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Women rally behind Sphasha

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PM'S HOUSE PLAN REVEALED...

MAY 6, 2018



Who buys the land on which PM's house is to be built?

PM off to Taiwan again

PAGES 2-3,5

• Who buys the land on which PM's house is to be built?

HOUSE IMPRESSION DESIGNS

Ministries mum on how land has been obtained

STORIES BY ZWELETHU **DLAMINI**

mbiguity and deficiencies of Finance Circular No.2 of 2013 which provides that the Prime Minister Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini has to be built a house once he retires has brought confusion on whether the state or the premier has to purchase land on which the house

is to be built on.

May 6, 2018

The ministries involved in the construction of the house have failed to disclose how the matter had been resolved as they have confirmed that they had finally acquired the land and construction would begin

Sources suggest that government through the ministry of housing and urban development in collaboration with the ministry of works and public transport have purchased the land, however, refusing to confirm if this piece of land belonged to the prime minister.

Section 5 of the Circular reads thus: "The state shall provide a house for the prime minister at the end of his term of office. The house shall belong to the Prime Minister whether built on nation land or title.'

Due to its lack of clarity, this provision has been interpreted differently by the legislators and government, resulting in delays.

Firstly, this provision lacks clarity on the value and the nature of the house of the PM; secondly the circular does not state who between the state and the prime minister should purchase the land where the house is to be constructed.



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Who will pay for the site?

he second issue that the circular is silent on is who should purchase the land between the state and the premier as it is not clearly spelt out.

All that had been officially announced in the past two years is that the land for the construction of the house had been acquired but it has never been said how and who had paid for the land. Last year, a report from the portfolio committee indicated that the site was identified at Thembelihle, but this year the premier indicated that the land was in Manzini.

In all the incidents where the identification had been mentioned it has never been clarified if the land belonged to the state, was to be purchased by government or the prime minister on Swazi Nation Land, or title deed land.

This has opened room for speculations as some believed it could be part of the plots owned by the premier while others were of the idea that it could be part of state

land or will be purchased by the

After the Members of Parliament had somehow resolved the first issue of the value of the retirement house and set it at approximately E4.5 million, the issue that remained a challenge for those tasked with the construction of the house was who was going to pay for the land.

The prime minister's office as a client with only E3million looked up to the ministry of works and the ministry of housing of urban devel-

opment to resolve the matter and deliver the house for the prime minister. This had been revealed by the principal secretary under the prime minister's office who said:

"We are a client to receive the house. What we want is the house as a client, whether it will be obtained through kukhonta or obtained in whatever means. The ministry of housing is the one responsible for the land while the ministry of works is responsible for the construction. All we want is the house."

Hhohho region wants Mbongwa to lead SNAT

he first Swaziland National Association of Teachers Regional Conference which was held in Mananga at the Metropolitan College yesterday revealed that Hhohho region's preferred presidential candidate for the National Executive Council is Mbongwa Dlamini.

The regional conference, which ends today, is the first of four which will be held until the end of the

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI Mbongwa got 81 votes against YESTERDAY'S RESULTS: Sphasha Dlamini's 67 for the position of president whereas incumbent Secretary General Zweli

Mndzebele remains uncontested. Other positions such as that of vice-president have Celucolo 'Dino' Dlamini leading by a wide margin at 113 against Vusi Sibanyoni's 35. Explaining the significance of yesterday's election, Mdzebele said their elections start at branch level where there is nomination. Thereafter, the regions nominate those who will be on the ballot paper during the

Mbongwa Dlamini Sphasha Dlamini 81 Deputy President: Celucolo 'Dino' Dlamini Vusi Sibanyoni 35 Secretary General: Dlamini Sikelela 13 Organising secretary:

national conference which will be held in September. He said those who failed to get ahead would have three chances left to get into the

T	cau DINI	71
	Gcebile David Dlamini Mlondi Dlamini Sifiso Mabuza	21 104 23
	Treasurer: Sithebe Khumbuzile	136
No. of Lot	Recording Secretary: Emmanuel Dlamini Japhter Dlamini	84 63
9	Sub-editor: Futhile Dlamini Nomsa Dlamini	88 60

running for nation-wide office. "If not nominated in the three subsequent region, hard luck, you will have to return in 2022," he said.

How much should be the value of the house?

he value of the house of the prime minister was one of the issues that were subject to intense debate and controversy as it has dropped from E11 million to the final value that is yet to be determined as the work progresses. Notably, this figure excluded the money for the land but only catered for the designs and the construction.

According to one of the legislators the first value that was rejected by the legislators when the matter was presented to the finance committee in Parliament was E11 million. The legislators were alarmed by the proposed amount of the building and immediately threw it out of the window.

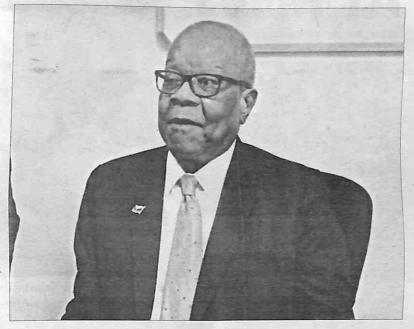
"Initially during a presentation made to the finance committee, the value of the house was said to be E11 million. The finance committee said this was a huge amount and asked for justification which was not provided and as a result, it was thrown out. We said the circular should be reviewed since it was noted that it was silent on the value," said the MP.

The value was later reduced to the E7 million, including the drawings, which were pegged at E1.5 million combined with the quantity surveillance.

The E1.5 million was released for the latter but the E5.5million which was determined as the cost for the construction was sent to the consolidation

This resulted from the fact that Members of Parliament also raised the same concern which was voiced by the finance committee seeking answers on how it has been determined as the circular had not been reviewed.

The legislators said the circular concerning the house of the PM was too open and dangerous. Its openness, according to the MPs, opened a way for people to loot the money to build



Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Diamini.

the house of the premier. They said there should be a yardstick so that one cannot simply place it at any value.

This year when passing the budget, Members of Parliament decided to further slash the value of the house of the prime minister by E2.5 million, bringing the value of the house to E4.5 mil-

E5.5 million had been allocated for this financial year, but the legislators were adamant that they would be giving the premier E3 million instead.

This is despite the fact that the prime minister fought tooth and nail as he justified why he deserved the home. He alleged that an area had already been blessed by His Majesty for the construction of the house and that none of the houses in that neighbourhood cost less than E10 million.

Chairperson of the PM's portfolio committee, appointed MP Thuli Dladla, tried but in vain to convince the legislators that the E5.5 million should be allocated for the construction of the PM's house.

She asked her colleagues to agree to setting aside the E2.5 million under Head 60 so that it would be used to finish off the house should there be short-

Dladla said, according to the drawings already made and the quantity surveyors report, the total amount needed would be E5.5 million, including certain adjustments that may be need-

However, the MPs were adamant that all they were allocating was E3 million, which would total E4.5 million when including the drawings which were allocated last financial year.

Notably, it remains unknown whether the E3 million will be sufficient for the construction of the house or the prime minister would have to add the bal-

PM off to Taiwan once again

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

he prime minister is preparing for a 16-hour flight as he is scheduled to visit the Republic of China on Taiwan before the end of the week.

Fresh from a medical scare which had people assuming the worst after he was admitted at the Mbabane Government Hospital (MGH) Intensive Care Unit (ICU), the PM Sibusiso Dlamini will return to the country where he received specialised care on two occasions over the last two months.

His first reported visit to the Asian country to undergo an undisclosed medical procedure was about a year ago when he stayed for over 30 days.

Earlier in the year, he returned to Taiwan and stayed shy of two weeks. He recently went to London

to represent His Majesty King Mswati III during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting London 2018 after leaving the country on April 13, returning after 10 days. A day and a few hours after his return, he was reportedly admitted at the MGH after he was said to have fallen as he rose out of bed in the morning.

According to well-placed sources, the premier will be travelling in the company of his wife Gugu Primrose, with whom he has been travelling since they got mar ied in November last year.

The purpose of his trip could, however, not be ascertained.

Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane pleaded ignorance of the premier's impending trip as he said he was officially not aware.

Only 3 ACC officers wrote letter to Speaker

BY FORTUNE **NDLANGAMANDLA**

nly three officers from the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) wrote a letter to the Speaker of the House of Assembly Themba Msibi complaining about being intimidated by Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Edgar Hillary.

As indicated by the 2016/2017 Kingdom of Eswatini Establishment Register, the Commission has 58 posts. In any case, unverified reports suggest that there are less than 50 employees at the ACC.

The names of the three officers who signed the letter addressed to the Speaker of the House of Assembly are known to this publication.

Meeting

The letter was also copied to the minister himself and his principal secretary, the chief justice, the deputy commissioner administration (ACC), the attorney general and the chairman of the Select Committee. In the letter seen by this publication dated April 26, the three officers wrote that during a meeting on April 23, Minister Hillary expressed his disapointment with the officers who went to the ACC probe. The officers further stated that the minister informed to them that the individuals who complied with the invite and attended the probe were not loyal to the organisation and not fit to work for the ACC.

Minister Hillary, when drawn to respond to the intimidation allegations levelled to him said he was not prepared to reply in detail. When asked whether the officers violated any procedure by reporting him to the Speaker, Hillary said; "In short, what they did is un-procedural, they should have not done what they did." He declined to

comment further, insisting that a questionnaire should be sent to him. Members of Parliament (MP) want to probe the operations of the ACC and a Select Committee of five members was elected for the job. Members of the committee are MP Jan Sithole (Chairman), MP Mjuluko Dlamini, MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini, MP Michael Masilela and MP Menzi Dlamini.

Victime

One of the members from the probe team MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini said the matter of the three officers has not yet been examined by the select committee. He said this was because the Chairman of the Committee MP Jan Sithole was out of the country

MP Dlamini said he trusts that the issue would be discussedabout tomorrow in Parliament. He said the probe was still underway.

Corruption

However, Dlamini shared his surprise on the reports that the minister intimidated his staff from appearing before the probe team. "The minister wrote to us stating that he was indisposed until May 9 so we are stunned that he has been assembling meetings at the ACC," Dlamini said. In a different interview with this publication, the Attorney General (AG) Sifiso Khumalo, responding to questions of legality and perceived conflict of interest raised by senior management at the ACC, warned that the probe would be illegal if the select committee 'deals with matters that are pending in court, or interview people that are subject to criminal trial regarding corruption'.

In what would be interpreted as a blow to the credibility of the probe, the AG further stated that it would be neater and desirable if the process was done by an independent body.

Ministries acquire land but cannot divulge how

he minister of housing admitted that his ministry has been involved in securing the land though he did not respond when asked if the land had been purchased by government or the prime minister.

"We got the land a long time ago, we have done our part," said the Minister of Housing and Urban Development Phiwayinkosi Mabuza.

When probed on whether government had purchased the land or the prime minister had offered one of his plots for the construction, the minister could not confirm nor deny this saying the honours was on the premier to disclose such. The state of the

Confusion

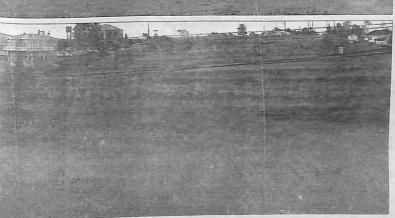
The minister, however, admitted that the circular had deficiencies and was not clear on who should purchase the land between government and the prime minister and as such needed to be reviewed to avoid thump sucking and

"The issue here is that the circular does not spell out whose land-should the house be built. There is nothing that says government must provide the land and there is nothing also that says the prime minister must provide the land. But all it says is the state shall provide a house," he said.

Mabuza said consultation and wisdom let them to the best route which he did not want to divulge.

For this reason, it is not clear who





The plots believed to be where the PM's house is to be built.

finally took the cost as the ministry did not want to explain how it obtained the land. Minister of Public Works and Transport Pastor Lindiwe Dlamini said she had no knowledge of the matter and referred questions to the principal secretary. Minister of Public Works and Transport Principal Secretary Makhosini Mndawe also referred questions to the prime minister's office principal secretary. The Prime Minister's Office Principal Secretary Victor Nxumalo also referred questions to the ministry of public works.

BIKERS DONATE AT HMCS



The bikers getting ready for the road after the donation.



Bikers sharing a moment with some of the children at the day care centre which they are sponsoring.



The bikers entertaining the guests at the correctional facility.



Hyenas Captain Ayanda Masina addressing the bikers at Mawelawela Centre.



Dennis Yuki Masina mobbed by the children and the guests at Mawelawela.



HMCS Commissioner Phindile Diamini and officer in-charge Meshack Simelane with some of the Bikers.

WHY SANDS WAS LEFT OUT OF SAMAS

BY NOMFUNDO SIFUNDZA

In a bid to explain Sands removal from the South African Music Awards (SAMAs) RiSA Chairperson Thobela Dlamini said rules of the SAMAs change each year.

RiSA stands for Recording Industry of South Africa.

Caught at an apparently busy hour, Dlamini gave a very brief and straight to the point telephonic interview.

"I am currently driving but can answer your questions briefly, rules of the South African Music awards change each year and there is nothing sinister with that. Sands who is of Eswatini by origin cannot take part in the awards this year since the rules clearly state that non-South Africans should take part," said Dlamini.

However it is worth remembering that last year Sands did score an entry in the awards but the same reason was cited that he could not be nominated because he was not a South African. The star attended the nominee's party alongside then SWAMA President Lutfo Dlamini, soon to be President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini and his team.

Contrary to what Thobela Dlamini said, there are non-South Africans that

have been nominated in the 'Best African Artist' category, these include Niniola and Wizkid both from Nigeria. It could not be ascertained why and how Sands' gold selling album was not nominated in this category.

It came as a surprise and joyful moment for many of Sands local fans when the star was announced as a nominee in one of the most coveted SAMA categories 'Record of the Year' category.

His entry in this category that consists of 19 other stars from South Africa was announced on SABC 1's Live Amp on a Friday after the nominee's party hosted on a Thursday where some of the nominees were announced but as usual some are yet to be announced.

In this category Sands was up against giants such as Mafikizolo for their hit song 'Love Potion' and AKA for 'The World Is Yours' and other hit songs. A source revealed that the rules of the SAMAs had not really changed from last year but there could be another sensitive reason that none of the officials want to disclose as to why Sands was disqualified from the awards.

Explaining why they made the mistake of announcing Sands as a nominee Dlamini said "Radio

Monitor SA gives us numbers, we verify, unfortunately our team did not do a thorough job in the verification process and yet the nominees were supposed to be announced on Live Amp on the following evening after the awards launch."

Dlamini emphasised that there was nothing sinister about Sands being disqualified and his sentiments were shared by Sands Manager Lindsey Arends who said the team did not take offence with the disqualification instead they were focused on other Kingdom Tales commitments.

PRIME MINISTER'S HOUSE RE

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

he photorealistic images for the house to bebuilt for Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini in readiness for the time he leaves office have been revealed to this publication.

The artistic impression of the prime minister's house which has been pegged at E1.5 million was designed by the same local company Ramashka Architects, which has designed several structures including King Mswati III International Airport VVIP Terminal and the Mandvulo Grand Hall.

Though the images had been leaked Ramashka Architects Director Elena Dlamini confirmed that they were the artistic impression of the Prime minister's house and that they were

designed by her company.
"Yes this is the house," she said when asked to confirm if the images were indeed the same

ones that they had designed and depicting how the building would look like after completion.

She wondered how the images ended up in possession of this newspaper as she had no intention of having them published especially before the house is constructed.

Ramashka Architects has done a number of projects in the country including the OPD at the Mbabane Government Hospital, Mbuluzi Regional Military training College Mass Hall, judges housing complex, and many other public and private buildings.

According to the parliamentary report that was presented to MP Thuli Dladla, the drawings already made and the quantity surveyors report, the total amount needed for the construction would be E5.5 million, including certain adjustment that may be needed. However, the members of par-



Artistic impression showing how the house that costs E5.5 million is expected to look like upon completion.

liament decided to allocate E3 million towards the building of the house. The house is set to be constructed in Manzini by

the ministry of public works and transport. The new house is a benefit that the premier is entitled to in terms of Finance

Circular No.2 of 2013 - Terms and Conditions of Service of Politicians Swaziland (Remuneration Framework for

Swaziland Parliamentarians)

The Circular states: "The state shall provide a house for the prime minister at the end of his term of office. The house shall belong to the prime minister whether built on nation land or title deed land.'

The benefits are only applicable provided the former PM is not appointed or elected into a position in government, for which he is paid a salary.

This Circular replaced the infamous Finance Circular No.1 of 2010, which was removed following a directive from His Majesty King Mswati III that it should be reviewed.

The order came after the King had listened to countless submissions from the nation during the People's Parliament (Sibaya) in 2012.

According to Circular No.2, a former prime minister is entitled to certain benefits and allowances to assist him cope with life after Parliament.



Photorealistic image showing the front view of the house to be built for the prime minister.

Large chunk of celebrations funds from donors - Home Affairs

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

inistry of home affairs Principal Secretary Steven Masilela says people suggesting that the event was a drain on the public purse are misleading the nation as a large chunk of the money used for the national celebrations came from donations.

Masilela said the budget of his ministry for the year did not exceed E120million hence there was no way the ministry could have spent the exorbitant amounts that critics of the event estimate to have been used.

Masilela was responding when asked how much money the country spent on the national event seeing as speculations from critics suggest hundreds of millions had been sourced from the coffers of government.

Critics have claimed that the country's priorities were not in order, directing public funds to the national event much against the need to address poverty and inequality.

Masilela responded by saying that it was too early to determine how much money had been spent on the celebrations citing that the ministry was still paying for the expenses of the event.

The principal secretary said he could not disclose the amount that was budgeted for the event. He said he was not the rightful person to announce the amount that was budgeted for the event.

He said the figures that have been estimated o have been used were far more than the actual amount the ministry had spent reiterating that most of it came from the donations.

Amount

"Let them put whatever amount they want to the cost the event.

"A lot of costs towards the celebrations came from donations.

"The business community and other institutions contributed towards most of the costs of the event, the government of Taiwan alone donated over E15 million,"he said.

"You may be aware that several institutions and individuals contributed to the event, some were expected to deliver their presents today (on Friday) before their majesties while others had brought them before the event," he added.





MADLANGEMPISI FARMERS COMPANY

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are hereby invited from suitably qualified C4 and above contractors for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of irrigation system for conversion from dragline to semi-solid irrigation system at Madlangempisi Farmer Company (152.6 Ha) under the Komati project area. Contractors MUST be familiar with standards for construction of Small Holder Irrigation Projects used in Swaziland. ONLY contractors with experience in irrigation particularly SEMI-SOLID SPRINKLER SYSTEM will be considered.

Preference will be given to local contractors, with 60% Swazi shareholding, and registered with the Construction Industry Council of Swaziland. Tender documents may be obtained after payment of a non-refundable tender fee of E350.00 to the Swaziland Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise. Documents will be on sale from Thursday, 03 rd May 2018 to Thursday, 10May 2018, between 0830 hours and 1100 hours at the SWADE Tshaneni Site Office up to the day of a compulsory clarification meeting and site visit with representative of the Employer which will be held at the SWADE Tshaneni Site Office.

Tenderers attention is drawn to the table below which indicates the Contract No, Contract Title, Tender Bond, CIC category, Site Inspection date and the closing date for submission of tenders. Late, incomplete, telephoned or telegraphic tenders will not be considered.

Contract No.	Contract Title	Tender Bond	CIC Category	Site Inspection Date/Time	Closing of Tender
MH0357\IRR\2018	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of irrigation system for conversion from dragline to semi-solid irrigation system at Madlangempisi Farmer Company (152.6 Ha)	E50,000	C4 and above	10 May 2018, 9.00am	30 th May 2018, 11,00am

Completed tenders should be delivered in a sealed envelope to the SWADE, Tshaneni Site Office and the envelope should only show the Project Name, Project Number and Addressed to:

The KDDP Project Manager MADLANGEMPISIFARMERS COMPANY c/o Swaziland Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise CONTRACT NO. MH0375\IRR\2018

Any actions or tendencies that will be interpreted as an attempt to interfere with or influence the tendering process will result in immediate disqualification of the Tenderer. Enquiries, administrative and technical, relating to the Tenders listed in the table above may be addressed to Mr Nkululeko Dlamini. Tel No. 232 32 270/2/3/4 or 232 322 68, Fax No. 232 322 71, E-mail: nkululeko@swade.co.sz

The Employer does not bind herself to accept the lowest or any tender.

WOMEN RALLY BEHIND SPHASHA

mbattled Swaziland National Association of Teachers' presi-→ dency contender Sphasha Dlamini has the support of women within union leadership ranks.

The election campaign is still at regional conference stage as yesterday was spent at Mananga, which is the Hhohho region.

Sphasha has emerged a strong contender against Manzini branch's Mbongwa

The support was revealed by The Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA)Vice President Simangele Mtetwa on Monday who said it was unfortunate that her side of the story could not be heard, whereas if tables were turned, justification would be made for reasons why she was deserving of abuse. Mtetwa said it was unfortunate that the reports that Sphasha had stabbed her husband were fuelled by those who were trying to de-campaign her bee line towards the presidency because clearly, they were not happy about having women in leadership.

"We are not deterred by this and will stand by her in because she is a strong woman who is worthy of the leadership position," said Mtetwa. She revealed that men within their ranks tried to blow the matter out of proportion by going as far as labelling her 'Magwaza' following their reading of the report carried by the Swazi Observer on Monday.

Mtetwa called for fairness during the campaign period, stating that de-campaigning tactics would only serve to make them more determined.

"We have men within our ranks getting away with worse things and they are never vilified to the extent that ... as she attends May Day with husband



Swaziland National Association of Teachers' president contender Sphasha Dlamini.

Sphasha has whereas nothing is known of circumstances surrounding her incident and we should not speculate but find out what is happening before passing judgement," she said.

It would seem as though a war of words erupted along gender lines on one of the WhatsApp groups where unionists converge as snide remarks were allegedly made about this incident with women rallying behind her and stating they would not back down in pushing her as their candidate of choice.

Mtetwa, when contacted again yesterday, revealed that they had spoken about the issue within their ranks as women in SNAT and resolved to sup-

We do not condone gender-based violence and we are not-picking a side because we are supporting Sphasha and by extension, her whole family which is also supportive of her campaign."

On the other hand, reports that Dlamini and her husband were at loggerheads were seemingly quashed during May Day celebrations at Pigg's Peak as she was seen in a jovial mood in the company of her husband.

Several people commented that they saw the couple walking side by side during the celebrations and nothing seemed

"She told us that it was a minor misunderstanding that was blown out of proportion and we believe her," said SNAT Gender Officer Bongiwe Mango. She too reiterated support for Dlamini saying they supported her campaign.

"She is right there by the door right now, if you want to speak to her I can give you her the phone," Mango said yesterday.

However, she was to later state the Dlamini was unwilling to be interviewed as she said she could only entertain questions at the end of May, after their elec-

In the same vein, SNAT Secretary General Zweli Mndzebele said Sphasha Dlamini's domestic issues have nothing to do with their organisation and hence they were not talked about during the regional conference which was held at Mananga Metropolitan College yesterday. The Hhohho region is still deliberating there today.

"That has nothing to do with SNAT business. The only people concerned about that are the teachers she is competing with as we have nothing to delve on where that is concerned," he said, when asked if they were worried about her domestic squabble.

National election registration to start this week

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

→he 2018 national elections will start in earnest this week as announcement for the commencement of the registration process is expected any time from

This was confirmed by Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) Chairperson Chief Gija on Friday after reports from those who have been engaged as electoral officers revealed they were waiting for the announcement which would tell them of registration dates at their different chiefdoms.

Recently, 600 electoral officers were trained and were said to be

ready to conduct the different phases of the election process. Explaining the event leading to the announcement of registration dates, Chief Gija said His Majesty King Mswati III would issue a signed writ which would then spell all systems go for them. Of note, the dissolving of the current Parliament is expected to be announced at the end of this month. According to acting Senate President Ngomuyayona Gamedze, who was interviewed two weeks ago, they were left with a few bills to conclude before they could wrap up their duties and prepare for the end of their term. He, however, did not confirm whether the end of month is their closing date.

Mhlane to develop roads

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

hlane community is to embark on road devel-■ V ■ opment projects to better their community. This was revealed in a community meeting held at Mhlane chiefdom yesterday.

Speaking at the gathering Mhlane Indvuna Bongani Mbingo said this development would greatly benefit the community because the roads at the moment were in a bad state so much that it was difficult for members of the community to trav-

Mbingo said as a community, they have to start this project as soon as possible because fixing the roads could solve a number of problems faced by the community. These include community members being unable to access their homes easi-

"This development will also help the community solve other problems and make it easier for state services such as ambulances. Ambulances should be able to reach people from their homes and the police to be able to help us and patrol the community without any hindrances," said Mbingo

He said the committee responsible for this project, will see to it that it is run smoothly.

In light of this development project the community will also in the next coming weeks get free medical checkup from the ministry of health under the HIV and AIDS and TB offices.

This will allow members of the community to check and test for diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV and AIDS.

Bringing these services to the community will be a great opportunity for all members of the commu-

Secretary Anthony Masilela said he had told the union that there was no way the ministry was going to reduce the price of the travel doc-

He revealed that instead, the ministry was also seeking to increase the fee of the 32 page travel document from its current price.

"We won't reduce the fees. How can we do that because we have increased the number of pages for the convenience of the people?

This was as solution to avoid the

With the elections coming up, Mbingo also encouraged members to vote for their Member of Parliament, Bucopho and Indvuna. He mentioned that women should not disregard the King's advice but they should make it their mandate to vote for each other into Parliament. He also encouraged every-

Mswati III advised. 'We need to make it our own mission to choose someone who has the same goals as the community and someone who will work for the community.

one to vote for women as King

"As this development project is being initiated, we need a person who will help see it through and that person will be chosen by the community."

Mbingo advised members of the community to take a stand and ensure that they contribute into this project as is it a project that will better the whole community.

Mbingo also mentioned that after the road construction, the community will continue to look into other projects such as street lights. He encouraged the community to work together in achieving this development goal.

Further, churches that are in the community should also be faithful enough to contribute whatever is delegated for them to contribute in order for the project to be seen

Speaking on behalf of the churches, Abel Shongwe, who is also the Chairman of the Original Church of Zion, said churches would elect a committee that will ensure smooth running of churches in the community and also look into how the churches work together to achieve the goals of the community.

shortage of passports. Besides, these documents are highly subsidised already. As you may be aware, ours are the cheapest in the region and the turnaround is the shortest," he said. Masilela said it is possible to get the travel document in a day in the country while in other countries one waits for six months, hence the convenience came with a cost.

fees have increased as this was a new product as the price of the 32page document remains at E80.

Ministry bypassed public when increasing electricity tariffs - TUCOSWA

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) says the ministry of natural resources and energy misled them by giving the impression that there were going to be public hearings before the implementation of the 15 per cent hike in electricity tariffs.

One of the demands by the union is the reversal of the thorny 15 per cent hike in electricity as the union says proper channels were not followed when the tariffs were hiked.

TUCOSWA Secretary General Mduduzi Gina said before April 1, 2017, the day the tariffs were hiked, they had written a letter to the ministry informing it that it would not be proper for it to effect the increase without engaging the pub-

lic and the union. Gina said in response, the ministry assured them that there will be public

"They bypassed us yet Mngometulu had replied and told us that there would be public hearings before the implementation of the increase on the tariffs in 2018. But that was not the case.

"He did mention that Swaziland

Electricity Regulatory Authority (SERA) had allowed them to effect the 15 per cent for this financial year but there would be public hearings that would be conducted before effecting the increase,"

He added that the public hearings were necessary as it does not make sense for the Authority to give Swaziland Electricity Company the go-ahead to effect increases witjout consulting the nation.

"He said that is where we will make representations. The economic dynamics of last year are not the same as those

"When we go to the public hearings, it is where we say they must justify how they arrived at the percentage of the

"You can't say the increase should be 15 per cent when the inflation is at six per cent, and Eskom had increased at a certain percentage," he said.

Gina said to their surprise, the ministry did not keep its promise but simply effected the changes which are one reason they will be protesting and demanding that it be reversed.

The ministry, on the other hand, said it had already responded to the union



TUCOSWA Secretary General Mduduzi Gina.

and the response on why there were no public hearings was in the very same letter that the union says government had made the empty promise.

Meanwhile, the union is also demanding the reversal of the increment of the travel document fees that has been implemented by the ministry of home affairs, which has seen a 64 page travel document cost E500, while the 48page now

Ministry of Home Affairs Principal

He said it was improper to say the

THE STATE OF GOVERNMENT'S EMPTY COFFERS

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

overnment is living hand-tomouth as it waits for the Swaziland Revenue Authority to sweep money into its accounts every Monday before paying any debts.

This past week, thousands of single mothers were turned back as they were told their cheques were yet to be taken to different collection points from the Treasury Department which is based in Mbabane.

The mothers usually collect the cheques from different social welfare offices according to where they applied for garnishee orders against their children's fathers who are civil servants.

For example, those who reported maintenance cases at the Pigg's Peak Magistrates' Court and were awarded garnishee orders, collect cheques on a monthly basis from the Social Welfare Offices located at the entrance of the northern town. Those who applied in Manzini collect same from either the social welfare offices of the Magistrates' Court.

Having successfully paid civil servants from the week beginning 16 April, government failed to pay over E600 000 and resorted to writing and issuing cheques in dribs and drabs.

The first batch were those from fathers who are attached to the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force and Umsizi leaving out those from other government ministries and departments.

Of note, from Monday when the enquiry of payment of cheques was investigated, it was found that there were none issued despite a few being printed. They were later issued and distributed from Wednesday and collections were done by the mothers to the chagrin of those who had to turn back empty handed.

In protestation, the women complained

... as treasury scrapes to pay about E600 000 owed to mothers

that they were not informed that they should not expect the cheques despite the date of collection being past as they usually collect on the last day of the month.

According to well-placed ministry of finances sources, there is no money in government's coffers and the situation has bred a system of wait and see before cheques are printed.

"Government has no money so what we do is stall printing and issuing because they will bounce causing embarrassment," said the source as background to the cause why maintenance cheques were issued late.

The source informed that the cash flow problems result in them waiting for SRA to pump in something before anything gets paid out.

