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**50/50
CELEBRATIONS
AT MAVUSO
APRIL 19**

Page 2

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2018

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NATCOM WITH DIPLOMA IN POLICE SCIENCE STUDENTS



READY TO LEARN: Students enrolled for the Diploma in Police Science programme posing with the National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula and other dignitaries during the official inauguration and launch at Matsapha Police Academy. SEE PAGE 9

POLICE BOSS CALLS FOR CALM AND COOPERATION...

VICTOR'S DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

DIVIDE COPS

STORY
ON PAGE 3

...Two separate investigations are going parallel

'DZODZO'S SPY ON WAY OUT OF POLICE FORCE'

>>Story on
Page 3

SUPER SPECIALS!!

NO4 F7 STEEL
WINDOW FRAME
949mm X 1511mm
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NUTEC CEILING BOARD
1.2m x 3.6m
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PVA
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E199.⁹⁰

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50/50 celebrations at Mavuso on April 19

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

THE ministry of home affairs will mount big screens in four central places for the different regions of the country so that all citizens can follow proceedings of the 50/50 celebrations that will take place on April 19.

Minister Princess Tsandzile announced that the much anticipated 50/50 celebrations will take place at the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre.

She then explained that the big screens to be mounted in the respective regions will assist people to follow the celebrations live.

Addressing the media, the minister said they wanted the nation to share in the day hence the big screens

will be mounted in all four regions. On this day, His Majesty King Mswati III will be turning 50 and celebrating the country's 50 years of independence.

"The ministry of home affairs would like to inform the nation that it has pleased His Majesty to have the celebrations take place concurrently in the four regions as we celebrate at the main venue, the Mavuso Exhibition

Centre, there will also be big screens in each of the centres to watch proceedings which will be communicated at a later stage," she said. The princess further stated that transport would be made available for those who wish to attend the event.

"The nation is also informed that there will be food and beverages served at the end of the celebrations," she said. The minister said the ministry would continue to keep the nation updated on preparations until the day of the celebrations.



ANNOUNCED: Minister Princess Tsandzile

Alpheous Nxumalo loses E500 000 HIV+ suit against Observer

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

FORMER Swazi Observer Managing Director Alpheous Nxumalo who had taken the company to court demanding a sum of E500 000 for alleged defamation, lost his case as the High Court dismissed his application yesterday.

High Court Judge Sipho Nkosi dismissed Nxumalo's application with costs and this means that the former MD is expected to pay legal costs for both his lawyer and those that represented the Swazi Observer in the matter.

The former MD, who denied that he publicly made a statement to the effect that he is HIV positive, was represented by lawyer Macilongo Ndlovu in the matter while the Observer was represented by Zweli Shabangu from Magagula, Hlophe Attorneys.

He denied that he declared himself as HIV positive as reported by our sister newspaper the Observer On Saturday in 2015.

As a result of publishing the story from page 3 of the October 24, 2015 edition of the newspaper, Nxumalo was demanding a sum of E500 000 from his former employers for damages he allegedly suffered.

He was claiming payment of the sum of E200 000 in respect to damages he suffered as a Christian Evangelist, busi-

The former MD, denied that he publicly made a statement to the effect that he is HIV positive, was represented by lawyer Macilongo Ndlovu in the matter while the Observer was represented by Zweli Shabangu from Magagula, Hlophe Attorneys



LOSER: Former Swazi Observer Managing Director Alpheous Nxumalo.

nessman, professional writer and political analyst.

He was also demanding payment in the sum of E300 000 for damages he suffered as a result of the alleged wrongful and defamatory article, which he said had harmed his reputation.

According to the article, Nxumalo confessed to other church members that he had lived with the HIV positive condition for 14 years.

However, the former MD had submitted before Judge Nkosi that he never declared himself to be HIV positive at any stage.

He submitted that he used to conduct

tests before the article was even published and the results turned out negative.

Nxumalo had said even after the article was published, tests he conducted at different times also showed that he was not infected.

The former MD informed the court that it was a close relative of his that lived with the condition and had lived with it for the past 14 years.

Nxumalo told the judge that the newspaper published only about 10 per cent of his conversation with the prophet.

He said his conversation with the prophet covered other issues, which in his view were of public interest, but the newspaper zeroed in on the subject of HIV. He said there was no national interest on this subject.

He was being cross-examined by his attorney Ndlovu. Nxumalo explained that he was in Kempton Park when he conversed with the prophet.

He alleged that the prophet prophesied that he (Nxumalo) had left behind a close family member in hospital.

Although a written judgment was not given out to both counsel, Judge Nkosi stated that he had only made a summary judgment pronouncing that the applicant's (Nxumalo) application is hereby dismissed with costs.

New Inkhundla changes from Mashayekhatsi to Kumethula

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

THE Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) has announced a name change for one of the five new Tinkhundla barely a week after naming them.

In a press statement, the commission stated that the *Inkhundla* dividing Sandleni *Inkhundla* which was previously announced as Mashayekhatsi was actually Kumethula *Inkhundla*.

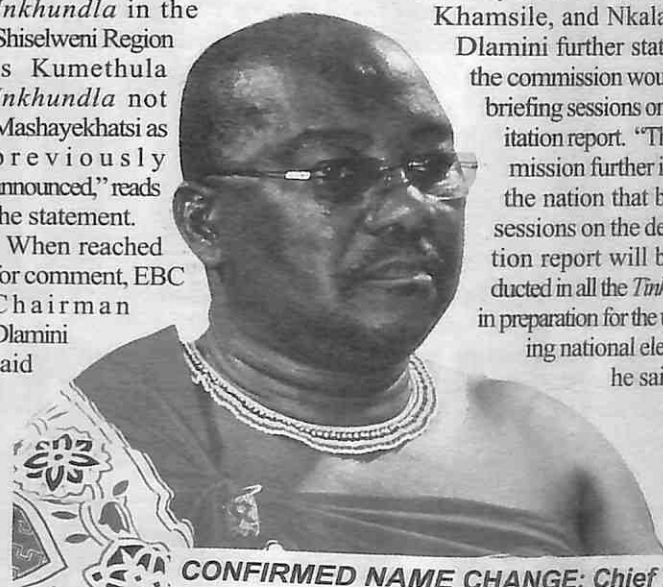
"Following the announcement on the King's proclamation of the new *Tinkhundla*, the Elections and Boundaries Commission rightfully informs the nation that the new *Inkhundla* dividing Sandleni *Inkhundla* in the Shiselweni Region is Kumethula *Inkhundla* not Mashayekhatsi as previously announced," reads the statement.

When reached for comment, EBC Chairman Dlamini said

the name change came about after consultation with community leaders as well as the Regional Administrator.

"We were told about the history of the two names, that while there was a farm that was known as Mashayekhatsi the area in general was known as Kametfula and there was a clinic under construction in the area and it had been named Kametfula so we figured we could make everything uniform by calling the *Inkhundla* Kumethula," he said. Kumethula is one of the five newly founded *tinkhundla*. It is in the Shiselweni region and was initially part of Sandleni *Inkhundla*. Eight chiefdoms make up the newly established *Inkhundla*. They included Mbangweni, Gasa, Nkomonye, Ndzameya, Lomfa, Mbabane, Khamisile, and Nkalangeni.

Dlamini further stated that the commission would have briefing sessions on delimitation report. "The commission further informs the nation that briefing sessions on the delimitation report will be conducted in all the *Tinkhundla* in preparation for the upcoming national election," he said.



CONFIRMED NAME CHANGE: Chief Gija.

SCU RE-OPENS TODAY

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

FOLLOWING a protest by students that got the Swaziland Christian University (SCU) closed last week, the institution will be re-opening this morning.

The students opted for a violent march last Wednesday and the institution was temporarily closed by the authorities.

However, it was declared open yesterday through a memo that was issued by the acting vice chancellor.

"At a meeting held on February 5, the University senate resolved that the University re-opens on February 6. Departments will inform

students on any outstanding academic work before examinations commence on February 12," reads the memo.

The Student Representative Council (SRC) was scheduled for a meeting with the school senate last Thursday to discuss the way forward after the protest by the students but they shunned it and went to the Magistrate's Court to show solidarity to their colleagues who were detained by the police for storming Saim Christian High School on the day of the protest and vandalised property.

The school's Executive Director Sipho Vilakati could not be drawn for comment as his phone rang unanswered when several attempts were made to get hold of him.

NEWS EXTRA

ANC official suspended for beating woman outside Luthuli House

JOHANNESBURG - The ANC in Johannesburg has suspended a branch secretary who was captured on camera assaulting a woman during a protest outside Luthuli House yesterday.

The man also handed himself over at a Johannesburg Police Station, Police Minister Fikile Mbalula tweeted.

"We had a regional meeting and decided that Thabiso Setona be suspended with immediate effect. He has also handed himself to the police at the Johannesburg Central Police Station," said Johannesburg regional spokesperson Jolidee Matongo.

The Joburg ANC earlier condemned Setona's conduct and said his behaviour "does not subscribe to the notion of people violently assaulting those who hold contrasting political views".

The region added: "Thabiso Setona's acts do not represent what the African



ASSAULT: A man believed to be Thabiso Setona, who is the ANC branch Secretary of Ward 62, is seen assaulting a woman, who was riding in the back of a vehicle.

National Congress stands for, and as a consequence of his revolting behaviour, he will face a disciplinary process hastily." Clashes broke out outside Luthuli House in Johannesburg yesterday when a van carrying a group of people in Black First Land First (BLF) regalia were attacked as the vehicle approached the main entrance of the building.

The BLF group got more than they bargained for when they were assaulted by ANC supporters, using fists, rocks and

sjamboks and chanting songs critical of President Jacob Zuma.

It took a heavy police contingent to separate the ANC and BLF supporters.

ANC supporters came out in their numbers yesterday to counter a "Hands off Jacob Zuma" protest, led by BLF and other organisations.

A video showing Setona attacking a woman who was already on the ground was captured by TimesLIVE.

TimesLive

VICTOR GAMEDZE'S DEATH INVESTIGATIONS DIVIDE COPS

COVER STORY

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Matsapha

THE death of businessman and soccer administrator Victor Gamedze has allegedly divided the police force.

Currently, sources revealed, there are two sets of investigations carried by different task teams that are also not too keen to share notes on what they have found in their respective digging.

This, according to police sources, is sabotaging the investigations into the death of the mogul.

It has surfaced that there are police officers who are carrying out their own investigations in what has been termed 'parallel investigations'.

On January 18, National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula announced the setting up of a high level task team made of top 10 detectives to investigate the assassination of Gamedze.

The task team, which was unveiled during a press conference, was led by top detectives that included the Deputy National Commissioner

Currently, sources revealed, there are two sets of investigations carried by different task teams that are also not too keen to share notes on what they have found in their respective digging

'SUSPECTS' PICTURES TO HIT INTERPOL WEBSITE SOONEST'

THE National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula has assured the public that photographs of the wanted suspects will be published on the Interpol website in due course.

He said the reason the pictures are not on the list yet was because there are still certain processes that needed to be cleared before the red notice is circulated and captured on the Interpol website.

Magagula said however as police they are aware that there are others in the public domain ques-

tioning the police's decision to publish the photographs of the wanted suspects. He said they are at a loss as to why the conventional method of investigation is being denigrated because since time immemorial, police all over the world have been publishing photos of wanted suspects. Magagula said they will publish the photos but it will be decided by Interpol whether they will be posted on the website or they will be shared among the different organisational structures.

now it seems there are other officers who have appointed themselves to deal with the matter.

Boundaries

Magagula has raised his concerns about such parallel investigations saying it becomes a problem where such parallel investigations tend to exceed their boundaries and therefore, are likely to lead to confusion. Addressing police officers and, other stakeholders who had come for the

launch of the Diploma in Police Science Programme at the Matsapha Police Academy yesterday, Magagula said as a police service they are aware that other officers, perhaps because the rising murder cases, have gone out of their way to undertake their own parallel investigations outside the main task team that was appointed. Magagula said at face value there would be nothing wrong with such eagerness to assist as long as everything is done in a transparent manner that includes sharing of notes with the main investigating team. Magagula warned about such parallel investigations exceeding their boundaries and causing confusion. It was gathered that already the parallel investigations have angered some officers who are in the task force. This comes after reports that there could be officers who are tipping off some of the wanted suspects. The police have so far arrested one suspect in businessman and soccer administrator Siphon Shongwe in connection with the murder of Gamedze. Three other suspects that include Mbabane socialite Sicelo 'Dzodzo' Zikalala, South African Mbuso Ncaza Nkosi and another unnamed yet South African are on the run.

that as a philanthropist, Gamedze did lend a hand in some projects aimed at enhancing police.

He said the assistance from Swazi Mobile was within the parameters of the company's corporate social responsibility programmes and it was extended to the police service as a whole and not individualised.

'Dzodzo's spy on way out of police force - NatCom

NATIONAL Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula is gunning for the head of the police officer, if any, who allegedly tipped suspect Sicelo 'Dzodzo' Zikalala who is wanted for the death of Victor Gamedze.

Magagula has come out strongly to condemn such and spoke strongly that a police officer with such traits does not belong to be part of the country's police force.

According to the allegations, 'Dzodzo' was seen leaving his compound by residents shortly before police arrived at his place of residence and this raised concerns that he was tipped by a police officer.

The national commissioner said the allegations that certain police officers assisted one of the fugitive suspects to elope after tipping him that the investigating team was on his trail are disconcerting.

Magagula said the allegation will be investigated thoroughly, as it would be profoundly unethical for any police officer to act in a manner that offsets the course of justice.

Weeded

The national commissioner made these remarks at Matsapha Police Academy yesterday during the launch of a Police Programme known as Diploma in Police Science.

Magagula said such an officer would be a misfit in the police organisation, and the sooner he or she is weeded out of the organisation the better for the police service and the nation. The police boss said it suffices that with all being said and done, they are cognisant that the police service's name and integrity is at stake with regard to the case and as a force they are committed to proving all the 'doubting Thomases' that they are equal to the task at hand.

Magagula said this sentiment does not apply to the task team leading the investigation, but the entire police agency.

He said even scholars in police science state that the success of the police hinges on the support and goodwill of the nation. Magagula said they used to know about tipping people when they went to raid dagga fields and members of the community would inform the dagga dealers that police are coming and, the national commissioner condemned such.

'GAMEDZE NEVER CAPTURED POLICE'

THE National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula rubbished allegations made through social media that police were captured by the late businessman Victor Gamedze.

Magagula said such fake social media news is a grave concern as they are not only irresponsible but slanderous to the highest level.

Magagula said it would appear that comments made during the

recent press conference might have been misunderstood to infer that the police were benefitting financially from Gamedze.

Shedding some light on the issue, Magagula said all that was said was

Umbutfo sentenced to 15 years in prison for murder

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

THE High Court sentenced a man who brutally killed another at a drinking spree to 15 years in jail.

High Court Judge Doris Tshabalala, who convicted Theminkosi Thumbela, for the murder of Muzi Ndwandwe stated that in arriving on an appropriate sentence, she took into account the factors brought to her attention by the defence counsel, including that the accused person was a first offender.

"In the same vein, I must take into account other relevant factors, namely the gravity of the crime, brutal manner in which it was executed and not the least, the interest of society," Judge Tshabalala said.

She further mentioned that the import of finding that extenuating circumstances exists is that regarding the murder charge, the court may impose any

suitable sentence other than the ultimate death sentence that is otherwise permissible under the Constitution of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Justice Tshabalala said in considering the impact of drunkenness as a mitigating factor in the circumstances of this case, she must be guided by the authority of the Supreme Court of Swaziland in the case of Mgubane Magagula Vs the King.

Criminal

That said, Justice Tshabalala stated that she must also impose a punishment that fits the criminal as well as the crime, punishment that is fair to society and is blended with a measure of mercy according to the circumstances.

She stressed that the offence committed by Theminkosi calls for a severe sentence to serve as deterrent to others and curb this type of senseless crime of violence and considered

the 15 years imprisonment as appropriate. The warrior had told the High Court that he did not intentionally kill the deceased.

Thumbela, who said he is a warrior attached to the regiments at Ngabezweni, had told Justice Tshabalala that the deceased person allegedly robbed him of E2 000 which was in possession of his brother and further attempted to stab his brother with a knife during the alleged armed robbery before coming to his rescue.

Thumbela of Ndunayithini told the court that he had received a sum of E5 000 as part of his *imbasha* (allowance) since he resided at *emalawini* within the Royal residence and that on that fateful day he decided to visit home which he normally did after getting his allowance (*imbasha*).

Upon reaching Ndunayithini at Emahlabatsini area, he gave his father E2 500 which he had asked to purchase a calf before proceeding to A1 bar in the company of his uncle's son Jabulani Thumbela and one Mduduzi Dlamini, who had been heading cattle for grazing.

"Upon arrival at A1 we had drinks with Mduduzi and since Jabulani was not taking alcoholic beverages, I gave him E2 000 to keep it on my behalf, remaining with the E500 which I had planned to use in buying more drinks and proceeded to play a pool game with Dlamini while enjoying our drinks," the warrior said. Since they had arrived as early as 1pm they enjoyed their drinks while waiting for someone until after 8pm when he was approached by one Melusi who advised him that Jabulani was being robbed outside the bar.

That is when he rushed outside and realised that his brother had been grabbed by the neck and pressed onto the ground by the armed man with two others going through his pockets in search for money.

He told the court that he rushed to his brother's rescue and disarmed the man who had pressed Jabulani onto the ground while the two others fled the scene and that was when he managed to grab him by his clothes and flung him onto the concrete wall where he landed head first, sustaining serious injuries on his head.

Seeing the E2 000 had already been taken from his brother, he alleged that he dragged the injured 'armed robber' into the bar and demanded more answers on where the money was and the deceased informed him the other two had bolted away with it.

"I then asked for the owner of the bar to inform him of the robbery before I pursued the other two but was later arrested while in search of them at the nearby houses," Thumbela had alleged.

ABUSE CASES GO DOWN BY 47%

...SWAGAA's counselling department provided post abuse care services to a total of 35 clients who reported abuse related cases, that is, the client was either sexually, physically, neglect, financially or emotionally abused

Stories by Lungelo
Nkambule
Mbabane

REPORTED cases of abuse in December decreased by 47.8 per cent when compared to November as only 35 were reported.

Statistics gathered from the Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) state that in December there were 35 cases reported while there were 67 reported in November, showing a decrease of 47.89 per cent.

"SWAGAA's counselling department provided post abuse care services to a total of 35 clients who reported abuse related cases, that is, the client was either sexually, physically, neglect, financially or emotionally abused," reads the report.

Manzini had the highest number of cases while there were none reported in the Shiselweni region.

"There were 19 survivors in the Manzini region who reported abuse related cases, nine Hhohho, and

Relationship between Survivor and Perpetrator	
Survivors	Relationship with perpetrator
9	Husband or wife
9	(Ex) Boyfriend or girlfriend
3	Father or mother
8	Relatives (children, cousins, in-laws, uncle and stepparents etc.)
2	Person from neighborhood
2	Principal or authority figure
2	Stranger/ unknown person

Location of abuse	
Place where abuse occurred	Number of survivors
Home	30
Open field	3
School	1
Work place	1

Reporting places	
SWAGAA	27
Police	8

seven in Lubombo," states the report.

"There were 15 recorded cases of emotional abuse, 10 cases of sexual abuse three cases of physical abuse, six cases of neglect and one cases of financial abuse. Emotional/verbal abuse continues to record the highest number of

cases; followed by sexual, neglect, physical and lastly financial," continues the report. Of the 35 cases reported there were 15 recorded cases of emotional abuse, 10 cases of sexual abuse three cases of physical abuse, six cases of neglect and one case of financial abuse.

"Emotional/verbal abuse continues to record the highest number of cases; followed by sexual, neglect, physical and lastly financial," the statement reads.

There were 30 female and five males who reported abuse and post abuse services during that month. In relation to perpetrator profile, there were 28 male perpetrators and seven female perpetrators reported. Intimate partners were the main perpetrators of violence, that is, nine survivors reported to be abused by their intimate partner either a boyfriend or girlfriend and nine survivors abused by either their husband or wife. Furthermore, eight survivors reported to be abused by their relatives.

"Home continues to be the predominant place where most of the reported abuse cases took place as the table above illustrates. This could be the survivor's or perpetrator's home which shows that most of the abuse is brought by people who stay with and are known to the survivor," it continues.

...57 teachers, mentors capacitated

IN response to the escalating cases of abuse especially sexual violence against children, the Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) has capacitated 57 school teachers and mentors through a two-week training programme.

Through a research programme conducted by the organisation in partnership with Together for Girls and Population Council, it has been concluded that healthy transitions to adulthood among adolescent girls in Swaziland are hampered by a variety of critical issues, including high rates of GBV and unsafe sex, which heighten risk for unwanted pregnancy and HIV infection; lack of agency; social isolation; school dropout; and economic vulnerability.

Many girls in Swaziland do not transition to secondary school, and drop-out risk is heightened as girls enter adolescence.

It is in this regard that the new programme (Empowering Girls for Improved Health and Wellbeing) will be introducing and conducting educational health sensitisation sessions in selected schools throughout the country. With technical assistance from the ministry of education and training (Care and Guidance and Counselling Unit), the overall goal of the training workshop was to capacitate the teachers and mentors on the ideal approach to use in sensitising in-school participants of the programme. Topics discussed included Gender Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV/AIDS.

De Lille threatens legal action against DA

CAPE TOWN - Patricia de Lille's running battle with the Democratic Alliance leadership has flared up once again, with the under-fire Cape Town mayor yesterday threat-

ening to take legal action against her own party for leaking the contents of an affidavit alleging that she tried to solicit a bribe.

De Lille yesterday evening tweet-

ed portions of a letter sent by her legal team to federal chairman James Selfe over the publication of an affidavit by businessman Anthony Faul in the media at the weekend.

According to Afrikaans newspaper Rapport, Faul alleged that De Lille had sought R5-million from him for endorsing his product, a fire extinguisher that he was marketing to use in informal settlements in the city. When he refused to pay, the endorsement was allegedly withdrawn.

The complaint dates back several years, but was only brought to the party's attention by Faul last week.

The allegation resulted in criminal charges being laid against De Lille by the DA.

But the embattled mayor shot back on her verified Twitter account at exactly 5pm yesterday, posting two pictures of letters sent to Selfe. She said Faul's claims were untrue. The letter states that De Lille was sent a copy of Faul's affidavit on January 30 and informed that this would form the basis of a charge against her - but that she would be given the chance to respond. But, her lawyers said, that the publication of the informa-

tion in the weekend press showed a prejudice against her.

"We are instructed [by De Lille] that the DA had maliciously and with the intention to cause our client maximum reputation damage caused the contents of the Faul affidavit to be published in the media.

"In addition, the DA has caused criminal charges to be laid against our client based on the contents of the affidavit in circumstances where it must be clear that the allegations as contained in the affidavit are untested and more so uncorroborated... There was a duty on the DA to have tested the veracity of the allegations before it caused the affidavit to be published and or before it laid the criminal charge," the letter reads.

Her lawyers then went on full-on attack.

"The publication of the contents of the affidavit is reckless and malicious and clearly intended to have our client found guilty in the court of public opinion," the letter states.

Her lawyers said she was reserving her rights to take "appropriate action against the DA and Faul".

Timeslive

Zuma removal crucial, needs to be concluded urgently - ANC

JOHANNESBURG - As President Jacob Zuma's fate hangs in the balance, the African National Congress (ANC) has told Eyewitness News a discussion around his removal is crucial and needs to be concluded urgently.

The national working committee (NWC) is hearing a report back from the party's top six on why President Zuma refused to resign.

It was the committee that mandated the party's top officials to meet with the president and discuss his removal. Zuma's future remains uncertain as the NWC meeting is currently underway at Luthuli House.

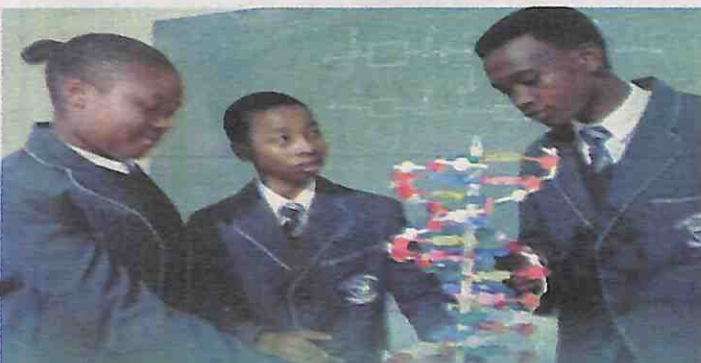
The ANC says it takes this matter seriously and wants to handle it the best way possible.

ANC spokesperson Khusela Diko says calling the NWC meeting at such short notice goes to show just how the ANC is serious about handling Zuma's removal with urgency.

"I think we must appreciate that the ANC has said that all matters relating to the engagements around President Zuma they would want to conclude as speedily as possible. It has created an unnecessary anxiety within the country. There have been all manners of speculation and rumours are ripe, so we would assume that is why this meeting has been called at short notice."

Diko says while there hasn't been a decision yet to convene a special national executive committee (NEC), there is the possibility of that happening, depending on the magnitude of the issues or whether there are decisions that need to be taken by the NEC. "But that being said, depending on the magnitude of the issues. Whether it is something outside then of what the NWC and national officials maybe should be able to deal with themselves." *News24*

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STUDY PERMITS... WAITING FOR THEIR NAMES TO BE CALLED



IT'S GETTING TOUGH: Parents and their children were found sitting and sleeping on the floor of the New Mall at around 2pm yesterday afternoon while waiting for their names to be called after applying for study permits at the South African High Commission offices. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



IN DEEP THOUGHT: 1. Some came with their camp chairs. 2. This was the situation at the New Mall yesterday where Swazis waited outside the SA High Commission for study permits.



ASPIRING: More aspiring students seated on the floor while waiting for their study permits.



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6 NATIONAL NEWS

BUGANU SEASON IS HERE

DRINK IT RESPONSIBLY, POLICE WARNS PUBLIC

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

IT is that time of the year where Swazis get to enjoy the seasonal and locally brewed marula brew and police have warned drinkers of the beverage to enjoy it responsibly.

The fruit has ripened in many parts of the country and brewers have already started brewing the much loved beverage.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer (PICO) Superintendent Khulani Mamba said they are aware that the marula season has begun.

He said people who quench their thirst with the fruit should do so responsibly to avoid cases of drink-driving, violence, killings and theft.

"As long as the fruit is not banned, people are bound to drink it and we want to urge them to drink responsibly to avoid landing them-

selves in trouble with the law. We will be very strict to people who will violate the law while under the influence. We also urge those selling the fruit not to give it to under-age persons as that is against the law," he said.

Forbids

Ludzidzini Acting Governor Fohla Sukati said there is no law that forbids people to brew the fruit even before the *buganu* ceremony held annually at Buhleni and Hlane.

"If the fruit has ripened around your area, there is no law that forbids one from getting on with brewing but Swazis should not allow the beverage to turn them into disrespectful beings, they should enjoy it responsibly," he warned.

Found in Swaziland more than any other African country, the Marula fruit is sacred, and considered much more than a food source.

Its medicinal properties, ability to aid fertility, and its sweet and highly alcoholic beer are all held in high regard.



PHEZUKOMKHONO: A buganu container during the ceremony.

ACM hoping to sign MoA with govt soon

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

CONTRARY to reports that the Africa Continent Mission (ACM) has come to solid conclusions with the ministry of education and training both parties have denied signing the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) currently negotiated.

ACM Chairman Philemon Mgabhi said negotiations between the two parties were going very well and they hope to reach an agreement with the ministry and sign the MoA soon.

"Negotiations between government and the ACM are going very well and after our input to the discussions, government legal teams are working around the clock to get over with the negotiations and have the MoA signed," he said.

Hindered

Mgabhi did not get to the details of the MoA but said they wished the negotiations were long over as they got the MoA from government in November last year but got delayed by the festive holidays. The MoA is believed to have hindered, among other things, the awarding of scholarships to first year students at Swaziland Christian University (SCU) while also delaying the graduation of the tertiary's fourth year students.

Acting Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Training Dr Sibongile Mtshali was on radio addressing the issue yesterday. She dismissed reports suggesting that the MoA between the ministry and ACM had already been signed.

Govt to meet Tom Kirk over Mahhala Police Post

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Matsapha

FOLLOWING an altercation between the police and Matsapha businessman and property owner Tom Kirk, a meeting has been facilitated involving the ministry of public works and transport, Matsapha Municipal Council, ministry of natural resources, Royal Swaziland Police and Kirk himself.

This follows a controversy relating to the site of Mahhala Police Post that saw a clash between Kirk and a police officer almost getting physical.

A police officer is alleged to have threatened Kirk after a dispute at the Mobile Police Post, which is situated at Mahhala at the businessman's premises.

National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula said as police they were disturbed by the controversy of the Mahhala Police Post that has unfortunately degenerated into a confrontation between one of their own and the businessman who is aggrieved about the site where the Satellite Post is located.

Matter

Magagula said as police their desire is that the matter be addressed in an amicable manner that will be a win-win for all stakeholders, especially in the interest of safety and security.

The national commissioner appealed that the matter should not be discussed in newspapers as that is counter-productive.

Magagula said processes were already underway for a meeting between all stakeholders that include the businessman, Matsapha Municipal Council, ministry of public works and transport and ministry of natural resources.

Never threaten me again - Principal magistrate

Stories by Sibusiso Gamedze
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

"THE stunts that you pulled when you saw my car at the Mangwaneni inter-section did not and cannot threaten me. If you see me around, just go on with your business, I am not threatened, and I do my job without fear or favour."

These are the words of Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi directed to suspect fraudster Ntokozo Maswati Dlamini who allegedly tried to threaten the principal magistrate some time ago.

"Before proceeding with this matter, I want to start by sending a stern admonition to the accused person for the feat he pulled, by seeing my car and then proceeding to point at me while you were with your relatives," said the principal magistrate.

Intimidation

Nhlabatsi made it clear to all and sundry that she was in no way going to be threatened for doing her job and that she would continue to hear and decide matters without any undue influence, threats and intimidation.

Principal magistrate irked by lawyer's absence

"THIS game you are making us play, must come to an end. I want this matter concluded before the end of the current session."

These were the unyielding words of Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi towards accused Bongani Stanley Fakudze after he revealed that his lawyer was reportedly at the High Court, and could not, therefore, make an appearance on his behalf.

"It's not personal Mr Fakudze but as you can see this matter is from year 2015 and still has not been finalised in 2018," said Nhlabatsi.

She decried at the fact that accused persons were making regular and

prompt payments to their attorneys only for them not to show up when their client's matters were in court. This, according to Nhlabatsi, was a cause for concern.

"Nani bombekwa cala niyababhadala labameli benu bese abaseti kutonimela lana enkantolo, loko akusiko kahle, nawungumntfu lomdzala kumele umbone umntfu lokubambisa litje," loosely translated to mean, "accused persons contribute to the problem as they pay the lawyers who don't come to courts, as an adult you must see through lawyers lies."

This then prompted Fakudze to

articulate his sentiments on the subject and said he had pre-arranged with his lawyer on Sunday, but he was also astounded to come to court and be told that the lawyer was at the High Court.

"Nami Nkosiye nkantolo ngisele ngimangele ngoba lommeli wami ngikhulume naye ngeliSontfo wazibutabe akhona, kodvwa nangifika batsi usenkantolo lephakeme."

Fakudze further decried the state of affairs he finds himself in, as he was being put out of pocket with the postponements and that he needed protection from the principal magistrate.

The no-nonsense principal magistrate further told the accused person that the issue was not up for debate as the accused was attempting to respond to the allegations leveled against him.

"Nkosiye nkantolo angati kausi ukhuluma ngani," meaning Your Worship I have no recollection of the incident you are talking about. This drama

happened before Dlamini's matter was postponed to March 19, after it was also revealed that the accused Lawyer Noncedo Ndlangamandla could not appear as she was reportedly at the High Court.

According to the charge sheet, Ntokozo Maswati Dlamini (37) of Mpolonjeni under Chief Zembe Dube, who works at the Mbabane Government

Hospital, was charged with various counts including theft by false pretences and fraud.

On the first count, he was alleged to have stolen a Swazi Empowerment Share Certificate valued at E5 000 for the late Bôtha Hezekia Dlamini which was in the lawful custody of one Sibusiso Dlamini the Executor in the deceased's estate.

SWAZI MED PARTNERS WITH SA MEDICAL AID COUNTERPARTS

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

IN what will come as relief for Swazi students wishing to study in South Africa, Swazi Med has partnered with South African medical aid counterparts, a solidarity that will bridge the gap on local and SA regulations on medical aid.

Most schools' regulations in South Africa demand that students should be under a S-

African medical aid scheme to register for enrolment and Swazis had difficulty breaking that barrier, hence the solidarity initiated by Swazi Med is not just a relief to the students but people seeking for work permits as well.

Swazi Med Manager Sicelo Mkhonta said after the solidarity with multiple medical aiders in South Africa, no student will be rejected due to a medical aid that is not under South Africa.

"In the past, some institutions in South Africa were rejecting

Swazis for producing the Swazi Med medical scheme but due to the partnership that we have with our neighbouring counterparts, we came to agreements that will do away with the disapproval of local students or people seeking for work permits," he said.

Seeking

A medical aid is among the requirements demanded at the South African High Commission where throngs of Swazi students are currently seeking for study permits to enroll in the neigh-

bouring country.

Mkhonta invited Swazis to join Swazi Med as it is made to serve them in the best way possible.

"We have zero per cent contribution increase and our high benefit is unlimited. Swazi people should make use of the scheme as it is meant for them to benefit handsomely," he said.

Mkhonta then gave clarity on the company being wrongly classified and said they are not a medical aid insurance but a non-profit scheme company.

Court stops allocation of land at Nhlambeni

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

A resident of Nhlambeni has obtained an order of court interdicting three other residents or anyone with authority from allocating land on a disputed portion that allegedly belongs to him at Mncozini area near Ngonini.

