got mugged in foreign matches, got bruised courtesy referees in Congo but never lost focus.

Made Somhlolo National Stadium their fortress and in one match we saw free scoring Sabelo Sikhali Ndzinisa singlehandedly floor Platinum Stars with goal scoring history that earned him international reviews.

I am so sure the birds had not imagined such a lengthy flight something that probably explains energy levels running out at the death of the group stages and fortunately history had been authored.

Now future participation will use 2017 as the pinnacle of success.

2018 Resolution: Fly the Swazi flag high in the Champions League.

Mb. Highlanders - where is the problem?

Our old lady of football is stuttering in her walk and perhaps a walking stick from our esteemed Swazi Mobile could have helped her but alas there is struggle between trembling and stability.

It will be a self ghost exorcism to ignore last season's relegation on its own a risky excursion Gwaza Nkunzi fans choose to warm themselves. Come on good people, the reality is your team is playing in MTN Premier League of Swaziland but the ugly and ignorantly reality is the team was relegated last season #FACT.

That factor would have given pregnancy of hope apologetically that team would up their game this season but *eish* truth be told, it was a year two halves of equal relegation fight as just the same relegation reality could strike again if the mediocrity is not arrested.

Kahle kahle what seems to be the problem? Is it that the bulk of the playing material do not meet the



Highlanders culture? Is it the administration that is clueless and therefore spineless to accept failure?

But whatever the reason the yo-yo type of performance hovering between cold and hot could lead to fan base exodus or to the very risk, emotional outbursts from the fans. But for the meantime let's pay tribute to the fans for minimising violent outbursts.

Anyway whose brilliant idea was such mediocrity?

2018 Resolution - May the real Highlanders players rise to the status!

Matsapha United our new babies

Born in 2016, setting off with a campaign in the MTN National First Division not many ever thought they would be playing with the big boys of soccer in the MTN Premier League today.

Perhaps the only time neutral pundits began to believe in this outfit was when they knocked out Mbabane Swallows out of the SwaziBank Cup 2-1 on the 5th of March.

This result became Swallows' only defeat to a local ensemble setting the epitome of the meetings between the two outfits with first league encounter having to delayed by an hour to allow fans to enter Mavuso Sports Centre after drawing almost 6 000 fans.

Sealing the MTN National First Division triumph, winning promotion to the MTN Premier League, losing finalists in the SwaziBank Cup and invitational Umsebe Cup in South Africa's Mpumalanga Province will measure as the major highs of the year.

A defeat to Milling Hotspurs and ultimately SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup on the 9th of December will measure as the year's lowest ebbs as the second

half has been dominated by several recurrent injuries.

On the individual front, Vusumuzi Zungu won the NFD Player of the Season award, while Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze received nomination and both players received mention in the SwaziBank Cup awards selection.

They became the first football club to be nominated for the Swaziland Service Excellence Awards, largely commercial, where they were first runners up in the Best Newcomers category.

2018 Resolution: Our full of potential baby, don't skip steps of growth as in soccer it is so important to observe those steps!

Young Buffaloes our next hope

Could Young Buffaloes be the next Swazi Soccer champions? If you ask me my answer would be a resounding YES judging on consistency in the last two seasons and strongly this season.

At the moment it will be safe to declare Young Buffaloes the second best Swazi team after Mbabane Swallows.

The year 2017 has been one of blossom in which they won the SwaziBank Cup, finished second and are in a strong chase for both the league and SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup.

Their peak moment in the year will always be that 2-0 win over Matsapha United in the SwaziBank Cup on the 30th of April considering their opponents had tamed big guns Mbabane Swallows, Manzini Wanderers and Manzini Sundowns in the dash to the final.

Their experienced show raises a bar of hope in the 2018 Total Confederations Cup.

Having watched the team on numer-

ous occasions, they do not carry much skilful talents but as expected they have endurance, prowess to score anytime during the 90 and score through just anyone.

In 2017, Ndoda Mthetfwa proved is just a number, Phwayinkosi Dlamini free scoring is his will that kept a smile on Dominic Kunene's face throwing out hope to the multitudes that dare followed them.

2018 Resolution: Bring the CAF Confederations Cup home please.

The Midas City not so midas at all

The year 2017 deserves to vanish into thin air quickly but this Midas City pointless record of 17 games (17 straight league defeats) is not midas touch at all if one within that camp thought it was.

After struggling through the previous season where they pipped Mbabane Highlanders for survival one would have expected more energy when fighting for points but alas the kilojoules were directed to fighting the 14-team league.

