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Swazi OBSERVER

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MPs THROW OUT BUDGET, AGAIN

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ALAN IS NEW SWAZI OBSERVER MD

Page 5

TUESDAY MARCH 6, 2018

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THE SAD BREAKFAST GAME CHANGER...

BANNED: The Ministry of Health through the Director of Health Dr Vusi Magagula has requested retail shops to remove all processed meats from their shelves including those from brands that have not been mentioned to be contaminated with listeriosis. (Pic: Nozipho Sibiya)



GOVT BANS POLONY, RUSSIANS, ETC

Story on Page 3

...This follows an outbreak of the deadly listeriosis in South Africa that stems from all processed meat products

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Schools to be engaged on the deadly outbreak

THE ministries of health and agriculture have promised to engage school governing bodies and the departments of education to help ensure that potentially contaminated processed meat is not eaten

by school pupils.

Magagula said it is a matter of fact that many lunch meals in our country include these products which have been declared a risk in the spread of listeriosis.

Monitor

"We therefore urge school governing bodies to strictly monitor the sale of food at schools and tuck shops," said Magagula further highlighting that parents and teachers

should make sure that they do not feed their children the above mentioned foods.

"They should try other foods until the suspension of these foods has been lifted," he stressed.

COVER STORY

Stories by Nozipho Sibiyi
and Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Matsapha

FOLLOWING the outbreak of listeriosis in South Africa, the ministry of health is warning consumers to avoid all processed meat products that are sold as ready-to-eat.

This is because it has been discovered that it is the source of the deadly listeria outbreak that has claimed many lives in South Africa.

The ministry has identified cold meat, polony, viennas, sausages and other cold meats as the source of the listeria poisoning.

Addressing a press conference at Sibayeni Lodge yesterday, Director of Health in the Ministry of Health Dr Vusi Magagula said the outbreak was finally traced after infecting people for more than a year.

Magagula added the Republic of South Africa has confirmed that cases of human listeriosis originate from consumption of processed food of animal origin.

"Two processing plants have been confirmed as the source of the contaminated processed meats. Swaziland imports the processed meats from RSA, including the implicated processing plants," he said. As such, Swazi consumers are also at risk of food poisoning from consuming the implicated processed meats.

Magagula added it is believed that it originated from an Enterprise Food factory in the Northern city of Polokwane.

Several samples tested positive for the listeria monocytogenes strain ST6 that caused the outbreak. The DNA tests of the bacteria were confirmed late on Saturday night by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) in Johannesburg.

WHAT IS LISTERIOSIS

LISTERIOSIS is a serious, but treatable and preventable disease caused by the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes*.

genes.

The bacterium is widely distributed in nature and can be found in soil, water and veg-

etation. Animal products and fresh produce such as fruits and vegetables can be contaminated from these sources.



How dangerous or fatal is listeriosis

INFECTION with listeria may result in the following three conditions: flu-like illness with diarrhea including fever; general body pains vomiting and weakness; infection of the bloodstream which is called septicaemia; and meningoencephalitis (infection of the brain).

Although anyone can get Listeriosis, those at high risk of developing severe disease include new-borns, the elderly, pregnant women, persons with weak immunity such as individuals with HIV, diabetes, cancer, chronic liver or kidney disease.

(Additional information on Listeriosis sourced from the internet).

How is listeriosis transmitted

LISTERIOSIS is usually spread through the ingestion of contaminated food products most frequently with raw or unpasteurised milk and soft cheeses, but also vegetables, processed

foods, ready-to-eat meats and smoked fish products.

Listeria can survive in normal temperatures associated with refrigeration (4°C).

Transmitted

The Listeria bacterium can

also be transmitted from a pregnant woman to her unborn baby during pregnancy or at the time of birth.

Direct contact with the organism can cause skin lesions.

Symptoms of Listeriosis

- Fever
- Stiff neck
- Confusion
- General weakness
- Vomiting (sometimes preceded by diarrhoea)

Treatment

The majority of people infected by Listeria recover within seven days. However, those with a compromised immune system, older adults, infants or pregnant women require urgent medical care – treatment involves either a course of antibiotics or fluids through an IV drip. The treatment of Listeriosis is usually symptomatic and depends on the severity of the disease. If your infection is severe, antibiotics may be recommended.

Home remedies include:

- Plenty of clear fluids such as water and tea
- The BRAT diet (bananas, rice, apple sauce, toast) and other bland foods that won't irritate the stomach
- Bed rest



Helpful questions and answers on listeriosis

What is listeriosis and why is it dangerous?

Listeriosis is a serious bacterial infection caused by the rod shaped bacteria *Listeria monocytogenes*. The bacterium is spread when people eat food contaminated with the bacterium. The most common foods to be contaminated are raw or unpasteurised milk as well as soft cheeses, or vegetables, processed foods and ready-to-eat meats and smoked fish products.

Infection with listeria bacteria results in mild to severe gastroenteritis.

In people with weak immune systems it can lead to meningitis or septicaemia. And in pregnant women, listeriosis can result in a miscarriage or stillbirth, premature delivery, or meningitis in the newborn – leading to with permanent disability.

Listeria bacteria are found in the environment – for example in water and in the soil.

This means that animals and vegetables can become contaminated at any time and that, as a result, anyone can get listeriosis. But there are certain groups that are at higher risk of severe disease: these include newborns, the elderly, pregnant women and their unborn babies; and those with underlying conditions such as HIV, diabetes, cancer, chronic liver or kidney disease.

Pregnant women are particularly prone because pregnancy causes a natural reduction in the strength of the immune system.

What are the challenges in dealing with listeriosis?

Outbreaks of listeria in food are common across the world. Outbreaks of listeriosis across the world pre-



sent the same problem: that the source of contaminated food is difficult to identify. There are two reasons for this.

Firstly, the incubation period of 70 days makes it difficult to track what the patient ate and therefore to identify the contaminated food.

And secondly, once the food source is narrowed down, tests need to be conducted on the range of possible foods to establish which is the implicated one. Only once authorities are able to identify the source are they able to implement measures to prevent further cases

How can we protect ourselves from this infection?

There is no vaccine or pre-exposure prophylaxis that can prevent infection. The main preventive measure is good basic hygiene, and proper, safe food preparation and storage.

Unlike most other food borne pathogens, *Listeria monocytogenes* can grow in refrigerated foods that are contaminated. To prevent this, fridge temperatures should be set below 4°C; and freezer temperatures below -18°C.

Those at high risk of listeriosis

should avoid:

- Raw or unpasteurised milk, or dairy products that contain unpasteurised milk
- Soft cheeses like feta, goat cheese and brie
- Foods from delicatessen counters like prepared salads and cold meats that have not been heated and reheated adequately,

What are the signs and symptoms?

Listeria can survive in fridge temperatures of 4°C. The infection incubates for between three and 70 days. In healthy adults, symptoms are usually mild and may include fever and sometimes nausea or diarrhoea.

In high-risk patients, the spread of the infection to the nervous system can cause meningitis leading to headaches and confusion, a stiff neck and convulsions. Bacteraemia – when the bacteria is found in the blood – may also occur.

Gastroenteritis due to listeria does not require treatment. But meningitis or septicaemia as a result of listeria can be life-threatening and should be treated with intravenous antibiotics.

Cold meats permits suspended - Vet boss

ON the other hand, the ministry of agriculture which is responsible for issuing permits of cold meats in the country has suspended issuing the permits.

Addressing a press conference at Esibayeni Lodge yesterday, Director of Veterinary and Livestock Services, Dr Roland Dlamini said they suspended the importation of all processed meats until further notice.

"We are hoping people will adhere to this suspension and as soon as everything is cleared we will then start issuing the permits," he said further adding that consumers should only consume thoroughly cooked meat.

"Consumers should wash raw vegetables thoroughly before eating and practice good hygiene in the kitchen. Wash your hands regularly, and make sure cutting boards, cutlery and cookery are cleaned properly."

He also advised consumers to avoid raw (unpasteurised) milk or foods made from unpasteurised milk.

"Separate raw food and ready to eat food during the preparation and storage," he advised.



HEALTH SCARE:

GOVT BANS PROCESSED MEAT PRODUCTS

...The ministry of health identified the banned processed meat products as cold meat, polony, viennas, sausages and other cold meats as the source of the listeria poisoning



SAFETY FIRST: Representatives from the ministries of health, agriculture and the director of health Dr Vusi Magagula explaining to members of the media on the outbreak of listeriosis.

Magagula said the most common signs and symptoms of listeriosis include fever, flu-like illness, and abortion in pregnant women.

"In newborns it may manifest by sepsis, meningitis and pneumonia. Among the elderly and immune com-

promised it manifests by fever, diarrhoea, and vomiting with severe headache," he said.

Other signs can be neck stiffness, confusion and general weakness. Magagula said symptoms appear three to 70 days after consumption of con-

taminated food. However, the incubation period is usually three weeks. The ministries of health and agriculture have an obligation to protect the public as empowered by the Public Health Act 5/1969 and the Veterinary Public Health Act 17/2013.

'No case of listeriosis in Swaziland as yet'

THERE are no cases of listeriosis reported in Swaziland so far.

This was confirmed by the Director of Health Dr Vusi Magagula yesterday.

Magagula said the nation should make sure that they practice safety precautions to avoid contaminating listeriosis in their homes.

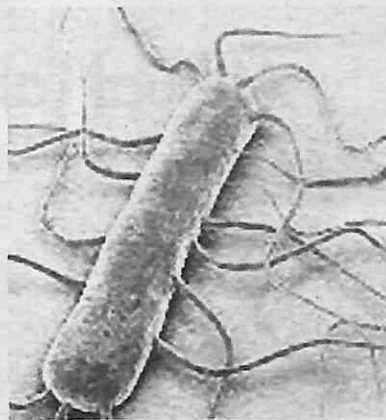
"There has been no case of listeriosis detected in Swaziland so far," he confirmed during a press conference at Esibayeni Lodge yesterday.

He said listeriosis is an infection caused

by the bacterium called listeria monocytogenes. Its common mode of transmission is through consumption of food contaminated with the listeria organism. Magagula said in case one sees the symptoms of listeriosis he/she should rush to hospital to get help.

"Our hospitals in the country can cure listeriosis, so we advise that people who feel infected by the bacteria to visit any nearest hospital for medication and further check up," he advised.

He said processed food include polony, viennas, russians and pasteurised milk.



Breakfast hamper traders dealt a blow after listeriosis outbreak

FOLLOWING the outbreak of listeriosis in South Africa not only retail stores in the country have felt the effects as even small time business people who earn a living by selling food hampers including breakfast hampers have suffered a major loss.

Usually self employed people in the country go to South Africa where they purchase the Enterprise hampers which include russians, polony and other ready to eat products manufactured under the Enterprise brand.

After hearing that these products are being recalled it became hard for those who sell these products to continue selling what they have in stock. These products usually go for E300 up to E380 per breakfast hamper depending on what a customer wants included.

These sellers would sell the products for half the amount and buyers would be made to settle the debt later.



HUGE BLOW: People who make a living from selling breakfast hampers have been dealt a huge blow with the outbreak of Listeriosis.

However, this time around the people who earn a living by selling such products are having a hard time as they do

not know where they are going to get their refunds because those who bought their products are making it clear that

Public advised to clear their fridges, homes of products

CONSUMERS have been advised to remove these products from their fridges and safely dispose of them.

Addressing a press conference Dr Vusi Magagula said consumers should either return the products to the retailers of origin or safely dispose by burning or burying.

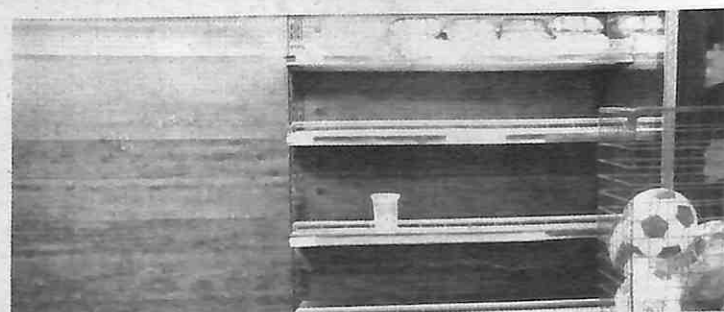
"Do not feed to pets," he strongly warned. However Director of Veterinary and Livestock Services, Roland Dlamini said issues of refund were still to be discussed with the retailers. "We cannot at this time speak about refund since it is the responsibility of the retailers to refund their customers,"

He advised consumers to remove

any cold meat product from their fridges. "Any human being with these products in their fridge must immediately get rid of them."

In his sternest warning, he warned pregnant women who could pass it on to their infants, and elderly people, and people with compromised immune systems to avoid any processed meat.

"These people must not go anywhere near these products," he said. In the meantime, he advised all consumers and retail stores to remove processed meats from their fridges, and wash out their fridges with bleach, along with all surfaces where food is prepared, to kill any listeria bacteria.



EMPTIED: All products from Enterprise and Rainbow have been recalled from shops.

Shops clear shelves of all processed products

RETAILERS selling Enterprise and Rainbow are recalling all products named as possible culprits in the listeriosis outbreak.

Stores such as Pick n Pay, Shoprite, Boxer Stores and Super Spar (also known as buy and save) outlets acted immediately to withdraw all products from the manufacturing sites identified by the department of health in South Africa.

When this publication visited the shops yesterday, all ready-to-eat products such as polony and russians, sausages manufactured by Enterprise and Rainbow were being removed from their shelves.

Only Eskort products were found displayed on the shelves of the stores. However, the ministry of health advised that they must be removed

too because they may have been contaminated by the other products.

Some of the managers at the shops when this publication visited confirmed that all fridges and food preparation areas in their stores would be cleaned to prevent any cross-contamination.

"Recalled meat is being isolated and will be safely destroyed. The safety of customers is always our top concern. Any customer who is concerned that they may have bought a ready-to-eat meat product linked to the outbreak can return it to our stores," they said.

They mentioned that food safety is of paramount importance at their stores and they take all issues regarding the production of our food seriously," the retailers added.

...Should consumers suspect infection as per the mentioned symptoms, it was recommended that they consult medical doctors to understand the cause of their symptoms.

they will not be paying for something that they were ordered to get rid off.

On Sunday, the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA) welcomed the announcement by the Minister of Health, Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi, of the decision by the National Consumer Commission (NCC) to order a recall of processed meat products manufactured by Enterprise (a division of Tiger Brands) and by Rainbow (a division of RCL Foods).

According to a media statement shared by CGSA this followed the confirmation of laboratory tests by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), which confirmed that a Enterprise's factory was the source of the strain

that resulted in the outbreak.

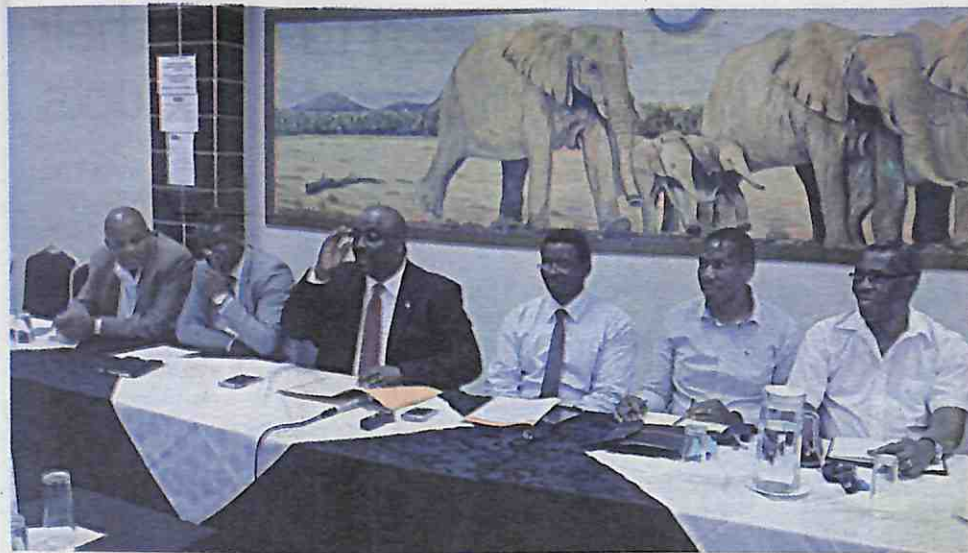
The GCS also reiterating the advice from the minister of health to urge consumers to adhere to the strictest hygienic and food safety practices, this according to CGCSA includes washing hands, cooking food thoroughly and keeping food at safe temperatures.

Should consumers suspect infection as per the mentioned symptoms, it was recommended that they consult medical doctors to understand the cause of their symptoms.

Our concern is always the health of consumers and our members will not compromise on this.

Worth noting is that local retailers such as Pick n Pay and other shops immediately got disposed of Enterprise brands from their shelves.

4 NATIONAL NEWS



URGENT WARNING: The ministry of health has requested retail shops to remove all processed meats from their shelves including those from brands that were not mentioned to be contaminated with listeriosis. During the press conference the Director of Health Dr. Vusi Magagula said they have fears that the other processed meat might already be contaminated by listeriosis while on the shelves. (Pics: Nozipho Sibiya)

SHOPS ORDERED TO REMOVE PROCESSED MEATS FROM THEIR SHELVES



LAST BRAND STANDING: All the retailers left Eskort products on the shelves because they believed it was not implicated, however the ministry has advised that all processed meats should not to be sold to the public.



1. **ANSWERING QUESTIONS:** Director in the Ministry of Health Dr Vusi Magagula and Director of Veterinary and Livestock Services Dr Roland Dlamini responding to questions from the media yesterday at Esibayeni Lodge. 2. **EMPTY SHELVES:** Shelves were empty at Spar after all the products from Enterprise and Rainbow were removed.



EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
OF SWAZILAND

ANNOUNCEMENT

All Heads of Primary Schools are invited to their meeting with the Examinations Council of Swaziland which will be held at the following Centres and dates. All meetings start at 9:00 am sharp.

DATE	VENUES	REGION
12 th March 2018	REO Shiselweni Hall	Shiselweni
13 th March 2018	REO Lubombo Hall	Lubombo
14 th March 2018	Manzini Central High	Manzini
15 th March 2018	Mbabane Central High	Hhohho

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Annual Labour Law Seminar 2018

Speakers



Zweli Jele
Partner
Robinson Bertram



Sandile Ceko
Lecturer at
University of
Swaziland



Clement Dlamini
Lecturer at
University of
Swaziland



Dr. Geoff Heald
Senior Lecturer at
Wits Business School



Luis Frota
Senior Social
Protection Specialist,
ILO Pretoria

Presentation

- Key Findings on the Failure of Collective Bargaining in South Africa and Lessons for Swaziland
- Collective Bargaining in Swaziland's Public Enterprises
- Case Law update
- Variation of Chairman's Decision by Employer
- Swaziland's Social Security Reforms and their likely Impact on Employers

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

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No direct link between deaths, our products – Tiger Brands

JOHANNESBURG – Although Tiger Brands says it detected low levels of listeriosis at its food manufacturing plant, it denied any current direct links between the deaths of 180 people from the food-borne outbreak.

"There is no direct link to the deaths and our product at the moment," Tiger Brands CEO Lawrence MacDougall said while addressing the media at The Forum, in Bryanston, yesterday afternoon.

This comes after Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi on Sunday announced that the deadly listeria bacteria had been traced to Enterprise's Polokwane facility, which manufactures products such as polony.

News24

ALAN MKHONTA IS NEW SWAZI OBSERVER MD

... "There is a new phenomenon going around in the country where people stay with the same employer because they have fallen in love and are loyal to that employer. We want you to feel the same way about the Swazi Observer which is why we have brought in the new MD in a quest to make the company an employer of choice."

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

AFTER a passionate search for a candidate to fill the position of managing director, the Swazi Observer Group of Newspapers has employed well-travelled Alan Mkhonta lead the company.

Presenting the new MD to the staff yesterday, Chairman of the Board of Directors S'thofeni Ginindza said the board was on a mission to turn the company's fortunes around and make it an employer of choice hence the addition of Mkhonta to the team.

"There is a new phenomenon going around in the country where people stay with the same employer because they have fallen in love and are loyal to that employer. We want you to feel the same way

MKHONTA'S QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master of Arts in Development Administration and Management; Manchester, UK
- Bachelor of Arts in Social Science majoring Political Sciences and Public Administration; UNISWA
- Diploma in Business Continuity; UNISA
- Diploma in Enterprise Risk Management; UNISA

about the Swazi Observer which is why we have brought in the new MD in a quest to make the company an employer of choice," he said. Mkhonta resumed his duties yesterday taking over from Andreas Nkabinde who had been acting MD after an erratic former managing director Alpheous Nxumalo was fired by the board.

In his brief remarks, Mkhonta appealed for cooperation and collaboration from the Swazi Observer family. He said he

was ready to hit the ground running since the vision of Ginindza's board was loud and clear.

Mkhonta holds a Masters of Arts in Development Administration and Management and has worked as Head of Administration in the SADC Secretariat for years. He once worked for the Swaziland Sugar Association (SSA) and the Swaziland National Housing Board amongst other institutions.

FOCUSED:
Staffers paying attention to the chairman's remarks.



MANAGEMENT: Board Chairman Sthofeni Ginindza addressing the staff while Executive Members Gcebile Dlamini, Siphesihle Mkhonta, MD Alan Mkhonta, Andreas Nkabinde, Thulani Thwala, Freedom Mdluli, Mbongeni Mbingo and Alec Lushaba listen.



REMARKS: Swazi Observer new Managing Director Alan Mkhonta making his remarks.



PRESENT: Thandazani, Mpendulo, Gabisile, Zama and Phindile were also among the staff members present.



ALL EARS: Staff members listening attentively to the remarks of the day.



1. OBSERVING: Staff members listening with keen interest to the remarks by the chairman. **2. YOU ARE WELCOME:** Sub Editor Majahonke Mazuza welcoming the MD whilst Sandile Dlamini and Nomvula Magagula look on.

SWAZILAND RAILWAY
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QUALIFICATIONS:

- Degree in Civil Engineering from a recognized reputable University
- A Professional Engineer with experience in infrastructure projects
- A Masters' Degree in Engineering or Business Administration will be an added advantage
- Procurement and Contracts Management
- Project Management
- Knowledge of railway industry an added advantage

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE:

- At least 15 years work experience in an Engineering field at Senior Management level
- Experience in Construction Management Planning

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES AND COMPETENCIES:

- High level of Integrity, Professionalism and Transparency
- Good Interpersonal skills
- Possess Socio-cultural etiquette
- Leadership skills
- Good Organizational skills
- Communication skills

KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The job deliverables include but not limited to:

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- **Business Cluster** (Commercial negotiations & agreements, Financial Modelling, Funding Model, Property acquisition & management, Equipment acquisition, Operational readiness, Legal services, Business case, Corporate Communication)
- **Programme Support** (Integrated Schedule, Budget Control, Risk Management, Reporting & Governance, Benefits & Change Management, Capital Assurance (Programme Gate Review & internal Audits).

APPLICATIONS:

Written applications together with a comprehensive CV, Certified copies of academic qualifications and relevant referees are to be submitted or emailed no later than 8th March 2018 to recruitment@swzrail.co.sz or addressed to:

The Director: Human Resource & Development
Swaziland Railway
P.O. Box 475
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If you do not receive any feedback within one month of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.



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Mbabane, 3100
Republic of Swaziland

MPS THROW OUT BUDGET AGAIN

Stories by Mbono Mdluli
Lobamba

MEMBERS of Parliament have again rejected the E21.6 billion budget, which was tabled by Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini.

This follows a similar stance the MPs took to throw out the budget last year, claiming they had not been consulted by Cabinet.

Yesterday, the lawmakers again threw out the budget, which was tabled last week Thursday, saying it does not meet the needs of the people especially in the rural areas.

They said, for instance, Micro Projects and Regional Development Fund

(RDF) were two funds that were not adequately allocated for in the budget, yet the two were meant to develop areas that were occupied by the voters in all the constituencies in the country.

Micro Projects, in the 2018/2019 budget, was allocated an amount of E100 million, as opposed to last year, where E180 million had been allocated for it.

Suggested

The MPs suggested that at least E250 million should be allocated to Micro Projects so that projects in remote areas should be implemented to develop lives of the ordinary Swazis. Concerning RDF, the lawmakers suggested E120 million, but E88 million was allocated.

ed. They also complained about the E88 million allocated to RDF, saying it was meagre, especially because Tinkhundla had been increased from 55 to 59.

The legislators agreed that the minister of finance should go back and review the budget together with the House of Assembly Finance Sessional Committee and the House of Assembly Finance Portfolio Committee. The reviewed budget is expected to be tabled by the minister tomorrow in the House of Assembly.

Nkhamba MP Menzi Dlamini moved that the budget should not be passed because it proved to be very controversial.

The Nkhamba legislator raised the

motion after three MPs (Esther Dlamini of Mbabane East, Mbulala Maseko of Maphalaleni, and Frans Dlamini of Nhlambeni) had already debated.

He said some of the things they advised the finance minister to put aside for now were back in the budget.

Proposed

"I am one of the MPs who are in the finance committee. I must say that some of the things that we said should be put aside are now here, like the 15 per cent tax on electricity," MP Menzi said.

He further stated that the proposed 15 per cent tax was unfair to the ordinary Swazi who earned little money. He said there were people who earned

E800 per month.

They would be deprived of an opportunity to purchase electricity. MP Menzi could not understand why the tax was introduced because an electricity hike could be effected in April this year. That was what influenced him to reach the decision of moving that the budget be reviewed by the finance ministry, together with the two finance committees.

The Nkhamba MP was seconded by Manzini North MP Jan Sithole. However, House of Assembly Speaker Themba Msibi overruled that and allowed the debate to continue. Two MPs (Joseph Souza of Lugongolweni and Apton Ndlovu of Timphisiini) debated, before Shiselweni II MP Mthokozisi Kunene moved that the debate be adjourned. Some MPs opposed him, but at the end, most MPs were of the view that the debate should be adjourned to allow for the budget to be reviewed.

Ex-Minister Shongwe now wants Mbutfo recusal

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

HIS corruption trial was expected to kick off yesterday morning and had been allocated 10 days, however former minister for justice and constitutional affairs Sibusiso Bonginkosi Shongwe now wants Judge Mbutfo Mamba to recuse himself from the matter in an unprecedented move.

However, Judge Mamba has declined to recuse himself in the matter and the application by Shongwe is to be argued in open court and the matter was postponed to next week Thursday.

Both counsel South African

Advocate Gerath Lapan for the crown, who is instructed by Crown Counsel Thabo Dlamini and Senior Attorney Lucky Howe for Shongwe, appeared before Judge Mamba in his chambers, where Howe applied that Judge Mamba recuse himself from the matter.

Shongwe argues that Judge Mamba was amongst the Supreme Court judges who heard his bail appeal in 2015 hence he cannot be in a position to hear the matter and argument which is allegedly irrelevant.

The former minister of the crown was not present in court yesterday as only his lawyer Howe was and the crown which had come prepared for the trial.

Last Friday, Shongwe filed an

urgent application where he was seeking an order of court to unfreeze the frozen accounts he has with different banks.

Shongwe last year challenged his arrest as he argued that he should not have been arrested as he was a minister of the crown an arrest he argued in his application last Friday that was a national and international embarrassment.

Shongwe faces a total of ten charges and amongst these is defeating the ends of justice according to the indictment filed at the High Court.

He is facing seven charges of Contravening the Prevention of Corruption Act of 2006, one charge of defeating the ends of justice, one for theft and the other for fraud.

According to the indictment the charges stand as follows:

● Count One the former minister is charged with Contravening the Prevention of Corruption Act of 2006 in that on December 17, 2014 while at Mbabane, being a politician, he allegedly unlawfully accept or agreed to accept an advantage from another person who has links with Impunzi Wholesalers to the form of money amounting to E2million for his benefit and that of Impunzi in abuse of his position as a politician to an unauthorised inducement to bribe judicial officers.

Alternatively he is charged for abusing his position and authority and violating legal duties to bribe and influence.

● Count two Shongwe and his law firm Sibusiso Shongwe and Associates are charged under the same act in that they jointly acted in furtherance of a common purpose by controlling funds amounting to E2million and upon being requested to give information on same failed to do so as requested by the ACC Commissioner.

● Count three while being a public officer he allegedly did control, pecuniary resources amounting to E2 million which was disproportionate to his present and past emoluments and failed to give explanation to ACC Commissioner.

● Count four he Shongwe with his law firm are charged under the same act in that they allegedly failed to disclose information in writing to Commissioner on E2million that was in law firm's Trust Account.

● Count five Shongwe alone on April 17, 2015 at Mbabane he unlawfully accepted or agreed to accept from Michael Ramodibedi for his benefit through illegal, dishonest and biased manner or misuse of information required course or exercise or carrying out performance of judicial functions by Ramodibedi in a manner that amounted abuse of judicial position and violation of legal duties in unauthorised act of handling a warrant of arrest proceedings in High Court case 173/15

● Count six he is charged with Defeating the Ends of Justice in that while he was a suspect in an investigation of criminal case 4/15 and case 173/15 Ramodibedi had presided over that matter and Fikile Nhlabatsi had provided administrative support in those proceedings, accused acting jointly with perpetrators stole a warrant of arrest application under case 173/15.

● Count seven he is charged with Theft in that on April 17, 2015 at Mbabane, the accused person acting jointly with Ramodibedi and Nhlabatsi stole a warrant of arrest where the accused person was a suspect thus depriving the High Court and Government of ownership of same.

● Count eight Shongwe is alleged to have while holding the position of minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs knew or ought to have known that Ramodibedi had committed an offence under Part III of the Prevention of Corruption Act Section 33(1) (b) and failed to report that knowledge to nay police officer.

● Count nine Shongwe in alleged to have on March 12, 2014 directly or indirectly demanded from another person one Tsekane Shilubane immovable property Lot No 1532 situate at Mbabane Thembelinhle Township to benefit either one or more of them through illegal, dishonest or biased manner and illegally transferred property to his name.

● On the last count he is charged with Fraud in that he allegedly falsely and with intend to defraud, give out and pretended to the Master of the High Court, Magistrate Court Judicial Officers, High Court and Supreme Court together with Christian Amoako Consultants and Thabiso Tsabedze that there was special power of attorney Paul Shilubane empowering Tsakane to dispose certain immovable property and that the accused was the owner of the property.



REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

- PROVISION OF INTERNET SERVICES

RFQ #: 19WZ6018Q0002

The requirement is for the provision of internet services to the US Mission in Swaziland. The anticipated performance is for a base period of twelve months and four one-year periods at the option of the US Government.

For complete details regarding this requirement go to www.FedBizOpps.Gov and search by the solicitation number (19WZ6018Q0002). Please check this website periodically for updates.

DOC:15: 73



MY LORD: Judge Mbutfo Mamba.



SPEAKS HIS HEART: Former minister for justice and constitutional affairs Sibusiso Bonginkosi Shongwe.

MVA WORKERS BEGIN PLANNED STRIKE ACTION

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

AS per an announcement, unionised employees of Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF) yesterday began their planned strike action over cost of living adjustments and unimplemented salary review findings.

The unionised staff downed tools and took to the streets to engage in a strike action in a quest to force their employer to give into their demands. The employees want their employer to implement findings of a salary review exercise which took place in 2014.

A consultant was commissioned by the company amongst other things to review salaries and do job evaluations. The employees alleged that the results of that review have not been implemented to date and they therefore demand that management does so before they can return to work.

The employees are also aggrieved over the cost of living adjustments (COLA) agreement. They accuse the company of not upholding their end of the promise. They accuse the company of owing them 1.2 per cent following the eight per cent COLA which



ON STRIKE: Employees of Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF) downed tools yesterday over cost of living adjustments and unimplemented salary review findings. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

was agreed on by the union and the employer but instead the employees only got 6.8 per cent for the year 2017/2018.