Simon Mabuza has filed an urgent application at the High Court, where he was also seeking an order interdicting and restraining anyone who is doing construction works at the disputed area from proceeding with any construction pending finalisation of the matter within the traditional structures.

Allocated

High Court Judge Sipho Nkosi granted the orders in terms of prayers one to four of the notice of motion as filed by lawyer Linda Dlamini who is representing the applicant (Simon).

According to the applicant in his affidavit, sometime in 1938, his grandfather arrived at Ngonini under Nhlambeni *umphakatsi*, khontaed and duly paid a cow in accordance with the Swazi Law and Custom for one to be allocated land.

He submitted that he is advised by family elders that a certain Kunene family was allocated land where he duly used the land for cultivating purposes and around the year 1984 his father Nduku Mabuza gave him a portion of land situated at Mncozini area.

He said other than that there is also another portion belonging to his elders which he did not use but

● Simon Mabuza obtains order interdicting, restraining Amos Lulane, Timothy Mabuza, Siphepho Kunene from allocating people land at Mncozini pending finalisation of matter before court



GRANTED ORDER: High Court Judge Sipho Nkosi.

only used the one that was allocated by his father to him.

He mentioned that the land in question is known to be belonging to the Mabuza elders and no one had laid claim against it up until the third respondent, Kunene, resurfaced in the year 2013 and started making allegations to the effect that the land in question belongs to his (Kunene's)

family.

The applicant submitted that when he wanted to use a portion of land he realised that he could not without fencing as he wanted to cultivate the fields and as a result, he requested his father to invite someone from the Kunene family and the chairman of the inner council one Zondle Zwane who is, how-

ever, deceased to witness the fencing project.

He stated that he fenced the land allocated only to him which was part of the land allocated to the Mabuza family but to his surprise and dismay he was called by the third respondent (Kunene) who informed him that he was now taking back the land allocated to his (Mabuza) family.

Reconsider

Pursuant to that, he submitted that he was summoned by the Nhlambeni Royal Kraal where a decision to the effect that the land in question was indeed being taken by Kunene, was communicated to him.

"I was actually not pleased with the decision of *Libandla* splitting the fields and I made it clear to everyone present that I will take the matter further to the relevant traditional authorities within the traditional structures hence I proceeded to the Manzini Regional Administrator in 2014," Simon submitted. He proceeded to state that the RA advised the inner council to go and reconsider their decision and they informed him that same would not be changed, adding that despite the RA's call, the inner council never convened to deliberate upon it save for allegedly blatantly telling him they would stick to their decision.

Kang-Fa worker arrested for theft, fined E1 000

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

WHILE workers of Kang-Fa Textile factory remain jobless since the factory stopped operating in November last year, a female employee appeared before the Magistrate's Court after she was arrested for theft.

Cebisile Dlamini appeared before Senior Magistrate Donald Mavuso yesterday. The woman was accompanied by a relative who assisted her in taking care of her eight-month-old baby whom she was carrying as she came to court.

According to the charge sheet, the accused wrongfully and unlawfully stole a cellphone valued at E3 000 which belonged to one Mary Koomston.

She pleaded guilty to the charge when it was read to her. Her plea was accepted by the Crown without leading evidence to prove commission of the crime. The stolen item was said to have been recovered.

During mitigation, the accused pleaded for leniency from the court, saying she was tempted to commit the crime. She told the court that she stole the cellphone with the intention of selling it as she was desperate for money.

The accused further told the court that she had since apologised to the owner of the cellphone, and she had forgiven her. She was accordingly found guilty by the court and was sentenced to four months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 000 fine.

Half of the sentence was, however, suspended for a period of three years on condition that she does not commit a similar offence.

It is recalled that workers of the textile factory recently voiced out their frustrations following the indefinite closure of the company. The workers, who are still hoping that the company will soon resume operation, stated that they were currently facing serious financial challenges which may force them to engage in illegal activities.

Some of the workers stated that they have already been kicked out of their rented flats as they are no longer able to pay rent.

No installments, sureties here – Prosecutor

Stories by Sibusiso Gamedze
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

SENIOR public prosecutor Buddy Masango yesterday made it clear to Phathizwe Mavimbela that the court does not allow convicts to pay their fines in installments as most convicts failed to honour their monthly obligations once granted freedom.

Mavimbela was arrested yesterday at or about 8am and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. He appeared before Magistrate Lenhle Zulu shortly thereafter. It was during his mitigation of sentence that Mavimbela pleaded with the court to allow him to pay the E1 200 fine in installments as he had no money and was already struggling financially, after paying school fees for his two minor children. Mavimbela further said it was not his intention to drive while intoxicated as he had the drinks on Sunday knowing that he was

Lawyer congratulates Magistrate Zulu on new appointment

A lawyer from Mabila Attorneys Lindelwa Mkhwanazi shocked court attendants when he suddenly complemented Magistrate Lenhle Zulu on her new appointment as a magistrate on behalf of Mabila Attorneys. "Your Worship, on behalf of our office we would like to start by congratulating you on your new appointment as a magistrate in this honourable

court and wish you a prosperous engagement going forward as you dispense justice," Mkhwanazi said.

Magistrate Zulu gracefully accepted the congratulatory message from the lawyer and said she was happy that the lawyers from Mabila Attorneys wished her well, much to the amusement of the gallery.

not going to be at work as he was off-duty until today. He said yesterday morning he received a call from his employer who asked him to ferry some materials from Mbabane to Matsapha.

He was then stopped by the police who administered the breathalyser test which recorded that his blood alcohol

content was above the legal limit of 0.38mg/l. The convict then asked if he could be allowed to provide someone who could stand as surety for him in respect of the fine, to which Masango then informed Mavimbela that sureties were only allowed at the High Court and not at the Magistrate's Court.

Drunk driver slapped with E2 500 fine

"YOU seem to have an answer to everything," Magistrate Lenhle Zulu said to Daluxolo Wiseman Mathonsi, who was slapped with four counts related to drink-driving after he recorded the highest reading of 1.31mg/l.

According to the charge sheet, Mathonsi was arrested and charged with offences including that of driving under the influence, driving an unroadworthy vehicle, failing to produce his drivers licence when ordered to do so and failing to obey instruction of the traffic officer one Constable Simelane.

"Nkosiye nkantolo ngiyacolisa ngalesento bekungasiyo inhloso, bengimikisa lelinye lijaha lakitsi esbhedlela ngiko nelicence ngiyikhohlwe ekhaya kani nalamphoyisa abengafuni ku understander", meaning that he was

sorry he did not intend to break the law, he was merely taking his relative to hospital and the police did not bother to understand that he forgot his licence at home.

Magistrate Zulu then asked why the accused person did not call the paramedics to take his sick relative to hospital as this was a free service. "Bongashayi ngani lena ka 977 batolandza lomuntfu logulako", asked Zulu.

"Lucingo lwami belu off futsi lwasala ekhaya", loosely translated to mean "my phone was off and I had left it at home."

Nevertheless, the magistrate advised Mathonsi to develop a culture of cooperating with the police as they were there to serve and protect all members of the public. Zulu sentenced Mathonsi to a combined fine of E2 500.

TUCOSWA wants justice for jobless Langa Bricks, Kang-Fa workers

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

THE Siteki Branch of TUCOSWA has vowed to pursue cases relating to the closure of Langa Bricks and Kang-Fa Textile factory as they seek justice for the now jobless workers. TUCOSWA is the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland.

The two companies remain un-operational as they closed down business in November last year.

This has left hundreds of people unemployed. Apparently, Langa Bricks reported financial challenges before its closure while the reasons behind the shutting down of the textile factory remain unclear.

Speaking during an interview, TUCOSWA Siteki Branch Secretary

Sifiso Mabuza disclosed that they were currently pursuing a case with the Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration Commission (CMAC) wherein the congress will seek for compensation for the workers.

In fact, Mabuza stated that they filed a case with the commission even before the brick manufacturing company reported its challenges in resuming operations early this year.

He said initially they had informed the commission of the company's failure to pay salaries on time. The workers are alleged to have been owed salaries for about five months before the company eventually halted operations.

He said therefore, the closing of the company without paying severance packages was another case which was added to the initial one.

In the meantime, Mabuza said they were also looking closely at the Kang-Fa case following reports that the textile factory could resume operations before the end of this month.

Mabuza went and decried the man-

ner in which government seemed to be reluctant at attending to such cases where a company could close down business without properly compensating the workers.

In fact, Mabuza said this seemed to be a strategy used by some employers who did not want to take responsibility and pay their workers accordingly.

"Actually we do not believe that the companies are sincere about the financial challenges they are allegedly facing as we view this as a strategy to retrench the workers without paying them what is due to them," he said.

PASSPORT HEADACHE



MORE PROBLEMS: Swazis collecting their travel documents were packed at the Ministry of Home Affairs. Some of them complained about the E500 issuing fee for one passport. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



BRING: An immigration officer complains at being photographed while distributing the travel documents.

Employment Opportunity Head of Corporate Services

A well respected and established key player within the Swaziland economic environment seeks to recruit an experienced, qualified and skilled individual to fill the position of Head of Corporate Services. This position requires a visionary leader who is adaptable, committed to high standards and an active team player.

Purpose of the job

To lead and direct the Corporate Services function through management of the Human Resources division to ensure the implementation of HR best practices and policies in partnership with line management to enable the acquisition, development and retention of human capital; and to provide leadership to the Communications, and Estates and Administration divisions.

Key performance areas

- Execution of Strategic Projects
- Human Resource Management
- Staff Management
- Financial efficiencies
- Efficient management of provision of infrastructure/services
- Efficient management of internal/external communication and customer service standards

Skills, knowledge and attributes

- Strategic agility, leadership skills and analytical thinking
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Relationship and conflict management skills
- Ability to facilitate development of staff, succession planning, staff retention and talent management
- Ability to drive employee engagement and discipline, and foster a performance culture
- Good reporting and presentation skills
- Knowledge of HR policies and procedures, legislation and best practise
- Customer centric and deadline driven
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and display tact and discretion at all times

Minimum educational qualifications

- Honours Degree in Business Management and 8 years business management experience with 5 years at senior management level
- Master's Degree in Business Management and 6 plus years' experience at a senior management level will be considered an added advantage

Terms and Conditions

- This position is on a fixed term contract renewable upon satisfactory performance.

All applications must include an application letter and detailed curriculum vitae. Interested applicants should direct their applications clearly specifying the position for which you are applying to:

The Recruitment Manager
KPMG Advisory (Swi) (Pty) Ltd
Lot 195 Umkhwa House
Kal Grant Street, Mbabane
Email: recruitment@kpmg.co.sz

Closing date for applications: 08 February 2018



SPINTEX EMPLOYEES CHALLENGE MASS DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

Stories by Sandile Nkambule
Industrial Court

WORKERS of one of the largest textile firms in Matsapha are vigorously challenging their employer against a decision to take them to a mass disciplinary hearing for alleged misconduct.

The employees have been charged by their employer for allegedly taking part in an industrial action over unpaid allowances related to overtime. Following the strike action, the textile company decided to charge all the workers who are affiliated to the Amalgamated Trade Union of Swaziland (ATUSWA).

Represented by Derrick Dlamini from ATUSWA, the employees returned home dejected last Thursday when their matter at the Industrial Court was postponed to a later date. This was not the first time the matter has been postponed reason being that legal representatives of their employer is yet to file court papers.

Their union ATUSWA, has taken the compa-

ny to court after it had served the union members with notices, calling members of the union to attend the mass disciplinary hearings which were scheduled to take place at Matsapha Town Board Hall on January 16 and 17.

Following the textile company's action, the union ran to the Industrial Court to challenge the manner in which its members were served.

Secondly, the union was challenging the non-payment of wages and leave days which the company had failed to pay its members.

On the issue regarding the disciplinary hearing, in its papers filed in court, the company conceded that it did not serve the workers and that the notices that were sent to the union were of no effect.

Meanwhile, the Industrial Court issued an interim order that the employer should pay workers their wages and leave pay, also that the employer was expected to show cause why the order should not be made final when the matter returns to court.

The company is expected to file its answering affidavit which has not been the case hence the postponement to a later date.

Tight security at the Industrial Court

THERE was tight security at the Industrial Court where the matter involving ATUSWA and Spintex Swaziland was supposed to be heard.

Police from the Operational Support Service Unit (OSSU) were littered both inside and outside the Industrial Court owing to the large presence of the employees who came to listen in person how the matter was heard by the court.

However, their presence did not last long as the matter was postponed to a later date after lawyers representing the company applied for the matter

to be postponed as they want to file court papers before court.

Industrial Court Judge President Sifiso Nsibandze postponed the matter to February 12 when the papers would have been filed. Court A at the Industrial Court was reduced to a classroom as more and more workers arrived forcing some to follow the proceedings from outside.

However, by 10:00am the workers were seen leaving the court one after the other while some left in groups as they went back to their various abodes.

Diploma in Police Science officially launched

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Matsapha

NATIONAL Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula has officially launched the much anticipated Diploma in Police Science programme at the Matsapha Police Academy.

The programme, which came about as a result of the joint efforts from the University of Swaziland (UNISWA), Swaziland Higher Education Council (SHEC) and Royal Swaziland Police Service (RSPS), was officially launched yesterday.

Already 30 police officers have enrolled for the programme.

Speaking during the launch, Magagula said the Diploma in Police Science programme will be run for a period of three years under the auspices of the Faculty of the Leadership and Management in the academy.

Magagula said the first batch of participants in the inaugural Police Science programme is 30 officers from various police stations around the country.

He said these officers have been selected on the basis of operational experience and meeting the admissions criteria of the University of Swaziland.

He said the reason the first intake has been restricted to 30 officers was because they were still piloting the programme and for the next academic session, starting in August, they will at least double the figure, given the overwhelming number of aspiring and qualifying candidates.

He said this will ensure that the advanced training opportunity is broadened to as many



OFFICIAL LAUNCH: Lecturers who will be teaching the Diploma in Police Science posing with the National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula.

eligible police officers as possible for the quick win.

During the launch it was revealed that the programme went through all the relevant structures to ensure that it meets all the required criteria.

Some of the stakeholders who were instrumental in providing invaluable assistance in ensuring that the programme comes into fruition included the University of Swaziland.

During his remarks, Magagula thanked the university and its senate for their contribution in making the programme a reality.

He further thanked Professor Masuku, who was at the event representing UNISWA, and members of the task team working alongside a team from the Royal Swaziland Police Service for working hard to introduce the new training programme.

During the construction of the programme

representatives from Swaziland Higher Education Council (SHEC) were behind the police service, advising and assisting on the requirements of having the academy registered and accredited as a bonafide institution of higher learning.

Magagula said the academy already possessed the requisite certificate to operate in line with the provision regulating tertiary institutions in the country.

NATCOM THANKS HIS MAJESTY FOR LANDMARK PRONOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula has paid tribute to His Majesty King Mswati III for his landmark pronouncement of commissioning and blessing the operation of the Police Academy during the 2017 Police Day Celebrations.

Speaking about the genesis of the programme during its launch, Magagula said it should be recalled that the foundational blocks for the programme were laid in 2016, when the police service entered into a partnership agreement on training support with the University of Swaziland (UNISWA). He said this was driven by their quest as an organisation to enhance the acumen and performance metrics of their human capital.

He said the driving desire to revolutionise and upgrade police training to the extent of introducing the Police Science Diploma and eventually a Degree is simply meant to ensure that officers are properly capacitated to tackle the policing challenges that are manifesting in a modern, dynamic and educated society.

He said the society's landscape is fraught with criminal elements that are becoming more and more sophisticated and innovative in their nefarious activities of perpetrating crime.

Step ahead

He said such a scenario, requires the police to consistently be a step ahead in terms of their analytic acumen and crime fighting prowess.

He said therefore the Police Science programme is embedded with the necessary tools to broaden the intellectual horizons of police officers, so that they are better able to understand the psyche of the criminal mind in order to devise appropriate techniques of helping society from the vagaries of crime.

Some of the modules that have been introduced by the Police Science programme that



LANDMARK: UNISWA Representative Professor Micah Masuku making his remarks during the launch of the programme.

were not there before include Criminology, Community Policing, Crime Prevention and Detection, Global and Regional Security, Forensic Investigation, Comparative Policing and Legal Studies.

Magagula said in addition to the outlined subject areas, the requirements for the diploma are that participants will have to conduct a research project aimed at coming up with proposals to address pertinent policing challenges such as the current scourge of violent contact crimes, in particular, murders, armed robberies and rapes which are premeditated and accompanied by aggravating circumstances.

The certification will be jointly endorsed by UNISWA and the Royal Swaziland Police Service. Magagula assured officers that facilitation will also be conducted by lecturers with credible credentials from both entities.



EXTERNAL ADVERT - INSTRUMENTS TECHNICIAN

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment to the above position that has arisen from **Ubombo Sugar - Factory Division**.

THE JOB: Reporting to the Control and Instrument Engineer or his/her nominee, the purpose of the job is to ensure correct installation, repair and maintenance of all instrumentation at Ubombo as per set standards. The incumbent will also be responsible amongst other things for:-

- Performing routine checks and scheduled maintenance on all installations to minimize instrument failure.
- Inspecting faulty instruments, diagnose cause of malfunction and repair as required to manufacturer's standards.
- Investigate and price spares for procurement for use in factory instrument equipment.
- Developing and configuring DCS application software.
- Must have leadership qualities and should also be a change agent.
- Assisting with training of apprentices and provide technical support to artisans.
- Part-taking in the development of an annual season and off-crop maintenance budget.
- Assisting with planning and making drawings for projects.
- Performing standby duties.

THE APPLICANT: The appropriate candidate sought, must have the following:-

- N6 / S4 (Instrument) or equivalent Certificate
- Trade Test (Instrument) Certificate will be an added advantage.
- Must have ability to set and attain high performance standards whilst under pressure.
- Must portray a positive and assertive attitude, keenness to learn and a "self starter".
- Must have leadership qualities and should also be a change agent.
- Must be familiar with Continuous Improvement system.
- Experience with Siemens DCS system.
- Problem-solving skills, and be conversant and fully committed to the QSHE system of the Company.

THE REWARDS: This is a permanent position and carries the attractive Conditions of Service commensurate to its level of seniority.

Applications with detailed personal profile, copies of certified qualifications and names of two referees, should be sent to the address below, or via e-mail, not later than **Wednesday 07 February, 2018**.

The Human Resources Manager
Ubombo Sugar Limited
P.O. Box 23
BIG-BEND
Swaziland, L311.
E-mail: Recruitment@ilovo.co.za

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. If you do not receive any response after 21 days from the closing date of submitting applications, regrettably this would mean your application was not successful.

Readers agree with Tit-Bits column: Gory

IN his weekly column, Tit-Bits, last Friday, News Editor Kenneth Dlamini wrote a thought provoking article about the crime levels in the country. He highlighted the brazen public execution of businessman and Mbabane Swallows Victor Gamedze and the numerous drugs being bust-

ed almost every week in the country, worth millions of Emalangeni. A number of readers responded to the article, with most of them indicating how much they were touched by it. Below, we publish views by two readers who have written their responses on the article:

NATCOM SILENCE TOO LOUD

Dear Sir,

THIS letter is in response to your article under "Features and Opinions" - Tit bits titled "Gory murders, drugs...This is not my Swaziland", dated Friday 2nd February, 2018.

I would like to thank Kenneth Dlamini for his honest/truthful and straight to the point article.

The subject matter raised is of great or rather national concern as we the ordinary people of Swaziland are the ones directly affected by this escalation in crime. Be it murders, assassinations, armed or unarmed robberies in homes and businesses, hijackings, especially in the taxi industry.

Letters get written by the public to the media houses, who forward these to the office of NatCom for response but none is received. Is this silence meant to be read as "I don't care about the people of this country neither do I care about my job"???

What happened to the safe, peaceful and moral country we had yesterday??? Gone!!!! With who???? NatCom and his police force.

Are we to take the law into our own hands at this rate???? Does NatCom realise the gravity of crime in this country??? NatCom, wake up and smell the coffee, it's no longer Fresco coffee it's stronger coffee. CRIME IS REAL IN SWAZILAND.

The media writes articles about almost 80% of crime happening in the country but we rarely see the NatCom convening media briefings to inform the public on the success or non-success of these cases. Therefore, we have zero stats on all cases reported. Does this mean there are zero successes? Wonder if NatCom has the stats. Would be kind if you could share these if you do have.

It's 2018, change your strategies, investigating techniques, these have proven outdated. You do have a training budget. Send some police force members for intensive training outside of Swaziland and on their return they train the rest of the police force.

DO WE STILL HAVE A PRIME MINISTER
IN

SWAZILAND? THE LAST TIME I CHECKED HE WAS MINISTER OF POLICE. I am asking this innocent question because I do not recall him commenting on the crime but then again he did the same with the drug shortages in hospitals and clinics.

Why should the PM care when he is protected 24/7?

Exactly a day after Kenneth Dlamini's article, under "Crime Watch" page 17, the NatCom speaking at a press conference revealed "that this case (the late Victor Gamedze case) has touched a raw nerve" and he assured the nation that no stone will be left unturned to ensure that all those involved are brought to justice. Does this mean that all other cases/ deaths etc are less important and that NatCom and his police force have been sleeping on their jobs and only awoke with the death of the late Victor Gamedze (may his soul rest in peace). This is a very concerning and disgusting statement to say the least.

The Oliveira case has gone cold, why???? Because he was not well known. I believe whether it's death or kidnapping, the police should not deal with cases based on who you are in society. A crime is a crime, *ngci!!*.we are all equal in God's eyes.

Swaziland never experienced a kidnapping case of this nature in previous years. We are a country that is a signatory to a number of conventions, agreements within organisations such as UN, SADC, and the AU. Surely we could have requested assis-

tance from member countries with experience in such cases, especially taking into consideration the outdated systems used by our police. I say this because criminals are still roaming the streets, continuing to cause havoc in society.

To say "CRY OUR BELOVED

COUNTRY" is an understatement. *Lifile live lefu*. We walk in town in fear. We drive in fear. We lock our doors at home during the day. What happened to us leaving our doors wide opened? Our kids no longer play outside but indoors. Why why why???

Police patrols??? Do we still have these? Haven't seen any in my residential area in years. Probably all patrols have been dumped at CTA.

Call the police when you need help, you will immediately remember "70 CALLS" FROM FONTEYN.

NATCOM I have four points for you:

1. We are tired of talking and repeating one and the same thing. CRIME IS REAL AND AT THIS RATE IT IS HERE TO STAY. Surely this shouldn't be the case. Swaziland is a very small country and this crime can be managed.

2. Dispossess

firearms from illegal owners. Over the festive you had raids on home-steads selling liquor without licences. What is so difficult to do the same thing with weapons. You are also very active with drink driving but *Kwakhala nyonini ngeti bhamu?* Scared perhaps?

3. Start neighbourhood watch schemes. Involve the public. You cannot do it alone. Work together with the public. 4. Be more proactive. Do not wait for a death to occur before acting. SAVE LIVES.

If it is so difficult for you to manage crime in such a small country, then do the right thing and step down gracefully and give new minds and ideas a chance.

Lastly, the economy of this country will continue to grow very slowly as the revenue generated by the country from tourism is at an all time low. No more tourists like before. Remember the thugs who ransacked a tourist bus while they went site seeing?? Ever caught the perpetrators????

Regards,

Anonymous



UNDER PRESSURE: The National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula.

murders, drugs... This is not my Swaziland!

GORY MURDERS, DRUGS... THIS IS NOT MY SWAZILAND!

THE newspapers surely make for some reading these days. Not in a good way though.

In fact, reading our newspapers, you would swear you were in another country. Never before in my entire journalism career have newspapers been filled with so much negativity.

I mean from gory murders to massive drug busts estimated at millions of Emalangeni. Not just those but all kinds of stories indicative of a moral decay in our society.

Disgusting rapes, incestuous cases, baby dumping, pastors with endless immoral activities, there's just so much wrong with our society. Sometimes you have to pinch yourself to ask if you are still living in the same country called Swaziland. What has happened to our Swaziland?

Passionate

It reminds me of South African writer, Alan Paton, best known for his first novel Cry the Beloved Country, a passionate tale of racial injustice. As I write this, the same words are resonating in my mind except I have twisted them a bit to say: "Cry, the Beloved Swaziland".

I mean it gets you thinking if this is the Swaziland we should embrace and come to terms with from now on. Where are you not even sure you will live to see the next day.

What has happened to my country, you can't help asking yourself—without obviously expecting an answer? Why have things degenerated to this level? Who is to blame, have we departed from our values as a peace-loving nation—I mean the values that make us proud to be proud of being Swazi?

The values that made us talk about our country the world over. My heart bleeds when I think about how the world looks at us now after all the efforts to promote Swaziland as a peaceful tourist destination. Some of the crimes we have witnessed in recent times go to show how much we have degenerated as a nation. It goes to show how much we have lost the act of humanity.

What has happened to humanity in this country? These gory crimes are an act of inhumanity. I mean the cold-bloodedness nature of them. These cases prove that Swazis have suddenly become

animals. I mean monsters at that. The public execution of Swazi Mobile Chairman and Mbabane Swallows Managing Director Victor Gamedze will forever haunt us as a nation.

We only heard of such evil acts in some of the crime infested overseas countries, where we know the Mafias rule. We have never thought such elements could besiege our peaceful nation. That is why I have no doubt this crime wave has caught us napping in terms of preparedness.

Nobody saw this coming. **Blame game**

Not the police or even their intelligence wing, that is, if they have any anyway. I know right now it's not the time for the blame game... rather we have to regroup as a nation and admit that this crime rate has caught us with our pants down.

Who would have thought of the ghastly murders that have seen some women brutally murdered and their heads severed? As I write this, the police are still searching for missing body parts of one of these women, who had her head, breasts and other parts chopped off by the killer.

This was a similar case to another grisly find when a suspect heartlessly killed the mother of his child and chopped off her head in the Shiselweni region last year.

Later on, after his evil deeds were uncovered by the police, he took them to a shallow grave where he had buried the body and to a cave, where he hid the head.

Can you imagine... What has gone wrong Swaziland? Why is there so much hatred in this country? Why are people so angry? We need to find ourselves.

We need to interrogate these issues thoroughly as a nation through all the available structures in our country, be it legislative or administrative level. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will also need to come on board. *Seyindzaba yetfu sonkhle!*

Police obviously need our assistance. It's well and clear that they were not prepared for this latest crime wave to hit our beautiful kingdom.

National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula and his charges

will have to step up to the plate and show us that they can be relied on and they are still relevant. It's clearly a case of catch up that they have to play, because the thugs are way ahead of them.

The biggest problem I have about our police is that there is just too much rot in our force, which makes you doubt if we would really conquer the escalating crime rate.

One thing for sure, the crime is real and it has advanced to another level.

Within a space of a year, there country witnessed the biggest drugs bust ever, with one arrested suspect for E17m cocaine at Ngwenya Border Gate—followed by the E200m heroine bust at Lavumisa, just after it had crossed the Swazi side.

This comes after another E24 million cocaine bust, also at Ngwenya in November last year. We can no longer bury our heads in the sand and pretend things are normal.

Assassinated

Hence my assertion that the police need to reinvent themselves to match these high-tech criminals by coming up with serious strategies to combat the crime wave.

The issue of social media is also a serious cause for concern where people vent their anger frustration at the expense of innocent individuals.

People's characters are being assassinated in social media—again, police can no longer hide behind the flimsy excuse that they can't control it.

If it can't be controlled let it be shut down completely. I know of some countries like Cuba, where social media was closed completely. So, what can stop us?

There is just a lot that is happening in terms of crime in the country, we can no longer afford to sugar coat it. Maybe such strategies should also include if the current leadership at the helm of the police is relevant to the times. We just have to explore all possibilities. This hanky-panky must come to a stop, we cannot afford to dice with people's lives. Clearly, more people are still to going die at the hands of the murderers. There are many illegal guns in wrong hands. That as well should be the starting point for the police.

Perhaps, as a prayerful nation, we need divine intervention. Yes, anything that can help restore the pride of this beautiful nation. That's my appeal.

Mahle emaSwati ngenhlonipho!

Our country has turned too violent

Dear Sir,

I read your (Kenneth Dlamini) article and I must say you were spot on. Your concerns are everyone's who cares about the beautiful country of Eswatini.

I must say you have highlighted the real issues. Gory murders, drugs and general violence. There is a lot actually like prostitution, abuse and mob justice. Our country has turned too violent, it is unimaginable that a group of men can come into a bar and stab every patron in there, why must one die just for being in a bar?

I am not going to talk about gun violence, it is clear we have a lot of guns in wrong hands. A lot has been said about shootings in the past weeks.

Kidnappings and people disappearing without trace, some later found dead. Our society has changed for the worst.

There are a number of causes for these. You said there should not be any blame game but there are issues in society that affect everyone indirectly. For instance, apartheid left wounds that will never be healed in South Africa.

The violence and lack of value for life in SA is as a result of the brutality that the country went through. Broken family structures, sexual abuse and violence have gone to unbelievable levels.

Our Swaziland has become an angry nation, peace is now history. Our communities are at war. We have chieftaincy disputes that are time bombs waiting to explode. What has gone wrong... *lafa elihle kakhulu.*

Our government has not done much to deal with the economic position. Our position is shocking, one is better off not understanding because you live happily without worrying about the future. With a population that is about 1.1million, 55% is under 18 years, meaning 45% is adult. In the 45%, 30% is unemployed. This fact were displayed when Mbabane Swallows were playing a CAF game on Tuesday during working hours. The stadium was packed because it was free for all and people had the time to go there. The same happens during the Incwala ceremony. Ok, back to our economic position, we have 7.5% above 60 years, meaning they are pensioners or never worked. I am not going to get to the income brackets. With the above we should be very soft with each other. Government is the big brother in our structure. One would start by asking the question that *sisephatsekekahle yini?* Any way no one seems to like such a question hence it is deemed treasonous. We need a government for the people by the people. Our government spending is seriously not sustainable.

Our government has contributed to the loss of the AGOA, fine it has been restored but I know it is only temporal. Government will not meet the requirements in full.

You ask yourself why? The government is not accountable to the populace hence there is that lack of accountability. As a result, we have a government that has caused the downfall of so many great companies due to none payment or delayed payments for services provided. How can government expect to be funded by companies (mainly small companies)? Doing business with government without connections leads to collapse of businesses. This has resulted in the formation of mafia styles of doing business. In a mafia environment, you will find corruption and violence.

Our Judiciary system yah, I would like to start by thanking the King for appointing more judges. The backlog of cases has serious effects on the nation. Can you imagine a criminal suspect spending six years in jail waiting to go for trial?

For civil matters I guess the minimum is 10 years before these get to court. Justice delayed is justice denied. That creates anger. We have cases that have been heard by our judges but for whatever reasons sit on the judgments.

You ask yourself why? How can one wait for judgment for over two years? That again is creating anger to the affected. The Law Society keeps complaining

about these things every year and there is no change. As a nation what should we do?

I am not going to waste my energy and time writing about the violence by the police to the civilians. There is so much brutality you ask yourself these are the people we are paying to protect us? The police are just a law unto themselves.

That is why the mafia feels they are untouchables. I would not be surprised if some of the police officers are on their payroll. Security information is at risk, that is why we see videos on social media that should be privy to the police. Is the leadership in our security forces still relevant? I do not think so. I seriously do not understand why an old man way above 60 years is denied an opportunity to go and retire at the expense of the nation. The national commissioner should go, he has now adopted the PRO position. He is ever on the media trying to influence an extension to his contract. He should just go *sesibongile*. As a praying nation we need to pray for peace and stability. The Asians have taken over but a united and peaceful nation can conquer.

Regards,
Anonymous



'WASHA UMCULO'

UPHAKEME: Kuphakameni Church Choir rendering a song.



IN SONG: All Nations Church in Zion performing.



MESMERISING: Enkhosini Jericho Church in song.



IZETHEMBISO: Umuzi Wese-
thembiso Church Choir rendering a song



CHAMPS: Ithemba Church in Zion were crowned champions during the event.

MP BUTHELEZI SPLASHES CASH TO RESIDENT GOSPEL GROUPS

Stories by Wonderboy
Dlamini
Tikhuba

IT was raining money for residents of Matsanjeni North constituency as MP Phila Buthelezi dished out cash to gospel groups which took part in a music competition held at the *inkhundla* centre on Saturday.

The MP hosted the music competition for local groups which came from various churches under the different *imiphakatsi*.

About 10 church choirs took part in the competition which was attended by a rather small fraction of the constituency's population. All the participating choirs walked away with a sum of money based on positions they finished in.

Speaking during the event, Buthelezi said the competition was meant to promote unity amongst residents who form part of the Christian fraternity. Apparently, Buthelezi said this was the second edition of the competition following one which was hosted last year.

The MP stated that the *inkhundla* noted the need to unite its residents so that it would be easy for them to cooperate even in development projects.

On another note, he stated that the competition was also meant to pro-



DANCING WITH THE WINNERS: MP Phila Buthelezi dances with the winners of the competition, Ithemba Church in Zion who pocketed E3 000 cash. (Pics: Wonderboy Dlamini)



WELL DONE: MP Buthelezi presenting cash to Enkhosini Jericho Church representative.

mote the music industry, especially among the youth as one way of generating income.

Buthelezi said the *inkhundla* was aware of the fact that employment was currently scarce in the country, more especially for people in the rural areas who do not possess much educational qualifications or industrial skills.

"One of the objectives of the competition is to show the people that one can make a living out of his or her natural talent when provided the necessary support," he said.

The MP noted that the annual competitions have already yielded some fruits as one of the local

choirs has been recognised by a professional gospel artist known as Mashodo and have recently collaborated with her and released an album.

Buthelezi said they recognised this as a dream come true when they consider the fact that the competition was meant to expose local choirs to the music industry.