Okay fair and fine, you deem the league illegal yet generously you have fulfilled the matches and furthermore dished out winning points to everyone in the league. And they also need to be reminded that democratic processes are not confined to the political world.

According to information gathered, the 14-team league was proposed, put to vote and numbers won.

2018 Resolution: My advice to Midas City is to focus on bringing the midas touch to theirs.

Thulani Sibandze and Petros Mbingo CAF Suspension

I usually don't take kindly to rubble raising and I am still trying to figure out who was really behind the Thulani Sibandze and Petros Mbingo CAF Suspension after the CHAN qualifier between Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Ladies and gentlemen, there was complaint from Zimbabwe, I authoritatively state this one without fear, favour and prejudice but bhubuu our top referees were suspended just like that. Look here to err is human, may the faultless cast the first stone.

To me these two were sacrificial lambs in a failed CAF driven rewarding considering that it was an elective year. To understand the puzzle here are the pieces, Zimbabwe Football Association President Phillip Chiyangwa literally drove Ahmed Ahmed to the CAF presidency, let me leave it at that lest litigation comes flying at us.

2018 Resolution: Gentlemen keep your heads up, forgive and forget.

Sihlangu that fluttered only to decieve

The year 2016 was the toast for our soccer flagship, Sihlangu. Our hopes rose shooting past the ceiling levels and we almost, yes almost qualified for the 2017 Total Africa Cup of Nations finals held in Gabon.

That we almost qualified meant that there were just a few gaps that needed to be closed up but alas they were almost wholesome changes to the technical team Harries Madze Bulunga was sent back to some school laboratory and in came the migratory Pieter De Jongh.

The foundation that Bulunga had laid in 2016 was to be removed in 2017 and the year became disastrous and if you still doubt it visit our mediocrity from the 2017 COSAFA edition where the nation had hoped for a better than bronze.

Even our junior national teams didn't impress at all.

2018 Resolution: Pieter De Jongh we expect better.

Sitsebe our 2017 pride

Our ladies Sitsebe returned to Cosafa Women in an edition played in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Hear me loud and clear, it's been three days since my arrival in this town, every soccer talk and reviews have touched on Sitsebe.

The female pride did us a lot of good in this town, represented us well and mark my words, next edition they go one better.

2018 Resolution: The Sky is not even your limit, fly beyond it.

Flood lights good behaviour in 2017

No match was claimed by our good behaving floodlights this year, did you see that ladies and gentlemen and it is my hope this continues unless maybe floodlights failure has always been man made ones.

In conclusion, the coaches migration trajectory has continued unabated and it my challenge on sitting coaches to focus on retaining current jobs throughout 2018. Have a prosperous new year.

SALEBONA JELE LAID TO REST



REST IN PEACE: Young Buffaloes players and Officials carrying the casket of their late former player Salebona 'Salas' Jele during a funeral held at Masibini outside Nhlanguano on Sunday morning. (Pics:Sibusiso Masilela)



WORD OF GOD: Experienced local Coach and member of the USDF Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini sharing a word of God during the night vigil.



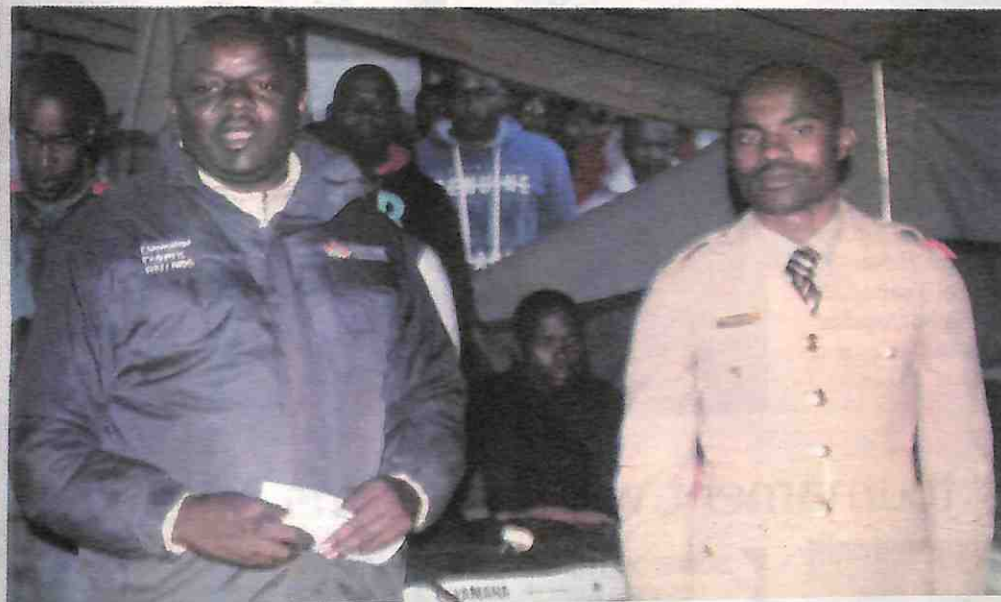
LAST RESPECTS: Members of the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF) paying their last respects to the late Salebona Jele.