Of note, since inception, SRA has been remitting money every Monday with a report presented every Tuesday since

Every Monday, they sweep money from their collections account into government's consolidated funds.

The finance ministry sources stated that the country's livelihood was largely dependent on SRA collections because each time there is an injection from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts, there is usually a deficit which is literally a drop in the ocean.

"So, when SRA transfers money, there has to be prioritisation of critical suppliers like utilities and fuel.'

The sources stated that they, as ministry of finance employees were also perturbed by government's failure to pay their debts despite deductions having been made.

"It is not only the maintenance money which gets delayed despite it being deducted," they said.

They stated how being in the know affects them negatively as they are aware that pensions are not paid on time as well as their loans with different financial institutions.

They said they were aware that only the net pay amount was considered before the payroll could be paid out instead of gross amount for the whole civil service.

"Going forward, the best thing is to have deductions taken from your bank account as government is not honouring repayments and this is affecting our credit records."

Revealing the amount paid to mothers every month, the sources stated that their estimates were at E600 000.

"It would call for one to go through the whole list of beneficiaries and ascertain what the payment is for before we can give you the actual figure because some of this money is for unrelated debts and other deductions," said the sources adding that their calculations were based on a cursory glance and judgement of the nature of the recipient as well as

When asked about government's state of affairs, the Principal Secretary Bheki Bhembe said there was nothing strange pertaining to government's collection of revenue from the authority as they did this regularly, even every day.

He however referred questions to the accountant general who was earlier in the week said to be on an international working trip in Ethiopia. When her cel-

lular phone was called yesterday, it was

MAINTENANCE CHEQUES PRINTED FRIDAY TO BE DISTRIBUTED THIS WEEK

rue to reports that government only prints cheques in anticipation for an injection, on Friday, cheques were printed in the morning and by afternoon, were still being recorded whereas they would be disseminated from tomorrow to the different regional social welfare offices. Thousands of mothers from across

the country expected to collect cheques from April 26 through to this past week but were disappointed to be turned back and told there was nothing forthcoming.

Different reasons given to the women include that the money was used to pay debts whereas another was to the effect that employees were swamped

seeing as this past week marked the beginning of the new financial year. The mothers have been perturbed by the turn of events seeing as schools open on Tuesday and they will not have time to prepare for them seeing as they will only get the cheques during the course of the week.

Please embrace technology when paying us

aintenance recipients are calling for improved dissemination of money as the trips to different collection points are eating into their pockets.

Women who frequent Manzini Magistrates Court to collect their children's maintenance cheques said it was no longer sustainable to travel up and down on a monthly basis as it was expen-

"I am here to collect a cheque of E500, I have to travel using E66 from Mankayane and back, spend half the day here because at times we are told they will arrive in the afternoon and this eats into my productivity at work," said Senanile Hlophe.

She requested that her lesser known name be used because she was at pains having her ex know of the trials she is going through.

She revealed that she obtained the court order in Manzini while working in the textile industry in Matsapha against her ex who is a police officer in

She recently had to move to Mankayane to be closer to her home area and found employment there.

"I have to take a whole day from work and this is not sustainable because I get paid daily. So the opportunity cost of collecting the cheque sees me losing a day's wages, spending E66 and at times return home without anything to show for my efforts, risaid Hlophe.

She challenged that if she could be paid using alternative means such as bank transfer or mobile money, it would be more convenient for her.

Another woman, Xolile Nkambule, said she was not happy about travelling every month and being told to return on another day.

"I live in Malkerns and I have to use my own transportation every month and the money I have to use is not factored into the maintenance as I only get of my child's food needs and nothing more," she said and further suggested that the post office could be used to disseminate the money seeing as not be cashed in the one bank which welcomes low transfers and call for one to travel to Mbabane in order to cash them over the counter at Central Bank. Maintenance cheques range from E200 to E3 000 depending on the number of children a mother has as well the amount per child and whether the mother gets spousal support.

Of note, in one cheque dissemination centre visited and books perused, only three cheques are above E2 000 out of the over three hundred cheques recorded for March.

They women decried the lack of sensitivity where their case is concerned.

Hilton Hotel now hiring

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The prestigious Hilton Garden Hotel situated within the capital city is now hiring.

The first advertisement was posted 22 days ago and appears in Glass Door Job Search's websitehttps://www.glassdoor.co.uk, and stated that the Hilton - Mbabane was seeking a finance manager.

The advert is said to have been sponsored by Hilton Garden Inn.

Three days ago, more positions were added to the site including those of the security manager, executive housekeeper, head chef, chief engineer as well as an IT supervisor. Yesterday, the position of human resources executive was added to the website.

Sought for comment on the initial advert, Public Service Pension Fund (PSPF) Director Corporate Services Elkan Makhanya said he was not aware of it as everything pertaining to the hotel was being taken care of by the board of directors. However, he promised to shed light on vacancies after consultation with the board this past Monday.

When called on Tuesday, he returned the missed call and on

hearing that this reporter was calling him, his response was; "Never mind."

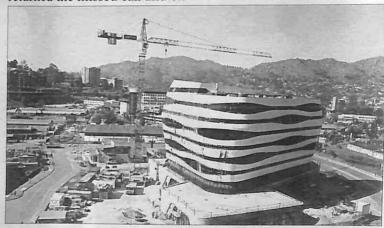
In a previous interview, Makhanya said the hotel would open in July and was set to have 100 jobs on offer for locals who would be given first preference.

He assured that jobs would be advertised at the appropriate time through the local newspapers media.

Of note the competencies of the chief engineer, require a candidat responsible for the effective man agement of all engineering and maintenance operations within the hotel, including energy conserva-

The candidate would be also responsible for the development of the engineering team and staying abreast of compliance regulations and procedures in the field of engineering, as required for hotel standards

For the position of head chef, the candidate would be responsible for managing all aspects of the kitchen to deliver an excellent guest and member experience and would also be required to ensure that all operational, quality, and administrative functions are carried out properly.





Tenders are hereby invited for the supply of the following items for the period of 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

Following the invitation to tenders dated 5th March 2018 - 3rd April 2018, interested tenderers are advised that the tender submission deadline has been extended to 15th May 2018 for the following sources of supplies:

Tender No. 6 of 2018/2019 -Supply of domestic streetlights

Tender No. 1 of 2018/2019 - Printing of Council documents Tender No. 5 of 2018/2019 - Supply of protective clothing

Tender No. 7 of 2018/2019 - Supply of stationery Tender No.10 of 2018/2019 - Supply of cleaning material

Tender documents with General conditions of purchase and conditions of tender are available at the Cashier's office. Each tender document can be purchased for a non-refundable fee of E300.00 payable at the Town Council offices.

Completed tender documents under sealed cover with tenderers name and address on reverse side of envelope must be made and addressed to the CEO/Town clerk, P. O. Box 479 PIGG'S PEAK not later than 12:00 noon, Tuesday 15th May

Tenderers are expected to submit one (1) original copy and five (5) copies of tender documents, clearly marked on the front page. Late or telegraphic tenders will not be accepted. The Council does not bind itself to accept any or the lowest tender.

MZWANDILE S.NDZINISA TOWN CLERK/CEO

WWW.TTITTH WAT

NOMSA BAGS DOCTOR

BY OBSERVER REPORTER

he sky is the limit for Dr Nomsa Mathabela-Magagula, the UNISWA Assistant Librarian, Law, and Advocate of the High Court of Swaziland.

She recently graduated with PhD Information Studies from the University of KwaZulu (UKZN), Pietermaritzburg Campus on April 24. Nomsa is the daughter Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Defence Andreas Mathabela and his wife Beauty who were both present to witness their daughthe 'big hat'.

She was hounered by South African Chief Justice Mogoeng Thomas Reetsang Mogoeng popularly known as Mogang Mogang who is the Chancellor of the University.

On her special day she was also supported by her Husband, Lovemore Magagula, father and daughter Siphosethu Magagula. She was congratulated by UKZN Chancellor and the Chief Justice of South Africa- Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng; with Colleague Dr Notice Pasipamire of Zimbabwe, and Dr Manicon of the Department of Information Studies, Nomsa graduated together with her col-

ter who is now married, receive league at UNISWA, Dr Lungile Dlamini-Mabundza who also received a Phd in Policy and Development Studies.

Friends

She said her appreciation and gratitude goes to the Almighty God for His everlasting grace and love in giving her the ability to go through her studies. "I also appreciate my supervisor, Professor Ruth Hoskins from the department of Information Studies and Dr Rosemary Kuhn in the UKZN Library.

Much gratitude goes to the office of the Law Society of Swaziland, Learned friends in the Law firms in the country for partaking in the

I also thank my employers, the University of Swaziland for affording me study leave to pursue this research. Gratitude to "Bakhozi", Faith Mkhonta, Thuli Ndzimandze, Abahle Thwala and Lindiwe Ngcobo for the encouragement and support," she said.

I also thank my husband and my children for their understanding and support during the time of my physical absence at home due to the demanding work during my studies.

"I hope this will give them and the youth in the cue, that it is possible to stretch one's limits and achieve more through Christ. The Kingdom of Eswatini needs us all enlightened," she said.





Nomsa pictured with her mother Beauty who came to witness her graduation. Ministry of Defence Principal Secretary Andreas Mathabela and her daughter Nomsa Mathabela-Magagula.



Dr Nomsa with her husband Lovemore Magagula, mother Beauty and daughter Siphosethu.



Dr Lungile Dlamini-Mabundza was also received a Phd in Policy and Development Studies together with Dr



University Of KwaZulu Natal Chancellor and South Africa's Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng with Dr Nomsa Mathabela-Magagula during her graduation recently. They are joined by Dr. Manicon of the Department of Information Studies and her colleague Dr Notice Pasipamire from Zimbabwe.

Coutersy pics

PROTECT YOURSELF: Do nit deal with unlicensed financial services provides.

icensing of non-bank financial services providers

Application or Renewal of a Financial Services Providers License

The application or renewal of a license shall be made to the Authority in the form and manner prescribed by the FSRA and shall be accompanied by the prescribed fees. In the case of an application for renewal of a license, the application shall be made not later than one month before the expiry of the existing license. The Authority may require further information deemed necessary from the license applicant.

Granting of a Financial Services License

The Authority requires prospective licensees to meet certain requirements. A license shall only be granted if the applicant meets and the Authority is satisfied that the applicant will continue to meet;

- Licensing conditions set by the Authority;
- Capital adequacy, solvency or other prudential standards;
- · Minimum financial

requirements;

Requirements of the applicable financial services law.

The Licensing and Supervision process

Licensing and registration

- The Authority checks if applicants fulfil the licensing requirements
- Analyse documents
- Issue a license if all requirements are met

Compliance assessment

- The Authority checks if licensed entities complies with regulations and directives
- Are operational, statutory and financial requirements met?

On- site monitoring

- Routine inspections are conducted to verify the operations of an entity.
- The inspections determines if there has been a violation of legislations.
- A report is issued to the entity.

Off-site monitoring

- The Authority analyse financial and non-financial information.
- · Require statutory

submissions.

 Renewal of license and continued compliance with registration and operational requirements.

Entities which should be licensed by FSRA to offer financial services or products

Insurance, Retirement Funds& Medical Schemes Division

- · Insurers
- Insurance Brokers
- · Re-Insurance Companies
- · Corporate agents
- Individual agents
- Retirement funds
- Beneficiary funds
 Medical Aid Funds
- Medical Aid Funds
 Medical Scheme
- Medical Scheme Administrators
- · Fund Administrators
- Foreign Retirement Funds
- Beneficiary Funds

Credit and Savings Institutions Division

- · Credit providers
- · SACCOs
- Credit Bureaus
- Building Societies
- · Money Lenders
- · Pawn Brokers
- Hire Purchase Institutions
- Lotteries

Capital Market Development Division

- Investment Advisors
- · Dealers
- · CIS Managers
- Trustees and Custodians
- Securities Exchanges
- Investment Advisor Reps.
- · Dealers Reps
- Exempt Dealers

Conditions and Restrictions

As per the provisions of the FSRAAct, 2010, the Authority may grant or renew a license subject to requirements provided in the regulations. The Authority may, by written notice to a financial service provider, vary any condition or restriction or impose further conditions or restrictions. It is a transgression not to adhere or comply with requirements imposed by the Authority.

Failure to comply with the condition or requirements is an offence and the applicant would be liable to a fine.

Don't deal / engage unlicensed financial services provider

Consumers are urged to cease and desist from dealing with un-authorised financial services provider.



PROTECT YOURSELF!

Don't deal with unlicensed financial services providers.

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www.fsra.co.sz



DVOKOLWAKO MOURNS DEATH OF EX-RSSC FOREMAN

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Retired Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) Potable Water Resources Foreman Henry Mkhwanazi (61) who drowned at Mvuleni Dam on Tuesday, may have forever departed from this world but his legacy will leave on in his community.

Mkhwanazi has been hailed as someone who was not only resourceful but a selfless leader by mourners and his family.

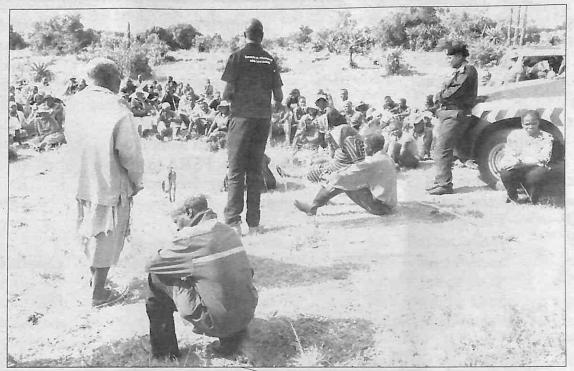
The community members said their leader's devotion and commitment to the community's wellbeing was evidenced by his diligent work as a member of the Dvokolwako Inner Counci and also as Chairman of the Mliba Rural Water Scheme.

Addressing the mourners wo had come to pass condolences to the family, Mfundi Dlamini, who is also a member of the inner council, said the community had suffered a blow as Mkhwanazi was a catalyst in development activities in the committees that he served in.

He said Mkwanazi played a major role in ensuring that the community had a good supply of water using his vast knowledge of potable water resource management.

"We are still shocked how he would die in this manner as he has always been fetching water from the very same dam for years. This is the first of its kind, we believe it was time. He was also generous and had helped a lot of people in times of need," he said.

Dlamini's words were echoed by Mkwanazi's daughter Busisiwe, who



Police from Mliba Police Station found the car submerged in the dam. A search party was then launched.

said the tragic death of their father had shocked them as a family as he had always been fetching water from the same dam to water vegetables.

"My father was rarely at home during weekends as he used to be engaged in the community services in the different committees.

Water ran in his veins as by 4 am he was up checking the engines. He believed in solidarity and peace.

He was also taking care of the family and helped us raise our children.

Similarly, Mkhiweni Member of Parliament Gideon Dlamini said the community had struggled for three years without water but Mkhwanazi played a major role in making it possible to have a reliable water supply.

"This is a great loss, without him we would not have had running water in the community but he volunteered his skills and helped whenever there was a breakdown in the water supply," he added.

Mkwanazi had gone to fetch water as usual from the dam which he used for watering his garden when he met his tragic death.

The incident happened at about 10am on May Day at Mliba in the Manzini region.

According to the family spokesper-

son Busisiwe, the car that was driven by Mkhwanazi plunged into the dam while his grandchildren were loading water containers on the bakkie.

About Henry Mkhwanazi:

- Former RSSC Potable Water Resources Foreman
- Served the company for 35 years
- He was a member of the Dvokolwako Inner Council
- He was also Chairman of the Mliba Rural Water Scheme
- He is survived by his wife, eight children and nine grandchildren.



Retired Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation Potable Water Resources Foreman Henry Mkhwanazi (61) captured during a thanksgiving ceremony.



Busisiwe Mkhwanazi who spoke on behalf of the family.

Yithi Abantu Highway potholes to be refilled

BY FORTUNE NDLANGA-MANDLA

The ministry of public works and transport plans to refill the Yithi Abantu Highway potholes which stretches from Mhlaleni to Nhlangano.

The terrible state of the road has been blamed for several accidents twitnessed along this stretch. Huge potholes are all over the road, causing a headache to motorists and other road users.

Most of the potholes are found between Salem to Emanyeveni and a few of them found from Tri-Cash, Sidvokodvo to New Village.

The potholes are found in the middle of the road and sometimes motor vehicles are forced to switch lanes to avoid them, thus causing accidents in most instances.

Addressing the bad state of the road with this publication was the Ministry's Principal Secretary Makhosini Mndawe, who said the road needed urgent attention

"The road needs to be refilled. A new asphalt is needed as the current one was put long time ago," the PS explained. He added that his ministry had plans



to rehabilitate the road and they have were hoping to get funds from government central agencies. However, Mndawe added that for now his ministry was patching some of the potholes while waiting for funding to fully rehabilitate road.

He added that it was important that a new bitumen layer be put on top of the current layer, something that he said runs to millions of Emalangeni, declining to disclose the actual cost estimations for the project.

"It is an important corridor in the country as it connects Manzini and the South part of the country, hence it should be given special attention. We

are looking to swiftly attend to the road as soon as the funding is available," the PS said.

To qualify his claim, the PS said as a ministry they have already come up with designs, adding that everything was in place except for the funds.

He mentioned that his ministry knew very well what must be done on the road. Nevertheless, Mndawe emphasised that in their designs they do not have additional lanes as the current width of the highway was acceptable. He said the only worrying thing was the structure as it has outlived its' design life. Normally, a road has to be refilled after every seven or eight years.

That has not been the case with the Yithi Abantu Highway and it has been 15 years since it has been refilled. PS Mndawe further mentioned that the ministry of finance has promised to assist in the project.

Finally, the PS urged road users to be cautious when using the road pending it rehabilitation. He pleads with farmers to keep livestock away from the road to avoid accidents. He then thanked the police for working with them on 'e issue.



Sunday Observer Reporter Zwelethu Diamini measuring the depth of the pothole using a water bottle. (Pics: Fortune Ndlangamandla)



A motor vehicle negotiating past a pothole.

Ngetengasala nasakha kwetfu

WOMEN ADVISED TO ENSURE HEALTHY ELECTION COMPETITION

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

omen who will contest in the upcoming elections are advised to not only strategise, but to be their sisters' keepers by keeping competition healthy.

This was during the Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) -Swaziland hosted leadership workshop under the theme: 'Women's Leadership and Participation in Decision-Making - Ngetengasala nasakha kwetfu.'

In attendance were 40 women from various Tinkhundla across all four regions of the country.

These women were all leaders in their own rights representing diverse backgrounds, including human rights activists, Lutsango members, former women parliamentarians and businesswomen.

The purpose of the meeting was to sensitise women leaders about transformational leadership, the National Gender Policy, the Africa Union's Vision 50/50, as well as to encourage women to affirm themselves as leaders in light of the upcoming national elections.

A panel of feminist facilitators; including Doo Aphane, Sizakele Hlatshwayo and former Ludzeludze Member of Parliament Nonhlanhla Dlamini; took the participants through transformational leadership, communications and advocacy strategies.

Also present were former women parliamentarians such as Jennifer du Pont of Timphisini, Hlobsile Ndlovu of Pigg's Peak, Trusty Gina of Nkilongo as well as Thandie Nxumalo of Manzini South, amongst others.

The United States of America Ambassador Lisa Peterson and the Director of Gender Unit within the Deputy Prime Minister's Office's Family Issues Unit, Jane Mkhonta also made keynote remarks and both emphasised the need for Swaziland to vote, elect and appoint women into decision-making bodies at local and national levels.

The women were encouraged to affirm and position themselves for strategic positions at local and national levels.

Delegates also made an appeal to the US ambassador to ensure that the generous backing extended by her embassy and partners to WLSA truly supports



Hlobsile Ndlovu.

women's participation by providing them with tangible and strategic resources.

The different speakers further underscored the need for the women leaders to strategise and be their sister's keepers.

For example, in communities where more than one women candidates are nominated, they were encouraged to



Trusty Gina.

cooperate and ensure a healthy competition. This will ensure that they use their comparative advantage of numbers to advance the 'Vote for a Woman' campaign.

The Director of WLSA Colani Hlatshwayo expressed her delight in the success of the leadership workshop. She revealed that the meeting helped map opportunities, strategies, resources, barriers and opportunities for women's strategic participation in leadership positions. She further clarified that the scope of the leadership workshop was neither a campaign for women, nor limited to the upcoming elections but broadly focused on women's participation in decision-making bodies at all levels as per WLSA's mandate of women's leadership.

Participants had an opportunity to interact with the DPM's office and EBC representatives and convey their concerns and questions about legal framework, resources and different mechanisms in place to advance women's leadership participation. Issues brought up included the election of four women from the regions, provision of public transportation to the polling stations, and possible loopholes that enable corruption as well as oversight provision to avoid instances of corruption during elections period.

Additionally, a firm appeal was made to EBC to provide resources to support women's participation in decision making bodies in order to advance His Majesty the King's Vision 50/50. However, EBC Legal Advisor Lungile Magongo provided that as a facilitating body, EBC was not in a position to provide resources for voters.

Through WLSA, women were given the mandate to convey the message of encouraging constituency candidates to abide by the elections Acts and refrain from illegal campaigns as it could potentially disqualify them. Instead, they were encouraged to continue serving their communities as they have always done, network and share resources.

Inyanga's son shoots prophet over superstition powers

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

Strife over superstitions powers has left Prophet Janet Shongwe (52) disabled, allegedly after being shot by a traditional healer's son thrice using an AK-47.

The incident happened late in March at Mgegelendlana area, about nine kilometres away from Malutha Border Post.

The two diviners are neighbours; the antagonistic vibe between the two has a point by point foundation and it strengthened after the traditional healer was purportedly for a few times busted with dagga while endeavouring to cross to South Africa.

Shongwe said the *inyanga* pointed the finger at her for the arrest by the police.

The prophet said the inyanga professedly said she was bewitching him, hence the reason their dagga business was failing.

Prophet Shongwe went on to allege that the traditional healer was also jealous of her healing powers which are at a moderate charge when contrasted with the traditional healer. She said considering her moderate charges, more individuals have been going to her for consultations and in the process the inyanga became envious.

On the game changing day around 7pm, Shongwe was from attending a meeting at Malutha. She was taking a bath in her room when she was shot on the waist.

"I heard a loud noise getting through the window in my room and something hit me on the waist and I went down. Should I have not bent down, the bullet was going to kill me," Shongwe said in a hoarse voice.

Shongwe mentioned that after being shot she yelled at her daughter-in-law that she has been hit. While she was down on the floor, the daughter-in-law is said to have immediately raced to Shongwe's restroom and dragged her to the sitting room.

The daughter-in-law is said to have done that after hearing strides of the aggressor moving around the house where Shongwe was shot.

The daughter-in-law is said to have sensed that the attacker was searching for another space, so he could pull the trigger which may end Shongwe's life. At that point, Shongwe was on the floor bleeding profusely.

In the wake of being certain that the aggressor has vanished, Bhunya police were called to the scene.

The police responded promptly after being called by the daughter-in-law. However, unsubstantiated reports were that the police were turned back at the inyanga's residence as they are said to have informed the police that there was no Shongwe homestead in the territo-

Mankayane police are said to have whisked Shongwe to Mankayane Government Hospital where she was admitted for a week.

A bullet was removed from her while another two are said to have been found in her bedroom.

In ner bedroom.

An AK-47 cartridge was found near

the window where the bullet went through.

The family alleged that they were informed by the investigating police officers who inspected the crime scene that the live round bullets were like those used by South African police.

The Shongwe family believe that the prophet was shot by the inyanga's child because earlier on the day when going to the gathering at Malutha, she and her daughter-in-law were tailed by the suspect. She said the *inyanga's* child would suddenly stop the car when he was about to hit them.

The *inyanga's* child apparently did that three times.

The Shongwe family expressed their disappointment on the police's failure to apprehend the suspect who has escaped to South Africa, around Amsterdam. The family said the police should also arrest the *inyanga* because he was the one who sent his son to shoot her.

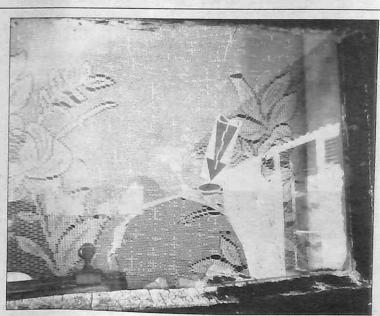
The prophet threatened that failure by the police to apprehend the suspect may bring about bloodshed as her children were angry and were losing patience.

She swore that her 'God' was going to revenge on her behalf.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer (CPICO) Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the shooting incident.

He added that police were still investigating the matter as the suspect escaped to South Africa.

Efforts to get a comment from Mangcongco Member of Parliament Patrick 'Pha' Motsa were futile as his phone rang unanswered on Friday.



A broken window where the bullets went through.



Prophet Janet Shongwe who was shot on the waist.

IT'S THREE IN THE BAG AS LANDO GETS HER HONOURS

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

he did a traditional dance to ululating and appreciative whistles as she accepted recognition for her latest achievement on Friday night during the University of South Africa (UNISA) gradua-

For MTN Foundation Coordinator Landokuhle Dlamini, it has not been third time's a charm, it has all been successes.

Being a mother and MTN employee has seen her spend long hours at work only to rush home and juggle being parent to a toddler while looking at her books.

Her infectious excitement during her graduation on Friday night drew applause for not only her elegant yellow lihiya with a graduation hat on books and scroll inscription, but her solo dance on the podium was a marvel to watch as it relayed her exhilaration to have achieved.

"I am so excited, my family and colleagues are so excited," she said of the end of her three-year jour-

The conferment of an Honours in Business Management is her third award for academic achievement as she holds a Diploma in Commerce and a Degree in Marketing, all obtained from the University of Swaziland.

She says it has been a fulfilling journey to not only be a mother



Landokuhle with her mother Thuli Perreira-Dlamini during her graduation ceremony on Friday night.

but also to be a working woman in the corporate industry working for an amazing organisation (MTN) and juggling all that with school.

Her support structure included her immediate family, church as well as her bosses.

She appreciates the support of her parents, Thuli Perreira-Dlamini and Musa Dlamini have given her, sister Ngeti, brother Phiwayinkhosi and the extended Perreira family which has been such a pillar of strength for her.

Spiritual guidance was availed to

her by the Gethsemane Redemption Church in Siteki which ensured she was taken care and prayed for at every turn.

Leadership

She counts as exemplary the leadership by her Chief Executive Officer Ambrose Dlamini, who not only supported her but played a pivotal role in showing the way to academic excellence as he has studied and done incredible things in his academic journey.

She also owes her achievement to her immediate boss Sibusiso Nhleko who she says he has encouraged her to push the envelope and allows her to think out of the box as he pushed her towards excellence and perfection. His mentorship and the advice she received from him has been such that it opened her eyes to the possibilities within the industry and the world out there and encouraged her to be a lifelong learner in the process.

She dubs 2018 the year of professional and developmental goal. Over and above all those who assisted her, she attributes her achieve-

Turning negativity into positivity

andokuhle realises that she made mistakes in the past but says they should not define one but should count as motivation to do better.

She counts having her daughter at a young age and out of wedlock was a mis-take which has steered her to claim her blessings from God.

After the negative press she received in years past, she says her story should serve as motivation that looking at God can turn circumstances to positivity.

The young lady says she hopes her life story can be motivation to young women who have made mistakes or beat themselves for decisions they have made to fight depression and to see there is hope of having a brighter tomorrow if they keep an eye on their dreams and realise there is a brighter future if they let God take charge, "Everything will culminate into brilliance with your trust in God and trust in the inane power planted within you."

The realisation that one can start over as it never too late is something she believes should be preached to every young woman out there; "Don't give up on yourself and on your dreams. Instead use your obstacles to fuel your fire and to take you to a level you have never imagined."

ments to God who she says has been at the forefront of her achievements.

Relenting that it has not been easy she says she learnt to hustle in silence while keeping a positive mindset; "Back in the day, my hustles would be known by all and sundry, however I have matured, and God has given me the wisdom to make waves by working hard because it is then that your results speak the loudest." Dlamini says the realisation that making noise and beating one's own drum does not pave a better way to success as much as working hard in the background and having results shine so that no one can ignore them has been of help to her.

'MY DRESS CODE DEPICTS MY PROUD HERITAGE'

"Umculo for me is the scroll which is education, the word, the Bible. The nice thing about it, the day you choose umculo, subsequently, indilinga will follow, money will follow you" he ditched latest fashionable trends in order to send a message that she

> "As I grow older, I appreciate what it is to have an identity; what it is to have a place called home; to be a Swati," she says. She believes wearing a lihiya speaks to the heritage she can hold on to as she goes out to the world and tells all that she is from the Kingdom of Eswatini through and through and a cause to celebrate. "Here we are as Swatis, doing amazing work, shaking up the industry

is a proud young liSwati and will

forever stand out to tell the wonderful story of her country of birth during her

graduation.

and playing in the global arena. She took the opportunity to raise the flag and say here we are and change the stereotype and narrative and make people take a reckoning look.

"I wanted people to question the neg-



Landokuhle owes her success to the support she has received from her brother Sibusiso and her mother.

ativity they hear about the country by seeing there are Swatis out there doing great things working tirelessly to improve the country they dearly love. I love my King, I love the government and abide by their honour I pray for the leadership of the country and believe it is an amazing country.

She believes the world needs to hear the positive story about the successes whereever she goes in the world and as she proclaims her citizenship, she wants people to smile nostalgically and have something good to say and recall.

"It was my honour to share that there are young people, future leaders from the country who are dedicated to shift-

ing and changing the world to be a better place." Concerning the inscription on her lihiya, she says this being a year of the Golden Jubilee, she wanted to remind people of the ideals imparted by King Somhlolo's dream where he implored Emaswati to embrace the scroll over money. "Unculo for me is the scroll which is education, the Word, the Bible. The nice thing about it, the day you choose umculo, subsequently, indilinga will follow, money will follow you."

She encourages her peers to pursue their education, work hard and follow God in everything they do because prosperity, good health and wealth is bound to follow; "Halala Swaziland!"



Yellow was the theme of her graduation as represents her employer, Swazi MTN's, corporate colours.