Awarded

Meanwhile, a Zion Church choir from Mambane which is known as Ithemba Church in Zion walked away with the grand prize of E3 000. Enkhosini Jericho Church also from Mambane were named as runners-up in the competition and were awarded with a cash sum of E2 000.

The third position was occupied by Umuzi Wese-
thembiso Church in Zion from Tikhuba, and they walked away with E1 000. The fourth and fifth placed choirs were awarded with E700 and E500 respectively; while the last five choirs walked away with E300 each. This totaled to a sum of E8 700.



GRATEFUL: An elderly woman flanked by the MP and Tzuchi Foundation's Mamane Sukati and Mumcy Simelane during the presentation of blankets and rice.

TZUCHI FOUNDATION DONATES BLANKETS, RICE TO ELDERLY

THE elderly of Matsanjeni North constituency were all smiles as they were presented with blankets and bags of rice during the music competition which was held at the *inkhundla*.

The blankets and rice were reportedly donated by Tzuchi Foundation, a Taiwanese organisation which has partnered with Philani Maswati in improving the lives of elderly people. About 70 elderly people benefitted from the organisation's kind gesture.

Speaking during the presentation, Tzuchi's representative Mumcy Simelane stated that the organisation was always pleased to bring a

smile to the elderly who usually found themselves with nothing to eat or offer their orphaned grandchildren.

Providing

Simelane disclosed that MP Phila Buthelezi had related the plight of the elderly people of the area, hence they elected to assist by providing the little they had at the time.

Apparently, Buthelezi is a member of Philani Maswati.

"The fact that the MP of this area is a member of Philani Maswati, which is our mother organisation, we felt obliged to assist him in providing for the needy elderly people of this area," said Simelane.



MESMERISING: Mashoda Skhalanga performing for the residents.



SIYABONGA: The elderly and the needy were presented with blankets and bags of rice.

Govt implored to **reduce** queues in health facilities

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

THE long queues at government health facilities are a result of limited pharmacy personnel.

The ministry of health has been implored to reconsider the number of security personnel deployed in the country's health facilities for the pharmacies to be efficient. This was the view of a retired health practitioner during their farewell function at Bethel Court.

Speaking on behalf of her former colleagues, the speaker who identified herself as *Make Sibandze*, said the ministry

of health was a very critical department hence the minister must see to it that all its facilities work efficiently by adding staff at all its pharmacies.

The ministry of health is apparently understaffed in that department and this is one of the challenges that the ministry is faced with.

The speaker added that it was unfortunate that no one made noise about the understaffing in the department as they do in other departments. She pleaded with the minister to make the necessary adjustments in order to bring in more pharmacy personnel. The ministry, it seems, had many challenges not just of medication but personnel as well. This revelation

comes a couple of months after nurses, through their union the Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) staged an industrial strike action demanding that the ministry creates more posts for nurses as they were under staffed.

The nurses said each nurse covered shifts for at least two others yet the ministry did not pay them for the overtime undertaken. The speaker was addressing the minister during the retired health practitioners farewell function which was graced by the Ministry's Principal Secretary Dr Simon Zwane and guest speaker Walter Bennett

The pensioners were also treated to E50 000 worth freebies from SwaziMobile.

Phumelele High School celebrates success



CELEBRATES: Phumelele High School Director Sabelo Mavuso with teachers pose during the celebration of the good results of the school. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



SOMETHING MEATY: Teachers and guests feasting during the braai hosted by the directors.



JUST THE TWO OF US: Phumelele School Director Sabelo Mavuso and his wife.

Pupil burns down love rival's rented room

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

A high school pupil has been arrested at Nginamadvolvo after he burnt down his love rival's one-room house in an effort to 'smoke out' their shared girlfriend.

Due to the fact that both the male rivals and the female are all minors, their names have been withheld for ethical reasons.

Both the males are renting out rooms while attending the same high school in the small town of Pigg's Peak. The incident happened on Wednesday night at a homestead at Nginamadvolvo.

Speaking to this publication, sources said the incident occurred after one of the boys heard that his girlfriend was spending the night with her other lover at a nearby homestead. "The attacker heard that his girlfriend was spending a night in a one-room house in Nginamadvolvo. The brave attacker then crept on to the homestead in the still of the night and poured paraffin that he had carried in a two litre bottle under the door of the one room,

while his rival and their girlfriend were asleep. After doing this, he lit the fire, but knocked on the door to wake his victims first with insults. The attacker then ran into the dark of the night in fear that the other occupants in the homestead will wake up and assault him," said the source.

The two victims decided to climb out of the sole window and after that they phoned the Pigg's Peak police to report the matter.

A community search party assembled to try and apprehend the attacker.

When police got to the scene, the one-room had been razed down to the ground and the attacker was nowhere to be seen.

About four hours later, the police received a call that the attacker was apprehended by community members.

He was then handed over to the police and is expected to appear at the Magistrate's Court soon.

Meanwhile, Deputy Police Information and Public Relations Officer Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the matter and the arrest of one of the minors.



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND SWAZILAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT

Loan No./Credit No./Grant No.: IRBD 80030 SZ

Construction Supervision of Ncoboza-Dobson Road Phase II

Reference No. MBABANE/SLGP/CONS/001/2017

The Government of The Kingdom of Swaziland has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Swaziland Local Government Project (SLGP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include provision of assist to the Council in pre-contract services and to supervise the Rehabilitation Ncoboza-Dobson Road Phase II

The works involve: pavement layers and surfacing, provision of sidewalks, streetlighting, repairs and maintenance of existing drainage structures and appurtenant works such as road signs, road markings etc. The contract, therefore, calls for the provision of engineering services needed to ensure that the work is carried out with quality and cost effectiveness in accordance with the conditions, drawings and specifications, and within the programme and budget for the construction contract.

The Municipal Council of Mbabane now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services for the construction supervision of the above proposed works.

Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

1. Successful execution of at least three projects of similar nature in the last three years.
2. A minimum of 15 years' experience in the supervision of civil works with specific experience on the rehabilitation of urban roads.
3. Project experience in Southern African Region of similar nature and complexity.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers; the Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, dated May 2004, revised October 2006 and May 2010, (Consulting Guidelines) setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment: "Guidelines on preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD and IDA and Grants" dated October 15, 2006 (the Anti-Corruption Guidelines)

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a subconsultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultants' Qualifications Selection (CQS) Method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below Municipal Council of Mbabane, on Mahlokohla Street, from 08:00 hours to 16:30 hours, Monday to Friday.

Expressions of interest (hard copies) must be delivered to the address below by Tuesday, 13th February 2018, 12:00hrs (CAT).

Municipal Council of Mbabane
The Chief Executive Officer
P.O. Box 1 Mbabane Swaziland, Mahlokohla Street Mbabane, Swaziland
Tel: +268 2409 7000
Fax: +268 2404 2611
E-mail: zikayisem@mbacity.org.sz

LUBOMBO NEWS

Siteki Office

Siteki Market Offices, 2343 5779
Office No: 15Cell: 7643 6549
Email: observersiteki@realnet.co.sz

...With

Wonderboy Dlamini

SITEKI COUNCIL CLOSES DOWN RENT-OWING BUSINESSES

SOME businesses which are housed by the Siteki Town Council within the town centre were yesterday closed down as they owe rental for a couple of months.

These were mainly businesses operating in the market place situated near the bus rank.

Amongst those which were closed included a grocery shop, restaurants and some offices.

It was gathered that the businesses owed rent dating back to October last year. The business owners were ordered to at least pay part of the owed rent before they could be allowed to resume operations.

Speaking during an interview, Town Clerk Sithembile Simelane

confirmed that the council visited some businesses as they encouraged the operators to pay their rent timeously.

Simelane disclosed that in the process, some businesses had to be closed down out as they owed rent for up to 12 months.

Conducted

Apparently, Simelane said the council first conducted a friendly visit to the businesses on Friday wherein the operators were urged to settle their outstanding rent.

She said the council also extended its leniency and allowed the business owners to come forward and make payment arrangements for the owed rent.

It was gathered that one of the businesses which were closed down owed rent for 19 months.

"The council has been lenient enough for some businesses as they owe rent for over a year," said the town clerk.

On another note, Simelane disclosed that they also visited some businesses which are allegedly operating without permits. These are mainly businesses operating in shacks along the streets of the small town.

Simelane said they have received complaints from legit entrepreneurs that some people were trading illegally as they did not have permits. The unlicensed businesses were

ordered to close down and work on getting valid permits before they could resume operations. Simelane reported that they further visited other stakeholders of the town and encouraged them to keep their premises clean.

Meanwhile, Simelane passed a stern warning to motorists who park their vehicles on the pavements along the streets. Simelane said such behaviour was not only a danger to other road users but also damaging the infrastructure. "Some pavements which were recently constructed have already been destroyed by motorists who elect to park their vehicles wrongly," she said.

'There is too much noise in the town centre'

SOME businesses and members of the public are said to have raised concern about the loud music which comes from some shops within the town centre.

It was gathered that some shop owners would place sound systems just outside their shops and play loud music during the course of the day. This is said to be irritating members of the public. Town Clerk Sithembile Simelane confirmed such concern from the public and other businesses. Simelane disclosed that during their *vusela* visits on Friday, the council cautioned several shop owners who were found playing loud music. Simelane said playing loud music in the town centre was prohibited as it was disturbing other businesses. This is mainly because some businesses such as pharmacies require quiet and stable surroundings to be able to attend to their clients. "The council conducted these visits as part of its mandate of ensuring a stable and safe environment for both businesses and members of the public who visit the town for various reasons," said Simelane. Simelane further urged business operators to ensure cleanliness by keeping their surroundings cleared and their buildings neatly painted. Siteki town has been earmarked by the Eco Lubombo Organisation (ELO) as a future hub for tourism. ELO is an organisation which is chaired by Lubombo Regional Administrator Sylvia Mthethwa which was established in a couple of years ago. It aims at promoting tourism and economic stability for residents of the region.

Zionists pledge their support for MP

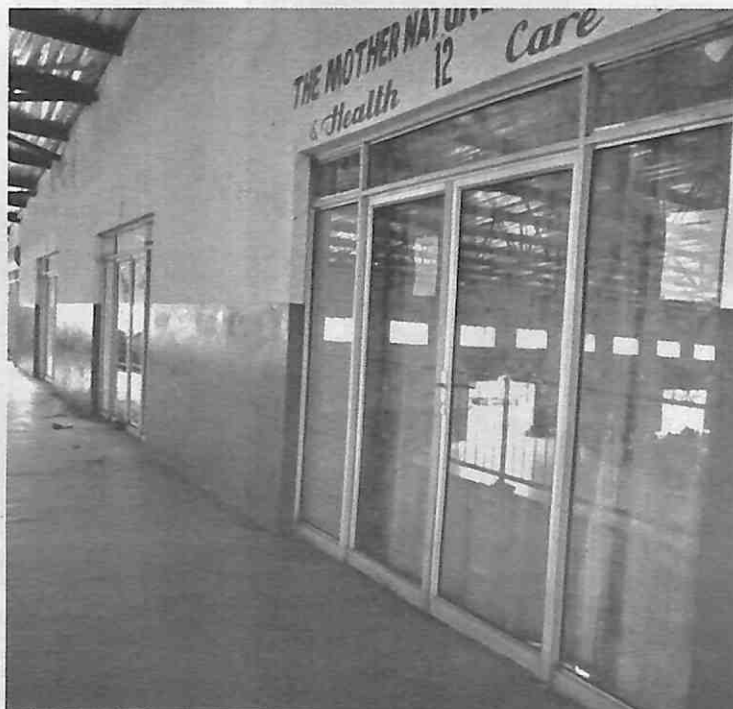
ZION churches under Tikhuba and Mambane on Saturday openly pledged their support for Matsanjeni North MP Phila Buthelezi as they want him back in Parliament after the pending round of elections.

About 10 churches were gathered at the *inkhondla* on Saturday to take part in a music competition which was funded by the MP. It was reported that this was a second competition following another one which was held last year.

Of note was that some of the church choirs composed songs in the MP's name, thanking him for supporting natural talent in the communities. When receiving their awards from the MP, each choir representative was afforded time to make a vote of thanks to the MP for hosting the event.

It was during such moments that the speakers pledged their votes for the MP, saying they would like to have him back in the parliamentary seat next year so that he could continue to host similar events for them. Macethile Ntshangase stated that the Zion churches will also pray for Buthelezi to ensure he wins. "You have uplifted the Zion music in the constituency, and for this reason, we would like to have you in this same position even next year," said Ntshangase as she accepted her choir's first prize of E3 000 from the MP.

Meanwhile, the MP also promised the church choirs and members of the public who were present that he would host more similar events if he retains his parliamentary seat.



ANYBODY HOME: Some of the shops which were closed down yesterday as they owe rent to the municipality.

Siteki-Mambane road finally sees minor upgrades

THE Siteki-Mambane gravel road has recently been partly upgraded after complaints from motorists.

The road has been re-gravelled up to Mimose from Good Shepherd Hospital. For the past years, users of the road have been complaining of its poor condition as it was last upgraded over 10 years ago. Motorists have described the road as a nightmare due to its condition.

The road is littered with huge stones and trenches through to Mambane. It has been getting worse

with each passing year, more especially after the rainy season.

Motor vehicles were reportedly experiencing breakdowns on a daily basis along this road.

Evident

This was evident when at least four vehicles were found with punctured tyres along the road when this publication visited the area on Saturday.

Speaking during an interview, Matsanjeni North MP Phila Buthelezi said the ministry of public works and transport is finally attending

to the road. Buthelezi said, however, the upgrading of the road has temporarily stopped as the only available grader was currently engaged in Hlane as the country prepares for the Baganu ceremony.

He reported that soon after the ceremony, the grader will be back in the area to resume upgrading the road.

RELIEVED: Matsanjeni North MP Phila Buthelezi.



CHURCH STOPS FAMILY FROM BURYING RELATIVE

Stories by Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangano

HEAVILY armed police arrived at a homestead where a funeral was taking place, and this resulted in speculation brewing amongst mourners that the funeral might be stopped.

It is said the police arrived at a Matsebula homestead to make sure that the burial of their deceased relative did not take place at a cemetery which the Mahamba Methodist Circuit claim belongs to it.

The funeral of Sibongile Matsebula of Mahamba was marred by drama and other unpleasant episodes which left the family and mourners shocked.

It was on Saturday morning having started with a vigil on Friday.

Reports are that there is a place regarded as a cemetery within the Mahamba Methodist Church premises, which for years has been open to residents to bury their loved ones, however, lately, church authorities came to a decision that it should strictly be for those deserving who should be allowed to bury their loved ones at the cemetery.

A grave had been dug within the church's premises, but the heavily armed police accompanying a court messenger identified as Smiling Msibi, arrived to serve the family with a court order.

It (order) stated that they should not bury Matsebula at the cemetery which is the church's property.

It is said a total of between 15 to 20 police officers arrived at the homestead to make sure that the court order was respected.

The Matsebula family, which for years has been burying their loved ones at the cemetery that the church now claims as its property, were taken aback as almost all their relatives were resting at the same cemetery.

The church, it was gathered made an urgent application seeking to restrain



NO USE: The heap of the soil of the grave which had been dug at the cemetery within the Mahamba Methodist Church premises. (Pics: Starsky Mkhonta)

the family from burying Sibongile at the cemetery, and to make sure that the Matsebula family complied with the order.

The police were directed to see to it that such was obeyed, hence they accompanied the said court messenger.

It is said the family, though they were in pain, obeyed the order but with some reservation, as a result, another grave was dug within the Matsebula compound where Sibongile was finally laid to rest.

Meanwhile, family members said it was shocking to be subjected to such treatment by the church.

They said what was concerning was that during the preparations of the funeral, it was as if all parties had no problem and they (family) exhausted all channels including alerting the area's authorities as well as other concerned parties. "In the history of the family, we have never used another graveyard other than at the cemetery where all our other relatives were buried. During the time of Reverend Margaret Dlamini who was the head of the church, we had no problem and even when Pastor Imani was leader of church. It's only now under the new leadership where we find ourselves in this dilemma. It looks like the church is not considerate of the pain of losing a relative, and they (church) have decided to threaten us with court orders and police

officers," cried a family member.

The family said because they were law abiding citizens, they did not want to cause trouble hence the decision to dig another tomb within their premises. "This has caused us more pain, our hearts are bleeding. They (church) subjected us to such treatment like we are strangers in the community," an emotional member of the family said.

Another relative said they had approached the church authorities and they were given a cold reception as they were told that the burial should not take place within the cemetery.

"When we tried to explain that all other relatives were buried there, he (identifying one of the church leaders) told us that we should exhume the bodies if we so wish. We were shocked to hear him make such utterances and it clearly showed that he was not sympathetic with what befell the family," said the family member who was actively involved in the funeral preparations.

Meanwhile, the Superintendent of Mahamba Methodist Church Victor Dlamini who in the court papers is cited (amongst the applicants) did not answer his cellphone when called for comments.

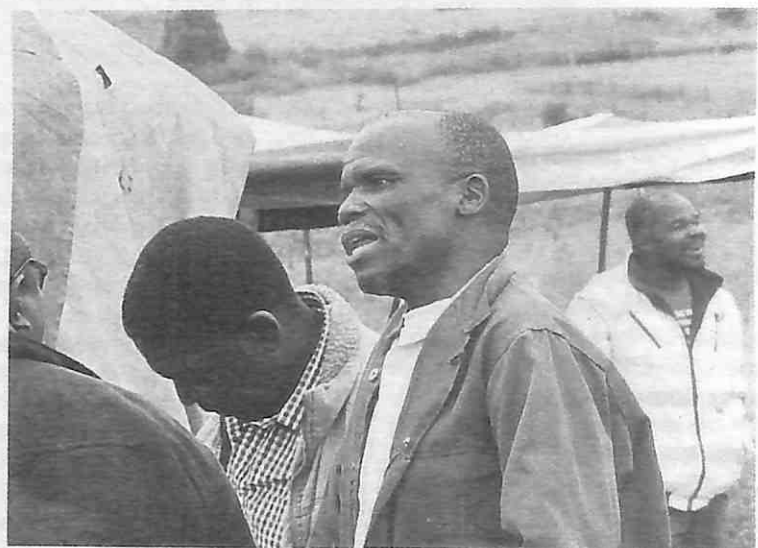
The church as applicants, sought services of Nhlangano based top lawyer Melusi Simelane in opposing the family to use the cemetery for burying the deceased.



GRAVE: This is the grave which was dug at the homestead after the one at the Mahamba Methodist Church cemetery could not be used after the court order was served to the Matsebula family.



A FEW WORDS: Sikhanda Msibi addressing mourners at Mahamba during the funeral of Sibongile Matsebula.



Elders of Masibini attack church authorities

THE church that deterred a family from burying their loved one will have to explain before the authorities of the area."

A representative of Masibini which is a mini chiefdom of Mashobeni South, Sikhanda Mdluli said he was shocked to learn that the Mahamba Methodist Church now did not want people in its cemetery.

Addressing the mourners, Msibi first passed his condolences to the family stating that their loss was theirs (*umphakatsi*) too.

He said as *umphakatsi*, they were alerted about the problems that 'mushroomed' while the family was preparing for the funeral. He said it was surprising and also strange to see a church troubling



DISAPPOINTED: After the funeral, relatives convened a meeting with the area's authorities to express their disappointment in the way the church handled the matter.

a bereaved family. He said what was also worrying was to hear that the church claimed to be having authority over a piece of land which

is under the chief's jurisdiction.

"This is a sensitive matter and as *umphakatsi*, we will do something as what the church leader-

ship has done, is a disgrace. Humiliating a bereaved family in this fashion and taking it to court when it should be grieving after losing a family member was not the right route to take. It's disgusting what the church has done to the family. For the church to claim ownership of land which is under the chief's jurisdiction is unheard of. They will still give an account of their action as we are not pleased by their actions," said Msibi. Msibi said the church should know that the land belonged to the King.

Also, what should also be known was that when the missionaries arrived many years ago to start the church, they followed procedures. "The church does not have control over land belonging to the King. The Bible says we should

respect our earthly leaders. What the mission has done, is inhumane and those who have done that have some explaining to do before the area's authorities," said Msibi.

Msibi said as he was addressing the mourners on behalf of the elders of Masibini (*umphakatsi*), if there was anyone who was a spy of the mission, that person should make sure that he or she relayed the messages to them (church).

"The authorities will call a mass meeting soon where we will also summon the church authorities to explain what they have done," said Msibi whose speech was echoed by many of the mourners present.

Victor Dlamini, Mahamba Methodist Church Superintendent did not answer his cellphone when efforts were made to get comments on this issue.

No security at Pigg's Peak Government Hospital

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

THE Pigg's Peak Government Hospital and three other major health facilities have no security to secure expensive medicine, equipment and protect patients.

The last company that provided security at the hospital was Crime Stop Security, but their contract ended on January 31.

The three other health facilities that lack protection are Mankayane

Government Hospital, Sithobelweni as well as Matsanjeni Health Centres.

Speaking to this publication on Sunday, sources said for the past four days people at the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital were free to do whatever they wished.

"Since last Wednesday there has been nobody securing the expensive items, medicines and equipment at the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital. Unfortunately, a hospital needs security for a multitude of reasons; like to protect patients or the money that is

collected at the hospital on a daily basis. Crime Stop Security who were awarded the tender to provide security at the hospital in January 2017, were supposed to continue manning it for another three months while government finds another security firm.

Elapsed

However, this failed because it has been alleged that government delays payments to the security guard companies," said the source.

When approached for comment, Crime Stop Security Liaison Officer,

Thabile Maziya confirmed that Crime Stop Security was no longer providing security at the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital.

"Our contract with the hospital elapsed on January 31, 2018 and we, therefore, do not know who is securing it at the moment," she said.

Meanwhile, Pigg's Peak Government Hospital Administrator Fikile Bulunga could not be reached for comment. She also did not return calls made to her cellphone number.

When approached for comment, the



WILL INVESTIGATE: Director of Health Dr Vusi Magagula.



EXPOSED: The Pigg's Peak Government Hospital which is presently without security owing to the lapse of a contract between government and Crime Stop Security.

Cancer death rate to double by 2030 - WHO

Stories by Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has said cancer death rate is expected to double by 2030.

WHO Regional Director Dr Matshidiso Moeti said cancer burden in Africa was projected to rise on account of the ageing population, chronic infections, unhealthy lifestyle choices and risk factors.

She said about a third of cancer deaths were due to preventable risk factors such as overweight, low fruit and vegetable intake, lack of physi-

cal activity, tobacco use and alcohol consumption.

"Often, such choices are influenced by forces beyond the people's control, such as the availability and more affordable cost of unhealthy foods, and the strategies employed to market tobacco and alcohol," she said in a press statement meant for World Cancer Day.

World Cancer Day is held annually on February 4 and it is an opportunity for the global community to unite in combating cancer, which is the second leading cause of death in the world.

Moeti said this year marked the end

of the three-year campaign named 'We can, I can' that urged individuals, societies and governments to take action and reduce the impact of cancer.

Impact

She said the drive sensitised millions, challenged governments and individuals around the world to take action, and provided a platform for cancer patients and their families to share their stories and be heard.

"However, notwithstanding the gains made during the 'We can, I can' campaign, the battle to curb the impact of cancer is far from over."

Currently, an estimated 8.8 million

people in the world die from cancer annually, representing almost one in six of the total deaths.

She said cancer death rate was expected to double by 2030, adding that 75 per cent of cancer deaths in the world were recorded in low-and middle-income countries such as African member states, partly due to late diagnosis.

Fewer than 30 per cent of low-income countries had access to cancer diagnosis and treatment services. In 2015, approximately 35 per cent of low-income countries reported the availability of public sector pathology services, relative to over 95 per cent of

high-income countries. On the other hand, cancer referral systems are often unavailable, resulting in delayed access to care.

When detected early, cancers are easier to treat with less expensive, invasive procedures and technologies.

In many African countries, controlling cancer requires the elimination of barriers to quality care, such as ignorance of the importance of early diagnosis and treatment.

It means introducing and implementing policy changes that guarantee the availability of cost-effective primary interventions such as the introduction of cervical cancer screening into the basic health care package and vaccination against cancer-causing viruses.

People urged to make healthy choices

AFTER recognising the growing threat of cancer as a public health problem, governments around the world adopted the 2017 World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution on cancer.

WHO Regional Director Dr Matshidiso Moeti committed to 22 actions to help reduce the number of cancer deaths annually and improve the lives of those living with cancer.

She said the key priorities identified were: promoting health; reducing risks; increasing the availability of anti-cancer vaccines; and ensuring that early detection, diagnosis, treatment, care and pain relief are more timely and accessible.

"The resolution also lays special

emphasis on cancer management for children, adolescents and young people, who have their own unique needs," she mentioned. On the other hand, WHO is encouraging individuals to make healthy choices. They encourage schools, workplaces, community groups and broader society to play a role by promoting physical activity and actively opposing tobacco use, excessive alcohol consumption and unhealthy diets.

"We call on governments to implement policy changes in line with their commitments on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by 25 per cent before 2025," she said.

She added that some effective strate-

gies that could help to save lives include: high immunisation coverage for hepatitis B and the human papillomavirus (HPV) within the target population; cervical cancer screening for eligible women; and early diagnosis.

WHO also urged governments to improve access to people-centred cancer care; establish welfare programmes for patients and families, including psychosocial and rehabilitation services; invest in cancer surveillance; and support people undergoing treatment.

WHO is ready to provide the support and guidance needed to offer quality access to cancer care for all, and ensure that no one is left behind.

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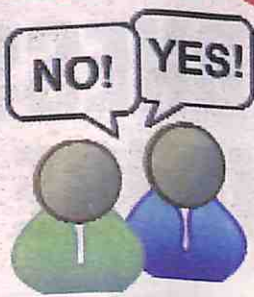
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FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

info@observer.org.sz

LIVE LEADERSHIP CENTER



... With

Kholwaphi Mdziniso

Guest Writer

PEOPLE PLAY **DUMB** WHEN YOU PRESUME THEM TO BE



PERFORMANCE management is one of the key responsibilities of each and every leader.

Leaders are given resources to manipulate and optimise for value creation of the shareholders. One of those resources is the Human Resource. Human resource (HR) is one of the trickiest double sided coin that a leader has to play well in order to extract value from it. When human resource is manipulated well, the results are very good for that organisation. Usually you find that the organisation experience; employee ownership, innovation and creativity is always at its highest level. The opposite is true for leaders that fail to play the human resource well. When leaders choose to undermine the human resource, people get to be negative and they tend to produce enough to get the leader out of their face.

THE ATTITUDE OF A LEADER

The attitude of the leader towards the people sets the tone and the culture of the organisation. When the leader assumes that people are dumb people will play along yet also when the leader chooses to realise the potential that people have, the people also play along; they get to be productive and do all that is in their power to create value for the organisation. The attitude of the leader in an organisation will set the culture that will either be negative or positive. A positive culture promotes produc-

tivity and a negative culture discourage productivity. Attitude is a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person's behaviour. The right attitude of the leader sets the tone for the organisation and becomes the radar that will determine productivity.

HUMAN RESOURCE IS THE ONLY RESOURCE THAT HAS A MIND

People have the mind, people think and naturally people want to be engaged, they want to know what it is they are doing and why. When a leader decides to assume the people are dumb, they will behave dumb but also when a leader choose to perceive the people as a resource that has value, the people will play along and give value to the organ-

isation

I have observed over time that people will always play along the leader's perception of them. When the leader presume that people are dumb, they will play dumb. Also when the leader chose to recognise the talents and value they possess, people will use their talents and skills to create value for the organisation.

PRODUCTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

All organisations exist to create value and managing performance is vital because the future and sustainability of any organisation is determined by productivity. Performance management is one of the key responsibility of all leaders. Though leaders manage the overall performance of the organisation the

point of departure is individual performance. Performance management as a system is a process by which managers and employees work together to plan, monitor and review an employee's work objectives and overall contribution to the organisation. More than just an annual performance review, performance management is the continuous process of setting objectives, assessing progress and providing on-going coaching and feedback to ensure that employees are meeting their objectives and career goals. The fundamental goal of performance management is to promote and improve employee effectiveness. It is a continuous process where managers and employees work together to plan, monitor and review an employee's work objectives or goals and his or her overall contribution to the orga-

nization.

COACHING

The first step in any effort to improve employee performance is counseling or coaching. Counseling or coaching is part of the day-to-day interaction between a supervisor and an employee who reports to an HR professional and line managers. Coaching often provides positive feedback about employee contributions. Employees need to know when they are effective contributors to productivity. By providing this positive feedback, you are also letting the employee know the actions and contributions that you would like to reinforce so that you see more of them Heathfield. S (2018).

FEEDBACK

Feedback is information about reactions to a product, a person's performance of a task which is used as a basis for improvement. Feedback is a process in which the effect or output of an action is returned to modify the next action. Feedback is essential to the working and survival of all regulatory mechanisms found throughout living and non-living nature, and in man-made systems such as education system and economy. As a two-way flow, feedback is inherent to all interactions, whether human-to-human, human-to-machine, or machine-to-machine. In an organisational context, feedback is the information sent to an entity (individual or a group) about its prior behaviour so that the entity may adjust its current and future behaviour to achieve the desired result. The total output of an organisation comes from individual performance and individual performance is determined by the culture of the organisation. The culture and tone of the organisation is determined by the attitude of the leader; hence it is important that leader have the right attitudes towards the people they are leading.

Can Ramaphosa resolve the two centres of power?

JOHANNESBURG - Making deals, through securing a meeting of minds, always bears the danger that one celebrates negotiating skills and deal making rather than carefully scrutinising what is agreed.

We know that Cyril Ramaphosa wanted to be President of the ANC and did

not have the numbers. Carol Paton describes what happened in the context of Jacob Zuma remaining in power:

"The miracle of the ANC conference, [Cyril Ramaphosa] told us, was that while two warring factions went to conference, 'the branches' wisely voted for unity, choosing the optimal mix of both

factions.

This was a sign that the membership wanted the leadership to work together and this they would do.

"Like all of us, he knows that is not actually what happened.

What happened was that Gauteng leader Paul Mashatile and Mpumalanga

leader DD Mabuza had always hoped to cut a deal that would see them both voted into the top six. When Ramaphosa realised, on the eve of voting, that he did not have the numbers without Mabuza, he bought in."

Mabuza, who has recently been served with an interim protection order and has

a range of allegations of violence and corruption surrounding him, and Mashatile were elected with Mabuza receiving more votes than any other candidate, amongst the top six. One of the results of this deal is that Ace Magashule, a strong Zuma supporter, was also part of the "winning slate", elected Secretary General (SG) of the ANC, together with the re-election of Jesse Duarte, also a Zuma supporter as his deputy. *eNCA*

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ON THIS DAY

...FEBRUARY 6

1926 - The National Football League adopted a rule that made players ineligible for competition until their college class graduated.

1932 - Dog sled racing happened for the first time in Olympic competition.

1933 - The 20th Amendment to the Constitution was declared in effect. The amendment moved the start of presidential, vice-presidential and congressional terms from March to January.

1937 - K Elizabeth Ohi became the first Japanese woman lawyer when she received her degree from John Marshall Law School in Chicago, IL.

1950 - NBC radio debuted "Dangerous Assignment".

1952 - Britain's King George VI died. His daughter, Elizabeth II, succeeded him.

1956 - St Patrick Centre opened in Kankakee, IL. It was the first circular school building in the United States.

1959 - The US, for the first time, successfully test-fired a Titan intercontinental ballistic missile from Cape Canaveral.

1971 - NASA Astronaut Alan B Shepard used a six-iron that he had brought inside his spacecraft and swung at three golf balls on the surface of the moon.

1972 - Over 500 000 pieces of irate mail arrived at the mail room of CBS-TV, when word leaked out that an edited-for-TV version of the X-rated movie, "The Demand," would be shown.

1973 - Construction began on the CN Tower in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

1985 - The French mineral water company, Perrier, debuted its first new product in 123 years. The new items were water with a twist of lemon, lime or orange.

1987 - President Ronald Reagan turned 76 years old this day and became the oldest US President in history.

1998 - Washington National Airport was renamed for US President Ronald Reagan with the signing of a bill by US President Clinton.

1999 - King Hussein of Jordan transferred full political power to his oldest son the Crown Prince Abdullah.

1999 - Excerpts of former White House intern Monica Lewinsky's videotaped testimony were shown at President Clinton's impeachment trial.

1999 - Heavy fighting resumed along the common border between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

2000 - Russia's acting President Vladimir Putin announced that Russian forces had captured Grozny, Chechnya. The capital city had been under the control of Chechen rebels.

2000 - In Finland, Foreign Minister Tarja Halonen became the first woman to be elected president.

2000 - US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton formally declared that she was a candidate for a US Senate seat from the state of New York.

2001 - Ariel Sharon was elected Israeli prime minister.

2002 - A federal judge ordered John Walker Lindh to be held without bail pending trial. Lindh was known as the "American Taliban."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Dominic Sherwood
(Movie actor) -
February 6, 1990 (28
years old)



Crystal Reed (TV
actress) - February 6,
1985 (33 years old)



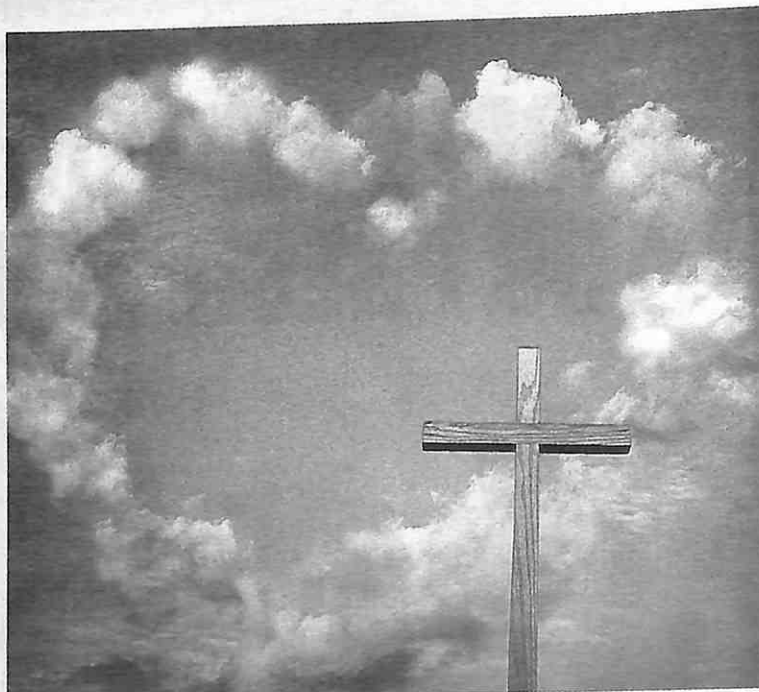
**BISHOP
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"THE anger of man does not work the righteousness of God" (James. 1:20).