FOR OUR COLLEAGUE: Former Buffaloes players Sipho 'Asprilla' Ndlovu and Sibusiso 'Baraba' Mabuza with the current team captain Mphile 'Nyandoro' Tsabedze at the graveyard.



WE WILL MISS YOU: Former Mbabane Swallows and Sihlangu defender Wandile 'Wawa' Mazibuko speaking on behalf of the capital city giants.



EMISSARY: Buffaloes coach Dominic Kunene making remarks on behalf of the army side.



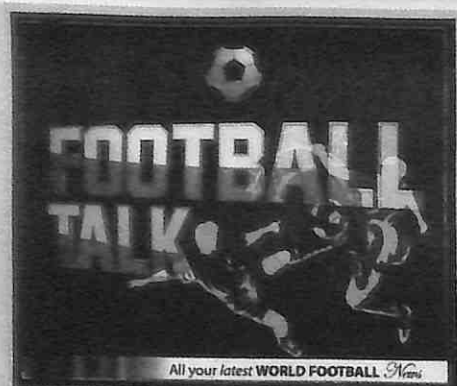
FINAL PLACE: Jele's casket being lowered into the grave.



GUN SALUTE: Members of the USDF doing a gun salute in honour of the late Jele.



MY HEART BLEEDS: A member of the Jele family displaying a portrait of the late player in front of the other family members.



Real Madrid are preparing an opening £120m bid for Chelsea player Eden Hazard, 26. (Sun)

Arsenal Manager Arsene Wenger has dismissed talk of a rift between striker Alexis Sanchez, 29, and the rest of the squad. (Sky Sports)



Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola refused to rule out a fresh approach for Sanchez after Gabriel Jesus sustained a suspected knee injury against Crystal Palace on Sunday. (Talksport)

Southampton want to sign 28-year-old Arsenal winger Theo Walcott on loan in January. (Mail)

And Arsenal may be willing to let the former Saints player leave, with Everton, Watford and West Ham also keen to sign him. (Mirror)

Manchester United hope midfielder Paul Pogba can help persuade Juventus striker Paulo Dybala, 24, to sign for the club. (Mail)



And Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho wants 24-year-old Inter Milan midfielder Joao Mario as the long-term replacement for Michael Carrick, 36. (Sun)

Meanwhile, Mourinho is urging Manchester United's owners to release the funds to buy striker Antoine Griezmann, 26, from Atletico Madrid. (Express)

Tottenham are in no rush to agree a new contract with defender Toby Alderweireld, 28, despite his current deal allowing him to leave in the summer of 2019 for £25m. (Mirror)



But Tottenham Manager Mauricio Pochettino has reassured fans over the Belgian's future at the club. (Guardian)

Schalke midfielder Leon Goretzka, 22, will join Bayern Munich on a free transfer this summer. (Bild - in German)

Besiktas striker Cenk Tosun, 26, is expected to complete his move to Everton this week in a deal worth £7.5m. (Sun)

Everton target Steven N'Zonzi is set for talks with Sevilla over his future at the club. The 29-year-old midfielder fell out with former boss Eduardo Berizzo. (Liverpool Echo)



VELEKHAYA TO LEAD UNDER-17 SQUAD FOR ANOCA GAMES

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER - HUB giants Manzini Wanderers assistant coach Velekhaya Mthethwa will lead the country's national Under-17 team squad in the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) Games.

The third edition of the quad-annual games is scheduled for Algeria in June and the tournament targets mainly the youth (14 - 18 years).

When asked about the tournament, NFAS Media Officer Muzi Radebe said Mthethwa would be leading the team during the tournament.