Information gathered from the employees is that this wasn't the first time the company owed them money and half the time they never got the reason for this hence the decision to down tools this year.

The employees further feel man-

agement is dragging its feet in as far as implementing the salary review findings. "The salary review was done in 2014 which is four years ago but to date nothing has been done," they said.

Swaziland Union of Financial Institutions and Allied Workers (SUFIAW) Secretary General Jabu Shiba when reached for comment said from their negotiations with the company management they had been told that



HHAYI HHAYI!! The workers singing and toyi toying during their strike yesterday.

the company had the funds to pay the employees what was due to them but as per government regulations on parastatals they were still waiting on SCOPE to approve.

"In our last negotiation with company management, the chief executive officer told us that while our grievances were noted, the funds for the salary review and 1.2 per cent were catered for but they still couldn't give employees what is due to them because SCOPE was supposed to approve payments.

This however doesn't make sense to us because if the company says they have the funds why is it taking SCOPE so long to approve the application," she said. Shiba stated that the employees were not happy with this response from the employer hence the decision to strike. "We strike until our demands are met and we have money in our pockets," Shiba said.

The employees were yesterday picketing outside the headquarter offices from as early as 8am until 12noon. The employees will resume with the strike today and they have vowed not to return to work until their employer gives into their demands. The company has maintained that the funds for the salary review and COLA are there but are still waiting for SCOPE to give them a go ahead. "The fund is obliged in terms of the PEU Act to place the issues for SCOPE's consideration and decision.

Staff has resolved not to wait for SCOPE's outcome and the issues could not be resolved resulting in the issuance of a certificate of unresolved dispute by CMAC," management said in a statement.

The company has further promised clients that all branches will remain opened during the course of the strike and clients will be served.

Makhubu to know fate on Friday

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

ERSTWHILE Mhlatane High Principal Simeon Makhubu, who was convicted on 80 counts of contravening the Prevention of Corruption Act 3 of 2006 by Judge Mbutfo Mamba, will now know his fate on Friday.

His sentencing was yesterday morning postponed to Friday as Judge Mamba also had the matter of former minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs Sibusiso Shongwe to attend to.

Dressed in blue and red sports-wear, Makhubu was brought to court by correctional officers from Sidvashini

as early as 9am as the sentencing was expected to be at 9:30am. However, both counsel Macebo Nxumalo for the crown and Noncedo Ndlangamandla for Makhubu were called to the Judge's chambers where the matter was postponed to Friday.

Makhubu, who looked calm as he sat inside Court D, told journalists to freely execute their duties as they took pictures of him inside court.

Judge Mamba last month found the former Mhlatane High principal guilty of contravening Section 24 (1) and (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act 3 of 2006. Makhubu defrauded his former school a sum of E1 745 250. None of this money has been paid back to the school. He gave this

money to a woman who is now deceased, Sijabu Temnkitsi Dlamini who deceived him by claiming that the money was borrowed by a member of the Royal family an Inkhosikati who would pay it back.

In his judgment, Judge Mamba said it was clear that Makhubu (58) lied in his evidence when he said he believed that the money would be repaid to the school or that there was any undertaking to pay it back.

Makhubu testified that as a Swazi, he could not say no to instructions from royalty; meaning that he was compelled to make the payments.

"Even for the moment that the first accused (Makhubu) honestly believed that he was acting on superior orders,

these orders were unlawful, outrageous and most unreasonable. No one is expected to obey orders from whatever quarter that are unlawful and grossly unreasonable," Judge Mamba said in his judgment.

Makhubu admitted that he made payments to Temnkitsi and that he did so because he believed that she had been instructed by a person he thought was an Inkhosikati.

The judge considered that the monies were taken from the school coffers and not used for purposes meant to benefit the school. Temnkitsi, according to the judge, did not give Makhubu any receipts for the money he gave her. Yesterday, relatives including his wife, who had come for Makhubu's sentencing, turned back after only greeting him in court before correctional officers escorted him back to Sidvashini facility.



JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER: Convicted former Mhlatane High School Principal Simeon Makhubu at the High Court yesterday where he was brought to court by correctional officers from Sidvashini for sentencing which was postponed to Friday. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

No business as 15 suspected sex workers locked up for weekend

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

THE alleged 15 sex workers who were arrested on the streets of Manzini got the shock of their lives when they were informed that they would spend the weekend behind bars.

The suspect sex workers were forced to spend the weekend behind bars after they were turned back by the Magistrate's Court last Friday. They were expected to appear

before a Magistrate on the same day however information gathered is that a prosecutor who was supposed to handle the matter informed the attorney representing the accused that she will not be handling the matter.

This was despite that there was a Magistrate who was readily available to deal with the matter as it was under the fresh matters cases.

The attorney had a tough time as she tried to facilitate for the accused sex workers to appear before court. The accused people were held up

in court for almost the whole day last Friday after seeing that they were not going to be appearing before court the police officers who had brought them informed their attorney that they were taking the accused back into police custody.

The attorney, however, argued that her clients could not be refused their right to appear before court within 48 hours. However, the police officers said there was nothing they could do.

After some time the attorney was seen calling a third party on her

mobile phone explaining the developments that were taking place.

Relatives of the accused sex workers were heard explaining to the attorney that the suspects had complained that they were assaulted by police officers for pleading not guilty to the charges during their appearance before Manzini National Court.

The relatives were heard telling the accused person's attorney that she had to make sure that they were not made to spend the whole weekend in prison.

The attorney had a hard time convincing the relatives that she did everything she could but they were told to wait until Monday. However, yesterday the suspects did not appear before court as expected. It is not clear as to what happened to them.

ESTATE LATE: VICTOR MFANA GAMEDZE ESTATE NO. EL 15/2018

Debtors and Creditors in the above mentioned estate are asked to lodge their claims and pay their debts with the undersigned within **thirty (30) days** after the date of publication of this notice.

SIDUMO V MDLADLA
P.O. Box 3798
MBABANE
Executor

8 NATIONAL NEWS

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

A 28-year-old man of Gebeni has been arrested for attempted murder after he shot another man and injured his ear during a fight.

Mbhekeni Dlamini was arrested by Sidvokodvo Police after the incident which took place on Saturday night. The accused made his first court appearance at the

Manzini Magistrate's Court yesterday before Magistrate Nelsiwe Hlopho.

He was charged with attempted murder in that he shot Senzo Dladla on right the ear using a revolver and by doing so he was attempting to kill the victim.

The charge sheet states that the incident took place at Gebeni.

During his court appearance, the accused was remanded back into police custody pending the recovery of the complainant.

MAN SHOOTS, INJURES ANOTHER IN THE EAR

...he is arrested for attempted murder

Information gathered from reliable sources at Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital, where the victim Senzo Dladla was kept, informed this reporter that he was shot by the accused person after an altercation.

It is said the victim made serious allegations against a relative of the accused person. It is alleged that Dladla said he caught a relative of Dlamini practising witchcraft in his homestead.

It is alleged that a confrontation ensued

between the relative and Dladla. Dlamini is alleged to have then waylaid Dladla while he was on his way home on Saturday night.

The accused showed up and a fight ensued between the two. He ended up shooting Dladla in the ear, the victim was hospitalised for the better part of the weekend.

He is expected to be out of hospital today. Meanwhile, Dlamini was remanded back into police custody.



“The accused showed up and a fight ensued between the two”

EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF SWAZILAND

ANNOUNCEMENT

All Heads of High Schools are invited to their meeting with the Examinations Council of Swaziland which will be held at Manzini Central High School (Mfanyana Hall) on the 8th March, 2018 starting at 9:00 am sharp.

REGISTRAR

DOC:15834



UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

The Vision of the University is to be
“The University of Choice in Africa”

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the following vacant position at the University of Swaziland:

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

1. PROFESSOR/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND EXTENSION (Ref: UNISWAAC 1/18)
2. PROFESSOR/ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/ SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND EXTENSION (Ref: UNISWAAC 2/18)
3. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE (Ref: UNISWAAC 3/18)
4. PROFESSOR/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CROP PRODUCTION (Ref: UNISWAAC 4/18)
5. PROFESSOR/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CROP PRODUCTION (Ref: UNISWAAC 5/18)
6. PROFESSOR/ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE (Ref: UNISWAAC 6/18)
7. PROFESSOR/ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/ SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE (Ref: UNISWAAC 7/18)
8. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE (Ref: UNISWAAC 8/18)
9. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE (Ref: UNISWAAC 9/18)
10. PROFESSOR/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/ SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (Ref: UNISWAAC 10/18)
11. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (Ref: UNISWAAC 11/18)
12. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY (Ref: UNISWAAC 12/18)
13. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE (Ref: UNISWAAC 13/18)
14. SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE (Ref: UNISWAAC 14/18)
15. SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING (Ref: UNISWAAC 15/18)
16. PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS (Ref: UNISWAAC 16/18)

17. SENIOR LECTURER/ LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS (Ref: UNISWAAC 17/18)
18. PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW (2 Positions) (Ref: UNISWAAC 18/18)
19. SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW (Ref: UNISWAAC 19/18)
20. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK (Ref: UNISWAAC 20/18)

FOR DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.uniswa.sz

PLEASE INDICATE REFERENCE NUMBER OF POSITION APPLYING FOR.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Local Candidates

Permanent and Pensionable service after successful completion of two years on probation; 10% Recruitment and Retention Allowance, Housing/Housing allowance and Medical Aid contribution.

Expatriate Candidates

Two-year contract with a possibility for renewal by mutual consent subject to satisfactory performance plus Gratuity, 10% Recruitment and Retention Allowance, Housing/Housing Allowance, Medical Aid contribution and relocation expenses.

Applications should be sent to:

The Registrar
University of Swaziland
Private Bag 4
Kwaluseni
Swaziland
OR
Email: recruitment@uniswa.sz

Only applications with the following shall be considered:

- An application letter
- A detailed CV
- Certified copies of academic and professional qualifications
- Certified copies of academic transcripts
- Three referees with their current email addresses

Closing Date: Thursday, 29th March, 2018.

Due to the large volume of applications we receive, it is not possible to respond to each application individually. Should you not receive correspondence from the University FOUR (4) MONTHS after the closing date, please consider your application to be unsuccessful.

DOC:16001



MATSAPHA Municipality

Corner Police College & Airport Road
P.O. Box 1790 Matsapha, Swaziland

PUBLIC NOTICE

REMOVAL OF VEGETATION OVERGROWTH WITHIN PRIVATE PROPERTIES

(issued in terms of section 12 of Public Health Act No 5 of 1969)

The Matsapha Town Council calls upon all property owners whose properties have overgrown vegetation to clear the said overgrowth with immediate effect. Overgrown vegetation is classified as a nuisance in terms of Section 11 of the Public Health Act of 1969, because it promotes:

- i) Harboursing of criminals and the promotion of crime;
- ii) The invasion of rodents, snakes, mosquitoes;
- iii) Illegal dumping;
- iv) Invasive plant species (Sandanezwe); and
- v) Degradation of the Town's aesthetics.

Failure to comply with this notice will result in Council instituting criminal action against such property owners.

For further clarification please contact Council's Environment & Public Health Department at +268 2518 6637 / 8285.

LUCKY N. SUKATI
TOWN CLERK



Matsapha Town Council



@MatsaphaSD



matsapha_sd

**swazi
mobile**
we work we connect we serve



BEST VALUE FOR LESS

With more than 150 000 Swazis connected on our network, Swazi Mobile offers you maximum value for much less. Our range of packages for everyone, it is easy to just make a choice and get connected on Swaziland's First World Network.

HOW TO GET CONNECTED

Our SIM cards are available throughout the country from street vendors, outlets and our own Experience Centres.

A SIM card is E10 and comes preloaded with 30 minutes that you can use to call other Swazi Mobile numbers, 5 minutes to call other numbers, 5 SMSes and 5 megabytes of data. No settings required, just insert your SIM into your phone and get talking.

We have a wide range of dual SIM handsets to suit your pocket. When connecting to the network, you do not need internet settings.

Swazi Mobile customers have a choice of also buying daily, weekly or monthly packages that give more value than using normal airtime. For E5 per day, you are guaranteed a range of services for all your communication needs.

Our social bundle is targeted at the

senior citizens, those over 60 years of age. It offers them monthly benefits for an annual subscription of only E240.

By loading another bundle before the expiry date, you get to carryover the unused benefits.

To access all these packages and more, just visit our new products and services menu by dialling *222#.

As an added treat for our prepaid customers in the month of March, we have a couple of promotions running.

By loading airtime valued at E10 or more each day, a customer gets 10 free megabytes of data. Our customers have a choice of converting their airtime to a bundle that will allow them to make unlimited calls to other Swazi Mobile numbers.

With a E5 bundle, customers get free calls from 6pm to midnight and a E10 bundle gets you free calls all day.

To top it up, customers that load E20 or more in the week get 50 of everything; 50 calls to other Swazi Mobile numbers, 50 SMSes to other Swazi Mobile numbers and 50 megabytes of data.

So go ahead and connect to the First World Network, Swazi Mobile, for the best value.

SUNDAY SPECIAL OFFER

50 FREE SWAZI MOBILE MINUTES
FREE MB DATA
FREE SWAZI MOBILE SMSes

WHEN YOU LOAD A MINIMUM OF E20 IN THE WEEK

DAILY AND WEEKLY PACKAGES

Price	E5.00	E10.00	E50.00
Validity	1 day	1 day	7 days
Minutes (To Swazi Mobile)	30	70	250
Minutes (To other local numbers)	5	10	50
SMS (all local numbers)	5	10	50
Data	5MB	10MB	50MB

SOCIAL BUNDLE

Price/Year	E240.00
Validity	365 days
Minutes (To all local numbers)	60/ month
SMS (all local numbers)	60/month
Data	60/month

MONTHLY PACKAGES

Price	E195.00	E295.00	E495.00
Validity	30 days	30 days	30 days
Minutes (To Swazi Mobile)	500	750	1000
Minutes (To other local numbers)	100	200	400
SMS (all local numbers)	50	75	100
Data	1GB	2GB	4GB

Max Talk Promotion
Talk More
with Swazi Mobile

Buy a E5 Max Talk bundle and get unlimited calls from 6pm to midnight
Dial *207*5#

Buy a E10 Max Talk bundle and get unlimited calls all day
Dial *207*10#



Terms and Conditions

- * Offer expires at midnight each day
- * Promotion ends 31st March 2018
- * Unlimited minutes can only be used to call other Swazi Mobile numbers
- * Dial *207*5# for E5 daily bundle
- * Dial *207*10# for E10 daily bundle
- * Customer can only call a maximum of 50 unique numbers per day
- * Maximum call duration is 30 minutes

For more information call 980 (from Swazi Mobile) or 7379 0101
or visit www.swazimobile.com

**swazi
mobile**

SUPREME COURT REINSTATES BAIL FOR FOUR ASIANS

By Sandile Nkambule
Supreme Court

THE Supreme Court yesterday overturned a decision by High Court Judge Titus Mlangeni in revoking bail for four Asian nationals who are charged with attempted murder by reinstating their bail.

The four Akber Ali, Zafar Iqbal, Ehsan Ahmed and Wasim Ranjhi had their bail revoked by Judge Mlangeni when they last appeared for their trial in December last year after being accused of failing to bring their interpreter with them.

They were then sent back to jail pending finalisation of their attempted murder trial which is before Judge Mlangeni.

Through their lawyer Osborne Nzima who instructed advocate Lucas Maziya, the four had filed an appeal application at the Supreme Court.

The matter was yesterday before a full bench comprising Judges Robert Cloette, Stanley Maphalala and Jacobus Annandale who reinstated the bail that had been granted to the four.

According to advocate Maziya in his arguments, he submitted that Judge Mlangeni erred in law and in fact committed a grave irregularity and misdirection by revoking the bail and that the judge totally misconstrued Section 145 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act.

This section provides that "if the accused is indicted in the High Court after having been admitted on bail, his plea to the indictment shall, unless the court otherwise directs, have the effect of terminating his bail and shall there upon be detained in custody until conclusion of the trial in the same manner in every respect as if he had not been admitted to bail."

Maziya submitted that the applicability of this section begins and ends on the day of the taking of the plea and in the present matter this was on December 23, 2016, when the appellants all plead-

...overturns Judge Mlangeni's order revoking Asians' bail



ed not guilty to the indictment.

Advocate Maziya submitted that at the end of the proceedings that day, it is common cause that Judge Mlangeni ordered that their bail be extended and that this extension constituted the direction that the section envisaged.

Having made this direction, Maziya stated that it was no longer open for Judge Mlangeni on December 21, 2017, a year later to seek to terminate the bail under the section arguing that what Judge Mlangeni did on that day even if it had been justified on facts which is denied, had no basis on any of the provisions of the CPE Act in general section 145 in particular.

Commit

"The power that a judicial officer has to commit any person to prison in general is awesome and immense and therefore ought to be exercised responsibly all the time," Maziya submitted as he cited authorities from Mohamed CJ.

Advocate Maziya stated that what is worse in the present matter is that even the facts and peculiar circumstances of this case the four appellants were unfairly treated, the learned judge had no sound factual basis on which to draw the inference that the appellants ought to have been deprived of their constitutionally protected right to personal liberty. According to Maziya, there was

not even a single allegation made by the crown that the appellants had breached their bail conditions, in fact Maziya submitted that the four had been complying with these conditions without flinching ever since the bail was granted as they had been religiously availing themselves in court whenever called upon to do so.

Their failure to secure the attendance of a translator did not justify the taking away of their personal liberties especially because it was not even their duty to obtain a translator according Maziya as section 21 (2) of the Constitution of the Kingdom makes it clear that they have a right to be tried in the language they understand and that such translator ought to have been availed by the state.

The four are charged with attempted murder in that they allegedly hacked their fellow countryman Naeem Gul Khan with a bush knife on the head, knees and shoulder in an incident that happened at Siteki.

The first accused Akber Ali, who is the owner of Mphumalanga Supermarket and wholesale together with the three, is alleged to have had a misunderstanding with the complainant which resulted in death threats before the hacking and they are further said to have hit Naeem with an iron rod all over his body.

Sithole's departure a huge loss to SRA - Govt

Stories by Observer
Reporter
Mbabane

PRINCIPAL Secretary in the Ministry of Finance Bheki Bhembé has confirmed the resignation of Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) Head of Corporate Services, Edward Sithole.

Bhembé said the ministry was aware that Sithole had resigned and described it as a big loss to both the SRA and the ministry. He said Sithole had a wealth of knowledge and expertise that would be hard to replace.

He said it was also unfortunate that he resigned at a time when salary negotiations between the SRA employees and their employer were ongoing.



CONFIRMED: Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Finance Bheki Bhembé.

When asked on the state of the negotiations, the PS said as a ministry they had submitted their recommendations to Cabinet and they were also in support of the SRA employees' request. He said they were hopeful that the matter would be resolved in due course.

SRA says Sithole left on favourable terms

SWAZILAND Revenue Authority (SRA) Head of Corporate Services, Edward Sithole had served his full notice period.

SRA's Customer Services Manager Ricardo Kruger, who had been mandated to speak on the matter, said he was not sure of the exact date when he resigned but Sithole had served the full notice.

When asked if Sithole's resignation was before, during or after the strike, he asked not to comment as he would have to check whether the notice period on his contract was two or three months.

It must be noted however that according to the workers' union, Swaziland Revenue Authority Workers Union (SRAWU), the negotiations had not been finalised and were currently ongoing.

This was confirmed by SRAWU Secretary General Moses Masilela who also said he had heard that Sithole who was leading the negotiations on behalf of the employer had since resigned from the position of head of corporate services.

He said if what he heard was true after it was confirmed by Kruger, they hoped that his departure would not negatively affect the ongoing salary negotiations. "During our negotiations, Sithole was leading the team, he did so in his capacity as head of corporate services, which is an office, so his departure shouldn't affect the negotiations," Masilela said.

He said what the employees had set out to achieve at the start of the strike was unfortunately not achieved hence the reason why the strike was suspended.

Meanwhile, SRA's Communications Director Vusie Dlamini said he would prefer to know what the story was all about because according to him Edward Sithole's resignation was not big news.

"Ok, honestly I would prefer to know what the story is all about because I don't see any big news in Edward leaving the SRA," he said.

After almost a month of being on strike, some employees of the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) returned to work.

According to the management of SRA and, as a result, Commissioner General Dumisani Masilela welcomed the striking workers back after they agreed to suspend the strike.

Just before the strike was suspended an internal memorandum, had temporarily lifted a lock out on workers intending to return to work.

The memo, which this newspaper saw, was issued and directed to all managers and directors. In that memo, Masilela directed that the lifting of the lock-out was with immediate effect.

The workers are demanding a 6.5 per cent salary increment, on top of the 6.8 per cent already offered by management.



Woman (53) claims ownership of 50kg dagga

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

AN elderly woman, who was arrested together with her two daughters for possession of dagga, elected to suffer for the sins of her children and pleaded guilty to charge, claiming sole ownership of the illegal herb.

Lomathemba Maziya (53) of Mahlahlane was one of nine residents of the area who were separately arrested for possession of dagga. She was jointly charged with her children, Cebile Mbhamali (24) and Thandeka Mbhamali (18).

The accused persons were said to have wrongfully and unlawfully possessed 52.51kg of dagga without being holders of a valid permit.

They were represented by Lawyer Mzobanzi Dlamini. When the charge sheet was read to them, the elderly

woman pleaded guilty to the charge while her daughters pleaded not guilty. She further elected to record a statement of agreed facts with the prosecution due to the amount of the dagga.

Apparently, the crown had intended to lead evidence to prove commission of the offense.

In her statement, the accused person stated that she was at her homestead together with her children when police officers arrived and demanded to conduct a search. Several bags loaded with dagga were retrieved from one of the houses.

Belonged

The elderly woman stated that the dagga belonged to her, and not any of her children.

Interestingly, the woman evidently had difficulty walking. Dagga is normally grown in the mountains, at a considerable distance away from home-

steads to avoid being arrested.

Nonetheless, her plea of guilty was accepted by the crown which was represented by Prosecutor Melusi Lukhele.

Lukhele further urged the court to consider the amount of the dagga as an aggravating factor to the charge.

He pointed out that in the past, the scourge of dagga cultivation was known to be prevalent in the Hhohho and Shiselweni regions.

Lukhele implored the court to therefore issue a sentence which will act as a deterrent to other would be offenders.

Meanwhile, the accused person told the court that she had intended to sell the dagga so that she could have money to pay for children's school fees.

Lukhele stated that she and her husband were unemployed. Principal Magistrate Dumisani Magagula deferred sentencing to Wednesday.

Do not elect power hungry people - Lubombo RA

Stories by Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

LUBOMBO Regional Administrator (RA) Sylvia Mthethwa has advised the electorate against electing people who are clearly power hungry and selfish.

Mthethwa said people who must be elected during the upcoming national elections must be God fearing, and have a clear vision for development of the country.

She was speaking during a regional prayer service which was held at Matsetsa School for the Deaf Hall. Hundreds of Christians from different denominations attended the service which was themed; "Seeking the face of the Lord".

The RA initiated this prayer service last year, and has been marked as an annual event. Amongst the items which were prayed for was the smooth running of the national elections.

When making her remarks during the event, Mthethwa said the prayer service was initiated after numerous tragedies had struck the region in the past two years.

These included the severe drought



REMARKS: Lubombo RA Sylvia Mthethwa making her remarks during the prayer service.

which was also experienced in many other parts of the country and fatal road accidents, especially along the Lonhlopheko-Manzini road.

The RA said the region therefore found it necessary to seek spiritual

intervention from God and guidance for the future.

Speaking on sound leadership for the region, Mthethwa said it was necessary for the electorate to elect people who will work towards the betterment of the region and not focus on enriching themselves.

She noted that some candidates were merely power hungry, and had no intention to improve other people's lives.

The RA challenged the Christian fraternity to pray that people's evil plans towards the elections do not succeed. She also urged Christians to pray for a successful celebration of the 50-50 anniversary.

"As a region, we must pray that all national events which are scheduled for this year be successful. More especially, we must pray that the right people be elected to take the region to a higher level," she said.

Meanwhile, the RA also urged Christians from all denominations to remain united and pray with a common goal. Also present during the event was Senator Bonsile Mngometulu, Minister Sibongile Ndlela-Simelane, Minister Dr Phineas Magagula and chiefs from different imiphakatsi under the region.

Chiefs want Sylvia back as RA next term

TRADITIONAL leaders under the Lubombo region have commended the cooperation and efficiency between their structures and the Lubombo Regional Administrator Sylvia Mthethwa which has been evident in the past four years.

Having worked so well with the first woman RA in the country, the traditional leaders are praying that Mthethwa retains her position in the next parliamentary term.

This was disclosed by Chief Ndlondlo Tsabedze of Malindza during the regional prayer service

which was held at Matsetsa School for the Deaf Hall last Friday. Tsabedze is also Court President of the Swazi National Court in Siteki. Speaking on behalf of all chiefs in the region, Tsabedze said they were satisfied with Mthethwa's ability to work effectively with traditional leaders. He said they have noted that she had a clear vision to develop the region, as evidenced by the projects she has initiated. "We have no doubt that if Their Majesties bring you back here even next term, the region will reach higher levels of development," said Tsabedze.



INSISTED: Dvokodvweni Member of Parliament Musa 'Stezi' Dlamini.

NEWS EXTRA

Ramaphosa's new dawn 'a hollow prospect' – Holomisa

CAPE TOWN – The ANC involving former president Jacob Zuma in their election campaign "is like asking a bank robber to guard the money", according to UDM leader Bantu Holomisa.

The UDM discussed President Cyril Ramaphosa's "new dawn" at its national executive committee (NEC) meeting this past weekend, but thinks "it sounds a hollow prospect, as events unfold, with some of the prime suspects in state capture surviving the recent Cabinet reshuffle".

"With this move, President Ramaphosa has already started off on the wrong foot and the UDM NEC believes that South Africa is in for more of the same," reads a statement by Holomisa.

"The involvement of former president Zuma in the African National Congress' (ANC) electioneering activities, casts serious doubt that it is at all serious about its plans to eradicate corruption," said Holomisa.

"Zuma's token removal only happened because the opposition and civil society put so much pressure on the ANC that they no longer had room to manoeuvre. Their keeping Zuma at the forefront of their election work is like asking a bank robber to guard the money."

ANC spokesperson Pule Mabe told journalists on Saturday that former ANC presidents would start attending party events leading up to the 2019 elections. Former presidents Thabo

Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe never attended NEC events after their terms ended. ANC to run a 'positive' elections campaign "All the former presidents and deputy presidents, including Zuma – they are beginning to heed the call, we will start seeing more of them," Mabe said. He added that the former presidents would be expected to work with the party around issues of political education.

Elections head Fikile Mbalula promised to run a "positive" campaign with the goal of ensuring a decisive win.

"We will not be negative against our opponents. We are not going to play the person. We want to run a positive campaign. That is what we're going to do." *News24*



WORD OF GOD: Bishop Timothy Tsabedze preaching the Word of God.



TAKEN BY THE WORD: Some of the congregates who came to attend the service listening to the Word of God.



ATTENDED: Chiefs Mawandla Gamedze and Ndlondlo Tsabedze also attended the service.

MP 'Stezi' speaks on homosexuality

DVOKODVWENI Member of Parliament (MP) Musa 'Stezi' Dlamini says homosexuality will always remain as a taboo in the country.

The MP has urged the Christian fraternity to stand firm against homosexuality as it is ungodly.

Dlamini was speaking during the Lubombo regional prayer service which was hosted by the regional administration office.

He disclosed that as parliamentarians, they will always ensure that Christianity remained supreme amongst all other religious beliefs.

He said practices such as homosexuality were therefore unacceptable in the society of a Christian

country. "As legislators we will always be unapologetic about our stand against homosexuality as we are in a Christian country," he said. Dlamini said this after commending the regional administrator for putting God first in all her endeavours. He said this gave them confidence that the region is led by the right person who is guided by Christian principles.

Meanwhile, Dlamini commended women leaders of the region for representing women well in the country. He said these included Senator Bonsile Mngometulu and Minister of Health Sibongile Ndlela-Simelane who are originally from the Lubombo region.



IN SONG: Senator Bonsile Mngometulu, Minister Sibongile Ndlela-Simelane, Minister Phineas Magagula and MP Musa Dlamini in song.



TOGETHER: Prince Sibhimbi, the man of the moment Regional Officer Majawonke Dlamini, Senator Chief Sotunwane and Mehlu Dlamini. This was during the farewell function for Dlamini hosted by the Mankayane staff held at Ntfutjana Resort next to Mkhondvo. (coutersy pics)

MANZINI REGIONAL

By Simon Shabangu
Mbabane

MANZINI Senior Regional Officer Majawonke Dlamini has been hailed as a hardworking and loyal servant, after serving government for 35 years.

During his farewell event held at Ntfutjana Resort near Mkhondvo on Saturday, speakers hailed Dlamini for his loyalty and dedication he had shown to government over the years of his service.

The speakers, all shared similar sentiments describing Dlamini as someone who has always put government's business first, before his personal interests.

Speaking on behalf of the people he interacted with in his line of work was Delisa Mavuso, who praised him for always willing to impart knowledge and skills to them.

Mavuso said Dlamini always assisted with his rich experience and wisdom.

Adding, he is a selfless individual who is characterised by punctuality, diligence and commitment to work and that he set a good example for the young ones to emulate.

Prince Sibhimbi who represented Prince Masitsela under whom Dlamini once served, expressed gratitude for the selfless service Dlamini rendered to the nation. He described him as a distinguished Swazi who was full-heartedly committed to multiple royal duties. He said he set a record which a few will be able to break and further praised him for being a loyal ser-

vant of the nation.

Also making remarks was Senator Chief Sotunwane who said he was delighted to observe that even at retirement, Dlamini was still very dynamic and looking strong.

He said he wished Dlamini could be offered more time so that the government continues to benefit from his experience in running government business.

"He is a real talent with institutional memory that the nation still needs to use to the fullest. He is also complemented by kindness coupled with dedication to his duties as we have heard from his colleagues," the chief said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Hlengiwe Dlamini, who spoke on behalf of the retiring royalty from Mbelebeleni Royal Kraal said her father has set a good example for them as a family.

She praised her father as a first-class patriot who loves his country, job and the nation.

"He has contributed his own quota to nation-building. He is a tireless workaholic who served both the public and his family with alacrity. My father is the pillar of the family and my academic progress because he has always been around to assist me in data collection and in displacement to my various research venues," she said.

She said she understood why so many praised her father because he was a real precious pearl at the work place.

Dlamini said her father would not stop being of service to the nation because that was his nature. She was joined by her brother Mhlonishwa on the podium as she delivered her speech.



The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

INVITATION TO TENDER

REQUEST FOR TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES Tender Reference: 27 of 2018.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development has allocated funds for the procurement / provision of Catering services for the the Swaziland National Fire and Emergency Service, and it intends to apply the proceeds of these funds for eligible payments under any subsequent contract.

The Swaziland National Fire and Emergency Service now invites Tenders for the provision of Catering services at the Service training centre. The invitation to tender documents can be obtained from the Swaziland national Fire & Emergency Service training Centre- Mbabane, from the 6th March 2018. The documents cost Three hundred Emalangeni, (E300.00) only, and payable at the Treasury Building, Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane Revenue Office, under Head 26/1101/21132 (payment is non-refundable).

A pre-tender meeting will be held at the training centre on the 13th March 2018, at 09:00 hours, Attendance is compulsory, and Tenderers are urged to forward receipts as proof of payment.