You may be the one person who is reading the above heading with a lot of uneasiness. Uneasy because you have been wounded and you feel angry and resentful. It is killing you and you know you have to do something about it but you don't know what. All you understand is that you were violated and you feel so horrible and bitter. Retaliation appears to be the only thing that may soothe your feelings. As for that brute or that Jezebel who wounded you, you just want him or her to rot and hurt even more than how you are hurting because of the betrayal. The offender is there enjoying and doesn't even care about what you are going through. You want to get even but your options are limited—this is called bitterness—unfulfilled revenge! This may have tortured you for some years now. To sum it up, this perpetrator is living rent-free in your mind.

My sister and brother, you are not alone. Many will understand where you are coming from. Anger and unforgiveness almost made me a murderer in the past. I would have been killed instead because I don't have muscles. I am skinny and I have striated muscles. Someone had wounded my heart and I was bleeding. I was bleeding, out of focus and yet tried to get even. Big mistake! Well on hind sight I thank

THE COST OF BITTERNESS - UNFULFILLED REVENGE



God through Jesus Christ our Lord who restrained me. It's scary just to think about it now. There is a solution to your pain and believe me retaliation is not even a runner up. Retaliation has never been a friend of an offended heart. Retaliation like bitterness will always end up siding with the enemy to compound the problem.

Yes, your anger is justified but our Lord Jesus Christ through Paul warns; "Let not the sun go down on your wrath". Yes, your anger is justified but you cannot let it lead you into sin.

"Be ye angry and sin not". Yes, your anger many be justified but "Like a city that is broken into and without walls so is a man who has no control over his spirit" (Proverbs 25:28). James says "the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God" (James. 1:20).

Your refusal to forgive can bring forth offspring to support your claim as a member of the unforgiving family. The offspring include bitterness, failing health, depression, resentment, high blood pressure, murder, slander, and maybe a few visits to the psychiatrist or asylum at worse.

This family may call in the tormentor and he will upgrade you to sleepless nights in prison because you retaliated. Suicide and rage, cousins to unfulfilled revenge may also pay you a visit. All in an effort to get even. But you know what? You can only go backward in life if you don't forgive.

Undeniably, forgiveness is costly and difficult if you foolishly keep it at a human level. Forgiveness is a spiritual attribute. "To the Lord our God belongs mercy and forgiveness..." (Daniel 9:9). From the

sin in the Garden of Eden up to when the wounds were inflicted on you, the arrow was actually aimed at the heart of God and to destroy what He has divinely instituted as family. So, you can't deal with forgiveness alone and at the human level. It will never work.

The cost for wounding you and causing you pain has already been paid for and there is no need for retaliation. To forgive is to be used of God for a task bigger than you. To forgive is to be used of God to deliver subjectively what has been provided objectively by the death of our Jesus Christ on the cross. Both the forgiveness of the offender and the healing of your wounds have been provided for objectively at the cross!

Forgiveness is really about healing physical and emotional wounds and bringing you and the perpetrators to make peace with God. I know you don't want to hear this but true forgiveness makes everybody a winner. God, yourself and the offender! Some people who have suffered the most severe wounds from offenders have come back from the theatre of forgiveness with the most amazing testimonies about healing. Society and the enemy don't want you to forgive.

They want you to revenge. So, forgiveness is all about having a clean wound after you have been wounded very badly! That is why you are here reading this today. To see how you can heal your wounds and have a 'makeover' of your marriage and other relationships. May the Lord help you with what I have learned through experience and His unfailing love for me.

Till next week.

What southern Africa can learn from other countries about adapting to drought

RAINFALL in South Africa is naturally highly variable with total amount of precipitation very different between years and across the country.

Total annual rainfall in southern Africa doesn't seem to have changed much over the last century since measurements began. But it has become more variable: droughts and floods are more frequent than before. The region's urban authorities, industries, farmers and other citizens will have to adapt to these conditions.

The experience of other countries may offer useful lessons. Not all will be applicable, given southern Africa's limited financial resources. For example, southern African countries cannot afford wasteful expenditure on infrastructure, so we must be sure that our predictions of future water demand and changes in water availability have low uncertainty. Individual low-income house-

in southern Africa cannot afford some of the water-saving technologies used in developed countries. So it needs to adopt simple, but effective solutions.

Some arid countries have been forced to develop novel technologies and strategies to survive extremely dry conditions.

Resilient

Australia and Israel, for example, have become more resilient as climate change has brought more frequent droughts.

Two thirds of Israel's land surface is desert and the remainder is arid. Yet, the country has found ways to manage water shortages. Australia, too, has learnt how to cope. In particular, a drought from 1997 to 2009 forced Melbourne to take drastic measures to conserve water. Residents changed the way they used water – and that behaviour has persisted. On average, they still use only a quarter of the water

used by the average Californian.

Israel has, over many decades, developed a centralised water management system. It has invested in continuous technological innovations, improvements in practice and development of long-term management plans.

The country's infrastructure innovations include a scheme to supply water from the north to all parts of the country, drilling extremely deep wells and seawater desalination plants. Israel also reuses wastewater and compels people to use water-saving technology. Its greatest innovation relates to irrigation. It has developed an efficient drip irrigation system that uses up to 75% less water than some other irrigation techniques.

For its part, Australia passed legislation that allowed the federal government to provide funding to Melbourne for an integrated response to the drought. It also allocated

power to a regional water manager to force cooperation between water utilities, city agencies and reservoir managers.

It invested in infrastructure too, including a pipeline to deliver water and a desalination plant.

The government encouraged households to save water through technology and behaviour.

It provided rebates for residential greywater (water that is relatively clean enough to be reused e.g. from bath, sink or washing machine, in contrast to black water which is water from toilets) systems for gardening, encouraged investment in rainwater tanks and implemented water restrictions.

Its marketing included simple elements like displaying reservoir levels on electronic billboards.

By 2010, Melbourne residents and businesses were using only half the water they'd used in 1997. And this behaviour has continued, making the city more resilient to future droughts.

The way forward for southern Africa.

The Conversation

NEW PARTY IN THE MAKING IN ZIMBABWE, AND MUGABE MAY LEAD IT

SUGGESTIONS of a new political party have begun to emerge from the losing ZANU PF faction which would include Robert Mugabe and former vice president Joice Mujuru as well as Grace Mugabe and some former members of the ruling party who are now in exile.

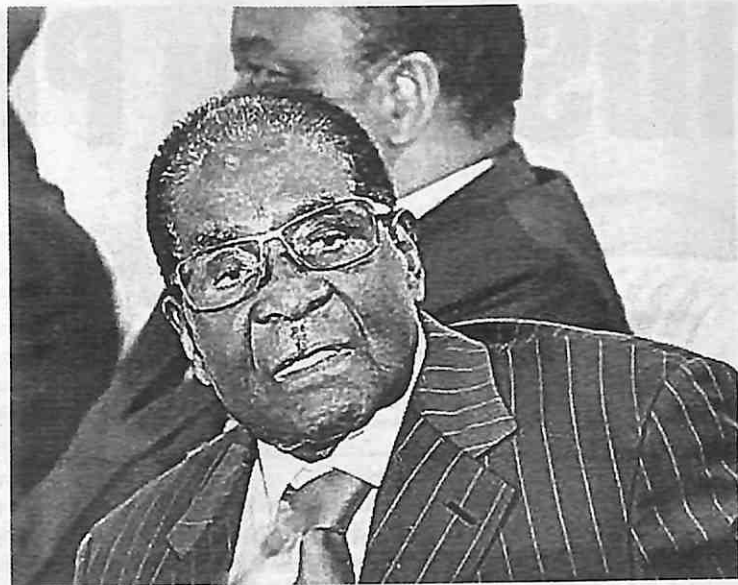
Emmerson Mnangagwa, assisted by the military, took over the government last November after he was sacked from his vice president's post.

Mugabe resigned from power to avoid impeachment and met with Mujuru last week.

He sacked her in 2014 and she was then expelled from the party and formed her own small party and was expected to stand as a presidential candidate at elections later this year.

After the soft coup d'état, Grace Mugabe and other leading lights in ZANU PF who were loyal to her were also expelled.

But a new political party is in the making called The New Patriotic



POSSIBLE COMEBACK: Former Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe.

Front and it has written to SADC and the AU saying that the takeover by Mnangagwa was illegal and has called on troops to go into action in Zimbabwe to restore Mugabe's administration.

One of those involved in this exer-

cise is Mugabe's nephew Patrick Zhuwao, who is presently living in South Africa.

Last week Mugabe invited Mujuru to his blue roofed mansion in Harare and apologised to her and she told staffers after their meeting he had

encouraged her to "work together" with him.

The Sunday Mail, largely controlled by the government of the day, says that Mujuru, the two Mugabes and others, mostly now in exile, are considering an alliance to fight elections later this year.

Some suggest Mugabe himself who will be 94 on February 22, might stand again for the new party.

ZANU PF Politburo member and war veterans chair Victor Matemadanda said anyone was free to form a political party.

Referring to Mugabe's nephew, he said: "One thing people like Zhuwao should not forget is that Zimbabwe is in a mess right now because of his uncle and the cabal that made Zimbabweans suffer because of corruption and neglecting developmental issues. Every Zimbabwean is battling economic hardships."

There are now more than 70 political parties in Zimbabwe, all hoping to fight elections.

Independent Foreign News

Southern, East African countries facing severe cholera outbreak

LAST year, there were more than 109 442 cholera cases resulting in 10 708 deaths in 12 countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa region (ESAR), according to the UN children's agency, UNICEF.

Since the beginning of 2018, there have been more than 2 009 cases and a further 22 deaths in seven countries – Angola, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Zambia has been among the hardest hit, with the waterborne disease killing more than 74 people since October last year.

Cases have been centred on the capital, Lusaka. To contain the outbreak, the government banned street food vending and public gatherings, which triggered violent protests by traders.

The World Health Organisation says that while sporadic cases of cholera are regular occurrences in Zambia during the five-month rainy season, 2017 exceeded the average annual caseload.

The government and the WHO blame poor waste management and inadequate personal hygiene for the contamination of water and food in the townships, which has driven the epidemic.

The government's response has been to call in the army to help

enforce control measures, clean markets, and unblock drains.

It also launched an oral vaccine programme with a target of immunising one million people, and the number of cases is now beginning to fall.

Worst-affected

Zambia, as a lower middle-income economy, lies in the middle of a range of countries caught in the surge of cases in the region, from struggling Mozambique to relatively prosperous Kenya.

"In the last four weeks of 2017 alone, Zambia reported 217 new cases of cholera including 11 deaths, Tanzania 216 new cases including eight deaths, Mozambique 155 new cases, and Kenya 44 new cases," UNICEF's regional WASH (Water, sanitation and hygiene) advisor for Eastern and Southern Africa, Suzanne Coates, told IRIN.

But by far the worst-affected countries have been war-debilitated Somalia and South Sudan, with 72 per cent and 16 per cent respectively of the total cholera caseload. Beyond the ESAR region, the Democratic Republic of Congo is experiencing the worst cholera outbreak since 1994, with 55 000 cases and 1 190 deaths reported in 24 out of 26 provinces last year, according to Médecins Sans Frontières. Coates noted that while progress

has been made on access to improved WASH services over the years, no country in the region managed to meet the 2015 Millennium Development Goal on water and sanitation – to halve the proportion of the population without access to sustainable water services and basic sanitation.

Unimproved

Latest WHO and UNICEF estimates indicate that only 53 per cent of ESAR citizens have access to basic water services; 30 per cent to basic sanitation; just 20 per cent to basic hygiene; and that 21 per cent of people still practice open defecation.

"So, in the region, we still have more than 148 million people using unimproved drinking water sources, over 108 million still practising open defecation, and over 300 million with no handwashing facility," said Coates.

"Strategies to prevent and respond to cholera outbreaks are known and are effective and have helped [other] countries effectively control cholera outbreaks," she added.

Tackling the risk factors requires a developmental response and long-term investment. "Cholera outbreaks will unfortunately recur as long as these factors are not addressed," said Coates.

Zimbabwe's cash-strapped gov-

ernment has struggled to make those investments in sewerage infrastructure and water management systems, with cholera outbreaks becoming more frequent since the early 1990s when the economy first stalled.

Large outbreaks occurred in 1999 and 2002, with the deadliest between August 2008 and July 2009 – a cumulative total of 98 592 cases and 4 288 deaths.

Enforce

Oxfam Zimbabwe WASH coordinator Abigail Tevera said poor inter-ministerial coordination and a lack of commitment to enforce existing regulations also derails efforts to prevent outbreaks.

Four people have so far died from cholera in Zimbabwe, with over 200 cases of typhoid – a similar waterborne disease – confirmed by 16 January.

Portia Manangazira, the Director of Epidemiology and Disease Control in Zimbabwe's ministry of health and child care, acknowledged that the public health and sanitation situation in the country was "appalling", and the nation could do much better to stop "creating" avoidable health crises.

"There have also been no resources to identify high-risk groups and protect them with vaccination, the second layer of population protection when primary prevention has failed," Manangazira told IRIN. "For this reason, the threat of both cholera and typhoid forever looms."

irinnews.org

Wit and Wisdom

● "I hope you will have a wonderful year, that you'll dream dangerously and outrageously, that you'll make something that didn't exist before you made it, that you will be loved and that you will be liked, and that you will have people to love and to like in return. And, most importantly (because I think there should be more kindness and more wisdom in the world right now), that you will, when you need to be, be wise, and that you will always be kind."

– Neil Gaiman

● "Cry. Forgive. Learn. Move on. Let your tears water the seeds of your future happiness."

– Steve Maraboli

● "Everyone must leave something behind when he dies, my grandfather said. A child or a book or a painting or a house or a wall built or a pair of shoes made. Or a garden planted. Something your hand touched some way so your soul has somewhere to go when you die, and when people look at that tree or that flower you planted, you're there.

It doesn't matter what you do, he said, so long as you change something from the way it was before you touched it into something that's like you after you take your hands away. The difference between the man who just cuts lawns and a real gardener is in the touching, he said. The lawn-cutter might just as well not have been there at all; the gardener will be there a lifetime."

– Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*

● "You should write because you love the shape of stories and sentences and the creation of different words on a page. Writing comes from reading, and reading is the finest teacher of how to write."

– Annie Proulx

● "Talking to a drunk person was like talking to an extremely happy, severely brain-damaged three-year-old."

– John Green, *Paper Towns*

● "Dreams are always crushing when they don't come true. But it's the simple dreams that are often the most painful because they seem so personal, so reasonable, so attainable. You're always close enough to touch, but never quite close enough to hold and it's enough to break your heart."

– Nicholas Sparks, *Three Weeks With My Brother*

● "When you read a book, you hold another's mind in your hands."

– James Burke

● "Be glad. Be good. Be brave."

– Eleanor H. Porter

● "Attitude is a choice. Happiness is a choice. Optimism is a choice. Kindness is a choice. Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice. Whatever choice you make makes you. Choose wisely."

– Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	4.7%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swazi Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.0%
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 05 FEB 2018

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	12.0141	12.0641
British Pound/SZL	16.9603	17.0309
Japanese Yen/SZL	9.1105	9.1476
Swiss France/SZL	12.9184	12.9694
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2435	1.2595
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.5284	9.5692
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.6786	9.7150
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	14.9666	15.0289
Gold	1,332.2600	
Oil	67.1300	

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Standard Bank

SPTC TURNS THE TIDE, RECORDS E73m PROFIT

Stories by Hlengiwe Ndlovu

INSTEAD of falling victim to an anticipated deficit of about E38 million, the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications (SPTC) turned the tide to record profit of E73 million, the Public Enterprises Unit (PEU) states in its quarterly report.

The favourable variance of about E109 million translating to a 287 per cent increase was attributed to MTN's E88.9 million dividend paid to SPTC during the quarter. Swazi Telecom also recorded a favourable variance of E8.5 million.

"Swazi Telecom's positive variance is due to internet revenue as a result of over capped data, business sector revenue as a result of an increase in mobile and sub-regional traffic and transit calls revenue as a result of engaging some of the customers who are believed to be



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sptcswaziland

using illegal routes to send traffic."

SPTC's fixed asset base stood at E761 million compared to the E749 million in the period ended March 2016. SPTC may have generated healthy profits in the last quarter, but its letter posting traffic decreased by over 12 per cent.

The main drivers for the decline were inbound and outbound international mail which decreased by 13 per cent and 58 per cent respectively.

Registered letters increased by 6.2 per cent and this surge largely stemmed from radio announcements

mail and bulk registered mail posted by the Swaziland National Provident Fund (SNPF) and the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA). Phuthumani Couriers and Freight Services proved to be more profitable as this division exceeded its monthly target of E296 000 to record a E300 000 profit in the last three

months of the year.

Meanwhile, the Corporation reportedly provided wireless internet services for the SADC heads of state mini-summit as well as a number of SADC inter-ministerial meetings and testing Virtual Private Network (VPN) connectivity. Swazi TV licence payments also recorded an increase by 51 per cent whilst the number of transactions increased by over 66 per cent, the PEU report states.

"TV licence payments increased due to that Swazi TV keeps airing adverts that promote television licence payment reminders and direct payers to do so through Swazi Post".



Super Wi-Fi project in the pipeline

WITH internet speeds still a major challenge in Swaziland, the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications (SPTC) will soon sign a memorandum of understanding with the Republic of China on Taiwan to pursue super Wi-Fi and security surveillance projects.

This is contained in the PEU quarterly report. Other imminent SPTC

projects include the rollout of broadband connectivity to key institutions and communities as per government's objectives through the Ministry of ICT as well as the country's vision 2022 strategy.

Others include acquisition of corporate customers using VPN services to interconnect their offices in different locations. Some of these cus-

tomers include Swazi Bank, SRA, Link Med etc; complete of a redeployment system to provide data services to communities with no network coverage; establishment of a

POP for Swazi.net following the relocation of the National Internet Exchange Point (IXP) at the Cooper Centre.

Swazi.net is Swazi Telecom's Internet service provider.

Norwegian lobby group assisting with beef market visiting SD this week

THE Norwegian body, Kjott-og-fjorfebransjens Landsforbund (KLF) which helped Swaziland lobby the Parliament of Norway for a beef quota is expected in the country this week, Swaziland Meat Industries announced yesterday.

The quota was successfully granted in 2009 for a total of 500 tonnes per year.

In a statement, SMI said, KLF team's main purpose is to learn more about the country and its beef industry, and if possible, to explore ways in which beef trade can be improved with Norway.

Members of KLF are reportedly SMI's customers, as they have purchased 3 817 tonnes of beef to date.

SMI explained that KLF's visit was arranged long before the country's beef exports to Norway were suspended and it was decided that plans to come to Swaziland go ahead



despite all that happened.

"KLF have already expressed their hope that Government will soon be able to re-establish exports of beef to Europe," read the statement.

During their stay in the country,

the Norwegian group will also tour SMI's export beef plant in Matsapha and visit cattle farmers.

KLF is also expected to visit schools and meet orphaned children who are receiving funding from Embiveni

Foundation, a charity that was setup by KLF and SMI to ensure that communities supplying cattle to SMI receive a share of income sold in Norway.

FOUR COMPANIES CREATE 700 NEW JOBS

Stories by Hlengiwe Ndlovu

FOUR new companies recently created 700 new jobs in the country, the Public Enterprises Unit (PEU) quarterly report states.

However, neither companies were revealed by name nor the sectors in which they operate mentioned.

The report states that the new jobs were created in the midst of the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority's (SIPA) drive to court investors as it aggressively pursued 10 out of 20 companies in the last quarter.

Continued shortage of factory space proved to be one of SIPA's main challenges, PEU reported, also recommending that the Authority needs to liaise with the ministry of commerce, industry and trade to provide land for investors who want to construct their own structures.

SIPA also facilitated registration of a company that manufactures plastic



and assisted in the acquisition of permits and licenses for 15 other companies while eight companies were on the ground in sectors such as the textile industry, mining, steelworks, caravan manufacturing, ICT and energy

generation.

A Taiwanese mission that assessed the possibility of setting up a finishing unit for paper boxes for manufacturing was also hosted by SIPA.

The company currently operates in

Mozambique and supplies the Swazi market with packaging material.

Meanwhile, PEU reported that Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre now attracts people who want to hold business meetings.

"The Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre and Sports Centre hosted mid-week business related events, which augurs well for the centre's push in convincing the business community to use it for business meetings. It also served as a test for the centre's capabilities and readiness."

Despite Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre being attractive for business meetings, it recorded a decrease in the number of events hosted from 46 to 41 in the previous quarter, with this centre generating an income of E390 000.

Meanwhile, SIPA reportedly received income amounting to E5.8 million from E5.7 million which was a result of a decrease in income received from the Mavuso Exhibition, Trade and Sports Centres.

Local tyre sandal producers clinch lucrative UK deal

LOCAL tyre sandal producers have been thrown a lifeline as SIPA facilitated links with a London based market keen to import such merchandise.

The UK market, according to the Public Enterprises Unit (PEU) report, wants 10 000 pairs of sandals amounting to over E1 million per month.

Twenty individuals making this type of sandals have already been brought together to produce trial samples.

The local tyre sandal producers clinched the UK market amidst reports that the country's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector currently employs more than 92 000 people, which translates to 20.5 per cent of total employment in the country.

The ministry of finance suggested in its National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) that the country needs to improve access to finance for the MSMEs and also made an undertaking to support the development of a credit registry for the sector to enable financial institutions to make timely decisions on loan approval.



DEFINED BENEFIT AND DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLANS: UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES

Both defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans offer various advantages to employers and employees. The features of each are generally distinct and quite different. In this article we will describe the basics of each plan type.

Defined Benefit (DB)

The benefit you receive on retirement from a defined benefit fund is pre-determined and generally based on a formula set out in the rules of the fund. The formula used involves your years of service and salary; the longer your service, the higher your salary and thus the greater the benefit at retirement would be.

Usually, the employer underwrites defined benefit arrangements. This means that, in the event there is not enough money in the fund for your benefits, the employer has to stand in. The employer effectively carries the investment risk (the risk that investment returns are not strong enough to cover the benefits). To manage this risk, the investments are managed and decided upon by the trustees of the fund.

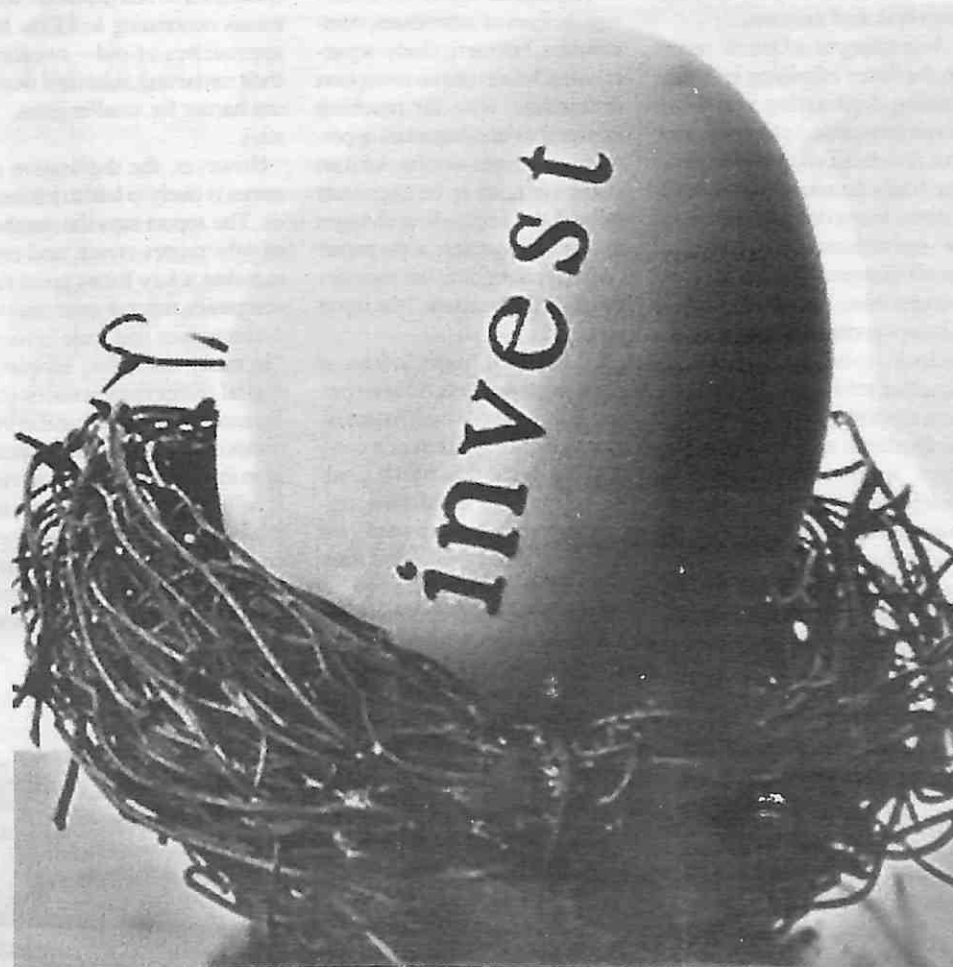
Defined Contribution (DC)

The benefit you receive on retirement from a defined contribution fund is not pre-determined. It is based on the net contributions (employee and employer contributions) made to the fund, accumulated with any positive or negative investment return earned on those contributions.

If the fund's investments do poorly, the benefit will be less. So, unlike defined benefit funds, in this case the members carry the investment risk.

How does the Share of the Fund build up?

Defined contributions funds;
Fund Credit; Equitable Share/ Share of Fund
describe the same thing namely the benefit that you have accumulated in your fund which



becomes payable when you resign or retire.

It is made up of any transfers of money on your behalf from another fund, your member contributions, plus any employer contributions, less any expenses, plus any investment returns earned.

Expenses would be, for example, the cost of administering the fund, the cost of any insur-

ance provided through the fund, audit fees and similar. Investment returns could be positive or negative depending on the investment performance.

What are my options on resignation/ dismissal/ retrenchment?

A variety of options are available to you should you resign, be dismissed or face retrenchment

at your work and they are;

1. Preserve your money.

Speak to your financial adviser on the different options available to you. You may be advised to preserve your money through a preservation fund. Preserving your benefit when you change jobs might mean the difference between a retirement of leisure and one filled with financial worries.

2. Transfer your money to your new employer's pension or provident fund.

When you change jobs, you should consider transferring your benefits to the Fund of your new employer.

3. Transfer your money to a retirement annuity fund

There is a range of retirement annuity funds to choose from with different investment options. Speak to your financial adviser about the different options available to you.

What are my options at retirement?

The options available to you at retirement depend on the type of fund and the rules of the fund that you belong to.

If you belong to a provident fund you can take 100% of your benefit in cash (subject to the rules of the fund). Upon retirement from a pension fund, however, you can only take up a 1/3rd of your benefit in cash and have to take out an annuity (monthly pension).

The rules of the fund you belong to will specify whether the annuity (monthly pension) is to be paid directly from the fund or whether you have to purchase an annuity from a registered insurer.

The information presented herein this article is only intended for educational purposes and should not be construed as financial advice. For further questions please contact the FSRA on 2406 8000 or email us on stakeholder@fsra.co.sz

TRANSNET TO PROP UP ZIM'S NRZ WITH R4.83BN

JOHANNESBURG - Zimbabwe is looking to Transnet's \$400million (R4.83billion) capitalisation of the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) to bring capacity into the parastatal which has failed to move about 200 000 tons of chrome ore from ferrochrome producer Zimasco's mines.

The logistical challenges that miners are facing could be resolved if the government of Zimbabwe can push through finalisation of the recapitalisation of NRZ by Transnet, an official from NRZ said last Wednesday.

Transnet will be expected to help NRZ raise its freight capacity and enhance its shipment volumes. The Zimbabwean railways parastatal had earmarked to move 3.7million tons of cargo in 2017.



"As you might be aware, the parastatal is under recapitalisation and the government has made significant strides by identifying an investor to revive NRZ and it is under this arrangement that the issue of improv-

ing on efficiency, as well as number of wagons, not only for Zimasco, but all our clients, is being taken note of," NRZ spokesperson Nyasha Maravanyika said.

Other mining companies such as

Zimplats have had to move ore and production matter using road, which comes at a higher cost, as the NRZ is sitting on dilapidated infrastructure and obsolete wagons.

The decay in the railways parastatal has impacted on timely movement and production of mineral ore at a time Zimbabwe, according to the chamber of mines, is expecting mineral earnings to top \$2.5bn this year.

Zimasco said it is stuck with 200 000 tons of ore that the NRZ had failed to move on time.

Zimasco has about four smelting furnaces, two of which are being used by Portnex, a South African company under a lease agreement with the Zimbabwean company.

Business Report

Revenue up
6.7% to R22.6bn
in quarter to
December 2017-
Vodacom

JOHANNESBURG - Vodacom said it added 2.5 million active customers during the quarter.

Mobile company Vodacom said last Wednesday its group revenue rose 6.7 per cent to R22.6 billion in the quarter ended December 2017.

Vodacom said it added 2.5 million active customers during the quarter; 1.6 million in South Africa and 0.9 million in its international operations. This saw it reach 73.6 million active customers across the group, up 13.0 per cent year on year. "Our strategy of sustained investment into our network and improving customer experience has delivered solid gains in customer numbers in South Africa, and driven growth in our International operations," Group CEO Shameel Joosub. — *African News Agency (ANA)*



Court cases mounting against Steinhoff

CAPE TOWN - Steinhoff is now facing at least two possible class-action style lawsuits in Europe, as aggrieved investors try and recoup losses from its share price plunge.

Last Friday a Dutch investor association said it wants to take the global retail conglomerate to court over publishing incorrect and misleading financial statements.

In December 2017 German law firm TILP said it had filed a lawsuit against the firm.

Steinhoff has its headquarters in Stellenbosch but is registered in the Netherlands and falls under Dutch law.

The international retail group has been under a cloud since its former CEO Markus Jooste stepped down in early December amid a still-ongoing accounting scandal.

Crashed

Since its share price crashed in the wake of Jooste's abrupt resignation, some R200bn in shareholder value has been erased.

In a media statement posted to its website last Friday, the Dutch Vereniging van Effectenbezitters (VEB) said that Steinhoff had published "inaccurate and misleading information about the company in at least two annual reports (2015 and 2016) and various press releases".

"Steinhoff also wrongly maintained the accuracy of this information," it said.

The firm's finances are being investigated by forensic auditors PwC, and it has said that investors can no longer rely on the veracity of its 2015 and 2016 financial statements.

Steinhoff's share price has fallen by over 80 per cent since the news of Jooste and the PwC investigation broke. The VEB said last Friday it wants a court in Amsterdam to declare that Steinhoff was responsible for making a number of incorrect and misleading statements around its financial situation. If a court were to declare this, it would constitute a first step in opening Steinhoff up to possible class-action style lawsuits.

The VEB argued that, due to the incorrect information made public by Steinhoff, investors bought and held onto Steinhoff shares at too high a price. *Fin24*

Digital mining future of Fourth Industrial Revolution

JOHANNESBURG - The Fourth Industrial Revolution is knocking on African miners' doors, with the advent of a digital mine increasingly becoming an imperative for survival and success.

According to a Deloitte report on the future of mining in Africa, mining digitisation will bring about data-driven planning, control, and decision-making. "Mines are likely to adopt digital innovations to not only improve safety, operational efficiency and profit margins; but also remain competitive," the report says.

It says current mining processes lack visibility to real time, accurate information. This hinders the ability to track resource performance and increase equipment uptime. More complete, timely, and insightful information and leading indicators enables leadership and frontline teams to intervene more proactively.

The rapid advance of mining digitalisation, coupled with reg-

ulatory changes, will change the way that African mines operate and require careful consideration of the impact of those changes to mining stakeholders.

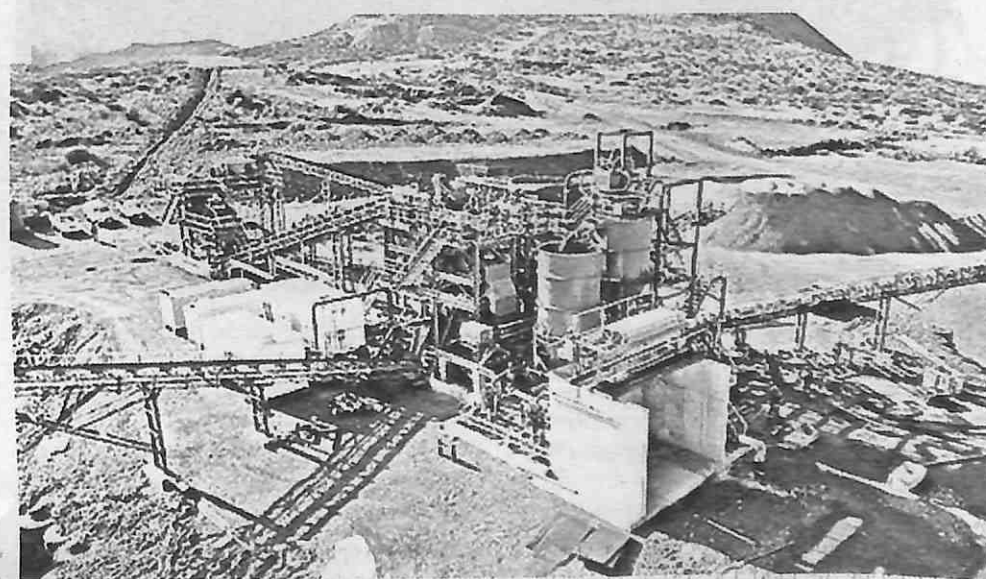
"The digital age is set to disrupt the lives of individuals, communities, but particularly organisations. Mines are no exception to this rule, with far-reaching implications and important opportunities. Mines on the African continent need to be cognisant of both the impending changes to their business, and of the impact of those changes to the societies in which they operate," the report says.