He said Mthethwa would be assisted by former Red Lions coach Dumsani 'DU' Makhanya. "We are aware of the ANOCA tournament set to be held in June and we will be taking part as a country. We do have the Under-17 squad in place and the coaches."

Radebe said Mthethwa has been in this position for quite some

time and they were expecting good results because the boys were now familiar with the two coaches.

"They are both experienced when it comes to development teams and we are hoping they will do better in this tournament," he said.

Meanwhile, Radebe revealed that the NFAS executive committee would be meeting next week Tuesday to divulge on amongst other issues, the development teams and this year's tournaments.



NEW POST: Velekhaya Mthethwa.

The late Salebona 'Salas' Jele was passionate about football

Stories by Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - YOUNG Buffaloes and Mbabane Swallows have both described the late Salebona 'Salas' Jele as a passionate football person.

The two team's representatives Dominic Kunene and Wandile 'Wawa' Nxumalo said the late Jele committed himself in improving the beautiful game of football. The speakers said this during the late former Sihlangu striker's funeral on Sunday morning at Masibini outside Nhlangu.

Buffaloes coach Dominic Kunene said Jele would always call to hear progress of the team even after his retirement from the sport.

"He was always following the progress of the team. He would call as he wanted to know about the performance of the team. Jele's passion about the sport will not go unnoticed as he played a major

role towards the success of Buffaloes. We will forever cherish and miss his contribution to the team.

"Our sincere condolences go to his family, friends and relatives and may the Lord comfort them during this darkest hour," he said.

Meanwhile, Swallows rep and former Sihlangu defender 'Wawa' Mazibuko said Jele was a dedicated football player.

"We are still saddened and shocked by the demise of Salebona, who was a hardworking player. He always put extra effort whenever he was playing for the national and at club level. May his soul rest in peace," he said. The late Jele succumbed to death last week after a long battle with an undisclosed illness. His funeral attracted over 1 000 mourners including former Buffaloes and current players in Mphile 'Nyandoro' Tsabedze, Goodman Tfwala, Siphoshe 'Asprilla' Ndlovu as well as Buffaloes and Swallows officials.

FA, PLS no show at 'Salas' funeral

SOCCER - DESPITE spending over 10 years playing the beautiful game of football, the late striker Salebona 'Salas' Jele did not get a final send off from both the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) and the Premier League of Swaziland (PLS).

The two organisations were not represented during the late Jele funeral held on Sunday morning.

This was noted after representatives from FA and PLS were asked to make a few remarks.

This did not paint the good pic-

ture about the two organisations.

Meanwhile, Jele's passion for football continued even after retirement where he was the coach of his work station Nsingizini Army Barracks. Also attending the funeral were members of the the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF) including seasoned coach Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini. The late Jele leaves behind his three children, three sisters and his mother. Jele spent 10 years of his career at Buffaloes before joining Swallows on a brief stint in 2011.

He had five Sihlangu caps.



RIP: Members of the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF) paying their last respects to the late Salebona Jele.

E30 000 Khuba Traders' tournament winning teams presented

By Sabelo Majola

SOCCER - THE E30 000 Manzini South tournament sponsored by Khuba Traders has been labelled a huge success as winning teams were presented with cash prizes on Saturday.

The presentation was held at the company's premises in Manzini and in attendance was the constituency's MP Owen Nxumalo, who is also the Minister of Public Service. Over 100 team representatives and supporters came to witness their teams being rewarded after the festive tournament came to an end.

Making his remarks prior to the presentation, the minister thanked the tournament's coordinators, teams and supporters for their cooperation throughout the tournament as



TOP GOAL-SCORER: Mhobodleni Top Goal Scorer Wandile Dvuba being embraced by Manzini South MP Owen Nxumalo and Khuba Traders representative Bheki Mkhalihi.

there was no disorder or violence reported. "I want to sincerely express my joy as the tournament was violent free in all the different zones that participated.

Everything went well and teams

SOME OF THE WINNING TEAMS AWARDED

Zakhele	
Two Sticks	E2 000
RSP	E1 200
Shibobo	E400
Cannibal	E400
Mathayini	
Spaza	E1 200
Tincatfwi	E850
Skhaleni	E550
Mhobodleni	
Ndofaya	E3 000
Juventus	E2 000
Crystal Palace	E1 300
Moneni Amaziwoni	E2 500
Sea Robbers	E2 000
Wicksus Pirates	E1 500

sorship for the Easter holidays and if I don't get any, I will sponsor it from my own pocket," he said.