Ngobile with other graduates after being honoured in their different disciplines.

FROM PROOF READER SENIOR INFORMAT

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

er first full time job was clinched by the sheer will to succeed and fearlessness when faced with new challenges.

She initially had no qualifications but Ngobile Ndzinisa's determination ensured that she succeeded in clinching interviews within broadcast and print media even though she knew nothing about the industry she was getting into. This is the same strength in character which steered her further to reach her current position within the ministry of information, communications and technology in the Directorate of Information and Media Development as Senior Information Officer. The University of KwaZulu-Natal Master of Social Science in Cultural and Media Studies graduate says it has been a long, but interesting journey to get where she is today. A born and bred resident of Mbabane, she is the eldest of two girls, something which ensures that she makes a success of every situation and venture she gets into. She owes her formative years' confidence to the school she attended, both primary and high level. By sheer chance, the St Mark's Primary and High Schools' product got her first job six months after completing her secondary education in 2004 after attending an audition for a TV show that the ministry of education was piloting on Swazi

"It was so out of character for me to attend auditions, but I got the job!"

she says of her six months stint presenting the educational show 'Xpressions' which was produced by Savusa Productions. Having embraced her calling into the industry through broadcast media, she then responded to an advert in the Times of Swaziland calling for proof-readers when the show ended in 2005. "Until then, I didn't even know what

a proof-reader was or what they did, but I guessed from the advert that I could do the job," she says with a chuckle. Despite finding the interview stressful, she got the job.

Studying

"At this point I had also been accepted to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities through the Institute of Distant Education (IDE) at the University of Swaziland, so I started working full-time and studying part time." The hectic schedule called for her to be in class from 8am to 5pm on Saturdays and then rush to work from 6pm until late, only to come back to work the next day at 12pm.

She recalls how she had to juggle her awkward proof-reading hours and course work, especially when Saturdays became insufficient to cover

It was a blissful day for Ngobile after being honoured with her Masters.

the daily and weekend newspapers for the five years it took to earn my degree. I also wrote a motivational/inspirational article for the Times SUNDAY newspaper for a few years." Upon her graduation from UNISWA in October 2009, she left the publication to teach at her former primary school as a relief teacher for the last term of that year. She was thereafter posted to Maphalaleni where she taught at Kuhlahla Primary School for a year. With her diverse working background, she then joined the ministry of ICT in 2010 as Communications Officer where her next big opportunity would be availed to her.

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attend lectures

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Ndzinisa

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swap shifts as

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"I worked at

the Times

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"We

"I honestly owe my Masters' to my current boss, the Director of Information and Media Development Phesheya Dube.'

He tirelessly encouraged her to study further so she could be more effective in her position.

Seeing as she works in media policy formulation and despite her experience in media in general, she noted that she had gaps in knowledge in that regard. "I believe it's important to understand what you don't know and then take steps to capacitate yourself." She describes herself as an introvert who suffers from anxiety, but these limitations do not overpower her can-do attitude and she never allows fear to keep her from doing anything. "So, if I am asked to do something, I always say yes, and then learn how to do it later. This philosophy alone has led me to do things I never I dreamed of."

With all her successes, she countsher determination to venture into unchartered territory as her highlights;" "For example, last year I was on the programme at the Higher Education and Training HIV/AIDS Conference where I presented a poster on findings from my research project. I learned how to make the poster on YouTube."

She has also travelled to Grahamstown where she presented a paper at Rhodes University at the South African Communications Association (SACOMM) Conference in 2016.

Her love for travelling is not inhibited by her love for silence and spending time in doors has all but recharged her soul. "With the exception of two or three people, I have kept the same friends I met in high school and enjoy hanging out with them from time to



Master of Social Science in Cultural

and Media Studies graduate Ngobile

Ndzinisa during her graduation cere-

"I worked at the Times

proofreading the daily and

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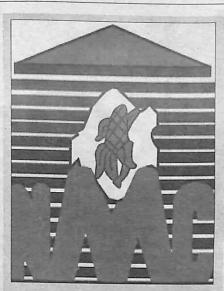
for the Times SUNDAY news-

paper for a few years."

mony.

Ngobile Ndzinisa making her entrance.





...Msibi shares his academic and professional background

sibi has diverse experience across various sectors including banking, accounting, tax-administration, hospitality, as well as within nongovernmental organisations and municipalities both locally and abroad. Before joining the NMC, Msibi served at the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) as Director of Operational Policy, a position he held between February 2012 and December 2013.

He started off from humble beginnings as a bank clerk at the Swaziland Building Society in 1991, later becoming an internal audit clerk, then senior internal audit clerk within the same organisation. He then joined Manzini City Council in 2000 as an internal auditor. He was to later rejoin the organisation as an internal audit manager towards the end of 2010 on his return from United Kingdom where he was furthering his studies. Msibi then moved to Swaziland Revenue Authority where he started off as Internal Audit Manager in 2011, getting promoted to Director of Operational Policy in 2012.

Msibi holds an MSc in Accounting and Finance from the University of Wales (UK); a postgraduate certificate in Financial Management and Control from the London School of Business and Finance; Licentiate Diploma of the Chartered Institute of Business Management (CIBM), Internal Audit Technician (IIA) Certificate among several qualifications; and is a member of the Institute of Board of Directors (IOD) SA, Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), Charted Institute of Secretaries and Administrators (CISA) SA, and is an affiliate member of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA).

Msibi also serves as a board member of Greystone Partners, Chakaza Holding Company a subsidiary of the University of Swaziland as a chairman, Junior Achievers (JA) Swaziland as chairman of the finance committee and served in other various boards and committees of various organisations. Msibi is married with two children and a devoted Christian, he also served three terms in the Manzini Evangelical Church Board.

Msibi joined NMC in 2014 as CEO, and as an 'architect of things', he has been very instrumental in the introduction and establishment of numerous strategic initiatives and transformational programmes within the organisation.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS IN THE MAIZE INDUSTRY

STORIES BY SUNDAY OBSERVER REPORTER

ood security is a very important tenet of national development. Starting today, the Sunday Observer will be profiling some of the people who are keeping the wheels of maize production in the country in motion. One such person is the current CEO of the National Maize Corporation (NMC), Sabelo Msibi, who we had a chance to interview last week.

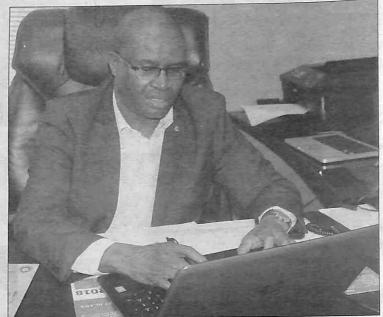
When Msibi joined NMC at a time when the Category A parastatal was sailing in murky waters. The maize reserves at the time had reached an all-time low, and so were the coffers. In 2014, NMC had recorded a deficit of about E80 000, with an annual turnover of E71m. That situation, says Msibi, presented itself as a challenge to be tackled and conquered.

He is quick to attribute the resultant successes in subsequent years to his team, which he speaks fondly of.

"We had to restructure the organisation in 2016 so as to realign the structure to the strategy. That exercise saw the introduction of new departments: the restructuring saw the birth of the positions of Chief Operations Officer (COO) and Human Resources and Administration, divisions of the Agri-Business, marketing and communications, procurement as well as quality assurance SHQ. Agri-Business is responsible for farmer development as a strategy for increasing local maize production and the role of the COO is to ensure revival and efficient management of the organisation's core operations and functions," says Msibi.

At the end of his first reporting year at NMC, Msibi says the organisation registered profits of E7.1 million from a negative E80 000 position the previous years, with positive cash flow that has not been seen in many years. The turnover increased to E110 million from the E71 million recorded the previous year. The following year, profits increased by E700 hundred thousand to E7.8million. However, due to the El Nino drought that affected the country and the entire region in 2016, the profits dropped to E1.2 million that year.

...How NMC was turned around



CEO of the National Maize Corporation Sabelo Msibi.

Meanwhile, maize reserves tremendously increased to 3 000MT (metric tonnes) in 2016 from less than 250MT when he joined the organisation in 2014

Probed on how he managed to turnaround the fortunes of the company in somewhat short space of time, Msibi says NMC had to strategically establish long-term contracts with suppliers. NMC sources its maize locally and mainly from South Africa. He says they negotiated 14 to 30-day credit-facilities with suppliers, and at the same time negotiated new overdraft terms with their bankers.

"We also improved our payment systems so as to instil confidence in our suppliers," he says. "While we deal with high volumes of maize and sugar beans and rice, we are very strict when it comes to quality issues; hence we introduced a food safety standard which we religiously update

standard which we religiously update. This has resulted in high rejection rates of poor quality maize from suppliers, something that has increased consumer confidence in our products but at the same time frustrated farmers prompting us to make some arrangements that will bring certain relief to farmers this coming harvesting season. These changes will be announced in appropriate time."

Outlining further milestones achieved

in the past four years, Msibi revealed that the NMC introduced and established twelve maize distribution centres throughout the country, especially in drought-stricken parts. He says they also introduced a new infrastructure management system, resulting in major rehabilitation work being done on silos in all regions including the Matsapha main depot. In line with their new infrastructure development model, the NMC will be building more silos countrywide, particularly at highly maize production areas.

Maize

The first silo will be built at Sigangeni, in the Hhohho region. The establishment of such silos, says Msibi, will help maize farmers store their maize with the NMC, without necessarily being compelled to sell it to the NMC.

While NMC's primary role has been of a product marketing nature, the evident low supply of locally produced maize has forced the organisation to embrace farmer development as a second core function. In this regard, Msibi says NMC introduced farmer development services in 2016, where the Ministry of Agriculture redeployed ten extension officers to NMC and these were further deployed throughout the high

NMC CEO leads from the front...

asked with ensuring food security for the Kingdom of Eswatini, the National Maize Corporation (NMC) has undergone monumental transformation in the last three years, all in a bid to meet this national mandate. Steering the winds of change at NMC towards achieving not just food security but food selfsustenance as well, is Sabelo Msibi, the company's CEO, who can safely be described as 'an architect of things'.

maize producing area in the country as assistant farmer development officers (AFDOs). Also, as part of the farmer development strategy, NMC introduced contract farming for both maize and sugar beans, where the organisation gives attractive incentives to signed up farmers. Currently, there are 116 contracted maize farmers, up from 51 the previous season.

"Of course, we have even more farmers not yet contracted who bring and sell their maize to us because we are a guaranteed market," explains Msibi.

To incentivise maize farmers who opt to sell their maize to the NMC, Msibi says they introduced the CEO's Award in 2015 – an initiative that rewards the top ten farmers who sell most maize to NMC. Last year, the top ten got over E85 000 worth of farming inputs from the NMC, as well as an all-expenses-paid educational trip to South Africa as prize package. NMC also continues to sponsor National Maize competition (NAMCOM) annually, however, this will be reviewed so that it remains relevant to current times.



OVER 400 OVC WITHOUT FOOD, EDUCATION

STORIES BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

ver 400 orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) have been left without food and early childhood education and support serices as their Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) have not received support for the past two years.

This was said by Dvokolwako Gogo Centre Manager Londiwe Maziya who oversees 16 NCPs in her constituency. Maziya said 11 of the neighbourhood care points were shut down because of lack of funding.

Supplied

"Some of the food was supplied by World Vision and NERCHA keeps on promising that the food will be delivered but till this day there have been no deliveries to the 11 NCPs. These include Busweni 1, 2, and 3 as well as Sibukweni 1, 2, 3, Croydon and Mantjongo," she said



Maziya said now that there is no food, the children no longer come for the early childhood education.

She said the constituency had also not received a good harvest in the fields due to late rains.

"Some of the children have to walk long distances to get food from other NCPs that still operate several kilometres from their communities and by the time they get back home they are already hungry," she explained.

Maziya said they were grateful to World Vision for digging four boreholes at Busweni 3, Nkabolo Mdanuza and Busweni 1. She said at present they had water rationing from their scheme where they only get water once a week.

"We would also like to thank our member of Parliament as he assists by donating clothes and shoes to the children," she added.

International donors shun Eswatini -Director Children

the break in the supply of food for the children in the NCPs is attributed to the lack of willingness from the international community to donate food to the country yet the country has no budget for the Neighbourhood Care Points.

This is according to the Deputy Prime Minister's office Director of Children Services Lucky Ndlovu.

"There is lack of support from those who used to supply the food. Most of the support was from international donors who are now focusing on other countries which are not classified as middle income countries. The break in the supply resulted from the fact that there is lack of appetite from the international community as they say we have enough income but it is unfairly distributed to cushion the poor," he explained. Ndlovu revealed that government does not have a budget for the NCPs as there has been no clarity as to under which ministry they fall under. As a result there was over reliance on the international community which have since shunned the country.

"Government must come up with programmes that will be pro-poor because the international community is now not willing to support us. We have to advocate for change of policy in programmes including influencing development partners within the country to have pro-poor programmes that will assist the people who are most vulnerable,"





Dvokolwako Gogo Centre Manager Londiwe Maziya at Sibukweni 1 NCP where children received clothes and shoes donated by their MP.

SUFIAW elects new NEC, Jabu, Vincent are safe

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

he Swaziland Union of Financial Institutions and Allied Workers (SUFIAW) have elected a new National Executive Committee (NEC) and it's Secretary General (SG) Jabu Shiba and President Vincent Ncongwane continue with their office terms.

This happened three weeks ago during an annual meeting. The results of the meeting have not yet been made public pending finalisation of all logistics; however, this publication has the results.

Worth noting, in terms of SUFIAW's constitution the SG and president positions are not voted for but chosen by the NEC which also has a different president.

Also chosen by the NEC are the union's national organising secretary and the negotiating officer. This means Shiba, Ncongwane and Gcebile Maseko remain full-time NEC members. The three unionists have some few years remaining in their con-

tracts, maximum being three years. These are full-time employees of the union who are working on contract basics.

For elections these posts are not contested for.

Information

The current NEC's term will expire in 2022. Information gathered by this publication suggested that Mphikeleli C. Dlamini was elected President of the NEC; the elected Vice-President is Sifiso Vilane. On the other hand, Sibongile M. Mtshali was elected first Assistant Secretary and second Assistant



NEC President Vincent Ncongwane.

Secretary is Lindiwe Masuku while Zwakele Motsa was voted in the position of the Treasurer and assisted by Goodwill Nene. All in all, there were

22 candidates elected to the current reigning NEC. These include two internal auditors, two trustees and 12 additional members.

ANE FAMILY HOSTS DOUBLE THANKSGIVING CEREMONY



It was a double celebration for the Simelanes of mcAlpine last week Saturday when they hosted a thanksgiving ceremony for their recent achievements which saw the family head Thulani being promoted to Inspector of Primary Schools whilst his wife Zanele is now a Head teacher. Their two daughters; Setsabile and Sitsandziwe are now proud holders of Diplomas in their respective fields. Sitsandziwe have been rewarded a scholarship to futher her studies in the United States of America. With them is their sibling Sivikelwe. (Courtesy pics)





Pastor Jabulani Simelane sharing words of wisdom.



Dr. Phindile Diamini also had something to say.

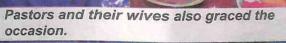


Sitsandziwe, Nokwanda and Setsabile looked ravishing.











Dr Dlamini flanked by the proud graduates Sitsandziwe and Setsabile.



Ncami, Mfihlakalo, Setsabile and Lando posing after the event.



on behalf of the family.





Dr. Phindile, Sivikelwe, Sitsandziwe and Setsabile following the proceedings.

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 - · Has 98 residential plots
 - One public open space
 - Fully serviced infrastructure
 - Gently sloping terrain
 - Plot sizes ranging from 449m² to 963m²



LEGEND

- Reserved
 - - Sold
 - Available

from:









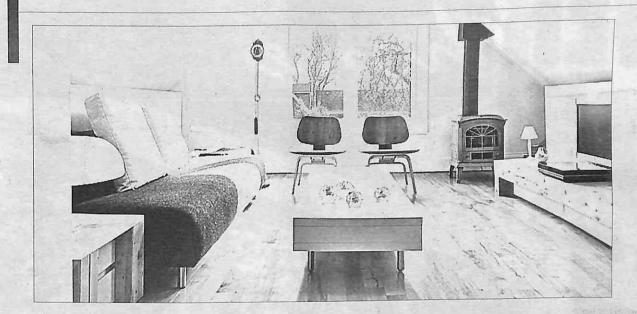






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DAYLIGHTING



SAVE ENERGY AND FEEL BETTER WITH DAYLIGHTING

The natural light coming in through our windows in the morning triggers our internal clocks, letting us know that a new day has begun and it's time to get going. It also makes us feel good, even if it's raining or overcast outside.

aylight is the light that comes into your house during the day is either direct sunlight or ambient light, and we all know that waking up in the morning and throwing open the curtains to let in the light is a great way to start the day.

The natural light coming in through our windows in the morning triggers our internal clocks, letting us know that a new day has begun and it's time to get going. It also makes us feel good, even if it's raining or overcast out-

A house that's optimised for daylighting helps us see better, think with more clarity, be safer, save energy, and makes our home a more enjoyable place to be.

Plenty of natural daylight creates a positive home environment and may even have health benefits, such as warding off seasonal affective disorder and other types of depression.

There are different types of light inside your home, and all work together to warm it up, especially during the winter months.

Direct sunlight is bright, hot, and cheery, but it creates glare and its everyday usefulness is limited until it turns into ambient or reflected light. Sunshine that enters your house and hits a wall or floor turns into reflected, ambient light that fills interior spaces with a soft, pleasing glow. On a cloudy day with no direct sunlight, all the natural light inside your house will be ambient light.

GOOD AMBIENT LIGHTING HELPS ELIM INATE SHADOWS.

During the day, the goal of creating a well-lighted house is to control direct sunlight and maximize ambient light, supplementing as needed taker jerresum din



with artificial light.

WHAT MAKES GOOD DAYLIGHTING?

Good daylighting is a balancing act. In winter the sunlight that streams through your windows adds free solar heat that lowers your electricity bill by decreasing your need for heaters. Good daylighting is the interaction between lots of factors, including:

• House orientatio

- · Proper window design and loca-
- Light control (blinds, curtains, etc.) · Daylight requirements per type of room (living room vs. bathroom)
- Interior design, such as the arrangement of furniture and paint colors
- · Reflective surfaces, both inside and outside your house
- Artificial lighting (light bulbs, lamps c) orthorough





HOW MUCH DAYLIGHTING DO

YOU NEED?
Pinning down indoor daylight requirements gets tricky, as light shifts during the day and each set of eyes is different. Children and older adults need more light than some people who are between 15 and 50 years old, for example.

Good daylighting really is a matter of personal preference. If you think your hallway is too dark, then it is, and you should find ways to add more light so that you're comfortable. If you have a favorite space that you use for reading but it gets too much sunlight in the

afternoon, then you'll want to use a strategy to turn harsh light into softer ambient light. The general rule is that the more ambient light, the easier it is to see.

GETTING THE MOST FROM THE WINDOWS YOU HAVE

The best way to control daylighting is to simply have your house oriented to the sun correctly.

However, you can't do much about which way your existing house is facing, but knowing how natural light changes during the day and throughout the year can help you plan to control daylight effectively.



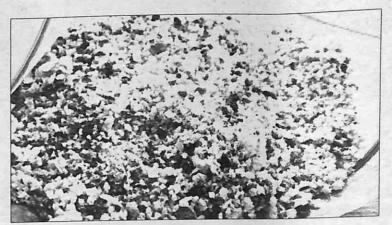
HOW TO USE BREADCRUMBS

hey are so quick and easy to make that you really have no excuse.

If you don't have a toaster, just heat your oven up to 180°C and toast the bread for fifteen minutes, turning over half way if necessary.

Once you've made your breadcrumbs, you can either store all in a Tupperware container in the freezer or create smaller, meal-sized portions in freezer bags. Remember to date your containers or bags as you freeze them so you can keep track of which batch of breadcrumbs to use first.

You can add any flavour combinations you'd like to your crumbs. I like mine with some kick, so I always add cayenne pepper. Garlic powder is a great way to add that pungent garlic flavour, and don't forget to taste your crumbs and adjust the seasoning to suit your palate. Fresh herbs will also add a lot of flavour.



SCRAMBLED EGGS WITH **BREADCRUMBS**

Instead of having eggs on toast, why not cut the calories and sprinkle breadcrumbs on your eggs? For those of us who find it hard to eat eggs without bread, this is a good way to cut down on the amount of bread you eat while still letting you enjoy your eggs for breakfast. The

buttery, crisp crumbs will you're your desire for something crunchy, and one slice of bread will suffice for two servings.

Use whatever bread you like- whole wheat, brown or white bread, a gluten-free bread and so forth.

ADD WHOLEGRAINS TO BABY FOOD

Once your little one is eating solid foods, you can finely process whole-

grain bread and add the crumbs to their baby food. Make sure the bread you're using is a good one, or bak it yourself so you know exactly what

COAT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING

All you need to coat or crumb something is some eggs whisked with milk and your breadcrumbs. Use two eggs and three tablespoons of milk per 2 cups of meat or vegetables, and dip in the egg mixture before dipping in the crumbs. Remember that you don't always have to fry, grilling works just as well and is a much healthier option.

BULK UP YOUR MEALS

Breadcrumbs are a great way to stretch your meat a little further. Add half a cup of breadcrumbs to 250g mince when making meatballs or meatloaf. You'll get great texture and save on how much meat you use.

BREADED PORK CHOPS

have nothing to say for this recipe other than yum, yum, yum!

This is a classic Italian way of cooking veal chops, but it is also used to cook pork and the result is always delicious. It's a great meal to make for a special occasion, as it is rich and full of those flavours that remind you of eating out at an Italian restaurant, for a fraction of the price. Making your own seasoned breadcrumbs is so easy, and it allows you to control exactly how much salt you're putting in your food, while keeping your body free of the chemical preservatives and anti-caking agents used in commercial breadcrumbs. It only takes five minutes, and you can keep leftover breadcrumbs in a plastic bag in the freezer. Just make sure to discard any part of the breadcrumbs that has come into contact with your meat or eggs.

Breaded pork chops | Makes 8 Prep time: 2 hrs Cook time: 40 mins

Ingredients:

- · 8 pork chops
- · 4 slices bread
- · 4 garlic cloves, finely grated
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tbs black pepper
- 1 tsp cayenne pepper
- 2 tbs Spice World curry powder
- 1 tbs mixed Italian herbs
- 3 tbs melted butter
- · 4 tbs vegetable oil or ghee
- 1/4 cup Spice World Steak & Chops
- 2 tbs chopped parsley
- 2 eggs
- 3 tbs milk

Tools:

Frying pan

- · Baking sheet
- Measuring cup

- 2 medium bowls
- 2 clean plates
- Blender
- · Whisk
- · Egg lifter or tongs
- · Meat mallet or rolling
- 4 large freezer bags
- Toaster

Directions: Step 1

Combine all your spices in the measuring cup, then set aside 1/4 of the spice mix in one of your medium bowls. Add garlic and half of your parsley to the melted butter.

Step 2

Place four chops in each of two freezer bags and tenderize by beating with the meat mallet or a rolling pin. You can skip this step but it allows the marinate to really penetrate the meat. Take your meat out and discard the used bags. Using the larger portion of your spice mix, ing and put four chops in two fresh freezer bags. Pour half of the garlic butter in each bag, seal

rub each chop with a generous help-

and marinate at room temperature for up to two hours, or in the fridge

for up to 24 hours. If marinating in the fridge, take the chops out an hour before cooking so they can come up to temperature, you don't want to be cook-

ing cold meat.

Step 3

Toast your bread until it is very dry but not burnt. Let the toast cool, and then tear into small pieces and blend until you have fine crumbs, about two minutes on high. Pour the crumbs into the remaining spice mix and combine. Taste your crumbs and don't be afraid to add some more seasoning! Seal with a lid or cling wrap and set aside.

Step 4

When you're ready to cook the chops, preheat your oven to 160°C and lightly coat your baking sheet. Beat the eggs and milk together in a medium bowl, and then warm up your frying pan on a medium-high heat.

While it comes up to temperature, dip your first chep in the egg mixture, then coat in bread crumbs on a clean plate.

Do the same for your second chop, then coat your pan it a little oil and fry for two and a half minutes on each side, until crispy but not too brown. If your chops brown too quickly, lower the heat. Once browned, place them on the baking sheet and continue frying your chops until all eight are done.

Step 5

Cook your chops in the oven for 25 minutes, turning over halfway.

MOST MUCH DAVINGHILL DELICIOUS VEGETARIAN PASTA

f there's one thing we love Eswatini, yinyama!

However, going meat free a few times a week is a great way to minimise the amount of saturated fats going into your body, as well as cut down a little on the grocery bill. This pasta will give you a delicious, filling meal for two without compromising on flavour just because there's no meat in the recipe. The spinach lasagna adds an interesting element to the dish, giving you that lovely pasta texture but forgoing the usual spaghetti, shells or linguini. It pairs beautifully with the breaded pork chop recipe, so if you're looking to spoil your loved ones this weekend, here you go. You can also eat it as a meal in and of itself, and if you must, adding meat is as easy as chopping up and frying a chicken breast or two along with

Lasagna sheet pasta | Serves 2 Prep time: Cook time: 20 mins

Ingredients

- 4 spinach lasagna sheets
- ¼ cup chopped green beans

- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- · 4 tbs milk or cream
- 1 tbs grated cheddar cheese or half of
- 1/2 chicken or beef stock cube dissolved in 1/8 cup water
- ½ large green pepper, chopped • 1/2 large onion, sliced
- 1 tbs chopped parsley
- 1 tbs butter • 1 tbs olive or vegetable oil
- ½ head of broccoli, stalks and florets separated
- · 2 mushrooms, grated
- 4 cups boiling water • 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp cayenne pepper

- . 1 fresh chilli, chopped
- ¼ tsp Swazi Fire chilli sauce Tools
- Medium pot
- · Frying pan with lid Strainer
- Wooden spoon
- Knife Chopping board

Directions

Step 1

Bring four cups of water to the boil in your pot, and season generously with salt. Once the water is boiling, throw in the lasagna sheets and cook on medium high heat until al dente, about fifteen minutes.

Fry the chilli, mushroom, onion, green pepper, broccoli stalks and green beans in the oil on medium high heat for five

Add the chilli sauce, spices, garlic and stock and lower the heat to a simmer, then add butter, cream and cheese. Add the broccoli florets and parsley then close the lid and remove from the heat.

When your pasta is done, drain and lay two sheets in each serving bowl. Don't just lay them flat; add height by folding them over each other. Spoon half of the veggie sauce in each bowl and garnish with some freshly cracked black pepper.



A SERENE RESIDENTIAL AREA JUST FOR YOU

The township has created a new nest for Swazi citizens looking to build their homes in an urban area but away from the congestion of the city.



abuya Township is a township developed by the Swaziland National Housing Board which offers a refreshing twist to the meaning of urban living.

The township holds 98 residential plots and is located in the Ngwenya Town, adjacent to the Swaziland Meat Wholesalers and is only 3 kilometres from the Ngwenya Border Post.

With 49 plots already sold and registered to Swazi citizens, the township has created a new nest for those looking to build their homes in an urban area but away from the congestion of the city.

Plot sizes at Mabuya Township range from 429 square meters to 961 square meters. To ensure a secure and private neighbourhood, SNHB has finalized preparations for the construction of a perimeter wall around the township in the new year.

Using the best sustainable construction designs and techniques, SNHB offers different house types consisting of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms, duplexes, single and double storey houses that customers can choose from. SNHB also offers the option to customise the house plans to suite specific individual preferences.

Addressing the basic need for home ownership in Swaziland is the core of the existence of SNHB. This township is the SNHB's humble effort to meet the demand for nome ownership.

Mabuya Township offers the ideal place to call home and the perfect investment opportunity for those looking to grow their wealth through property.

Mabuya Township Summary

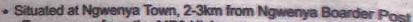






ABUYA TOWNSHI

IAL AREA JUST FOR YOU A SERENE RESIDENT



- Easy access from the MR3 Highway
- · Has 98 residential plots
- One public open space
- Fully serviced infrastructure
- Gently sloping terrain

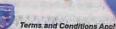
Plot sizes ranging from 449m² to 963m²











SWAZILAND NATIONAL HOUSING BOARD



WRITER'S NOTE...

ood day readers and a very warm welcome once again to your favourite youth section on the land ASPIRE, which aims to INSPIRE young people to be the best version of whatever they ASPIRE to be.

In this rather immoral era of 'Blessers' and 'blesees', today we feature a former model and 'blessee' who survived rape, depression, emotional and mental abuse at the hands of a 'blesser'. Today, she is the currently a self-published author and brand strategist for energy drink, Mofaya. In her new book titled BARE she shares how she was trapped in this dark world.

Her first book was the controversial book Shattered Innocence, Jackie Phamotse is back with another book entitled Bare, which aims to create debate around the dangers of young women getting involved in toxic romantic relationships, especially

with older men.

She explains how 'Blessers' are always on the lookout for younger, fresher women. The book is dedicated to Karabo Mokoena and through it, Jackie aims to breakdown what may have lead Karabo to stay in a toxic relationship. Karabo's body was found burnt in Lyndhurst on April 28 and Sandile Mantsoe, her boyfriend, has been charged of murder and sentenced to 32 years behind bars. Read the interview on the next page.

On the following page, we have the second edition of our newly introduced column titled the Heart's Intentions, and it is brought to you by the down-to-earth, but fierce Mukelo Tembe. Today 'Mookies' as she is affectionately known takes us through the journey of dealing with failure and how you bounce

back from it.