It says the Fourth Industrial Revolution presents African mining companies - which have navigated a combination of a commodity price downturn, challenging labour conditions, regulatory changes, upward cost pressures and unpredictable international politics - with a new set of challenges and opportunities.

Mines' ability to improve their

businesses is currently constrained because of poor access to accurate, complete, timely data or business options. "The result is a reactive response with inadequately informed decisions, with mines continuing to follow the approaches of old - sweating their remaining assets and working harder for smaller gains," it says.

However, the digitisation of mines is likely to lead to job losses. The report says the number of jobs mines create, and cut, remains a key focus point for companies, national governments, communities and trade unions. "In many instances, adopting digital technology reduces the human input required, and in the minds of many role players, there is an immediate assumption that it will lead to increased mining job losses, and a negative socio-economic impact for communities dependent on mines for economic opportunities. *Business Report Online*



Brown gives ESKOM the IPP go ahead

JOHANNESBURG - Public Enterprises Minister Lynne Brown gave Eskom the green light to purchase additional power from renewable energy independent power producers (IPPs).

The move paves the way for the government-drive Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme to get back on track.

The programme had stalled after Eskom, the designated buyer of power from IPPs, refused to sign power purchase agreements with 27 IPPs, citing concerns about cost and current electricity overcapacity.

In a statement, Brown said: "The conclusion of the Power Purchase Agreements to enable the implementation of the outstanding projects under bid windows 3.5, 4 and 4.5 of the (REIPPP) is critical to implementation of the national energy policy as articulated in the Integrated Resource Plan of 2010."

The Department of Public Enterprises last Friday said Eskom last month submitted an application to Brown under Section 54 of the Public Finance Management Act to purchase the additional energy. The minister approved the application last Friday, the department said.

"South Africans have reason to feel very proud of the progress the country has made adding renewable energy to the energy mix. There are risks to Eskom's financial and operational stability in the medium term, among others, that must be mitigated. We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint."

"I have requested Eskom to work expeditiously to implement the decision and avoid further delays. I have also written to the ministers of energy and finance requesting that we discuss how to address Eskom's genuine concerns through expediting a revision of the Government Support Framework Agreement," said Brown. *Business Report*

'PAYING BACK MILLIONS NOT ENOUGH'

Johannesburg - Trade Union Solidarity will lay criminal charges against former Eskom boss Brian Molefe today over his controversial golden handshake.

But the trade union said the charges handed over to the National Prosecuting Authority, the Hawks and the South African Police Service will also include other Eskom officials who were complicit in Molefe's pension scandal. Solidarity will reveal the people implicated today, when laying the charges.

Solidarity said the move comes in the wake of, among other things, a "condemnatory finding" by a full bench of the North Gauteng High Court in January. The court ruled that Molefe had 10 days to pay back about R11m he has received from the power utility, as part of a R30m payout.

Solidarity said the ruling justifies a criminal prosecution.

"Molefe and certain Eskom leaders have made deliberate unlawful misrepresentations as a result of which Molefe has been enriched to the detriment of Eskom and hence also the taxpayer," said Solidarity Chief Executive Dirk Hermann.

The full bench of judges - which included Judge Elias Matojane, Judge Hans Fabricius and Judge Segopotje

More on Molefe ruling:

FULL JUDGMENT: The ruling comes after Solidarity approached the High Court to declare Molefe's controversial pension award unlawful. Molefe resigned after the Public Protector's damning state capture report implicated him in irregularities, but later backtracked saying that he had taken early retirement and was entitled to the money.

He briefly returned as CEO of Eskom on May 15 after the scandal around his pension emerged, but was removed again two weeks later when Public Enterprises Minister Lynne Brown ordered the board to reverse his reinstatement. Molefe challenged this decision when he filed Labour Court papers against the board and Brown.

Political parties and Solidarity then filed a consolidated court application to challenge Eskom's decision to reappoint Molefe as CEO, as well as the approval of his R30m pension payout. All suits were consolidated into the High Court case, which Molefe subsequently lost.

Molefe has submitted a request to appeal at the Supreme Court of Appeal, which is likely to be heard this week. He argued in his application that the applicants - the Democratic Alliance

and Trade Union Solidarity - did not satisfy the test for final relief, and that the High Court erred in its order as a result.

Solidarity is now asking that criminal charges be laid against Molefe and others on the grounds of, inter alia, fraud and offences in terms of various legal acts.

The court found that the unlawful pension scheme was a deliberate scheme devised by Eskom and Molefe and ordered that all monies granted to Molefe be paid back, said Hermann. He had told Fin24 after the judgment that the union wanted to see Molefe criminally prosecuted.

Hermann said the Public Prosecutor had indicated during the course of the lawsuit that the Hawks would initiate a criminal investigation into possible criminal activities involving Molefe.

The charges Solidarity are bringing will therefore assist the Hawks in their probe, Hermann added.

"Paying back the money is the right thing to do but it's not enough," Hermann said. "Paying back the money does not undo criminal charges. The fact that Molefe has applied for leave to appeal has no bearing on the criminal case either." **Fin24**

Mphahlele - found Molefe's declaration that he had not resigned was false, and that he was never entitled to the pension money. Molefe's lawyer Brian

Farber described the ruling as "coming down like a ton of bricks".

News24

The former Eskom CEO was also

Baxter climbs into Zwane, urges new leadership

CAPE TOWN - CEO of the Chamber of Mines Roger Baxter did not hold back in his criticisms of the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) leadership at an early morning briefing ahead of the African Mining Indaba 2018.

Speaking to journalists yesterday, Baxter gave an overview of expectations for the industry in 2018 and reflected on the challenges of 2017.

"The challenge in the regulatory environment was the worst the industry experienced," he said, referring to Mining Charter 2017.

He said that Mineral Resources Minister Mosebenzi Zwane's actions had the potential to sink the industry. "The extent of damage to institutions, the economy and the min-

ing industry particularly has been immense."

From a regulatory execution perspective, the industry reached its lowest point, he explained. As a result the industry has brought four legal challenges to oppose the charter, but Baxter said ultimately the Chamber knows it will result in a negotiated outcome.

"The vision of a transformed industry is something all South Africans must develop together," he said.

"One party can't sit on one side and develop a vision for the future, while excluding other stakeholders."

Baxter said developing a vision for the transformed industry is a team effort and not a unilateral approach.

Fin24



CRITICISES: Chamber of Mines CEO Roger Baxter.

ADB wants to grant 29m Africans with electricity by 2020

CAPE TOWN - Under its agenda 'Light up and power Africa', the African Development Bank plans to reach 29.3 million people in Africa with electricity by 2020.

This was recently disclosed by the President of the institution, Akinwumi Adesina at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Adesina pledged support for the 'new way of working' as crucially important and indicated that it requires a new way of tackling development issues.

In a statement issued by the development bank, Adesina said, "The

African Development Bank is today at the forefront of investing in renewable energy in Africa. The share of renewable energy in the Bank's energy portfolio increased from 14% when I became president in 2015 to 100% last year".

The institution's support for 2017 alone provided 3.8 million Africans with access to electricity. "And with adequate financing, we expect to reach 29.3 million people with

access to electricity between 2018 and 2020".

Adesina has called on the UN secretary-general to join him in supporting the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility to also work differently, and step up support to co-pay for climate risk insurance for vulnerable African countries, noting that African countries, hit by climate

change, are hard pressed to find funds to pay the insurance premiums.

He added that, "An understanding of the link between environmental degradation, extreme poverty and youth unemployment is critical to a New Way of Working. Wherever these three

elements are present, there is a 'Triangle of Disaster,' in which unemployment, poverty and environmental degradation chase each other in a downward spiral to dereliction, terrorism, violence and conflict". The institution has also committed to triple its climate financing to 40% of new approvals by 2020, and is deploying programmes and actions to combat fragility and strengthen resilience. **Fin24**

Petrol price relief for motorists

CAPE TOWN - The per litre price of all grades of petrol will be 30c cheaper from tomorrow, the Department of Energy announced yesterday.

The latest decrease comes on the back of a sterling rand performance against the dollar.

The price of both grades of diesel will decline by 17c a litre, illuminating paraffin (wholesale) and illuminating paraffin (Single Maximum National Retail price) 19c and 26c, respectively, and the maximum retail price of LPGas will decrease by 23c a kilogram.

The rand was still trading at its lowest levels since mid-2015 yesterday and by 08:57 the local unit was trading at R12.08 to the greenback. The election of Cyril Ramaphosa as

...Reviewing the fuel price history during 2017, the Automobile Association last week said the year saw some of the highest fuel prices in the country's history.

leader of the ruling ANC, together with global risk-on sentiment and a weaker dollar fuelled the rand's rally to under R12/\$ for the bigger part of January. The energy department said in a statement that the rand appreciated more than 100c against the US dollar in the period under review, compared to the previous period, which led to a lower contribution to the basic fuel prices on petrol, diesel and illuminating paraffin by 52.85c, 54.66c and 54.88c a litre, respectively.

The average rand/US dollar exchange rate for the period 28 December 2017 to 1 February 2018

was 12.2029 compared to 13.2303 during the previous period, according to the statement.

Reviewing the fuel price history during 2017, the Automobile Association last week said the year saw some of the highest fuel prices in the country's history.

If one should graph the exchange rate, it is "inescapable that almost all sudden movements are associated with political events". The AA, therefore, urged government to take a "more judicious approach to policy and governance" as rand weakness "affects poorer people disproportionately". **Fin24**

South African Airways halves flights to London

JOHANNESBURG - Struggling South African Airways will drop one of its two daily return flights to London's Heathrow Airport from April 20 as part of its ongoing "network remediation".

The airline currently operates two daily flights, SA234 and SA236 at 21:00 and 21:55, with returns from the UK (SA235 and SA237) at 18:05 and 21:05.

In a statement, new CEO Vuyani Jarana said: "We have decided to focus on those areas of our business that will enhance our efficiencies, bring more value to our



customers and produce improved overall performance of the airline. Network optimisation is one such area that can contribute towards containing our costs

and we introduced some initiatives that must yield dividends to return the business to commercial sustainability in the shortest time possible." **Moneyweb**

Focus on SA scene

De Lille fights back against latest allegations

CAPE TOWN - Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille said yesterday that the man who has claimed she tried to bribe him is close to DA party members.

She made the claim during a live debate with the party's federal Executive Chairperson James Selfe on CapeTalk radio yesterday morning.

De Lille has been accused of bribery and corruption after it emerged that she allegedly tried to solicit R5-mil-

lion from businessman Anthony Faul in 2012. In exchange he said she would allegedly endorse his fire extinguisher product for the city's informal settlements. Faul sent an affidavit to the party detailing the conversation with De Lille. In response the DA chose to lay a charge against her with the police.

De Lille denied the allegations "with the contempt it deserves" and questioned the timing of the revelation.

"Anthony Faul is a good friend of

the DA," she said.

"I will wait for my day in court and will give my full cooperation with the police. His affidavit will be tested in an open court of law."

She would not say if she knew Faul but reiterated that the party is trying several tactics to "taint" her reputation. Meanwhile Selfe said Faul had sought legal opinion after De Lille spoke to him in 2012.

"The man ... went to his attorney and



FIGHTS BACK: Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille.

his attorney advised him that it was the mayor's word against his and that it would likely be sensationalised," said

Selfe. Faul then decided not to pursue action against her at the time.

TimesLive

ZUMA TOLD ANC HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE: MALEMA

JOHANNESBURG - President Jacob Zuma is sticking to his opinion that he has complied with all legal instructions and will not be relinquishing the top job, according to opposition leaders Julius Malema and Bantu Holomisa.

This follows a meeting that was held between Zuma and the ANC's recently elected top six leadership on Sunday.

"He refused to resign and he told them to take a decision to remove him if they so wish to do so because he didn't do anything wrong to the country. He's arguing that he complied with all legal instructions including paying back the money, what more do they want from him," the EFF's Malema tweeted.

UDM leader Bantu Holomisa signalled the same message from Zuma, stating that the embattled leader will present Thursday's state of the nation address in Parliament.

"I will deliver the SONA, said Zuma, to ANC leadership after he threatened to cancel their meeting because they were late. JZ is still the Boss. So it's



STANDING FIRM: President Jacob Zuma.

business as usual," read Holomisa's summary of the meeting.

Calls are mounting for Cyril Ramaphosa, who was elected ANC President in

December, to take over the country's presidency before the next general election in 2019.

News24

Gigaba invites ideas on paying for free tertiary education

JOHANNESBURG - As Minister of Finance Malusi Gigaba prepares to deliver his maiden Budget Speech on February 21, he is looking for ideas from the public on how to find the money to enact President Jacob Zuma's unexpected announcement of free tertiary education for the poor.

Zuma promised in December that government would introduce fully

subsidised free higher education and training for poor and working-class undergraduate students, starting in 2018 for first-year students at public universities - to be phased in over five years.

Questions about financing this pledge began to be asked immediately and it is Gigaba who needs to answer them.

TimesLive

I'm with De Lille: Khoza and Mazibuko back Cape Town mayor

CAPE TOWN - As Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille enters the ring to fight for her political life, she can count on two esteemed politicians being in her corner.

Lindiwe Mazibuko, former Parliamentary leader of the DA, and Makhosi Khoza, former ANC parliamentarian, have come out in support of the embattled mayor.

Mazibuko tweeted on Sunday: "I am sick of people describing @PatriciaDeLille as 'power drunk' as if this empty accusation can be legitimised by repetition. A black woman's ambition is not a crime. A black woman exercising power in elected office is not an aberration. We see you & your dog whistle politics."

Mazibuko's show of support

was in response to Stefan Maree, who had earlier tweeted that De Lille was power drunk.

Meanwhile Khoza wrote: "I stand with @MamphelaR, with @LindiMazibuko, with @PatriciaDeLille and @mbalimcdustry who suffered at the hands of the @Our_DA. The political space is not friendly to women. It's easy to speak ideology & rhetoric, what matters are our actions, those send a message to our country." De Lille has used the social media platform to express her views too.

"It is becoming increasingly obvious that the concerted efforts to damage my reputation and the haste to get rid of me is reaching desperate heights each day," she said on Twitter. *TimesLive*



SUPPORTIVE: Lindiwe Mazibuko, former Parliamentary leader of the DA.

Maimane, King Zwelithini talk land, empowerment

DURBAN - DA leader Mmusi Maimane has called for more engagement regarding the issues surrounding the Ingonyama Trust.

Maimane was speaking on Sunday after his historic first visit to King Goodwill Zwelithini's home in Nongoma, northern KwaZulu-Natal. Maimane led a delegation which included the newly elected DA leadership in KZN.

The delegation also presented the king with five cows.

In a meeting with the king, a number of issues were discussed, including the contentious issue of the trust.

"I am here to introduce to the king the leadership that got elected in this province. They have come to share that we must engage with the Ingonyama Trust about land. I am happy that Judge Ngwenya (Jerome) showed us that this is not a



DISCUSSIONS: DA leader and King Goodwill Zwelithini.

question of state land. This is the question of what is right, (about) the land that has been here, and we must discuss justice in that issue," Maimane said.

Of his visit with the king, Maimane said: "Today we shared many things including that we need to see develop-

ment in rural communities. We need to ensure that young South Africans also have opportunities to get a decent education in rural communities.

"I share the king's commitment to development, not only of industry but of human capital. *News24*

LEEDS - A recovering anorexic who was sectioned when she weighed as much as a five-year-old girl has revealed how she now helps other sufferers through social media.

Connie Inglis, 23, was given just weeks to live when she was admitted to St James's Hospital, in Leeds, in 2015, where she was fed through a tube and could not move without the help of a wheelchair.

Speaking candidly about her illness in a new documentary, Connie tells how she has spent the last two years in recovery and now helps others by using Instagram to document her journey.

She tells BBC Inside Out Yorkshire and Lincolnshire: "I don't use photoshop and I don't use editing on Instagram. I don't put filters on there."

"I do comparison photos about breathing in and out, sitting down versus standing up, just the different way the body moves. Not everyone has to look like a Victoria Secret Model all the time."

"I really love helping people and I think that it's really important for people, those going through recovery especially, to realise they're not alone in their struggles. No matter how hard it gets they can always get better."

"I think people follow me because I try to be truthful on my account rather than just show the positive sides of recovery. I show a lot of the negative sides and how hard it is."

Connie, from Leeds, started her Instagram account *my life without ana* in 2016, and has amassed more than 87 000 followers.

On the account she shares photos of her holding her stomach, posting photos of 'unflattering angles,' and showing how many images on the site are photoshopped.

Her heartfelt and honest posts about learning to love her body have resonated with many young women also suffering from anorexia.

One follower commented on a recent post: "Can I just say how inspiring you are? Whenever I feel bad/upset about my body I think of something you've said, or one of your glorious photos."

Another added: "Thank you for being so open and real. You are very brave and strong."

Inglis, who is in her final year at Leeds Arts University, has struggled with anorexia since she was 10 years old, and has been hospitalised three times in nine years.

Writing in an online post, Inglis said the most recent time, in 2015, was the worst.

'YOU CAN ALWAYS GET BETTER'



INSPIRATION: Connie Inglis, 23, was given just weeks to live when she was admitted to St James's Hospital, in Leeds, in 2015 (left at the lowest point in her battle). The student is now in recovery. (Daily Mail)

...Anorexic, 23, who was given just weeks to live after she weighed the same as a FIVE-YEAR-OLD launches a social media campaign telling other sufferers they can survive the disease.

"My experience in the last year has been the most scarring," she wrote in 2016. "My weight dropped dramatically in December 2015."

"I had to be emergency referred to a general ward for tube feeding (my BMI was below 13) but I was too ill for this and couldn't see that this was what my body needed so I fought against it."

"I was sectioned and transferred to a specialist ward for eating disorders where I stayed for the next six months, slowly starting to do things for myself again."

Speaking to the BBC, she tells how at her lowest point she did not care if she died.

"I didn't really care about living or dying, I didn't mind," she says. "I just wanted to lose all the weight. It had got to the point where being in hospital wasn't good enough, the only thing that would have been good enough was if my heart had stopped."

"That's the only thing that would have satisfied my anorexia."

Anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness.

Less than half of sufferers will fully recover. It has been two years since Connie was last admitted to hospital and Connie still worries that she might relapse.

She said the NHS does not have enough cash to fund treatment for the underlying issues that have caused her eating disorder.

She adds: "I have asked for further treatment, not to do with my eating disorder but to do with the initial problems that caused my eating disorder, but the NHS doesn't

have enough funding to help."

"It's very annoying because it seems like if I'm not starving myself then no-one is going to take me seriously."

Inglis told the programme her final university project is examining the pressures on women to be thin using Barbie and Bratz body pieces made from boiled and coloured sugar. She said: "If Barbie was a real woman she would not have half her organs, she would be classed as severely anorexic if not dead. It's just ridiculous." *Daily Mail*

Service technician almost died after cracking his knuckles

WASHINGTON: A man nearly died after cracking his knuckles open using an existing scab, leading to him being infected with flesh-eating bacteria.

Antoine Boylston, 31, a service technician, absent-mindedly cracked his knuckles at work in April 2016, which resulted in him having his little finger amputated and left him 'looking like a zombie'.

The infection devoured his hand and elbow, causing his little finger to 'hang' off and resulting in him having skin grafted from his thigh to the back of his hand.

After undergoing operations that involved cutting his arm to prevent the infection spreading, Boylston, who had necrotising fasciitis, now has just

● **Antoine Boylston absent-mindedly cracked his knuckles at work in April 2016**

● **Doctors believe this opened up an existing scab, allowing bacteria to enter**

● **Boylston underwent two operations that cut his arm from the hand to elbow**

● **He now has just two functioning fingers on his right hand, restricting movement**

two functioning fingers on his right hand.

He said: "Doctors warned I may lose my hand but if I had waited much longer I could've lost the entire arm or died."

"I had only heard of flesh-eating viruses from movies. I didn't think that was a thing people could actually get".

Boylston, from Lexington, Kentucky, has released images of his infected

hand throughout his recovery. Within hours of cracking his knuckles, Boylston felt extremely nauseous, which made him think he was suffering the pain of a broken finger. That evening, he took himself to the University of Kentucky Hospital in Lexington.

Boylston said: "By the time I arrived, my right hand had started to darken and swell."

Realising he was gravely ill, doctors

immediately dismissed he had a broken finger and rushed him to theatre for a skin biopsy, which confirmed his diagnosis.

Although Boylston was given emergency surgery, which involved opening his arm from the elbow to his finger and cutting the infection out, he only learnt about the seriousness of his condition hours later.

Boylston said: "It wasn't until I woke



from surgery and was told I had necrotising fasciitis that I understood the severity of it all."

Daily Mail

BRIEFS

Cameroon security forces kill 4 civilians

YAOUND - Cameroon security forces have killed four civilians in the country's restive English-speaking west, local sources said on Sunday.

One person was shot dead late on Saturday in Bamenda, the main regional town where he was enjoying a night out, his family said.

"We were going home when the gendarmes stopped us. They opened fire on our vehicle because some of us were slow to get out," the victim's brother said.

The victim's father confirmed that he had identified his son's body at the local morgue. **AFP**

Cops kill gunman in northern Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU - Police in northern Burkina Faso shot dead a member of an armed gang who had attempted to ambush their patrol, security forces said on Sunday.

"On Saturday 3 February at around 15:00, a team from the Deou District Police Station (Oudalan Province, Sahel region) on a security mission was attacked by armed individuals", police said in a statement sent to AFP.

"During the exchange of fire, an assailant was shot dead," a security source said, adding the incident was one of a series of "recurrent ambushes against defence and security forces" in the region. **AFP**

Suspected jihadists kill four civilians

BAMAKO - At least four civilians have been killed in a suspected jihadist attack in northern Mali over the weekend, local officials said on Sunday.

An unknown number of the attackers were also killed in fighting as the "suspected jihadists killed at least four civilians around Talataye," a northeastern town of around 14 000 people, regionals official told AFP.

Mali's deteriorating security situation is of growing concern as Al-Qaeda-linked groups mount increasingly deadly attacks on domestic and foreign forces. **AFP**

Congoese police release 'kidnapped' priest

KINSASHA - Congoese police have released a Catholic priest hours after they snatched him this weekend following a mass in Kinshasa, the cleric said on Sunday, amid spiralling tensions between the church and the government. Security forces had grabbed Father Sebastien Yebo outside his church on Saturday morning, beaten him and thrown him into a jeep, with witnesses describing the incident as a "kidnapping". **News24**

Bodies of 16 migrants recovered

NADOR - Moroccan rescue services have recovered the bodies of 16 migrants off the coast of Spain's enclave of Melilla, Moroccan and Spanish officials said on Sunday.

Three women were among the dead taken to a morgue in the Moroccan city of Nador, a medical official there told AFP.

All were sub-Saharan Africans apart from one Moroccan, the official said.

A spokeswoman for Melilla's authorities earlier said "about 20" bodies had been recovered in Moroccan territorial waters. **AFP**



'New party not an avenue to bring back toppled uncle'

HARARE - Former Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe's nephew, Patrick Zhuwao, has reportedly said that the latest political outfit, New Patriotic Front (NPF), "is not an avenue to bring back" his ousted uncle.

Reports over the weekend indicated that members of the ZANU-PF faction, Generation 40 (G40) that was loyal to former first lady Grace Mugabe were about to launch a new party in Zimbabwe.

In documents circulated on social

media the party, the NPF, accused the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU) of "dereliction of duty" for failing to condemn the military takeover that removed Mugabe from power last year.

It called on the two continental bodies to "openly renounce and condemn" the takeover as a "military coup".

An AU force should "monitor and ensure demilitarisation of politics, state and government institutions,"

the document said. It also urged the AU and SADC to cut diplomatic ties and co-operation with the government and to no longer recognise Zimbabwe as a member.

Reverse

New Zimbabwe.com yesterday quoted Zhuwao as saying that NPF's objective was to reverse the "bloody coup" of November 15, 2017.

Zhuwao, the report said, dismissed the "feared" and "misinterpreted" notion that Mugabe would return as head of state and government.

"It would definitely be grossly unfair to president Mugabe to seek to burden and encumber him again with responsibilities for the state, given his contribution to Zimbabwe thus far," Zhuwao was quoted as saying.

He said that Mugabe's family deserved to enjoy "his company and presence".

Zhuwao said that his party viewed Mugabe as its "mentor par excellence". **News24**

JOICE MUJURU NOT IN ANY DEAL WITH GRACE MUGABE - PARTY

HARARE - Joice Mujuru's party in Zimbabwe has rejected as "unfounded and baseless" reports that she will join with former first lady Grace Mugabe and her allies to challenge President Emmerson Mnangagwa in polls this year.

Mujuru, leader of the National People's Party (NPP) met Robert Mugabe last week, fuelling speculation he was tacitly giving his backing to the former vice president.

A state newspaper, the Sunday Mail claimed Mugabe had "given his blessing to the creation of an opposition political party that will bring together G40 and the NPP".

G40 is the faction of the ruling party that backed Grace to become vice president. Most of its members were expelled from ZANU-PF in the wake of the November 15 military takeover that ended with Mugabe's resignation and Mnangagwa taking the reins of power.

"National People's Party wish-



DENIED: National People's Party leader Joice Mujuru.

es to categorically dismiss the rumour that Dr Joice Teurai Ropa Mujuru has entered into a political pact with the former first lady Mrs Grace Mugabe with the contempt it deserves," Mujuru's spokesperson Gift Nyandoro, said in a statement. "For one to try and twist facts that the meeting was about for-

mation of a political pact only reflects kwashiorkor thinking of the highest order," the spokesperson added.

Mugabe sacked Mujuru in 2014 following weeks of vilification by Grace, who accused the then vice president of plotting to topple her husband. **News24**

Army generals who ousted Mugabe feared 'bloody' counter-op

HARARE - Leaked minutes from negotiations during last year's military takeover that led to the ousting of Robert Mugabe suggest the commanders who staged it feared a "bloody" counter-operation.

The privately-owned Standard says the minutes are taken from meetings between the army commanders - who were under now Vice President Constantino Chiwenga - and the team that negotiated Mugabe's resignation last November.

The paper reports that the commanders believed Grace Mugabe's G40 faction of the ruling ZANU-PF party had "captured the intelligence and police commanders". The takeover paved the way for former vice president Emmerson Mnangagwa to take over: he's now been in power for just over two months.

The military commanders are said to have intercepted a text message from the then justice minister, Happyton Bonyongwe, which tried to rope in Air Force

Commander Perrance Shiri, who was out of the country on business.

The message allegedly urged Shiri to "fly back and join efforts towards a counter operation whose backbone would be the police force commanded by Commissioner-General Augustine Chihuri."

As it happened, the police posed no resistance to the army takeover on November 15 that led to Mugabe's resignation days later. **News24**

Guinea opposition cries foul in long-delayed local elections

CONAKRY - Guinean opposition leaders denounced the west African country's long-delayed local elections as fraudulent, citing vote rigging in polling stations across the west African country.

"There is fraud at the national level... We are seeing problems, especially concerning ink, in a lot of polling stations," former prime minister Sidya Toure, who heads the opposition Union of Republican Forces (URF), said after polls closed at 1800 GMT.

The local elections are the first since the end of the era of military dictatorship.

It follows eight years of delay, blamed on a lack of funds, political infighting and the 2013-16 Ebola crisis.

People chose among nearly 30 000 candidates for councillors, including 7 000 women, across the mineral-rich but deeply poor former French colony. The campaign largely focused on failing schools, high unemployment, electricity shortages and corruption allegations.

After casting his vote, President Alpha Conde told his supporters: "We do not want fraud and if that happens, we will have to resist as we have always done."

But Toure and other opposition figures criticised the polling.

"We will demonstrate that President Alpha Conde has, with the help of the administration, stolen this election, which will not benefit him," said another former prime minister, Cellou Dalein Diallo, leader of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (UFDG).

The last local election was held in 2005 under the decades-long rule of authoritarian leader General Lansane Conde, who died in 2008. **AFP**



FOUL PLAY: Guinea President President Alpha Conde.

World News

BRIEFS

'Crisis could endanger regional security'

JAKARTA - The UN's human rights chief says Myanmar's persecution of the Rohingya Muslim minority has the potential to spark regional conflict.

Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein reiterated while in Indonesia yesterday that acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing may have occurred in the campaign of violence against Rohingya that sparked an exodus of nearly one million people to neighbouring Bangladesh.

Zeid said: "Myanmar faces a very serious crisis with a potentially severe impact on the security of the region."

AP

6.1-magnitude earthquake hits off Taiwan

TAIPEI - A shallow 6.1-magnitude earthquake hit off the eastern coast of Taiwan late on Sunday, the United States Geological Survey said.

The quake's epicentre was around 15 kilometres north of the port city of Hualien at a depth of around eight kilometres, the USGS added.

There were no immediate reports of any destruction caused by the tremors. The USGS said there is "low likelihood of casualties and damage".

AFP

One dead, five injured in record snowfall

MOSCOW - One person has been killed and at least five others have been injured in a snowstorm in Moscow.

Moscow's meteorological service says more than half the average monthly snowfall fell in one day.

Over a hundred flights have been delayed and 30 flights were cancelled because of the bad weather.

Authorities have dispatched thousands of municipal workers to clear the capital.

The snowstorm is expected to continue for the next two days.

AFP

Appeals court frees Samsung heir

SEOUL - A South Korean Appeals Court yesterday upheld Samsung heir Lee Jae-Yong's bribery conviction but cut his prison sentence to a suspended term, ordering his immediate release.

Lee, Vice Chairperson of Samsung Electronics, the world's biggest smartphone and memory chip maker, was convicted of bribery in connection with the sprawling corruption scandal that brought down former South Korean president Park Geun-Hye.

AFP

Oil tanker missing off Benin's coast

NEW DELHI - India has sought the help of the Nigerian and Benin navies to find an oil tanker that has gone missing with 22 Indian crew members off Benin's coast.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj confirmed late on Sunday that the tanker, Marine Express, went missing in the Gulf of Guinea.

It's not known whether the ship was hijacked for ransom or to steal the nearly 13 500 tons of gasoline on board.

The ship, owned by a Mumbai company, has been missing since January 31 with no contact with the crew so far, according to Indian media reports.

In January, another oil tanker, MT Barret, went missing off the coast of the West African nation of Benin.

AP

Nightfall in Philippine slum revives specter of deaths in drugs war

MANILA - As night falls in Manila, the Philippine capital, few of the 700 families living in the sprawling portside shanty town known as Market 3 dare to venture out of their homes.

The crime-ridden maze of sheet metal, crumbling cement and wooden boards has become a frontline of the bloody war on illegal drugs that has defined Rodrigo Duterte's presidency since it was unleashed in June 2016.

Dozens of Filipinos who lived

along the slum's narrow dirt-floor alleys have wound up dead. The community lives in fear of masked or mystery men dragging away slum dwellers, or police and their notorious "Tokhang" operations, where officers are required to knock on doors of suspected dealers to urge them to surrender. But those visits have been fatal.

"Many people have left. They leave because of Tokhang," said Nenita Bravo, a 56-year-old Market 3 resident.

"We can't really count them anymore," she said, referring to those killed, adding that she had witnessed many killings in the area. "We can't really count them because there's been so many."

Illegal

Bullet-ridden corpses are found hours or even days later, often just a few minutes away, although police say there have been no illegal killings in their anti-drug campaign.

Yet the frequent police opera-

tions and shadowy murders have hit the slum hard and those who live there say more blood has been spilled since he was elected president on the promise to wipe out drugs and crime in six months.

Killings

"Since Duterte came, that's when there was a rise in killings. It was pitiful, especially so for the many women killed," said Visitacion Castellano, 73, a long-time resident of Market 3.

Reuters

Italy migrant shooting spree 'triggered by woman's murder'

MACERATA - A far-right supporter suspected of wounding six Africans in a shooting spree in central Italy said the "trigger" for his attacks was the murder of an Italian woman allegedly by a Nigerian asylum seeker, media reports said Sunday, with immigration shaping up to be a key issue in elections a month from now.

Luca Traini was arrested and taken into custody after drive-by attacks in the town of Macerata wounded five men and one woman from Ghana, Mali and Nigeria on Saturday.

The shootings came a day after a Nigerian asylum-seeker and drug dealer was arrested in the same town for the murder of an 18-year-old woman, whose dismembered body was discovered in suitcases.

"I was driving to the gym when I heard on the radio about the 18-year-old girl," the daily Corriere della Sera quoted Traini as telling investigators.

"Instinctively I turned around, I went home, I opened the safe and took the pistol and decided to kill them all."

After the shootings, Traini, 28, allegedly got out of his car, made a fascist salute with a tricolour Italian flag draped over his shoulders and shouted "Viva Italia", or "Long Live Italy", and "Italy for Italians", media reports said.

Police who raided his mother's home found far-right literature, including a copy of Adolf Hitler's manifesto "Mein Kampf" and a book by fascist dictator Benito Mussolini.

Interior Minister Marco Minniti said the attack was part of a culture "of right-wing extremism with clear reference to fascism and Nazism" and deplored that the sole link between the victims was "the colour of their skin."