Consider

Khuba Traders' Bheki Mkhalihi said they would consider sponsoring the tournament even in 2018 because they were happy with the turnout.

The company, which deals with agricultural products, urged for the public to market the brand so that the possibilities of an improved tournament could be increased.

"We were greatly inspired by the sportsmanship that prevailed throughout the tournament and we will consider sponsoring again in 2018," he said.

The E30 000 tournament was spread across five zones in Manzini South and they are Zakhele, Mhobodleni, Moneni, Ngwane Park and Mathayini.

were rewarded according to what they deserved, there was no foul play on the prize money.

I will continue to seek for spon-

'BUFFS' NDODA CLEARED FOR MALANTI TIE

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - YOUNG Buffaloes striker Ndoda Mtsetfwa has been cleared to face Malanti Chiefs in the MTN Premier League this coming Saturday after recovering from injury.

Mtsetfwa was substituted in the first half of his side's last match of 2017, a 2-1 win over Red Lions at Tabankulu Stadium on December 23, with a muscle strain. However, the injury is not as serious as first feared.

The club's doctors gave Mtsetfwa the go ahead to resume training yesterday according to CEO Sandile Gwebu.

Resumed

"Ndoda resumed training with the rest of the team yesterday (Monday) and did some running. We think he will be available for our weekend match. Everyone else is fit and ready. Our only injured player is Samkelo Lushaba," he said.

Mtsetfwa has been in good form for Buffaloes so far this season, partnering to good effect with fellow striker Phiwayinkhosi

Dlamini.

Winner

The former Manzini Wanderers forward is also his side's top scorer in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup with two goals, including the winner in the last round against Vovovo. Second placed Buffaloes are three points off leaders Mbabane Swallows in the log standings with eight matches to play.

The match against Malanti, to be played at Somhlolo National Stadium, will be both sides' first of 2018.

CLEARED: Young Buffaloes striker Ndoda Mtsetfwa will face Malanti Chiefs after recovering from an injury.

'Buffs' not shaken by CT City's transfer business

By Sabelo Majola

SOCCER - SWAZIBANK Cup champions Young Buffaloes are not shaken by Cape Town City's transfer business which has seen the Citizens release and sign players.

City have already roped in former Mamelodi Sundowns defender Kwanda Mngonyama and released former Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates striker Lehloholo Majoro, who joined Bidvest Wits while Aubrey Mngoma has left the Citizens for Sundowns.

Buffaloes PRO Sandile Gwebu said they were not worried about City and their

transfer business instead they were focusing on their squad to identify areas that needed bolstering.

Identified

"So far we haven't identified

any area in the team that needs to be beefed up. However, we are not ruling out the possibility of signing new players as the transfer window is nearing," he said.

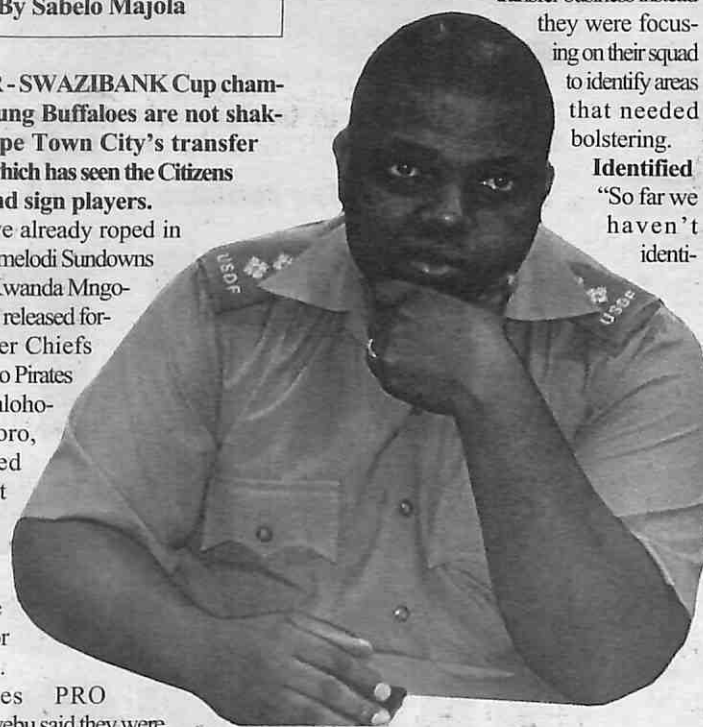
City head coach Benni McCarthy was recently quoted by TimesLive saying they will be looking to get some experienced players who have already played for the teams in CAF competitions.