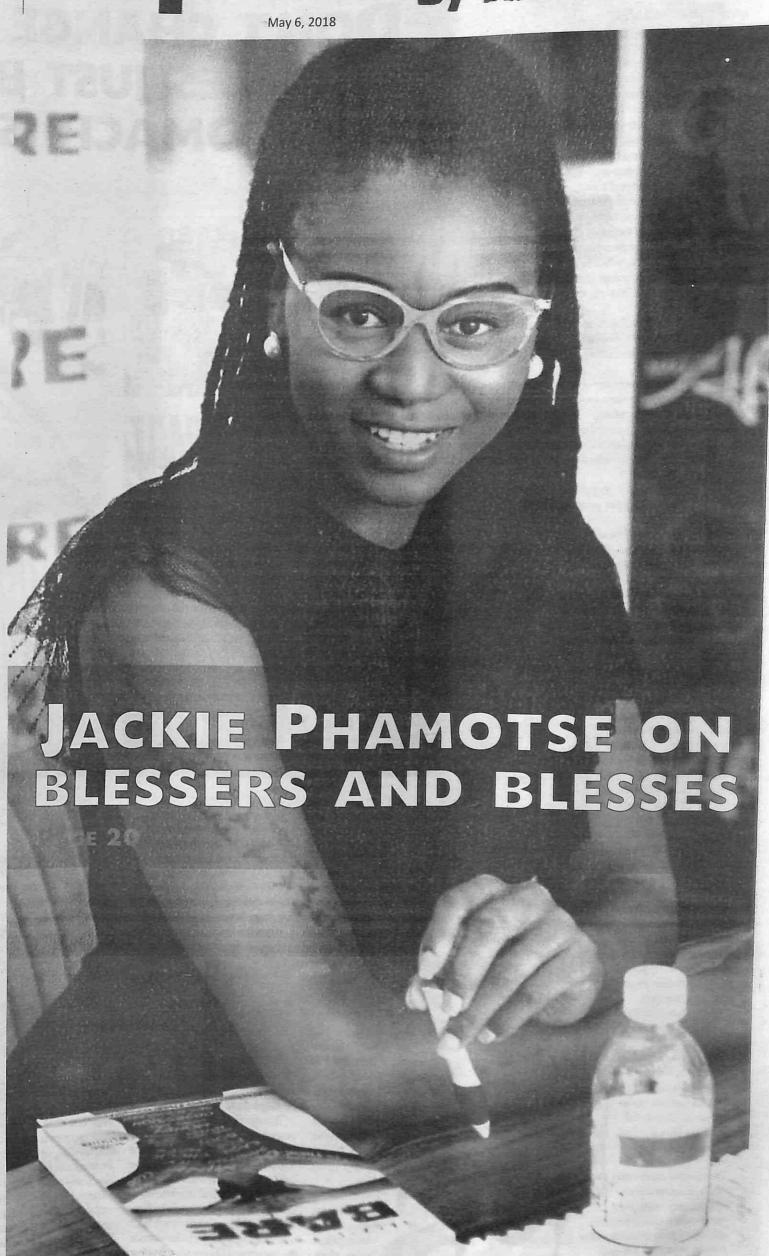
On the very page, I also opine on the issue of journalism and censorship in the country. I feel like the Judiciary through its judgments is imposing fear to journalists, which is a cause for concern for many ASPIRING scribes like me. Enjoy a return of the Sunday Podium, all on page 23.

On the last page, we bring to you coverage of the first Next Generation show, hosted by Feefee Mabuza and Thuthu Mbingo, a platform for young people to showcase their talents. For comments and feedback, lets continue the conversation at sbusisodlaminitheg@gmail.com or @penediction on Instagram.

Till next week, have a good read and blessed week

Enjoy Sbudathepenaddict





MAIN INTERVIEW

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

few months ago, just after I had finished the tell-it-all on Donald Trump titled 'Fire and Fury' a colleague advised me to read Jackie's book.

Unfortunately, when I asked what it was based on, she told me it was on 'Blessers' and 'blesses' so I laughed her off and declined. A few weeks later, a friend (Titi Ntshangase of the Food Hut) also came through with the same suggestion, so I tried it out.

When I started, I couldn't stop and I continued for three consecutive nights until I was done. My conclusion on the book – Phenomenal! Powerful! So it gave me pleasure to finally talk to the author this week, who mentioned that she can't wait to come through to the Kingdom of Eswatini and share her experiences with young women.

The first question that came to mind – what was her INSPIRATION behind writing such a controversial book on such a sensitive topic even?

"So many young girls in my country (South Africa) and beyond borders are now involved in this whole 'Blessers' thing.

Now, as a person who had been through it and has seen the consequences of those actions, I wanted to share my experiences and to further change lives.

I knew that it goes way deeper than the love for money and what other people see on the surface." she said.

With the book being based on a true story, I wanted to know the emotions that she went through whilst penning the book.

"It was really hard. I will not lie. This book is based on a true story, so imagine having to go back and talk about issues of my childhood, study everything to figure out where things went wrong.

It wasn't an easy time at all, and I had to be strong.

Again, the media hype was another thing that added the pressure. When it is already out in the open that you are penning a controversial book on such a topic even, need I had to make sure that the grammar and everything was up to standard."

She added that she was mindful that the book would open wounds for families whose daughters had been killed by their boyfriends, but believed that families needed to learn about the struggles their daughters went through.

"Some families have no idea of how their kids are living in the urban cities or the pressure they are under to survive. I want people to learn through my book that we need to break the generational curse of wanting the easy way out.

We need to create our own truth, own dreams so that we create our own wealth and stop becoming targets for social psychopaths posing as lovers," she said.

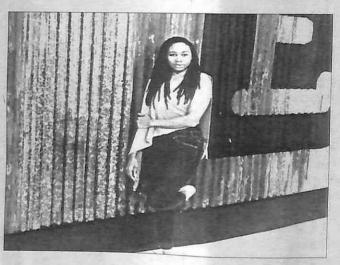
Phamotse hopes that the book

"DON'T CHANGE YOUR PRINCIPLES JUST BECAUSE YOUR STOMACH IS EMPTY"









will also help parents to be more aware of when their daughters into such a trap to "keep up an image".

"This book is dedicated to beautiful women who lost their lives at the hands of their lovers or people that daimed to love them. It's for Karabo, for Reeva Steenkamp, Annelene Pillay and many whose names we don't even know. Through a character in the book, I try

to explain

why they

may have stayed. Why they may have chosen a life designed for death everyday till they died," she said.

When I quizzed her on what she hoped to achieve, Phamotse said to change people's lives.

"This goes back to the question you asked me on the INSPIRATION.

I want to make a long-lasting impact on people's lives. I want young girls to see the light and see life for what it is – a place where you can achieve endless possibilities. Also, for men (both married and not) to get their integrity in check." Jackie says she has been pleased by the response she has received thus far.

"It has been overwhelming. The response that I have gotten from everyone has been great to say the least. Young girls have come to tell me about how their lives have been changed and even some married men have come to tell me how the book changed them from their ways. I am very happy to have made the impact and I know it's still going

to touch more people."

Message to Eswatini

"I cannot wait to come and share this book with you, especially because the Women Working Together Initiative (WWT) initiative is bringing me through. It will be a day where we all share and impart knowledge to grow each other as women.

Women Working Together Initiative

Women Working Together Initiative (WWT) started in October 2012.

A brainchild of two Swazi young women: Zanele Thabede and Ntombikayise Nyoni. The main objective of WWT is to create a transformative, inspirational and empowering networking platform for women in Eswatini. The Initiative also seeks to showcase women's talents, ideas and businesses. It embraces women's diversity and encourages them to find possible linkages and build whatever ideas or endeavours they are passionate

-1

about. The initiative hosts themed events targeting women; a guest speaker is identified for each event and addresses key topical issues affecting women. All women attending the events are encouraged to bring along their business cards, portfolios or materials that speak about their work. The events are very relaxed and allow for the women to mingle, get to know each other and discuss possible means for collaborations. The initiative also Provides a daily showcasing space for women's products at SEDCO Business estate, Mbabane.

WWT Objectives

Showcase women's business-

 Provide networking platforms for women

Provide educational and moti-

Vational platforms for women

● Promote collaboration amongst

women

Provide learning opportuni-

Manage events for third partices

SundayObserver

CCEINE

RELATIONSHIP ISSUE

2 I ST CENTURY DATING LOVE OR LUS

WRITER'S NOTE:

hey can easily be confused. They can easily be misinterpreted and misused. But they are completely different animals. Completely different feelings, it's just so easy to get so caught up in lust that you start to actually believe its love. But it's not.

Love and lust are separate words that are almost interdependent of each other. The two are confused by all people but 21st century generation seem to have it worse.

With 21st century dating image is seen more important than any other aspect of a person. Ask a young woman today what kind of man they want; they'll probably start by saying 'tall dark and handsome'. They often forget that they actually need someone who has brain.

And it gets worse, they would probably follow by saying, he should have a car and his own house. I mean what happened to wanting a guy with goals and a smart, well-mannered man. But that is just the reality of the 21st dating scene, pun intended.

With the rise of social media it is even more difficult to date. Young people are more in love with the idea of being in love. It is possible that they do not even know what it actually feels like to be in love because they infatuated with all the ideas of being in love. The week SCENE set out to help you understand the difference between love and lust. We discuss how the two are confused with each other and also look at the characteristics that both these words have. We also discuss courting, which is a crucial part of relationships.

I am pretty sure that everyone realises that courting a women nowadays is drastically different from how our grandparents did it. You might get a like on Facebook from a guy and he may say that's how he shows he is interested.

he is interested.

That is just how things happen in nowadays. To help our fellow young men be able to court ladies the right way SCENE discusses some of the old dating habits that need to make a comeback. For an example shower your lady with flowers, take walks and just stay away from social media.

SCENE then decided to go on a search, to find young couples who are in love and flourishing on social media. We ask them how they perceive their relationship. First we speak to Noslindelo and Sakhelo who say they are not only boyfriend and girlfriend but best friends as well. The two shared how they met and how being in the public eye makes their relationship stronger.

Sakhelwa, which is their couple name, say they love showing off each other because it proves that what they have is genuine and real. Believe it or not they Noslindelo's parents adore and respect Sakhelo; yes her parents are more than okay that the two are dating.

Next, we talk to Marcus and Nokwanda who believe that they met at the right time and God had a plan for them to meet. We usually hear about love at first sight in movies but these two definitely had eyes for each other the day they

Mawande, short for Marcus and Nokwanda, say that they are young and in love and that it is actually possible to be in a committed relationship at a young age. To get a different perspective of things, we speak to Pastor Bakhe and his wife who shared how they met and how important courting is when starting a relationship. Bakhe also explains what young people are doing wrong when it comes to dating. I hope this issue will teach you a thing or two about love and also inspire you to be open to the idea of love because true love does exist. I also hope that you get inspired by these young people and follow in their footsteps, but most importantly I hope you read and enjoy the issue.

CALLET STREET

Till next week Enjoy!

By Nokwanda Sibandze

e all have the need to love and be loved.

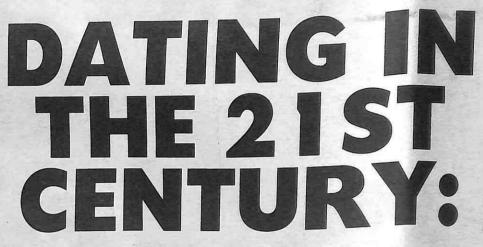
Whether it is family, friends or by our significant other, the need to be loved and to love runs in our DNA as human beings.

We've come a long way from just asking someone out. Dating in the 21st century is nothing close to dating back in the old days. With rise of the internet and the love of social media all dating rules have changed.

I mean now, everything seems to revolve around image. How one person looks, how they dress and more often than not what they have.

Dating in the 21st century is hectic if I may put it. Young people are not driven by technology and the internet but by lust as well. Do not get me wrong, there are probably a lot of people that still know the true meaning of love.

But honestly speaking relationships in the 21st century focus more on social media, people want to achieve relationship goals which are in young



AN ABSOLUTE NIGHTMARE



people's language taking pictures with matching outfits.

Young people nowadays hang out in groups. They hook up. If they want to meet someone, they rely on sites like Tinder instead of a chance meeting. And if they happen to find someone they like and start going out together, they'll say they're "talking," not "dating."

If they develop an attraction, a couple will likely not consider each other boyfriend or girlfriend for months or longer. It's not until they go "Facebook Official," by changing their status to "In a Relationship," that they are deemed to be dating.

Every day we see the rise of young couples on social media creating a page where they post

their pictures and videos together, otherwise known as 'bae

Oh yes! They post everything they do together, whether they are on vacation also known as bae-cation or just Netflix and chilling in their house.

These trends are the same reason why people often neglect the true meaning of a relation because they too want to take selfies with their significant other and post them for everyone to see.

It is a scary truth; couples from back in the day do not seem to understand how relationships work nowadays. It is a funny situation because a number of young people would probably say the same thing about old school dating. These days we also have different types of relationships, believe it or not people engage what is known as 'open relationships'. This is where the two parties agree to be in a relationship with each other and also date other people at the same time.

This is just one of the many crazy types of relationships that this generation engages in. It is the exact reason that people; or rather the older generation think that relationships in the 21st century are a joke.

But good news is, not all hope is lost as some relationships stand the test of time. We've seen couples flourishing and actually making the whole relationship thing work.

By Nokwanda Sibandze

DATING HABITS THAT SHOULD MAKE A COMEBACK

ith the internet and dating apps galore, dating in the modern world has definitely changed since our grandparents' time. Although there are definitely benefits to this new way of courtship, some positive aspects of dating in the past have become lost, and there are a number of old-fashioned dating rules and aditions we should bring

back.

Don't get me wrong, all the rigid ways of thinking about relationships and gender roles can stay in the past but I'll welcome phone calls and exchanging love letters back any day.

Yes the internet has changed modern communication and not necessarily for the better. It has also changed dating rules.

While it has certainly made keeping in touch easier, it has also sucked the romance right out of the equation.

Personalised communication is one old-school dating habit that should make

a comeback, but what are some of the others?

1. Having a real date

Meeting somebody at a bar for the consumption of large amounts of alcohol is essentially the standard present day date yet it shouldn't be.

All things considered, you may be somewhat apprehensive, at that point drink excessively and carry on in ways that will guarantee there to be no second date.

Try not to think too hard; adopt the great strategy: movie and a supper. See the movie first, so you have a remark about after in the event that you come



s it accurate to say that you are in love or is it lust? In some cases it is difficult to tell in light of the fact that the two feelings feel satisfactory.

Also, both make an association with your partner that feels exciting and delighted. However, for every one of their similitudes, they are without a doubt not the same.

Ever thought about whether you were genuinely smitten, or really in desire? Love is an intense feeling affection towards someone else. It's a significant and minding fascination that structures enthusiastic connection.

On the other side, desire is a powerful urge of a sexual sort that depends on physical fascination. Desire can change into profound sentimental love, yet it generally requires significant investment.

Gone are the days when men would call up a pretty lady, ask her out, take her on a date, open the doors for her, pay for the date and continue putting his best foot forward in an attempt to win her over.

In this day and time, it's not unreasonable to think that some men have never heard of the term "courtship" or have a totally different interpretation of it when it comes to dating. As a result, there are single women who, for the life of them, can't even remember the last time they went on a real date.

Has this generation lost all hopes of romance? Some would argue that there are still men who go the extra mile to impress a lady but the question is 'how do they do it'.

● In this day and time, it's not unreasonable to think that some men have never heard of the term "courtship" or have a totally different interpretation of it when it comes to dating. As a result, there are single women who, for the life of them, can't even remember the last time they went on a real date. Has this generation lost all hopes of romance? Some would argue that there are still men who go the extra mile to impress a lady but the question is how they do it.

LOVE OR LUST AND COURTING

Every women would probably tell you a story about how they were stopped by a man on the street and asked for their number, or the famous "sawbona sisi ngcela kukhuluma nawe". All these are how men court ladies especially these days.

What puzzles me the most is when a man sees you for the first time and then say they love you. That is a perfect example of misusing the word 'love'. Is it really possible for a person to love another at first sight? Maybe but maybe it is mostly lust.

With the younger generation, allow me to say it is even worse. As soon as they know your name, they find you on Facebook, twitter and DM you on Instagram. They stock you and then say they love you. It is the weirdest thing ever.

21st century courting includes liking pictures on social media, for some reason that should indicate that that person is interested in you. The struggle is real; some young people do not even know what is like to be courted by a guy. Most of them end up in situation-ships, all because they were never really chased by a man. Sometimes, you have to get back to the basics. An instant message on Facebook isn't a

replacement for getting the telephone and getting to ask her out. Flirting

A poke on Facebook or a "like" on Instagram isn't a clear indication of flirting or the best method to demonstrate her you're

the Ibeg are unafted with regal lady they'

interested.

Flowers and candy emoticons aren't substitutions for genuine flowers and confection.

Obviously we can't talk about this subject without recognizing that a few women have in reality made it simpler for men, however harder for other ladies, in that we don't generally require as much exertion from them with regards to dating as well as "the pursuit."

You know it's time for an update when you see and catch wind of ladies who need to start everything and approach a man for his phone number, or she needs to inquire as to whether she can get him a drink or take him out on a date.

That being said, I'd jump at the chance to challenge the men to truly comprehend a cou-

ple of things as it identifies with courting and why it needs a restoration.

A few men make excuses and say that courting is lame, shows signs of weakness, or influences it to appear like the man is "sprung," yet I beg to differ. Genuine men unafraid and uninhibited

are unafraid and uninhibited with regards to seeking after a lady they're really keen on past simply the sex and physical fascination.

Call me old fashioned or obsolete, however genuine men understand what it takes to get and keep a decent lady whether single, dating, or even wedded. They are sufficiently sure to demonstrate a lady the amount they're intrigued and how cool and popular they can be, while in the meantime showing a portion of the customary practices and benefits of courting.

Let's be realistic. There are a few men who would rather lie,

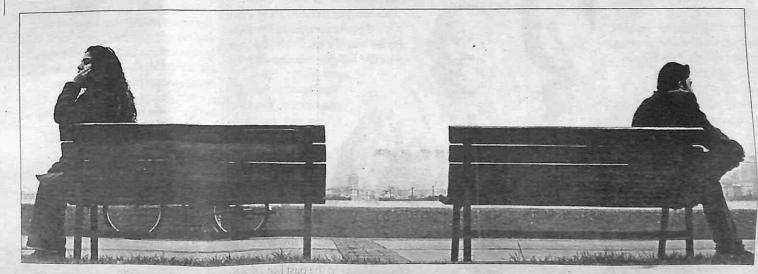
play games and mix and blend with various sorts of ladies for whatever remains of their lives. On the contrary, there are the individuals who might rather date on a more genuine level with expectations of finding that unique individual.

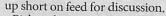
In any case, seeking isn't an amusement and it shouldn't be utilized as a naughty arrangement or trap just to get a lady in the bed.

It's a great opportunity to restore the soul of romance! It's an ideal opportunity to "man up" and dispose of the reasons. Why? Basically, on the grounds that ladies are worth it.

There are much an excessive number of delightful, refined ladies with great identities who should recognise what it feels like to be "wined and dined" and to go on a genuine date. I couldn't care less in case you're youthful or prepared; courting never gets old since it's made to endure forever. For some people they might not even know the difference between love and lust. Maybe you are in relationship and you have no idea what is going on. Well I am not an expert but here are some characteristics of love and lust, make a comparison and maybe save yourself from a heart-

By Nokwanda Sibandze





Pick a pleasant eatery that doesn't burn up all available resources, order a nice bottle of wine (only one) and appreciate her conversation.

2. Talk, talk and more talk

If you know someone's name, you can quite easily stalk her on social media and discover portions of her life story without her telling you. It

shouldn't be this way.

Get to know each other with long conversations. If the conversation doesn't flow naturally, it's a warning sign that the two of you might not be meant for each other.

3. Calling instead of texting

It's not that you shouldn't text, but you shouldn't use it as your primary means of communication. It's too

easy to grow lazy with texting and you often don't say everything you want to say, simply because it's too much of an effort to type it out. There is something special about bonding over the phone rather than over text.

4. Be honest with your feelings

There's too much game playing in modern dating. Everyone feels the need to put up his or her guard and

be coy with his or her feelings. Why is it like this? You will probably freak her out if you confess your eternal love for her before dessert has arrived on your first date. Having said that, there is nothing wrong with saying, "I like you, and I want to get to know you better." If you are rejected then it is okay because you will know where you stand. This way, no one is left hanging.

5. Look in the mirror

It's often suggested that some people "let themselves go" when they're in long-term relationships; things like grooming and noticing what you wear tend to fall by the wayside.

Maybe you'll get to that stage someday, but for now, make an effort with how you look when you're with her.

By Nokwanda Sibandze

YOUNG AND INLOVE: SAKHELWA

fter two years of dating, Sakhelo and Noslindelo still cannot take eyes off each

The young couple were Facebook friends and had met a couple of times before Sakhelo decided to ask the young girl out on a date eventually asking her to be his girlfriend.

Nowadays it is rare to see a young man go out of his way to impress a lady they like. It almost seen as an old way of doing things, and the major problem lies when ladies expect romantic gestures that they see in movies.

When these expectations are not met it becomes difficult for a couple to understand each other. Sakhelo says he made sure he did all the romantic acts he had seen on TV and movies because he knew that most guys do not do that so that would help him win Noslindelo's heart.

"I opened doors for her; pulled chairs for her when she sat and held her hand in public, all the things that we young people are not used to doing."

Sakhelo says these things are a must for young men and must be encouraged in relationships because of their



Sakhelo and Noslindelo.

importance.

Love birds Bakhe

and Nokwanda.

On the other hand, while Sakhelo was opening doors for her, Noslindelo says she was attracted to his charming ways and the level of his maturi-

ty. "It was what he said more than what he did, he is smart and mature for his age, I think, so that kept me interested."

The couple says the one thing that makes their

17 YEARS OF LOVE

s the younger generation we often need guidance as to how to go about life.

Sakhelwa.

With this topic especially it is always easier to understand it when someone who has been through the stage explains it to us. Pastor Bakhe and his wife Nokwanda have been together for 17 years.

They are a young couple who have an experience in dating at a young age and getting their view on the topic seemed fitting.

After meeting in high school Pastor Bakhe and his knew right there and there that they were going to spend the rest of their lives together.

It would be easy to get an older perspective of how things used to happen.

"Tsaw her for the first time in 2001"
"The very first time I laid my eyes on my wife during the SCF farewell function in 2001, I feel in love with Nokwanda. It was love at first sight."

From there, he started making arrangements to request her to be his prom date for the upcoming year. It was quite a long shot putting consideration that she was the head girl at St Michael's. But he had the faith. It worked; the following year, she was his prom date.

As we might think courting a woman nowadays is different from back in the day, Bakhe thinks it hasn't changed much.

"I think it is still the same, because courtship deals with the stage when two are clear that they are in love and preparing for marriage."

Courtship still more defined than dating, which can highly be misunderstood"

Sex for young people is not a problem anymore. It is a normal conversation that even thirteen year olds talk about openly. Maybe it is supposed to be that way, as some say they should know about it because it is a part of life but Bakhe says the modern generation is losing important principles of courting. The younger generation now rushes more into

The fact that Bakhe and his wife dated for a full 10 year without engaging in sexual activities, including kissing, may come as shock to the younger generation because for them it is a norm to kiss and have sex with your part-

mer regardless of age.

"All we have fun, get to know each other, talk about our future."

Maybe, just maybe this is what should be encouraged in the soci-

wife are happily married after so many years.

Perhaps the younger generation rushing for sex is what makes it seem like there is no true love or

ety because Pastor Bakhe and his

what makes dating in the 21st
century so boring and tiring.
The couple
says you need
to focus on getting to know someone than wanting
to just know their

"Get to know someone. Take

body.

your time.
Have fun. Don't rush to declare
your life for each other; develop a
friendship first, with no strings
attached. Stay away from sex before
marriage."

On the topic of love versus lust,

there is a clear difference between the two but the youth of the 21st century seem to be blind to the idea. "There's a difference between love and lust. Love is about the person, whereas lust is about the person's body. Lust is what even leads many

to get married for the wrong rea-

sons, then divorce later."

Lust is usually encouraged by seeing whatever they are attracted to, and people see other people mostly on social media. Social media has advantages. It allows people to meet, communicate (date). The downside is when a couple no longer has time for each other because of forever being on social media.

At times one needs to log off from social media, have time to connect with the one they love.

All that social media does is, put pressure on young people to find a partner, and take pictures and post them for people to see. This then leads to a whole of public display of affection from young people.

Older people complain about it but Bakhe says public display of affection is great.

"We are at a time where being in love is not encouraged. In fact, people are becoming anti-love and marriage these days.

Independence is what is being promoted. Being in love is seen as a weakness. So I encourage public display of affection, in order to show other people that love still exists."

relationship grow is the fact that they are best friends. More than anything they say they communicate every hour and sometimes more than that.

Sakhelo says most ladies have that one male best friend who is usually not their partner so he decided to be that one male best friend to her.

"We put the romantic part of the relationship aside at times and become friends, mentors to one another and that helps us be able to not only build the relationship but stay in love."

With all the changes in the dating scene, especially in the 21st century it is easy to think that 'true love does not exist' actually I've heard young people say that quite a number of times. Noslindelo says love exists but a person needs to find someone they have an understanding with.

She says the problem with young people today is that they do not look for future partners they live on the 'now' mentality. "There is love out there as much as there is lust, lust is only temporally and talking about the future with that person can make you understand where you guys stand. Love is futuristic and nothing stands the test of time like true love."

With the YOLO (You Only Live Once) mentality young people live to enjoy today and forget about tomorrow or the next day, this mentality also affects relationships.

I mean these days we have 'one night stand' situations and people do not seem to have a problem with it.

Sakhelo says there are a very limited

number of young people who want to commit in a relationship at a young age, and that makes the whole dating world difficult because they just want to date either different people at the same time or even just sleep around with different people.

"Noslindelo and I have the same goals; we support each other and try to make each other better. In that way we will not be interested in other people because we focus on our relationship and each other."

I am pretty sure

most parents do not want their children to date, or at least find out that they are dating, but with these two, their parents seem to support their relationship. Noslindelo says her parents love Sakhelo and not just because he is dating their daughter but because they see the

"My mom told me to tell her when I start dating, but my dad knew Sakhelo first even though my mom was eager to meet him.

positive influence he has on her.

I think it because they see that this is legit and that we actually love each other and we support each other and most importantly have positive influence on each other. So it is easy for them to accept and support."

Sakhelwa, which is their couple name have a Facebook account where they post pictures and videos of their everyday activities. Their Facebook page, which was Sakhelo's idea, was created because he wanted to reach a

bigger audience to motivate other young people about relationships as he is a motivational speaker.

They say people sometimes leave nasty comments on their wall and that does not tear them apart but builds them. "They keep us going, hehe." The said, at the same time

we've all heard old people complain about young people kissing and holding hands in public. This is one of the things that we are not used to in the black community, so it is normal when older people complain about public display of affection amongst young people.

Noslindelo says she is used to it now and that actually it is important in a relationship because it shows that you guys are proud of your relationship and are not afraid to show it.

When it comes to love and lust, young people do not seem to know or even understand the difference. Some say lust can turn into love but Noslindelo says it is important to understand that lust can lead to love but it is dangerous because lust can stay as lust for a really long time. "For our relationship, I wouldn't say it was love at first sight but the relationship started with love more than lust."

One might think the two never fight as they were holding hands throughout this interview but they say they fight all the time and usually over small issues. They say even though they fight almost all the time they say they never go to sleep

without solving their issues first.

It is truly amazing to see a young couple that practices what we call old school love, and this is definitely one couple that truly sets the standards for all young couples around the country.

By Nokwanda Sibandze

Pastor Bakhe and family.



Marcus and Nokwanda

MEET MAWANDA

We met through a friend at Marcus' workplace. Maybe it was love at first sight because the moment our eyes met we knew there was something real between us.

We were all smiles and we felt that spark when we hugged at that moment."

Sparks flew when these two met; it was love at first sight indeed as they believe they had to meet on that day. Marcus and Nokwanda together 'Mawanda' is one of the youngest couple in the country that is not afraid to show their love to the world.

This young couple believes that a couple cannot be too in love because there should be no holding back in a relationship, they believe that love should be limitless, something that cannot be measured, and something that cannot even be explained.

Considering the fact that both of them are in the entertainment industry a lot of people looking up to them, and that creates pressure on them to always be perfect. "With both of us being

in the entert a i n m e n t
industry it can
seem impossible. True
love is never easy, if it's easy
then it's not true love. There
are a lot of components to keep
love going in a relationship, the
list is endless."

"But the most important thing is that we put God in the centre of our relationship, we pray about it, we are a praying couple and nothing can beat God.' 'Social media is a whole different space where you find all types of people, so we never let social media affect our relationship because it's just a space for interacting and passing time to others, a lot of things are not real, even the friends, so it would be stupid of us to let social media get in between us. "

It may be difficult for other people to believe or even understand the fact that they are young and in love. They say sometimes they get comments like 'you are too young to be in love' or 'you guys are too young to be committed' but they know that God had a plan. "He knew why He wanted us be together, because He created us for each other and there is no changing that. So we live by God's rule and follow the path he leads us on."

Where their parents are concerned, Marcus says their parents know they are dating, "I kind of went to ask for her parents blessing to date their daughter and will have return there again at some point, haha. But to be honest parents can never be against a good thing and we have a good thing going on."s Nokwanda says when it comes to love and lust; she thinks love can sometimes start with lust. She says a person can be attract-

ed to someone at first just because of the way they look and nothing more. But if they spend time together and get to know each other, and get past that fantasy level, they may be deeply in love with each her.

Marcus says what people do not understand is that just because they put their relationship on the spotlight it doesn't mean they are bragging about their relationship, but it's simply because they want young people to believe in true love again.

"We want them to see that it's not all about having a side chick, a blesser, trophy girlfriend and so on, we want them to learn from what we have. You'd be surprised by how many people send us texts, telling us how much of an inspiration we are to them, how we are their favourite couple in Swaziland."

Inspiring and in love this wonderful couple says dating in the 21st century shouldn't be difficult and complicated as it seems as loving someone should be a burden.

By Nokwanda Sibandze



Pastor Bakhe and wife Nokwanda Dlamini.

One question that always pops up in the minds of young people, especially when everyday they are discouraged on dating, is at what age should a person start dating,

Bakhe says as soon as possible. "Dating is about getting to know someone. You can't know someone in three months. As parents, we need to stop lying to ourselves that our kids don't date at school. Some date as early as primary school. Love is way stronger than us. It is a universal, timeless language. Kids even love better than us. Let's encourage them to date, but not have sex. Allowing them to spend time knowing people, dating, will protect them from the rampant rate of divorce."