Your company is hereby invited to submit a tender for the above mentioned procurement at the latest 30th March, 2018. It is not permissible to transfer this invitation to any other firm. The Tenderer shall follow the instructions in the attached invitation to Tender Document and must be enclosed in a sealed envelope, which must be marked as follows: 'The Secretary to Swaziland Government Tender Board, Treasury Building, Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane'; 'Swaziland national Fire & Emergency Service Training Centre, Mbabane; Tender No. 27 of 2018/2019, 'Provision of Catering Services'. Do not open envelopes before 9.00 A.M. on the 30th March 2018, provision of catering service.

The completed tenders must be delivered to the offices of the Swaziland Government Tender Board, Treasury Building, and Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane, Swaziland. The Tender documents should comprise of one (1) 'original document' and two (2) copies.

The deadline for submission of tenders

The deadline for submission of tenders shall be 9.00 AM on the 30th March 2018. Any Tenders received after this deadline, telegraphic, electronic and faxed proposals will not be considered.

Tender opening

The opening of tenders shall be on the 30th March 2018, at 09.00 AM at the Swaziland Government Tender Board, Treasury Building, and Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane, Swaziland

The following documents must accompany the Tender:

- Certified copy - Trading License
- Certified copy - Form C
- Letter of declaration of eligibility
- Certified copy - Certificate of Incorporation
- Certified copy - Labour Compliance certificate
- Certified copy - SNPF Compliance certificate
- Tender Security of Ten thousand Emalangeni (E10,000)
- Certified copy - Tax Clearance certificate
- Certified copy - Form J
- Original General Receipt of E300
- Tender Form and Price Schedule

The Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any proposal.

For further information please contact in writing: Mr Ndumiso Sigwane, (Divisional Officer)
P.O.BOX 773 Mbabane, Swaziland.
(Email address: sigwanen@gov.sz / sigwanend@gmail.com)

SWAZILAND CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

PRESS STATEMENT

STUDENTS' RESULTS AND OTHER ISSUES

At its meeting held on Monday 5th March 2018, the University Senate noted that an article published on page 11 of the Sunday Observer dated 4th March 2018 contained incorrect information pertaining to the graduating students who have completed their programmes of study in Radiography and operational issues. Without responding to each and every allegation attributed to the unidentified source, the University wishes to put the issues into perspective as follows:

- **Academic Policy** - In terms of its academic policy, the Senate does not discuss students' results in the media. Details on the performance of each student are confidential and are not intended for public consumption.
- **Passing/ Failing of Students** - The question of passing or failing of any student at the University is determined by the Senate as the highest academic authority. Management does NOT pass or fail any student. The allegation that some students are passed because of their relationship with members of Management or that they are children of persons holding high position in the country is a figment of imagination of the unidentified source of the information. The results of the Radiography students were processed in terms of the academic regulations of the University. Given the seriousness of this allegation, the Senate resolved to investigate the matter further and appropriate action will be taken against anyone involved.
- **Applications for Remarking** - As with other Commonwealth Universities, applications for remarking are handled in terms of the academic regulations as contained in the Calendar. Applicants who are not satisfied with the process, are free to appeal to the University Council and thereafter may seek legal remedy in the courts of the country.
- **Filling of Vacant Positions** - Admittedly, some positions at the University, including that of the Registrar, are currently vacant. The filling of these positions rests with the Council which takes into account the budget or financial position of the University. Heads of Department are appointed in terms of the current University policy.

Finally, we would like to urge the unidentified source to come out to the open and raise their concerns with the structures of the Institution rather than tarnish the name of the University or jeopardize the chances of employment of graduating students through falsehoods.

S.S. Vilakati
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - ADMINISTRATION

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF SENATE



SWAZILAND CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
P.O. Box A624 Swazi Plaza, Mbabane H101, Swaziland
Tel: +268 2472 8157 • Fax: +268 2472 8061
E-mail: scumedicalict@gmail.com

OFFICER RETIRES



FAREWELL: Retiring Manzini Senior Regional Officer Majawonke Dlamini joined by Prince Sibhimbi and Senator Chief Sotunwane in cutting his farewell cake. This was during a farewell event organised by the staff from Mankayane offices where he was based. The event was held at Nfutura Resort near Mkhondvo on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Dlamini thanked the staff for honouring him in such an unexpected manner stating that this was an indication that he worked well with the staff.

He thanked God for giving him the opportunity to serve the country for so many years, adding that a number of people do not see retirement, but through God's grace he has.

"I hope when I exit office in the next few weeks, you will be blessed with someone who will work well with you like I believe I did.

While working with Prince Masitsela, he told me that whenever I work with people, I must do what I would like to be done to me. These words sustained

me and made me work well with people. As I have reached my retirement age, I have asked God to bless me with 30 more years of life as I go home to pursue farming which is very close to my heart," he added.

He is retiring after having served the government for 35 years in various capacities in different ministries and departments around country. He started working for government at His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) in 1983.

He was later transferred to the ministry of education in 1984. In 1986, he moved to the ministry of home affairs which was more appropriate for him and was based in Mbabane headquar-

ters. He then moved to the Manzini Regional Offices in the same year. He also worked in the Lubombo Region at Siteki. In 1989, he worked in Mbabane under the DPM's office. In 2003, he worked in Shiselweni Region where he served under the late Chief Siphon Shongwe who was RA then. In 2004, he moved to the Hhohho Region in Pigg's Peak working under Mshamndana Sibandze who was the RA.

He returned to the Manzini Region where he worked from 2006-2008 under Prince Gabheni the RA. From there he moved to Mankayane on promotion. He also worked under prince Masitsela for 10 years and Prince Gcokoma for a period of four years.



SPEECH: Prince Sibhimbi speaking on behalf of Prince Masitsela.



HAPPY MOMENTS: Mankayane Station Commander Delisa Mavuso and Girlie Nhlabatsi presenting a gift to Dlamini.



THANK YOU: Dr. Hlengiwe Dlamini joined by her brother Mhlonishwa as she made her remarks on behalf of the family.



Swaziland Government - Ministry of Public Works and Transport - Road Transport Department
Road Transportation service permit in terms of the Road Transportation ACT No: of 2007

ADVERTISEMENT:

ROAD TRANSPORT PERMIT AMMENDMENTS

Objections may be lodged against the applications made below in writing to:
The Board Secretary, Road Transportation Board, P. O. Box 3642, Mbabane within 14 days from date of advertisement

Reference No	Full Name	Address	Business Name	Type	From To	Reason
7014	WILFRED, SIFISO	P.O. BOX 117 NTFONJENI	SOMPISI TRANSPORT	2	PIGG'S PEAK, ROCKLANDS, JAKIZA, MSUMPE, MLANGENI, JUNCTION, MSILINGENI, SHABANGU, MAPHANGA, NDALAMB, MAYIWANE, MKHUZWENI, BUHLENI	CHANGE NON SCHEDULE TO SCHEDULE, CHANGE BASE POINT FROM BUHLENI TO MSHINANE AND DELETE SHABANGU, MAPHANGA, NDALAMB, MAYIWANE, MKHUZWENI AND ADD SAMBANENI, HEREFORDS, SIKOMU
1902	NATIONAL BAPTIST MISSION SWAZILAND	P.O. BOX 899, MBABANE	NATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH	2	NATIONAL BAPTIST PRE-SCHOOL, KINGSWAY, SANDLA, CHECKERS, GOVT HOSPITAL, ZEEMAN, MAKHUNGU, KA NHLANE, POLICE STATION & OLD BUS RANK	INCREASING CARRYING CAPACITY FORM 27 TO 51
1902	NATIONAL BAPTIST MISSION SWAZILAND	P.O. BOX 899, MBABANE	NATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH	2	NATIONAL BAPTIST PRE-SCHOOL, KINGSWAY, SANDLA, CHECKERS, GOVT HOSPITAL, ZEEMAN, MAKHUNGU, KA NHLANE, POLICE STATION & OLD BUS RANK	INCREASING CARRYING CAPACITY FORM 27 TO 51
5395	WAYNE, GRAHAM	P.O. BOX 54 MATSAPHA	BALOO'S TRANSPORT	2	MATSAPHA, EZULWINI, MBABANE & MHLAMBANYATI (USUTU FOREST PRIMARY SCHOOL)	ADD FLEET BY 2
5616	SIVIKELI, JONES MGOQI	P.O. BOX 42 MAHAMB	NHLANE TRANSPORT	2	AROUND SWAZILAND	ADDING 1 MOTOR VEHICLE
5616	SIVIKELI, JONES MGOQI	P.O. BOX 42 MAHAMB	NHLANE TRANSPORT	2 : Amendment	AROUND SWAZILAND	ADDING MOTOR VEHICLE
1522	ROBERT, SIBANGANI NHLEKO	P.O. BOX 527, MATSAPHA	SIBANGANI TRANSPORT	2 : Amendment	MANZINI, MHLALENI, MSAKATWENI, TEBETE, MEHLWABOVU, SALEM & HLATI	TO INCREASE ROUTE FROM HLATI TO NHLANGANO
1376	ROBERT, SIBANGANI NHLEKO	P.O. BOX 527, MATSAPHA	SIBANGANI TRANSPORT	2 : Amendment	MANZINI MAIN BUS RANK & NHLANGANO	TO INCREASING CAPACITY FROM 15 TO 22 SEATER AND INCREASING ROUTE TO HLATIKULU OR VIA HLATIKULU
3272	ANDREAS, JOHN, MANDLENKOSI MABUZA	P.O. BOX 21, MZIMPOFU	PHAPHAMA EXPRESS	2 : Amendment	BANTWANYANA, MAFUTSENI PRIMARY, MAFUTSENI MARKERT, MZIMPOFU, HHELEHELE & MANZINI SATELLITE BUS RANK	TO ADD STATIONS GAWANE AND KUCHWALENI
5197	SIFISO, SIPHIWO MKHONTA	P.O. BOX 691 NHLANGANO	INKALAKATHA TRANSPORT	2 : Amendment	NHLANGANO, GEGE, SICUNUSA & MANKAYANE	ADDING MAHLANYA
346	KINGSLEY, NDODA DLAMINI	P.O. BOX 4955 MBABANE	KINGSIZE TRANSPORT	2 : Amendment	MBABANE, LOBAMBA, MAHLANYA, MALKERNS & LUYENGO	CHANGING PERMIT HOLDER TO COMPANY V AND C

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD
ROAD TRANSPORTATION BOARD

LUBOMBO NEWS

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Wonderboy DlaminiHome Affairs minister urges
pastors to be father figures

MEMBERS of the public go to church for various reasons, including seeking a caring family where one would feel safe and comfortable.

Church leaders are therefore expected to play a major role in ensuring that the congregation are well fed spiritually and physically.

This was the view of Minister of Home Affairs Princess Tsandzile who was represented by Minister of Health Sibongile Ndelela-Simelane during the Lubombo regional prayer service which was held at Matsetsa School for the Deaf last Friday.

The minister said church leaders must play the role of being a father to all members of the church and community by giving the right guidance.

Dlamini pointed out that a considerable number of people were afflicted by various circumstances emanating from family issues.

These then go to church to find comfort in the midst of fellow Christians.

The minister said pastors must also treat church members equally, regardless of their social standings. She noted that in some churches, people with higher social standings like business-people were given preferential treat-



MY TURN: Minister of Health Sibongile Ndelela-Simelane presented a speech by Home Affairs Minister Princess Tsandzile.

ment by church leaders. Dlamini said this was against the principles of Christianity.

The minister also urged pastors to desist from having too much love for money as seen in some denominations. She noted that some churches preached more about offerings instead of preaching repentance. "Church leaders must refrain from deceiving their followers into giving more offerings under the disguise that they will get more blessings," she said.

Moreover, the princess also urged churches leaders to remain disciplined and live an exemplary life. She stated that a good leader was one that was always ready to take caution from elders of the church whenever he has done wrong. In the same vein, Dlamini urged church leaders not to compromise the truth whilst trying to be in their members good books. "Stick by the Word of God and do not be intimidated by anything that may come along when you are in the line of duty," she said.



UNITED: Church leaders united in song.

Congregation prays against
adultery in churches

AS residents of the Lubombo region gathered to seek the Lord's guidance through-out this year, adultery in churches was one of the items which the Christian believers prayed to eradicate.

Pastor Zakhele Ndzimandze led the prayer which was specifically directed for Christians and churches in the region.

Before leading the congregation into prayer, Ndzimandze noted that churches across the country were faced by serious allegations of adultery amongst members.

He said Christians had to pray fervently against the scourge which was letting down the dig-

nity of the church.

Ndzimandze also urged church leaders to address marriage issues as it was a backbone of the church. He noted that there has been an increase of divorce cases amongst Christians, something which he said was against the principles of the Bible.

Moreover, Ndzimandze said Christians must also pray against the dismantling of churches in the region. "We need to have reliable churches in the region in order to have a society which has a backbone and with a clear vision," he said. He further stated that church leaders must stick to their purpose of calling and refrain from malpractice.

Lasi High pupil best in SiSwati for Form Three exams

WHILE the country joined the rest of the world in celebrating the mother tongue last week, some pupils were reported to have done exceptionally well in SiSwati as a subject in the 2017 external exams.

One of the pupils was from Lasi High School, Kwanele Shongwe who was said to have attained 100 per cent in the subject. Lasi High is situated in the belly of the drought stricken Lowveld, east of Mpolonjeni.

Kwanele was said to have been the only pupil from the Lubombo region who emerged with the maximum marks. Other pupils who were said to have got 100 per cent were from Shiselweni and Hhohho. Christ the King Primary School in Shiselweni was said to have topped the country with 30 As' in SiSwati, followed by Dvokolwako High. This was disclosed by Senior SiSwati Inspector Celiwe Mohammed during the celebration of the language last week.

Mohammed further said the SiSwati board was happy to note that some pupils were doing exceptionally well in the language. She said this indicated that some schools were doing something right in ensuring that learners develop more love for their mother tongue. She voiced her discomfort



SPEECH: Senior SiSwati Inspector Celiwe Mohammed speaking during the celebration of the mother tongue.

however, at schools which encouraged children to speak English all of the time. Mohammed noted that this has seen some learners unable to even read in SiSwati or speak in their mother language.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini urged parents to revive cultural practices such as establishing *emaguma* and *emasango* for a proper upbringing of the young generation. In the past, girls and boys would be gathered separately at family level and be mentored by the elders. The structures under which they would be gathered were known as *liguma* for girls and *lisango* for boys.



ALL EARS: The congregation following the sermon.



LULWIMI LWEMDZABU: Pupils displaying a chart.

HUBBY (35) ASSAULTED BY WIFE'S 'BEN 10' (17)

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

A man aged 35 has been assaulted by his wife's lover.

The man from Nginamadvolvo was assaulted by his wife's (23) young lover (17) after finding the two in his bed together.

After the incident the husband in question said that he would continue living with his cheating wife for his children's sake. The whole incident occurred on January 17.

Last Friday, the husband said he was assaulted by his wife's young lover who also broke a window.

Memmory

He said the incident occurred after he had forgotten his memory card at home, going back to retrieve it, only to find a

young man having sex with his wife.

The man said what shocked him was that the man was even younger than his wife.

"After making the discovery, my wife's lover pounced on me and hit me so hard that I fell to the floor. I screamed for help, my neighbours managed to assist me and apprehend the youngster who was already out of the residential area," he said.

Broken

During the incident, the man said, a window was broken.

"I do not know why the window was broken, but I included it in my police report. The man was arrested and charged with trespassing with the intent to commit a crime, after the whole ordeal I have decided to continue living with my wife because we have three beautiful children together. It would be wrong



CONFIRMS: Chief PICO Superintendent Khulani Mamba.

of me to leave her as my children will suffer," he added.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the incident.

'MJUDA' CONTRIBUTES TO NHLANGANO'S DEVELOPMENT

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangano

RESIDENTS of Nhlangano have applauded renowned businessman Rudolph 'Mjuda' Diamond for his contribution in developing the town.

Diamond famously known as 'Mjuda', has developed an area just on the entrance of Nhlangano from the Manzini direction to a small 'city'.

The 'small city' development has added value into Nhlangano town and it gives the first impression of how Nhlangano is especially when coming from the Manzini direction.

It is this part of 'Mjuda's business empire which many now refer to as 'Nhlangano Two'.

In between the area is the main road to Mahamba Border Gate from the Manzini direction. It is on this property where the Mjuda Complex houses a filling station, shops, other businesses including a bar and bottle store as well as a butchery.

Prestigious

There are also bed-seaters behind the complex. The same property is now the home for the prestigious private school known as Diamond Valley Private School which started operating when schools opened in January.

"He has built his own town in this town or should I say he is building a 'city' within the town. We are proud

of him especially because he is a Swazi. He is indeed playing a role in developing Nhlangano. He is somehow single handedly moving us towards 2022, a vision all Swazis want to see achieved," said Sandile Motsa, who is a resident at Mathendele Township.

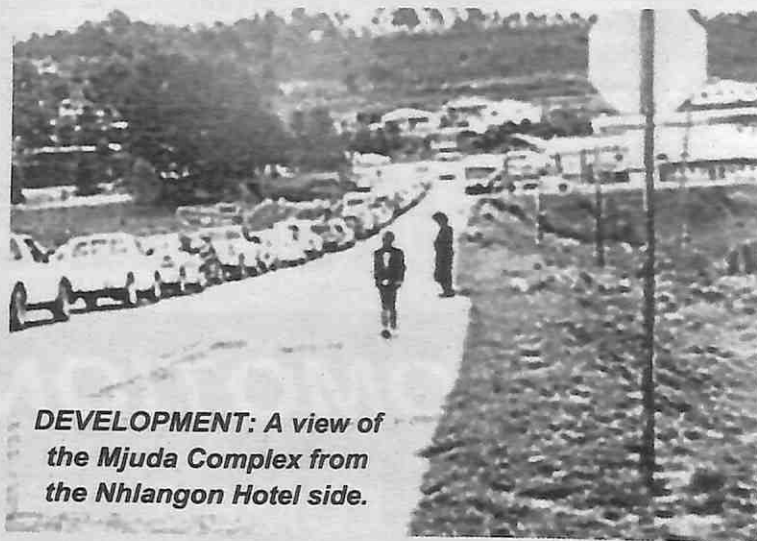
Others said Diamond deserved a special honour as his contribution to the development of Nhlangano is there for all to see.

Deserves

"Mjuda' deserves to be honoured for the role he has played and still playing for turning Nhlangano into what it is. We have the central business district (CBD) which of course also continues changing shape but here we are talking about one person who has done what even those who have partnered with many others have failed to do. The man has done wonders for Nhlangano. It can be a good thing to honour him while he is still alive," said Menzi Zwane.

Apart from the 'small city' Mjuda has built, he also owns a number of properties within the CBD which include structures which he is renting out to various businesses. He also owns flats and many other properties at Mathendele Township.

Everyone spoke fondly of Diamond and others jokingly said he 'owns' Nhlangano when considering the properties he owns.



DEVELOPMENT: A view of the Mjuda Complex from the Nhlangan Hotel side.

Top-up fees remain suspended

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

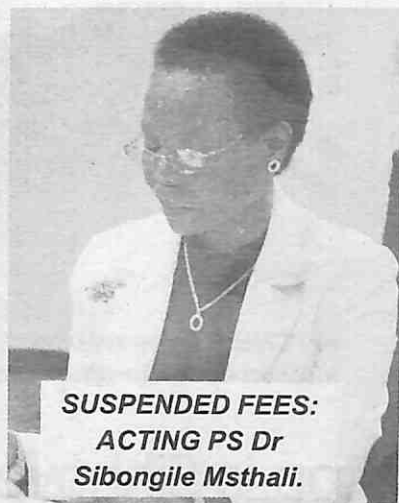
TOP-UP fees remain suspended in all schools, and this should be respected by all principals, the ministry of education and training has said.

Acting Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Training, Dr Sibongile Mtshali, said all school heads and other stakeholders must know that top-up fees remain suspended and nothing has changed.

Dr Mtshali was addressing school principals and committee members from the Shiselweni region at the teachers resource centre.

During the meeting, the issue of the Personal Identification Number (PIN) was deliberated where Dr Mtshali explained in detail why it has become a requirement in primary schools to have PINs so as to access Free Primary Education (FPE) grants.

Having explained the reason pupils in primary schools should have PINs, on matters arising the acting PS touched on



SUSPENDED FEES: ACTING PS Dr Sibongile Mtshali.

the issue of top-up fees.

She said there was no way schools in the region could charge top-ups as that was long suspended by government.

"This year 2018, not a single school in this region should be found to have charged top-up fees. I am saying this because not even a single school made a request about this. The ministry usually considers schools which have planned to carry out a project

that requires money. There are special arrangements where a school is expected to apply that it wants to undertake a task which will require money. We then look at the application and when we see it's a genuine project, we give the go ahead. No school should do things where money is to be needed, without first applying to the ministry for a go ahead," said Dr Mtshali.

Dr Mtshali advised principals to follow all channels whenever there was need for something that would require money.

"Anitenteli noma kanjani. Niyabhala nicele invume etikweni nangabe kudzingeka timali," said Dr Mtshali.

Dr Mtshali said principals must submit three quotations especially when the application was that of construction.

The three quotations were then compared.

"We advise schools to bring forth, three quotations when there is a capital project. It's was agreed upon that whenever there is a project that will need parents to contribute, there should be three quotations to choose from," said Dr Mtshali.

DAGGA FARMERS INTENSIFYING PRODUCTION?

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

DAGGA farmers are reportedly intensifying their production so as to get a bumper harvest.

Pigg's Peak police have noted that dagga farmers are hard at work in their respective field with less worries as they believe that the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) Service is pre-occupied with the upcoming 50/50 national celebrations.

They want to harvest as much dagga as possible, before the police return back to their daily duties after the national celebrations that are slated for April.

The officers who preferred anonymity were commenting after a man was



allegedly beaten to death for trying to steal dagga at Nkamazi.

The officers said since August, 2017, the police anticipated using the South

African based helicopter that sprays dagga fields to great effect.

"2018 so far looks like it will become a bumper dagga harvesting year for growers of the illegal herb in the Northern Hhohho, this is because we have heard many dealers say that the police are preoccupied with the upcoming 50/50 celebrations.

As a result no police officers are available to spray or raid dagga fields, another concern is the fact that it has been four months since the police last saw the helicopter spraying dagga fields," a police officer said.

According to the police, the helicopter seems to be a solution to the dagga problem in Swaziland.

"Dagga farmers use different tactics as they have their fields in hard to reach

areas which are inaccessible by cars, so the helicopter comes in handy. As the police, we have heard that dagga farmers will target tourists who will come to Swaziland for the celebrations so that they sell the illegal herb to them and make good profits," he added.

Meanwhile, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba said the local police service, does not own the dagga spraying helicopter so it is almost impossible to know when the aircraft will be used again.

"The helicopter forms part of a joint venture between us, RSP and the South African Police Service (SAPS), so giving out dates on when the helicopter will be in use again is impossible. Also, if we give out dagga spraying dates, that will allow the dagga dealers enough time to harvest their herb and conceal it," he said.

Eloheeka Club comes through for Madlangempisi families

Stories by Sabelo Majola
Madlangempisi

ELOHEEKA Empowerment Club (ECC) continue to give out a helping hand to needy communities around the country.

On Saturday, the club visited Madlangempisi where they spent about E5 000 on the less privileged.

The club boasts a membership of over 40 affiliates and they have travelled around the country donating to destitute families and to-date, over E300 000 has been injected for this cause.

With the help of Madlangempisi *Bucopho* Sifiso Nxumalo, the club was able to identify three homes where they donated food and clothing.

The food included rice, mealie meal, cooking oil, and beans.

The first stop was at a Nkambule homestead where both parents to two young children are unemployed and they make ends meet by getting piece jobs.

Mfanasibili Nkambule, the head of the family said over the years, he has been searching for a job but was unsuccessful. "I am very grateful to ECC for the kind gesture; it will go a long way in helping us, especially the fact that we will not go to bed on empty stomachs as is the case sometimes. We survive by helping community members and the little that they give us, we buy food otherwise it's a tough situation," he said. The Nkambule family lives in a one room stick and mud house which is not in a good condition.



LESS PRIVILEGED: Phindile Shabangu with the seven children she shares a one-room with posing with the food parcels they received from ECC.

The next stop was a Dlamini homestead, where a family of seven occupies a one-room made out of stick and mud.

The family is headed by a sickly aunt named Phindile Shabangu. The head of the family died after an illness in 2015 while the mother abandoned the children shortly after the death of her husband. Shabangu said their survival depended on the people of the area who help out with food and other necessities.

"The eldest of the children, Nelisiwe Dlamini is, and is enrolled at Madlangempisi High School and we don't know what will become of her once they demand school fees because we can't afford anything," she said.

The last family to be visited was a Nhlabatsi homestead. It is headed by James Nhlabatsi who has two wives namely Martha Dlamini and Elizabeth Shongwe. All of them are unemployed but depend on the elderly grants.



GRATEFUL: James Nhlabatsi (C) flanked by his two wives Martha and Elizabeth during a visit to their homestead by ECC. The family is in a group photo with ECC members and Madlangempisi *Bucophos* Sifiso Nxumalo (3rd from left). (Pics: Sabelo Majola)



EMPOWERED: Mfanasibili Nkambule and his wife Nomphumelelo with the clothes given to them by ECC.



KITCHEN: Dogs relaxing in what is utilised as a kitchen by a Nkambule family.

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...Next stop is Sihhoye

THE club conforms to consistency as they continue in their quest to help out the needy.

Their next stop is Sihhoye in April. ECC Chairman Bonginkosi Dlamini said the exercise would continue again at the beginning of April, where they shall be visiting Sihhoye.

"During our official launch last week, I mentioned that we invited hardware stores and individual partners to work with us in this initiative because the situations in some of the homes we visit call for us to help out with building material," he said.

He said Saturday's visit at

Madlangempisi was a bit emotional especially at the Dlamini family where seven people occupy a one-room house.

"We are currently working on means of assisting the Dlamini family with roofing because the house has a leaking roof. Much gratitude can be accorded to *bucophos* of the area and the elders who were able to locate these homes," he said.

Madlangempisi *Indvuna* Thomas Matfonsi expressed gratitude to the club for making a stop in the area and encouraged them to keep up with the spirit of giving. "We are short of words for what the club has done to our people. We have many needy homes in the area, but the situation is much worse in the three located homesteads. We are hope that more aid givers will follow suit and we encourage the club to do the same to other homesteads around the country," he said.

The club was officially launched over a week ago after having spent over E300 000 helping the needy.

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FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

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TIVE
LEADERSHIP
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... With

Kholwaphi
Mdziniso

Guest Writer

RYAN (2015) says no leader would openly say that I lead my team through fear.

People who lead through fear have no idea that they are fear based leaders/managers and worse no one around them will tell them the truth. Nobody thinks they are a terror based leader, and yet there are terror based leaders and managers everywhere.

People misunderstand what the term 'terror based leader' means. It is true that terror based leaders wield a big stick and use it to club their employees (I use the term employees instead of team member because terror based leaders view team members as non-equals) into submission. They use fear to control people instead of trusting their teammates and inspiring them to do great things.

● Terror based leaders are afraid of themselves

The term 'terror based leaders' does not only refer to the fact that these lousy leaders and managers threaten their employees and keep them on edge in order to keep them compliant and submissive. The term 'terror based leader' refers to the leaders own fears, as well.

The reason so many leaders treat their team members as well as employ-

ees as badly as they do and keep them in line with unnecessary rules, policies and punishments is because the leader himself is in a state of fear. They do not know who they are behind the business card and the title of 'leader'. Their professional identity is their only source of personal power, and they more than anyone else in their sphere know how fragile that power is.

Terror based leaders do not feel whole and healthy. They do not have the self-esteem to build anyone else up and make the people who work for them feel strong and capable. Hence they spent their time telling people how incapable they are.

People who feel bad often try to make the people around them feel even worse. A leader/ manager has a lot of power over the people in his or her department. Yet for a terror based leaders that is not enough.

You can easily see how fearful people put into management positions, such a people would not only devote their lives to pleasing their 'superiors' by becoming almost machine like in their devotion to the structure of business, the rules and punishments and obsessive measurement, but they also take pride and almost delight in treating their employees like second class citizens.

The false sense of bureaucratic power conferred on them by higher-level leaders becomes a substitute for self-esteem. Healthy people grow their muscles throughout life, but unhealthy, fearful leaders and managers get their



fake self-esteem by hitting the marks that other people tell them to hit.

The traditional top-down business framework substitutes made-up and often arbitrary goals (and associated punishments and rewards) for authentic muscle-building that comes from inside, the personal growth that healthy people develop naturally by trying new things and learning from their experiences.

That's why fearful managers can get pretty high up in organisations without having any self-esteem at all except the pretentious kind that other people bestow on them.

Most of the fear based leaders tend to have a view that says "myway or the highway". They are not open to new ideas, least of all from people who report to them. When they hire people they want to hire empty vessels to fill up with their own ideas.

Ryan (2015) share some insight on

how to identify a terror based leader. Leaders can reflect on the guide to see if their leadership style falls under the terror based style or not.

● Everyone is a friend or a foe

Terror-based leaders evaluate everyone they meet and quickly, they decide whether each person is a predator, or prey. Anyone who looks like a predator, including a job-seeker who shows a little too much self-confidence, is shown the door at once.

Terror based leaders are afraid of everyone they meet until they establish that they can cow and bully them. Fear and hostility are two sides of the same coin. They turn into pit vipers when their authority is questioned. They will sniff out your true nature and try their hardest to stamp out your flame at every opportunity. Fearful leaders specialise in squashing other people's self-esteem!

● It is all about trophies

Fearful leaders and managers do not feel good about themselves. They amass trophies like job titles, budgets, big staffs and professional credentials to prop up their fragile egos. They will let you know within 10 minutes of meeting you how lofty they are, just to make sure you do not forget that they are more important in this world than you are.

● They do not step outside boxes

Fearful leaders do not want to learn anything new. They already know everything they want to know and have no interest in exploring new ideas. If you want to learn whether a prospective new boss is fearful or confident, ask him or her what new and thought-provoking ideas he or she has heard lately. A confident manager will tell you that they found a recent article very interesting and they want to learn more about the ideas shared in it. A fearful manager will tell you about a book they read 20 years ago and insist that you buy the same book and read it right away, if you want to work for them!

● They are addicted to yardsticks

Lastly, people in fear are addicted to measurements. They want to nail things down and feel in control, and nothing spells fake control like measurements do! They love Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and other weenie business tools even more than most leaders.

Land expropriation is anti-black progress and anti-liberty

MUCH to my disappointment, the South African Parliament passed a motion by the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) to endorse the expropriation of land without compensation.

Essentially, all political parties, except for the Democratic Alliance (DA) and one or two smaller others, voted in favour of a policy that gives govern-

ment the power to seize land and property rights from individuals and families. The argument put forward by the supporters of this policy is, of course, centred on the historical dispossession of many black South Africans of their property rights and land; first under colonial rule, then through racist apartheid legislation.

Let me be clear from the outset: the

act of redressing this legacy by implementing a rational and legal process of land restitution is wholly justified. Indeed, I am in full support of a rational and moral process, founded on the rule-of-law and due process, for assessing valid land claims.

If the claim is proven to be valid through an evidence-driven process, then the beneficiary must have the

option of reclaiming the land or accepting financial compensation for their loss. In the same breath, the individual set to give back the land should also be compensated for their loss, provided they didn't use any measure of force to illegally claim that land.

Ultimately, it was the State, whether through the guise of colonialism or apartheid that was responsible for the

dispossession of citizens in the first place. It is that same State today (albeit governed by a democratically elected party) which must act to redress its past mistakes and actions.