Experienced

"A couple of quality players wouldn't be bad. If we can get some experienced players who have already played for teams in CAF competitions that could help because, I guess, we do have a lot of youngsters.

"I'm not saying I want old players but some with experience in Africa because you don't want to go into the unknown, get the shock of our lives and go out in the first round," said McCarthy.

The two sides will meet in the preliminary round of the two-legged CAF Confederations Cup in February.



NOT SHAKEN: Young Buffaloes PRO Sandile Gwebu.

'SICOCO' LINKED WITH A LOAN MOVE TO MALANTI

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - GREEN Mamba veteran goalkeeper Mpendulo 'Sicoco' Dlamini is heavily linked with a loan move to Malanti Chiefs.

A source close to the matter said talks between the two teams had already reached an advanced stage which could see the agile goalkeeper make a switch to the Pigg's Peak based side.

"Talks between the two teams are ongoing after Malanti requested to have 'Sicoco' on loan deal. They have seen him as the right candidate to beef up their goalkeeping department. The player might start training soon with Malanti this week ahead of the opening transfer window when his deal will be sealed," the source said.

Green Mamba Chief Executive Officer Thamie Phakathi said they were yet to receive a for-

mal approach from Malanti Chiefs over the player when contacted yesterday.

"I haven't received anything formal from Malanti Chiefs regarding the player you are talking about, therefore, it would be folly for me to comment at this stage," he said.

Unanswered

Efforts to get Malanti Chiefs Public Relations Officer Lungile Dube were futile after her cellphone rang unanswered when tried several times yesterday.

This could be Dlamini's second stint Malanti Chiefs after helping the gold and black assemble regain promotion to top flight football together with midfielder Theminkhosi 'Mbhedze' Dlamini last season.

The two players were recalled by 'Inyoka Eluhlazana' at the beginning of the current campaign.

The goalkeeper has, however, seen little game time at the Correctional Services side where he has been the third choice



COULDN'T BE REACHED FOR COMMENT: Malanti Chiefs PRO Lungile Dube.

behind Xolani Mngometulu and Siyabonga Simelane.

'Buffs' looking to bolster squad ahead of CAF

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER - ARMY side Young Buffaloes head coach Dominic Kunene says he will be bolstering his squad this January transfer window period in order to effectively compete in the CAF Confederations Cup.

Speaking when interviewed yesterday, Kunene said there were departments that needed attention but opted to keep his cards close to his chest. "I definitely will be bolstering my squad in this window period, especially because we have the regional campaign ahead of us.

Signing

"I need experienced campaigners, who have been to Africa before because most of the senior players were no longer with the team. I would like not like mention any names for now but we are signing new players."

Kunene said the players needed to compete for position in order to do



TO LOCK HORNS: Young Buffaloes in celebration after scoring a goal.

away with complacency.

"We need competition in the team to make sure we compete to the highest standard. Everyone should know that you don't just make the cut to the team, rather you earn your place. This

will kill complacency and keep the boys motivated and confident," he said.

'Buffs' will begin their regional campaign against moneyed South African side Cape Town City next month.

ESIBAYENI U-17 LEAGUE GIVES WAY TO INCWALA

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - THE Esibayeni Lodge U-17 League will be suspended this coming weekend to give way to the Incwala ceremony which is currently underway.

The league was set to resume this coming weekend as teams were set to play their opening matches of the New Year.

However, this weekend's matches have now been postponed to allow the Incwala ceremony to run smoothly, according to Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Development Communications Officer Dumisani 'DU' Sibandze.

"We were supposed to have the Esibayeni Lodge U-17 League

resumption this coming weekend but we have since suspended all matches because the Incwala ceremony is currently underway. Most of our players are part of the 'Ingatja' regiment and so we have to

give them the time to be able to fully participate in this important national event which we also fully support," he said.

Sibandze then went on to confirm that the League would resume on the second weekend of January. "The suspended matches will be played next weekend. Lastly, we would like to invite everyone to attend the Incwala ceremony without fail. We will also be there," he said.

The League is sponsored to the tune of E200 000 by Esibayeni Lodge.