By Nokwanda Sibandze

CENE hit the streets to find out what people had to say about courtship and dating in the 21st century.

We found both women and men who were willing to share their views on how the game has changed. Usually men say 'girls do not know what they want'. So I came to your rescue and found out what both men and women want. Here what they had to say;



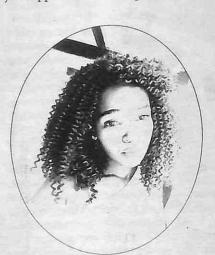
TEMAKHOSI MAMBA

he says the way men ask us out these days is straight out boring.

"It makes you feel ordinary. What I mean, you become well aware that he doesn't think you're special and unique in your kind of way. That is why Men don't take us serious anymore, they text and we answer. After that "Boom" we're in a relationship! Are we really?? To them knowing we're no longer elusive has made them perceive us as loose."

"I must say the old fashioned way is the best way a lady can be courted! A man must persevere at getting my attention because I will not give in the first day he tries! That's the fun of it, knowing how much he really wants to be part of my life will be determined by how long he's willing endure how long I put him

"Even after that I think truly think that true love still exists but it all depends on two people who really want to be together. It doesn't "just happen" it takes time, patience and love."



MOWERNDO MARRY

hen asked how men ask us out these days she was answered quick-

"They do not even ask us out. All they do is, ask for numbers once we start chatting on WhatsApp after that they invite you to "chill" after that the rest is history, you are dating.'

"I think what men do not understand is simple is better. I am into old school type of thing, write me a simple note or buy me PS; it's always the thought that counts."

She says true love does not exist anymore. She feels as if all there is now is tolerance and that it. "You find someone that you can tolerate and the settle that it."

LET THE PUBLIC SPEAK



SIWE SIBANDZE

Back in the days men used to express themselves and the way they love a girl.

They world give their all. They'd go all out just to get the girl of their dreams but now it's no longer even about the men. Some girls just throw themselves at men they feel they are into. They go all the way just to make sure it happens. Oh well men now ask girls out because they are trying to prove a point that I can get that girl. That I can even smash her and boost about it to their friends it's no longer the same."

"There's a huge difference between old school dating and new school.

I personally think social media has a great impact on this one. People nowadays date because they want to post on social media and be considered as the 'IT' couple.

I feel like everyone has the pressure of being in a relationship that they find themselves loving the wrong person but because they want to be known and want to be part of someone's life." Siwe says people nowadays are scared of being

She cries that they jump from one relationship to another because they are scared of being single probably because they are used to being taken care of in all sorts of ways and yet after a break up a person should give himself or herself some time to self-introspect themselves

"I think true love still exists. It might not be as back in the days but yes it does.

You know there are people out there who give their all. People who just want to love and be loved back.

There are still people who appreciate everything about a person despite a person's flaws. Yes true love exist."



DOES TRUE LOVE EXIST?

((I wouldn't say it does but rather you get someone who's willing to put up with you.

We living in a time where we get into

relationship for people to see that we are "happy", where we went out for lunch/breakfast, the kind of car bae's driving."

MANDISA DLAMINI

((21st century is such a joke (laughs) men think that they are easily entitled to have or rather own us.

> Just one successful slide in your DMs or Facebook inbox they think they are done. When you try compare their actions with how our parents used to

work hard to get the women they wanted."

"I'd say our era is an easy one. Our worth is taken for granted, according to some men, we are worth lousy drinks inside clubs, and we are worth all the material meaningless things to be owned by these men."

"The only way to ask me out is by maintaining consistency. Even if you are dishonest about your feelings, being consistent with your lies will convince me some-

Do you know how excruciating it is to be interested in someone who only decides to ask you out on specific days that suit him? It crushes your pride as a woman that is why you end up enticed by silly moments. Consistency is Key.

For the ladies who are so confused as to why men, especially of this generation have lost all the romance of courting, maybe this will give a clear picture;

MXOLISI HLOPHE

Our parents didn't have social network and thus communication in terms of proposing was most in verbal and action.

Today's generation propose mostly through the latest technologies such as social sites and that lessen the value of love since less action is shown and more material things are brought forth."

Mxolisi says it is easy to date nowadays than it used to be long time ago because of the modern ways we have adapted and the influence of Technology.

ALIBONGWE SHABALALA

"Nowadays we make use of technological advancements which has made it easier. For example if you are afraid of expressing your feel-

> municate through social networks which obviously makes it more easier since are not starring at the other person's gestures

ings to a person, you com-

"The invention of places of interest has made it easier to get to know a person better. For an example, you can invite the person you like for movies where you will get to talk and know her while sharing a good moments on screen."

Ali says somehow girls have made it easy for men to approach them. "If you are good at noticing actions, you can tell from the beginning if a girl likes you or not and if it's a green light you know your calls and texts will always be welcomed. "Hard to get" kind of girls are fading away.

"I personally prefer the old type of dating. Where dating wasn't so expensive, where walking in the street or park all day wasn't a problem. Because nowadays you have to have money for everything, it's not easy to ask a person to meet in town for a walk in the park or go hiking."

TIYISO MSENGI

Social media has ruined the proper manner of asking a girl out, now a guy gets your number and texts you he wants to

go out with you not even a call for all you know his best friend might be sending that text on his behalf." "I personally want to see some-

one's expression when they ask something just for sincerity's sake, though they may fake it haha but that satisfaction is important."

BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA





PROPPER
GANDA'S
MUSIC AVENUE



Propper_Ganda debut EP and is due to be released on South African independent label - AfroMove Music May 18. The Ep is filled with groovy beats, strong bass-lines and fine melodies. Propper_Ganda starts the listen off with a the title track which is a prelude that

ten off with a the title t which is a prelude the introduces the listener to the whole concept of this trance and dub-techno inspired project. He follows up '3rd Street On Your Left' a vibrant track that is sure to get your head bobbing.

Escape Injustice
is rather perplexing
and requires the listen
to dumb things down and
focus on listening more than
dancing. It is accompanied by a
dub edit which further emphasises the
minimalism in his music.

Trance-Inverse is another that will get you moving. Lead by a flute and relent-

less vocals samples in the background that are of course dubbed as per his liking. Overall, Music Avenue EP is an anomaly that requires the listeners to listen with an open mind in order to appreciate it. It focuses on music

appreciate it. It focuses on music as a soundscape, unlike your regular house. In other words, it is an acquired taste and grows on you like wine.

The release is currently available for previewing on AfroMove Music's Soundcloud page and Bandcamp page as well.

Upon release the EP will be available on Traxsource and then later on iTunes, Google Play and many other leading digital music stores and streaming services. We look forward to witnessing the rise of Propper_Ganda as he seeks to change the landscape of house music not only in eSwatini but in Southern Africa and the world beyond.



from heavyweights such as DJ Christos

and 2lani The Warrior and went on to

be featured several times on the Urban

Beat show on South African radio sta-

willingness to grow.

Since then his music production has

witnessed a steady growth and his

debut EP, Music Avenue shows his

Music Avenue will be

tion, Metro FM.

0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0

MORE FROM PRIM'S #FABULOUS40

By Simon Shabangu

rimrose Bennett-Mbingo knows how to throw a good party.

Forty years being a milestone, her celebration at turning the big-40 was an intimate and beautiful event, with guests carefully selected.

The celebration, attended by family, Primrose's close friends and colleagues was an elegant affair.

To add to the warm and cozy ambiance, was the classy set-up and décor of the venue which looked totally different to

the usual Gigi's Restaurant. From setup of a photo booth, prominent spaces in the venue and the red carpet treatment the guests received on arrival, the event was beautiful.

Classy

The lay-out of the classy tables and chairs completed the puzzle to the decoration done by Mihle Design, a design and decor, a company affiliated to Edwaleni Lodge.

The themed décor fitted perfectly well to the class and style of the night since it was a black tie affair.

The company does themed events,

weddings, birthday parties, private parties, baby showers and national events.

They give their guests a breath taking and heartwarming service which is done in accordance with the client's budget. Yoyo', as she is affectionately known among her friends, was showered with gifts and praises as guests took turns to deliver speeches, congratulating the 'party girl' on her milestone and also encouraging her to continue being the good person she is.

Her family applauded her for being the inspirational person she has been to her friends and family over the years.



Sibusani, Thembeka and Njabu.



Sweetie, Dumsile, Dudu and Samu.



Prim's colleagues, Nsindiso, Tina and Ngeti.



The beautiful photo-booth set-up by Mihle Design.



Donna and Prim enjoying a moment.



There was candy delight for those with a sweet tooth.

Miranda and Thuthu.



Dennis and the birthday girl.



Mandla and his wife Philile could not miss hood friend Pretty who out.



Busi representing Prims childpassed on.



Phindile speaks on behalf of friends.



Maripe and the birthday girl enjoying the party.

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

n Thursday, I woke up feeling enthusiastic; World Press Freedom Day is a special day for all journalists and this year marked 25 years of the celebration.

This is a day where we celebrate all the journalists who have lost their lives whilst trying to tell the truth and to also look back to whether the fourth estate is still serving its purpose.

In particular, I was eager to get my colleague's views on this year's theme Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule Of Law.'

Although I couldn't attend the celebration held at the Swaziland Theatre Club, I was pleased that the Editor's Forum Chairperson Mbongeni Mbingo's speech touched on the subject matter honestly and without self-censorship.

When delivering his speech, Mbingo made it known that freedom of expression in the country is threatened by the justice system.

"A just, effective and independent Judiciary serves as a cornerstone of all other democratic institutions by ensuring the rule of law. As it is known, there is no liberty if the Judiciary is not separated from the Legislature and the Executive," said Mbingo.

I completely agree with him and it is high time the attitude of the Judiciary towards the media is brought to light and dealt with, before we get back to the days where justice was for sale.

As a young journalist myself, with barely less than 25 months in the newsroom, I've had to thread on thin ice so many times because of the threats posed

MEDIA WEAKENED BY JUSTICE SYSTEM



ly impossible for the public to freely express themselves.

The first shocking lawsuit was the one won by Senate President Gelane Zwane where she was further awarded E500 000 on appeal.

Silencing

To me, it is a scandal that the newspaper lost the appeal despite the fact that the judges who handed it at first were led by former Chief Justice Michael Ramodibedi (he presided upon the case and was with Judges Esther Ota and Stanley Moore who was to later sit on the appeal bench) who we know very well sold Justice to the highest bidder

media, which is why he arrested The Nation Editor Bheki Makhubu together with columnist, human rights lawyer Thulani Maseko and also threatened Swazi Observer Managing Editor Mbongeni Mbingo with an arrest if he continued opining on the matter.

When one reads the judgment by Guyanese Judge Stanley Moore, it sends shivers down your spine and makes you wonder what the three legal minds (retired South African Judge Philip Levisohn and Zimbabwean Ahmed Ebrahim and Moore) discussed and if they did indeed base the judgment on

Freedom of the press is guaranteed under Section 24 of the Constitution, and again the overall duty of the Judiciary is to create an environment where the media can work freely but instead it seems like our Judiciary does not want the media to hold politicians and institutions accountable, which means the public is prevented from knowing the truth about the powers that be.

I find absolutely nothing wrong and defamatory about the case. Firstly, the Times had all the rights in the world to pursue the story. It was relevant at the time. The people of KoNtshingila deserved to know that a man believed that he was the father of Gelane Zwane and again, he was the one who came to the newspaper with all these claims, not the other way round.

Not only did he just go to the newspaper, but he went to Ludzidzini as well, and that to me was enough for a story. To top that off, they tried to contact the Senate president, but to no avail, now does that mean they should have kept the public in the dark about it?

I am troubled more by the fact that it seems like the judgment favoured Gelane because of her social status. Does that mean we should not report on powerful people now? Ludicrous!

Again, even the Sipho Makhabane case which he won against the Swazi

SUNDAY PODIUM

Case

It boggles the mind as to why Judge Mumcy Dlamini awarded such an outrageous figure (E3 million) considering that the case was over a decade old and at the time, the concerned party wasn't even as famous at the time, not to mention that the highest defamatory case had been awarded only E90 000 compensation. In another case Judge Nkululeko Hlophe awarded Dr Futhi Dlamini about E200 000 in his case against the Swazi Observer.

Now, media houses are businesses and they run through money. No one wants to risk arrest or even losing a job in this day and age. Before pursuing a good story of public interest, journalists now have to thread on thin ice or just take the safety route and not chase those stories because they know that there's also, as referred by Mbingo, 'unscrupulous attorneys who study the newspapers microscopically in order to advise people of claiming for libel defamation for the sake of them making their cut in the transaction.'

Now, you can imagine what sort of fear strikes young journalists like me or the ASPIRING ones studying at the University of Swaziland (UNISWA). If the Judiciary continues at this rate, then some of us might just well stop calling ourselves journalists, but rather Public Relation's Officers under Percy Simelane's wing because all we are going to report on are press releases.

Come to think of it, we might as well just close down newspapers and go work for Swazi TV or SBIS since they do what the Judiciary wants well.

HEART INTENTIONS With Mukelo Tembe

believe every human being has gone through this, and if you've never then I must say you are one lucky fella.

When you put in the effort in doing something thinking you'll turn out to be the best instead you turn out to be the worst of them all - be it work, school, being a good partner or friend, whatever the case may be, at that moment when you realise that things have turned out to be the direct opposite of what you hoped for, it will strike you at the core and make you feel defeated, even close to giving up on life right? Let me give an example about a teacher and a student. If you're reading this and you're a teacher or a student please pay attention, I find this scenario perfect with reference to my heading. Teachers MAKE students just as much as Students sometimes you're afraid they can BREAK them.

I know, you're probably asking yourself why and how? Well they are supposed or meant to be the leaders, parents/guidance at school and let's face it children's behaviour/mindset will depend on what goes on at school because most of their time is spent there. In other words, the influence of one's surrounding has a huge impact on how they respond to society. From 7:30am till mid-day or until 5pm for some, the point is they spend the better part of their day in that environ-

When everyone gets home, par-

ents may be tired or frustrated from work, amongst other things, children have to do their school work before you know it we are all up the next morning rushing to get things done and go to our respective places (the cycle continues, basically, forever) and you can see there is no time to 'get things off the chest' so sleeping with a heavy heart is possible, for everyone. This is not healthy at all because it piles up to even more heartaches that lead to stress and depression, serious conditions that lead to a dysfunctional life. Now I'm just trying to narrow it down for you to understand fully.

For teachers, sometimes students try their level best but you break them by humiliating them in front of the whole classroom or worst case scenario, the entire school. to raise your hand in class and say that you don't understand or you have a problem so you think being quiet is the solution (no it's not, ever). Failure will automatically come after that, you have failed as a teacher to properly groom a child because I mean seriously, what book says humiliation is a good way to correct a child from a mistake/a wrong answer. I definitely DON'T know it all, but I know that harsh punishments are meant for offenders (your robbery and all the crimes in the law book). Again, I know that there's a difference in punishments and discipline. It is very dangerous

FAILURE & PAIN - FEELINGS THAT DEMAND TO BE FELT.

T'S A PROCESS CALLED GROWTH

Bottom line here is that failure and pain are related, they demand to be felt you need to process it, yes in that moment in time you'll stay in the negative (you're only human) just don't stay there for too long. If anything keep trying (the magnitude of success is based on the number of times you've failed at something).

to temper with a child's self-esteem and confidence.

If you have failed as a student to grab the opportunity to understand a certain problem by not speaking out, know that it's like building a bridge - when you don't ask you allow this gap to exist but then you still continue trying to build the bridge, forgetting that you won't be able to because there's this huge gap in the middle, or unless you have the superpower effect to fly that is. Again, teachers go through pain when you feel like you tried your absolute best to make your class understand the topic, but you mark the scripts with disappointment, you're thinking to yourself how will I get my students to do well as their performances reflect on you as well. You can't bear the thought of your job being at risk because you have responsibilities, and again, you need that assurance that you CAN really do your job.

As a student, you feel the pain of knowing that you have failed and you have to take those marks home to show your parents who you won't even be able to look at. You can't bear the thought of not going to university or college, because you also want to be something in life,

a name and get yourself that dream house, car or wedding, or am I wrong?! I'll leave it at that.

Teachers are great people; they are the ones that produce CEOs and all the successful people (but still earn less). There are kids out there that would like to thank one or two of their teacher(s) for grooming them. Personally, I would like to thank the greatest teacher in my life, mother dearest - the best teacher the Lord blessed me with.

Negative

Bottom line here is that failure and pain are related, they demand to be felt, you need to process it, yes in that moment in time you'll stay in the negative (you're only human) just don't stay there for too long. If anything keep trying (the magnitude of success is based on the number of times you've failed at something). Nothing hurts more than humiliation as it will bring you to your knees, it will be the deepest throbbing most painful feeling that goes to the depths of your heart and soul, you don't have to escape it. Instead, stand still, remind yourself that you can handle it and that one day, all of the struggles will make sense. When they say everything hapyou want to achieve, you want to have pens for a reason, believe it (yes, that's

why they even have a song about it). Remind yourself that one day you will speak and the entire world will hear you. Help yourself and pray. Someone out there is relying on what God has placed inside you. If you're still reading this then you must know He is not done with you. That's how He reaches out to us, through others (His own creations).

To young people, I'm directing this final message to you. Failure and pain are part of a process called growth, you need to pass through, not even with just school, that was just an example. I'm talking about everything and anything you're trying to accomplish. Don't compare yourself to anyone else, be the best you can be at whatever you are good at. If anyone discourages you, shut them out, if anyone doesn't believe in you, keep your eyes on the goal and don't ever feel sorry for yourself and allow people to pity you. You might think I'm being ridiculous or this is easier said than done but I'll have you know that LIFE DOES NOT GIVE YOU SOME-THING YOU CAN'T HANDLE. One day you'll look back and thank the universe you went through all of that. When that day comes you'll let me know at (tembemukelo@gmail.com)





1. Lyrical Busta's performing his hit single titled 'Dance For Me'. The youngster premiered it during the first edition of the Next Generation initiative at the Theatre Club yesterday. 2. Ur Gal Zee, DJ MBO and Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane were also in attendance. (Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)

THE YOUTH GOT THE JUICE'

Feefee Mabuza and Thuthu Mbingo who inter-

acted with the crowd and further kept them enter-

tained with their dance moves. The two hosts were

handling the MC duties together with Hip-Hop

star KrTC who now and again raved on the tal-

ent of the 'upcoming generation' which he said

Worth noting is that security was tight on drugs

as alcoholic beverages or any form of drug sub-

stances were simply not allowed or tolerated in

during the event, and young people were thor-

oughly searched upon arrival. On stage, the stars

that seemed to be favourites judging from the reac-

tions of the crowd were rappers Newiki Flex, Lyrikal

Busta, Disk Jockey (DJ) and dancer Sandile Masilela,

Newiki's performance was filled with energy and

got the crowd up on their feet. Soon after him,

Lyrikal Busta took to the stage and the crowd gave

him a warm reception as he performed three tracks

with the last one being the one with an upcom-

had to be nurtured and protected.

former Tribal Misfits member.

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Young people in the country yesterday proved that the 'youth indeed got the juice' as they showcased their amazing talents in the arts industry.

This was during their show held at the Theatre Club yesterday. The show which was a first edition of the 'Next Generation' initiative was the first of its kind and saw

Newiki Flex doing his thing on stage.

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well over 10 young people showcase their talents in diverse arts including music, dance and photography to name just a few.

The show was hosted by two bubbly, entertaining youngsters

ing video titled 'Dance With Me'.

When interviewed, both Ncwiki and Busta said they loved the initiative and appreciated the reception from the crowd.

"The whole idea is wonderful to say the least. Young people in the country have talents and to have a platform where they can showcase their

talents is wonderful and really ground-breaking. It is such an honour to headline the first show and we believe that with more shows coming up, this will grow to be one of the biggest things we have ever done in the Kingdom.

Young people just need to showcase their arts and with the perfect platform, they can grow to be the biggest starts not just in our country, but the continent as a whole," said

Busta.

Newiki further echoed Busta's words, and added that they were proud to be part of the initiative.

"The truth is that all these youngsters here today are the future of the arts industry in the Kingdom of Eswatini across all areas. It is therefore of significance that we all unite and start working on them early. We are the future of entertainment in the Kingdom of Eswatini and we must prove our worth at this

must prove our worth at this age," he said.

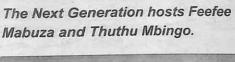
Surprise performer Broken Cyfer gave an energy –filled performance. He promised an EP before the end of the year.

"The performance was great.
Unfortunately my set had to be short because of the time, but I enjoyed every moment. Fans should look out for the EP that will drop before the end of the year."

The brains behind the initiative, the man famed as the 'Godfather' of entertainment in the country said he was very pleased with the idea.

"I loved the show. It was great, For me, it was about the performances and the youngsters proved that they are talented. Now, we can only just get bigger going forward.











1. SUPA CDQ brought the house down with his set. 2. With the show being a youth initiative, trendy sneakers were the order of the day. 3. Former Tribal Misfits dancer and T55 talent search winner Sandile Masilela in dance.

AKHUMZI'S MOM'S HEART-WRENCHING LETTER

OHANNESBURG - A moving letter penned by Akhumzi's mother, Zoleka Jezile, was read out by Andile Ncube and it left the attendees who filled the auditorium in tears.

Akhunzi Jezile, the multi-talented star was today laid to rest. His funeral ceremony was held at Rhema Bible Church in Randburg and was attended by industry friends and family.

Zoleka said since his passing, all she has done was cry and question God why he had to die.

"I have cried to God asking why me? Why you? No other feeling can possibly be worse than this. But I also answered myself saying 'Zo, if not you then whose child was it supposed to be? Which mother should it had been in your place? It is well

"It is well," she said. She also continued to express grat... 'This is not goodbye, sleep well my angel'



itude on having had time with

"Here I am looking at you sleeping peacefully, and through all this I thank the Almighty for lending me an amazing, talented child only for a season. The season has come to an end and it is now time for you to be reunited with your Almighty," she said. Other speakers included colleague Sjula Mkhize, best friend Dr Musa Mthombeni and Chief Nkosinathi Jezile who thanked all those who had a hand in organising the "wonderful send-off".

Akhumzi was later laid to rest at the Westpark Cemetery. Singer and actress Siyasanga Kobese and actor Thobani Mseleni who also passed away from the tragic car crash, will be rest next week Saturday in the Eastern Cape.

Among the famous people who came to pay their last respects was legendary news anchor Noxolo Grootboom, who read the obituary for the family.

Also present at the funeral was Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa, who read out a eulogy of Akhumzi, and also stressing the importance of keeping safe on the roads during his speech.

The Sunday Independent

Akhumzi's uncle shares horrific details about car crash

OHANNESBURG - Akhumzi Jezile's final send-off at Rhema Bible Church in Randburg yesterday morning was filled with touching tributes, fond memories and heart-wrenching farewell messages.

Akhumzi's me ther's younger brother Fologi was overcome with emotion as he reflected on the TV star's last few days.

Fologi recalled how Akhumzi told them last Friday that instead of travelling to the Eastern Cape by plane, he would take a road trip with his friends.

He said that there was a ceremony at home last Saturday and his mom asked Akhumzi to bring scones and biscuits.

However, on the Saturday morning they received the dreaded phone call about the accident and was faced with the most difficult task of identifying Akhumzi.

"A truck carrying a car went into them. They managed to escape it but the trailer went after them. Cutting the top of their car. They all died immediately."

Fologi said it was devastating to identify Akhumzi's body.

"I didn't recognise my beloved son. I had to go in and check for him closely".

Meanwhile, Akhumzi's best friend of 11 years, Musa Mtombeni broke down with emotions as he spoke about the gaping hole in his heart.

"One week ago I received a call that changed my life, and since then I've been spinning in confusion. I find it very hard that all this is happening. I've distracted myself, comforted others and have done everything but accept that my best friend is no more."

Musa said when he found out about Akhumzi's death he was sad, disgusted, angry and surprised, but that the emotion that overpowered all of that was his love fore Akhumzi.

"Out of all the emotions I have felt this week, I will thank God for the 11 years of friendship and brotherhood you gave us. As you lie there, I want you to know I love you Akhumzi."

Akhumzi, Siyasanga Kobese, Thobani Mseleni and two others were killed after they were involved in a head-on collision outside Queenstown last Saturday morning.

Times Live

Kelly Khumalo fights back tears during emotional musical tribute

OHANNESBURG - Akhumzi Jezile's close friend and singer, Kelly Khumalo fought back tears as her powerful voice echoed through Rhema Bible Church yesterday.

Hundreds of friends, family and fans have gathered at the church to bid a final farewell to the former YoTV presenter.

Kelly who shared a special bond with Akhumzi poured her heart out on stage and had mourners in tears as she sang 'Kulungile Baba'.

She said she didn't prepare for the performance because that would have meant she was accepting her friend's death.

"I don't think I'm in a position to accept."

Kelly sobbed by the end of the performance and had to leave the stage.

Moments before Kelly's performance, Akhumzi's Urban Brew colleagues including Sjula Mkhize, LootLove, Lerato Kganyago and Warras spoke on behalf of their friend.

Sjula broke down during the middle of his speech as he described his friend as family.

Akhumzi was laid to rest at Westpark Cemetery

Akhumzi was laid to rest at Westpark Cemetery following the service.

Times Live





Singers performed as mourners paid tribute and bid their final farewell to the late actor Akhumzi Jezile at his funeral yesterday.

The story behind hymn featured at Akhumzi's funeral

OHANNESBURG - Actor and presenter Akhumzi Jezile was laid to rest in Johannesburg yesterday, with the hymn It is Well with My Soul featuring at his funeral.

Jezile was described as an influential, gentle soul who touched the lives of those around him, and the same can be said of the hymn.

While a number of hymns were sung at the service for Jezile at Rhema Bible Church in Johannesburg, It is Well with My Soul was also quoted by those remembering him.

According to the St Augustine Record, It is Well was written by Horatio G Spafford, a successful lawyer and businessman who lived in Chicago in the 19th century.

The lyrics of the haunting hymn are as follows:

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Chorus:
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul

Spafford's young son died of pneumonia in 1871, the same year he lost most of his business in the great Chicago fire.

In 1873, Spafford's wife and four remaining children, all girls, were crossing the Atlantic to Europe on a French ocean liner, the Ville du Havre, a journey he could not join them on as he had to address a business problem.

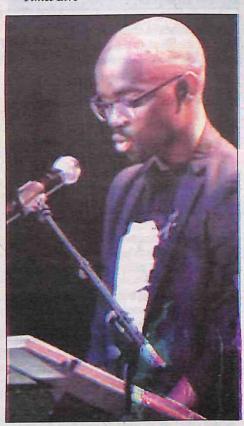
The ship collided with anoth-

Spafford's young son died of er and among the 226 dead were neumonia in 1871, the same all of Spafford's daughters.

He booked passage on an available ship to join his wife, and when it sailed past the place where his children had died, the captain alerted him to it.

According to Spafford's daughter Bertha Spafford Vester, who was born after the tragedy, her father wrote It is Well with My Soul while on this journey.

enca



Akhumzis friend Musa.



By Comfort Mabuza

was privileged to have attended Worker's Day celebratic is held in Pigg's Peak this 5 ist Tuesday and joined the thou ands of energetic vorkers.

It was a g at thrill I mus admit, though I am not a good marcher nd foot soldier, so I watched with keen interest as workers celebrated their day. I participated under the Swaziland Concerned Christian Leaders (SCCL) and my task was to make a few remarks about the Christian leader's role and approach on emerging national challenges and the struggles workers face. My brief was simply to add a voice about the Church's role in matters of social concern which was part of opening the meeting with a word of prayer. Raising workers' rights and the need to engage the emerging challenges was crucial. Concerned Christian leaders who are occupying positions of influence have an obligation to be salt and light and need to engage the mass movements and ensure that their theology is contexualised as part of their core calling and mandate.

The God we serve has worker's interests at heart and from the Genesis' creation narrative we are introduced to a Creator God who worked for six days creating everything but rested on the seventh day. Whoever thought workers' rights to rest is not godly ought to rethink their theology, because rest is required and demanded by God as tired workers cannot be productive.

GOOD NEWS FOR WORKERS

Jesus Christ proclaimed this powerful message while here on earth; "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom of the prisoners, and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, and to proclaim the year

GOOD NEWS AFFIRMS WORKERS - RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

Workers' labour conflicts must be given fair hearing. Hence our rallying call for justice to be fairly administered. This is more urgent than ever before, hence our call that justice should flow like a river and unending springs and how we yearn for such a reality.

of the Lord's favour." Luke 4:18-19. Dear reader, the Gospel has interests on issues that have an impact in our lives, particularly those touching on welfare of every worker. A befitting message to workers who celebrated Worker's Day is that Christ is concerned about the plight of the poor, hence they need good news proclaimed.

Good news are aimed at affirming that God hates poverty and unemployment in particular Workers must be freed from any form of enslavement that renders them live like prisoners. Christ wants His people to see things as they are, hence He affirms the recovery of sight to the blind, and this could imply the causes for workers plights which we are blind in seeing what hinders productivity. Those who remain oppressed must be seen experiencing liberty, and dare one say anything that oppresses workers must be addressed and entangling bonds loosened. Only then will we proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

These could be the contextual approach to the text if we were to apply it fully to workers' rights.

Anyone government system that renders worker's lives miserable is actually the enemy of God's agenda for the working masses as it makes the Gospel meaningless. These are good news and Christian leaders must work with God in ensuring that workers live productive and fruitful lives.

DO NOT PERVERT JUSTICE

At the very heart of the workers' agenda is the resolve to ensure they are seen enjoying their working conditions. Any sound Christian leader must guarantee that the justice system is never perverted. Labour laws that enslave the working class, including poor court judgements against them, surely present a perverted justice as God is very much concerned about workers' welfare. It goes without saying then that worker's rights must be seen protected and that any unfair treatment and injustices should not be allowed to thrive. Put bluntly, woe unto those who administer justice by unfairly encouraging bad working conditions and unfair labour practises to workers. The Bible has somehow addressed this issue of justice and that God's people, including the working class, must be made aware of what the scriptures had to say about the plight of workers. Dare I declare that the Scriptures are concerned about justice delivery and workers' rights must be protected by Industrial Courts. Even in such places, justice must flow like a river so that workers could have confidence in the labour courts, I hope you get my drift dear reader today. · Lev. 19:15 Do not pervert jus-

tice, Do not show partiality to the poor or favouritism to the great

• Amos 5:24 "Let Justice flow like river and righteousness like never ending springs..."