My approach is a just and sound policy, as where all parties find mediation and resolution.

This is why I cannot bring myself to agree with the EFF approach of land expropriation, which disturbingly calls for complete state ownership of all land. *The Conversation*

HOW TO CONTACT US

MANAGING EDITOR

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

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

EDITOR:

NEWS EDITOR:

SPORTS EDITOR:

ENTERTAINMENT SNR REPORTER:

BUSINESS SNR REPORTER:

SNR SUB EDITOR:

Thulani Thwala - 7605 0985 / 7905 0985

Kenneth Dlamini - 7607 0035 / 7946 0330

Mphikeleli Msibi - 7605 8044 / 7925 7918

Nomfundo Sifundza - 7901 4289 entertainment@observer.org.sz

Hlengiwe Ndlovu - 7946 0385 business@observer.org.sz

Paradise Mamba - 7603 5639 / 7946 0328 subeditor@observer.org.sz

editor@observer.org.sz

newseditor@observer.org.sz

sport@observer.org.sz

business@observer.org.sz

subeditor@observer.org.sz

MANZINI

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

PIGG'S PEAK

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

SITEKI

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

NHLANGANO

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

CIRCULATION OFFICER

Bongani Simelane: 7605 3707 / 7946 0309
circulation@observer.org.sz

MARKETING MANAGER

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

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ON THIS DAY

...MARCH 6

1973 - US President Richard Nixon imposed price controls on oil and gas.

1975 - Iran and Iraq announced that they had settled their border dispute.

1980 - Islamic militants in Tehran said that they would turn over American hostages to the Revolutionary Council.

1981 - Walter Cronkite appeared on his last episode of "CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite." He had been on the job 19 years.

1981 - US President Reagan announced a plan to cut 37 000 federal jobs.

1982 - National Basketball Association history was made when San Antonio beat Milwaukee 171-166 in three overtime periods to set the record for most points by two teams in a game. The record was beaten on December 13 1983 by the Pistons and the Nuggets when they played to a final score of 186-184.

1983 - The United States Football League began its first season of pro football competition.

1985 - Yul Brynner played his his 4,500th performance in the musical "The King and I."

1987 - The British ferry Herald of Free Enterprise capsized in the Channel off the coast of Belgium. 189 people died.

1990 - In Afghanistan, an attempted coup to remove President Najibullah from office failed.

1990 - The Russian Parliament passed a law that sanctioned the ownership of private property.

1991 - In Paris, five men were jailed for plotting to smuggle Libyan arms to the Irish Republican Army.

1992 - The last episode of "The Cosby Show" aired. The show had been on since September of 1984.

1992 - The computer virus "Michelangelo" went into effect.

1997 - A gunman stole "Tete de Femme," a million-dollar Picasso portrait, from a London gallery. The painting was recovered a week later.

1997 - Britain's Queen Elizabeth II launched the first official royal Web site.

1998 - A Connecticut state lottery accountant gunned down three supervisors and the lottery chief before killing himself.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Alisha Boe (Movie Actress) - March 6, 1997 (21 years old)



Tyler The Creator (Rapper) - March 6, 1991 (27 years old)



BISHOP
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Ephesians 1:19-21

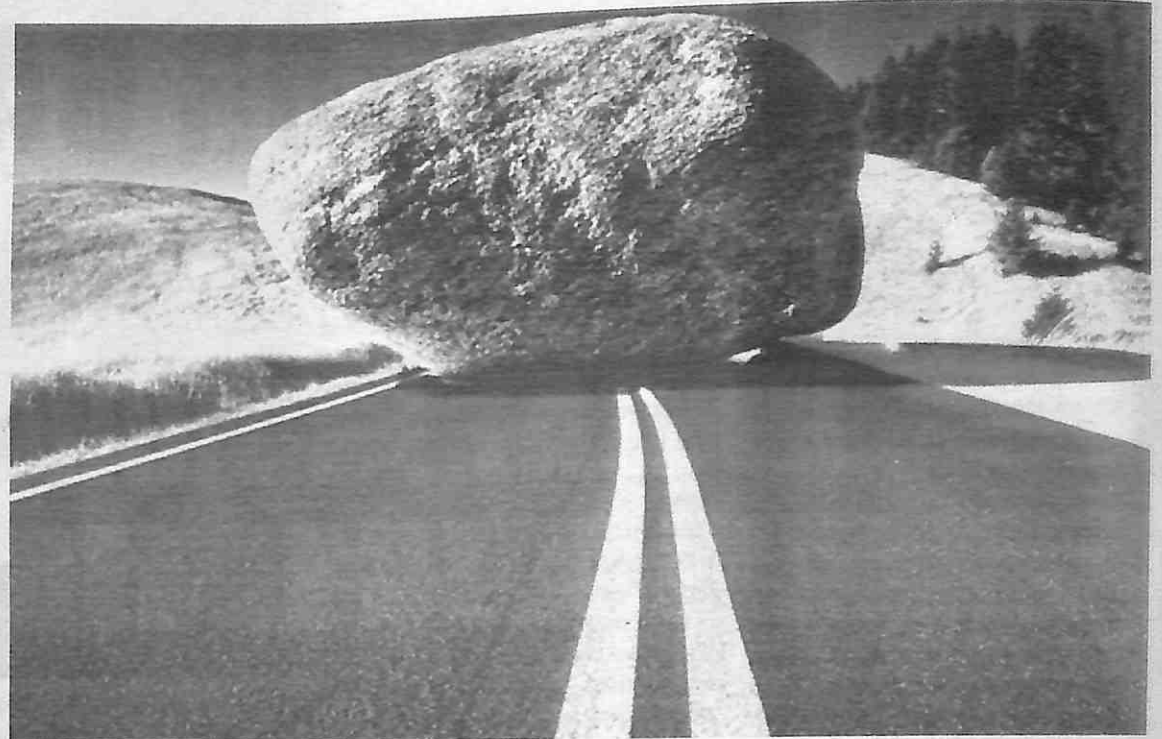
...and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

On this study of greatness, it is important to expose to you, some of the roadblocks that the enemy can put up to stop you from enjoying greatness and how to deal with them. The roadblocks are as follows:

1. IGNORANCE

This is the greatest barrier to being all that you are created to be. Many Christians are not aware that they have a covenant of greatness in Christ. They don't know that they are destined to be great and as a result of this ignorance, they are living a low life. An example is the story of the beggar and the rich man; although when he died he was translated to the bosom of Abraham, while he was on earth, he was living in poverty and pain. The reason is in **Luke 16:19-21** - There was a certain rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day. And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, who was laid at his gate, full of sores and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores" (emphasis added). Note, the Bible says that Lazarus, the beggar had

ROADBLOCKS TO GREATNESS PART 1



one desire - to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Obviously, he was ignorant of the blessings of Abraham that belonged to him because after he died, he was taken to the bosom of Abraham. Therefore, in this case, his ignorance robbed him of his greatness. The cure to this is to study and find out what belongs to you in Christ and hold fast to it.

2. FEAR

The Acronym of fear is False Evidence Appearing Real. Fear paralyses its victims but faith energises its recipients. The devil specialises in telling the 'ifs' and 'buts'. God specialises in showing you the possibilities of greatness. Abraham, on his way to greatness, became afraid of being killed on the account of his beautiful wife so devised his own way of escape. He was afraid but he never quit or stopped moving forward. On your path to greatness, there will be fear-

ful things but don't succumb to fear. Fill yourself with courage and consciousness of the ability of God. Every time fear visits me, I speak scriptures aloud until the fear is totally gone. Sometimes it goes immediately and other times, the symptoms persist for days, depending on the level of greatness that I am approaching.

3. IMPATIENCE & DOUBT

Another roadblock in our path to greatness is impatience and doubt. Sometimes we want to help God fix our problems because in our eyes, it appears that He is too slow. Remember that if God is your source, then you have to respect His ways and timing.

We cannot lose our patience or cool with God. Some years back, when I was becoming impatient with God on a particular breakthrough that I was expecting, He cautioned me by saying, "The devil cannot outrun me and cannot be faster than

me." Having this in mind, I became patient and things worked out. If you become impatient, then you start having second thoughts and devising different options. The devil specialises in drawing people away from God's Word and confusing them.

He tempts people to look away from God's promises and makes them wander away in their minds. He makes them see options that appear better than God's option. Immediately, you lose focus of God's promises; the devil steals your blessing and leaves you with emptiness. In Jesus name, your greatness will not be exchanged with shame. The cure to this roadblock is to stand fast on God's Word without compromising.

Now that you are aware that greatness is your inheritance in Christ, you will no longer dream small; You will dream great dreams and do great things in Jesus' mighty name. Amen. Till next week.

How to win friends and influence people, the EFF way

THE Economic Freedom Fighters have had a great start to the year. Within a period of two months, the party has already scored two major political victories that would take many other political parties years to achieve.

But the EFF's strategy is bearing fruits in a way that is causing major headaches for other parties in the opposition camp. They can be largely credited for exerting pressure on the ANC to get rid of President Jacob Zuma. Had it not been for the EFF, the ANC would have done what the party has been perfecting over the years; playing dead and pretending as if Zuma was not a problem.

By making it clear that they had

no time to listen to another one of Zuma's State of the Nation addresses, the EFF actually helped Cyril Ramaphosa expedite the former president's exit.

The EFF's second quick political victory for the year came in the form of the parliamentary motion on expropriation of land without compensation.

Significant

This is where the EFF actually baited the ANC on the issue of land expropriation, and the whole thing was just too tasty for the ruling party to avoid taking a bite.

Hence, Parliament adopted the motion. It is quite a significant development for the EFF. The party has been able to apply major policy

influence without having the corresponding numbers in Parliament. With barely seven per cent of electoral support shown in the 2014 general elections, the EFF has been able to pressurise the ruling ANC - who sits on over 60 per cent of electoral support - to adopt the policy on the expropriation of land.

I have a theory on the effect of the EFF on South African politics: the party is more effective than even the DA on policy direction.

It is important to note that its influence on policy dialogue in the country is way disproportional to the level of electoral support that the party has. The EFF is punching way above its weight! The question is: how do they do it?

The strategic position of the EFF is to play all willing political parties, including the major opposition party (the DA) and the governing party (the ANC).

The EFF has shown that it can extract maximum political mileage from a relationship with the DA, while simultaneously achieving the same with their relationship with the ANC.

It punished the ANC after the 2016 local government elections by entering into coalitions with the DA in major municipalities (Nelson Mandela Bay, Tshwane, and City of Johannesburg). The DA took the deal from the EFF to run those municipalities.

News24

SOUTH AFRICA LURCHES FROM RAMAPHORIA TO RAMARUIN

WITNESSING the ANC's political and economic mixed messages of the last few weeks, it has become increasingly clear that Cyril Ramaphosa's two months as ANC President have been substantially better than his first two weeks as South African President.

Elected on a wave of optimism, Ramaphosa was an almost 'maximum pendulum swing' away from the leadership of Jacob Zuma. Everything about the man smacked of new modalities, from ethics to policy execution.

In the mid-December to mid-February period, just not being Jacob Zuma was enough to set the bar high – albeit off a dismally low base. And the Davos-friendly Ramaphosa was perfectly placed to impress.

But how things have changed since February 15. South Africa has gone from an unrealistic 'Ramaphoria' feel to an equally sensationalist yet depressingly bleak 'Ramaruin' sentiment.

South Africans have been used to schizophrenic politics for some time. And, given the ANC's increasingly polarised internal dynamics, these contradictions have only served to increase in recent years. But now, they threaten to undermine any progress South Africans were starting to sweetly smell.

First it was Malusi Gigaba's budget that found favour among the broader business community, but unleashed a flurry of condemnation from the trade union movement and other civil society movements. So much so that the ANC was forced to backpedal to a degree, calling for a review of zero-rated foodstuffs to assist the poor in combating the double whammy of VAT and fuel levy increases. Surely, such concessions should have been part of the original budget itself.

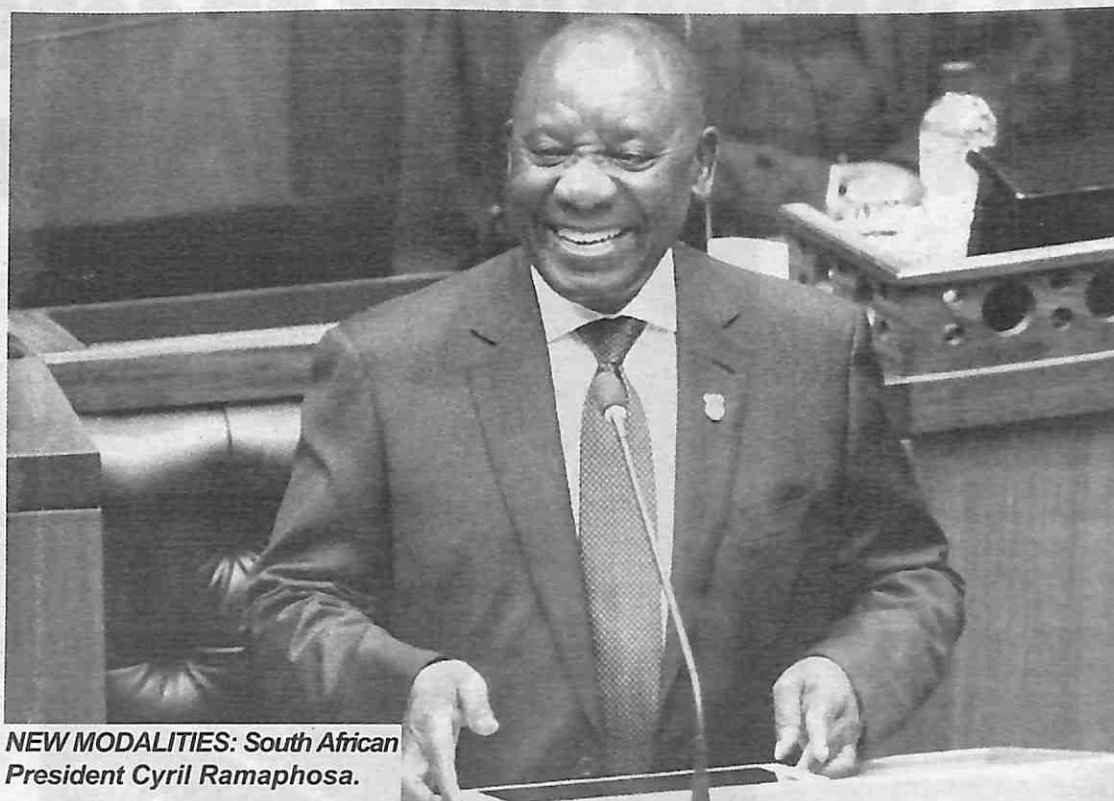
In this way, Ramaphosa's ANC clearly got off on the wrong foot with poorer segments of the populace and now needs to save face through additional concessions.

CABINET RESHUFFLE COMPROMISES

Secondly, the Cabinet reshuffle, while pretty significant, was a pastiche of compromises. Once again, the business community would cheer a retreaded but highly respectable Nhlhla Nene and Pravin Gordhan back in the economy's driver seat, but many former Zuma supporters (JZ & NDZ) were retained.

While internal ANC dynamics and the very 'soft' Ramaphosa victory were obvious contributory factors, the trade-offs are still an inhibiting factor to a full fumigation of the era of rot.

Not to mention the optics of former president Zuma seated and beaming at the ANC's 2019 elections workshop as though nothing



NEW MODALITIES: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

has changed. Again, the mixed signals diluted the 'renewal' approach that provided Ramaphosa with such a kickstart only 14 days ago.

But both the budget and the Cabinet reshuffle were compromises that were still largely acceptable within President Ramaphosa's new style of inclusive government. The 'Ramaphosa effect' could withstand some degree of dissatisfaction on both accounts and come out still with its message of promise and hope intact.

That was the case until Tuesday last week when – on the back of an EFF motion in favour of land expropriation without compensation – the ANC was forced into a political corner and, with amendments, voted with the EFF.

MALEMA NOW CALLING THE SHOTS

It might have been a piece of sublime tactical politics from Julius Malema, but it was also a very weak hand played by the ANC. Suddenly, the party became a follower rather than a leader. Within an afternoon – despite the change of semantics in the resolution – it was Malema who was calling the shots.

Within a day, the EFF leader was even fielding questions from an ever-sycophantic media – as if he held the key to the passing of any constitutional amendment.

And technically he does, as his numbers are needed by the ANC to enable this. Malema might have been looking a little shellshocked once Jacob Zuma was ousted – after all, the 'gift that kept on giving' was

no longer there. But suddenly, his role as kingmaker was back in play.

And there's the rub. While legal brains will no doubt ponder upon a host of wording options for any constitutional amendment in an effort at urgent damage control as confidence in the economy and adherence of the Constitution take a dangerous pounding, there has been a disturbing lack of leadership from the ANC on the broader debate.

It's all been left to Malema – no doubt just the way he likes it.

For an issue as potentially damaging and divisive as this, the softly-softly reassurance from Ramaphosa has been weak. With an eight per cent party (the EFF) dictating the narrative, Ramaphosa needs to substantially up his own rhetoric. Similarly, the almost embarrassingly weak comfort from newly reappointed Finance Minister Nhlhla Nene just got lost as Malema pounded his message home.

And, as if that was not enough, Malema's linkage of the land issue to his desire to unseat Nelson Mandela

Mayor Athol Trollip was filled with racial invective, elevated even by his (Malema's) own standards.

Such language is not only a direct contradiction to the spirit of the new Ramaphosa era, but the 'cooperation' between the ANC and EFF on the expropriation matter lends added credibility to the Malema world view – especially in the absence

of any leadership by Ramaphosa on this matter.

But perhaps Ramaphosa just cannot provide the necessary reassurance. Remember that at Nasrec in December, the ANC's land debate was so fiery that competing factions were physically at each other's throat.

With the EFF pressing the ANC's most sensitive buttons on this issue – and Ramaphosa just too timid to frame the debate in the face of increasing EFF provocation – South Africa's brief honeymoon with the new president is more vulnerable.

One can surely not disagree with President Ramaphosa that the issue of land needs to be clarified once and for all – after all, it can gnaw away at the tenuous goodwill achieved. But it is equally the responsibility of the majority party to frame a debate within the context of a deeply divided nation becoming dangerously more divided day by day on this very issue.

President Ramaphosa should know that pleasant platitudes might just not be enough when it comes to fending off the Malema factor, who clearly smells blood by dominating this narrative.

Ramaphosa therefore faces an early and exceptionally serious challenge. In framing the debate, he has to distance himself from the increasingly vocal racial undertones and from those who view a simple (and populist) constitutional amendment as an invitation to undo the post-1990 reconciliation compromise with a series of potential unintended and deeply damaging consequences.

After only a few weeks in office, playing 'nice' might not be enough any more. But whether his own party will let him lead, is entirely another question.

Fin24

Wit & Wisdom

● "Never tell the truth to people who are not worthy of it."
– Mark Twain

● "Tis better to have loved and lost Than never to have loved at all."
– Alfred Tennyson, *In Memoriam*

● "Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them."
– William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*

● "Books are a uniquely portable magic."
– Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

● "It's so hard to forget pain, but it's even harder to remember sweetness. We have no scar to show for happiness. We learn so little from peace."
– Chuck Palahniuk, *Diary*

● "Do you remember me telling you we are practicing non-verbal spells, Potter?" "Yes," said Harry stiffly.

"Yes, sir."
"There's no need to call me 'sir' Professor." The words had escaped him before he knew what he was saying."
– J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

● "What you're supposed to do when you don't like a thing is change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it. Don't complain."
– Maya Angelou, *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*

● "Memories warm you up from the inside. But they also tear you apart."
– Haruki Murakami, *Kafka on the Shore*

● "A person's a person, no matter how small."
– Dr. Seuss, *Horton Hears a Who!*

● "A day without laughter is a day wasted."
– Nicolas Chamfort

● "I can never read all the books I want; I can never be all the people I want and live all the lives I want. I can never train myself in all the skills I want. And why do I want? I want to live and feel all the shades, tones and variations of mental and physical experience possible in my life. And I am horribly limited."
– Sylvia Plath, *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath*

● "Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom."
– Aristotle

● "When adults say, 'Teenagers think they are invincible' with that sly, stupid smile on their faces, they don't know how right they are. We need never be hopeless, because we can never be irreparably broken. We think that we are invincible because we are. We cannot be born, and we cannot die."
– John Green, *Looking for Alaska*

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

CONTACTS

Hlengiwe Ndlovu
(79460385)
business@observer.org.sz
Majaha Nkonyane
(7844 8668/7944 8668)
Tel: 2404 9600/1
Fax: 2404 5503

VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	4.7%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	10.5%
Swaziland 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 Mar 2018

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	11.9557	12.0057
British Pound/SZL	16.4839	16.5529
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.7933	8.8276
Swiss France/SZL	12.7650	12.8170
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2422	1.2546
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.2609	9.3818
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.2687	9.3067
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	14.7228	14.7844
Gold	1,325.9100	
Oil	65.05	

For more information contact:
Standard Bank Global Markets Department
Direct Lines: 268 2404 1543 - 1544
Email: gmswaziland@stanbic.com



Standard Bank

'VAT increase won't hit consumers' pockets too hard in short term'

Stories by Hlengiwe Ndlovu

NOBODY likes it when Value Added Tax (VAT) is increased because this simply means consumers have to dig deeper into their pockets and pay more for everything that must be bought especially food.

However, the recent hike of VAT from 14 to 15 per cent as announced by Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini in his budget speech last Thursday should not send shivers down people's spines as yet, as the NKC Research Institute argues that the short term effects will not take toll soon.

The finance minister was in line with South Africa where former Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba announced the same increase in his 2018/19 budget speech on February 21.

NKC Institute Analyst Jee-A van der Linde explained that even though VAT increases come with inflationary pressures, the recent hike would to some extent be cushioned by the appreciation of the Rand and Lilangeni as well as the moderation of food inflation which comes as a result of good harvests.

"That means the increase should not hit consumers' pockets too hard in the short term," she said, adding:

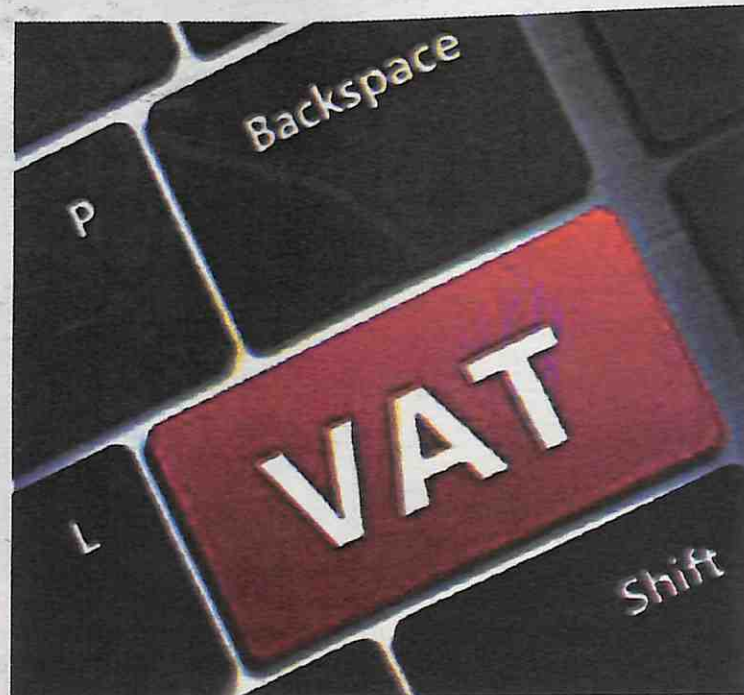
MPs could be compromised in upcoming elections because of VAT

THE NKC Research Institute believes that the recent VAT increase could compromise Members of Parliament in the upcoming national elections.

Analyst Jee-A van der Linde believes that even though the main reason for a tax increase was a technical one, largely due to administrative obstacles the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) would face if South African imports were subject to a different rate, however, this would have long-lasting effects.

She said that the fact that government had elected to amend rates now instead of waiting until later was unexpected and 'we might see interesting political developments as we build up to the elections later this year'.

"Many expected Dlamini would hold off on amending the VAT rate as ministers would have in mind the previous election in 2013 when a displeased electorate saw to half



"Even though VAT increases are normally inflationary, other things being equal, but the appreciation of the Rand (and so of the Lilangeni) and moderating food inflation, thanks to a better harvest, suggest that the increase should not hit consumers' pockets too hard in the short term".

Food inflation decelerated from a record high of 19 per cent in December 2016 to a record low of two per cent in December last year, a development which Minister of

Finance Martin Dlamini attributed to improved weather conditions for agricultural production.

The country's domestic economy also grew by 1.9 per cent last year from 1.4 per cent in 2016 mainly benefitting from a faster recovery in crop production both on Swazi Nation Land and individual tenure farms, the minister said.

He observed that maize and sugar cane production, in particular, had returned to pre-drought production levels.

To control inflation, the finance minister reported that the Central Bank of Swaziland also had to take certain measures like implementing restrictive policies particularly on food prices which had surged to double digits towards the end of 2016.

As a result, inflationary pressures eased last year following a tighter monetary policy stance and recovery in agricultural production.

This resulted in the country's annual headline consumer inflation recording an average 6.2 per cent last year as compared to 7.8 per cent in 2016 mainly due to a slowdown in food prices.

Van der Linde also acknowledged that an increase in VAT rate would naturally distribute the tax burden more evenly and Swaziland is in need of raising revenue, while reiterating concern that this would also disproportionately affect the poorest.

Meanwhile, the minister of finance reported that on the transportation side, inflation averaged 3.9 per cent last year down from 9.6 per cent in 2016.

Communication inflation also decreased as the introduction of Swazi Mobile it went down to 0.4 per cent last year from 4.7 per cent in 2016 due to competition in the sector.



WHAT IS VAT?

The Swaziland Revenue Authority, the statutory body officially tasked to collect taxes defines VAT as an indirect tax that is levied on the consumption of goods and services in Swaziland, and is also levied on the importation of goods and services into the country. It was introduced on April 1, 2012 to replace Sales Tax. Like Sales Tax, it is an indirect tax and it is levied on most goods and services at the rate of 14 per cent (this has changed to 15 per cent).

WHO PAYS IT?

According to SRA, VAT is paid by any person who brings taxable goods or services into Swaziland (usually the importer). VAT is also paid by the recipients of taxable goods or services in Swaziland. A person in this case includes any individual, partnership, company, trust, government and any public or local authority.

LIDWALA INSURANCE TO HELP COMPANIES IDENTIFY RISKS

By Majaha Nkonyane

As one of the company's selling points Lidwala Insurance is keen on ensuring that they help companies in the county open their eyes to risks before calamity hits. This was articulated by newly appointed Mbabane branch Manager Witness Msibi.

"The company is not all about selling insurance premiums but one of the most important things we aim to do is to ensure that we help companies in the country, whether big or small to identify risks before they are faced with a problem and they start thinking of insurance," he said.

Planning

The company is planning to bring about conventional insurance where they work with a team of professionals who will be hands on as they engage different companies about possible risks in the different fields of business they are involved in.

Msibi also said they are taking a holistic approach by bringing conventional products with management solutions. They are also working on ensuring that the newly launched branch contributes 20 per cent of the overall budget in the first two years.

The company is also working on continually bringing service excellence to their customers. "We are happy to have been awarded with



RISKY: Lidwala Insurance Mbabane branch Manager Witness Msibi.

service excellence awards and we are looking forward to bringing nothing but the best service to our customers. This will be one of our priority goals as we penetrate the capital city he said," he said.

Moreover the company is also working on protecting its market share and growing it whilst servicing the needs of clients. The company is also eager to keep up with technology and ensure that they give customers relevant service that will see them staying ahead of their competition whilst maintaining a good reputation amongst its client base.

In addition the company offers both personal and business cover, under business the company has the following type of policies but are not limited to; Inland Goods In are Transit which is a cover for transportation of goods from one point to another, including loading and offloading.

There is also Burglary or Theft which is a cover for insured items following a forceful or violent entry or exit to the property, the company also has a cover for money cheques, safes or strong rooms, money orders, and business all risks which is a cover for movable items

of the business like cell phones and laptops.

On the other hand the company also offers engineering policies which include contractors All risks, machinery breakdown, electronic equipment, erection all risks, deterioration of stock, civil engineering completed risks, and many more.

They also provide bonds and guarantees which include financial guarantees, construction bonds, customs bonds, court bonds, bid bonds, performance bonds, retention bonds, advance payment bonds.

"A need analysis was conducted and it was evident that most Swazis are dependent on agriculture as a means of making a living, and as Lidwala we are proud to have come up with a solution in form of Agriculture Insurance in the event of a loss.

This product covers farmers from the different agricultural sectors, as we have Livestock cover, Crops cover, Sugarcane cover, Farm Implements cover," he said.

Msibi also said even though we are a land locked country, Swazi companies do trade with overseas partners or counterparts and thus from time to time there will be a need for them to be ship goods from one country to another. We do offer Marine Insurances covering the both cargo and hull, consignment and the vessel (ship) respectively.

Government spending declines by one per cent

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

GOVERNMENT'S spending for 2018/19 has declined by one per cent as compared to 2017/18, the NKC Research Institute observed amidst an ambition to rake in more revenue into the public purse.

On the revenue side, Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini articulated government's intentions to implement policies that would reduce the country's dependence on Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenue. Government also announced revenue is expected to rise by two per cent in 2018-19 to E16.7bn.

Even though the proposed spending of public finances is expected to decline, government is also in serious debt as suppliers are currently being owed about E3 billion. With a hefty portion of government's budget undeniably going towards tenders the minister of finance vowed in the budget speech that money would now be only spent on critical expenditure items.

The Swaziland Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (SPPRA) recently disclosed that government spends about E10 billion on tenders yearly. In his budget speech, the minister of finance said efforts to clear government's arrears include the introduction of two new instruments, the infrastructure bond and the supplier's bond. "From these instruments, government was able to raise E830 million, which was utilised to pay some suppliers," said the minister who was quick to add that this money was not sufficient to clear the stock of arrears.

In addition to the hike in VAT, revenue increases are expected in the following areas: Collection of licence fees from mobile companies, the VAT Act has been reviewed to allow taxation of electricity at the standard rate, and to continue the 'Sekulula' refund arrangement. The finance minister also mentioned a levy is to be introduced on bank revenue as well as an amendment on the income tax order, a review of fuel tax and user fees (plans to increase fuel tax by 20c from April 1) and an import levy to be imposed on non-SACU used vehicles. On the expenditure side, total spending for the financial year 2018/19 is estimated at E21.6bn, which includes E2.2bn reserved for public debt payments and other statutory obligations.

Analyst Jee-A van der Linde also noted that government's intention to embark on a medium-term fiscal consolidation to address its growing debt servicing costs by implementing a fiscal adjustment amounting to 11 per cent of GDP. Domestic debt markets have been stretched in recent years due to the issuance of multiple government bonds.



DECLINE BY A PERCENT: Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini.

FAO keen on ending hunger by 2030

Stories by Majaha Nkonyane

FOOD and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is working hard to ensure that there is no hunger and all other forms of malnutrition by 2030. This was announced by the FAO Country Representative Khanyisile Mabuza

"FAO has the mandate of ending hunger and all other forms of malnutrition by 2030, therefore, achieving food security for all our primary goals. We therefore pledge to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives," she said.

Plant

Farmers are currently losing out as they plant late due to lack of access to inputs and climate change. Mabuza also mentioned that this is undermining their efforts to achieve the set goal. Farmers are said to be struggling to plant on time losing over 30 per cent of the potential produce. If they do not use climate smart techniques such as conservation agriculture the situation is made worse.