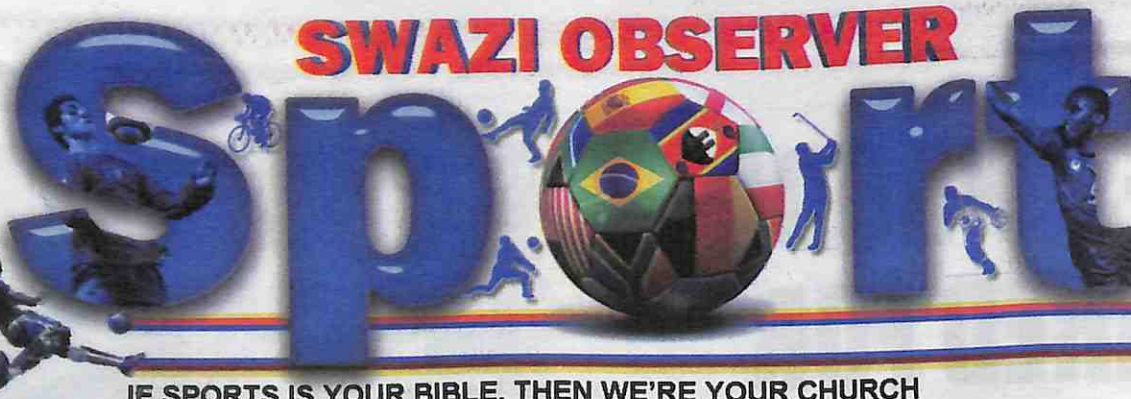
RESULTS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP

Brighton	2-2	AFC Bournemouth
Burnley	1-2	Liverpool
Leicester City	3-0	Huddersfield Town
Stoke City	0-1	Newcastle United
Everton	0-2	Manchester United

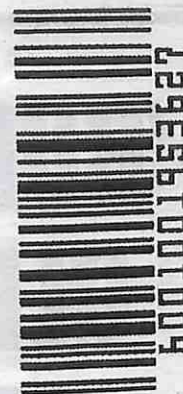
TONIGHT

Southampton	vs	Crystal Palace	9:45pm
West Ham United	vs	West Bromwich	9:45pm
Swansea City	vs	Tottenham Hotspur	9:45pm
Manchester City	vs	Watford	10pm



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

Tuesday January 2, 2018



Ingwenyama Cup last 8 draw tomorrow

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - THE SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup quarterfinal draw will be held tomorrow afternoon.

The last eight draw has been highly anticipated since the last 16 ties which were completed on December 17.

Last week, the tournament's PRO Nkhosilenhle 'Makawosi' Masuku told the Swazi Observer that the last eight draw would most likely be held this week while the matches will be played next weekend.

When contacted again yesterday, Masuku confirmed the draw would be held tomorrow.

"We are having the draw on Wednesday (tomorrow). We are looking at conducting the draw immediately after 12noon. The venue will most likely be the SMVAF headquarters in Mbabane," he said.

Draw

Masuku then added that the last eight matches will most likely be played in the second weekend of January. "We will conduct the draw tomorrow and the games are likely to be played next weekend. More information will be revealed after the draw." Some of the remaining teams in the third edition of the tournament are two-time champions Mbabane Swallows, last season's runners up Young Buffaloes, Manzini Wanderers and giant killers Milling Hotspurs. Milling along with National First Division pacesetters Mbabane Citizens remain the only none Premier League sides left standing in the tournament.

Milling alone have famously knocked out Matsapha United and Mbabane Highlanders while Malanti Chiefs, Red Lions, Midas City, Vovovo, Tambuti and Moneni Pirates are the other Premier League clubs, who have exited the tournament.

SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup Last 8 teams:

Mbabane Swallows	Mbabane Citizens
Milling Hotspurs	Young Buffaloes
Green Mamba	Royal Leopard
Manzini Sundowns	Manzini Wanderers

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE GAMES IN JEOPARDY

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - THERE is uncertainty surrounding this coming weekend's MTN Premier League games due to the ongoing Incwala ceremony.

The league is scheduled to resume this coming Saturday after a two-week break with five matches slated for Saturday and two for Sunday. However, with the Incwala ceremony ongoing and the main holiday set for later in the week, it has now put the resumption of the league under threat.

Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) COO Pat Vilakati didn't confirm the continuation of the games this weekend when contacted yesterday.

"We will meet tomorrow as the PLS and find a way forward. We must know the date of the main ceremony first so that we can plan. But all in all, we will tell you what happens tomorrow after our meeting," he said.

Yesterday, PLS Development



IT'S TRUE: Premier League of Swaziland COO Pat Vilakati.