He said the "criminal act" was prompted by "racial hatred" and had been prepared in advance.

Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni meanwhile made a pitch for unity after Saturday's incident, saying: "Hate and violence will not divide us."

Italy is a favoured landing point on Europe's southern coastline for migrants making the perilous journey across the Mediterranean, often aboard unseaworthy boats, to enter the continent.

AFP

TICK, TOCK

CALLS GROW FOR THAI DEPUTY PM TO QUIT OVER WATCH SCANDAL

BANGKOK - A petition calling for the resignation of Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister attracted thousands of signatures yesterday, heaping pressure on the junta's second-in-command to step aside amid a scandal over a luxury watch and undeclared assets.

The scandal has revealed growing signs of disgruntlement among the Thai public, and added to uncertainty over whether the junta will call an election later this year that is supposed to move the Southeast Asian nation back toward democracy.

The National Anti-Corruption



TIME UP: Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan.

Commission (NACC) placed Prawit Wongsuwan, 72, a former army chief who is also

defense minister, under investigation after his appearance in a photograph of the Cabinet wearing a diamond ring and a luxury watch in December sparked an avalanche of criticism on social media.

Thai netizens have since identified 25 expensive luxury watches that the former general has worn but not declared to the anti-graft body.

Prawit has said that he borrowed the timepieces from friends, but would resign if that was the public's wish.

According to Thailand's anti-corruption act, all political office holders must fully disclose all of their assets. **AFP**

Saddam's eldest daughter Raghda on most wanted list

BAGHDAD - The Iraqi government has placed the name of late Saddam Hussein's daughter, Raghda, on the most wanted list, together with 59 other individuals.

The 60 people are wanted on suspicion of belonging to ISIS, Al-Qaeda or the Baath Party.

The list, seen by AFP, includes the name of Saddam's daughter, Raghda, who lives in Jordan.

It also features 28 suspected ISIS fighters, 12 from Al-Qaeda and 20 from the Baath party, giving details of the roles they allegedly play in their organisations, the alleged crimes of which they are suspected, and, in most cases, photographs.

All are Iraqis, apart from Maan Bashour, a Lebanese man accused of recruiting fellow citizens to



WANTED: Late Saddam Hussein's daughter, Raghda.

fight in Iraq.

Member

The list includes senior members of the group, among them Fawaz Mohammad Mutlaq, a former officer in Saddam's Fedayeen paramilitary organisation who later became a mem-

ber of the ISIL military council.

The name of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS, is absent from the list. A senior security official contacted by AFP declined to explain why.

ALJAZEERA



MTN SWAMA AWARDS COMMITTEE REMAINS THE SAME

By Ayanda Dlamini

FOLLOWING the outstanding work done by the MTN SWAMA organising committee last year, the need to change committees has not arisen.

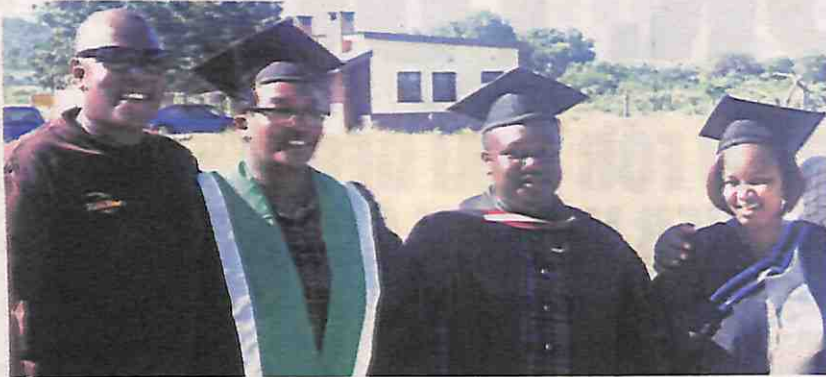
The first team to head the glamorous SWAMA Awards last year was chaired by current SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini and consisted of mostly some of the current SWAMA executive members.

This decision to maintain the same awards committee was revealed by 'Zox' yesterday. Dlamini stated that they have decided not to appoint a new committee because of the exceptional work done by the team last year. "This year it is going to be the same organising team. They did a good job last year so we might as well allow them to continue this year," Dlamini said.

Some of the returning members include SWAMA Vice President Lindelwa 'Lindz' Mafa, Penny Bouwer, who is the Treasurer, and a social media specialist by profession. However, Mhlonishwa Motsa will no longer be part of the MTN SWAMA organising committee this year as he is currently a member of the National Arts and Culture Awards (NACAs) organising team.

"It's the same team with the exception of Mhlonishwa Motsa who will not take part this year as he is currently in the

*...Mhlonishwa Motsa out,
...Second edition of the awards
to be launched this month*



STAYS ON: The SWAMA Awards team remain unchanged; SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini, Vice-President Lindelwa 'Lindz' Mafa, Secretary General Bongani 'DJ Tizalami' Dube and PRO Thabile Mdluli.

National Arts and Culture organising team," Dlamini clarified.

The SWAMA president also revealed that the second edition of MTN SWAMA will be launched this month.

"We are launching the awards this month, exact date is yet to be revealed by our title sponsor; Swazi MTN," Dlamini concluded.

The MTN SWAMA Awards is a concept created by SWAMA to celebrate and recognise musicians who have contributed to the growth of the music industry in the country.

The awards main aim is to pay tribute to artists who have played a pivotal role in the revolution of the music industry in Swaziland since independence to date.

METALLIC BOYZ TO LAUNCH SINGLE TITLED 'WOMEN'

By Lusito Tsela

LOCAL spinners Trixy and Maq 94 will on March 31 launch their single track titled 'Women'.

The event will take place at Cloud 9, former White House in Manzini.

This was revealed by Trixy, real name Allen Menzi Msibi saying, "We will be launching our single titled 'Women' on March 31."

"The track is simply about ladies; in fact it is about how ladies feel about themselves," he added.

Trixy said the song is inspired by his past life experiences as his mother abandoned him when he was eight months old, thus the vocalist in the song expresses her desire to try understanding the way women feel about themselves after doing some despicable things.

"The song also motivates people to keep moving forward and work hard no matter the circumstances," added Trixy.

Trixy continued saying together with his spinner partner Maq 94, real name Robert Ciniso

Mdluli, will be launching one of many songs to come and the music industry should brace themselves for the best music.

He further revealed that on the day, fun lovers will be treated to the best music by The Duchaz SA, Metallic Boyz, Leeto, Silver Cap, Emma, DJ Bisto, DJ Lindz, DJ Q3, DJ Litiya, Sfundo and DJ Mixza, to name a few.

The spinner urged fun lovers to come have a night of clean fun as they will have an outing to remember.

He also encouraged the country to keep supporting local talent and keep being loyal to locals as that helps the upcoming artists to be motivated, which will help in improving the standard of the industry in the country.

To the upcoming artists, he said they should keep pushing hard and forget about all the hindrances they face for that's what will make them stronger in the industry of music.

Fun lovers will pay E70 for general and E100 VIP tickets at the door.

SPINNERS: Robert 'Maq 94' Mdluli and Allen 'Trixy' Msibi.



Nduduzo to collaborate with Benjamin Dube, Lebo Sekgobela

By Lusito Tsela

TALENT recognises talent as the country's history making SABC Crown Gospel Award winner Nduduzo Matse will collaborate with Benjamin Dube and Lebo Sekgobela, amongst others, in his upcoming live CD/DVD recording.

The CD/DVD recording is slated for April 21 at the E25 million newly built Metropolitan Evangelical Church in Manzini.

This was revealed by Matse who said, "It is a done deal, I will be featuring Benjamin Dube and Lebo Sekgobela in my upcoming CD/DVD recording."

Globe-trotting

The globe-trotting gospel star will be recording 20 songs which include 'Ngiphelele', 'Ngifihliwe', 'Mangikuwe', 'Thula' and 'Akawacambi Amanga', to name a few.

Matse will also feature the likes of South African gospel star Thina Zungu, his younger brother Lungelo, 'Khululugcobo' hit maker

Nothando Hlophe, Banele Dlamini, Bholoja and Lomkhosi Makhubu, to name a few, in 10 of his songs, while the rest will be his own with his choir, which comprises of 40 members and his band of 10 instrumentalists.

The 'Best of Africa' award-winning Nduduzo Matse's mega CD/DVD recording, will be his fifth album and he will be celebrating 10-year anniversary as a recording artist.

Celebrated

Matse added; "It will be the biggest CD/DVD recording which will also see Swaziland's much celebrated gospel giants in the likes of Siphos 'Big Fish' Makhabane, Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group and Frans Dlamini to name a few, performing live."

The live CD/DVD recording will also see South African gospel artists like Omega and Takhi Do making their debut performance in the country.

Matse said the full list of other artists to be performing during his live CD/DVD recording is still to be unpacked as time goes

on.

He further urged his fans and all gospel lovers



to be on the look-out for the latest developments as he will soon be revealing all the logistics of the show in due time.

TO COLLABORATE: Benjamin Dube, Nduduzo Matse and Lebo Sekgobela.



AMANDA MO'S SONG 'UWAMI' ON CHANNEL O

By Nomfundo Sifundza

AFTER months of charting on radio, Amanda Mo's song 'Uwami' has finally been revealed in motion on MTV and Chanel O.

It is without doubt that Amanda Mo will be a household name in 2018. The plan according to her Manager Phila Koshini has been to celebrate and work tirelessly on every milestone of her musical career.

"We do not claim to be miracle workers but we thrive on hard work. So with that, hard work has been put in behind the video," he said.

The video was shot in different parts of coastal KZN. Phila Koshini added it was best fitting that the video premiered on the widely viewed channel closer to Valentine's Day when

love is celebrated.

However fans will only view the video on YouTube after Valentine's Day.

"We are trying to get fans to be on the lookout for the video on the biggest music stations first.

Excited

"We will roll out a promotion plan around the video activation soon. We are excited that we are again given a chance as Icon PB to work on a Swazi-product and show it to the world," elaborated Koshini.

Koshini also revealed that the caller tune product of the song 'Uwami' was picking up well.

"In no time we will hear of records being broken. Swaziland must brace themselves, we are about to make Swaziland proud again," concluded the ambitious manager.

OVER 150 AT XFACTORED LAUNCH

Stories by Nomfundo Sifundza

OVER 150 Youth from Ngomane, Mhlume, Simunye and surrounding areas attended the XFactored Youth Empowerment Launch held on Saturday.

XFactored is a Youth Entrepreneurship programme developed by Futhi Sibiya, Author of XFactored 101 booklet, owner of Ezweni Lodge, and a Consultant.

The launch of the XFactored concept in Swaziland was attended by amongst all, soulful local Afro Soul/Jazz band Quad Element.

The local award winning band had clinched a partnership prior with the concept after they set KwaMashu, Bexter ablaze during their performance during the first session of the 2018 XFactored event held on January 6 - 18.

The Swazi XFactored launch attracted 12 people from Durban whom five



XFACTORED: The XFactored author Futhi Sibiya unpacking the development concept, as MC Wodumo and Khanya from Durban look on. This was on Saturday in Simunye.

of them were artists who gave out exhilarating performances; Ballistik; a young hip hop gem, Elihle; an Afro Jazz artist, Lungi M; Durban talent search winner and musician, MC Wodumo; a young programme director who ensured everyone was entertained and that the youth appreciated the core purpose of the event.

Also present was Ntobe and Thandeka who are traditional and soul artists who

stole the show with their Zulu traditional moves when joined by two Swazi ladies clad in Swazi attire.

The programme was developed to support whatever talent and passion a person has, it is also aligned to everyone's business needs and is a guide that assists in converting ones aspirations into business.

"In this context we are targeting converting art, and talent into business: be it music, design, poetry, craft, and other things like; making perfumes, baking designer cakes, making sauces, and many more," said Futhi Sibiya, Author.

Explaining further on XFactored Sibiya said "the booklet is a starter kit to a life of purpose and entrepreneurship, it seeks to promote the excellence factor, it is designed for everyone who wants to sign up for excellence and be of value to others rather than being a burden to the communities we live in."

...LOCAL SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE

THREE Lubombo region-based high schools participated during the launch of the XFactored event held in Simunye over the past weekend.

The participating schools were; Ngomane, Lusoti and Mhlume and they all released over 20 pupils per school.

On the other hand Swazi artists represented the country well as they proved that the country is rich with talent and they all gave out their best performances much to the excitement of the spectators; MQ a local hip-hop artist based at Simunye as well as Mr Crizzy of Matsapa received an overwhelming response from the crowd, which is a sign of hope and recognition by local fans.

Other local hip hop artists who performed were; Makasane, Navy, NKG, ABN Gentle Master, RedK, Teego. Poets were; Nqobile Ndlangamandla a renowned Poet and Marketing Manager at Swazi Plaza properties, Nonhle, Lindelwa, Siyabonga, Nothando, Thandwa and Sweet Symphony a gospel group and dancers were: DX and DP Legends.



ALSO THERE: A section of those who attended. (Courtesy pics)

...66 REGISTER TO START THE XFACTORED YOUTH PROGRAMME

COORDINATOR of the XFactored initiative in Swaziland, Nolwazi Nkambule was overwhelmed by the response and commitment showed by the youth over the past weekend.

She indicated that 66 registered for the XFactored programme and they

will soon start orientation classes.

She thanked RSSC management and staff for their support, parents for allowing their children to participate and for also attending the event as that gave the participating children courage and zeal to excel in their craft.



ATTENTIVE: Musician Lungi M from Durban following the proceedings. IN THE MIX: Durban's Elihle having a kodak moment.



HAPPY VALENTINES

AFRI-BERRY "LOVE YOUR HAIR, LOVE YOUR SKIN" VALENTINE'S COMPETITION PURCHASE ANY AFRI-BERRY PRODUCTS AND SMS "FUN BARCODE" COMPETITION TO 6464

1st Prize - E 2000 Afri-Berry Hamper
2nd Prize - E 1000 Afri-Berry Hamper
3rd Prize - E 750 Afri-Berry Hamper



"LOVE YOUR SKIN, LOVE YOUR HAIR"

Products available at : LINKMED PHARMACY (Nationwide) EDGARS RED SQUARE, INDIGO SALON (The Mall) , Spice World (Corporate Place) Phumelela Herbal Pharmacy(Manzini) Well Pharmacy (Piggs Peak) Piggs Pharmacy Siphofaneni Pharmacy.

Terms & Conditions

- The competition is open to all members of the public except employees of Afri Berry and the Swazi Observer.
- Participants should note that there should be a space between FUN and the product Barcode
- The more SMS's you send the better the chances of winning
- The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into
- Each SMS costs E1.71



International
Celebrity News

Nicki's 'CHILD MOLESTER' brother beaten by inmates

NEW YORK - A shocking new video was just released from inside the Nassau County Jail. The video shows Nicki Minaj's brother Jelani Maraj getting brutally beaten by other inmates. Maraj was accused and convicted of repeatedly raping an 11-year-old girl. During his trial, an 11-year-old witness testified against Maraj, alleging that he saw him with his under down to his knees and this sister's pants are on her ankles. He then ran away from the basement, but Maraj later came to find him and slapped him 10 times in the face before threatening the young boy's mother in an effort to keep his mouth shut. *MTO*



BEATEN UP: Nicki Minaj's brother Jelani Maraj.

Justin Timberlake's halftime show a deaf-ing disaster

LOS ANGELES - Justin Timberlake's gonna have words with the audio guys, because they ruined his Super Bowl halftime performance. JT hit the stage Sunday his first shot at redemption since the infamous Janet Jackson wardrobe malfunction and this go-around didn't go much better. The singer was almost impossible to hear, sometimes muted and sometimes almost silent. Meanwhile, his back-up singers could be heard crystal clear. *MTO*



A DISASTER: Justin Timberlake.

Pink defends super bowl national anthem performance

LOS ANGELES - Pink clapped back at haters who criticised her National Anthem Performance at the beginning of the 2018 Super Bowl.

After one Twitter user said the "Beautiful Trauma" singer "sucks," the artist fired back.

"Yeah but at least I suck while singing our countries national anthem, and you just suck by yourself on a dirty couch. #winning," she tweeted. She also bit back at people who criticized her for spitting out what appeared to be gum during her performance. *Eonline*



NOT BOTHERED: Pink.

Kylie Jenner gives birth to a baby girl

HOLLYWOOD - 20-year-old reality star took to Instagram on Sunday to confirm her pregnancy and announce that she and boyfriend Travis Scott welcomed the new bundle of joy after months of speculation. No name has been revealed yet.

In the social media statement the make-up mogul wrote: "My beautiful and healthy baby girl arrived February 1st and I just couldn't wait to share this blessing."

DailyMail



GIVES BIRTH: Kylie Jenner and Travis Scott.

SA Celebrity News

Don't feel sorry for me - Simz Ngema

JOHANNESBURG - As Simz Ngema continues to pick up the pieces after the death of her husband, Dumi Masilela last year, the actress has said she doesn't feel sorry for herself and neither should other people.

"I know that this cross has my name on it. It's for me to carry. I've always kept my crown on my head, not once did I let it fall because I know who I am."

Many applauded the star for having the courage to speak and sing at Dumi's memorial service and as she makes a return to social media,

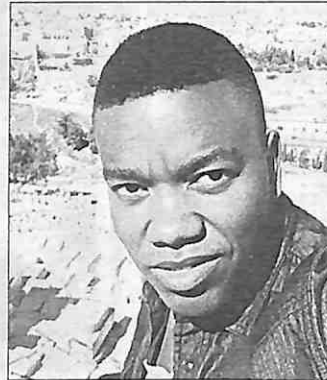


I AM FINE: Simz Ngema.

her strong spirit has continued to shine through. *TshisaLive*

Loyiso Bala calls for Inxeba to be banned, Twitter roasts him

JOHANNESBURG - As producers, actors and the director of Inxeba (The Wound) spent much of the weekend calling for calm after death threats against themselves as well as staff of movie houses who showed the film was at an all time high, musician Loyiso Bala took to social media to not only insist it ridicules the traditions of the Xhosa culture, he also called for a ban of the film. The film depicts the traditional ritual of ukwaluka - a Xhosa tradition into manhood - as well as sexual identity in the form of a gay love story. *TshisaLive*



CALLS FOR BAN: Loyiso Bala

Sorisha Naidoo speaks out on her skin bleaching



SPEAKS OUT: Sorish Naidoo.

DURBAN - She has spoken about her skin-lightening procedures before but now Sorisha Naidoo (40) is opening up for the first time about the demons that drove her and how it caused her to bleach her skin. In 2002 she was one of the top finalists in Miss India Worldwide, after winning Miss India South Africa. But her win was roundly criticised.

Some people in the Indian community frowned upon a dark-skinned girl winning the beauty pageant, she explains.

"I have never shared this, but those comments really hurt me and damaged my self-esteem. I knew I was worthy to be crowned because I'm intelligent. *Drum*

Sandra gets gospel music lovers spinning

JOHANNESBURG - When most of her peers are whipped into the gqom frenzy and other dance crazes, Sandra Mokoka has devoted her talent to gospel.

The newest addition to SA's huge gospel market is a bright and sassy 22-year-old Afda Live Performance graduate. Her mission is to rattle and shake up the industry.

She is out to prove that gospel is not just for people of a certain age, but she believes it can be just as fun and engaging as other offerings that generate as much noise and excitement. Mokoka, from Polokwane, was plucked from obscurity when pop star Shekhinah, who studied with her at Afda, recommended that Universal Music Executive



SPIRITUAL: Sandra Mokoka.

Themba Mgcina go see her perform. *Sowetan*

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY



COLD FEET: Mehlemamba.

The Zungus and the Ngwenyas reach a compromise. Ngwebedla spits venom on Thandeka's contract in Bhubesini. Mehlemamba gets cold feet and S'khaleni accuses him of being selfish.

ISIDINGO

TODAY

Lerato is all sorts of nervous as her Atlanta trip approaches. Sechaba does everything he can to support her. Wendy and Anja prepare for Hendrik's surprise birthday party.



NERVOUS: Lerato.

Muvhango

TODAY

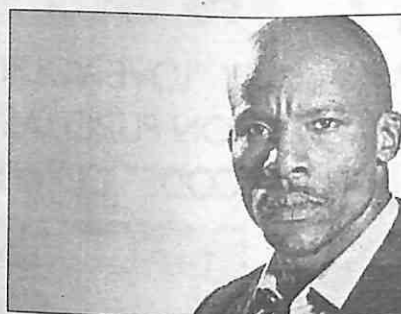


MOTIVATOR: Azwindini.

Susan realises the extent of Konanani's manipulation. A showdown between the women ensues. Ranthomeng will stop at nothing to get his son back. Livhu finds courage in Azwindini's words.



TODAY



TRUE COLOURS: Suffocate.

Suffo's prison mate reveals his true identity. Lerato summons Lungile. Emmanuel tries to stand up for himself at work. Wiseman starts to move in on Puleng and Cuba and Suffo learns the bad news.

Every Family:



The Elder Brother



The Younger Brother

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

Don't judge a book by its cover, Capricorn, or you could miss out on a great collaboration. An unconventional woman could come to your assistance at work today, supporting one of your loftier goals. She probably won't be dressed in the corporate uniform or even seem to care that much about "success." But her razor-sharp mind and tech savvy will blow you away. You may be inspired to add a new digital skill to your own repertoire.



Capricorn

a review. New people join all the time, and this cosmic connection could bring a lucky swipe.

CANCER JUNE 22 – JULY 22

Power surge! Today's galvanising connection of Venus and game-changer Uranus can send you soaring further up the ladder of success. You could find yourself mingling in influential circles—and people will be charmed by your presence. Get ready: Developments could happen quickly under these skies.



Cancer

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

Don't just tell people what they WANT to hear, Aquarius; speak from the heart. Your words have a powerful impact today as your co-ruler, spontaneous Uranus, gets in sync with warm-fuzzy Venus. Open up and reveal something personal. You can always lighten the mood with your trademark humour if you feel awkward.



Aquarius

LEO JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

Today's affable angle between romantic Venus and Uranus, the planet of surprises, could bring an important moment of truth. You may be hit with a surge of strong feelings for someone you never thought of "that way" before. Coupled Leos might realise that something's missing from the relationship. Fortunately, this planetary party is a proactive one. Don't get mad; get creative.



Leo

PISCES FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 20

As one of the zodiac's four mutable signs, variety is the spice of your life. But sometimes your addiction to change can be unmooring. If you find yourself rebelling against routines, try turning them into rituals. How can you make the mundane feel more sacred? One idea: Set up an altar of crystals and a divination deck by your desk.



Pisces

VIRGO AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

Need some motivation to stay on the wellness wagon? Think of ways to make your workouts, well, sexier. Today, as radiant Venus in your salubrious sixth house gets a sultry charge from rebellious Uranus, seductive self-care is the name of the game.



Virgo

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 23

Getting hung up on a "type" is a surefire way to limit yourself, Libra. Today, as edgy Uranus in your relationship house flirts with frisky Venus, you could fall head over thigh-high boots for someone who is SO different than paramours of the past. If there's enough physical chemistry to match the intrigue, you owe it to yourself to explore it! Coupled Libras, this is the day to shake things up a little.



Libra

SCORPIO OCTOBER 24 – NOVEMBER 21

Another mug of Turmeric Golden Milk? Today's activating alignment of radiant Venus and progressive Uranus reminds you that health is wealth. Don't wait until you're sick to start taking great care of yourself. Prevention is the best medicine: Fortify your immune system with vitamin C and foods rich in antioxidants like blueberries, pecans and (yass!) dark chocolate. Gut health is also essential to wellness.



Scorpio

TAURUS APRIL 20 – MAY 20

Could your goals use more soul? High-minded Uranus sends a charged beam to your ruler, Venus, who is parked in your career house. Getting to the finish line first—and with the most cryptocoins—can be a lonely proposition if you don't attach your efforts to a higher purpose.



Taurus

GEMINI MAY 21 – JUNE 21

Your romantic palette expands in surprising ways today, Gemini, as experimental Uranus winks at amorous Venus. Suddenly you're drawn to voices (and accents!) you never noticed before, while certain visuals become arresting. If you're single, log into a new dating app and give your go-to one



Gemini

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

Winter blahs, begone! A playful connection between festive Venus and experimental Uranus jolts you out of hibernation mode. Scan the cultural calendars in your area. Is a band you love playing at a local venue; is a bar hosting trivia night



Sagittarius

BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



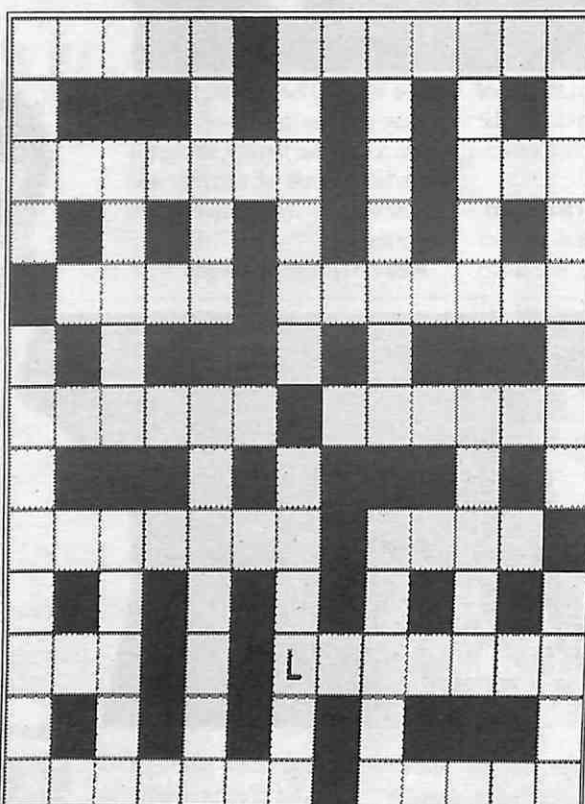
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



HOME WORDSEARCH

PUZZLE CHOICE

The first letter of each answer is written next to its clue in alphabetical order. One letter has already been entered. Can you find the words then fit them correctly into the grid?



- M. Systems (7)
N. Synthetic material (5)
O. Conspicuous (7)
O. Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
P. Sacred songs (6)
S. Changed around (8)
S. Balance (8)
T. Bandits (7)
T. Large drum (7)
U. Unwilling (7)
W. Victor (6)
W. Sapience (6)
Z. Elan (4)
Z. African equine (5)
- A. Dull pain (4)
A. Accumulate (5)
A. Clumsy (7)
C. Hoard (5)
C. Composed (4)
D. Lairs (4)
D. Hates (7)
E. Bird of prey (5)
E. Tree (3)
H. Pig (3)
I. Block of metal (5)
K. Retains (5)
L. Terse (7)
M. Spiritualist (6)

LOL
Laughing Out Loud

Not Batman

A drunk man walks out of the bar and sees a nun standing at the bus stop. He walks up to her and punches her in the

face. When she is on the ground crying he says, "Not so tough are you now Batman!"

USELESS FACTS

1. Milk is heavier than cream.
2. According to the Nutritional Sciences Department of Cornell University, the best temperature at which to preserve frozen foods is 0° F (-18° C).
3. The purpose of the indentation at the bottom of a wine bottle is to strengthen the structure of the bottle and to trap the sediments in the wine.
4. Vintage port takes forty years to reach maturity.
5. Honey is the only food that does not spoil. Honey found in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs has been tasted by archaeologists and found edible.

BRAINTEASERS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's brainteasers

1. What is at the end of a rainbow?

Answer: The letter W.

2. What starts with the letter "t", is filled with "t" and ends in "t"?

Answer: A teapot

Today's brainteasers

1. A girl is sitting in a house at night that has no lights on at all. There is no lamp, no candle, nothing. Yet she is reading. How?

2. You walk into a room with a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle, and a fireplace. Which do you light first?



DStv
Feel every moment

NEWS



MEET THE EXTRAORDINARY 'UNMARRIED' CAST

UNMARRIED is a fun, fresh and sexy new drama about the lives of three young female friends living in Johannesburg, as they deal with the pressures of juggling marriage, motherhood, relationships, and their careers.

The drama revolves around three different women who represent a diverse cross-section of South African life, from the township to the suburbs, to the high-end apartment lifestyle of the "super blessed".

I hope you did catch the first episode last Friday, if not let me introduce you to the fun cast. You will be happy to know that former *Our Perfect Wedding* Presenter Thembisa Mdoda is part of it;

Thembisa Mdoda (Thembi)
Thembi was always the star of



the trio, the prettiest girl in school and the brightest one in class. She lives with her high school sweetheart Bongani.

Renate Stuurman (Brenda)
At 33 Dikeledi, who was born and raised in Soweto, seems to

have it all. The life that every young woman dreams of. Raised from a nuclear family, she grew up with a sense of security and her ambitions were nurtured from a young age.

Keke Mphuti (Lesego)

A go-getter of note, who never lets anything get her down until she came into her own as a young woman and discovered that she was not like any of the other girls – but a beauty to be regaled.

Fezile Makhanya (Donald)

Donald is the quintessential entitled man, who believes that he can have whatever he wants. He is defined by his masculinity, which struggles to adjust to his wife Branda's success.

Stay tuned to the Oscars Pop up channel

Grab some pop corn.

One hundred and fifteen Academy Award winning films. 757 Oscar nominations. 306 golden statuettes. That's what movie buffs on the DStv Premium package will be treated to on ONE channel this very short month of February.

Leading up to 2018's landmark 90th annual Academy Awards taking place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood on 5 March, M-Net Movies will bring DStv Premium viewers a special month-long M-Net Movies Oscars pop-up channel in February.

The M-Net Movies Oscars pop-up channel, hosted on channel 109 on DStv, will showcase a long list of magical movies that caught the eyes of critics and sparked at Oscar ceremonies over the years.

This treasure trove of terrific films has been screening since last Thursday and will go on until, February 28 and each day there will be six films on the schedule from around noon until just after midnight.

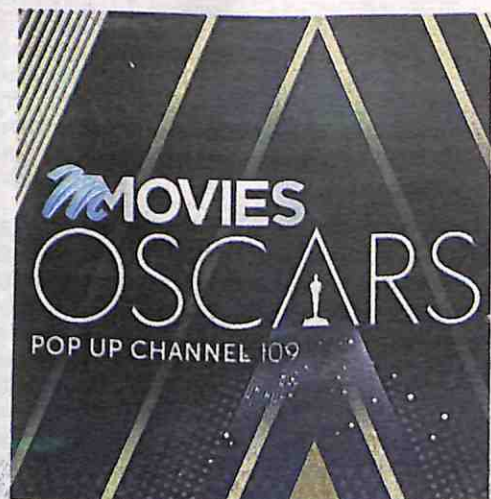
While the spotlight will shine on all the Hollywood films from last year's Oscars (the 89th Academy Awards), many of the cinematic gems that raked in the most awards since the inception of the awards will also make their way onto channel 109. Viewers can look forward to an array of films – from classics like 'Gone With The Wind' and the original 1959 'Ben Hur' to 2017's Best Picture winner 'Moonlight' along with last year's Best Animated Feature 'Zootropolis'.

This pop-up channel will also honour Oscar winners by screening the acclaimed movies they've appeared in. Academy favourites like Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington, Cate Blanchett, Leonardo DiCaprio and South Africa's own Charlize Theron will once again transport viewers into the heart of their characters' stories, desires, fears and wonders.

For a golden binge-viewing experience, weekends movies will be scheduled into the following categories:

- Saturday, 10 February – Best Director
- Sunday, 11 February – Best Supporting Actress
- Saturday, 17 February – Best Supporting Actor
- Sunday, 18 February – Best Actor
- Saturday, 24 February – Best Actress
- Sunday, 25 February – Best Picture

The 90th edition of the Academy Awards will broadcast live on M-Net Movies Premiere at 03:30 am CAT on 5 March and M-Net on the same day, at 21:30, thereafter it will be available on DStv Catch Up via the DStv Explora.



Kheth'Omthandayo

KHETH'OMTHANDAYO is a new dating show with a twist! Four suitors go through hoop to woo not only their desired single bachelor/bachelorette, but also their friends and family.

Hosted by actor and presenter Siyabonga Radebe, the new reality dating show hopes to bring people together in the name of love.

Kheth'Omthandayo is no show for the faint-hearted - the suitor will be put to the test by their potential love interest, family and their friends.

In the first challenge, all four suitors will go through a questioning session by a panel that includes the love interest - whom they won't know - and must prove why they could be the best Ms/Mr Right for the seeker.

In the end, one suitor will be eliminated based on this interrogation, leaving three to battle it out for the affection of their potential bae.

"The show is about people seeking to find people to go on a date with. The producers have turned it into

a game show adding that extra bit of excitement and making it different from your regular dating shows," Radebe said.





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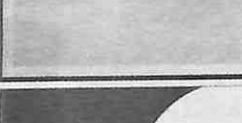
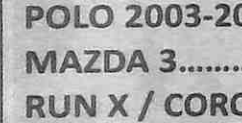
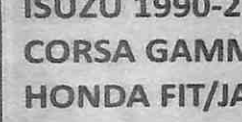
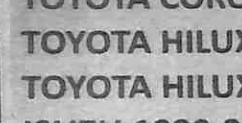
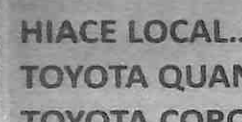
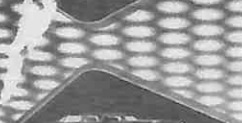
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HADRAF INSPIRES AFRICAN NATIONS CHAMPIONS GLORY

RABAT - Morocco strolled past Nigeria 4-0 to lift the 2018 African Nations Championship trophy on Sunday night.

The north Africans, inspired by Zakaria Hadraf's brace and strikes from Walid El Karti and Ayoub El Kaabi, were torn apart by the Super Eagles who ended the game with 10-men after Moses Eneji was given the marching order.

Hadraf passed up a glorious opportunity midway through the first half and El also had a first-half effort correctly ruled out for offside.