"Some farmers in this Inkhundla have already lost their entire crop due to drought and hail storms this season. Erratic weather patterns and

1000 farmers assisted with E13 million

In continually ensuring that there is sufficient support for the farmers, FAO has assisted 1000 farmers to the value of E13 million.

"This project has availed support amounting to E13million (USD957 000) to support the development of the E-voucher system, improved seeds access and training in conservation agriculture. Swaziland agricultural sector, FAO and the people of America (OFDA) have also supported 10 000 farmers with seeds focusing on drought tolerant crops," she said. It was noted that with 500 beneficiaries, Dvokodweni is one of 20 selected Inkhundla to

benefit. Other tinkhundla received maize and beans while drought prone tinkhundla received sorghum and cowpeas. Mabuza also said, the E-voucher initiative has brought a lot of positives, most important of all is that farmers were able to get their seeds on time and went early into their fields. This came about because of the improved partnership between government extension, private sector, NGOs and farmers.

Mabuza also said government through the ministry of agriculture is encouraged to adopt this system and members of Parliament are urged to facilitate support for gov-

ernment adopting the system to ensure that farmers never receive their inputs late. "The added advantage of the E-voucher system is the registration of farmers. As one of government's priorities registration of farmers will improve farmers access to tailor made services such as: finance, output markets, timely inputs and extension. Today FAO encourages farmers to register so the support is appropriately planned and timely delivered to the right farmers. Therefore all farmers present today will be registered and FAO has deployed a team to carry out the registration," she said.

the increase of pests and diseases outbreaks are reducing their agricultural productivity and food security," she said.

Speaking on behalf of Dvokodweni farmers, Msidamu Elphas Dlamini thanked the participation of farmers, ministry of agriculture and FAO for providing crops such as sorghum, maize, cow peas, mung beans, cassava, sweet potatoes, groundnuts and jugo beans. He then encouraged fam-

ers to go plant these crop since there is shortage of these in the market. Dvokodweni MP Sitezi Dlamini wishes the marriage between FAO, ministry of agriculture and Dvokodweni to last long. He said climate change had affected the area and government must find a solution to this climate change problem.

Dvokodweni was noted to be one of the best maize production areas, which however, should deal with all

threats affecting farmers because if not dealt with, this advantage will be lost. FAO through the e-voucher programme linked with the promotion of conservation agriculture aims to reverse the negative effects.

"The el Niño induced drought brought-with poor erratic rainfall and high temperatures. This has reduced productivity and subsequently affordability of inputs to affected farmers," she said.



AN insurance policy is a legal contract between the insurance company and the insured.

It is important that you read your policy to understand your role and the insurer's responsibilities if a loss occurs. Purchasing a policy without understanding what is covered, the exclusions that take away coverage, and the conditions that must be met in order for coverage to apply when a loss occurs is regretted.

What is insurance?

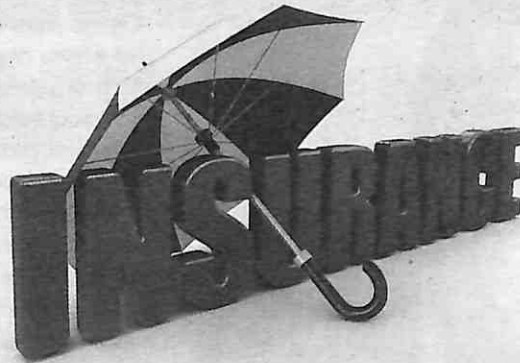
Insurance means a measure taken for a financial protection against risk. In an insurance contract, the insured pays a specified amount of money, called a premium to the insurer. The insurer, in turn agrees to compensate the insured for specific future losses. The losses covered are listed in the contract, and the contract is called an insurance policy.

When the insured party suffers a loss or damage that is covered in the policy, the insured can collect the proceeds relating to the loss by filing in a claim with the insurance company. The company then decides whether or not to pay the claim guided by the terms and conditions specified on the policy document. The recipient of any proceeds from the policy is called the beneficiary. The beneficiary can be the insured person or other person(s) designated by the insured.

The Basics of an Insurance Contract

1. The Declaration Page is usually the first part of an insurance policy. It identifies who is an insured, what risks or property are covered, the policy

INSURANCE POLICY- CONSUMER RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS



limits, and the policy period (i.e. time the policy is in force).

2. The Insuring Agreement summarises the major promises of the insurance company, as well as states what is covered.

3. The Exclusions take coverage away from the Insuring Agreement.

4. The Conditions are provisions included in the policy that place limitations on the insurer's promise to pay or perform.

Policy Holder's rights in an Insurance Policy

Insurance is a two-way contract, and you as a policy holder have a role to play. You are responsible for understanding your needs, asking questions and providing accurate, up-to-date information to your insurer.

You have the right to:

1. Cancel your policy within the cooling-off period (a period of time following the signing up of the con-

tract).

2. An easy-to-understand explanation of how insurance works (contract);

3. How insurers calculate prices based on relevant facts;

4. Access clear information about your policy;

5. Your coverage and the claims settlement process;

6. To be informed of procedures and timelines for settling your claim;

7. The status of your claim;

8. To obtain necessary and truthful information on the products and services offered, in order to make an informed decision;

If your claim is denied, you have the right:

1. To be informed why your claim was not paid or honoured;

Prohibition against inducements and coercion

The Insurance Act, 2005 prohibits the inducement of consumers to enter

into a contract of insurance or to make any alterations or additions to or cancel a policy.

The Insurance Act, 2005 further states that if a person who is party to a contract in terms of which money is loaned, goods are leased, or credit is granted, is required to provide security by means of an insurance policy to secure the debt incurred by him, then that person shall be entitled to:

a) either enter into and cede a new policy contract to secure the debt or to cede an existing policy to secure the debt; or

b) choose the insurer and intermediary with whom he shall conclude a contract or insurance for the purposes of securing the debt.

Policyholder's Obligations to an Insurance Contract

Entering into an insurance contract involves duty of utmost good faith,

meaning that the parties to the contract promise to be fair and honest in the way that they will deal with each other.

Before the consumer enters into a new contract or renew a contract of insurance with an insurer, the policyholder has a legal duty to tell the insurer everything that he/she knows that might influence the insurer's decision about whether to accept the risk or not to accept, and this is called the "duty of disclosure".

Your policy is based on the information you are providing to the insurer and you are expected to answer all the questions that the insurer asks you, truthfully and accurately.

It is your obligation as the policyholder to familiarise yourself with the insurance products and services before signing the insurance contract. As with any contract, you are expected to read your policy carefully before you sign so that you fully understand what claim(s) you can make and what your policy will cover, and what it will not cover.

Information provided in this article is meant for financial literacy purposes only and should not be construed as financial advice. For comments or enquiries please contact us on 2 406 8000. Alternatively, you can email us at stakeholder@fsra.co.sz.

Excerpts of article adapted from NAMFISA Consumer Education Bulletin.

Sugar tax may be first of several 'health promotion' measures

JOHANNESBURG - New tax comes into effect next month and is expected to generate around R2 billion in revenue.

The introduction of the euphemistically called 'health promotion tax' - a tax on sugary drinks - is expected to generate around R2 billion in tax revenue.

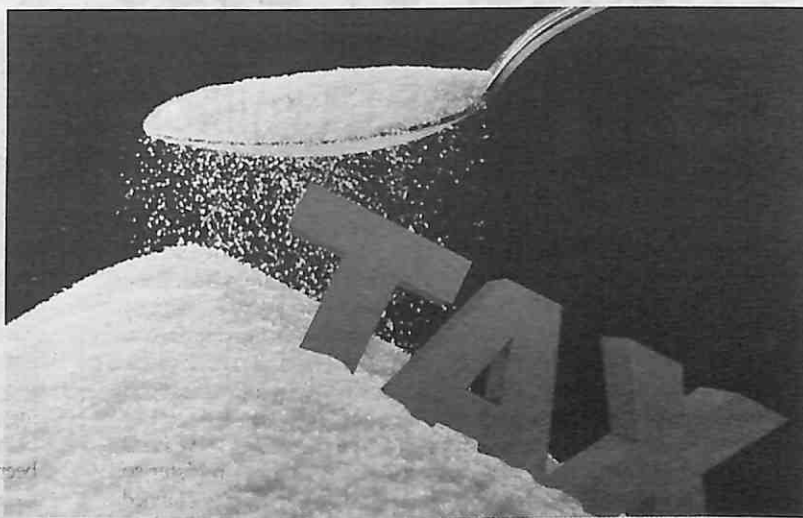
The tax becomes effective next month (April 1) and it seems more "health promotion measures" may be heading South Africans' way.

National Treasury said in the 2018 Budget Review a policy brief on the use of taxes to encourage "healthy choices" will be published shortly.

Jerome Brink, senior associate in Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr's Tax and Exchange Control practice, says to his knowledge studies done so far are inconclusive in respect of the causation between the imposition of the sugar tax and a reduction of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes.

"That said, one country which is often mentioned is Mexico, which has shown a decrease in the consumption of sugary beverages since the introduction of the tax," he adds.

The final rate has been fixed at 2.1 cents per gram of the sugar content that exceeds four grams per 100ml. If one litre of "sugary soda" has about 106 grams of sugar the first four grams per



100ml are free. This means 40 of the 106 total grams of sugar is levy free. The balance is then subject to the levy at a rate of 2.1 cents per gram.

This equates to approximately R1.39 per litre of sugary soda which will be added to the existing price.

Brink says the new tax will be administered through existing customs and excise systems. "Since it is a new tax, one should be mindful that there will likely be some challenges and additional costs involved to administer and collect the tax."

The South African Heart and Stroke Foundation had previously expressed its support for the tax. Gabriel Eksteen, health promotion officer at the foundation,

nonetheless warned that sugar was not the only cause of obesity.

"In addition to our efforts in educating consumers, we need the food industry to provide healthier food options. Despite being aware of the health risks associated with high sugar consumption, many food producers continue to saturate the market with cheap sugar-laden products," he noted in an earlier interview.

Eksteen told Moneyweb in an earlier interview that tackling obesity needs a comprehensive approach that addresses food accessibility and affordability, consumer education and marketing guidelines as well as safe and accessible places to exercise. **Fin24**

Rand to test above R12/\$

CAPE TOWN - Analysts expect the Rand to push to R12 against the greenback.

The local unit held steady at about yesterday morning. It was trading at R11.95 by 11:15. Analysts from NKC Economics expect the currency to trade within a range of R11.80/\$ to R12./\$ yesterday. Wichard Cilliers, Director and head of dealing at TreasuryONE, expects the unit to test R12/\$. The debate on land expropriation as well as Dollar strength saw the Rand correct, following a rally on the back of President Cyril Ramaphosa's election.

Cilliers explained that the debate on land reform will be a big factor to watch going forward. "Ultimately, it is too soon to know exactly how these negotiations and debates will unfold. "Ideas of nationalising all land in an economy would likely hold major negative consequences for the banking system around which all modern-day economies revolve," he warned. Additionally, the Rand's movements have been impacted by developments abroad such as the threat of trade wars by US President Donald Trump, following the

announcement of US trade tariffs. Trump has promised to impose tariffs of 25 per cent for steel and 10 per cent for aluminium imports, and possibly EU vehicle imports. "As is evident in equity market performance, this is concerning even for South African trade, particularly steel and vehicle exports, which jointly are significant revenue earners for the country," said RMB economist Isaah Mhlanga.

As a consequence, the Dollar slipped. Mhlanga explained that the Rand's weakness could be due to consolidation following its highs and local concerns about land reform.

He said in the week ahead focus will fall on GDP data for the fourth quarter of 2017. "It's going to be a busy week from a data perspective, which will bring volatility. Potentially, Trump will steal the show as his words will be louder than the data," said Mhlanga. The currency didn't budge on reports that the source of the listeriosis outbreak was at an Enterprise Foods factory in Polokwane, although the stock of Enterprise owner Tiger Brands took a hammering. **Fin24**

World News

\$15BN DIAMOND SCANDAL: ZIM PARLIAMENT TO SUMMON MUGABE?

HARARE - A member of Parliament in Zimbabwe says he wants Parliament to summon former president Robert Mugabe to explain where \$15 billion worth of diamond revenue went to during his rule, according to a report.

Temba Mliswa, a former ruling party MP turned independent, chairs a Parliamentary committee on mines that has been probing diamond mining in Zimbabwe's once-booming eastern Chiadzwa diamond fields. Grace links?

Two years ago Mugabe told state TV that the country had earned less than \$2 billion from its diamonds - but an estimated \$15 billion worth had been mined. The former president's wife Grace was at one time rumoured to be linked to one of the



TO BE SUMMONED: Former Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe.

main diamond firms operating in Chiadzwa, though the association was never proven.

Mliswa also said Mugabe would be grilled on why his government chose to evict firms from the dia-

mond fields to make way for a state-run diamond firm in February 2016.

"Investors were putting in the money' If we have to bring the former president before us, he will come so that he tells us where he got the 15 billion-Dollar figure, why the government took over diamond mines yet investors were putting money," Mliswa was quoted as saying by online news site, New Zimbabwe.

"We never saw that money in the fiscus," the MP added.

Mugabe was persuaded to step down after the military put him under house arrest in November 2017. There's no guarantee he would agree to appear before the committee.

News24

Italy's post-election scenarios

ROME - Italy's election appears to leave a hung Parliament in which no single party or coalition commands an overall majority according to projections based on preliminary results, leaving few options for any new government.

The prospect of a grand coalition between Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) party and the ruling centre-left Democratic Party against the surging populists and far-right appears no longer feasible.

Both the anti-establishment Five Star Movement and the far-right League party have ruled out the possibility of a post-election pact but this is currently the only option that looks like it would command a majority. According to the latest projections, the two parties together would hold 355 seats in the 630-seat lower house of Parliament and 168 seats in the 315-seat upper house.

Both parties are heavily eurosceptic and League leader Matteo Salvini has been accused of stirring up racial tensions. A tie-up could cause shockwaves around Europe.

Preliminary results make this remote as the coalition is predicted to win only 37 percent of the vote, including 18 per cent for the League and 14 per cent for Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) party.

AFP

Uganda president fires police chief, security minister

KAMPALA - Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has fired controversial police chief Kale Kayihura as well as the country's security minister, a statement said Sunday.

Kayihura, a serving general, was once regarded as the most powerful military officer in the country but has recently fallen out of favour with Museveni who has ruled Uganda since he took power at the head of a rebel army in 1986.

Kayihura was appointed inspector general of police in 2005, the same year that a successful referendum was held on restoring multi-party democracy to the East African nation after a near 20-year ban on political parties.

His tenure as police chief was characterised by the proliferation of military-style units in the force and an increase in the perceived

politicisation of the police.

Since the March 2017 assassination of Felix Kaweesi -- a senior policeman who had been viewed as his potential successor -- Kayihura has come under pressure for failing to curb growing insecurity.

At least 23 women have been killed in unsolved murders around the capital, there has been a spate of deaths of foreign nationals and last week a woman from an influential family was killed after being held captive for three-weeks by kidnappers demanding a huge ransom.

The rising insecurity further discredited a police force widely viewed by the public to be incompetent and corrupt.

In the aftermath of Kaweesi's assassination -- which remains unsolved --, Museveni said "criminals have infiltrated the police" and ordered Kayihura to "clean the

police."

Nevertheless, in May 2017 Kayihura's contract was renewed.

Since then a rival security body -- the Internal Security Organisation (ISO) -- has made several high profile arrests of senior policemen viewed as being close to Kayihura who are accused of corruption and torture as well as gangsters who have admitted working with the police. Some Ugandans have accused Kayihura of being too close to President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and there have been unsubstantiated accusations in the tabloid press that the pair has secretly plotted to overthrow Museveni.

In the same statement, Museveni fired the minister in charge of ISO -- Henry Tumukunde -- who has been openly critical of police failings.

AFP

Egypt president's opponent organises rally, no one shows up

CAIRO - The sole candidate running against Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in this month's national election has attempted to organise a rally, but no one showed up.

About a dozen workers from the campaign of Moussa Mustafa Moussa carried posters of him about 100m in downtown Cairo on Sunday, stopping well short of the end of their planned march. At least twice as many pho-

tographers and cameramen from state and private media documented the march. Sisi is virtually certain to win re-election in the March 26-28 vote, after a string of would-be contenders withdrew under pressure or were arrested.

Moussa, the only other candidate on the ballot, is a little-known politician who supports el-Sissi. He did not attend the march and has largely avoided the media.



CERTAIN TO WIN: Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

BRIEFS

Ruling centre-left party admits defeat

ROME - Italy's ruling centre-left Democratic Party yesterday admitted it had suffered a "clear defeat" in a general election after coming in third according to projections.

This is a very clear defeat for us," Michele Martina, a minister in the outgoing government, told reporters. "We are expecting a result below our expectations. This is very clearly a negative result for us," he said. A centre-left coalition led by the Democratic Party was projected to score just 23.1 per cent, after the main right-wing alliance at 35.5 per cent and the anti-establishment Five Star Movement at 32.5 per cent. AFP

Masses march in Niger to back budget

NIAMEY - Tens of thousands of supporters of Nigerien President Mahamadou Issoufou marched in the capital, Niamey, on Sunday after a number of opposition protests against the 2018 budget, which they say favours big business.

Wearing T-shirts and brandishing banners in the colours of the ruling party, demonstrators held aloft images of Issoufou as they made their way to the national parliament building. Since its announcement in October, opposition groups have demanded the cancellation of this year's budget, which they allege will squeeze poor workers in favour of provisions worth 30 million Euros to telecoms firms. AFP

Eni and Shell go on trial

MILAN - Oil giants Eni and Shell go on trial in Milan yesterday, charged with bribery and corruption in the purchase of an offshore oilfield in Nigeria.

Eni CEO Claudio Descalzi, his predecessor Paolo Scaroni and several officials from Eni and Shell are among those facing the judge.

Ex-Nigerian oil minister Dan Etete is also on trial. Eni -- also charged with corruption in Algeria in a separate trial -- and Shell stand accused of handing out bribes during the 2011 purchase of OPL245, an offshore oil block estimated to hold 9 billion barrels of crude, for \$1.3 billion. AFP

Cameroon bans night time driving

YAOUND - Drivers in one of Cameroon's restive English-speaking provinces have been banned from driving at night for a month, as tensions run high between government forces and separatists.

Vehicles in five of the Southwest Region's six districts are not allowed on the road between 19:00 and 06:00 with the exception of ambulances as well as state and police cars, according to an official statement seen by AFP late. The renewable ban, which entered into force at the start of the month, will remain in place for "30 days", regional governor Bernard Okalia Bilai said in the statement. AFP

Slovak leader urges govt change

BRATISLAVA - Slovakian President Andrej Kiska called Sunday for sweeping changes to the government or snap elections, following the murder of an investigative journalist that shocked the country, a call swiftly rejected by the prime minister.

"I can see two solutions: a profound change to government or early elections," Kiska said in a televised tribute.

AFP

Focus on SA scene

LAND IS COMING AND IT NEEDS EDUCATED FARMERS - MALEMA

JOHANNESBURG - EFF leader Julius Malema on Sunday encouraged people to study farming because "the land is coming".

"We are not going to disrupt farming. We are going to inherit farming and continue to farm. We want agricultural colleges open. Because the land is coming and it is going to need educated farmers," he said as supporters cheered at the Standard Bank Arena in Johannesburg where the party launched its voter registration campaign.

He said when laws were passed and land was taken under apartheid, investors never left the country.

"Now we say let's take from white people and not give to blacks [alone] but to both black and white, they say people are going to leave the country - because black people don't deserve the land. Black people don't deserve to own property. Any ownership of property by black people is a threat to whiteness."

"When we talk land, we talk black pain, indignity and humiliation. We remember the *sjamboks* and the police dogs that were unleashed on our people when they were forcefully removed. We talk about the guns, the apartheid



WE WANT OUR LAND: EFF leader Julius Malema.

security that was unleashed on our people during the time of forceful removal. We are not just talking about giving the people the land - we are talking about healing the painful past. The restoration of the land will heal the pain of black people."

This will happen "in our lifetime", he

said.

"We are not going to listen to Britain, [the] European Parliament or the UN. We are going to listen to the people of SA."

Malema said that no one, not the Zulus or the Afrikaners, should threaten war.

"We are in a democratic debate. The Zulu kingdom must also contribute to the debate. No one must threaten war. We don't want civil war here. Those who are threatening war, they have proved to be non-thinkers. Now is the time of the thinkers. Let us talk about how we take land into the hands of the people through dialogue and robust debate without any threat of civil war."

"By the way, we are not scared of war. We just refuse to talk war during peace. There is peace now. Let's talk how do we give our people land. No one should threaten us about the issue of land."

On President Cyril Ramaphosa, who Malema stated was the architect of "the murder of our people in Marikana", he said if the president had the political will to change the situation in Marikana, "humble himself" and beg for forgiveness - and the workers forgive him, "who are we to counter that?" *News24*

'International community should not panic over land reform'

JOHANNESBURG - Government has urged the international community not to panic over South Africa's parliamentary processes with regards to the controversial land expropriation policy.

Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Lindiwe Sisulu said in a statement on Sunday that she "noted a number of international organisations and individuals commenting on the parliamentary processes in South Africa in relation to land distribution".

"There is no need to panic or be alarmist. The president [Cyril Ramaphosa] has already said in Parliament and in a number of public platforms whilst addressing various stakeholders that there is no need to panic."

She said Ramaphosa had stressed that the matter was "being handled properly for the benefit of all South Africans".

Sisulu added that the views and con-

cerns of all South African stakeholders would be considered during the parliamentary processes.

"There is a parliamentary process underway and all stakeholders, domestic and international, must

respect that process and also take advantage of that process to make their input. The president



DON'T PANIC: Lindiwe Sisulu.

remains committed to engage all stakeholders during this process," she said.

Sisulu said the international community played an important role in the fight against apartheid and all its repressive and discriminatory policies.

"We invite members of the international community to continue supporting our efforts to reverse the legacy of apartheid." Earlier this week, a member of the European Parliament wrote to British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, saying he needs to "mediate" with SA officials following the National Assembly's passing of a motion to investigate land expropriation without compensation. She called EFF leader Julius Malema a dangerous individual, who encouraged farm terror and murder.

News24

EFF warns education authorities to check pupils' food

JOHANNESBURG - The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) has urged the Department of Basic Education to ensure that food sold to pupils does not contain ingredients such as polony, after the announcement on Sunday of the source of the listeriosis outbreak.

Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi said the recent outbreak of the deadly *Listeria* bacteria had been traced to Enterprise's

Polokwane facility, which manufactures products such as polony.

"We further call on school governing bodies as well as learner representative councils to impose strict controls on what gets sold in school yards and nearby shops to students," the EFF's Mbuyiseni Ndlozi said. "We cannot afford to lose any life; this is a generation that has liberated our land, it must live long enough to see its true benefits."

Zulu king tears into royal trust after 'insults' over misspent cash

DURBAN - It has taken 10 years and millions of Rands, but King Goodwill Zwelithini has finally publicly broken his silence about the failure of the Royal Household Trust.

The trust was established by former KwaZulu-Natal premier S'bu Ndebele in 2007, and millions of Rands of taxpayers' money was pumped in for the king's upkeep and that of his six wives and their children. This week, during the official opening of the KwaZulu-Natal legislature in Pietermaritzburg, the king, who receives an annual salary of over R1-million and is allocated a budget of nearly R60-million by the office of KwaZulu-Natal Premier Willie Mchunu, said the trust had failed and he did not benefit from it. "I'm not getting paid from the budget of the Royal Household Trust. Maybe some people think I am getting a salary," he said. Then he turned to Ndebele, who was a guest at the official opening of the legislature, and said: "I'm happy that the person who started the king's trust is here. I know you meant well but it did

not go according to the way you wanted it to be." The king complained that too many employees were absorbed by the trust after the dissolution of

the royal household department and that

he did not know what they were doing. He said he was also not consulted about how the budget was allocated.

"I always worry that no one comes to me to explain how the royal household budget is going to be like, but when monies have been misspent the insults are directed at me and the Zulu royal family," he said. He also questioned why the offices of the trust were located in Durban when the royal family was in Nongoma in northern KwaZulu-Natal. The king cited the R10-million allocated by the provincial government for the upgrade of his Emachobeni Royal Palace in Ingwavuma in northern KwaZulu-Natal as an example of how money was misspent. *TimesLive*



Former ANC MP Khoza denies ADeC is imploding

JOHANNESBURG - City Press newspaper reported over the weekend that ADeC members accused Khoza of cosying up to the ANC after Ramaphosa was elected to lead the party.

Former MP Makhosi Khoza has denied reports that the party she formed after leaving the African National Congress (ANC) is marred by infighting and expulsions.

City Press newspaper reported over

the weekend that African Democratic Change (ADeC) members accused Khoza of cosying up to the ANC after President Cyril Ramaphosa was elected to lead the party in December last year. They further accused her of trying to collapse and disband ADeC ahead of the 2019 general elections.

However, in a statement, Khoza said: "There is a rumour that ADeC is splitting. There is no split at ADeC we kicked out those who did not pass

the high moral test of ADeC. They have been rejected as members because they are about positions and not people, they also displayed amoral and immoral tendencies."

She said ADeC wanted a board of directors to "reflect the true gender, age profile and non-racial character of our society" and that the screening process was continuing.

Two members, Lufuno Gogoro and Mpho Ramakatsa, along with former

members of Black First Land First and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) were expelled because they simply "dismally failed the moral and ethical leadership test", Khoza said.

"We are told Mpho and Lufuno have opened a bank account using ADeC's name. We are warning members of the public to guard against political impostors. We call on them to desist completely from using the ADeC name and logo."

"Therefore, any call by PRM, former BLF and former EFF members for Makhosi Khoza resignation as leader of ADeC makes no sense. They have no jurisdiction on ADeC. They are not members." Gogoro and Ramakatsa are former ANC members who later became prominent leaders at the EFF. They were later expelled by the EFF for bringing the party into disrepute.

African News Agency



NO POLONY: THINGS WE KNOW SO FAR ABOUT THE LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAK

JOHANNESBURG – Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi has announced that government has narrowed down the sources of the deadly listeriosis outbreak in South Africa.

So how does this affect you and what should you do to prevent falling victim? Here's what we know so far and what you can do.

Which are the companies affected?

Motsoaledi said the recent outbreak was traced to Enterprise's Polokwane facility.

Lawrence MacDougall, Chief Executive Officer at Tiger Brands, said they had suspended operations at that facility and its Germiston facility. Listeria was also traced to a Rainbow chicken facility in the Free State, but further tests were needed as the sequence type was not yet known.

How was it traced?

Motsoaledi announced that the disease was traced after several children presented with gastroenteritis in Soweto earlier in the week. Tests were done, and it was found that they had listeriosis.

What have RCL and Tiger brands said?

RCL foods said it suspended all production of its polony brand at the Wolwehoek processing plant following the announcement by Motsoaledi. It is also recalling all of its polony brands. MacDougall said Tiger Brands had suspended operations at both Enterprise manufacturing facilities in Polokwane and Germiston and the group has halted supply to trade.

He said they had contacted all cus-

tomers to confirm that recalled products were removed from store shelves.

What to look out for

Motsoaledi said polony was a definite source of the disease. However, he warned that products such as Viennas, Russians, Frankfurters, other sausages and cold meats not typically cooked could also be affected due to the risk of cross contamination.

What to do with your products

The public have been advised to remove any Enterprise ready-to-eat products from their fridges and place them in a plastic bag away from other products. Keeping them among other products could cause cross contamination.

How many have died

The outbreak of listeriosis is one of the largest in the world, claiming 180 lives to date. *Fin24*

Meat producer Eskort calls for calm as listeriosis source identified

CAPE TOWN - KwaZulu-Natal processed meat producer Eskort has called for calm amid Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi's announcement that processed meat was the source of South Africa's latest and worst listeriosis outbreak on record.

As of Sunday, the listeriosis outbreak has claimed 180 lives and hospitalised a further 1 000. The Polokwane operations of Tiger Brands' meat producer Enterprise Foods has been identified as the source of the latest outbreak.

The latest news has caused panic

among consumers, leading them to dispose of processed meat products they have already purchased including polony, viennas, ham and cold meats. The meat producer, which has been in operation in South Africa for 101 years, said its products are not manufactured in Polokwane in the Limpopo Province, where Motsoaledi identified the source of the latest outbreak.

"Eskort only has manufacturing facilities in Estcourt (KwaZulu-Natal) and Heidelberg (Gauteng), where all Eskort products are exclusively produced.

Eskort continues to cooperate fully with the Department of Health and Agriculture and all tests on Eskort products have been confirmed as negative across the Eskort range of Russians, polony, viennas and bacon," said the producer. The company said it subjects its products and facilities to strict standards as well as external independent maintenance.

Listeriosis grows in various places, including food and soil. The National Institute for Communicable Diseases warns that those most vulnerable to listeriosis include infants, immunocompromised adults, the elderly, pregnant women and people living with HIV. The institute warns against the consumption of the township fast food item kota, which includes polony and Russians.

The institute is also concerned as recent economic data has found that cash-strapped households are relying more on processed meats for their protein, as other meat products have become more expensive.

Listeriosis symptoms include nausea, dizziness, fever, stiffness and disorientation. *Fin24*



Enterprise factory workers sent home amid listeriosis fallout

POLOKWANE – The doors of Limpopo's Enterprise factory in Polokwane remain shut after the health department confirmed on Sunday that the source of a listeriosis outbreak had been traced back to the facility.

After a two hour meeting yesterday, management told workers that the factory would be closed until further notice.

Consumers who had gathered outside the factory's shop on the outskirts of the CBD, to return affected products, expressed concern that they would not be refunded after they found a notice stating the premises would stay closed.

Seipe Rasethaba, a local businessman, was among those who drove to the factory to return recalled products. He had recently bought two refrigerators full of polony, russians and viennas worth more

than R2 000.

Products 'are dangerous'

"I am not selling today. The minister announced that we should return and not sell this products because they are dangerous," said Rasethaba.

Like many others gathered at the shop, he expressed concern over how the latest developments would affect his business.

Mowana Magagane, who brought back polony and russians worth R200, asked how the factory could distribute contaminated food, putting consumers at risk.

Enterprise management later met with the customers and reassured them that they would be refunded.

The outbreak of listeriosis is one of the largest in the world, claiming 180 lives to date.

News24



Shoprite, Pick n Pay scramble to pull products linked to deadly listeriosis

CAPE TOWN - Supermarket giants Shoprite and Pick n Pay on Sunday indicated they are withdrawing all products linked to the source of the world's largest outbreak of listeria, which claimed 180 lives.

This followed a safety recall by the National Consumer Commission after Tiger Brands subsidiary, an Enterprise Foods factory in Polokwane, was identified as the source of the dangerous food-borne disease. Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said on Sunday polony was a definite source.

However, he warned that products such as Viennas, Russians, Frankfurters, other sausages and cold meats not typically cooked could also be affected due to the risk of cross contamination.

Two more facilities have also been singled out pending more tests to determine the sequence type.

These are an Enterprise facility in Germiston on the East Rand, and a Rainbow chicken facility in the Free State.

The food-borne illness spread across the country with 948 cases detected and 180 deaths reported, according to the latest statistics from the National Institute

of Communicable Diseases (NICD).

Pregnant women, neonates, elderly people and anyone with weakened systems are at particular risk.

Listeriosis caused by the bacterium, *Listeria monocytogenes*, can contaminate animal products and fresh produce, such as fruits and vegetables. Tiger Brands committed to ensuring that all Enterprise products, as identified, will be recalled. "We are working very closely with the officials at present to conduct the process and will provide updates to the public on this matter," said spokesperson Nevashnee Naicker in a statement.