Communications Officer Dumisani 'DU' Sibandze confirmed that the Esibayeni Lodge U-17 League, which was set to resume this coming weekend, had been suspended to give way to the Incwala ceremony. Some of the MTN Premier

League matches slated for this weekend include a tie pitting current leaders Mbabane Swallows and former champions Royal Leopard as well as a clash between Manzini Sundowns and Mbabane Highlanders.

THE FULL FIXTURE:

On Saturday at Prince of Wales Ground
Midas City vs Tambuti 3.30pm

On Saturday at Mavuso Sports Centre
Moneni Pirates vs Matsapha U 1.30pm
Mnz Wanderers vs Vovovo 3.30pm

On Saturday at Somhlolo National Stadium
Green Mamba vs Red Lions 1.30pm
Young Buffaloes vs Mint Chiefs 3.30pm

On Sunday Somhlolo National Stadium
Mnz Sundowns vs Mb. Highlanders 1.30pm
Mb. Swallows vs R. Leopard 3.30pm

LOG

MTN Premier League									
Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	
Mbabane Swallows	18	13	5	0	32	10	22	44	
Young Buffaloes	18	12	5	1	30	10	20	41	
Green Mamba	18	10	4	4	32	16	16	34	
Manzini Wanderers	18	9	3	6	22	22	0	30	
Matsapha United	18	7	8	3	16	13	3	28	
Malanti Chiefs	18	8	4	6	26	28	-2	28	
Royal Leopard	18	6	8	4	23	14	9	26	
Manzini Sundowns	18	6	7	5	23	17	6	25	
Mbabane Highlanders	18	6	5	7	17	18	-1	23	
Moneni Pirates	18	4	9	5	18	21	-3	21	
Vovovo	18	6	2	10	16	25	-10	20	
Tambuti	18	5	3	9	17	26	-9	18	
Red Lions	18	1	3	14	12	33	-21	6	
Midas City	18	0	1	17	9	37	-28	1	

MARTIAL, LINGARD COMBINE TO CUT MAN CITY'S LEAD

MANCHESTER - For all the holes in the modern Manchester United, Jose Mourinho does have some genuine quality at his disposal. Here at Goodison Park, United managed to lift some of their Christmas and New Year gloom thanks to two brilliant goals from Anthony Martial and Jesse Lingard.

This was not an entirely convincing United performance. They were very poor in the first half, lacking energy and any kind of confidence. But improvement did come and the two second half goals gave them a victory they very much deserved against an Everton team that was

very disappointing indeed.

Both goals came from distance and both were memorable. Martial's arrived in the 57th minute, delivered in to the top left corner of Jordan Pickford's goal by his right instep. Then, after United had weathered a brief rally from Sam Allardyce's Everton, Lingard struck from even further out, a superb shot struck across Pickford and in to the very same corner of the goal found earlier by Martial.

Pickford is a good young goalkeeper and had a good game here once again. But there was nothing he could have done to prevent either of these two shots flying past him.



GOAL: Anthony Martial let fly with a right-footed effort from outside the Everton penalty area in the second half.

Mourinho will be relieved. After consecutive draws against Leicester,

Burnley and Southampton, this victory elevates United back in to sec-

ond and above Chelsea who face a tough game at Arsenal tomorrow.

Daily Mail

LOG

Premier League									
Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	
Manchester City	21	19	2	0	61	12	49	59	
Manchester United	22	14	5	3	45	16	29	47	
Chelsea	21	14	3	4	39	14	25	45	
Liverpool	22	12	8	2	50	25	25	44	
Arsenal	21	11	5	5	38	26	12	38	
Tottenham Hotspur	20	11	4	5	39	20	19	37	
Burnley	22	9	7	6	19	19	0	34	
Leicester City	22	8	6	8	34	32	2	30	
Everton	22	7	6	9	25	34	-9	27	
Watford	21	7	4	10	30	37	-7	25	
Huddersfield Town	22	6	6	10	18	35	-17	24	
B. & Hove Albion	22	5	8	9	17	27	-10	23	
Newcastle United	22	6	4	12	20	30	-10	22	
AFC Bournemouth	22	5	6	11	22	34	-12	21	
Southampton	21	4	8	9	20	30	-10	20	
Stoke City	22	5	5	12	23	47	-24	20	
Crystal Palace	21	4	7	10	18	32	-14	19	
West Ham United	20	4	6	10	22	38	-16	18	
W. Bromwich Albion	22	2	10	9	15	28	-13	16	
Swansea City	21	4	4	13	13	32	-19	16	