A dominant start from Morocco to Sunday's final kept Nigeria pegged firmly back in their half and Salisu Yusuf's side looked to be facing a supremely tough task when El Kaabi fired in a bicycle kick that kissed the wood work.

Nigeria's chances were scarce at best, though Gabriel Okechuwku almost fired past goalkeeper Anas Zniti in the 26th minute but for the timely clearance of Salaheddine Saidi.

Zniti's opposite number, Dele Ajiboye, denied Walid El Karti Okechuku fluffed his lines at the other end before the north African got the opener few seconds from the halftime break. The newly crowned champions took the initiative as captain Badr Benoun raced



CHAMPIONS: Morocco players in celebration after they strolled past Nigeria 4-0 to lift the 2018 African Nations Championship trophy on Sunday night. (Goal)

through two opposition, passed to Abdeljalil Jbira whose cross was driven home by Hadraf.

In the second half, things went bad for the Super Eagles as debutant Eneji was given the marching orders for a second caution after a reckless tackle on Mohammed Nahiri.

Coach Jamal Sellami made the numerical disadvantage count and pumped in three more goal to send the fans into wild jubilation.

El Karti headed home the second in the 61st minute after Ajiboye had parried Ismael Haddad strike to his direction after El Kaabi's bicycle

cycle was denied by the woodwork again. Hadraf completed his brace in the 64th minute with Kaabi finally registering his name among the goal scorers nine minutes later as Morocco found a fitting way to win the showpiece on home soil.

Goal

UEFA defer Red Star stadium ban

BELGRADE - UEFA has deferred a stadium ban on Red Star Belgrade imposed after their fans displayed support for Bosnian Serb war crimes convict Ratko Mladic during an away match in November.

UEFA last month ordered the Serbian club to play the home leg of their Europa League last-32 tie against CSKA Moscow behind closed doors following the incidents at Belarus side BATE Borisov.

Visiting Red Star fans displayed a banner glorifying Mladic, a former Bosnian Serb military leader sentenced to life in prison last year

after a UN War Crimes Tribunal found him guilty of genocide.

'A thousand life sentences and an honourable Serb would still hail you,' said the banner displayed by Red Star fans, who also chanted Mladic's name during the match.

However, UEFA said yesterday the stadium ban had been "deferred for a probationary period of two years". It also cut a fine on Red Star from 50 000 euros (\$62 000) to 30 000. Red Star said last month they had done everything in their power to be good organisers and described the original decision as draconian. **Reuters**

Mertens, Hamsik on target as Napoli return to top of Serie A

NAPLES - Serie A Leaders Napoli did not slip up in their Sunday evening kick-off, winning 2-0 at rock-bottom Benevento to maintain their one-point advantage at the top.

Dries Mertens opened the scoring in the 20th minute, before Marek Hamsik doubled the advantage two minutes into the second half.

By winning against their struggling opponents, Napoli remained nearly perfect away from home, winning 11 out of 12 matches played on the road this season.

Maurizio Sarri's men only slight

misstep was a 0-0 draw at Chievo Verona in November.

Mertens scored with a delightful lob from a sharp angle early on, and then turned provider when Napoli captain Hamsik doubled the lead with a tap in shortly after the break. Benevento then had a penalty kick attempt waved off for offside by the video assistant referee.

Earlier in the day, Gonzalo Higuain scored a second-half hat-trick as Juventus routed Sassuolo 7-0 to keep the pressure on Napoli in the Serie A title battle.

Daily Mail

Woodland beats Reavie in play-off to claim Phoenix Open triumph

ARIZONA - Gary Woodland beat Chez Reavie with a par on the first hole of a play-off on Sunday to win the Waste Management Phoenix Open.

Woodland birdied three of the last four holes for a 7-under 64 to finish at 18-under 266 at TPC Scottsdale.

Reavie closed with a 66. After a bogey on the par-3 16th, the former Arizona State player chipped to 3 feet for birdie on the short par-4 17th and ran in a 20-footer on the par-4 18th to force the PGA Tour's fourth straight play-off.

In the play-off on the 18th, Woodland hit short of the green from the left fairway bunker and chipped to 2 feet to set up his third PGA Tour victory.

Reavie missed the green left and couldn't get an 11-footer to fall.

The crowd was estimated at 64 273 for a record week-long total of 719 179. On Saturday, an estimated 216 818 jammed the grounds, the biggest turnout in golf history.

Daily Mail



VICTOR: Gary Woodland poses proudly with his Waste Management Phoenix Open trophy on Sunday. (Daily Mail)

All Blacks learning Japanese ahead of 2019 RWC

WELLINGTON - New Zealand coach Steve Hansen has taken an unusual step as he looks to give the All Blacks every chance of success at the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan.

According to the Stuff website, Hansen is currently on a planning visit to Japan, where it was confirmed that Yokohama's Nissan Stadium would host this year's third Bledisloe Cup Test on October 27.

With the All Blacks also playing Japan the following weekend at Ajinomoto Stadium in Tokyo, the clash against the Wallabies gives Hansen's squad a chance to experience another key World Cup venue ahead of their quest for three-straight global titles.

The All Blacks play their opening match of the 2019 tournament against South Africa in Yokohama and their match against an African qualifier in Tokyo.

But a big part of their preparation includes being comfortable with the Japanese culture - and that includes learning the language.

"We're busy at home studying to see if we can learn some of it," Hansen told local reporters. "For some it's easy, for others it's difficult. "Clearly we want to come and win it." **AFP**

Springbok great Habana mulls retirement

CAPE TOWN - Legendary Springbok wing Bryan Habana has admitted he's been contemplating retirement.

Habana, who underwent knee surgery last year, has struggled for game time at French club Toulon in recent times.

In an interview with Rugby365, Habana said he was unsure about his playing future.

"My contract with Toulon ends in June and I'm not quite sure if (Mourad) Boudjellal (Toulon owner) is going to stick around with me much longer. Also, I'm pushing the



IT'S TIME: Legendary Springbok wing Bryan Habana.

limits of the 30-club now, but I haven't quite made a decision yet,"

said Habana, who turns 35 in June. Habana said he may have another

season left to play, but is not keen to move his family to another part of the world for a short period.

Habana, who played the last of his 124 Tests for the Springboks in the shock defeat to Italy in 2016, said last year he was unsure whether he would play for the Boks again.

The speedy winger holds the record for the most Test tries (67) by a Springbok and is three shy of Victor Matfield's all-time Springbok caps record of 127 Tests.

He has been on Toulon's books since 2013, having previously represented the Stormers (2010-2013), Bulls (2005-2009) and Lions (2003-2004).

Sport24



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BRIEFS

'Everyone knew Ozil would stay'

LONDON - Arsenal defender Hector Bellerin reveals he was never worried that Mesut Ozil would leave the club.

There had been speculation that Ozil would follow Alexis Sanchez and leave in January with his contract initially running out in the summer. However, the German signed a new improved deal which will tie him to the Gunners until 2021.

Speaking to Arsenal's club website, Bellerin revealed there was never any doubt that Ozil would leave. He said: "Everyone in the training ground, everyone in the team knew he was going to stay. *Daily Mail*

'Palace deserved to beat Newcastle'

LONDON - Crystal Palace Manager Roy Hodgson believes his team's second-half performance in the 1-1 draw with Newcastle United on Sunday deserved three points.

The 'Eagles' put in an underwhelming performance in the first 45 minutes at Selhurst Park and went a goal down in the 22nd minute when Mohamed Diame scored the opener. However, they were a different team after the break and dominated phases of the game. *AFP*

'Leicester players not angry with Mahrez'

LEICESTER - Marc Albrighton has debunked claim that Leicester City players are angry with Riyad Mahrez after the Algeria winger tried to force a move away from the King Power Stadium.

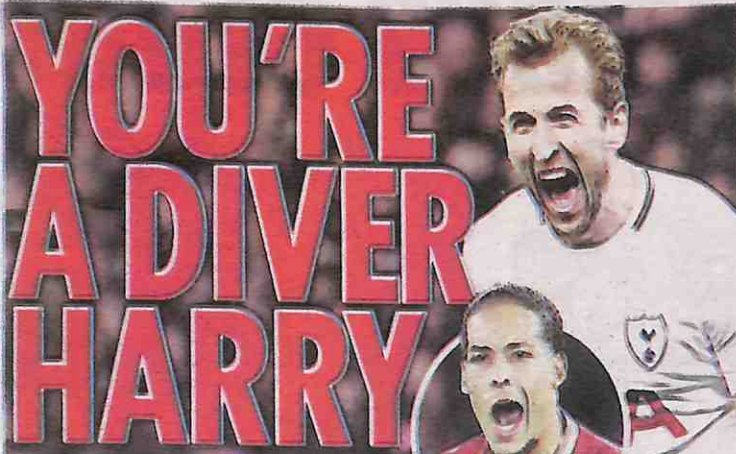


Mahrez handed in a transfer request as he wanted to join Manchester City in the January transfer window. But a deal failed to materialise, with the 'Foxes' holding out for a higher price than the 'Citizens' were offering. Consequently, the winger embarked on a self-imposed strike and had missed several training sessions and two games including Leicester's 1-1 draw with Swansea City on Saturday. *Goal*

Hazard can win the Ballon d'Or

LONDON - Cesc Fabregas has talked up the potential of Chelsea team-mate Eden Hazard, touting him as a potential Ballon d'Or winner.

Football's biggest individual honour has been scooped by either Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi for each of the last 10 years, yet the Spain midfielder believes that his Belgian cohort is capable of inheriting the prize one day. He did, however, suggest that the 27-year-old, who continues to be linked with Real Madrid and Manchester City, will have to show greater focus if he wants to hit those heights. "With Eden, if he wants to win the Ballon d'Or it's up to him," he told Sky Sports. "He is a player who can do one on one, he can get possession of the ball, he can pass and has great ability with the ball. *Goal*



Van Dijk lays into Kane after Anfield draw

LIVERPOOL - LIVERPOOL defender Virgil van Dijk branded Harry Kane a diver after Tottenham grabbed a controversial draw at Anfield.

Van Dijk accused Kane of conning referee Jon Moss to win Tottenham's first penalty, which he missed.

The Dutchman also claimed Erik Lamela had been fortunate to win a second spot-kick in added time, Kane making no mistake in the 95th minute to earn Spurs a share of the

spoils to cancel out Mohamed Salah's two goals for Liverpool.

Discussing the first penalty awarded when Liverpool keeper Loris Karius brought down Kane, Van Dijk insisted the Spurs striker was offside.

And fuming at the second spot-kick, Van Dijk said: "He just put his body in front of me.

"I don't think that is a pen and the same with the first one. That is also clearly not a penalty.

"I think it is a dive. You see him (Kane) diving clearly and

no one is talking about that. But I think it is a dive.

"There is a lot of discussion about whether it is offside, yes or no, but I think it was offside as well."

The second penalty was given after referee Jon Moss was convinced to change his mind by his assistant Edward Smart.

And Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp was also fuming at the officials and Tottenham.

"It's clear in these situations the opposition

wants to go down, wants to cause these type of problems," said Klopp.

"I am very angry. But obviously I can't change anything. So what's my job now? To create headlines? To be punished? To pay a fine? If I say what I think I would pay the biggest fine in world football.

"I have no problem with people making mistakes. But if you don't see the situation, then step aside. *Daily star*

Salah fastest Liverpool player to score 20

LIVERPOOL - Mohamed Salah's brace against Tottenham saw him become the fastest Liverpool player to score 20 goals in the Premier League.

The Egyptian capitalised on a mistake from Eric Dier to open the scoring in the first half and reach 20 league goals for the season after just 25 games.

That means he has bested the 27-match record that was held by both Fernando Torres and Daniel Sturridge.

Only two Reds have hit the milestone quicker in the his-

tory of the English top flight, Fred Pagnam doing so in 23 games in 1915 and Ronald Orr in 24 games in 1909.

In terms of the modern Premier League

era, Salah now ranks fourth all-time for goals scored in the first 25 Premier League matches for a club, tied with the Newcastle duo Alan Shearer and

Les Ferdinand. Sunderland's Kevin Phillips holds that record with 24 goals, fol-

lowed by Newcastle's Andy Cole on 22 goals.

Salah has been one of the signings of the season, con-

tributing 28 goals and nine assists in 34 appearances in all competitions

since joining from Roma in the summer. *Daily Mail*



GOAL MACHINE Mohamed Salah

Man United won't need any more attacking players

MANCHESTER - Jose Mourinho is confident Manchester United won't require any further attacking reinforcements after the signing of Alexis Sanchez.

The Chilean forward joined from Arsenal in a swap deal with Henrikh Mkhitaryan last month, meaning United have plenty of options going forward.

Sanchez scored his first goal for United in Saturday's 2-0 home win over Huddersfield Town, tucking home the rebound after his penalty had been saved.

Mourinho wants Sanchez to play in various positions across United's front line, further supporting the argument that no further attack-

ing buys will be needed this summer.

United have been linked with the likes of Gareth Bale and Antoine Griezmann in recent windows, but Mourinho insists they will focus on other areas. "Exactly, that is the point, that is the objective," said Mourinho.

"We have only one No. 9 - there is also Zlatan [Ibrahimovic] but let's forget Zlatan for the moment - and from having only one No 9, now we have more No 9s.

"We have Alexis, we have [Romelu] Lukaku, we have [Anthony] Martial, we have [Marcus] Rashford. Rashford can play on the left or on the right. Alexis is exactly the

same. "All of them, apart from Lukaku, can play from behind as a second striker, that's why I say it is bad for you. You like to have things to write and things to speculate, especially in the summer.

"But I don't want attacking players, so don't speak about attacking players that are coming here because nobody is coming here. *Daily Mail*



CONFIDENT: Jose Mourinho.

Season taking toll on City - De Bruyne

MANCHESTER - Kevin De Bruyne admits he is struggling physically as Pep Guardiola's Manchester City chase glory on four fronts, hampered by a series of injuries to big-name players.

The midfielder has missed only three of City's 39 games in all competitions and says he was feeling tired during Saturday's 1-1 draw at Burnley. "I was feeling it from the first minute," he said. "I've said it before - you feel great for 10 games, then you feel OK for 10 games, and then the rest you feel like sxxx.

"You know, we've got to do what we've got to do. We've only got 15 or 16 players available at the moment so we need to get through it." Injuries to Benjamin

Mendy, Gabriel Jesus, Leroy Sane, John Stones, David Silva, Fabian Delph, Phil Foden and Lukas Nmecha restricted City boss Guardiola to just six substitutes at Turf Moor. The runaway Premier League leaders are not in action again until Leicester City visit the Etihad Stadium on Saturday - their longest gap between games since the November international break - and Guardiola has decided to give his entire squad three days off.

"It will do us a lot of good," said De Bruyne. "I'm going away, it doesn't matter where."

City should have claimed all three points at the weekend after dominating the match.

Daniolo gave them a first-half lead but they were unable to add to it, with Raheem Sterling spurning a gilt-edged chance from close range before Johann Berg Gudmundsson claimed a late equaliser. "Nobody is complaining about the way we played" said De Bruyne. "I think we played really well and we should have scored more but it happens and it's not even bad defending, it's just the way it goes sometimes. "Obviously it's very hard and we haven't got any players left, so maybe we feel a little bit of tiredness which makes it a little bit more difficult but I thought the way we played was exceptional." *AFP*



KOMPHELA URGES PATIENCE OVER CASTRO, NTSHANGASE GAME-TIME

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs coach Steve Komphela says he is cautious about shaking up his side too much to accommodate new signings Leonardo Castro and Siphelele Ntshangase.

The two January arrivals have yet to start a match, but have featured regularly off the substitute bench, including in Saturday's 1-1 league draw away at Bidvest Wits. When asked about their relative lack of game-time so far, Komphela said that he feels it wrong to drop players he feels are contributing positively at the moment, with Chiefs currently on a seven-match unbeaten spell in the league. "You are always tempted to start with Castro and Ntshangase, but then again if you start Castro, do you put Ryan Moon

outside, who scored (against Wits)? Do you start with Ntshangase and leave Shabba (Siphiwe Tshabalala) outside? That's another dynamic," Komphela told the media. "Castro and Ntshangase's contributions are very clear.

They are there and can even play more minutes than when they arrived, but then again, do you play two number 10's - Shabba and Ntshangase then sacrifice one striker? It's another thing."

Komphela also offered words of encouragement for another of Chiefs' forwards, Gustavo Paez.

"It's all about confidence for Paez. We need to give him confidence by giving him service, playing to his strength," Komphela said. "The fact that we have paired him with Moon should give him

confidence, but the biggest confidence will come from him, by scoring goals

'Amakhosi' are next in action when they host Golden Arrows in a Nedbank Cup last-32 match on Sunday.

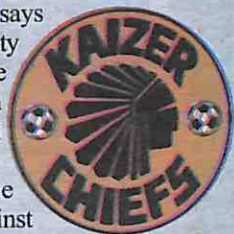
URGES PATIENCE: Steve Komphela.



BRIEFS

Komphela like Chiefs striker to a snake

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs coach Steve Komphela says Ryan Moon's ability to keep a low profile is what helps him to be more lethal in front of goals. Moon scored the opening goal against Bidvest Wits last Saturday, but could not help his team win the match as they drew 1-1 with the 'Clever Boys.' Former Chiefs striker Lehlohonolo Majoro scored the equaliser for Gavin Hunt's team in the second half. After the match, Komphela was asked if he is concerned that Moon appears to sometimes drift out of games. *Citizen*



Tactics behind Pirates win revealed

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates midfielder Musa Nyatama believes that quality from set-pieces and a formation change was key to beating Maritzburg United 2-1 in Saturday's ABSA Premiership clash. The 30-year-old was Man-of-the-Match in the contest as the 'Sea Robbers' bounced back from a 3-0 defeat to Ajax Cape Town last Wednesday to move to second in the standings behind leaders Mamelodi Sundowns. *Sport24*

Dikwena theft investigation ongoing

JOHANNESBURG - The South African Police Service confirmed that their investigation into Platinum Stars is ongoing, with charges of fraud and theft being looked at. It was revealed recently that there had been allegations against the club that included money laundering, corruption and fraud, although their former chairman, Cliff Ramoroa, has since told the media that he has nothing to hide. *Soccer Laduma*



No PSL deal for Cameroonian striker

PRETORIA - Cameroonian striker Christian Epoupa Ntomba has returned to Zimbabwe without getting the PSL deal he was looking for. As reported by the Siya crew, the Cameroonian was recently at SuperSport United for a trial with Eric Tinkler's team. However, 'Matsatsantsa' decided to sign Evans Rusike from Maritzburg United instead, as their replacement for Jeremy Brockie, who left the club for Mamelodi Sundowns. Ntomba has returned to his Zimbabwean team, Dynamos. *Soccer Laduma*



RUSIKE CAN FIRE SUPERSPORT BACK UP TABLE -TINKLER

PRETORIA - SuperSport United coach Eric Tinkler believes that Evans Rusike will get the goals to help put the Pretoria team back on track.

'Matsatsantsa' suffered a major dip in form after losing to TP Mazembe in the 2017 CAF Confederation Cup final and have slipped down towards the relegation zone in the last couple of months.

Before Saturday's 4-2 win over Bloemfontein Celtic, SuperSport, who sold their top striker Jeremy Brockie to Mamelodi Sundowns in January, had won only one of 13 league games.

Last weekend's win over Celtic, which saw goals from both Rusike and the club's other new forward signing, Mogakolodi Ngele, has lifted the club to 11th, three points above the drop zone.

Tinkler is confident that Zimbabwean international Rusike, signed last week from Maritzburg United, is the man to turn SuperSport's season around.

"I think he can (solve the scoring problem), he has the ability and he has shown that he is a goal scorer and I think if we can get back to our ways, the brand of football that we play," Tinkler told The Citizen.

"I think he will score not just a few but many, I've said this from day one that players that we bring into the club need to bring value, and I think they will add a lot of value," Tinkler said.

However, Ngele and Rusike were forced off on Saturday with injuries, and Tinkler admitted it's still a bit early to talk of a revival.

"One game is not enough, we need to continue and get another win. Once we do that, then yes, I will say yes the monkey is off our back" he explained.

"We saw Ngele and Rusike having to come off, so that monkey is still hanging around. Hopefully their injuries are not too serious, we will only know in the next 48 hours as to how both those potential injuries are."

Sport24

Sundowns won't buckle this time - Tau



PRETORIA - Percy Tau believes Mamelodi Sundowns are stronger than last season and is confident the 'Brazilians' will maintain their position at the summit until the end of the season.

Sundowns have claimed seven points from their last three league games, but have also lost three of their last seven outings.

However, with the teams below them also dropping points, Sundowns remain five points above second placed Orlando Pirates, who have played a game more.

Last season saw 'Masandawana' failing to defend their league title after Bidvest Wits finished strong-

ly to claim the crown, but Tau's adamant it won't happen again, especially after the arrival of Jeremy Brockie and Aubrey Ngoma further boosted their squad.

"Last season we lost the league in our last three games," he said after providing a brilliant assist for Khama Billiat in a 1-0 win over Cape Town City last weekend. "We are trying to improve on that and we are much stronger now. We have new signings that are helping us so hopefully we will work hard and win the league. "We need to keep on going. We are still going to have tough games," he cautioned.

Team Talk

Micho not scared of dreaming big with Buccaneers

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates' coach Milutin "Micho" Sredojevic wants to add two things to the 'Buccaneers' badge he constantly touches in his interviews to drive his point across.

The Serbian coach, who describes himself as a 'Buccaneers' fan before he is their employee, preaches honouring the badge and the club's rich 80-year history. Sredojevic has shied away from talking big on what he intends to achieve with the club in his second stint. He dropped that reserved nature on Saturday night after the 2-1 win over Maritzburg United.

Sredojevic announced that he would like to win two CAF Champions League titles with the first South African club to



BOLD: Orlando Pirates' coach Milutin "Micho" Sredojevic.

conquer the continent in 1995. "There is a good example in world football in Manchester City. You saw how they looked last year (struggling as they adapted to Pep Guardiola's philosophy in his first season with the club) and how they are looking this year (dominating English football and looking likely to

win the league). We have our game model and vision," Sredojevic said.

"We are pushing towards that vision. We have the highest possible ambition on the local level, in all the cups. We have the highest possible ambition in the CAF inter-club competitions. *The Star*

UMTITI 'RACIALLY ABUSED BY ESPANYOL PLAYER GARCIA

... as Barcelona star reacts furiously after bad-tempered La Liga derby draw

BARCELONA - Barcelona defender Samuel Umtiti was racially abused by an Espanyol player after the two sides played out a bad-tempered draw on Sunday, according to reports in Spain.

The game, a 1-1 draw, ended in acrimony with both sides arguing on the pitch and in the tunnel at the RCDE Stadium.

Umtiti and home forward Sergio Garcia were having a particularly angry disagreement, with the Barca player having to be pulled away by his captain and defensive partner Gerard Pique.

According to Spanish newspaper Sport, Garcia allegedly called Umtiti a "black s***", which prompted the France international to react so furiously.

TV footage showed Umtiti repeatedly shouting 'why this phrase?' in Spanish

as Pique held him back, with Espanyol Manager Quique Sanchez Flores also getting involved.

Another news outlet in Spain, Marca, say match referee Jesus Gil Manzano noted in his official match report that arguments between players continued in the tunnel after they were broadcast live from the pitch.

However there was no mention of racism in the official report, and there were no names given of the players involved in the conflicts.

Marca also report that Garcia sought out Umtiti in the away dressing room afterwards and apologised, which the former Lyon defender accepted.

Garcia however rejected any suggestions that he was racist in a post to Instagram, in which he said "what happens on the pitch should stay on the

pitch."

He wrote: "I spoke with Samuel but in no instance was I racist. You all know that my wife is of gypsy ethnicity and that I grew up in a neighbourhood with all the races of the world. I share a strong friendship with my brother-in-law, who is also an African-American."

"In many of these matches they are heated and what is said on the pitch must stay on the pitch. Força Espanyol!"

However, it remains to be seen whether Barcelona will make an official complaint or if the Spanish FA will investigate the allegations, which followed a tense derby played in pouring rain.

Pique scored a late equaliser for the La Liga leaders after Gerard Moreno headed the opener. Barca are 12 points clear of Atletico Madrid in the Spanish league.

Daily Mail

Kane becomes second-quickest player of Premier League goals

LONDON - There are few records in football which seem genuinely untouchable, however Alan Shearer's goals scored in the Premier League era will take some beating.

Shearer bagged 260 goals for Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United, and for years has stood, threatened by no-one, at the top of the scoring chart.

However, Harry Kane may well be the man to take Shearer's mantle, having reached a century of Premier League strikes in double-

quick time. Kane's last-gasp penalty for Tottenham against Liverpool on Sunday was his 100th goal in the English league - he becomes the 27th member of the 100 club. Most impressive about this is how fast the England striker has achieved this milestone, bagging his century in a mere 141 Spurs games.

Only one man has reached the number faster, in only 124 games - no prizes for guessing that Shearer also holds that distinction.

The breakdown of Kane's century reveals his style of play - although capable of striking from any distance, most of his goals have come from penalty-box poaching.

Thus far, 88 of Kane's goals have been scored inside the penalty area, with just 12 being netted from 18 yards or more. Shearer unsurprisingly holds the record for goals from in the box - 227 - while former Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard scored 41 goals from range, the most of anyone on the list. He has scored 60 with his favoured right foot, but also 26 on his left and 14 via his head, proving just what an all-round attacking talent the 24-year-old is.

Daily Mail



Mulenga will be big asset for Pirates - Sredojevic

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates head coach Milutin 'Micho' Sredojevic believes that newly signed Augustine Mulenga will be an asset to the club.

The Buccaneers beat Egyptian football powerhouse Al Ahly, Moroccan giants Wydad Casablanca and unnamed European teams for the highly-rated forward's signature during the recent January transfer window.

Speaking to Times Live, former Uganda and Rwanda coach Sredojevic said that he had followed Mulenga's career closely.

"I belong to those people on the continent who not only love African football but also witness how kids are growing on our continent. And I remember him when he was with Nkwazi FC, and have seen how he played in the Champions League with Zanaco," Sredojevic said.

"I have followed him, even when he has had the hardest thing in his life when Zambia played Nigeria in a World Cup qualifier. I don't know whether you have read this - God forbid he lost a kid, a daughter," he continued.

Game

Mulenga lost his daughter while he was playing in an away FIFA 2018 World Cup qualifier against Nigeria in Uyo in October last year.

The 28-year-old, who is a midfielder-come-striker, was only told after the game which ended 1-0 in favour of Nigeria.

"He had many destinations to choose from. I know clubs in France wanted him, clubs in North Africa. But he chose to come to us. We are welcoming him in our family. And the Orlando Pirates football family has a very accommodative big space and big heart for everyone," Micho added.

"And we expect that with the amount of talent shown in the last match where he played against Ivory Coast in CHAN, that South African football lovers are looking to see something in that fashion. His arrival as the best player from Zambia at present is an asset to our (SA) football, and asset to us as a team. And we are looking that he will add value to the team," the Serb concluded.

Goal

Italy appoint Di Biagio as interim coach

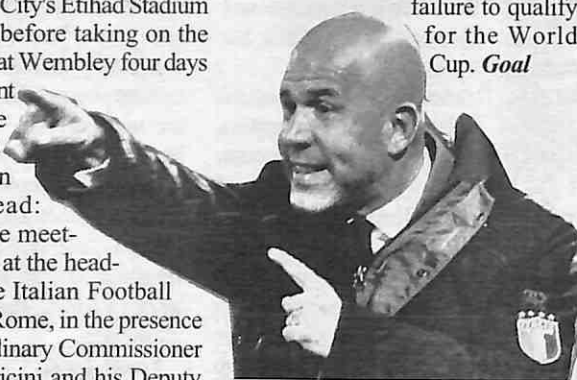
ROME - Italy Under-21 boss Luigi Di Biagio has been installed as interim head coach of his country's national team.

The former Roma and Inter midfielder, who was capped 31 times by Italy, will take charge of next month's friendlies against Argentina and England. Italy face 'La Albiceleste' at Manchester City's Etihad Stadium on March 23 before taking on the 'Three Lions' at Wembley four days later. A statement released by the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) read:

"Following the meeting held today at the headquarters of the Italian Football Federation in Rome, in the presence of the Extraordinary Commissioner Roberto Fabbri and his Deputy Alessandro Costacurta, it was decided to entrust to Luigi Di Biagio the position of national technical com-

missioner in view of the two international commitments next March."

Di Biagio has been given his chance to press claims for the job despite lacking top-flight coaching experience. The Azzurri have been without a coach since Gian Piero Ventura's departure in the aftermath of their failure to qualify for the World Cup. *Goal*



NEW BOSS: Italy Under-21 boss Luigi Di Biagio.

Chief Nonkonyana undeterred by case postponement

JOHANNESBURG - The camp of the former South African Football Association Vice-President Chief Mweliso Nonkonyana remains undeterred despite the postponement of his unfair dismissal case this past Friday.

Speaking exclusively to Soccer Laduma Chief Nonkonyana's campaign Manager Sisa Majola said that nothing will stop the Chief's nomination for the SAFA presidential elections scheduled for March 24. The nominations deadlines are set for February 25.

"This is a major national issue as highlighted by the judge," Majola told the crew. This has been an ongoing case for the past four years," he added. "Our campaign continues to

go on despite these setbacks. We just want the case to be over so people can know the truth and have closure. People also need to understand that Chief Mweliso did not just decide to run for the SAFA presidency seat. He was backed by some of the SAFA regions who were not happy with SAFA's current structures.

"We cannot reveal which of the regions but Chief's Nonkonyana's campaign is authentic and we will continue our campaign despite these setbacks and delays," concluded Majola. Following Friday's postponement, SAFA has been declared to pay fifty per cent of the legal fees associated with the case as they reportedly requested that the case be postponed. *Soccer Laduma*

Defender Godin undergoes reconstructive surgery on teeth

MADRID - Atletico Madrid defender Diego Godin has undergone reconstructive procedure on his mouth after losing some of his teeth after a brutal collision in a Spanish league match on Sunday.

Atletico says Godin underwent the procedure in a dental clinic in Madrid, following the team's 1-0 home win over Valencia at Wanda Metropolitano Stadium.

Godin had to be replaced early in the second half after colliding with Valencia goalkeeper Neto while going for a high cross into the area. Neto's elbow appeared to hit Godin directly on his face, and replays showed one of Godin's teeth flying out of his mouth. The

Uruguay defender bled profusely as some of his teeth were visibly out of place. Atletico workers were reportedly sent to the field after the game to try to find his teeth.

Manager Diego Simeone joked that one of his players would have to be 'killed' for the referee to blow his whistle.

"They will have to kill us for us to be awarded a penalty, if that was not one for Godin," Diego Simeone said.

"I am not sure on the diagnosis but the doctor will know more tomorrow. It is not easy to make so many changes in defence but our reinforcements did very well."