She added that the company is also conducting its own listeria tests. Motsoaledi called on retailers to clean their fridges, meat slicers, and either remove the ready-to-eat meat products or place them in plastic bags in separate fridges.

The Shoprite Group said in a statement it immediately started to remove the products produced by Enterprise Foods and Rainbow Chicken from its perishable departments and delicatessens.

Fin24



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SWAZI ARTISTS CALLED FOR UBUNTU FESTIVAL

By Nomfundo Sifundza

THREE lucky artists will get a chance to perform at the inaugural massive Ubuntu Festival.

The first of its kind festival encompassing amongst others, healing, vendors, performances and physical fitness is slated for April 12 - 15 at Mbombela Stadium, Mpumalanga - South Africa. Ubuntu Fest is organised by Ubuntu Planet - a non-profit company registered in South Africa.

Speaking to the organisation's owner Michael Telling the Ubuntu Festival will be comprised of 20 artists from across the world.

Telling said he was interested in having three individual Swazi artists to add on to the one cultural group he has been in talks with. "I am looking for three talented Swazi artists to apply on our website ubuntufest.org and be sure to read the terms and conditions before submitting their applications," he said.

Telling also shared that the purpose of this event, which is organised by the Ubuntu Movement, is to spread the philosophy of unity and higher consciousness for a new world - to create prosperity and abundance for people everywhere.

- TERMS AND CONDITIONS**
1. Performances with the following content or messages will not be considered:
 - (a) Encouraging or condoning violence or conflict in any way
 - (b) Explicit sexual acts (either in actions or lyrics)
 - (c) Racist content
 - (d) Dangerous (to the audience or the performers)
 - (e) Pyrotechnics or throwing projectiles in to the crowd.
 - (f) Performers who are intoxicated or under the influence of drugs
 2. Healers, teachers, yogis, and others with special talents who would like to do a workshop or a class are invited to submit their applications.
 3. Final selection of artists and participants will be made by appointed Ubuntu members and associates and this selection will be final.
 4. You will be notified when you are selected.
 5. By submitting your information, images and videos, you give Ubuntu permission to share your details and submitted video on this website and on our YouTube channels, and other websites and other distribution methods, and to use in full, or parts thereof, to promote this event or any future events, in perpetuity.
 6. **Payment and remuneration** - All chosen performers and participants, who arrive and deliver their class, lecture or performance, will be rewarded on a profit-share basis, in the Ubuntu way.
 7. Those who do not deliver their performance, lecture or class, will not be eligible for profit distribution.

ness for a new world - to create prosperity and abundance for people everywhere.

On a positive note, the founder of the festival said he was more interested in artists that would sell the Swazi culture and music impeccably well considering

that there would be different countries attending the festival.

Whilst food and accommodation will be provided for all chosen performers and participants, payments will be rewarded on a profit-share basis as revealed by the festival founder, Michael Telling.

Nothando Hlophe live DVD recording tickets out

Stories by Ayanda Dlamini

TICKETS to the Nothando Hlophe live DVD recording at the Soweto Theatre, Johannesburg in April 28 are now available for retail.

This was confirmed by Leserato Events Acting Director Sphiwe Nxumalo yesterday.

Speaking to Nxumalo, tickets are out on sale as of today and available both local and in South Africa.

In the neighbouring country, they are available in all Pick n Pay outlets and Johannesburg City Theatre.

"We are excited to confirm the release of the tickets and we look forward to an amazing night and an even bigger album. Tickets to the DVD Live recording cost E300 for VIP and E 180 for general. We also have tickets online via Webtickets," said Nxumalo.

According to Nxumalo, the move to Soweto is meant to continue to grow Hlophe's career and to bring her closer

...Travelling package costs E1 200

LESERATO Events has provided a reasonable travel package for Nothando Hlophe's fans who would love to witness the songstress recording her live DVD.

"We have prepared travelling packages for those who will be interested in attending the recording from Swaziland

to another assembly of her supporters.

"Her first album was recorded live in Swaziland and who knows where the next is. We are grateful for the support she has received from all of Swaziland and we invite everyone to come through and support her at this recording," Nxumalo added.

Nothando Hlophe affectionately known as 'Khululugcobo', from the Women in Praise and Spirit of Praise volume 6 LIVE recordings, brings her mellifluous sounds to the Soweto Theatre for her debut live DVD recording.

"This recording encompasses a blend

at E1 200 and we look forward to taking our beautiful culture and colour to Soweto in support of our own," said Nxumalo.

The travelling package cost E1 200 and includes transportation to the Johannesburg, accommodation, and a VIP ticket.

of traditional and contemporary gospel sounds. She opted for a venue that embraces diversity and out of her home country.

Tops

Her melodious voice is paramount to why she came tops when she partook in nationwide auditions in her native country. In 2016, she successfully recorded her first album, 'Impilo Yami' which further entrenched her in the hearts of gospel music lovers across the region," said the acting director.



RECORDING: Nothando Hlophe.

DJ Tira here Easter Weekend

By Ayanda Dlamini

ESIBAYENI Lodge, Ronde Vu will come alive on the Easter Weekend as Durban's Afrotainment boss DJ Tira will be playing at the spot.

The show dubbed 'Good Friday with DJ Tira' is scheduled for March 30. This was revealed by SwaziBoy Entertainment's Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane yesterday.

Zwane mentioned that they have a lot planned for the Easter Weekend but for now he can only confirm the 'Good Friday with DJ Tira' show.

"Availability of tickets and supporting acts will be revealed in due course. The public will know soon," Zwane said during an interview.

DJ Tira is not new in the country as he last performed last year in December at Yonuba Lounge. Over the years Tira has been headlining shows all parts of the country, Nhlalango, Pigs Peak, Manzini, Siteki to name a few.

DJ Tira is a South African DJ, entrepreneur, producer, and kwaito artist known

for launching the careers of artists including DJ Fisherman, DJ C'ndo, Tipse and Big Nuz through his music label Afrotainment.

Now he is the sole owner of Afrotainment Project Management that releases music by artists including DJ C'ndo, Big Nuz and AfroSoul.

Worked

In 2010 DJ Tira became the most hectic DJ/Artist as he worked with a lot of artists. The Big Nuz album that he produced won three South African Music awards. Best Kwaito album, Best Album and Song of the year.

The Big Nuz album continues to collect awards with the hit 'Umlilo' that feature DJ Tira as it also won Channel O Best Kwaito Video. 'Umlilo' video has also been nominated for the MTV Music awards taking place in Lagos.

In 2016 Tira headlined a docu-reality show on Mzansi Magic called Ezase Afro, which went behind the scenes of his label Afrotainment, providing an intimate look at how the company became a success.

FOR RONDE VU: DJ Tira.

NACA NOMINATIONS DEADLINE THIS FRIDAY

By Nomfundo Sifundza

THE deadline for the NACAs nominations is just around the corner.

The next step will be the unveiling of nominees to the public on March 16 who will be then voted into winners. The actual awards ceremony is scheduled for April 28.

The nomination procedure is SMSing 5050 to 7900 5050 and follow the instruction. The number is free.

Swazi Mobiles Corporate Communications Manager Macford Sibandze revealed that currently leading categories in number of nominations were choral music, individual artists and culture.

Sibandze thanked the public for the huge response on their voting lines and reminded that this Friday is the closing date for NACAs nominations.

"In hardly six months since inception Swazi Mobile has given out its lines for nomination/voting to a number of organisations. While previously it has not been easy to have access to mobile lines, Swazi Mobile has made it possible through partnership with companies and organisations," added Sibandze.

Organisations and companies which have benefitted from Swazi Mobile's gesture of goodwill include Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture (SNCAC) when it organised Miss Cultural Heritage, Swaziland National Sports Council when it organised its awards, The Excellent Awards, NACAs, Young Buffaloes FC, Mbabane Swallows FC, Manzini Wanderers, etc. Besides the voting lines, other organisations have benefitted from sponsorship partnership from Swazi Mobile. These include Umlilo PTY LTD and Big Five which was perceived as an unprecedented tremendous feat for a new company. Even in the NACA Awards Swazi Mobile topped the list by purchasing six categories.

Commenting on this Sibandze said that it is part of the company's policy to partner with organisations whenever they engage on projects that will impact and transform society. "If you look at our partnerships you realise that they don't only impact on the organisation at hand but also improve the lives of ordinary people. For instance, if you give out 1000 free tickets to individuals you are transforming the sporting industry," Sibandze said.



FULL BAND: Fakazi Samuel and his back up singers captured during the live recording held at Free Evangelical Assemblies in Mbabane on Thursday. (Courtesy Pics)

SAXOPHONIST FAKAZI RECORDS DEBUT ALBUM

By Nomfundo Sifundza

SAXOPHONIST Fakazi Mamba who uses the stage name Fakazi Samuel, last week Thursday recorded his debut album.

The 13 track album titled 'Sabela' was recorded at Free Evangelical Assemblies in the capital city on Thursday evening.

The saxophonist has been over the years, backing other gospel musicians, until he decided to make his own compositions into a compilation.

Fakazi Samuel won the hearts of congregants some time last year when he rendered his compositions at Mbabane Alliance Church where he was part of Linda Dlamini's 'From Lo Debar to the Palace' album tour.

His Manager Phindokuhle Sithole who

is also a band member of afro soul sensation Sands, said Fakazi's music

is well influenced by the team he works with. The saxophonist also attested to this saying "the more you work with different people, the more you

get experience on the different dimensions of music."

During the recording Fakazi Samuel thanked his Manager and Music Director Sithole, "Sithole is the man behind my music, the wonderful team I work with and my beautiful wife I would like to thank you for shaping my music to what it is today."

The recorded album is yet to go through, mastering and full production before it is officially released for retail.

SABELA: Fakazi Samuel surrenders all to God.



IN SONG: Fakazi's back up singers Lebogang Msibi, Tengetile Khoza, Tsandzekile Makama and Kwanele Simelane.

MTN SWAMA AWARDS LAUNCH ON THURSDAY

By Nomfundo Sifundza

THE MTN SWAMA Music Awards second edition will be launched on Thursday.

After last year's successful event that saw artists smiling all the way to Mobile Money outlets and some to even as far as Zanzibar, this year's awards will be launched at the MTN Headquarters and attendance is by invite only.

Last year the inaugural ceremony was launched by the Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini in the presence of the MTN board, the Minister of Sports Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala and the various music industry key players.

The MTN SWAMA Music Awards are made possible by the giant mobile company as the title sponsor whilst it was the brain child of the innovative Swaziland Arts and Music Association (SWAMA.)

Speaking to the president of the association Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini, this year the event will be bigger and better considering that they are host-

ing it for the second time and all precautions have been taken into consideration. A total of 400 hundred artists registered under SWAMA will once again look forward to winning in the biggest award ceremony in the country. The exact date for the awards will be revealed at the launch and so will all details pertaining nominations, voting and vetting.



"Best birthday party ever" - Pumba

By Lusito Tsela

TALENTED photographer Lindani 'Pumba' Dlamini had the time of his life as he celebrated his 23rd birthday at Solani's Shisanyama last Friday night.

This was revealed by the photographer after his birthday party. "I had the time of my life, celebrating with family, close friends, Solani's Shisanyama resident DJs and other talented DJs in the music industry," he said.

The much anticipated birthday party slated for 7pm saw DJs in the likes of E Funk, Ntate, Detrozi, Bloss, Ayacity, M Eugene, Rhythmic Soul, Culolam and Dope Deep to name a few entertaining all the revellers who had come to celebrate with the photographer.

DJ Bloss and Culolam, who are both personal friends to the photographer, gave thrilling sets, playing hit tracks that got the photographer dancing, enjoying his special day.

Pumba who is regarded by most photographers in the country as the next big thing in the photography

industry danced with his better half, his sisters and younger brother who were all in a jovial mood ensuring that the photographer had a great time.

Speaking to the photographer after the party he said, "It all seemed like a movie all over again, having the people I care about celebrating with me on my special day." He continued saying such times make a person appreciate life. "I am grateful to Solani's for providing such a platform. I had a great time, my people had a great time, everyone who attended had a great time and I am forever grateful to Solani's," stated Pumba. On the other hand, Solani's Shisanyama Entertainment Manager Mbekezeli 'Culolam' Dlamini said he was impressed by the turnout. "People came from all corners of the country to have fun with our resident photographer, which really shows the love patrons have for Solani's," said Dlamini.

He further stated that he was happy that everything turned the way they had anticipated.

Dlamini encouraged Solani's patrons to continue being loyal and come in their numbers whenever there is a show, as Solani's will keep providing them with clean and safe fun throughout the year.

ON THE DECKS: DJ Deprozi dishing out some good music.



HERE TO SUPPORT: A section of the crowd that came to support 'Pumba' on his birthday.

WINNERS

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
Blade Runner 2049 - WINNER

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY
Get Out - WINNER

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY
Call Me by Your Name - WINNER

BEST SHORT FILM — LIVE ACTION
The Silent Child - WINNER

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT
Heaven Is a Traffic Jam on the 405 - WINNER

BEST FILM EDITING
Dunkirk - WINNER

BEST VISUAL EFFECTS
Blade Runner 2049 - WINNER

BEST ANIMATED FEATURE
Coco - WINNER

BEST SHORT FILM - ANIMATED
Dear Basketball - WINNER

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
Allison Janney, I, Tonya - WINNER

BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM
A Fantastic Woman - WINNER

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN
The Shape of Water - WINNER

BEST SOUND MIXING
Dunkirk - WINNER

BEST SOUND EDITING
Dunkirk - WINNER

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE
Icarus - WINNER

BEST COSTUME DESIGN
Phantom Thread - WINNER

BEST MAKEUP AND HAIR-STYLING
Darkest Hour - WINNER

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
Sam Rockwell, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri - WINNER

BEST PICTURE
The Shape of Water - WINNER

BEST DIRECTOR
Guillermo del Toro, The Shape of Water - WINNER

BEST ACTRESS
Frances McDormand, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri - WINNER

BEST ACTOR
Gary Oldman, Darkest Hour - WINNER

THERE: Albanian singer Bleona Qereti really wasn't shy as she went bra-less under a sheer embellished gown, revealing her metallic nipple pasties.

FULL 2018 OSCARS



WOW: Whoopi Goldberg came, she saw and she conquered, this was during the Oscar Awards on Sunday. (Eonline)



NICOLE KIDMAN: In Armani Privé



GOLD: Fast and Furious actress Gal Gadot.



OCTAVIA SPENCER: She looked ravishing.



BASIC LOOK: Lala Land actress Emma Stone in Louis Vuitton.



ANOTHER GOLD: Sandra Bullock also came wearing Louis Vuitton.

WINNERS LIST:

WELL DRESSED:
Armie Hammer
in Armani.



THE BLACK PANTHER: Chadwick Boseman, the Black Panther himself.



SIMPLE: Taraji P. Henson looking decent in black.



BEAUTIFUL: Ashley Graham and her husband of eight years, Justin Ervin looked seriously sexy as they held hands and kissed.



SMART: Common dressed in Armani.



ELEGANT: Viola Davis wearing Michael Kors.

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Celebrity News

50 Cent to Rick Ross if he dies, he dies

NEW YORK - 50 Cent just posted a shocking picture that is clearly directed at his longtime, mortal enemy Rick Ross.

The picture he posted is of Ivan Drago from "Rocky IV" - the precise scene is when Drago is standing over Apollo Creed as Creed is dying. Drago says, "If he dies, he dies."

The implication is clear... at least to a swar m of people v ho have interpreted this as a direct shot at Rick. As you know, TMZ broke the story... Rick is in the hospital hooked up to a machine that is performing heart and lung func-



POSTED: 50 Cent and Rick Ross.

tions. 50 and Ross have had a long-standing, bitter feud.

It got so bad, 50 once posted a sex tape of one of Rick's baby mamas which brought their war to a fever pitch. *TMZ*

Khloe Kardashian reveals she's having a girl

LOS ANGELES- The Kardashian clan is adding another girl to the family! Khloe Kardashian is having a baby girl.

The pregnant E! star found out the sex of her and Tristan Thompson's first child together on tonight's season finale of Keeping Up With the Kardashians.

While on a trip to San Francisco with sisters Kim Kardashian and Kourtney Kardashian, Kylie Jenner calls Khloe to deliver the results from Khloe's doctor.

"You're having a girl!" an excited Kylie tells Khloe over the phone.

"You're lying!" Khloe immediately says in disbelief.

"I'm not lying," Kylie squeals.

"I'm so excited for you Khloe!"

"I don't feel like I'm having a girl," a disappointed Khloe responds.

Eonline

IT'S A GIRL: Khloe Kardashian.



Jimmy Kimmel wins over Oscars viewers

HOLLYWOOD - Jimmy Kimmel returned to the stage as he hosted the Oscars for the second year in a row on Sunday.

But after a tense year in show business, the late night host found himself walking a delicate line.

Kimmel joked about the many men in Hollywood accused of sexual misconduct since Harvey Weinstein, by joking about the Oscar statue.

"Oscar is a very respected man in Hollywood, just look at him. Keeps his hands where you can see them, never says a rude word, and most importantly no penis," he said,



BACK ON STAGE: Jimmy Kimmel.

adding, "He is truly a statue of limitations." Kimmel also marked the incredible rise seen recently by women in the industry.

DailyMail

R Kelly tricked woman into oral sex

NEW YORK - A down on her luck woman is claiming that R Kelly tricked her - for oral relations.

The woman gave EXPLICIT details on what happened.

R Kelly met her after playing Basketball, and asked her to get in his truck. He offered \$3 000 to get oral sex in exchange.

She said she didn't want to do it but at the time she really needed the money.

While in the truck he started raising his voice and being demanding about her giving him the oral sex saying "If you want the money, you are going to have to give me oral sex". He was very 'aggressive'.



TRICKER: R Kelly.

The way he was looking at her, she added he is the kind of person who could get 'violent' if he didn't have his way.

She says this because the way he was looking at her and talking to her in a very aggressive and demanding way.

DailyMail

SA Celebrity News

Black Motion wants R3.7m after 'racist' incident

JOHANNESBURG - Award-winning music group Black Motion are planning to launch a R3.7m lawsuit against Comair after being escorted off a plane, allegedly because of the colour of their skin.

City Press is reporting that Thabo "Smol" Mabogwane and Bongani "Murda" Mohosana, as well as two members of their team, Nicky Seema and JJ Nchabeleng have accused Comair, which owns the British Airways franchise in South Africa, of racism, public humiliation and falsely accusing them of terrorism. In December TshisaLIVE



FIGHT BACK: Black Motion.

reported that Thabo and Bongani were booked into business class and seated when an air hostess asked them to move to economy because a white woman's seat was broken and she needed to move seats. *TshisaLive*

This is how Nasty C got his name

CAPE TOWN - From bungee jumping to signing an exclusive deal with Universal Music - turning 21 has brought Nasty C only good things.

Growing up in the township of Illovo in KwaZulu-Natal, Nasty learnt the basics of producing music from his brother, Siyabonga Ngcobo, and a friend called Whisper when he was nine years old.

"If I wasn't as confident as I am, I would've quit a long time ago," Nasty C, whose real name is Nsikayesizwe David Junior Ngcobo, admits. "I had a lot of people bashing me, telling me I sound like I'm from the [United] States. They used to say I was fake."



GOOD THINGS: Nasty C.

But the name we all know him for came from Nasty's antics as a child. A big fan of rappers Lil Wayne and TI, he would rap their songs complete with all the swear words - which is how he got his name. "I didn't even know half the stuff I was rapping about," he says. *Drum*

Monea opens up

JOHANNESBURG - As she embarks on a massive musical return, songbird Monea has opened up about the pain and despair that saw her disappear from the industry for a while.

The Yekela hitmaker released her first single in two years recently, a remake of her track *Ziphi Inkomo*.

She said the song, which centres around the wait for *lobola*, became a strong metaphor for her life and career in music.

"It became a song about stagnation because I felt that I had stagnated.

I had tasted success and the kind of recognition I wanted in my career but I suddenly saw those around me being elevated while I stayed behind."

She said a number of events prevented her from releasing the original song as a single, leaving her frustrated and depressed. "I lost hope and cried myself to sleep."

TimesLive

REVEALS: Monea.

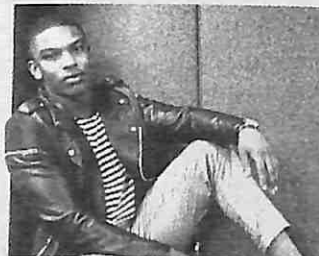


Thabang plays with screen royalty

JOHANNESBURG - Thabang Molaba stakes his claim as the king of the castle in *The Queen*.

The young actor appeared for the first time on the popular Mzansi Magic soapie last year as Gift Mabuza, the troubled son of Gracious Mabuza (played by Rami Chuene), only to disappear after a few weeks. He resurfaced on Wednesday night much to the delight of fans. But finding his place among acting giants Connie and Shona Ferguson, Themba Ndaba and Thembsie Matu was daunting at first.

"I was uncomfortable and self-conscious for the longest time. I mean I grew up watching these people



BACK: Thabang Molaba.

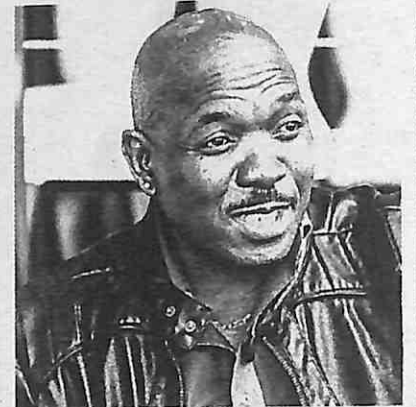
while at school and now I'm working with them. It's been a journey of growth, and above all I'm learning. "I may be on a big show but I still have to work my way up. My focus is on continuously improving my craft and that's not a destination but a continuous goal."

Sowetan

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY



BAD SPACE: Judas.

Will Judas and Beauty's relationship crumble over her recent actions? Thandeka is concerned that Siphokazi's condition might be more serious than they think.

ISIDINGO

TODAY

Nikiwe makes contact with Benjamin. Anja is head over heels in love with Benjamin. Gabriel finally swallows his pride and accepts a job he once thought is beneath him.



CONTACT: Nikiwe.

Muvhango

TODAY



Tenda is a no show for the uvhuisa and drives Lihuwani to do something she is going to regret. Gugu prepares to leave for New York but struggles to leave the relationship she has with Rashaka. Konanani hears a conversation that is not for her ears.

IN LOVE: Rashaka.

RHYTHM CITY

TODAY



TOGETHER: Mampho.

Nomalanga's behaviour gets more erratic. Rene unnerves Mampho as they move in together. Mapula meets a new boy.



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

A lot of effort, energy, and enthusiasm that you've put into various business or personal projects in the past could finally pay off today. Don't be surprised if you receive some unexpected praise or acknowledgement for your work.

**Cancer June 22 – July 22**

One or more exciting new people could come into your life today, perhaps through friends or group activities of some kind. They might actually visit you in your home. Expect to be inspired and motivated by your contact with these people and others, Cancer, and to have a lot of new possibilities for your future running through your head.

**Aquarius January 20 – February 18**

Unexpected communications from people far away could open up new opportunities regarding career, education, travel, or other broadening experiences. As a result, Aquarius, new friendships could develop, as well as new ideas and possibly exciting new goals. Modern technology could play a major role in this development.

**Pisces February 19 – March 20**

Career and business continue to play a powerful role in your life now, as new ideas, new people, and considerations as mundane as modern equipment open up new doors for you, Pisces. In addition, romantic involvements could intensify. If you're currently committed to someone, expect to grow closer. If you're involved but not exclusive, a proposal could be on the horizon.

**Aries March 21 – April 19**

Sudden changes in your romantic situation could occur today, Aries. If you're currently committed to someone, expect some surprising propositions from your partner. If you're involved but not committed, a marriage proposal might be in the picture. If you aren't currently involved, you could meet someone new and exciting under unusual circumstances. Make sure you look your best today, even if you're only running down to the supermarket!

**Taurus April 20 – May 20**

As the world economy continues to boom, Taurus, don't be surprised if you're surrounded by new work possibilities. More than one chance to increase your income could come your way today. The problem will be wading through all these opportunities and trying to decide which is the most appealing and workable for you.

**Gemini May 21 – June 21**

You should be feeling especially creative at this time. Social events could put you in touch with some exciting new people, Gemini. Contact with those in interesting professions could open up new personal and intellectual avenues to explore today. New friends could come your way, and your romantic situation should intensify.

**Sagittarius November 22 – December 21**

Today should find you continuing to work toward cherished career and other goals. Love matters may come to the forefront, Sagittarius. If you're currently involved, unexpected events could bring you that much closer to your partner. If you aren't involved, you could meet someone exciting, perhaps through some kind of group activities.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



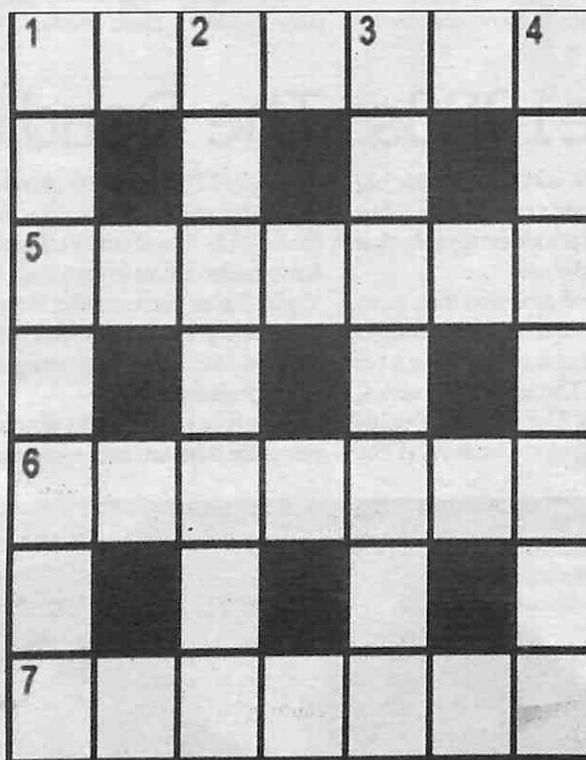
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



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?



Down

- Go back to a previous state
- Messenger
- Write music
- Adjure

Across

- Use again after processing
- Gastronome
- Paradigm
- Excess

LOL Laughing Out Loud

Dirty teacher

Little Johnny was sitting in class doing math problems when his teacher picked him to answer a question, "Johnny, if there were five birds sitting on a fence and you shot one with your gun, how many would be left?" "None," replied Johnny, "cause the rest would fly away." "Well, the answer is four," said the teacher, "but I like the way you're thinking." Little Johnny says, "I have a question for you."

If there were three women eating ice cream cones in a shop, one was licking her cone, the second was biting her cone and the third was sucking her cone, which one is married?" "Well," said the teacher nervously, "I guess the one sucking the cone." "No," said Little Johnny, "the one with the wedding ring on her finger, but I like the way you're thinking."

USELESS FACTS

- Chicken today contains 266 per cent more fat than it did 40 years ago.
- Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying!
- Smelling bananas and/or green apples (smelling, not eating) can help you lose weight!
- Eating lemons make you live longer.
- Eating one meal of fish a week reduces your chances of getting a heart attack by 50 per cent.

BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's brainteasers

- How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it?
- If a doctor gives you three pills and tells you to take one pill every half hour, how long would it take before all the pills had been taken?

Answer: One hour! Take the first pill right away, half an

hour later take the second and half an hour after that the third. Total time spent: one hour!

Today's brainteasers

- If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it?
- If Mr Smith's peacock lays an egg in Mr Jones' yard, who owns the egg?



DStv
Feel every moment

NEWS



THE WEEKEND ON 1MAGIC SATURDAY

The Bachelor Season 22 at 19h00 [Episode 5]

One lucky man gets the opportunity to find the woman of his dreams and hopefully his bride-to-be in this one-hour prime time reality series.

Invite Only Cabo Season 1 at 21h00 [Episode 1 – Tick Tick Boom]

Celebrity hair stylist, Larry Sims, hosts a luxury vacation in Cabo San Lucas Mexico, for six very different friends, each from various parts of his life.

Unmarried Season 1 at 22h00 [Episode 2 – Heartbreak Hotel]

As Dikeledi discovers more secrets about Donald, she is forced to make a tough decision. Later, Asanda is consoled by financial gain, as Kenneth's makes his feelings known.



SUNDAY, 11 MARCH

The River Season 1 at 19h00 [Episode 30]

The Mokoenas learn about the person who killed Thato. Zweli and Lindiwe's marriage is on the rocks. Later, Tumi and Lindani pave a way to each other's hearts.

Uthando Nes'thembu Season 2 at 19h30 [Episode 10]

A reality show that dives into the topic of polygamy. Set in KZN, this is one man's story about how he views polygamy and what his four wives and his family mean to him.

Uyang'thanda Na? Season 2 at 20h00 [Episode 10 - Pilot]

After the success of Love Back comes another dating show, Uyang'thanda Na?, which will help people confront their fears by telling their crushes how they really feel.

Ikhaya Season 1 at 21h00 [Episode 10 – Worlds Collide]

Lindani is devastated and he decides there is no other way out. Mosima tries to save her friend.



BB NAIJA: HOUSEMATES TO BE PAIRED IN WEEK 7

THE Big Brother Naija 2018, remaining inside the house will be unpaired and will play the game as individuals starting from week seven to the end of the show's grand finale.

This comes after the housemates were first paired in the early days of the show, they were

once again re-paired at the beginning of week four, but now BB Naija has decided that housemates will be playing the game as individuals this week "I would like to be more than friends with Ahneeka," said Angel.

This simply means that all the pairs will be no more and the

housemates will now participate in the nominations as single individuals, it also means that the housemates will be evicted as individuals.

Now this comes as good news to a lot of viewers who have wanted this during the past few weeks.

So if you are there and would wish to watch your favourite housemate playing the game as an individual, then what you have to do is simple. Just make sure that you vote for your favourite housemate this week so that they make it to week seven, which is actually next week.

The 1980s: The Deadliest Decade

THE 80's was known for big money, hair and attitude...but there was a hidden agenda that plagued the era.

Greed and ambition took over, and the United States was subject to the biggest crime wave ever recorded. The upcoming series, The 1980s: The Deadliest Decade on Investigation Discovery (DStv

channel 171) reveals the damning reality and darkest secrets of the 80's US 'blood era'. Fear and terror taunted most in the town of Wylie, Texas; young mother Betty Gore was gruesomely murdered with an axe, something straight out of a slasher film.

Meanwhile in Libertyville, Illinois, one of the richest couples is gunned

down in their home, leaving everyone in the community dismayed and confused. This true-crime series reveals the violence of a time that was as rich with nostalgia as it was fraught with violence.

Catch The 1980s: The Deadliest Decade, on ID (DStv 171) from Friday, at 22:00 to find out the secrets that the 1980s holds.



AMVCA'S ARE BACK

SIXTH edition of the Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards is proudly sponsored by Konga; supported by Nokia and Heritage Bank.

Following months of speculation and anticipation, Africa Magic in association with MultiChoice, are proud to announce the call to entry for the 2018 edition of the Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards (AMVCAs), the prestigious initiative that honours film and TV talent across the continent. Billed to take place on 1 September, this year's edition of the AMVCAs is proudly sponsored by Konga and supported by Nokia and Heritage Bank.

The AMVCAs were created to celebrate the contribution of African filmmakers, actors and technicians in the success of the continent's film and television industry and with the success of the previous five editions, preparations are in top gear for the 2018 edition. Entries for the AMVCAs open on 1 March and close on 30 April.