As Christian leaders, we appeal to Eswatini courts that they administer justly so that the working masses have confidence in the manner they are administered. Any Justice system should never be impartial and hence the continued appeal that fair judgements ought to be given.

Only then will people feel there is respect for the justice. As for the continued outcry and concerns raised against some judgements pronounced, surely people should never doubt and lose confidence in the justice system.

Workers' labour conflicts must be given fair hearing. Hence our rallying call for justice to be fairly administered. This is more urgent than ever before, hence our call that justice should flow like a river and unending springs and how we yearn for such a reality.

POVERTY AND OPPRESSION ARE NOT COOL

At the heart of every working citizen is the yearning desire to be set free from high levels of poverty. Reality is that the working class sells their labour in exchange for minimum wage that will help eradicate

God is concerned about the plight of the poor, in fact, he would love to see His people more productive and prosperous. It goes without saying that anything that causes the working class to be poor must be addressed. In fighting oppressive tendencies, the working class these must be assisted to liberate themselves and speak out on against any form of oppression. Especially those that make their lives unproductive and enslaving. Eswatini must seriously work hard to eradicate poverty in our midst. As for oppressive and archaic labour laws that promote miserable lifestyles that cloud God's providence must be fought with all might. True liberty is Gospel news if attempts to address causes of poverty and oppression. Workers should never allow themselves to be poor and oppressed as we are part of a global village and not merely an island. Any government system that has no programme to alleviate high poverty levels should be ashamed. Workers should speak out and protest nonstop when the issues raised are never attended to. Working with the working class in ensuring that these evils are addressed is long overdue. The Bible has a lot to say about poverty and oppression. In Psalm 82:3 we are instructed to "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless, maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed." High levels of poverty and mismanagement of the national treasury are indeed a great concern to us as concerned church lead-

DEAL WITH WICKEDNESS

Eswatini leadership must seriously deal with wickedness at all levels. Workers have rights needing to be respected and these must defended. There is a lot of rot and wickedness within the business sector and the working class are forever exploited.

Workers should stand up and fight against any wickedness that shows its ugly head in the manner government and business sector conduct their business. The welfare of workers and their rights in particular must never be tempered with. Workers themselves must speak out against such forms wickedness. It was that famous king Solomon who spoke profound about this very issue when he wrote in Ecclesiastes 3:16 "And I saw something else under the sun. In the place of judgement -wickedness was there. In the place of justice - wickedness was there." We have faith on the labour movement that they will fight against any form of wickedness. We cannot be dreaming of a prosperous Swaziland come 2022. The unresolved issues that tend to make the system of government so corrupted in doing business deals. Let us be firm in stating that the workers' rights ought to be brutal in dealing with wickedness that makes national treasury a fattening ranch. The fact that workers contribute to the revenue through taxes, this matter deserves that they raise an alarm when there are clandestine moves to loot the national purse. Top priority should be aimed towards having a thriving economy that will in turn bring about better lives and ensure workers' rights are protected.

VOICE OF BUSINESS



The Federation of Swaziland Employers & Chamber of Commerce

ost businesses are not as informed on what is happening in the area of trade policy and regional integration.

The reason is that businesses for the most part, don't participate in discussions around trade policy and regional integration yet in the era of globalization the participation of business in these discussions has become increasingly important.

REASONS

There are three main reasons why businesses don't participate as much in discussions on trade policy and regional integra-

TRADE POLICY AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

tion. Firstly, they are not provided with information on what is obtaining on the ground in terms of regional integration, and what al integration discussions are it means for their businesses. · anchored on negotiations that Secondly, in the event that business people are provided with such information, they get turned off by the jargon often used by trade policy technocrats in discussing issues of trade policy and regional integration. Lastly, the discussions around regional integration take too long such that businesses get discouraged and stop following what's obtaining and instead focus on adding value to their busi-

THE CASE FOR BUSINESS **PARTICIPATION**

There are two main reasons why businesses need to participate more in discussions around trade policy and regional integrations.

Firstly, trade policy and regionrequire input from businesses as they are the traders, merchants, importers, exporters etc. During the negotiations, each country (sometimes a block of countries) specifies its priority sectors for the regional integration process by indicating the sectors of the economy that it would like to completely open up to competition from other countries (offensive sectors) and also those sectors that it would like to 'protect' for its own businesses.

Since these negotiations are mostly done by technocrats, guidance is therefore required from the people on the ground (business) on

the business opportunities they see in other countries and also on sectors of the economy which they think still need to be competitive internally before they are completely opened up to foreign competition.

The second reason why businesses need to participate in the regional integration agenda has already been implied on the point above: regional integration increases business opportunities for companies in specific countries as barriers to doing business across borders and regional economic communities like SADC and COME-SA are reduced.

In other words, the market for a business in Eswatini suddenly becomes bigger with regional integration. This is particularly significant for businesses operating in small countries like Eswatini where the market size is small.

HOW BUSINESS CAN PARTICIPATE

In Eswatini, there is the Trade gotiation Forum, a platform where government and business are meant to discuss issues of trade policy and regional integration. In this platform, businesses who want to participate need to do it via business associations like the FSE&CC and FESBC.

However, such a forum has its limitations, logistically and also in terms of effective participation of a diverse group of businesses. For that reason, workshops are there to complement such a forum by allowing businesses to learn and voice out their input into trade related issues.

From time to time, the International



JOY NOWANDWE'S LEADERSHIP ZONE

erfect family a mirage, inspired by the current anger and betrayal felt with Bill Cosby, convicted for sexual assault. We grew up with the Cosby show, literary believing in the family values it was imparting onto our tender and youthful

Irrespective of the fact, this was a comedy show, us born in 1960s and 1970s believed this portrayed perfect family. When being nurtured onto western education and religion, this became the best portrayal of the perfect family.

Today we are angry on how this comedy has become the joke in the 21st Century, with its leading character publically humiliated by women's voices. These women voices are removing veils, uncovering hidden secrets, on how this incredibly perfect dad on screen was privately a monster. Leaving us shaken with this unbelievable revelation, as Bill Cosby was the perfect dad, leading a perfect family, and this was in our living rooms daily. The comedy content became secondary to most of us, who were being westernised, negating our own cultural contexts such as polygamy, which is the majority's birthright.

PERFECT FAMILY

The perfect family is what religious institutions were preaching and indoctrinating us, whether priest, pastors and apostles lived this mirage remained a mystery. By the way, it is no longer a mystery as the 21st Century has brought social platforms and technology such that hidden secrets are now common knowledge.

This perfect family indoctrination impressed upon us within the education systems, such that even certain schools would not accept children who were not from 'normal family.' With a mom, dad and direct siblings, no half sisters and brothers, considered the perfect family and the 'Cosby Show' modelled this family in our living rooms.

This show brought into our lives the ideal view of family, taught in religious institutions and within western education. As it did not exist within our environment, which exemplified imperfection in accordance to the western education and religion. Thus creating void within many young souls, who were yearning for this perfect family, preached and taught.

PERFECT FAMILY A MIRAGE?

May 6, 2018



Yet both teachers and preachers ty, they are a mirage, evidently Bill were struggling in walking this talk of the perfect family, as scandals erupted like silent bombs. Sending shockwaves to all of us, on how imperfect some of the so-called 'perfect' families were, revealed through silent bombs stinking like the movie theatre stinking bombs.

Therefore, the only way our young minds could have a window into this perfect family was through the Cosby Show. With Bill Cosby, showing affection to his wife, loving his children, disciplining them, as he was a perfect dad. Always available to listen to his children's stories, helping with homework, a generally involved dad, the family man leading a perfect family.

There was no one episode where he cheated his wife nor having an incestuous relationship with his children or relatives, Bill Cosby read stories and tucked in his children. Such discipline, morality and family values, were on the Salora Television screen, and not in our real life stories.

As stinking bombs were always sneaking up within our environment, and maybe we missed a point on how perfect families is a mirage. That can only be created and perfected by script writers as in realiCosby conviction is affirming perfect family is a mirage.

WHAT PERFECT FAMILY?

The question what perfect family is. is crosscutting in all households, whether religious, traditional, educated, disadvantaged, wealthy or politician. As family values challenge humanity's consciousness irrespective of their material disposition and Bill Cosby is affirming my question, what is the perfect family?

He portrayed his producer's script so well, and we all started believing he was the perfect dad, leading a perfect family. Therefore, this sexual assault conviction reflects what an amazing actor he was, as in front of the camera, he could be perfect dad. Whilst behind the scenes he was a monster, and this has been the shocking revelation most of us are dealing with today. He acted this perfect family man, and yet he was capable of what he has been convicted of today, these may seem incomparable and yet they are real.

This is reality, as western education and religion has created many excellent actors who like Bill Cosby, are the perfect dad and family man. Yet their deeds behind the scenes are ticking time bombs waiting to explode, as women are the most dangerous human forces of life. Like the victims of Bill Cosby, it is possible to keep a lid on the sexual abuse and assault, when the time comes the women voices are uncontainable. Women, when they mature, after 40 years, they begin to find their rightful place in society, and their voices begin to be unstoppable. When this moment comes, women recall all the deeds they experienced as if they happened yesterday, hence Bill Cosby's conviction. Women, when the time comes for raising their voices, as they experience clarity on how this veil they believed is life is sexual assault and abuse.

No one can stop them as by that time, the men like Bill Cosby are so old and they cannot even remember how that moment felt. They no longer have the urge for power and control, and their partner in crime, private parts, may not be standing up to any occasion. They are internationally humiliated about a moment that has escaped their memory, and yet the woman is describing to the last letter. Yes, what perfect family when the perfect dad and family man can take

an irrational and egocentric decision, in a moment of invincibility? Yet when the tables turn, that invincibility becomes a moment of self-inflicted shame and humiliation. Particularly when his partner in crime, the private parts, can no longer rise to any occasion, and the perfect dad is publicly reliving this invincible moment in court.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, may this Bill Cosby conviction be a lesson for all men, on how no man is invincible, as women after 40 years are the most dangerous living forces. Yet young women are inviting and accessible between 20 to after 30 years, after 40 years, they are affirmed and ready for their rightful position. Therefore what the invincible men got away with during women's tender years, will come back to bite the men where it matters. Moreover, these private matters manifests as public humiliations occurring when the partner in crime, the private parts, are no longer rising to any occasion.

As no one is invincible even the most powerful men, can be excellent actors like Bill Cosby, they will be humiliated by their invincibility in the future.

In essence, the University of Swaziland students are future leaders of this nation and when they are empowered, this could be before 40 years. They will share with the nation on how that infamous club in Matsapha is where they experienced sexual assault and drugs by present day invincible men. This country will experience the tremors that Bill Cosby has sent internationally, when those perfect dads will be publicly humiliated and maybe their partners in crime will not be raising to any occasion.

I can only image how these invincible men would be wondering what they were doing assuming that present day University students and new graduates will never have voices. This is the biggest problem with invincible men; they are short-sighted and not visionary in private spaces, when their partner in crime stands up to all occasions, they think this is permanent.



Trade Department, under the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade. hosts workshops on trade related issues and regional integration. The Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) also, has a role of Trade Facilitation. over and above Revenue collection. However, the attendance at such forums tends to be less than stellar.

To complement the work of the Ministry, business organizations have a role to play in sensitizing their constituents on what is obtaining on the ground in terms of regional integration, and how businesses can participate.

For example, on the 21st March 2018, during the extraordinary Session

of the Assembly on African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the country was among 44 signatories to the framework that will establish the agreement. It is worth noting the country signed the consolidated text of the AFCTA and is not yet a signatory to the Free Movement Protocol (signifying the free movement of people, right of residence and right of establishment.)

During the summit it was agreed that the AfCFTA will come into effect within 18 months. For this to occur, at least 22 countries must ratify the agreement formally. Some countries, such as South Africa (which has yet to sign on but is considering it), say the time frame may be too short, especially given the need for debate and negotiations within each signatory

Countries still have to complete negotiations on competition, disputeresolution mechanisms, intellectual property rights and investments, among other issues. They should also agree on regulatory frameworks for service-trade liberalization (to facilitate market access), submit tariff concessions schedules for trade in goods (specifying the timeline and nature of products that will be liberalized).

Sectors or industries that have an

the broader continent, should therefore take this opportunity to become involved in the negotiations.

In conclusion

The importance of trade and regional integration to businesses based in small market economies like Eswatini cannot be over-emphasized. The participation by businesses in the process leading up to regional integration is crucial if businesses are to take advantage of opportunities arising from regional integration.

The Voice of Business encourages business to actively participate in trade discussions.

The Government of the kingdom of Eswatini is also further encouraged expand the dialogue platform that will allow the private sector to be widely heard. The responsibility of creating a business-friendly environment falls to all Government Ministries and agencies to work side by side with the interest in expanding the market into Private Sector.



NOKUKHANYA GAMEDZE JA BOARD CHAIR

ne of the key things that JA Swaziland conducts is to constantly improve the implementation of the JA Swaziland programmes in a way that will make ease of access to the target audience.

As an organisation that targets young people, our efforts towards infiltrating the information and technology (IT) space have been improved towards ensuring that service delivery is efficient and easily accessible. Just last week, JA Swaziland was able to introduce a mobile application that will allow young people to access the services that JA Swaziland provides remotely through the use of the mobile application.

This past Wednesday, JA Swaziland hosted a training for the JA Company Programme facilitators to educate them on how they can enhance the use of IT in the implementation of the programmes.

Here is what some of the teachers had to say about the use of IT in entrepreneurship education:

SINDISWE MFTHULA, **ETIMPHISINI HIGH** SCHOOL

"I have been implementing the JA Company programme for the past eight years at Etimphisini High School. This programme has provided me with an opportunity to lead my team to be among the top 10 best performing schools in Swaziland for five years out of the eight that I have been facilitating. I have, therefore, been rightfully positioned to experience the growth that the programme has made over the years.

INTEGRATING IT INTO ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

This past Wednesday, JA Swaziland hosted a training for the JA Company Programme facilitators to educate them on how they can enhance the use of IT in the implementation of the programmes.

The gap that has always been evident is the exposure for our young people to the concept of information technology.

I was very fortunate that the 2017 group of pupils got an opportunity through JA to visit the technology park in Swaziland as well as in Pretoria.

This was the first step towards exposing our pupils to how their products can be enhanced through the use of IT.

The training that we have received where we were also assisted with gadgets that will enhance our operations really provided insight on how we can harness the use if TT into creating an exciting platform for learners to explore their entrepreneurial

NKOSINATHI HLOPHE, **ELULAKENI HIGH SCHOOL**

ambitions."

"The most important aspect that this training has been able to highlight for me was the importance of business marketing through the use of IT. Today we were trained on how

we can construct websites as we assist the young people create marketing platforms for their businesses. In the two years that I have been a facilitator, digital marketing has not been a part of the things that we were incorporating at Elulakeni. This will definitely go a long way in closing the gap that exist between urban and rural marketing. One of the key things that this program is able to do is inspire young people to think creatively on how

they can introduce IT based products. This training has been instrumental in identifying areas of research in which as

use of IT is very much appreciat-

facilitators we can assist these young people use IT platforms such as sending online surveys as opposed to distributing flyers. One thing that is very evident is the fact that we are raising a generation of technologically savvy young people hence the

ed by these young people. JA Swaziland's efforts of ensuring that they infiltrate the technology space will assist learners identify that the use of IT does not necessarily have to be for social purposes but they can use these platforms for business and educational purposes.

SANDILE DLAMINI, **GUNDVWINI HIGH** SCHOOL

"I have had the opportunity to facilitate the JA Swaziland programmes for five years and during this time, I have been able to lead the two teams into the top 10 best performing schools. I have seen young people prioritising the JA programmes regardless of the competing activities in the schools.

The training has, therefore, provided insight on how I can further enhance the performance of the students using IT.

Communication with JA and the pupils will be made simpler through the platforms that JA Swaziland exposed us to during

It basically made us identify that

through the use of technology, a business can be established in the comfort of our home. The facilitator, Titus Sithole exposed us to marketing tools, communication tools, transection platforms all done in one device through the use of IT. This is evidence that indeed we shall be assisting learners build businesses in the standard of devel-

oped countries. Integrating IT in business is one way towards reaching this stage."

Conclusion As the organization introduces the integration of IT platforms into the implementation of the JA programmes, the belief is that we can inspire young people to come up with different business ideas that will be at the standard of developed countries. If as a national we are to attain first world status in the next three years, then the level in which we produce ideas should be an indication that we are transforming. Through introducing the pupils and teachers to the IT platform, JA Swaziland is

just giving a small nudge towards

the right direction.



BY LISA MONGELLI

t is amazing how one small stone breaking the surface of the water causes an entire pond to ripple, and no matter the size of the pond the surface water ripples in continuous circular motion until the centrifugal force of what would appear to be an insignificant act dissipates and plays itself out.

The effect of this one small stone being tossed in the water is so powerful that it's influence reaches across a space thousands of times larger than itself with little or no effort. The momentum created by the original burst of energy ripples into the infinity of the moment effecting time and space till it rearranges the surface of the pond and then rests.

The stone lies at the bottom of the pond readjusting and rebalancing the ecology as a whole into something more. Three individual energies unite and by shifting time and matter give birth to a new element. The pond now having a new component, the stone is recreated and transformed.

Just as the stone breaking the surface of the water transforms the pond, each of us daily are expanding into thought reaching into Universal mind and transforming our lives. Like the stone breaking the water, our thoughts cause a ripple effect that reaches into the depths of Creation and begins to shape and reshape our

When we begin to consciously manifest materially with our

THE RIPPLE



thoughts life then becomes less profound, and the enigmatic idea that life is internal becomes a physical fact. The Law of Intention becomes less perplexing and the mystery of creation even in some small measure gives way to a greater sense of understanding. The Law of Attraction begins to be less intimidating and we are able to embrace thought and reality as one without fear.

The energy of one positive thought has an exponential power that diminishes any negative thought no matter how disturbing. The electromagnetic charge of a positive thought is far more powerful than a negative thought. A positive thought sends out a flow of pure magnetic energy projecting light into the Universe a Africa, tomorrow.

four days.

he Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Christopher Gamedze will lead

the Swazi delegation to this year's Africa's Travel Indaba, which kicks off in Durban, South

Travel Indaba will be held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, and is expected to be attended by over 1 060 exhibitors

from 22 destinations who will showcase their various travel and tourism product offering over

The Swazi delegation consists of officials from

the Swaziland Tourism Authority, who are lead-

These exhibitors are Big Game Parks, Mantenga Lodge, Nkonyeni Golf Lodge, Mountain Inn Hotel, Royal Villas Hotel, The George Hotel,

All Out Africa, Swazi Trails, BK Lodge and Conference Center, Community Tourism in Swaziland, Foresters Arms Hotel, Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino, Sibane Hotel, Sky World Travel and Tours, Maguga Lodge, and Nisela Safaris, and they will be housed at the Eswatini

In the last two consecutive years, the Eswatini stand (Swaziland stand by then) has been winning a silver award as the third best in the southern African region at Travel Indaba, and great preparations have been made this year as the STA aims for the coveted Diamond (first) prize. Meanwhile, the local exhibitors have also indicated that they are geared up for the show, and are keen to entice international tourism buyers into packaging and selling destination Eswatini. Africa's Travel Indaba is one of the largest tourism marketing events on the African cal-

endar and one of the top three 'must visit' events

of its kind on the global tourism trade calendar.

It showcases the widest variety of Southern

Africa's best tourism products and attracts inter-

national buyers and media from across the world.

It is owned by South African Tourism and this

year's event is organised by Synergy Business

Events (Pty) Ltd. Indaba has won awards for

Africa's best travel and tourism show. This award

was presented by the Association of World

Travel Awards.

ing a group of local exhibitors.



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BONGANI DLAMINI STA Marketing Manager Email: mm@tourismauthority.org.sz

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ern African region at Travel Indaba, and great preparations have been

made this year as the STA aims for the coveted Diamond (first) prize.

MINISTER GAMEDZE TO LEAD SWAZI DELEGATION TO AFRICA'S TRAVEL INDABA 2018



Meanwhile, an exciting line-up of speakers and topics have been arranged for the Business Opportunity Networking Day, commonly known as BONDay.

BONDay is designed to provide educational sessions for attendees to learn more about the new industry trends that will ultimately contribute to the growth of their busi-

It kicks off tomorrow with the BONDay talks setting the scene for

a wonderful week's activities. According to the organisers, BONDay discussions will, for the first time, be open to the public and not only for Indaba exhibitors and buyers. Some of the topics that will be discussed at the BONDay will include 'Block-chain and the travel industry' where a trends guru will share how the block-chain technology behind the crypto-craze is re-defining the internet, the global economy and the next wave of digital disruption and how this will affect the travel industry. Another topic to be discussed is 'Marketing: The Art of Storytelling - our stories, our way'.

In line this year's theme - 'African Stories, Your Success" - industry experts will share thoughts on how African stories can be shared with the world today. Other topics include 'Sales: Domestic Tourism trends on the continent', as well as 'Let's talk Conservation - curated by Conservation Lab'.

Around 7 000 exhibitors, buyers, media and industry professionals are expected to attend this year's Indaba. Meanwhile, the STA is looking forward to hosting a group of international tour operators for a post-Indaba educational in Eswatini starting Friday.

This, over the years, has proved to be beneficial as more international operators now package and sell Eswatini (Swaziland) as a tourism destination.



Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Christopher Gamedze.

... BONDAY SETS THE TONE FOR INDABA TOMORROW

EFFECT



negative thought does not give off the same force. Negativity resonates on a very low frequency which is why positive thoughts over shadow and ultimately obliterate negative thinking. Simply put a positive thought is light and a negative thought is dark. No darkness can withstand the presents of light. Remember that one candle illuminates the darkness and even in the blackest night you will find your way.

Existence

Becoming best friends with yourself and your thought base or subconscious is really the gateway into a more balanced peaceful you. Embracing all parts of who you are will lead to a happier more

contented existence. Self judgement and selfloathing cause disturbances in the body's energy field causing the Aura to tremble and destabilize.

This is where disease and depression creep in and begin to play havoc with an individual and their physical and mental health.

When negative thoughts cause feelings of rage or anger and we then focus on these feelings, they do not just bring about malcontent, but it can be the origins of something far worse. Such emotions lead to Chronic Fatigue, Adrenal Burnout, Clinical Depression, Cancer, Heart disease, Alcoholism and Drug Addiction.

We as human beings are two half's of one whole, where there is light there is also shadow.

By accepting who we are on all levels, we have the opportunity to evolve and grow into something more something better. We are God's force in all there ever was or all there ever will be. Our Universe is comprised of both light and shadow and as we are an integral part of this Universe of Creation, why would it be otherwise with us? Selflove begins with self-acceptance and self-respect.

Acceptance of the shadow within leads us to self-discovery and growth. We are the only beings on this planet who enjoy the privileged of discovering and knowing all that we are. Light illuminates the shadow and shadow fosters mental

emotional and spiritual growth.

Is it not interesting that so often individuals have an easier time being kinder to a stranger or an animal than to themselves?

The assumption that self-sacrifice will lead to salvation rather than ruination is a true misnomer. Only when a person is wholly balanced and happy within can they truly give to others. An individual who constantly sacrifices himself for the Greater Good and ignores his own well being is putting a bitter twist on the definition of giving. This kind of self-victimisation only leads to a life of expectation and disappointment.

The crucial point here is self-care, putting oneself first is a vital step toward self actualisation. Self-care and self-love is the same thing.

What you think about yourself you become what you think about most you materialise. The realisation that thoughts have that much power is a staggering notion

Let us once again however site scripture. The Christ said, "if ye have the faith of a grain of mustard seed you shall say unto the mountain move and it shall move." emember the stone and how it changed the pond. Think of a life time of thought constantly shaping and reshaping your reality. The magnitude of such power is awe inspiring.

Think well of yourself, God bless you and above

Evang. Wilton Mamba



he biggest controversy in the church today is the contentious issue of miracles.

Miracle-working prophets have become more popular than Pop stars, as their appeal spills beyond the pulpit into the world of business, sports, education and everyday life. It would seem one can now buy miracles of whatever shape and size over the counte, just like people buy bread at the local groc ry shop. More alluring, if not alarming, is the ture of the miracles themselves.

It is this pect of miracle that seem to have attracted more attention from critics who, through ocial and mainstream media, have registered their concerns; themselves at the risk of suffering unforgivable curses as Jesus proclaimed that he who sins against the Holy Spirit would never be forgiven.

But who can blame the critics when so-called prophets somehow induce congregants to willingly feast on such inedible materials as grass, fuel and anything in between; sit and prance on seemingly unconscious bodies, and even slap saints who seem hypnotised - all in a desperate bid to prove the power of God? In Swaziland, there have been growing reports of students allegedly ditching their books to turn to miracles for answers during examinations; while in neighbouring South Africa prophets have launched a new trend of 'miracle money', where one 'favoured by God' receives money he has not earned in their bank account - surely defeating the well-entrenched workings of the economy. I have no right to pass judgment on anyone; sitting on the fence is not the object of this column. In fact, as the reader may well be aware, the sole purpose for this column is to advocate for the truism of miracles - that they were and still are the basis of the Christian faith, and without them, the Gospel loses its appeal and will suffocate and die. But when miracles border on unethical, self-gratifying shenanigans, they are just as destructive to the Gospel and often open

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY OF MIRACLE-WORKING



the gates for the enemy to destroy the 'brand' that Jesus Christ died for. When prophets start performing works of magic that create more confusion than prove the power of God, we cannot blame the critics who begin to question the source of such miracles.

It is important to state that there is indeed a thin line... very feint...between miracles (works of God) and magic, whose source is the evil one.

This makes this subject a matter of life and death - something 'we

must' talk about or be damned. I have asked God to give me enablement to shed light in this 'the great controversy' for His Name's sake.

The question that should be on your mind is 'what qualifies him (me) to pontificate to us as if he is an authority?' Jesus was asked similar questions by the Pharisees, who knew he was only a carpenter with no education in the Law of Moses. Matthew 21:23-27;

When He entered the temple area, the chief priests and elders of the people came to Him as He was teaching and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?"

Now Jesus was some character; even I still cannot come to terms with His bravery - one who was worse than a rebel. Come to think of it; how would your church react if the local carpenter, with callused hands and sawdust-covered work fatigues to boot, suddenly ascended the pulpit and preached. This is exactly what Jesus did. Jesus replied to them, "I will also ask you a question, and if you tell Me the answer, then I will tell you by what authority I do these things.

"The baptism of John - from where did it come? From heaven (that is ordained by God) or from men?" And they began debating among themselves (considering the implications of their answer), saying, "If we say 'from heaven', He will say to us, "Then why did you not believe John?"

"But if we say 'from men', we are afraid of the crowd; for they regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And He said to them, neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things." AMP

I'm not Jesus, nor do I claim to be some kind of prophet. I am just a sinner, who is raising his hand in the congregation, hoping the pastor will allow him to state what the Lord has put in his heart. I have no Wilton Mamba is now an Evangelist and founder of David Goliath Spiritual Solutions, a sanctuary that provides spiritual solutions to practical problems, counselling and life coaching, cutting-edge Bible study and spiritual exercises through works of faith.

If you have been blessed by reading this article, or seek clarification on some of the issues raised here, contact Evang. Wilton Mamba on 7677 9312 or 7977 0952 or 2404 5284.

You can send an email to mambawilton.multimedia@gmail.com. Better still
join our faith-building sessions every
Wednesday from 5-6pm and Saturdays at
11am – 1pm at Multimedia, Comer
Somhlolo Road and Mbhilibhi Street in
Mbabane opposite ICAP.

intention of stealing the pastor's thunder.

For me, 'the taste is in the pudding' as I hope to share with you life-changing information that will enrich your relationship with your Creator. The Spirit wants me to tackle all the controversial issues without fear or favour. I have been pained to the core to read statements on matters of the Gospel that are carefully crafted so as to be politically correct at the detriment of the Gospel

I know there will be bloodshed, gore and mudslinging. Jesus knew of His fate on Jerusalem. He knew the exact hour, place and every detail of his humiliation, scourging and crucifixion, but He said 'bring it on' for the glory of God. In our next column, the Lord will help us understand just what miracles are.

REGISTRATION FOR THE CYCLING RACE IS ON!



S lowly but surely the big event we have been waiting for is approaching.

The 10th edition of the Dups-United Road Cycle Classic is happening on Sunday 20th May. This year's event is going to be big and bold as we commemorate the 10th anniversary. In the interest of encouraging our children to love and participate in cycling, there is going to be a kiddies' race, with many great prizes to be won. There will also be other games for kids and stalls, making this a good opportunity to have fun as a family. Feel free to bring your friends too! If you hadn't registered for the race yet, please do so at Dups Mall or at Adventure Sport, bearing in mind that there will be no registration on the day of the race.

Last week, many cyclists came to register at Corner Plaza, and today we are at the Old Mall in Mbabane. Here are the other scheduled dates and venues for registration for the Dups-United Road Cycle Classic:

● 11 May-Swazi Plaza Mbabane



• 12 May-New Mall Mbabane

● 15 May-Bhunu Mall Manzini If you fail to make it to any of the venues above, you might want to register online. There are links to our social media, or you can visit www.unitedholdings.com

Winter is starting to set in, the nights and mornings are starting to get nippy, most people are coughing, sneezing and sniffling all around. Certain conditions that act up in

cold weather start to surface, making life unbearable for some. Examples are asthma, arthritis, and flu. Ensure you stay warm, but most importantly, make sure you register for the United Holdings Health Insurance. United Health covers you and your family at very affordable premiums. It has numerous benefits for day-to-day care as well as more specialised care. You get dental, casualty, maternity, vision,

and motor vehicle accident benefit. You will also get covered for HIV and AIDS treatment as well as Post-Exposure Prophylaxis. You will also be able to get advice from pharmacists, over-the-counter medication and be covered for emergency transport and ambulance fee should there be need.