Daily Mail



Weekend Sports Results

Compiled by Sibusiso Dlamini

SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup			
Young Buffaloes	0	Royal Leopard	1
Mbabane Swallows	3	Mbabane Citizens	0

MTN National First Division			
Tycoons	1	Citizens	0
Tinyosi	2	Callies	2
Hub Sundowns	1	Amalanda	0
Sea Birds	3	Mahlalini	1
Madlenya	1	Sikhalo se-Africa	3
Miling Hot Spurs	1	Bad Boys	1

Brand Active Mbabane Juniors KO			
U20			
Inter Stars	4	Sivutsa	2
Mangwaneni	6	Mphalati	5
M. Fighters	3	Sidwashini	5
U15			
Indumbe	3	Mphalati	0
PMT	0	Dark City	2
M. City	2	Umbelebele	3
Hurricane	9	Sidwashini	0
U17			
M. Fighters	2	Free State	5
Classic	5	Hurricane	4

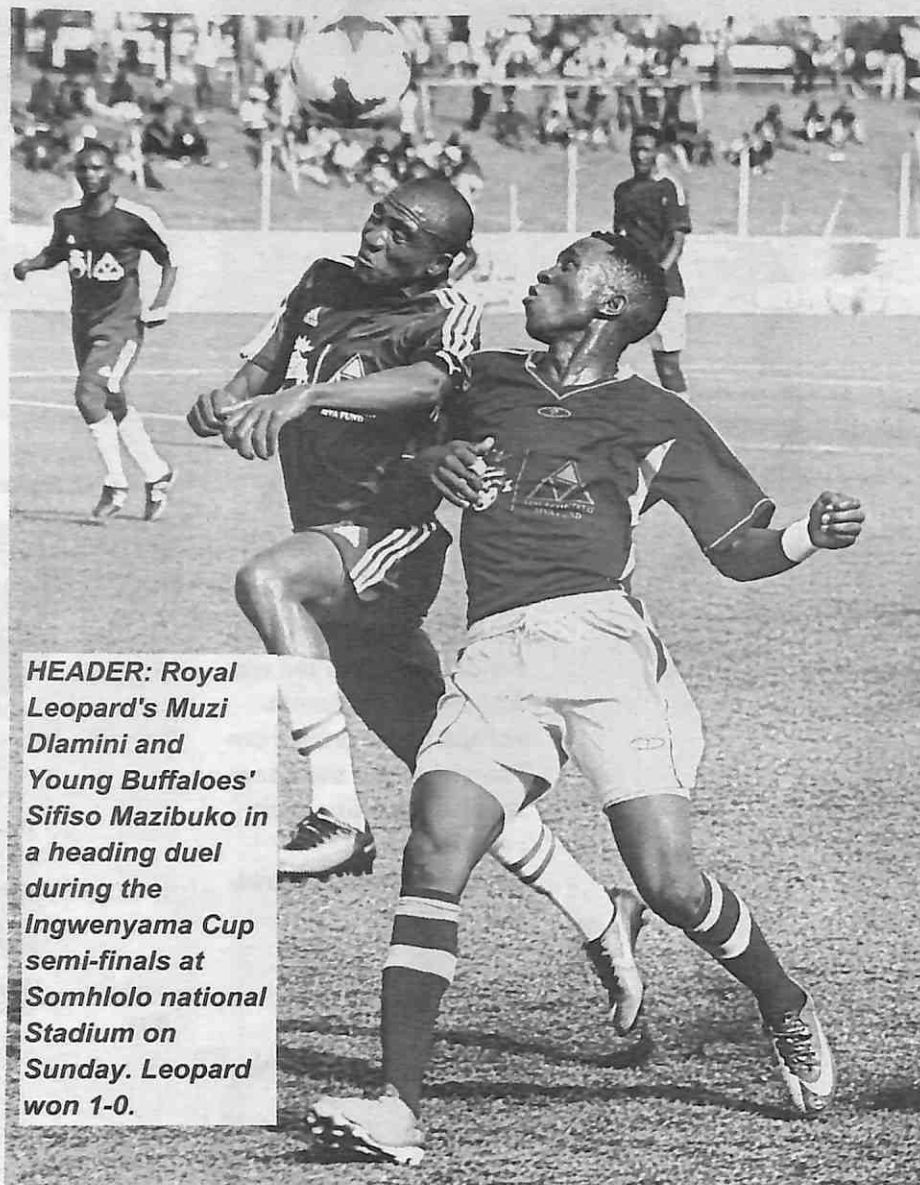
Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League			
Southern Zone			
Umbelebele	2	Burning Spear	0
Indumbe	1	PMT	1
Vusweni Killers	1	Swazi Sun	1
Billy Ocean	2	Wizards	2
Sibuyeni	2	Sibovini	2
Kupheleni	1	Emajukujuku	1
Northern Zone			
Vultures	0	B. Swallows	0
Arsenale	2	Pachanga	1
Khanjana	2	Kappa Kappa	1
Ndeva Galaxy	4	19 Celtics	0
Muma Hotspurs	0	Manchester	2
N. Swallows	1	Horo Spinners	0

Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League			
Promotion			
White City	1	Pot O Gold	1
Double Action	5	Gordon Stars	2
Inter Stars	3	FC Vaal	1
Veni Cosmos	0	Real tec	0
Sidwashini	1	Amawele	1
Mbabane Arsenal	1	Corporation	4
Mbabane Celtics	1	Pine Valley	1
Supersport	3	Sandla	4
B. Division			
Royal Dynamos	5	Movers	2
Mphalati	3	Rangers	4
Mpolonjeni	0	Lusoti	0
Free Style	7	Junction Stars	0
Classic	2	Mangwaneni	4
Mbabane United	3	Mantsholo	1
The Waiters	2	Thembellile	2

Pots Construction Sigangeni League			
Ntsetse Flyers	4	Young Fighters	0
Usushwana Eagles	0	Young Heroes	0
Real Touch	4	Mighty Chiefs	1
Community	5	L. Nationals	1
Villa Sport	1	MAZ. Celtics	0
Real United	3	Kangaroo	1
Total XI	4	Sigangeni	1

Futis Nkhaba League			
Rovers	1	MAJotini	2
Manyisa	0	Nkoyoyo	2
Super Stars	2	Atletico	1
Shooting Stars	4	Crocodiles	1
Ngwenya	3	Brothers	3
Bafana	0	Dribbling stars	2
Celtics	4	Barcelona	1

Sikhumbuto Timpisini League			
Gunners	0	Young Stars	2
H. Pirates	3	Mb. Swallows	1
Stone Breakers	1	Soccer Rose	0
Malsamo Swallows	2	Njakeni City	4
Kudwaleni	1	Mv. Sundowns	1
Mshweni	1	Star Wanderers	0
Ak 47	0	Blue Birds	0
Sikheleni	1	Choppers	1
B. Division			
Young Bombers	0	Mv. All United	1
Juventus	1	Red Lions	1
Besufwini	1	JB Arsenal	3
Vusweni	5	Njakeni	1
Mb. Y. Swallows	2	Young Sevilla	1
Combustion	1	Golden arrows	2
Young Tigers	3	All Stars	3



HEADER: Royal Leopard's Muzi Dlamini and Young Buffaloes' Sifiso Mazibuko in a heading duel during the Ingwenyama Cup semi-finals at Somhlolo national Stadium on Sunday. Leopard won 1-0.

Ellengence	3	Zamalek	0
South Star Mdzimba League			
Promotion			
Rhinos	1	Top Centre	1
Green Sea	2	Cosmos	1
Swallows	2	Monaco	0
Chiefs	2	Rebels	2
Arsenal	1	Barcelona	1
Rangers	1	Sundowns	1
KAsiko	1	Bush Bucks	1
Timbungulu	2	Rhumba Stars	2

Bakhanyisele Mabulala & MP Menzi Dlamini Maphaleni League			
Western Stream			
Luvunjelo	1	Professionals	0
Young Stars	2	Hotspurs	5
Liselesele	0	Manchester	2
Khulungwane	1	Thuluzobona	0
Barcelona	1	Young Lovers	4
Killers	0	Junior Stars	2
Rangers	1	Xi Experience	0
Umkhokha	2	Blue Birds	2

Sharks Mhlangatane League			
Eastern Stream			
Liverpool	0	Makhweya	0
Seven Stars	3	Tigers	4
H. Defenders	3	Rovers	3
N. Castle	0	Swallows	2
T. Wizards	0	Manjengeni	3
Cosmos	1	Xi Men	1
Bombers	2	Real Aces	0

Western Stream			
Arsenal	1	Zinyane	1
M. Professionals	0	Werma	5
City Stars	0	Movers	3
Lonhlalane	0	Manchester	5
Celtics			3
Fighters	1		
Silver City	1	Democracy	0
Mpofu Aces	1	Chelsea	2

Bhulane Resort Ndzingeni League			
KO			
Celtics	5	Red Sea	3
Sweet Banana	2	Rebels	1

Buy Cash Pigg's Peak League			
Mangwaneni	3	W. Killers	1
Mpolonjeni	1	Mhlalane	0
Bush Bucks	2	Citizens	1
Thuluzobona	2	Rise & Shine	3
Phophonyane	2	Supersport	3
Hotspurs	1	Darkies United	5

Sompisi Ntfontjeni League			
Suncity	0	Nkonjaneni	0
Teenagers	2	Liverpool	1
Chelsea	1	Trounge	3
Ntintinyane	1	Zibonele	3
Seven Up	1	Express	2
H. Pirates	0	Barcelona	1
Foster United	1	Mbabane	1
FC Casino	2	Royal Madrid	2
Zibonele	3	Chelsea	3
Express	4	Ntintinyane	1
Liverpool	1	Suncity	2
Mbabane	1	H. Pirates	4
Royal Madrid	1	Foster United	2
Hellenic	0	FC Casino	0

Malinda Zonal League			
Malinda United	4	Umseshi	2
Dvokodweni	3	Home Sweepers	0
Promising stars	3	Mshana	2
Juventus	3	Seven Stars	2
Siweni United	2	Gabi Gabi	2
Bhelebane	1	Black Mamba	1
Zamalek	1	Young Aces	1

Manzini Regional Football Association			
FA Rainbow StationeryManzini Super League			
Kwaluseni Rebels	1	Young Warriors	0
Ludzeludze Brothers	1	Ludzeludze Killers	1
Moyeni United	1	Boyane Young Aces	0
Seven Dreams	2	Mhlaleni United	0
Maliyaduma United	3	Sisonkhe	2
Malkems	0	Luyengo Foxes	3
Stumbo's XI	0	Luve Cosmos	0
Nsuka United	3	Cutter Cosmos	0

Manzini Promotion League			
Fariview Chiefs	3	FC North	1

Superstars	0	Home Sparrows	3
Combine Stars	0	The Bones	5
African Chiefs	1	Two Sticks Comrades	3
Lwandle Young Tigers	2	Wonderful Touch	2
Big XI	0	Kholwane Flying Birds	2
Villa Stars	4	New Generations	1
Lwandle Classic	1	SibonisoSelwandle	1

Manzini First Division League			
God's Property	0	Manzini United	3
Hot Beans	0	Bremer United	1
Ngwane Park	3	Skom Boys	0
Chaos LTD	4	Mvulane United	2
City Eagles	1	Nhlambeni United	2

OK Foods Kwaluseni Promotion League			
Ntunja Arsenal	2	FC Logoba	3

OK Foods Kwaluseni First Division League			
Shali United	3	Nkamazi AK47	1
Ludzidzi	2	Mahashulane	2
Fletcher United	0	Gum Valley	0
Ludzeludze Kicks	3	NsengaShagari XI	1
Manila Stars	3	Supersport	6
Ngonini United	0	Ludzeludze Celtics	2
Ludzeludze Kicks	3	Mahashulane	3

S&S Malkerns Promotion League			
Home Talent	3	Star Point	0
Ndinda Volcanoes	2	Power Sparks	6
Vickery Nomads	0	Don Don	2
Gebeni	2	Swazi Can	1
Mahlanya United	4	Home Boys	2
Troublemakers	1	Dynamite Hotspurs	1
Current Toasters	3	Phondo	2
Makhungutsha	4	Ngodini	0

Kukhanyeni Inkhundla Promotion League			
Umshina We-Dortmund	0	Nyakeni United	1
Brave Lion	3	Submarine	0
Lion Heart	1	Bhekinkhosi	2
Young Killers	0	Ngwazini	2
Mdayane	0	Mphola Celtics	1
Nyakeni Heroes	2	Estate Classic	0
Louis XIV	1	Nyakeni Cosmos	1

Corban Hardware Mafutensi Promotion League			
Sicamelosa-Chief	2	Young Cannibals	0
Timbutini	3	Young Killers	0
Vultures	1	Timbutini Combine Stars	0
Timbutini	2	Supersport	0
Timbutini All Stars	2	Nlabamhoshana	2
Mafutensi United	1	Madubula Rovers	2
Khamatfo	0	Bhudla Celtics	0
Supersport	2	Mkhuzweni United	2
Nkongga Pirates	4	Nlabamhoshana	0

Mkhiweni Promotion League			
Manchester United	0	All Nations	0
Liverpool	2	Toronto	2
White Killers	2	Bantu City	1
Thuluzobona	2	Mantshonga	1
Luve Classic	0	Step Ahead	4
Zama United	1	Ngonini Young Aces	1
Colani United	2	White Kileirs	2
Luve Stars	0	Mbashedi Brothers	0
Thuluzobona	1	Executive	1
Toronto	0	LuveSuncity	0
Bantu City	1	Liverpool	2

Ka-Phunga Promotion League			
Phunga Rangers	2	Fighters	2
Swallows	4	Mpumalanga	2
Celtics	4	Zamalek	0
Volcanoes	1	Dynamos	5
Royal Santos	2	Cyclone	5
Youngstars	0	Real Amakhosi	2
Young Movers	3	Arsenal	0
Hotspurs	3	Shepherd	0
Real Amakhosi	3	Arsenal	2
Volcano	12	Zamalek	0
Rangers	0	Young Movers	0
Dumsani Swallows	3	Shepherd	0
Youngstars	0	Phunga Celtics	0
Dynamso	2	Mpumalanga	2
Hotspurs	2	Royal Santos	2
Phunga Fighters	4	Cyclone	0

Nsingweni Promotion League			
Red Lions	2	Young Madrid	2
Nsuka Fighters	1	Black Aces	0
McengeniSundowns	2	All Stars	3
Bhudiweni	3	Young Lovers	1
Highland Blues	6	Matsantsantsa	1
Taliban	1	AC Milan	0

SRIC JANUARY MONTHLY MUG TOURNAMENT

CHAMPION: Swaziland Royal Insurance Corporation (SRIC) January monthly mug champion Phayo Dhlamini posing with his trophy next to the sponsor's assistant General Manager Mandla Dlamini and his father Sifiso Dhlamini at the Mbabane club on Saturday. (Pics: Sibusiso Masilela)



APPRECIATING: Novelty winner for nearest to the pin 8/17 Bafana Hlophe appreciating his prize.



NEAREST: Novelty winner of nearest to the pin 2/11 Zwelisha Dlamini accepting his prize from Dlamini as the the sponsor and Mbabane club captain Genius Sihlongonyane congratulates him.



WINNER: Wandile Ntombini also won a prize on the day.



BEND IT LIKE TIGER: Former soccer player Sandile Choncho walked away with the novelty section prize for 9/18 on the day.



BRONZE: Third placed Welcome Mhlanga smiling after receiving his prize.



WILL DO BETTER: Albert Mavuso came fifth on the day.



STILL A WINNER: Mduduzi Maphalala also finished fifth on the day.



NALENA SIYAYIFUNA: Mxolisi Matsebula leading Swallows supporters in song. **(R) INGWE MABALABALA:** Royal Leopard supporters singing and dancing after the game.

MORE FROM INGWENYAMA CUP SEMI-FINALS



THROWING A LEG: A Leopard fan entertaining the crowd.

(L) GALLOPING: Mbabane Swallows' Sandile Hlatiwako and Mbabane Citizens' Baimba Kamara dashing for the ball.



STOP FIGHTING: Referee separating the players who nearly exchanged blows.

REFEREE PROTECTION



IPHOTSENE: Swallows' Richard Sewu and a Citizens player vying for the ball.



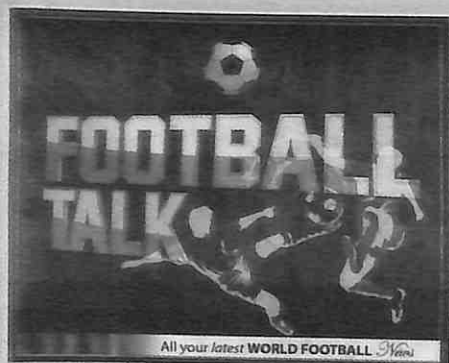
IT'S OVER: Citizens players planning for the last 45 minutes.



NO WAY THROUGH: Citizens' Samkelo Dlamini challenging Swallows' Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze.



IN PAIN: Sandile sprawling on the turf after a rough tackle by a Citizens player.



● Liverpool could move for Arsenal and England midfielder Jack Wilshere, 26, if he rejects a new contract with the Gunners. (Sun)



● Manchester United are monitoring Real Madrid's 23-year-old Croatia midfielder Mateo Kovacic. (AS, via Manchester Evening News)

● England forward Marcus Rashford, 20, could leave Manchester United if they sign former Netherlands striker Patrick Kluivert's 18-year-old son Justin from Ajax in the summer. (Express)

● West Ham's Mexican forward Javier Hernandez (29), says he will give '100%' dedication despite wanting to leave the club in January. (West Ham official website)

● Leicester winger Marc Albrighton has denied the Foxes players are angry with 26-year-old Algeria winger Riyad Mahrez, who has been absent from training and missed two matches since a move to Manchester City failed to materialise. (Mail)



● Brazilian forward Malcom, 20, wants to leave Ligue 1 side Bordeaux. He was a target for Tottenham and Arsenal in January. (London Evening Standard)

● Tottenham striker Harry Kane tweeted a graphic to celebrate his 100th Premier League goal and used a new #KeepitKane hashtag after his last-gasp penalty earned a point at Liverpool. (Telegraph)

● Referee Jon Moss was right to award Tottenham a late penalty - from which Spurs equalised - at Liverpool but the two assistants 'were frankly poor and below the standard expected at Premier League level', according to former referees' chief Keith Hackett. (Telegraph)

● Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe says he 'has no doubt' England are watching 21-year-old midfielder Lewis Cook. (Telegraph)

● Watford winger Gerard Deulofeu, 23, says he would rather be playing in the Premier League than with Lionel Messi. Spain international Deulofeu joined the Hornets on loan from Barcelona in January. (Star)



THE PUNCH POW!

...with Mphikeleli Msibi [STRIKING, STRAIGHT AND STRENGTHENED]

DELIGHTFUL INGWENYAMA CUP FINAL

BUCKLE up, its game on. It has come down to two teams in the Ingwenyama Cup and police side Royal Leopard will hope that their wait for major silverware will come to an end when they face capital city giants Mbabane Swallows in the final of the third edition of the tournament.

This will be a repeat of the first installment's showing, but will there be a new winner? The police side will be all out for revenge while the 'Beautiful Birds' will be looking at winning the trophy for the third time in a row, having won the two previous editions where they beat Leopard and Young Buffaloes, respectively.

And the mind-boggling question is, will history continue to repeat itself even this time around?

These two teams are just 90 minutes away to clinch the glittering trophy and the E1.3 million winner's prize at stake.

Mbabane Swallows are eager to continue with their trend of winning every new tournament, something they achieved in recent times. Royal Leopard also need it badly.

Chances

They are a side desperate for glory and are already counting on the chances of winning their first silverware in the season. With their new players, Royal Leopard have assembled a formidable squad and will have to prove their worth.

And to do that, they have to win this tournament to add silverware to their trophy cabinet, having only won the Swazi Telecom Charity Cup last season where they beat Manzini Wanderers in the finals.

Winning this tournament could help to salvage the team's reputation in elite football, after a poor showing in the MTN Premier League.

The 'Beautiful Birds,' who have always assembled an expensive and strong squad, are under pressure from their demanding fans as they are now used to winning trophies.

Swallows won four trophies in 2016, two knock-out tournament and the league last season and have already won one this season. This shows they have been consistent and would want to add another one in their trophy cabinet.

'Birds' coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati is well aware of this and wants his side to continue collecting trophies as they are yet to lose a match in the league since 2015.

Being with Swallows for two seasons now, 'Koki' knows what is expected and the good thing



FROM BEHIND:
Citizens' Celani
Shongwe marking
Sandile
Hlatshwako.

is that he also knows the quality of their opponents in this tournament.

In football, to succeed you need players with the mentality and the attitude and that is exactly what both teams have.

Entertaining

This is set to be an entertaining affair with so much at stake. Swallows have already beaten Leopard two times in the league, and this is what will make this encounter more entertaining as the police side will be all out for revenge.

Leopard coach Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntimane has already stressed the importance of this tie. He has even labelled the encounter as a 'dream final.'

It is clear 'Ingwemabalabala' will be facing a formidable opponent but I am sure they have strong ambitions to at least win something this year. They will be all out in the finals.

To get to this stage, Leopard beat Bad Boys, Madlenya, Sundowns and Young Buffaloes while

Swallows had to eliminate Stumbo XI, Tambuti, Manzini Wanderers and Mbabane Citizens.

It has not been an easy road for both teams and we could not have asked for a better final.

Swallows are unbeaten against Leopard in six meetings but previous results will count for nothing when the two teams meet in this cup final. It has come to this far and now the stage is set for the finals.

I am hoping fans from all corners of the country will once again come in numbers to watch the final as the exact date is yet to be announced.

We have seen some impressive numbers since the competition started when it comes to crowd attendance and we are anticipating another big turnout on the main day. Fans have been at their best behaviour; we can only commend that spirit and once again encourage them to continue with the same attitude. It's now the finals and may the best team win. Buckle up, its game on.

Good luck Swallows, Buffaloes

ON another note, may I take this opportunity to wish both Mbabane Swallows and Young Buffaloes the best of luck in their continental assignments.

The 'Beautiful Birds' will be campaigning in the CAF Champions League while Ingwemabalabala will be playing in the CAF Confederation Cup.

We are optimistic the two teams will hoist the country's flag. They are experienced campaigners, who are not new in such stages.

Buffaloes have been doing well in the league and we trust they can replicate that dazzling form and represent the country well.

They will be playing against Cape Town City from South Africa. This will not be an easy match



but Buffaloes know what to expect from their opponents. The good thing is that they know their opponents as they watch their games on TV.

The army side will be playing for the first time against Cape Town City and we expect them



to make use of home ground advantage seeing that the first leg will be played at Somhlolo National Stadium before travelling to South Africa (Cape Town) for the second leg. Swallows, on the other hand, are in great form having not lost in the league in 42 games, to

rewrite the country's history pages with scintillating displays. We trust that the 'Birds' will use their CAF tournament experience to their advantage.

They are straight from making it to the finals of the Ingwenyama Cup where they will be playing against Leopard and we hope this will motivate the players to do better in this tournament.

Tournament

Swallows will be playing against Bantu FC from Lesotho. They are a closed book to Swallows but we hope the 'Birds' will make it to the next stage of the tournament, something they have done in the past as they reached the group stages last season.

Let us all support the teams as they are now representing the country. It's not about Swallows or Buffaloes but the nation.

Good luck to both teams.

Ingwenyama final likely to be held after Buganu festival

By Sibongiseni Zondi

...moment of silence also explained

SOCCKER - THE 2018 SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup final between Mbabane Swallows and Royal Leopard is likely to be held in the second week-end of March.

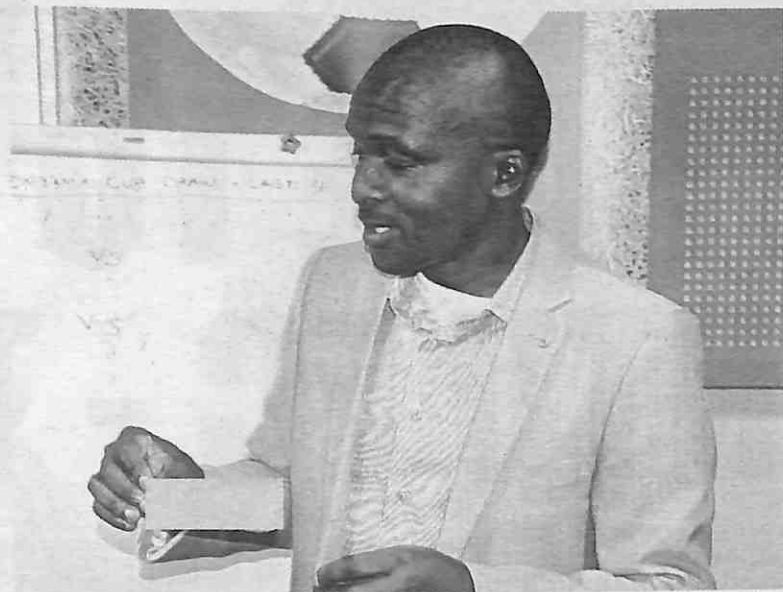
The tournament's semi-finals this past Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium saw Mbabane Swallows beat Mbabane Citizens 3-0 to reach the final while Leopard beat Young Buffaloes 1-0. There is now great anticipation for the date of the final which will be a repeat of the showpiece match of the inaugural edition back in 2016 which Swallows won 2-0.

Ingwenyama Cup PRO Nkhosilehile 'Makawosi' Masuku has explained that the date of the final will come from the patron of the tournament, His Majesty King Mswati III.

"It is difficult to speculate on the date of the final because the honours rest on the patron of the tournament himself, His Majesty King Mswati III.

So now that we have two teams remaining, the Organising Committee will go and report to His Majesty and request for a date for the final. His Majesty will then commission a date. Obviously looking at the national events coming up including the Buganu festival as well as the trends from the previous years, maybe we can expect the final in the second week of March," Masuku said.

The final of the inaugural edition in 2016 was held on 13 March while last



UPDATE: Ingwenyama Cup PRO Nkhosilehile 'Makawosi' Masuku.

year's final was played on 5 February. The Buganu festival is expected to be held in the last weekend of February as well as the first weekend of March.

During Sunday's matches there was also a moment of silence for slain Premier League of Swaziland Chairman Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze even though the same honour had been accorded to the fallen Mbabane Swallows boss during the MTN Premier League games played last week. Masuku has explained why the moment was observed again on

Sunday.

"The moment of silence was our way, as the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup, of honouring Mr. Gamedze. Sunday's games were our first since the tragedy and we felt we owed him the honour. He was part of the big committee of the Ingwenyama Cup as well so we had to honour him. We would just like to thank the supporters who were at Somhlolo for observing the moment well. It's been a great tournament overall so far," Masuku said.

Leopard's Matse, Junior to miss Ingwenyama Cup final

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCKER - ROYAL Leopard's two new signings in Sifiso Matse and Junior Magagula will miss their side's SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup final against Mbabane Swallows.

Matse and Magagula were signed from fellow Premier League sides Manzini Wanderers and Moneni Pirates in the recently closed January transfer window but both players sat out their side's 1-0 win over Young Buffaloes in the semi-finals of the Ingwenyama Cup on Sunday because they are cup tied. The two players have already represented their previous sides in this year's edition and the rules of the tournament dictate that players cannot appear for more than one team in the same edition of the competition. Therefore, Matse and Magagula, the former Pirates captain, will also miss the final against Swallows which will be played on a date yet to be announced. Leopard PRO Frank Hurube says having to ignore the players for the Ingwenyama Cup is frustrating. "We are very cautious when it comes to such things so both Matse and Junior will not play any part in this season's Ingwenyama Cup because they are cup tied.



CUP TIED: Royal Leopard's new signing Sifiso Matse.

It is true we would like to use them in the final but rules are rules and we will respect them. It is a little bit frustrating that we train with the players for a whole week then come matchday we have to completely ignore them when it is the Ingwenyama Cup. But we are okay with the rules, we will follow them," Hurube said. The match between the two sides will be a repeat of the final of the inaugural edition back in 2016 which Swallows won 2-0.

CARMEN IS ACTING SOCGA CEO, POSITION TO BE ADVERTISED SOON

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCKER - CARMEN du-Pont has been named as the acting CEO of the Swaziland Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (SOCGA).

This follows the resignation of long serving SOCGA Secretary General Muriel Hofer who left the organisation on January 28. Du-Pont has been serving as Project Manager at SOCGA and her new role was announced on the association's official Facebook page on Thursday.

"It is with great pleasure to announce that Carmen du-Pont, Project Manager, is the Acting Chief Executive Officer



APPOINTED: Acting CEO Carmen du-Pont.

since Mrs. Muriel Hofer, Former Secretary General resigned from the position on

Sunday, 28th January 2018. Mrs. Muriel Hofer has groomed her staff into phenomenal leaders and gave each staff all the tools needed to press forward and strive for success and productivity," the association wrote in a statement posted on Facebook.

When reached for comment yesterday, SOCGA President Peter Shongwe said du-Pont will not be on an acting basis for long.

"The post for the position of the CEO will be advertised soon. We just need to do all the necessary processes so that we can advertise the post and have a fulltime CEO.

For now we have all the faith in du-Pont and we know that she will do the job well," Shongwe said.

NatCom congratulates Leopard for reaching Ingwenyama finals

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCKER - NATIONAL Commissioner of Police and Royal Leopard President Isaac Magagula has congratulated the team for reaching the finals of the 2018 SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup.

In a press statement, Magagula says they are happy the team has made it through to the finals of the prestigious knockout competition, following their 1-0 semi-final win over Young Buffaloes at the Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.

"On a lighter note, we take this opportunity to congratulate our football team Royal Leopard for winning their semi-final game in the

Ingwenyama Cup. The team has qualified for the final and we hope it will continue flying the flag of the Royal Swaziland Police Service sky high and win the tournament," he said.

'Ingwemabalabala' have a date with two-time champions Mbabane Swallows during the third edition's finals at a date to be announced in due course at the Somhlolo National Stadium. This would be the two team's second final meeting after the inaugural edition where Swallows eventually emerged victorious.

A Bonginkhosi 'Manyovu' Dlamini header was all that the Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntiban-led charges needed to brush aside the army side in front over 4 000 football lovers.

Cape Town City give up on PSL title, shift focus to Buffaloes match

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCKER - ARMY side Young Buffaloes' CAF Confederation Cup opponents Cape Town City have surrendered to losing out on the Premier Soccer League (PSL) title, and are now shifting their focus wholly to their CAF campaign.

Speaking after their narrow 0-1

defeat to reigning African Champions and current top spot holders with a five-point advantage Mamelodi Sundowns at Athlone Stadium this past weekend, the team's assistant coach Vasili Manousakis made it clear that the side had already 'slipped' off from the race, and hence they were shifting their focus to Buffaloes.

"I think it is done, to be honest, I think it has slipped us. I think if we

stay in the top five, we will be okay, they will be happy with that," Manousakis told the South African media.

Target

"We've got Nedbank on Wednesday (tomorrow) and then we are off to Swaziland and that is a whole new experience for us in the CAF."

Manousakis said at the start of the season, the team's chairman made known to them that the target was a

top eight finish which he says is much alive as the team is placed fifth on the log standings 10-matches before the fat lady sings and the curtains fall.

"If I understood the chairman at the beginning of the season, his mandate to Benni was top eight so, hopefully, we will end there and thereabout.

But, I think we need to be realistic and say that we are out of the running of this league and start shifting our

minds and focusing it on this match against the Swazi side."

"The Citizens' as the side is affectionately known, are currently placed on the fifth place on the ABSA Premiership league standings, joint on points with Soweto giants Kaizer Chiefs who are fourth on the log, after losing out their spot to arch rivals Orlando Pirates this past week.

RESULTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea 1 - 4 Watford

SERIE A

Lazio 1 - 2 Genoa

LA LIGA

Las Palmas 1 - 0 Malaga

FIXTURES

FA CUP

Rochdale vs Millwall 21:45

Birmingham City vs Huddersfield 21:45

Swansea City vs Notts County 22:05

PLAYING TOMORROW

FA CUP

Tottenham Hotspur vs Newport 21:45

NEDBANK CUP

Bidvest Wits vs Cape Town 19:30

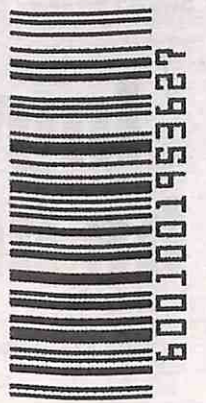
Ubuntu Cape Town vs Polokwane 19:30

Amazulu FC vs Mthatha 19:30

SWAZI OBSERVER Sport

IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2018



FA terminates De Jongh's contract

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - THE National Football Association of Swaziland has reportedly ended their one-year marriage with Sihlangu coach Pieter De Jongh.

Reports suggest that the coach skipped the country last week after the decision to terminate his contract was taken.

A source close to the matter has revealed that the NFAS had already handed the Dutchman his notice pay plus the February salary amounting to E200 000.

"The coach's contract has been terminated and he has been given his benefits. He has already went back home to pursue other endeavours. The FA will soon be looking for his replacement where a local candidate is expected to replace him. It is highly possible that current assistant Anthony Mdluli will be elevated to the head coach position.

"There are other several candidates, who have been considered for the job including former coach Harries 'Madze' Bulunga but new developments will be announced in due course," the source said.

Efforts to get De Jongh were futile after his cellphone was off the network when tried several times yesterday.

Attempts were also made to get FA Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe whose cell phone rang unanswered when tried yesterday.

A text message was also sent to Radebe before going for print but he did not respond.

De Jongh guided the national side in only two competitions namely the CHAN qualifiers and the 2017 COSAFA senior challenge.

An insider within the FA asserted that the executive would issue a press statement when the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Frederick Mngomezulu returns from Morocco where is currently attending a CAF general assembly together with FA President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa and Vice-President Peter Simelane.

The former FC Cape Town mentor also steered the nation's pride to a barren draw against Niger during the AFCON 2019 qualifiers where the national side is still to face Egypt and Tunisia later this year during their other group matches.



WE HAVE TO BEAT BANTU FC - TONY

Stories by Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - MBABANE Swallows captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze says they have to beat Bantu FC away in Lesotho during the CAF Champions League preliminary round encounter slated for the Sesotho Stadium on Sunday.

Swallows will travel to Lesotho this week for the first leg and 'TT' says they will be all out to win away from home.

The Sihlangu player stated that they will do their level best to outsmart the Sotho side in order to advance to the first round of the continent's premier club competition.

Focus

"We have now shifted our focus to the CAF match where we will put up a good



- Birds want to beat Sotho side in both legs
- Buffaloes unfazed by star-studded Cape Town City
- Local envoys have continental assignments this weekend

fight in both matches. We want to win both matches (home and away) so that we can advance to the next round of the tournament.

Emerge

"We will have to work extra hard to emerge victorious in order to make the nation happy," he said. 'TT' said Bantu FC were a closed book to them.

"We do not know much

about the Lesotho team and this means we really have to double our efforts inside the field of play."

The red and white glamour will travel to the mountainous kingdom this week to face the James Madidilane-led side in their quest to reach the next round.

Likely

The two teams will face off once again next Wednesday at the Somhlolo National Stadium during the return leg.

Swallows are likely to face Zambian side Zanaco FC in the first round of the competition as they will be aiming to emulate last season's good run in the tournament where they managed to reach the group stages of the CAF Confederations Cup.

A MUST WIN: Mbabane Swallows players Tony Tsabedze and Felix celebrate after scoring a goal.

We are not afraid of Cape Town City - Nhlanhla Gwebu

SOCCER - YOUNG Buffaloes senior player and goal keeper Nhlanhla Gwebu says they are not intimidated by their CAF Confederation Cup opponents Cape Town ahead of the two teams' preliminary round first leg tie slated for the Somhlolo National Stadium on Saturday.

The Sihlangu goalkeeper says they are not unfazed by the big names in the Benni McCarthy-led troops. "True they (Cape Town City) have big name players in their squad but we are not intimidated. We will do our level best to fight for the nation and make Swazis happy.

Fortunes

"We want to use this match to turn around our fortunes as a team after losing two domestic matches recently where we lost

to Moneni Pirates (league) before losing 0-1 to Leopard in the Ingwenyama Cup semi-final at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday."

He said they have put the two losses behind now.

"We are now looking forward to the CAF match where we will put up a good fight. It will not be an easy match but we will give it our all to win the match," he said.

The former Malanti Chiefs player also said they had equally capable players, who have the potential to match their South African counterparts.

"We have an equally balanced team that has played at international level and I believe we will match the opposition on both matches," he also said.

Local football fans will have to part with E50 entry fee in order to witness the teams battle for a place



LET THEM COME: Young Buffaloes players celebrating a goal in a previous match.

in the first round of the CAF Confederation Cup.

The local envoy will visit the Cape

side next Tuesday during the return leg likely to be played at the Cape Town Stadium.