Wangi Mba-Uzoukwu, Director for M-Net West Africa, said: "Nearly one year after the last AMVCAs, we are pleased to announce the call to entry for 2018 edition of the Awards."

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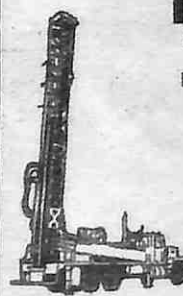
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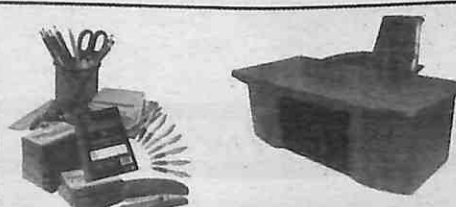
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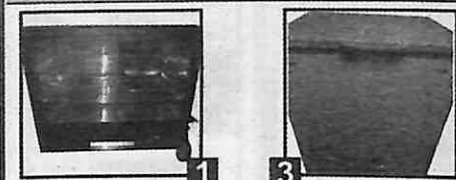
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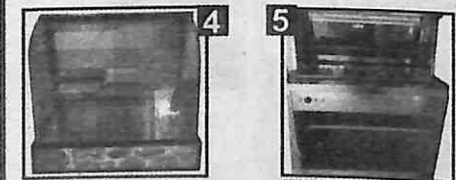
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Messi scores his 600th career goal with a signature free kick

BARCELONA - Barcelona have one hand on the La Liga title after Lionel Messi's sensational free-kick earned them a deserved 1-0 victory over Atletico Madrid on Sunday.

Atletico arrived at the Camp Nou on the back of eight consecutive wins but Barca halted the surge and instead restored their own lead at the top to eight points, with 11 games left to play.

Messi proved the difference again, his bending first-half strike worthy of winning any contest and taking his own career tally to an astonishing 600 goals, 539 for Barca and 61 for Argentina.

The only blot on a dominant Barcelona performance was an injury to Andres Iniesta, who had to be substituted after 34 minutes with what the club confirmed was a strain in the back of his thigh.

Iniesta now has 10 days to recover before next week's Champions League second leg against Chelsea.

The build-up to this contest, labelled 'the Grand Final' by sections of the



MILESTONE: Barcelona star Lionel Messi.

Spanish press, was driven by talk of a Barcelona dip following three draws in five league games, with the in-form Atletico primed to move within two points of their rivals.

But Diego Simeone's strategy of absorbing and counter failed to pay off here

and, in the end, the visitors might easily have been beaten by a more emphatic scoreline.

Atletico striker Antoine Griezmann, meanwhile, who came in with seven goals in two games, was largely anonymous. **AFP**

Russia to shut down factories for World Cup

MOSCOW - Russia is overruling fearful big business owners and looking to shut down dozens of gigantic factories to avert accidents and the threat of terror attacks during this year's 2018 Soccer World Cup.

The halt in production highlights the financial sacrifice Russia is preparing to make when it hosts football's showpiece event for the first time from June 14.

But it also betrays concerns that something will go awry and a readiness to use heavy-handed tactics that could see thousands of workers going unpaid for at least five weeks.

Security analysts warn that shuttering chemical plants and other high-risk enterprises is simply dangerous.

The move is "a typical top-down

order to make things look pretty that has nothing to do with actual safety," said veteran security analyst Pavel Felgenhauer.

"This is traditional Soviet showmanship." China closed polluting plants and coal mines for two months

across swathes of the country in 2008 to ensure the smog cleared over Beijing for the Summer Olympics.

But Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision appears to stem from a fear of industrial accidents and the threat of plants being attacked or blown up.

"The threats of an accident and terror are

closely related," Moscow's FBK Grant Thornton consultancy director Igor Nikolayev said.

AFP



Henrique shuts down talk of Neymar

PARIS - Paris Saint-Germain Sporting Director Antero Henrique insists Neymar will not be joining Real Madrid this summer.

Speculation has been rife that the Champions League holders are ready to test PSG's resistance in a bid to strengthen their attacking resources, with Zinedine Zidane's side languishing in third place in La Liga and having finished second to Tottenham in their Champions League group.

Real got the better of their French opponents in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie and defend a 3-1 lead going into the return fixture at the Parc des Princes this week.

Neymar is not available, having recently undergone surgery on a broken metatarsal picked up in the Ligue 1 victory against Marseille.

His absence is a huge blow to Unai Emery's side, but Henrique is positive they will not be losing him on a permanent basis any time soon. "Obviously he's going to stay with PSG next season," he told L'Equipe.

"His father said that two or three days ago: he's happy in Paris. His project is to stay here. He's here to play and score goals." There have been plenty of rumours circulating in Spanish papers that Neymar is looking for a return to the country having left Barcelona for Paris, and that he could be a long-term successor to Cristiano Ronaldo at Real.

Daily Mail



NO MOVE: Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar.

Blitzbok Cecil Afrika named in Las Vegas Dream Team

LAS VEGAS - Cecil Afrika was the only member of the Blitzboks team to make the Dream Team following the conclusion of the Las Vegas Sevens on Sunday (yesterday SA time).

The Blitzboks finished fourth in Las Vegas after losing their semi-final against the vastly improved Argentina.

The USA, the eventual winners have three representatives in the Dream Team. They are Ben Pinkelman, Danny Barrett and Perry Baker.

Luke Morgan, Wales' all-time record try-scorer, is the only player from Europe in the elite team.

Jerry Tuwai, the Fiji skipper, has



again been named in a Dream Team combination.

Las Vegas runners-up Argentina have Matias Osadczuk in the team and Afrika completes the seven-man team.

Meanwhile, Afrika's teammate Siviwe Soyizwapi made the Top Tryscorers' list at the tournament at the Sam Boyd

Stadium. The former SA Rugby Sevens Academy captain is in joint second place after crossing the whitewash seven times. The hosts' Perry Baker tops the list with nine tries while Soyizwapi shares second place with Luke Morgan (Wales). **African News Agency**

Sneijder takes international retirement

THE HAGUE - Dutch midfielder Wesley Sneijder has decided to end his international football career after 14 years and a record 133 caps during a golden era for his country.

Alongside Arjen Robben, Robin van Persie and Mark van Bommel, Sneijder propelled the

Netherlands to the 2010 World Cup final where an extra-time goal from Andres Iniesta saw Spain win the title.

At 33, Sneijder signed with Qatari outfit Al Gharafa in January after a poor six-month stint at Nice in France.

The Netherlands suffered the indignity of failing to qualify for the 2018 World Cup despite having reached the 2014 semi-finals. They recently appointed Ronald Koeman as the new national coach.

The former Barcelona defender went to see Sneijder in Qatar this weekend. "I understand that Koeman wants a

fresh start with younger players. We spoke openly about it and I respect his decision," said Sneijder.

He played at three European championships and three World Cups in the orange shirt and in his prime was both a masterful long-range passer and slick finisher.

In club football he starred for Ajax, Real Madrid and above all Inter Milan, with whom he won a Serie A, Italian Cup and Champions League treble in 2010.

He also won league titles in his homeland, Spain and Turkey. **AFP**

RETIRED: Dutch midfielder Wesley Sneijder.



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BRIEFS

FA chief sorry for 'offensive' comment

LONDON - English Football Association Chief Executive Martin Glenn apologised yesterday for "offensive" comments he made comparing the Jewish Star of David with symbols such as the Nazi swastika. Glenn's remarks, criticised by a leading member of Britain's Jewish community, came as he tried to justify the FA's decision to charge Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola for wearing a yellow ribbon in support of jailed Catalan independence leaders.

AFP

Moyes issues relegation warning to Hammers

LONDON - West Ham United boss David Moyes warned his players that "none of us will still be here" if their Premier League slide continues in the final stretch of the season. Consecutive 4-1 defeats at Liverpool and Swansea City leaves West Ham just three points above the relegation zone with nine matches remaining. "They have been told this was miles and miles away from where I'm going - or they are going,"

Reuters

Henry ready to step in on Wenger's 'last word'

LONDON - Arsenal great Thierry Henry has said he would not "back down from a challenge" if a vacancy arose to succeed Arsene Wenger as Manager of the Gunners. However, Henry is desperate for his under-fire fellow Frenchman to have the "last word" on an Arsenal career that started back when Wenger took charge of the north London club in 1996.

AFP

Ox taking inspiration from Salah

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool midfielder Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain admits he takes inspiration from team-mate Mohamed Salah's incredible goal-scoring form this season. Salah has bagged 24 goals and provided nine assists in his 28 Premier League appearances in his first season at Anfield, and Oxlade-Chamberlain has used it as motivation to improve his own game.

Sport24



LONDON - EVERTON are set to offer Arsene Wenger an immediate return to Premier League management if he is sacked by Arsenal.

Wenger's Arsenal reign hit its lowest point as his side crashed to defeat at Brighton, the first time they have lost four games on the trot in 16 years.

The 'Wenger Out' banners were out in force at the Amex

Stadium while sections of Arsenal's travelling fans chanted for the axe to fall.

But the under-fire boss is wanted by Everton owner Farhad Moshiri, who feels Wenger is the ideal candidate to revive the Merseyside club's fortunes.

Asked if he feared his long reign as Gunners boss was coming to an end, Wenger replied: "I don't want to talk about my

future today. At the moment, my future is not my main worry.

"My worry is to get Arsenal winning football games. Then we'll see where we go from there. I'll try and give my best as long as I am here."

It remains to be seen whether Arsenal's board are ready to show Wenger the door, either before the end of the season or in the summer when his con-

I barely got a touch - Eden

LONDON - Eden Hazard has said he wouldn't have touched the ball if Chelsea played Manchester City for 'three hours' as fresh doubts begin to grow over his future.

It's the second time in as many weeks the Belgian has been openly critical of boss Antonio

Conte's tactics after he was chosen to play as a false-nine.

The Blues were blown away by City on Sunday and Hazard wasn't happy with the way his side performed in the match which saw them slip five-points off the top-four places.

"I wouldn't have got a touch

even if we played for three hours, even if we improved in the last 10 or 15 minutes," the Belgium international said after the match. "We were better with the ball, but we needed to do that during the whole match."

"For me personally, it's hard to play well if you only get the ball three times".

Mirror

'Could not have imagined title runaway'

MANCHESTER - Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola said he never imagined his team would run away with the Premier League title as they are doing this season.

City are 18 points clear of second-placed Liverpool after beating Chelsea 1-0 at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday and need just four wins from their final nine games to be sure of the title.

Asked whether he felt such a season of dominance could be possible, Guardiola said: "Before? No way. No way, no. Who could believe it? I think if you ask the players, the players (couldn't believe it) neither," he said.

"In terms of not just the results but the way we played, today was another demonstration. We showed the same desire as at Stamford Bridge. That is what pleases me the most."

"To have the distance, 25 to Chelsea, 33 to Arsenal, Tottenham, Liverpool and United, they have had good results and kept a good pace. We are so far so good. I think it is a consequence of the way we play. The way we play today is a bit similar to what we have done (this season)," he said.

With nine games remaining, City who are on 78 points, have a chance to become the first team to break the 100-points barrier in the history of the English top flight.

Guardiola said, though, that his focus was not on records but on securing silverware.

"We are not going to play for the records. Records are always a consequence of what you have done but they are not the main thing."

"What really matters is to be champions. I never spoke with the players about the records. Next week at Stoke we are going to try and play like we play all season. After, at the end, we will see," he said. *Daily Mail*

tract will still have one more year to run.

But Iranian billionaire Moshiri is already preparing for life without Sam Allardyce, who looks on borrowed time at Everton after they slumped to their sixth successive away defeat at Watford on Saturday.

And Wenger is top of Moshiri's list for the rebuilding job at Goodison Park.

Prior to Moshiri's Goodison investment he was involved in Arsenal, owning 15 per cent of the club alongside Uzbek-born Russian business magnate Alisher Usmanov.

Despite Everton's interest, Wenger, 68, maintains he is still the man to rejuvenate Arsenal.

"I've done it before," he said. "I believe a quality of manager is to try and shorten a crisis, and I believe I can do that."

Those Arsenal supporters calling for his head will take some convincing, while Arsenal skipper Laurent Koscielny claimed Wenger must take his share of the blame.

"The player has responsibility on the pitch and the boss has responsibility too" said Koscielny.

"We need to be together. It's difficult to say it's his fault or our fault. It's everyone in the club."

Wenger attempted to explain their slump on the pain of losing the Carabao Cup final to Manchester City 3-0, before going down to the champions elect by the same scoreline in the Premier League last Thursday.

He added: "I can understand the frustration. The League Cup in the middle of the season makes it difficult if you don't win it. It brings a lot of negative waves." *Daily Mail*

'Rashford's lack of action won't wreck striker's WC hopes'

MANCHESTER - Jose Mourinho insists Marcus Rashford's World Cup hopes will not be wrecked by his lack of action for Manchester United.

With the tournament three months away, England boss Gareth Southgate is known to be concerned the striker is not playing enough.

Rashford - set to be a substitute again for yesterday's trip to Crystal Palace - has made just 13 league starts this season, his last being on Boxing Day.

Since then, he has been on the pitch at kick-off only twice - against lower-league opponents in the FA Cup - and has had to be content with cameo roles from the bench.

Southgate is still set to pick him for next month's friendlies against Holland and Italy, although he is worried by the amount of time the 20-year-old is spending on the sidelines.

But Mourinho, who met Southgate at United's training complex last Friday, said Rashford's World Cup fate will ultimately come down to how much trust the England boss has in him, not how many games he starts for the Reds. "Sometimes I see it's in doubt if he's going to be selected for the World Cup," said Mourinho. "You know, if the national coach trusts him, he selects him. It doesn't matter if he plays or doesn't play. There are many examples of players who don't play for their clubs at all and they go to the national teams."

"You have the example of Sergio Romero, who is the second goalkeeper at Manchester United and the first goalkeeper for such an amazing football country like Argentina."

Daily Mail





'My grandma doesn't have to come score goals'

CAPE TOWN - Cape Town City coach Benni McCarthy is delighted to see his side return to winning and scoring form after they defeated Chippa United 2-0 last weekend.

The Citizens ended a run of four defeats in a row against the Chilli Boys as goals from Ayanda Patosi and Lyle Lakay ensured the three points went to the outfit from the Mother City.

The result sees City move up to sixth in the table whilst Chippa dropped to 11th and subsequently parted ways with coach Teboho Moloi.

Nonetheless, McCarthy takes the view that the victory is much needed and added he would not need to call on his late grandmother to come and convert chances in attack.

After a recent defeat to Baroka, the 40-year-old suggested his deceased family member would be more effective at finding the back of the net.

He said: "We've played some nice football, but obviously the lack of goals has been disappointing, so now my grandma doesn't have to come from her grave and come and score goals for us". *Sport24*



OPTIMISTIC: Steve Komphela giving out instructions during the derby on Saturday.

'WE ARE ARTISTS SO WE CANNOT STOP THE SHOW'

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs coach Steve Komphela says his team are still in contention to win the league title despite losing to arch enemy Orlando Pirates 3-1 in an entertaining Soweto Derby on Saturday afternoon.

The defeat sees Chiefs drop down to fifth position, with Free State Stars and Maritzburg United climbing above them into third and fourth spot on the table respectively.

"Are we lagging behind a bit, yes. It was a massive opportunity for us to get closer to Sundowns. Orlando Pirates are there, it is a hell

of a confidence boost for them. It could have been for us. That is the beauty of football," Komphela told journalists at the post match press conference.

With just seven matches to go they are now eight points behind leaders, Mamelodi Sundowns.

Regret

"We regret the fact that we lost the match. Our fourth loss in the season and the manner in which we lost it, completely uncharacteristic of us. We do not concede many goals and today we conceded three obviously against a good team,"

Komphela said.

Nonetheless, Komphela says the 21 points still on offer means they cannot throw in the towel.

"You still have to remain positive. In any scenario where mathematically you are in. You still have to keep pushing."

He continued, "We have a huge responsibility to keep delivering. We are performers, we are artists so we cannot stop the show. We have to keep performing. We do not know what is going to happen in the other matches."

Sport24

BRIEFS

More pain for Komphela as contract about to run out

JOHANNESBURG - Steve Komphela looked for positives when there were barely any post Orlando Pirates' 3-1 demolition of his Kaizer Chiefs side at the weekend. Therefore, staying in character, the coach offered some Komphelaisms - maybe as a way to deflect the attention away from the fact that he might vacate the Amakhosi post at the end of the season without winning a significant Soweto Derby. Komphela's contract at Chiefs runs out in June.

The Star

We want to heal the souls of supporters - Micho

JOHANNESBURG - Milutin "Micho" Sredojevic is starting to get annoyed at being constantly asked why he is playing down Orlando Pirates' chances of winning the league even though they are in second place, four points behind log-leaders Mamelodi Sundowns. "Once more I am telling you, and I am explaining myself for the last time on this matter, we are going match by match," Sredojevic said after Pirates' 3-1 win over Kaizer Chiefs in the Soweto Derby on Saturday at FNB Stadium. "The souls of our supporters are in pain from their sufferings of the past. Even myself (as a Pirates fan), I suffered before I came here. It wasn't easy. In a rare move I spoke with our chairman (Irvin Khoza) after we conceded six goals against Sundowns last season."

THE STAR

Pienaar reveals why he retired from Bafana

JOHANNESBURG - Former Bafana Bafana captain Steven Pienaar says incidents that happened behind closed doors and the treatment he received over the years in the national team camp led him to leaving Bafana Bafana.

Pienaar announced that he will no longer play for Bafana Bafana in 2012, having taken over the captain's armband from Aron Mokoena. "There was a build-up, over the years, there were a lot of things happening in the camps behind the scenes. For example before Pitso lost his job, I was on holiday and I had rush back to join the team, I told the doctor I had problems with my back and the doctor said I will have someone look at it, so we went to a gym in Rustenburg."

Citizen

Memela's star is rising and a Bafana call-up not far off

JOHANNESBURG - Luvuyo Memela's tough journey to stardom, littered with injuries and disappointments, makes him savour every moment of his good run at Orlando Pirates that led to his coach arguing he deserves a Bafana Bafana call-up.

The Buccaneers' coach Milutin "Micho" Sredojevic revealed that it was hard to put Memela on the bench in Saturday's Soweto Derby clash against arch-rivals Kaizer Chiefs, especially since he is among their top three performers this year.

What consoled Sredojevic on that decision was that Memela started on the bench as a secret weapon that would help them finish strong.

The 30-year-old made an immediate

impact, scoring seconds into his introduction in the second half and then went on to complete a brace that helped the Sea Robbers sail to a 3-1 win.

"I remember when I came and the first man-management interview I did with him," Sredojevic said.

"I know the hardships he has gone through with the injuries and everything. I remember in the first match we played a lot of people blamed him for not passing the ball in a certain situation. We have believed in him and we gave him full support.

He has worked very hard and I can guarantee with my life that this form he is in hasn't come from the sky.

He has worked very hard. It was sweat, tears and blood. I just request that he

shouldn't get carried away by this.

I can present you statistics from all possible angles that show that he is a player who deserves to wear the jersey of Bafana Bafana with the upcoming FIFA dates in March."

The Star



CAF invite Pitso to complete Pro License

CAPE TOWN - The Confederation of African Football (CAF) have invited Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane to take part in the UEFA Pro License which is set to take place in Morocco from March 12 to 14.

Mosimane has seen his stock rise in Africa in recent years after claiming the Champions League trophy in 2016. As such, CAF have extended a personal invitation to the 53-year-old to come and complete his license.

The qualification is regarded as the highest coaching badge available in world football and generally follows the completion of the UEFA 'B' and 'A' licenses. Downs' official website said: "Sundowns'

CAF Champions League campaign started on the good note with coach Pitso Mosimane receiving an invitation from CAF's President Ahmad Ahmad to take part in the Pro License course that will be held in Rabat.

"The Pro License is the highest qualification of football coaches and is part of the progressive logic for those who have already passed the CAF C, B and A licenses."

Sport24

PSL ANNOUNCES NEW RESERVE LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION

JOHANNESBURG - The new Multichoice Diski Shield competition is set to kick-off on April 7 and will run until May 5, Premier Soccer League (PSL) Chairman Irvin Khoza announced yesterday.

The competition comes just after the MDC league ended recently with Golden Arrows being crowned champions for the second time since it started four years ago.

With the 16 PSL teams set to take part, the clubs have been divided to four groups according to their respective regions to cut costs and will play each other once with the group winners set to go through to the semi-finals, which will be played in a two-leg tie.

"The Eastern Cape team will join

up with KwaZulu-Natal clubs, the Free State with the Western Cape, the North teams will play against each other and the central teams will battle each other which makes it easy for cost-effectiveness," said Khoza.

The central region will consist of Orlando Pirates, Kaizer Chiefs, Platinum Stars and Bidvest Wits, while the Coastal East sees AmaZulu, Golden Arrows, Maritzburg United and Chippa United.

The Coastal West stream consists of Cape Town City, Ajax Cape Town, Bloemfontein Celtic and Free State Stars.

Lastly, the sides of the Northern region include Mamelodi Sundowns, SuperSport United, Polokwane City and Baroka FC. *Citizen*



ANNOUNCES: Premier Soccer League Chairman Irvin Khoza.

PSG represents test of Zidane's faith in Bale

PARIS - Gareth Bale became Real Madrid's second top-scorer for the season on Saturday night but it is today in Paris when he will discover where he truly sits in the pecking order.

Real take a 3-1 advantage into their Champions League last 16 second leg against Paris Saint-Germain, with Bale not guaranteed to start what is potentially a season-defining match for Los Blancos.

Adrift in La Liga and out of the cups, success for Real in 2017-18 now depends entirely on their exploits in Europe. Zinedine Zidane's future as coach may also be tied to them lifting the trophy in May.

It leaves the Frenchman with no room for error at the Parc des Princes, where an absence of Bale would represent the surest indication yet of a lack of trust when it matters most.

Bale could hardly have done more in Saturday's 3-1 win over Getafe.

Scoring

He opened the scoring, his eighth goal in 13 league starts this season, and would have finished with two but for a bending shot nicking the outside of the post. In the final rehearsal before PSG, he was brave, bold and industrious.

It is no coincidence that this improved performance came after Zidane deployed the Welshman in his more natural position of advanced midfielder, rather than the lone striker role he was mysteriously presented with in last week's dreary defeat to Espanyol.

Real were poor, and Bale spent much of the game with his back to goal.

Reuters



Investigation opened into Astori death

UDINE - A judicial inquiry has been launched following the death of 31-year-old Italian footballer Davide Astori, whose autopsy was carried out yesterday.

Italy was in shock following the sudden death of the captain of Fiorentina who played for his country 14 times. "We have opened a manslaughter investigation, against X for the moment," Antonio de Nicolò, a Magistrate in the northeastern city of Udine, told Rai radio, adding that such a procedure was "mandatory".

He also said arrangements were in place to perform an autopsy, which according to Italian media, including *Gazzetta dello Sport*, was done

NO MORE: Italian footballer Davide Astori.



yesterday.

Astori was found dead in a hotel room on Sunday in Udine, where his team was due to play Udinese in a Serie A match. De Nicolò was quoted on Sunday as saying Astori

died of "natural causes" after a "cardiac circulatory collapse" a type of heart attack. All seven matches in Italy's top flight on Sunday were postponed following the news of Astori's death. *AFP*

'Tottenham ready for Juventus'

LONDON - Tottenham Hotspur have nothing to fear ahead of tomorrow's Champions League game against Juventus and possess plenty of firepower to progress to the quarterfinals, midfielder Son Heung-min said.

Tottenham clawed their way back from two goals down to claim a 2-2 draw with the Italian champions in Turin in the first leg of the last-16 tie. "We play at home but we are not scared," Son said. "We need to play our game, be confident and play forward like we play at Wembley. That's the most

important thing.

"We are hungry. We are not finished... it's a Champions League game against a difficult opponent... I hope it's a great atmosphere and I think we have a great opportunity," the South Korean added.

Son scored twice as Spurs outclassed Huddersfield Town 2-0 in the Premier League on Saturday to extend their unbeaten run in all competitions to 17 games. Tottenham, who are preparing to move to a new stadium next season, have taken time to settle in at their temporary home but are favourites to reach the last eight. "You can see how well Tottenham play. We deserve to play in the Champions League to the quarter-final or even more. We are good enough," Son said.

Reuters

Firmino makes Liverpool feared again

LIVERPOOL - Mohamed Salah has scored more goals, Sadio Mane may have more explosive pace, but Roberto Firmino is the glue that knits together a devastating Liverpool front three that is fast making the five-time European champions feared on the continent once more.

Liverpool go into today's Champions League last 16, second leg at home to Porto with the job already done having inflicted the Portuguese giants' worst-ever home European defeat in a 5-0 rout three weeks ago.

All of Liverpool's free-scoring forward trio were on target that night, as they have been for most of the season.

Their combined tally now stands at 68, with Firmino's 22 already by a distance his best return for a single campaign since joining from Hoffenheim in 2015.

However, the Brazilian is much more than a striker who just scores goals. His pass for Mane to seal a 2-0 win over Newcastle on Saturday was also his 13th assist of the season.

"Mo Salah, world class, but not every day. Sadio Mane, world class, but not every day. Roberto Firmino, world class, pretty much every day," Klopp told newspaper the Mail on Sunday recently.

It isn't surprising to hear the highest of praise from his German coach as Firmino is the embodiment of what Klopp wants from his side.

His seemingly tireless energy reserves press and pull defenders out of their comfort zone to make the spaces for Mane and Salah to shine, and yet he still maintains a calm head when needed in front of goal himself.

"Yes, you've got Salah and Mane, but Firmino's hold-up play and work off the ball makes him one of the best attacking players in the Premier League," former Liverpool captain Jamie Carragher told Sky Sports. "He's a top player."

From a slow start at Anfield, Klopp has cultivated Firmino into the player he is now. His technical ability as a former attacking midfielder allied to his athleticism has produced a fluidity in Liverpool's front three that is proving almost impossible to stop.

AFP



WE ARE READY: Son Heung-min.

Weekend Sports Results

...Compiled by Sibusiso Dlamini

MTN Premier League

Moneni Pirates	1	Mbabane Swallows	1
Royal Leopard	0	Young Buffaloes	0
Malanti Chiefs	1	Tambuti	2
Red Lions	1	Midas City	2
Vovovo	1	Manzini Sundowns	2
Matsapha United	2	Manzini Wanderers	2
Mbabane Highlanders	3	Green Mamba	1

Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League

Southern Zone			
Imbumbi	4	Sibovini	1
Billy Ocean	4	Umbelebele	1
Swazi Sun	1	PMT	1
Kupeleni	3	Sibuyeni	1

Northern Zone			
Manchester	2	Mvuma	2
Blk Swallows	4	Pachanga	0
Vultures	5	Khanjana	2

Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League

Promotion			
Double Action	2	Amawele	7
Real Tec	2	Interstars	1
Corporation	1	Sidwashini	2
Junction Stars	5	The Wailers	3

Pots Construction Sigangeni League

Real Touch	3	Kangaroo	1
Sigangeni	1	Manz. Celtics	1
Community	3	Young Fighters	1

Futis Nkhaba League

Rovers	0	Crocodiles	3
Barcelona	1	Atletico	2
Bafana	3	Super Stars	1
Ngwenya	1	Manyisa	0
Nkoyoyo	0	Majotini	1
Crocodiles	2	Rovers	0
Dribbling stars	2	Brothers	1
Shooting Stars	2	Celtics	0

Sikhumbuto Timpisini League

Sikhaleni	2	Ndlalambi	3
Kudvwaleni	2	Mb. Swallows	2
Mshweni	0	Soccer Rose	1
Ak 47	0	Njakeni	1
Choppers	1	Matsamo	2
Blue Birds	1	Stone Breakers	2
Star Wanderers	2	H. Pirates	1
Mv. Sundowns	2	Guns	2

B. Division

Vusweni	1	Y. Bombers	0
Besutwini	2	Juventus	0
Mv. All United	1	Mb. YSwallows	9
Red Lions	0	Combustion	1
JB Arsenal	6	Superstrikes	0
Njakeni	1	Young Tigers	1
Young Sevilla	2	Ellegence	1
Golden Stars	9	All Stars	1

South Star Mzimba League

Promotion			
Monaco	0	Kasiko	0
Barcelona	1	Rhinos	4
Rebels	2	Rangers	3
Chiefs	1	Timbungulu	2
Amacabane	5	All Stars	2
Sundowns	3	Buch Bucks	0
Green Sea	2	Swallows	0
Cosmos	3	Top Centre	1

Bakhanyisele Mabulala & MP Menzi Dlamini Maphalaleni League

Western stream			
Barcelona	1	Blue Birds	1
Thuluzobona	1	Junior Stars	2

Young Lovers	2	Manchester	1
Rangers	2	Hotspurs	2
Liselesele	0	Xi Experience	7
Umkhokha	1	Young Stars	3
Killers	1	Professionals	2
Khulungwane	0	Luvunjelo	1

Eastern Stream			
Happy Fighters	4	Early Sunset	1
Jubukweni	0	Lunkanka	0
Siphambanweni	1	Mighty Birds	1
Sunrise	0	Love & Peace	4
Top Classic	2	Rollers	0
Pirates	0	Hill Stars	3
Happy Fighters	2	Academy	0

Sharks Mhlangatane League			
Eastern stream			
Liverpool	5	Cosmos	0
Makheya	2	H. Defenders	2
Rovers	2	Swallows	2
Manjengeni	3	Real Aces	2
T. Wizards	3	Xi Men	4

Western Stream			
Movers	1	Zinyane	1
Silver City	3	Weirama	2
Thuluzobona	0	Fighters	1
Arsenal	1	Lonhlanane	1
Democracy	0	Celtics	3
Aces	1	Professionals	2

Bhulane Resort Ndzingeni League			
Eastern			
Liverpool	5	Arsenal	1
Sweet Banana	1	Supersport	0
Winners Park	2	White City	1
K. Celtics	2	Rebels	0
Aces	1	Chiefs	0
Young Stars	1	Professionals	1

Western			
M. Madrid	6	Super Aces	1
Academy	1	Genhulas	1
KK Ajax	3	Blue Birds	2
D. Darkies	2	Red Sea	1
Happiness	6	Celtics	1
Tsunami	1	Volcano	1

Sompisi Ntfontjeni League			
Barcelona	1	Express	3
FC Casino	0	Nkonjaneni	2
Hellenic	2	Liverpool	2
Madrid	0	Trounge	0
Suncity	0	Foster	0
Teenagers	1	Pirates	1
Mbabatane	2	Zibonele	1
Chelsea	0	Seven Up	1

Shebe's Ntabezimpisi League E20 000			
City Stars	1	Arsenal	2
City Cosmos	0	SkomBoyz	2
M. Sundowns	2	Hungry Lions	1
Super Stars	1	Sigodlo	3
Y. Professionals	0	R. Bombers	9
Golden Arrows	0	Fontotje	1
Manchester	0	Seven Stars	0
Buhleni Aces	1	Sigodlo	0
City Cosmos	1	Russian Bombe	6
Golden Arrows	0	SkomBoyz	4
Buhleni Aces	1	Professionals	2

Buy Cash Pigg's Peak League			
Bush Bucks	3	Supersport	3
Maguga	2	Thuluzobona	2
Hotspurs	0	Mhlataane	2
White Killers	1	Rise & Shine	1

Mangwaneni	2	Mpolonjeni	3
Citizens	0	Darkies Utd	1

Manzini Regional Football Association			
FA Rainbow Stationery Manzini Super League			
Stumbo's XI	1	Boyane Young Aces	0
Seven Dreams	5	Malkerns	0
Cutter Cosmos	0	Ludzeludze Killers	4
Ludzeludze Brothers	1	sisonkhe	0
Mhlaleni United	3	Nsuka United	2
Young Warriors	2	Maliyaduma United	1
Luyengo Foxes	2	Luve Cosmos	0
Seven Dreams	2	Boyane Young Aces	0