There is a 12-month waiting period on pre-existing conditions and maternity. Optometry and dentures have a six-month waiting period, and chronic conditions have three months waiting period. General treatment has only a month's waiting period. With your United Health card in your wallet, you will also be able to get treatment in South Africa in the event that you need medical attention while outside the country.

United Health covers the main policyholder, his or her spouse, up to four biological, adopted and stepchildren who are not older than 18 years. Parents, parents-in-law, additional spouse(s) and/or children can be added to the scheme at an additional premium. To register for this medical cover, you need the following documentation: ID of the policy holder, ID of

dependants (spouse, children, parents/parents-in-law), and proof of relationships to policyholder (birth certificates/marriage certificate). All copies of originals must be certified. Many people suffer from chronic conditions which deal a heavy blow on their quality of life. Sometimes when there is no money, they just sit out the pain and discomfort at home and wait to get better. You do not have to put yourself through all that. Getting medical cover will allow you to visit your hospital or doctor as and when you want to. Look out for next week's instalment as we shall be discussing how you can take advantage of the chronic medical benefit so that your medical problems can be dealt with as and when you need attention. Please give us a call on 2505 2028 or 2404 7676 to find out all about United Health and how it can benefit you and your family. You can also send queries to ugienquiries@dupsgroup.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter@dupsinsurance or pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlangano, Mbabane, Piggs Peak and Siteki.

MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



s entities with their own parts, sentences may be wrong in one part or the other, or may be wrong in their entirety.

I am sure you can tell whether the following sentence is partially or entirely wrong. "For one or more sound reasons, a country may change their

Of course, that is a very good example of a sentence that is partially wrong. A sentence that is partially wrong is like a car which has one or two parts that are faulty or damaged, whereas, a sentence that is entirely wrong is like a car that is totally wrecked or damaged.

To repair a car which has a faulty part, for example, a carburetor, all you have to do is to fix the part or replace it. This is the case with our foregoing sentence. The element that is wrong in the sentence is the pronoun, "their." It is wrong because it is plural, whereas its antecedent, that is, the noun, "a country," is singular. It is an example of the error known technically as pronoun-antecedent disagreement or faulty pronoun reference.

Accordingly, all we have to do to correct the sentence is to fix or replace that part, thus: "For one or more sound reasons, a country may change ITS name." We have changed the plural pronoun, "their," to its singular form, "its." And the sentence has been healed, so to say!

With a sentence that is entirely wrong, the matter is different. Here is an example of such a sentence. "Unfortunately, because of space I have mention only a few signs, if some of them ring a bell you might need to reassess your so called relationship, but again trust your instincts they are normally right." This is the last sentence of an opinion piece with the title, SIGNS YOU ARE IN RELATIONSHIP BY YOURSELF - Swazi News, December 2, 2017. To be sure, when we say that a sentence is entirely wrong, what do we mean? Well, in very few words, when we say that a sentence is entirely wrong, we mean that it violates the simple and practical definition of a sentence, to wit: "A sentence is a group of words which has a subject and a predicate, and ends with a full stop, a question mark or an exclamation mark."

Take a close look at the sentence under our spotlight, and then ask yourself: "Does it violate any aspect of the simple, practical definition which we have offered?" The answer, of course, is: "Yes, big time!" First of all, the sentence comprises at least three sentences, that is, three rolled into one. Without bothering about the partial errors in the construction, we may break it down into the following three sentences. Sentence #1: "Unfortunately,

WHEN SENTENCES ARE WRONG IN ENTIRETY

because of space I have mention only a few signs." Sentence #2: "if some of them ring a bell you might need to reassess your so called relationship, but again trust your instincts." Sentence #3: "they are normally right."

Second, if you agree with that breakdown, then you'd also agree that the internal punctuation marks that separated the clauses in the original sentence were all wrong. The sentence is an example of the error known as a run-on sentence, but we need to qualify that further. There are two kinds of run-ons. One is known as the fused sentence, the other comma splice. This very sentence has both types of errors, which makes it extraordinary. All said, we may now pay attention to each of the three questions and their partial errors. Sentence #1: "Unfortunately, because of space, I have MENTIONED only a few signs." Sentence #2: "IF some of them ring a bell, you might need to reassess your SO-CALLE relationship; but again trust your instincts." Sentence #3: "THEY are normally right."

The fused sentence and the comma splice are two kinds of sentences that are wrong in their entirety. Another kind is the fragmented sentence, aka sentence fragment. You can find an example in the following excerpt, which is the second paragraph of an opinion piece with the title, "Hatred hastening America's Reichstag moment" - The Sunday Independent, February 19, 2017. "Farag's message is one of hate and fear-mongering. The essence of which is that Muslims are 'streaming' into the US to turn churches into mosques, to impose Sharia, and to weaken, dilute, and eventually destroy

the Christian religion." If you take a good look at the second sentence in that paragraph, you will find that it violates an aspect of the simple and practical definition: It has no subject. It is like a branch that is cut from its stem. Indeed, the

first sentence of the paragraph is that stem. Change the full stop of the sentence into a comma, and turn the capital letter of the first word after the comma into lower case, and the fragment would become part of the whole, thus: "Farag's message is one of hate and fear-mongering, the essence of which is that Muslims are 'streaming' into the US to turn churches into mosques, to impose Sharia, and to weaken, dilute, and eventually destroy the Christian religion."

Fragmented sentences come in various forms and may be characterised by the particular elements that render them incomplete. For example, the foregoing fragment may be characterised by the fact that it is a nonrestrictive clause. A nonrestrictive clause or phrase is one that gives additional information about a noun or a subject that is already fully identified. Usually, it acts as an adjective. The second construction we find in that paragraph is a nonrestrictive adjective clause, because it is modifying the first construction. Nonrestrictive modifiers are set off from their nouns by a comma.

Examine the following three sentences that come from a paragraph in an article with the title, KUBU-LAWA - Swazi Observer, May 10, 2016. "In this generation, we have been experiencing diminishing or changing leadership values. We live in a world in which people push and shove to be appointed to leadership positions. Not because they have the people's interest at heart, but because they are focusing more on the benefits of being a leader (the remuneration package)."

If you have examined the sentences properly, you will find that there is nothing wrong in the first two sentences. The third sentence, however, is wrong because it is a fragment: It has no subject. It is another example of a nonrestrictive clause. As such, it needs to be connected to its main body, thus: We live in a world in which people push and shove to be appointed to leadership positions, not because they have the people's interest at heart, but because they are focusing more on the benefits of being a leader (the remuneration package)."

"You cannot separate leadership from decisions-making (sic) whether you like it or not, they are inexorably linked." This sentence is an excerpt from THE ART OF DECISION-MAKING, a piece from the Times of Swaziland, June 11, 2017.

I am sure you can tell the kind of error the sentence, as a whole, not in part, is harbouring. It is run-on sentence of the fused type. Two sentences have been joined together with no punctuation mark separating them. It may be revised, thus: "You cannot separate leadership from decisionmaking, whether you like it or not. They are INEXTRICABLY linked." The original adverb in the original sentence, "inexorably," is in error error of faulty diction.

ICT MINISTER SHOCKED BY JOURNALISTS LOW SALARIES is the headline of a news story in the Swazi Observer of December 20, 2017. Its ninth paragraph reads: "The minister said the work done by journalists was very necessary in that they disseminated news and they worked in challenging conditions yet they continued to persevere and see to it that society gets a day to day dose of news." This is a run-on sentence of a rather simple kind. All it needs to make it right is a semicolon or a full stop after the first main clause which ends with "conditions," thus: "The minister said the work done by journalists was very necessary in that they disseminated news and they worked in challenging conditions; yet they continued to persevere and see to it that society gets a DAY-TO-DAY dose of news." In the original sentence, "day to day" was de-hyphenated. POOR SWAZIS NEGLECTED is the title of an opinion piece in the Times of Swaziland, February 19, 2017. The second paragraph the article begins, thus: "I will say government is a social contract between the governed and the governing, in this relationship, the governed are the citizenry who are also the electorate and the governing is the government who are supposed to be governing on the mandate of the governed not because they participate in elections but because they are tax payers.'

If you see it the way I do, you may find the sentence somehow confusing, but that is not our main concern. This is a sentence which has been rendered wrong in its entirely because runs together two sentences without using a full stop. It should be revised, thus: Sentence #1: "I will say government is a social contract between the governed and the governing." Sentence #2: "In this relationship, the governed are the citizenry who are also the electorate and the governing is the government who are supposed to be governing on the mandate of the governed not because they participate in elections but because they are tax pay-

All things considered, the two types of run-on sentences, that is, the fused sentence and the comma splice, and the fragmented sentence manifest a lack of sentence sense, for which we may coin the rather apt acronym, LOSS. We cannot overemphasise the point that sentence sense - what one guru refers to as "the most important of all sentence skills" - is crucial to grammar, particularly, and to writing, generally. The same guru describes sentence sense as "the instinctive feel for where a sentence begins, where it ends, and the ways a sentence can be developed." Anybody who habours LOSS will be prone to losing the direction of sentences, readily.

Toussayma Njeim - who is concurrently studying for a Masters in Rural Development at the Universities of UGent in Belgium and Humboldt University in Berlin, as well as a Masters in Agricultural Economics at the University of Arkansas in the USA - has found a home away from home in Swaziland.

Noussayma, who was given the name 'Nosipho' during her stay in Swaziland, was indeed a gift to the staff of the Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC) during her six-week internship at the Centre. She immediately blended in and fast became a member of the SEP-ARC 'family' in no time, and a bonafide 'Lebanese-Swazi' who even took her time to learn the indigenous language.

"During my career and educational life I have been moving around the Middle East, Europe, and the USA. Swaziland was my first stop in Africa. I have to admit I did not know what to expect.

Now that I am leaving, I am recall-

ARKANSAS UNI GRADUATE INTERN SHARES FOND MEMORIES OF SD

ing all the great memories that Swaziland gave me, and wishing I could stay here. I don't know where to start describing my journey!!" she said prior to her departure.

Noussayma noted that SEPARC was the reason she came to Swaziland, as a graduate intern to work on research about the 'Economic Impact of Infrastructure Investment in Swaziland: The Case of Smallholder Sugar Cane Growers in the Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project (LUSIP) Area' as part of her Master's thesis.

"Working at SEPARC helped me grow intellectually in many ways; first is the research process, whereby I had a chance to present my work and see other research presented, followed by comments and questions to broaden the limit of the thinking scope. Second, is the way that research is conducted at SEPARC, such as working as a team and allowing ideas to be circulated and discussed no matter how big or small the idea, hence allowing each individual to partake and develop one's self.

"By encouraging the whole team to participate strengthens the bond between the team where everyone feels that they play an important role! This helped me share my experiences and learn new perspectives and ways of solving different issues. At SEPA-RC I felt as part of a family member rather than an employee, we always looked out for each other and worked together to achieve the best output possible.

"As a researcher with SEPARC, I had an opportunity to join a team for data collection in Siphofaneni; the field work taught me a lot about life, most importantly, to be grateful for everything I have and never to take

anything for granted! The efficiency and the importance of team work is also a great thing that I experienced especially since I wasn't always able to work alone due to language barriers so I used the help of my teammates for translation.

Noussayma also took the opportunity to experience the country's rich culture through visits to various places of interest and even donning Swaziland's beautiful traditional attire.

"I was also lucky to experience Swaziland as a tourist.

One of the best experiences was the Buganu (Marula) festival, whereby just like everyone else I put on the traditional Swazi outfit, the lihiya (sarong) and joined the crowd, I even tried the marula drink!! Hlane Nature Reserve was another stop for me; I got to see my favourite animal - ELE-PHANTS!!! Along with monkeys,

crocodiles, and lamas.

"Hearing that Swaziland is home for different birds I wanted to explore that myself!! I joined a birding group at the Mabuda Farm in Siteki for a birding hike!

When the hike ended we were able to see and hear a total of 39 different birds! WOW! I also hiked at the oldest mine in the world at Ngwenya!! And in my last days I visited Mantenga Swazi cultural village learning about the traditional Swazi culture and I even got the opportunity to learn the Swazi dance!! The food was amazing in Swaziland! The BRAAI is now my all-time favourite food with pap and salad!!"

As a parting shot, Noussayma had this to say; "If I have a chance to come back to Swaziland I will not think twice about saying yes! Especially now that I am getting better at siSwati, so I am starting to fit in just like a Swazi. NGIYABONGA SEPARC and NGIYABONGA SWAZILAND! I will cherish the memories in my heart!"



MAKHOSI KHOZA TO EAD OUTA WAR ON GRAFT IN MUNICIPALITIES

OHANNESBURG-Disillusioned with politics, the feisty former ANC MP has decided to get her hands dirty mobilising civil society to fight corruption in local government.

Former ANC MP Makhosi Khoza believes voters have lost faith in pol-

This same disillusionment on her own part has prompted her to attempt to mobilise civil society to fight corruption through her involvement in antigraft lobby group, Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA).

Speaking at the announcement of the group's executive restructuring, which sees Khoza taking up the position as OUTA executive director, she announced that OUTA has resolved to take its fight against corruption to local government.

The erstwhile ANC MP lamented the decline in voter turnout, saying politicians had let society down.



Former ANC MP Makhosi Khoza.

"Recently, at Wits University, the EFF took about 14 out of 15 seats of the SRC, but the voter turnout

was only eight per cent," she said. "That means 92 per cent of the people have decided to forgo their right

to vote. But to me, it also says something. It says citizens no longer have enough faith in politicians.'

Khoza pointed out that the ANC's 2014 election victory was secured by less than 50 per cent of South Africa's 26 million registered voters. "To me, it means there is a disconnect. We need to strengthen civil society."

Shortly after a dramatic exit from Parliament and the ANC last year, Khoza announced she would be the head of a new political party.

Her stint at African Democratic Change (ADC) went pear-shaped when it was almost immediately split by factions, with members demanding her resignation. Addressing journalists at OUTA's announcement, Khoza said that despite local government having the closest proximity to South Africans it was, tragically, the most neglected. Citizen

Pharmacists call for medicine to be exempt from VAT

OHANNESBURG - The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) on Friday announced that it intended to make a submission to the recently appointed panel of experts which is to review the current list of Value Added Tax (VAT) zero-rated items. President of the PSSA Professor Sarel Malan said for many years, the PSSA had supported the concept that essential services and products should be exempt from VAT in order to make them more accessible to consumers. This included medicine essential to maintain healthy productive citizens in this

"No one wants to spend money on medicine. People have many competing needs and often can barely afford to pay for medicines. By offering some relief with zero-rated medicines, improved access to medicine can be more affordable."

Malan said the National Department of Health's Essential Medicines Programme recognises the medicines that were not only essential for healthcare but were also closely aligned to the burden of disease in this country. While they may be given free of charge to patients who rely on public sector healthcare facilities, it must be noted that there are many occasions when a member of the public may choose to buy these medicines from a community pharmacy, rather than forfeit a day's wages and pay transport costs to get to a public sector facility.

"Many consumers are patients in the lower income groups that would gain the greatest benefit from VAT exemption. Medicine is not a normal commodity of trade - it is a necessity in most cases - and the demand and supply characteristics do not follow classic market principles," said Malan.

African News Agency

Ramaphosa heeds call for swift action, charges Tom Moyane

OHANNESBURG-President Cyril Ramaphosa has given his premiers and government heads lessons on how to deal with errant officials - when he charged suspended SARS boss Tom Moyane in less than three months since his suspension.

Ramaphosa placed Moyane on suspension with immediate effect on March 19 this year and made sure to serve him with formal disciplinary charges in less than three months as prescribed by the Public Service Commission.

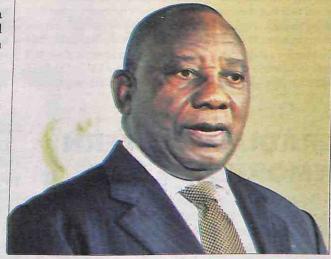
Moyane was officially, according to the Presidency, served President Cyril Ramaphosa. with disciplinary charges on Thursday, following a series of accusations of misconduct, especially one related to alleged

70 million VAT refunds to a Oakbay company - a company belonging to the controversial Gupta family.

However, prior to his suspension, Moyane denied any acts of misconduct, especially related to the VAT refunds on March 16.

Three days later, Ramaphosa acted against him.

Ramaphosa's quick action to charge Moyane apparently came after the PSC in March issued a report entitled the "The



Pulse of the Public Service". In it, government and its entities were urged to charge officials accused of misconduct within a period of three months to avoid fruitless and wasteful expenditure. At the time, the PSC complained that officials were placed on suspension for more than a year while on full pay and benefits.

On Friday, it appeared that Ramaphosa heeded the call when he announced that he had served Moyane with disciplinary charges related to the alleged misconduct in violation of his public duties and responsibilities in terms of the

South African Revenue Service Act, Public Service Act and SARS Code of Conduct.

The Presidency also announced that retired Constitutional Court Judge Kate O'Regan would head the disciplinary inquiry.

Presidential spokesperson Khusela Diko said "the inquiry will be conducted in writing to make findings, subject to the presiding officer's discretion to hear oral evidence".

While the Presidency did not outline the charges, one of the charges relates to his handling of the Jonas Makwakwa matter. News24

Ramaphosa mourns death of 7 miners

OHANNESBURG - President Cyril Ramaphosa expressed his sadness at the death of seven mine workers at Sibanye-Stillwater's Driefontein mine, near Carletonville on the West Rand yesterday.

The death toll at the mine had risen to seven following initial reports that four workers had passed away.

"As government and South Africans at large, our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the deceased workers, among whom are workers from neighbouring states including Mozambique," said Ramaphosa.

"We also offer our best wishes to workers who have been directly or indirectly affected by this disaster, which should move the mining industry and government to jointly find ways to do all we can to protect our nation's most valuable resource - the workers who are at the heart of our economy.

"We should spare no cost and no collaboration to ensure that workers are safe and their families are adequately cared for and compensated when disaster and tragedy strike."

Ramaphosa expressed his hope that the investigation into the Driefontein disaster would identify the causes of the incident and lead to solutions that would address the unacceptable rate of death in South African mines.

News24

SABC accused of flouting labour laws

OHANNESBURG - Labour unions representing employees at the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) have accused the public broadcaster of flouting labour

The unions claim at least 60per cent of workers at the SABC are freelancers.

Employees have raised various concerns about the running and working conditions at the institution. As a result, the parliamentary committee on communications met with unions in Sandton on Friday.

Dumisani Dlamini is from the Electronic Media Freelancers and Labour Association. He says the SABC must abide by labour laws.

"If the SABC had respected its policies, there wouldn't be so much outcry by employees. There are rules and we know these rules, but these rules are not being respected by the people who make them."

The parliamentary committee's Humphrey Maxegwana says they will be meeting with the SABC board to ensure the public broadcaster delivers on its constitutional mandate.

"Some workers, because they're freelancers, their matters relate to the policies of this government. We think we'll have to deal with these matters with speed." News24



UNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

US fails to win UN backing for statement criticising Abbas

ASHINGTON - The United States failed on Friday to win United Nations Security Council backing for a statement rejecting as "unacceptable" remarks by Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas about Jews that included "vile anti-Semitic slurs."

Kuwait, a non-permanent council memher that represents the Arab Group of countries, objected to the draft statement, arguing that Abbas had already apologised and that it was one-sided, diplomats said.

The proposed statement expressed the council's "serious concern" about Abbas's remarks, which "included vile anti-Semitic slurs and baseless conspiracy theories, and do not serve the interests of the Palestinian people or peace in the Middle East."

It called on him to "refrain from anti-Semitic comments."

Security Council statements are adopted by consensus of all 15 members.

The Palestinian leader triggered global outrage after he suggested that hostility toward Jews in Europe was not linked to religious intolerance, but stemmed from their "social function related to banks and

Abbas made the remarks at a meeting of the Palestinian National Council on Monday, but on Friday he offered an apology and said he condemned the Holocaust "as the most heinous crime in history.'

Israeli Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman immediately rejected the apology and said Abbas was a "pathetic Holocaust denier." Daily Mail

TRUMP'S TEAM **DEMANDS CHINA** SLASHES US TRADE

ASHINGTON - The Trump administration has drawn a hard line in trade talks with China, demanding a \$200 billion cut in the Chinese trade surplus with the United States, sharply lower tariffs and advanced technology subsidies, people familiar with the talks said on Friday.

The lengthy list of demands was presented to Beijing before the start of talks on Thursday and on Friday between toplevel Trump administration officials and their Chinese counterparts to try to avert a damaging trade war between the world's two largest economies.

A White House statement did not mention specific demands, but said the US delegation "held frank discussions with Chinese officials on rebalancing the United States-China bilateral economic relationship, improving China's protection of intellectual property, and identifying policies that unfairly enforce technology transfers."

The statement gave no indi-



US President Donald Trump.

cation that US President Donald Trump would back off on his threat to impose tariffs on up to \$150 billion in Chinese goods over allegations of intellectual property theft.

The delegation was returning to Washington to brief Trump and "seek his decision on next steps," the White House said, adding that the administration had "consensus" for "immediate attention" to change the U.S-China trade and investment relationship.

Trump was to meet with the delegation yesterday. "We will be meeting tomorrow to determine the results, but it is hard for China in that they have become very spoiled with US trade wins!" he said in a Twitter post late on Friday.

Daily Mail

Putin opponents protest across Russia before his inauguration

OSCOW - Critics of Vladimir Putin took to the streets of Russia yesterday, ahead of his inauguration for a fourth presidential term to register their opposition to what they say is his autocratic Tsar-like rule.

Putin won a landslide re-election victory in March, extending his grip over the world's largest country for another six years until 2024, making him the longest-lasting leader since Soviet dictator Josef Stalin who ruled for nearly 30 years.

"If you think that he is not our Tsar, take to the streets of your cities," read a message from opposition leader Alexei Navalny encouraging people to demonstrate ahead of the

"We will force the authorities, made up of swindlers and thieves, to reckon with the millions of citizens who did not vote for Putin."

Navalny, who has been repeatedly detained and jailed for organising similar protests in the past, called for rallies in more than 90 towns and cities, including Moscow and St Petersburg where protests were due to start at 1100 GMT.

Navalny activists posted photographs on social media of hundreds of protesters taking part in rallies in Russia's Far East and Siberia, and OVD Info, a human rights organisation that monitors detentions, said it had received reports of police detaining around 20 people across the country.

'Putin has already been on his throne for 18 years!" one activist told a crowd in the city of Khabarovsk.

"We've ended up in a dead end over these 18 years. I don't want to put up with this!"

Putin, 65, has been in power, either as president or prime minister, since 2000. Backed by state TV and the ruling party, and credited with an approval rating of around 80 per cent, he is lauded by supporters as a father-of-the-nation figure who has restored national pride and expanded Moscow's global clout

The authorities regard most of the protests as illegal, arguing that their time and place was not agreed with them beforehand. Police have broken up similar demonstrations in the past, sometimes harshly, detaining hundreds. Putin has dismissed Navalny, who was barred from running in the presidential election on what he said was a trumped up pretext, as a troublemaker bent on sowing chaos on behalf of Washington. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, a close Putin ally, has called Navalny a political charlatan.

Putin is due to be inaugurated tomorrow in a Kremlin ceremony heavy on pomp and circumstance.

with interventions in Syria and Ukraine. Daily Mail Mnangagwa urges ZANU-PF unity for 'thunderous' win



- ARARE - Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa urged his party on Friday to unite after disputed internal polls, saying this will ensure a "thunderous" win in elections set for July, which would allow a ZANU-PF government to provide jobs and tackle corruption.

Mnangagwa took over from long-time ruler Robert Mugabe last November after the 94year-old leader was forced to resign following a de facto military coup.

If certified free and fair by the international community, the presidential, parliamentary and council elections, whose date has not been fixed, could lead to resumption of financial aid by foreign lenders for the first time in two decades.

Seven government ministers and several allies of Mnangagwa were defeated in the polls this week.

News24

BRIEFS

Iran's Rouhani criticises ban on Telegram messaging app

DUBAI - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has criticised the ban imposed on popular messaging app Telegram by the conservativerun Judiciary, saying the move was "the opposite of democracy".

Iran blocked Telegram - widely used by Iranians, the state media, politicians and companies - earlier this week to protect national securi y, state television said, weeks after a similar move by Russia.

Gabon PM names new Cabinet days after court dissolved government

LIBREVILLE - Gabon's prime minister announced the composition of a new Cabinet on Friday, just days after the Constitutional Court ordered him to resign for failing to organise legislative elections on time last weekend. The court ruled last Monday that Prime Minister Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet was no longer legitimate. It also ordered that the National Assembly be dissolved.

However, President Ali Bongo, the current head of the Central African OPEC member's half-century-old political dynasty, reappointed him on Thursday.

Reuters

Trump to host South Korea's Moon for May 22 talks: White House

USA - President Donald Trump will host South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in for talks at the White House on May 22, as anticipation builds for much-awaited meetings with the North's leader.

"This third summit between the two leaders affirms the enduring strength of the United States-Republic of Korea alliance and the deep friendship between our two countries," the White House said in a statement.

Moon met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last month, and both sides promised to pursue the complete denuclearisation of the peninsula and a permanent peace. Reuters

Chad president vows anti-corruption drive for new republic

N'DJAMENA - Chad President Idriss Deby on Friday vowed to crack down on entrenched graft as he signed a decree to create a new republic based on constitutional changes attacked by the opposition.

Deby, who has governed the poor, oil-rich state since 1990, said the incoming republic was "the quintessence of the people's aspirations and expectations."

"It requires new and virtuous attitudes, practices and behaviour," he said.

Malaysia's opposition cries foul over uneven playing field in election

KUALA LUMPUR - The road to Malaysia's 9 May general election is getting thornier for opposition leader Mahathir Mohamad: officials are cutting out or painting over his image on some billboards and police are investigating him for spreading 'fake news'. Mahathir and other opposition leaders say the moves are intended to further help the prospects of Prime Minister Najib Razak, whose ruling coalition already enjoys a nearmonopoly of coverage in newspapers and on television and radio.

"I have never seen an election like this. It hasn't yet begun but efforts to cheat are already underway," Mahathir, 92, said at an election rally on Thursday. AFP

SEMENYA BREAKS HER OWN NATIONAL 1500M RECORD

put aside the controversy over a planned rule change in athletics regarding hyperandrogenism to win the women's 500m a n d her own South African record time at the Diamond League meeting in Doha on Friday. Semenya won in a world leading time of three minutes and 59.92 seconds ahead of Nelly Jepkosgei of Kenya and Habitam Alemu of Ethiopia. She set a nation-Caster al and Commonwealth Semenya. Games record of 4:00.71 in winning the gold medal last month. Semenya has been in the spotlight after the sport's gov-

erning IAAF approved an eli-gibility rule to limit the advan-tage of female athletes who, like Semenya, have naturally higher than normal levels of testosterone. The International Association of Athletics Federations last week confirmed new rules, starting from November 1, which effectively give Semenya a choice of taking medication to restrict her testosterone or move to longer distance events.

The double Olympic and triple world 800m champion did not let the controversy affect her performance on a dominant evening for Africans in the middle distance events as Kenya swept the podium in the men's 800m. Emmanuel Korir blasted away from his compatriots on the final strait to win in a time of 1:45.21. Elijah Manangoi finished second with Nicholas Kipkoech in third.

There was a tight finish in the women's 3 000m as Kenya again ruled the track. Caroline Kipkirui finished four tenths of a second ahead of compatriot Agnes Tirop after a tense final lap in the evening heat, with Hyvin Kiyeng coming third.

CONTROVERSY

Commonwealth Games 400m champion Isaac Makwala failed to reproduce his Gold Coast form as he finished third in a race won by Steven Gardiner of the Bahamas in a national record of 43.87 seconds, with Qatar's Abdalleleh Haroun coming home

Marie-Josee Ta Lou of the Ivory Coast won the women's 100m in a personal best of 10.85 seconds, beating 2016 Olympic champion Elaine Thompson of Jamaica who was third with Nigeria's Blessing Okagbare-Ighoteguonor finishing second.

American 20-year-old Noah Lyles won the men's 200m in a meeting record of 19.83 seconds with world champion Ramil Guliyev of Turkey finishing third.

American Sandi Morris won the women's pole vault with Britain's Holly Bradshaw coming second.

There were also wins in the men's events for Pedro Pablo Pichardo of Cuba in the triple jump and home athlete Mutaz Essa Barshim in the high jump.

Marquinhos excited for Neymar PSG return

ARIS - Paris Saint-Germain defender Marquinhos is excited to welcome Neymar back to the club, talking up the star's importance to the Ligue 1 champions.

Neymar, 26, has been sidelined since February after undergoing surgery on his right foot.

The Brazil international, who appears set to be fit for the World Cup, is returning to PSG after rehabilitating in his homeland.

Speaking after PSG's 2-2 draw at Amiens Friday, Marquinhos said he was thrilled to welcome Neymar

"We haven't had any contact. Before yes, but now, we will see tomorrow how he is. I really hope he's fine,"

he said.

"We need him here, we need him with the national team. We will see how it goes step by step.

"The most important thing is he needs to be happy to recover well and to be fine for the games in the near future. I am happy.

Important

He is a friend."He is an important team-mate in Paris. Neymar is still so important for us and, when he is here, it's really good.'

PSG won Ligue 1 in April, having won the Coupe de Ligue in March. They can complete the domestic treble with a victory over third division side Les Herbiers on May 8 in the Coupe de France final.

Dailymail

Rory McIlroy drops down leaderboard as Malnati takes lead

iami - Rory McIlroy tum- opening 67. bled down the leaderboard at the Wells Fargo Championship after carding a second-round five-over-par 76.

McIlroy, who lay three shots off the lead after an opening 68, shot two birdies, five bogeys and a double-bogey six at the 11th to slip to two over for the tournament.

That was nine shots off the pace set by American Peter Malnati, who fired a 68, including two birdies in his final three holes, to go with his

Aaron Wise and Jason Day were a shot back on six under par after a 68 and a 67 respectively.

While England's Paul Casey was in a tie for fourth on five under with South Africa's Charl Schwartzel after a 68.

Tiger Woods joined McIlroy in struggling, following his first-round 71 with a 73 to sit alongside the four-time major winner on two under.

Dailymail

Simeone handed Europa League final touchline ban

ONDON - Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone will be banished to the stands for the Europa League final after he was handed a four-match ban for insulting a match official during last week's semi-final, first leg against Arsenal, UEFA said on Friday.