Manzini Promotion League			
New Generations	2	Wonderful Touch	4
SibonisoLwandle	4	African Chiefs	1
Khohwane Flying Birds	0	Fairview Chiefs	1
Home Sparrows	0	Villa Stars	3
Young Tigers	2	Superstars	2
Two Sticks Comrades	0	FC North	1
Big XI	1	The Bones	3
Lwandle Classic	1	Combine Stars	3

Manzini First Division League			
Ngwane Park	0	Nhlambeni United	1
God's Property	2	Chaos LTD	1
Manzini United	3	Hot Beans	0
Skom Boys	0	Bremer United	3
Healing Boys	0	Green Way	2

OK Foods Kwaluseni Promotion League			
Royal Swallows	1	Swazi Wire	0
Nhlambeni Real Heroes	2	Real Professionals	3
SihohweniAmajita	4	Zombodze United	2
GocweniTrompies	0	Nsenga Comrades	3
Mhlane United	0	Zama United	1
FC Logoba	1	Dark City	2
Ntunja Arsenal	1	Kwaluseni United	3
Sacrament	2	Fashion International	0

OK Foods Kwaluseni First Division League			
Gum valley	4	Shali United	3
Mhlaleni Superstars	0	Supersport	3
Lozitha Spurs	16	NsengaShagari XI	0
Ngonini United	1	Fletcher United	1
Ludzeludze Celtics	3	Manila Stars	0
Nkamazi AK47	3	Mahashulane	0

S & S Malkerns Promotion League			
Dynamite Hotspurs	0	Geben	3
Ndinda Volcanoes	2	Ngodini	1
Star Point	0	Current Toasters	3
Vickery Nomads	1	Swazi Can United	1
Power Sparks	0	Home Talent	0
Home Boys	0	Makhungutsha	3

Malkerns First Division League			
Ntandozi	3	Thunderbolt	0
United Brothers	0	FC Navara	3
Vuka Aces	3	Red Swallows	0
Skom Boys	3	Uthuthu Rangers	0
Golden Arrows	1	Mdonjane Arsenal	1

Mkhiweni Promotion League			
Liverpool	0	Toronto	1
Mantshonga	2	Zama United	3
White Killers	3	Mbashi Brothers	0
Luvu Classic	2	Bantu City	3
All Nations	3	Manchester United	3
Home Defenders	3	Sangcotfo	3
Colani United	0	Ngonini Young Aces	3
Bantu City	1	Mantshonga	0
Sangcotfo	2	All Stars	1
All Nations	3	Luvu Classic	0

Kukhanyeni Inkhundla Promotion League			
1995 Mbuluzana	3	Young Killers	0

Louis XIV	3	Nyakeni United	0
Kukhanyeni	2	Estate Classic	0
Nyakeni Cosmos	0	Brave Lions	1
Umshina We-Dortmund	1	Bhekinkhosi	3

Corban Mafutseni Promotion League			
SicameloSa-Chief	6	Timbutini Combine Stars	0
Nkong Pirates	3	Young Killers	0
Supersprot	0	Timbutini	4
Bhudla Celtics	2	Vultures	1
Ntabamhoshana	6	Timbutini All Stars	1
Vulamehlo Classic	4	Mafutseni United	2
Young Cannibals	3	Ematilyane	0
Dynamos	2	Mkhuzweni United	1
Khamatfo	3	Madubula Rovers	3

MP Jele Uthuthu Promotion League			
Komadi Superstars	3	Luhleko Revengers	0
Youngstars	2	Luhleko Classic	1
Javas	0	Black Rhinos	0
Luhleko Flyers	3	Africa 2010	2
Black Aces	2	Zamalek	1
Young Internationals	3	Commandos	1
Lamagabhi Peacemakers	1	Mhlambanyatsi Rovers	0
Othandweni Swallows	1	Mhlangeni Buffaloes	0

Nsingweni Promotion League			
Young Madrid	0	Black Aces	0
Young Lovers	1	All Stars	3
Matsantsantsa	0	McengeniSundowns	3
Taliban	2	Highland Blues	1
Red Lion	2	AC Milan	2
Nsuka Fighters	1	Bhudweni	0

Ka-Phunga Promotion League			
Rangers	0	Fighters	2
Shepherd	1	Hotspurs	0
Youngstars	2	Amakhosi	1
Dynamos	0	Volcanoe	3
Cyclone	3	Royal Santos	2
Mpumalanga	0	Dumsani Swallows	3
Zamalek	2	Celtics	5

Malindza Football Zonal league			
Bhelebane	2	Mshana	0
Black Mamba	2	Malindzautd	0
Seven Stars	2	SiweniUtd	1
Zamalek	1	Juventus	0
Dvokodweni	1	Gabigabi	0
Umseshi	5	Promising Stars	5
Home Sweepers	1	Young Aces	1

Amajita Super Cup			
Correctional College	4	Limkokwing University	0
Luyengo Campus	0	SANU Education	0
Limkokwing University	2	SANU Health	0
Luyengo Campus	2	IDM	0
Correctional College	2	SANU Health	0
SANU Education	3	IDM	0
Police Academy	4	VOCTIM	1
SCOT	0	Mbabane Campus	0
Police Academy	0	Kwaluseni Campus	0
Ngwane College	1	SCOT	0
Kwaluseni Campus	3	VOCTIM	0
Ngwane College	2	Mbabane Campus	1

Semi-Finals			
Correctional College	3	SANU Education	0
Police Academy	4	Ngwane College	0
Third-Placed Play-Off			
SANU Education	2	Ngwane College	1
FINAL			
Police College	1	Correctional College	0

Brockie out to make Champions League impact

PRETORIA - Jeremy Brockie can't wait to make his CAF Champions League bow this week, admitting this to be one of the reasons he signed for Mamelodi Sundowns.

The 2016 Champions League winners get their 2018 campaign underway tomorrow when they take on Rwanda side Rayon Sport in Kigali.

Brockie was the top goal-scorer in the CAF Confederation Cup last year when his 10 goals helped SuperSport United reach the final, before they were beaten by TP Mazembe.

Brockie accepts that goals may be harder to come by in Africa's top tier club competition, but is

eager to test himself.

"This is absolutely a step up from what I played, the Confederation Cup. One of the reasons I joined Sundowns was the participation in the Champions League.

"The competition is spoken about a lot around the club. Around the change room. The success the club had in the last few years is exciting to be a part of," he told the New Age.

South African soccer fans won't know too much about Rayon Sport. But the Masandawana contingent have been doing their homework and Brockie has shed some light on what they are expecting tomorrow in this first round, first leg tie.

"From the videos we have seen,

they look like a club that likes to keep the ball.

We will be looking for an away goal or two to take back home as an advantage going into the second leg," he explained.

"We will need to keep it tight at the back and keep a clean sheet. It looks like there will be a big crowd turn out, but we will have to keep them quiet.

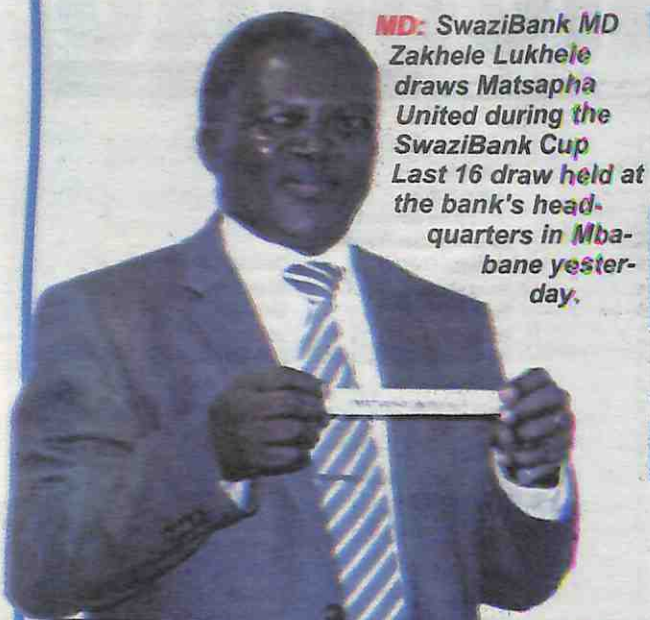
"The important thing is to play the Sundowns way. We compare them to Cape Town City. They play in pockets and spaces. We must keep our lines tight," concluded the 30-year-old, who swapped SuperSport for Sundowns in January but is yet to score for his new club.

SPORT24



UYAYIFUNA NA?

SWAZIBANK LAST 16 DRAW



MD: SwaziBank MD Zakhele Lukhele draws Matsapha United during the SwaziBank Cup Last 16 draw held at the bank's headquarters in Mbabane yesterday.



MC: Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) COO Pat Vilakati directing proceedings.



WITNESSES: A section of the people who attended the draw following proceedings.



YES: Manzini Wanderers Manager Berger Nxumalo laughs after being drawn against Vovovo.



SMILES: SwaziBank MD Zakhele Lukhele and National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) Vice President Comfort Shongwe smiling during the draw. (Pics: Sibongiseni Zondi)

...YEBO NGYAYIFUNA!!!



LAST 16: Sikhumbuzo Simelane of Tambuti and Royal Leopard PRO Frank Hurube feel the trophy.



UYAYIFUNA NA: Matsapha United CEO Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini holding the trophy to-gether with Zibonele Vultures' Bongani Shongwe.



PAIR: Mbabane Highlanders CEO Celucolo 'Dino' Dlamini with Midas City Manager Thami Dlamini as their teams were drawn against each other.



TAKING IT TO BREMER: Manzini Sundowns PRO Muzi Matsenjwa ready for battle.



PIRATES VS CHIEFS: PRO's Moneni Pirates' Jabu Ndzingane and Lungile Dube of Malanti Chiefs holding up the trophy.



TASK AT HAND: Tabankulu Callies' Bosco Sibandze with Young Buffaloes CEO Sandile Gwebu.



DULA: Vovovo PRO Stan Dlamini with Manzini Wanderers Manager Berger Nxumalo.



SWEATING: MP of the area David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala (2nd r) and others doing their best in aerobics.

LEFT - LIKE THIS: SNSRC Chairman Lawrence Mthethwa (in glasses) and others being shown how it's done by Sita Phakathi.

SHUKUMA SD 2018 1ST EDITION AT SIGWE



SHUKUMA SWAZILAND: Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala (3rd from right) leading residents of Sigwe during the launch of Shukuma 2018 first edition on Saturday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



FOLLOW THE LEADER: Aerobics instructors Fikile Mziyako and Khanya Mavuso joined by SNSRC Media Officer Dumisani Ntiwane.



THE YOUNG TOOK PART: Sigwe police officer Christopher Lukhele and Nkhoba MP Menzi Dlamini doing aerobics, while a young Katala (l) joins in.



SQUATS: Sigwe Police Station Commander Ntombikayise Dlamini and National Netball Association of Swaziland President Mandisa Sigudla sweating it out.



AGE AIN'T NOTHING BUT A NUMBER: Sigwe MP Ngcamphalala dancing with Gogo Ndlela.



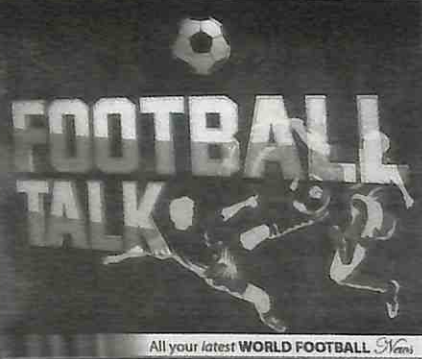
SPIRIT: Sigwe Indvuna Yenkhundla Sibongalokukhona Sikhundze (3rd r) leading them in song.



FREE RIDE: Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council CEO Darius Dlomo carrying his daughter Katala during the walk.



CAN'T MISS OUT: Even senior citizens of Sigwe Inkhundla also participated in the 5km walk.



● Everton want Arsene Wenger to take over as manager if he is sacked by Arsenal. Everton owner Farhad Moshiri believes he is the best candidate to help the Toffees rebuild. (*Sport*)

● Former Gunners forward Thierry Henry says he would 'always say yes' if asked to replace Wenger at Emirates Stadium. (*Evening Standard*)

● Chelsea's Brazil midfielder Willian, 29, says he wants to stay at the Premier League club, despite interest from Manchester United. (*Planeta Sport - in Portuguese*)



● Tottenham are interested in Bayer Leverkusen's Germany defender Jonathan Tah, 22, as a replacement for Toby Alderweireld. Spurs have been unable to agree a new contract with the 29-year-old Belgium international. (*Mirror*)

● Paris St-Germain will not sell Neymar in the summer, says Sporting Director Antero Henrique, despite the 26-year-old Brazil forward being linked with Real Madrid. (*Goal, via L'Equipe*)

● Leicester and Algeria forward Riyad Mahrez, 27, says his failed move to Manchester City in January "was a difficult situation" but that he "will give everything" for the Foxes while he is at the club. (*Telegraph*)



● West Ham Manager David Moyes has warned his players that "there'll be none of us here" if they continue to play like they did in the 4-1 defeat by Swansea at the weekend. (*Telegraph*)

● Football Association chief executive Martin Glenn has warned that a team could be relegated from the Premier League by a refereeing error unless VAR is introduced in the top flight. (*Times - subscription required*)

● Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford has not started a Premier League game since 26 December but Old Trafford boss Jose Mourinho says if England Manager Gareth Southgate "trusts him, he selects him". (*Express*)



● Fulham's on-loan Serbia striker Aleksandar Mitrovic, 23, says players at the club "enjoy the football more than last season" when he was promoted from the Championship with parent club Newcastle. (*Mail*)

THE PUNCH POW

...with Mphikeleli Mshini [STRIKING, STRAIGHT AND STRENGTHENED]

TWO-HORSE RACE IN LEAGUE

WITH only four games left in the league, the bookies' odds would suggest the title is now down to a two-horse race.

Capital city giants Mbabane Swallows are leading the chasing pack with army side Young Buffaloes occupying the second spot and the difference between the two teams is four points.

So if the bookies are to be taken seriously, Swallows and Buffaloes are the only two teams with a strong chance of challenging for the title.

Yet, despite their much longer odds, Buffaloes have impressed in recent weeks, and Swallows are no longer the formidable team they were last season.

So as formidable as Young Buffaloes (and to a lesser extent Swallows) look currently, it feels premature to write off their rivals just yet.

As is now, holders Mbabane Swallows will retain their title with a match to spare if they win their remaining match.

Now second-placed Buffaloes hope to see Swallows losing at least two of their remaining four games.



While, on the other hand, the army side cannot afford to lose a match at this stage.

Swallows are perched atop the standings on 52 points and will finish on top and clinch the title if they win just three more games.

Points

Like I have already said, Buffaloes can ill afford a slip-up in their remaining game as they are four points off the pace.

The army side cannot even think about a draw from their last matches as they are at the mercy of Mbabane Swallows.

Green Mamba and Matsapha United are third and fourth and will finish on 52 and 46 respectively and this means they are out of the race.



This means most of the teams are now fighting for the second spot.

To be honest, it's now between Swallows and Buffaloes. But Swallows have an edge as it is now in their hands while the army side will rely on other results.

It is equally tight at the opposite end of the table where Midas City (already relegated), Red Lions, Tambuti and Vovovo are involved in a fierce relegation dogfight.

The odds appear to be stacked heavily against Red Lions. The three points they surrendered to Midas City over the weekend could prove vital in their last-gasp survival bid.



GOOD LUCK SWALLOWS

Capital city giants Mbabane Swallows left the country yesterday to represent the country in the CAF Champions League.

They will take on Zanaco from Zambia in what will be the last hurdle before they make it to the group stages.

Having scraped through the preliminary round, after a 5-5 aggregate win over Lesotho side Bantfu FC having lost 3-1 at

home following their 4-2 win away, this will be a real test for the 'Beautiful Birds'.

Respect

The first leg takes place at Nkoloma Stadium tomorrow before the return leg to be played at the Somhlolo National Stadium a week later.

With due respect to Bantu FC, Zanaco are set to provide a far more formidable foe.

The match against Zanaco

should be all about grinding out results at this crucial juncture of the tournament. Win pretty or win ugly, a win is just a win and Swallows must get an away goal.

The beauty of it is that they will first play away; then come back home to wrap it up.

Swallows must just go out there and continue providing the good football they have been displaying and get the result. Good luck Mkhonto KaShaka.

Exciting UYAYIFUNA NA last 16 draw

THE SwaziBank Cup last 16 draw was conducted yesterday at the bank's auditorium and football fans should brace themselves for exciting encounters.

It's going to be a stern test for Mbabane Swallows, especially because they meet Green Mamba at the time when Caleb Ngwenya and his men seem to have found their groove. The Birds should not be fooled by Green Mamba's loss to Highlanders over the weekend.

Another interesting clash will be that pitting Vovovo against hub giants Manzini Wanderers. These two teams have met before in a knockout tournament and now it remains to be seen, who will come out victorious.

Mbabane Highlanders have been drawn against Midas City in what will be another great match, seeing that City have already been relegated and will be all out to go far in this tournament.

The two teams in Mbabane Highlanders and Manzini Wanderers will have to prove their 'big team' status and force their way to the next round. They have to make their fans happy at all cost. They are among the biggest teams in the country.

But again I see an upset, and this only means there is no big team or small team in this tournament which is the local version of the famous FA Cup in England. Any team can surprise you on any day. All the teams have to prepare well for these games. The early rounds of the SwaziBank Cup have traditionally produced plenty of fireworks, whether they are in the form of giant killings or heavy scores and we expect more fireworks this weekend.

Smart move Sport, Recreation Council

I could not help but admire the move taken by the Swaziland National Sport and Recreation Council (SNSRC).

For the uninitiated, the SNSRC has decided to stall the National Sports Awards. Last week, the SNSRC Media Officer (Dumisani Ntiwane) convened a press conference for the country's media houses where it was announced that the National Sports Awards will now be held every two years instead of annually.

The reason forwarded was that the SNSRC wants to dedicate this year and the next to grooming young up and coming athletes after noting that there were no emerging stars.

Wise move I say, otherwise, the awards which are meant to celebrate and recognise excellence were going to be turned into a joke, as the same athletes were to be awarded every year. Who is the next Sibusiso 'Swazi Bolt' Matsenjwa? Who is the next Phumlile Ndzinisa? Who is the next Tony 'TT' Tsabedze? Exactly my point! Way to go Sports and Recreational Council!

PIRATES PLAYERS' SALARIES WON'T BE AFFECTED

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – FOLLOWING reports suggesting that Moneni Pirates will cut its players and coaches' salaries, the team's Manager Mlungisi Simelane has made it clear that this would not be happening in the club.

The team has only opted to cut its entire monthly budget of E120 000 to try and cope with the current financial situation currently faced by the club.

Simelane said they were working around the clock to normalize the situation at the club.

"We are working around the clock to bring stability in the team as we opted to downsize our entire monthly budget and not the players' salaries. Cutting the salaries would be suicidal since contractual issues are sensitive and they involve the employer and employees. Doing such can cause a huge damage in the team," he said.

The team was spending a monthly budget of E120 000 which has to be cut due to a financial crisis currently faced by the Moneni based ensemble.

This is the story for the 'Sea Robbers', who are without a director since the unceremonious quitting of former Managing Director December Mavimbela about a month ago.

This was disclosed by current interim Management Committee Treasurer Theminkosi Dlamini

PLAYERS AND COACHES

Salaries:	E60 000
Training:	E22 000
Sundry expenses:	E15 000
Transport:	E10 000
Players food:	E 7 200
Medical expenses:	E 5 000
Total:	E119 200

during a supporters meeting held at the Manzini Library on Saturday.

Dlamini said the decision was taken solely to try to keep the team afloat until the end of the season.

"There is no money to run the team at the present moment and

we have been forced to cut the budget. The team was spending E120 000 a month but we have no other alternative but to cut it.

"It has been very difficult running the team since we have been spending money on a day to day basis on several expenses such as transport fees and accommodation of the players. We are appealing to our supporters to assist us in the running of the team by making financial contributions in order to keep our beloved team afloat," Dlamini said.

Also making remarks was interim MC Chairman Christopher 'Tototo' Khoza who also appealed to the 'Buccaneers' family to assist the team.

"We are in a bad state in as far as money is concerned.

We are struggling to meet the daily demands of the club. One can appeal to the entire Pirates family to contribute towards the welfare of the team," he said.



Teams express desire to win SwaziBank Cup

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – As the SwaziBank Cup entered the round of 16, all the remaining teams expressed their desire to clinch the 14th edition of the annual knockout competition.

Teams vowed to tear each other apart during the last 16 games to take place this coming weekend at various venues in the country.

This was during the draw conducted at the sponsor's auditorium yesterday.

This is what they said:

Bongani Shongwe (Zibonele Vultures)

"We are already in the quarterfinals. It's a tricky draw but we are looking forward to our match against Matsapha United. We will beat them."



Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini (Matsapha United)

"We will not undermine Vultures. All I can say is that we will give Vultures the respect they deserve. We will work hard to get a win inside the field of play. We are appealing to fans to support the games."



Thamie Dlamini (Midas City)

"We are a respected team in the country that has produced great players for most Premier League teams. Coming to the match, we will work hard and fight for a place in the quarterfinals."



Celucolo 'Dino' Dlamini (Highlanders)

"We want to reach the finals of the tournament and we will work hard in



ensuring we achieve our main goal."

Muzi Matsenjwa (Manzini Sundowns)

"This is a fair draw for us since we wanted to avoid the big guns in the early stages of the tournament. We will not undermine Sikhalo but instead double our efforts inside the field of play in order to avoid an upset."



Bosco Shongwe (Tabankulu Callies)

"We are very happy and excited to reach this stage of the tournament in our history and Buffaloes are in for a shock as we will end their journey in the tournament."



Sandile Gwebu (Young Buffaloes)

"We will prepare hard for our match against Callies. They are already out of the tournament."



Lungile Dube (Malanti Chiefs)

"I am happy we have drawn Moneni Pirates, who have a similar style of play as us. This means soccer fans will be treated to top shelf football. We will work extra hard and fight for a place in the quarterfinals."



Jabu Ndzingane (Moneni Pirates)

"We will beat Malanti Chiefs, and then meet Vultures in the quarterfinals. It's a fair draw for us and we will prepare well for



Malanti."

Stan Dlamini (Vovovo)

"We will fight for a place in the quarterfinals of this tournament. We will double our efforts on the day in order to achieve our mission."



Berger Nxumalo (Manzini Wanderers)

"We are quite aware of Vovovo whom we previously played before in other competitions where they gave us problems. We will, however, turn things around this coming weekend by beating them and advance to the quarterfinals."



Thamie Phakathi (Green Mamba)

"This is the pick of the last 16 and we wish Swallows the best of luck during their international assignment in Zambia. We will intensify our preparations for our meeting with and fight a place in the quarterfinals."



Frank Hurube (Royal Leopard)

"We really want this edition and it has been a long time since we won this tournament. We are grateful to have drawn Tambuti whom we will easily beat."



Sikhumbuzo Simelane (Tambuti)

"We will prepare for Leopard and further work extra hard to reach the quarterfinals of the tournament."



Musonda's game aided by new signings – 'Professor'

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER – MBABANE Highlanders coach Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane says forward Michael Musonda has benefitted from the arrival of the club's January signings.

Highlanders beefed up their attack in January, bringing in forwards Thabiso Mokenkoane and Mthobisi Mngomezulu.

Musonda, who looked out of pace at times in the first round of the season, has looked revived of late, with the striker heading in his side's first goal in the 3-1 beating of Green Mamba on Sunday in the league.

"Some players want to play with quality not with quantity. When I was still a player myself, I wanted to play with quality players so Musonda is playing with quality that's why his quality is now showing," Ngubane said.

The Highlanders coach then added that he wanted to reinforce his squad further come the next transfer window.

"No, I am not happy with my current squad. We need to reinforce. If I will still be here, I'll reinforce. We need aggressive players. We need aggressive central defenders. They are doing well, (Dlamini and Manana), but we need to add powerful backup," Ngubane added.

Caleb coy on 'Barney's' benching

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER – GREEN Mamba coach Caleb Ngwenya has refused to comment on the reasons behind the benching of forward Banele 'Barney' Mdluli.

Mdluli, who was a regular in Mamba's starting XI in the first half of the season, has seen his role in the team reduced to one on the bench of late. The forward came off the bench to score a stunning goal for his side in their 1-3 defeat to Mbabane Highlanders on Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Mdluli was also on the bench during his side's 4-0 hammering of Hub Sundowns in the SwaziBank Cup last 32 over a week ago. Green Mamba

coach Ngwenya was coy in his response when asked why the forward was seeing little game time of late.

"I cannot pick on individual players. Now we play as a team. There is 11 players who started (the match)," Ngwenya said briefly.

Mdluli's role on the bench has also coincided with the arrival of former AS Vita attacking midfielder Mthunzi 'Xavi' Mkhontfo who has had a solid start to his Green Mamba career. Mkhontfo scored his first goal for the club in that 4-0 rout of Sundowns in the SwaziBank Cup.



The Green Mamba coach then praised Mdluli for his goal while adding that his side should have buried many more chances that they created in the match.

"It (the goal) was beautiful. He took it well but if you look at the chances we had in the second half, we wouldn't have gone this far," Ngwenya concluded.

COY: Green Mamba coach Caleb Ngwenya.

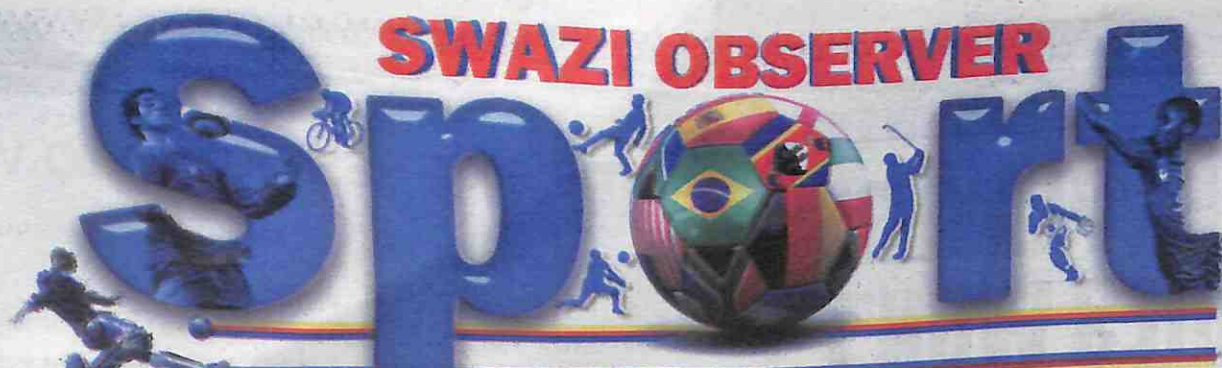
RESULTS

**YESTERDAY
PREMIER LEAGUE**
Crystal Palace 2-3 Manchester United

SPANISH LALIGA
Celta Vigo 0-0 Las Palmas

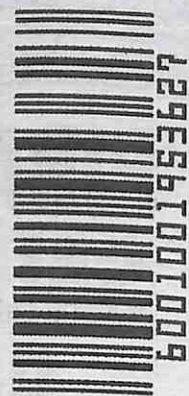
FIXTURES

**TONIGHT
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**
Liverpool vs Porto 21:45
Real Madrid vs PSG 21:45



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

Tuesday March 6, 2018



EXCITING SWAZIBANK CUP DRAW AS...

BIRDS VS GREEN MAMBA

UYAYIFUNA NA?

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - MBABANE Swallows and Green Mamba were paired against each other in the last 16 draw of the SwaziBank Cup.

The match between the two former champions of the tournament will headline this coming weekend's last 16 ties following a draw held at the SwaziBank

Headquarters in Mbabane yesterday morning.

Yesterday's draw saw the big teams avoid each other as defending champions Buffaloes were paired with National First Division side Tabankulu Callies while former champions Mbabane Highlanders were drawn against Midas City.

History

Royal Leopard, the joint most successful side in the history of the SwaziBank Cup with three titles, will face Tambuti

THE FULL DRAW:

Zibonele Vultures	vs	Matsapha United
Midas City	vs	Mbabane Highlanders
Manzini Sundowns	vs	Sikhalo se-Africa
Tabankulu Callies	vs	Young Buffaloes
Malanti Chiefs	vs	Moneni Pirates
Vovovo	vs	Manzini Wanderers
Mbabane Swallows	vs	Green Mamba
Tambuti	vs	Royal Leopard

while Manzini Wanderers, who have never won the competition, will take on Vovovo.

Manzini Sundowns will face Sikhalo se-Africa while it will be an all Premier League affair when 2015 winners Moneni Pirates take on 2008 champions Malanti Chiefs. When conducting the draw yesterday, PLS COO Pat Vilakati

said the last 16 ties would be spread across the country.

"The games will be played over the coming weekend and we will spread them across the country because we have seen how much people love the SwaziBank Cup. We would like to urge supporters to continue being well behaved and open SwaziBank accounts because the bank has shown its love for the country by repeatedly supporting football," Vilakati said.

MD: SwaziBank MD Zakhele Lukhele draws Matsapha United during the SwaziBank Cup Last 16 draw held at the bank's headquarters in Mbabane yesterday.

LEFT-REMARKS: Green Mamba CEO Thami Phakathi making his remarks after his side drew Mbabane Swallows. (Pics: Sibongiseni Zondi)



TASK AT HAND: Tabankulu Callies' Bosco Sibandze with Young Buffaloes CEO Sandile Gwebu.



PIRATES VS CHIEFS: PRO's Moneni Pirates' Jabu Ndzingane and Lungile Dube of Malanti Chiefs.



LAST 16: Sikhumbuzo Simeane of Tambuti and Royal Leopard PRO Frank Hurube holding up the trophy.

Over 80 'Birds' supporters off to Zambia

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - OVER 80 Mbabane Swallows fans have accompanied their team to Zambia where they will face Zanaco in the CAF Champions League tomorrow.

Zanaco will host Swallows in the first leg of the two sides' Champions League first round tie tomorrow afternoon at Nkoloma Stadium before the return leg set to be played on the weekend of 16-18 March at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Swallows supporters left the country yesterday for Zambia to support

their side, confirmed the club's National Supporters Committee (NSC) Secretary Jackson Dlamini in an interview last night.

"70 supporters have travelled in a bus while others will follow in a quantum. We left the country at around 11 am (yesterday) and we are expecting to get to Zambia in the morning (today) and reach Lusaka in the afternoon where we will spend the night. On Wednesday (tomorrow) we will then attend the game," Dlamini said.

The supporters had to fork out E1 000 for the trip which covers both transport and accommodation. The supporters are expected back in the

country on Friday morning.

Close to 1 000 supporters accompanied Swallows when they travelled to Lesotho to take on Bantu FC in the preliminary round last month.

Advance

Meanwhile, the winner of that tie will advance to the lucrative group stages of the tournament.

While Swallows have been playing competitive football since September when the current local season got underway, Zanaco haven't played any domestic official match since December when they beat Forest Rangers 2-0 in their final Zambian Super League match of the 2017 season.



The Zambian football season generally runs from March to November, with last season's fixtures ending on the first weekend of December. Swallows eliminated Bantu FC with a 5-5 aggregate as they won 4-2 away

before losing 1-3 at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Zanaco beat Gambia Armed Forces 6-1 on aggregate in the preliminary round of the Champions League to advance to the first round.