Simeone has already served one match of the ban after watching from the stands on Thursday as Atletico beat Arsenal 1-0 in the second leg to advance to the final, where they will face Olympique de Marseille.

He was also fined \$11 942, European soccer's governing body said.

Simeone was sent off early in the first leg at The Emirates Stadium for shouting at French referee Clement Turpin and also pushing the fourth official after Arsenal defender Hector Bellerin was not booked for a foul on Atletico midfielder Koke.

Simeone's temper had already been tested earlier in the game when Atletico defender Sime Vrsaljko was dismissed for two bookings in quick

Simeone has lost his temper on the European stage before, famously charging onto the pitch berate Real Madrid defender Raphael Varane towards the end of the 2014 Champions League anal which Atletico lost 4-1 to Madrid after extra-time.

'JEFA's Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body also fined Atletico 10 000 euros after fans threw objects on the pitch.

Simeone's assistant German 'Mono' Burgos will take the Argentine's place on the touchline on May 16, when Atletico will be attempting to win the Europa League for a third time. AFP

Clasico of honour' - Real look to crash unbeaten Barca's party

ADRID - Real Madrid can transform their own season by beating Liverpool in this month's Champions League final, and today they can dent Barcelona's by becoming the first team to defeat the Catalans in La Liga.

This 'clasico' at Camp Nou will have minimal impact on the league, with Barca already crowned champions and Real's passing interest in pipping Atletico to second place diminished by their ambitions in Europe.

But there is still much at stake in what Madrid's daily newspaper Marca has billed "the clasico of honour". It could even be argued this match will go some way to defining the seasons of these two teams.

Barca, in particular, have been careful in celebrating their domestic double, their players aware of the disappointment that lingers from their Champions League crash in the quarter-finals.

Even as they ordered pizza and slurped beer from the top of their open-top bus down Las Ramblas this

week, it was noticeable how many interviews still referenced the disappointment in Rome.

"The elimination in the Champions League, it hurt us because it was unexpected," said Barca coach Ernesto Valverde. "But it is very difficult to do what we have done and now what are we going to do? We keep trying."

To soften the blow, Barca's best response was to win the Copa del Rey and La Liga and finish unbeaten in the league for the first time, while hoping Real do not go all the way in the Champions League. The latter two are still to be decided.

Real's march towards a 13th European triumph has certainly weighed heavily on Barcelona, whose sense of absence has been heightened by the progress of their rivals.

"It's amazing to be in a Champions League final for the third time in a row and have the chance to win it for the fourth time in the last five years," Real midfielder Toni Kroos said on Tuesday.



Rory McIlroy.

Arsenal midfielder admits he faces uncertain future at club

ONDON - Arsene Wenger will wave goodbye to the Emirates Stadium tomorrow but it could also be Jack Wilshere's final home appearance for Arsenal.

The 26-year-old has been involved in a contract impasse since the turn of the year and his current deal expires at the end of the season.

Wenger, who announced last month he will step down at that time, has always said he is personally keen to keep Wilshere at the

But the England international has reportedly been offered a lower basic salary than his current agreement, given his recent injury record.

That has left talks over a deal at a stand-off but Wilshere has more than just his club future on his mind as he targets a place in England's World Cup squad.

Having been recalled for the March friendlies against Holland and Italy, Wilshere was forced to withdraw from Gareth Southgate's squad with a slight ankle injury.

That means he has not played for the Three Lions since the shock Euro 2016 exit at the hands of Iceland but he remains optimistic of making it on the plane to Russia.

I am hopeful, but it all comes down to Gareth and his coaching staff," he told Sky Sports.

"I have always said before how proud I am to play for my country. I haven't done it for a while, I was probably going to do it then I picked up a little knock, which wasn't ideal, but I am hopeful of going. Am I confident? I am not sure, but I want to

A serious knee injury to Wilshere's former Arsenal team-mate Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain means the Liverpool man will miss the competition, potentially opening up a berth. AFP



ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



PATRICK VAN AANHOLT WINNER RELEGATES STOKE

...from Premier League but confirms Crystal Palace's top-flight status

ONDON - Stoke City have been relegated from the Premier League lafter suffering a 2-1 defeat to Crystal Palace yesterday.

Xherdan Shaqiri had injected life into their survival bid with a wonderful firsthalffree-kick, but they were pegged back in the second period by Roy Hodgson's resurgent Eagles.

James McArthur followed up his goal in last weekend's 5-0 thumping of Leicester City with another clinical finish to draw the visitors level at the bet365 Stadium.

That goal took the wind out of Stoke's sails and their misery was compounded four minutes from time.

Patrick van Aanholt, who also scored against the Foxes, took full advantage of poor defending from Paul Lambert's side to coolly slot past Jack Butland.

The result means it is 13 games without a win for Stoke - a run that unsurprisingly has resulted in their relegation to the Championship after a 10-season stay in the top flight while Palace made mathematically certain of another Premier League campaign.

For all Stoke's early enthusiasm, it was the visitors who carved out the first clear sight of goal with Ruben Loftus-Cheek whipping an effort from outside the



Patrick van Aanholt of Crystal Palace scores the winner against Stoke to relegate them from the Premier League vesterday.

penalty area narrowly wide of Butland's left-hand post. Wilfried Zaha, who had scored four goals in his four league games prior to this, then flashed a shot across the face of goal as Palace continued to look the most likely to break the deadlock in the early stages. Stoke's first opening came midway through the first half when Mame Biram Diouf headed well wide after Shaqiri's teasing cross had found him unmarked 10 yards out.

Yohan Cabaye then lashed a shot over from just outside the area before Shaqiri lit up the bet365 Stadium, whipping a sumptuous free-kick into Wayne Hennessey's top left-hand corner via a deflection off Loftus-Cheek's head.

Buoyed by Shaqiri's moment of magic, Stoke unsurprisingly started the second period in confident fashion.

Failure to add to their lead, however, allowed Palace to creep back into the game with Andros Townsend land.

Any hopes of a late Stoke comeback never materialised as their Premier League stay ended with a whimper. Daily Mail

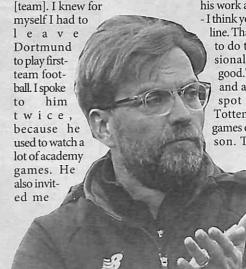
Klopp makes you feel like the best in the world - Rudiger

ONDON - Antonio Rudiger had to leave Borussia Dortmund's academy to make a professional career for himself, but he still has great admiration for Jurgen

Klopp guided Dortmund to backto-back Bundesliga titles while Rudiger was at the club but the defender moved to Stuttgart before his senior debut, with Mats Hummels and Neven Subotic ahead of him in the pecking

Six years since he parted ways with Klopp and Dortmund, Rudiger has established himself as a top centreback at Chelsea after his £34 million summer move from Roma. Yesterday the 25-year-old will come up against his former boss once again and spoke of the immense belief he instils in his players. "I didn't get much, but when he spoke to me at the friendly match I saw he's a coach that gives you motivation, like you're the best in the world," Rudiger told Goal, as he helped launch Stamford Bridge's new sensory room. "That's very good and one of his best skills as a coach.

"He had nothing to do with [me leaving], because I was in the youth



to a friendly match.

"I was 16, or something like that. For me, it was important because at the time, Dortmund won the league twice in a row. There was almost no chance [to make my debut]. So for me, I was young but I was very realistic. I thought: "Okay, maybe I need

"It wasn't a step back, maybe it was even a step forward. I went to a team that was a bit lower [in the table] but I was playing."

Rudiger was a target for Conte's Chelsea for two seasons running, but his first move was scuppered by a torn cruciate ligament injury.

The Blues defender was left out against Burnley, but has said that his working relationship with Conte is good, but admits he does not know if the coach will remain beyond the end of the season.

"I'm not taking part in this decision," he said when asked about his manager's future. "It doesn't matter [what I think], if he is my coach next year he is my coach and I'll work with him. The way he works is professional, and that's good.

"For me it's OK, because he does his work and he puts his all [into it] I think you can see that on the sideline. That's it, and the players have to do that as well. It's a professional relationship and that's good."Chelsea are in fifth place and are battling for a top four spot against Liverpool and Tottenham in their final three games of the Premier League season. The FA Cup represents Rudiger's last chance at silverware this season and the first major trophy of his club career. Team Talk

Jurgen Klopp.

after taking over Rangers ONDON - Steven Gerrard will look to former club Liverpool as he set his sights on Dominic Solanke becom-

Steven Gerrard.

one of his first major signings as Rangers manager.

Gerrard eyes Liverpool raid

Gerrard was unveiled as the new Gers boss and Friday, and has already began drawing up a list of summer transfer targets.

The Liverpool legend will be hoping to use his links with the Reds to aid his strengthening of a Rangers side that have struggled to keep the pace with runaway leaders once more, Celtic. The Scottish Sun

report that Gerrard

has his eyes on Solanke being the club's star striker, on a possible loan deal.

Season

Solanke has played 25 times for Liverpool so far this season - with many of those apps coming from the bench - and has yet to find the net in Red.

The striker is seen as a promising prospect at Liverpool, but if regular first team football isn't going to be on offer next season from Jurgen Klopp, a loan move elsewhere would be plausible. Team Talk

Serie A giants eye shock move for £28m Mourinho Man Utd favourite

ANCHESTER - AC Milan have set their sights on signing a Manchester United midfielder in the upcoming transfer window, a report claims.

According to a report from Italian outlet Corriere dello Sport, the Italian giants have made Marouane Fellaini one of their primary targets for the

The big Belgian has a contract which expires at the end of the season, and

Manager Jose Mourinho has made numerous pleas for him to stay. Fellaini has admitted that he feels like he is in a strong position regarding the negotiations, even claiming that United are the ones who have made mistakes during talks.

Report

According to the report however, Milan have opened talks regarding a possible move and due to their precarious Financial Fair Play position,

the idea of signing the 30-year-old on a free transfer is appealing.

The former Everton man is not expected to be short of offers should his deal expire on June 1, with Paris Saint-Germain and Besiktas previously linked, while several Premier League clubs are also reportedly monitoring the situation.

Fellaini moved to Old Trafford from the Toffees back in 2013 in a £28million deadline day deal. Team Talk

Morata reveals painkiller hell amid 'complicated' season with Chelsea

ONDON - Chelsea striker Alvaro Morata has painkilling injections to treat a including the Carabao Cup semihis difficult first season at Chelsea.

The Spain international joined from Real Madrid for a reported club-record fee of close to £60 million last July and enjoyed a terrific start to life in England, scoring six goals in his first six Premier League matches.

Morata has only netted once in the top flight since December, though, having struggled to keep his place in Antonio Conte's firstteam plans, although he did score in the FA Cup semi-final win over Southampton.

The 25-year-old was diagnosed with a back problem in January revealed how regular that saw him miss four matches, mysterious injury contributed to final second-leg loss to Arsenal, his difficult first season at Chelsea. and he has described the extent to which trying to diagnose and treat the pain compounded a troubled time for him at Stamford Bridge. "It has been a complicated year for me and I don't think it's been the best year for the team, either," he told Marca.

"I couldn't even drive. I wanted to, but nothing. I then returned to play a cup match and it seemed like I was fine and then 'zap', it returned. I didn't say anything. Only the doctor, the coach and my family knew. " Goal

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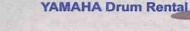




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Jali hints at joining a PSL club with **CAF** ambitions

OHANNESBURG - 1 sizer Chiefs, Mamelodi Sundow and Orlando Pirate's target Andile ali says he wants his futu. resolved sooi

The central midfielder is currently a free agent having officially parted ways with KV Oostende last month after four-and-a-half years with the Belgian First Division A club.

Premier Soccer League (PSL) giants Chiefs, Sundowns and Pirates have opened talks with Jali's agent, Mike Makaab, regarding the experienced player's services.

Jali has now disclosed that he is growing tired of the prolonged talks with the PSL big three with the transfer window set to open in July.

"If it was up to me, I would have signed long time ago, I would have been done," Jali told Metro FM. "But unfortunately it is not up to me. There is a lot of paper work that has to be done," he continued.

Pirates are hoping to re-sign Jali having sold him to Oostende midway through the 2013/14 campaign.

Sundowns gaffer Pitso Mosimane has already expressed interest in signing Jali having worked with the midfield maestro during his days as Bafana Bafana head coach.

"When I first announced that I am coming back to South Africa, I thought in three weeks' time I would be announcing which team I am joining, but there is a lot to go through before I sign," he added.

Jali, who is one of Bafana's key players, has revealed that he would like to win the CAF Champions League trophy with his

"I want to win the CAF Champions League. I am not coming here just for the sake of coming back, I want to win stuff," he concluded.

The 28-year-old played an important role in helping the Buccaneers reach the 2013 Champions League final where they lost to Egyptian giants Al Ahly.



Andile Jali.

BARCELONA SET TO M DOWNS CLASH

OHANNESBURG - Barcelona will hold a press conference tomorrow to confirm their participation in an international friendly against Mamelodi Sundowns at FNB Stadium on May 16 as part of the Nelson Mandela centenary celebrations.

It seems that the Brazilians' President Patrice Motsepe jumped the gun by making the announcement on Metro FM's sport show on Friday, even though everything had been signed with Barcelona.

The Catalan club initially denied there being such a friendly as they haven't made an official announcement as yet. That announcement will be made tomorrow, and this match will go ahead, even though it comes before the Premier Soccer League (PSL) season is officially over. "This match is beyond the PSL," the organisation's acting Chief Executive Mato Madlala said.

"It's a matter between the two associations (South Africa and Spain). The only reason why the match wouldn't go ahead is if SAFA says so." Five years ago, the PSL blocked Ajax Cape Town from hosting English side Liverpool in an international friendly after the ABSA Premiership season was already wrapped up, with the Nedbank Cup



final and the PSL awards the only two missing items before the season was officially over. The PSL argued that they don't allow international friendlies while the season is still on because it competes with their own events and sponsors.

Sundowns' friendly against Barcelona will be played three days before the Nedbank Cup final between Free State Stars and Maritzburg United

on May 19 at Cape Town Stadium. The National Soccer League hand-

book states that, "member clubs or players may not play in any match against a team from another national association without the written permission of the league (PSL) and

It goes on to say that "requests for permission to play a friendly must be submitted in writing at least 30

days prior to the match." The prescribed documentation as laid down by Fifa must be completed and submitted to the league. "The league may condone a late application on good cause shown. Friendly matches may not be played during the period (of) 1 August until five days after the final official match of the season, except during an official

Tau went from slacker to superstar at Downs

OHANNESBURG - Contrary may have taken a different route, to reports that Percy Tau was Mafu said, if Tau had indeed been "devastated" after being loaned against rejoining a club he was so familiar with at the time, the Brazilians out to Witbank Spurs in the NFD were ready to discard him by Mamelodi Sundowns two years ago, the man who conbased on his apparent "lazy" vinced the player to return work rate. to his hometown to revive his career is adamant that this decision was in fact the turning point. Themba Mafu, cowhile on loan. owner at Spurs, spotted Tau during open trials in Mpumalanga ers, money is a priwhen this seaority." Soccer Laduma son's top goal scorer at

"He took a pay-cut," said Mafu, who adds that he then felt the need to make sure that Tau didn't take too big a hit "You know that with a lot of play-

> Mamelodi Sundowns striker Percy Tau.

JOHANNESBURG - Percy Tau might have been Mamelodi Sundowns' star of their third league title in five years, but Themba Zwane deserves credit too according to Brazilians forward Anthony Laffor.

The Liberian attacking star Laffor returned from injury just in time to replenish Downs as they lurch straight from winning the 2017/18 ABSA Premiership title to starting the CAF Champions League group stages against holders Wydad Casablanca at Lucas Moripe Stadium last night (kickoff: 9pm).

Sundowns wrapped up their eighth league title with a 3-1 win against Ajax Cape Town last Saturday.

Asked who he believed were the standout performers of Downs' third championship under Pitso Mosimane, Laffor singled out strik-

break in the league's fixtures. 'Zwane also deserves credit for

Downs' championship success' and winger Zwane.

"People talk more about Percy Tau. He's a good player and I like his energy and everything, but the one thing people forget about is Themba Zwane,' Laffor said. "I think this season he's been our secret weapon. Everything that he plays he either creates or scores goals and I'm not saying that Percy didn't do well for us."

er and joint PSL top scorer Tau fielder Themba Zwane.

Danny Jordaan, Patrice Motsepe to attend El Clasico at Camp Nou

OHANNESBURG - South African Football Association (SAFA) President Danny Jordaan and Mamelodi Sundowns boss Patrice Motsepe will be guests of honour at tonight's El Clasico encounter between champions Barcelona and Real Madrid.

Sundowns

was just 15-

years-old and

immediately

thought he was

But his career

special.

The two South African football leaders will join international football elite in Barcelona, Spain for the showdown

They will be accompanied to Spain

by La Liga Africa Director, Antonio Barradas.

SAFA have built strong ties with Spanish football since Spain won their first FIFA World Cup title at FNB Stadium in July 2010. This was strengthened with Jordaan signing a Cooperation Agreement with La Liga. Grassroots football has benefited immensely through this partnership.

This programme has also supported SAFA Regions and various Local Football Associations (LFAs). Among beneficiaries of the programmes are LFAs in Kuruman, Grahamstown, Meadowlands, Alex and Ladysmith, among various LFAs.

During the SAFA delegation's visit last year to the Spanish capital, the Nelson Mandela Centenary celebrations were discussed, with the La Liga showing great interest in being part of celebrations in honour of South Africa's Father of the Nation.

SAFA want to deepen and strengthen this relationship, and this invitation provides the platform for this engagement. The Barcelona/Real Madrid match has generated a lot of interest, with Madrid captain Sergio Ramos insisting this week that there will be no guard of honour for Barcelona winning the league title, adding Barca's achievement on the domestic front was less than the UEFA Champions

NOBLE STUNNER HELPS HAMMERS SECURE CRUCIAL WIN

FICESTER - West Ham took a major step towards securing their Premier League status for another season yesterday, thanks to an impressive 2-0 win away at Leicester City.

Joao Mario's 34th-minute opener put David Moyes' side on course for their first win in five games, the Portuguese's tap-in giving the visitors a deserved half-time lead at the King Power Stadium.

Captain Mark Noble doubled their advantage with a sensational strike just after the hour, capitalising on a dropping ball and unleashing a long-range volley that found the net via the post.

With relegation rivals Swansea City beaten away at Bournemouth, West Ham will now be certain to remain a top-flight club if Southampton fail to win at Everton later yesterday.

While it is a case of mission accomplished for Moyes, doubts over opposite number Claude Puel's future will only grow after another insipid display from Leicester.

Publicly backed by Chairman Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha prior to the game, the Frenchman saw his players fail to provide their own vote of confidence as they remain without a league victory since the end of March.

Players

Puel shuffled his pack in the hope of lifting his players out of their recent malaise, making five changes from the side that lost 5-0 to Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park a week ago.

Yet Leicester still looked lethargic in the May sunshine against a West Ham team who, unlike their opponents, still had plenty to play for in the closing weeks of the campaign. Joao Mario's straightforward fin-



West Ham players celebrate after Mark Noble's tremendous effort secures all three points at the King Power Stadium. (Daily Mail)

ish was no more than they deserved at the break, while they were only denied a greater cushion by Ben Hamer and the woodwork.

After shooting straight at Leicester's advancing goalkeeper when played clean through by Manuel Lanzini, Marko Arnautovic was denied again when a left-footed rocket was kept out by the crossbar.

However, the influential forward was involved in the opener, knocking back Arthur Masuaku's deep cross from the left for Joao Mario to steer the ball into the net.

Leicester, meanwhile, failed to

manage a shot on target in the opening 45 minutes.

Fousseni Diabate dragged their only notable attempt comfortably wide, leading to Puel switching to a three-man defence for the second

Moyes will have been worried when Aaron Cresswell's refusal to clear a long punt under pressure from Jamie Vardy led to the falling defender handling the ball.

Referee Chris Kavanagh correctly ruled the infringement had occurred outside the box, but - fortunately for the full-back - decided to only

book the guilty party.

There was nothing lucky about West Ham's second goal, however. A clearing header from a free-kick fell perfectly for Noble, whose sidewinding volley fizzed beyond the helpless Hamer.

Yohan Benalouane's header forced Hammers goalkeeper Adrian into his only meaningful save in the closing minutes, with Leicester's lack of fight seeing them booed off at the final whistle by those supporters who had stuck around until the bitter end. AP

Swans' Premier League status in real danger

OURNEMOUTH - Swansea City's Premier League status is in real danger after they lost 1-0 at Bournemouth, giving Southampton the opportunity to send them into the bottom three.

Carlos Carvalhal's men seemed to have done enough to secure another season in the topflight in early March, but yesterday's defeat - which was sealed by Ryan Fraser - extended their winless run to seven league matches and leaves them just a point above the relegation zone, with Saints playing at Everton later in the day.

Regardless of the result at Goodison Park, the Swans must now prepare for a huge clash with Southampton at the Liberty Stadium on Tuesday. Swansea looked nervous right from the start and were lucky to remain level until the 37th minute, when Fraser's 20-yard effort took a wicked deflection off Alfie Mawson.

The visitors were more focused defensively in the second half, though they continued to struggle to break down a Bournemouth backline which had not kept a clean sheet in their past 11 matches.

Swansea poured men forward in desperate fashion towards the end but their efforts went unrewarded, while the Cherries passed the fabled 40-point mark to secure another season in the Premier League. Despite their precarious position in the table, Swansea were guilty of a laboured start and almost paid the price in the second minute, but Federico Fernandez's last-ditch tackle just about put Callum Wilson off.

Swansea woke up and went close twice in quick succession 10 minutes later, Asmir Begovic pushing away Mike van der Hoorn's 20-yard strike before denying Nathan Dyer from close range after Bournemouth failed to clear their lines.

The Cherries remained the more threatening side, though, and Wilson again failed to punish Swansea when he met Fraser's low cross and inexplicably scuffed wide of the left-hand post. Goal

Watford ensure Premier League status

TATFORD - Roberto Pereyra in their last three matches but took just scored one and created the other as Watford recorded a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Newcastle United, ending their poor run of seven games without a win.

Watford's struggles had seen them drawn back into the relegation equation but yesterday's success will see them playing Premier League football next season. The Hornets had failed to score

two minutes to open break the deadlock, Pereyra tucking home after a fine move.

He then turned provider for Andre Gray to head home the hosts' second of the afternoon as the Newcastle defence

Deeney should have extended their advantage from the penalty spot, but he was denied by a superb double save from

Martin Dubravka.

Newcastle gave themselves hope in the second half when Ayoze Perez continued his fine run of form with a welltaken effort and Rafael Benitez's tactical changes altered the flow of the game.

Perez struck the frame of the goal as Newcastle piled on the pressure but the Magpies could not find an equaliser as they slipped to a third successive defeat. Daily Mail

Champions battle back against relegated hosts

OLOGNE - Bayern Munich came from behind with two goals in as many second-half minutes setting up a 3-1 win at relegated Cologne yester-

There was nothing riding on the Rhein Energie Stadion clash, Cologne's drop from the Bundesliga confirmed last week, while Bayern have been champions since April 7. Cologne took the lead as Bayern made a low-tempo start despite Jupp Heynckes naming a strong team in the wake of their mid-. week Champions League exit to Real Madrid.

Niklas Sule was unfortunate to turn a Christian Clemens cross beyond Sven Ulreich, the defender's third own-goal

of the season levelling the Bundesliga record. But Bayern improved radically after the interval, with Rafinha and

> Thomas Muller combining twice to set up James Rodriguez and then Robert Lewandowski for simple close-range finishes, with Corentin Tolisso's header wrapping up the points.

Victory was an early birthday present for Heynckes, the veteran coach turning 73 next week, as he took charge of Bayern for an away league game for the final time, while his opposite number Stefan Ruthenbeck was dismissed late on.

AFP Robert Lewandoski.

Andio 28st.



MBABANE SWALLOWS 1 - 1 ZESCO UNITED

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Mbabane Swallows players pose for a group photo ahead of their CAF Champions League clash with Zesco United at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium yesterday. The match ended in a 1-all draw. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



Swallows defender Mandla Palma celebrating with General Manager Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane.



Swallows midfielder Felix 'Fela' Badenhorst being tackled by Zesco's David Owino Odhiambo.



Swallows defender Stanley Umukoro fights for the ball with Zesco's Winston Kalengo.



Swallows defender Sanele Mkhweli fights for the ball with a Zesco defender while playmaker Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze watch-



The travelling Swallows supporters celebrating after the match.



Zesco's Winston Kalengo battling with Swallows' Sanele Mkhweli and Felix Badenhorst.



Swallows' goal scored by Simanga Shongwe (not in picture).



Zesco's Simon Silwimba under pressure from Swallows' captain Tony Tsabedze and Mandla Palma.



Swallows GM Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane leads the players in celebration after the match.





Manzini Wanderers vs Young Buffaloes
Somhlolo National Stadium, 3pm

OCCER - Manzini
Wanderers could end
their long trophy drought

ipated SwaziBank Cup final at Somhlolo National Stadium. Wanderers are without

that suffer-

today if they beat Young

Buffaloes in the highly antic-

piece
of silverware since winning
the 2005 Charity Cup. 13
long years without joy while
watching rivals Mbabane Highlanders
and lately Mbabane Swallows have
been picking up trophy after trophy. It
has been a tough period for Wanderers
supporters but now they have a chance
to end all

a n y

ing. Wanderers have lost two SwaziBank Cup finals, the first to Highlanders in 2009 and the second to Moneni Pirates in 2015. Third time unlucky?

Only time will tell but with experienced Nyangayezizwe 'Crooks' Hlophe leading the team Wanderers supporters have all the reason to believe that this is their year. They eliminated Highlanders in the semifinals last month, comfortably beating their rivals 2-0. Striker Kola Aladeon has scored three goals in the competition so far and also scored twice in his side's last match, a 4-1 thrashing of Midas City in the League last weekend. He will shoulder much of Wanderers' hopes today as will fellow attacker Mike Dombo and veteran captain Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya. Buffaloes will be no pushovers as the defending champions have certainly found the formula in the SwaziBank Cup in recent years. Their last defeat in the competition came in the 2016 edition when they were beaten 0-2 by Green Mamba in the quarterfinals. Since then, Buffaloes

have won nine consecutive games in the tournament.

Wanderers have the tough task of trying to stop them. Buffaloes beat rivals Green Mamba 5-3 on penalties in the semi-finals of a 2-all stalemate after 120 minutes of action. The army side showed their resilience there, coming from behind to eventually eliminate their rivals. Dominic Kunene's charges are incredibly hard to beat. They chased Mbabane Swallows to the wire in the race for the league title and will want a reward in the SwaziBank Cup after coming second in the league.

Lifting the SwaziBank Cup trophy will give the winners a ticket to the 2019 CAF Confederation Cup, an attractive prospect indeed. *Uyayifuna na?*

Players to watch

Wanderers: Kola Aladeon, Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya, Sicelo 'Junior' Simelane Buffaloes: Phiwayinkhosi Dlamini, Sandile Gamedze, Nkosingiphile 'Nyandoro' Tsabedze

YOUNGSTERS STEAL THE SHOW AT NEW BOYS TOURNAME

STORIES BY SIBUSISO MAS LELA

OXING - The futur of local boxin 5 looks bright 1 5 the New Boys oxing tourname : unleashed two future prospects in six-year-old oung boxers Siza Ndwandwe and Sinenhlanhla Vilakati, both from Tambankulu Boxing Club.

The duo stole the show during the opening bout of the one day competition held at the Jimmy's Bar yesterday afternoon.

The six-year-old pair won the hearts of the over 300 spectators present at the venue with their quick moves and exciting punches. The pair could not be separated as they played out to a draw.

An excited Swaziland Boxing Association (SWABA) President Pearl Dlamini said they were happy to see such a promising talent in the sport.

"We are very excited to see such a young talent coming in at such a ten-



New Boys boxing tournament sponsor Musa Sibandze from Sibandze and Attorneys shaking hands with Minister of Sports Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala while SWABA executive members and young boxers look on. This was during a one day tournament held at the Jimmy's Bar yesterday. (Pic: Sibusiso Masilela)

der age and this shows that the future tinue grooming youngsters at a tender of boxing in the country looks good. We are encouraging local clubs to con-

age which is something that helps unearth future boxers," she said.

E10 000 package for New Boys boxing tournament

OXING - Mbabane based law firm Musa Sibandze Attorneys pumped E10 000 towards the New Boys boxing tournament which was held at the Jimmy's Bar in Ezulwini yesterday.

The package was announced by the company Director Musa Sibandze during the one day boxing tournament.

Sibandze said the aim of the sponsorship was to revive boxing in the coun-

"I am happy to be part of boxing which is an exciting sport in the country that used to be vibrant in the past. I felt I should play a role in reviving the sport through this sponsorship, which is through the support of my wife Pam and Rhon Middleton who were both behind the idea of supporting boxing," he said. Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala thanked Sibandze for supporting the initiative.

"We are happy to see business people supporting sports and such support will help the country perform well at international level," he said.

The best team on the day was set to take home E5 000 plus a trophy while the second best side was due to receive E3 000. The third place finishers are entitled to a E2 000 carrot.

The tournament was due to come to an end late yesterday evening with a series of bouts.

The prize breakdown

Champions: E5 000 Runner up: E3 000 Third prize: E2 000 Best boxer: E 1 000

'Cruiser' a keen spectator at Nedbank Volleyball League games

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

OLLEYBALL - Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala was a keen spectator during the E50 000 Nedbank Volleyball League games at OlympAfrica Centre in Lobamba yesterday.

The minister arrived just after the second games featuring Correctional vs USDF in the males category and RSSC vs USDF in the females category. The minister watched the games with interest and also took time to watch the Building Society Netball League games, also being hosted in one of the OlympAfrica courts.

Ngcamphalala then left Lobamba for Ezulwini to watch boxing action at Jimmy's Bar.

Interviewed before he left Lobamba, Ngcamphalala urged more companies to support local sports. "This is wonderful to see,

different sports being played in one place. We can only congratulate the country because this happens in developed countries and it's clear to notice that we are moving in the direction as a coun-

"We urge more companies to come on board and support our sports because that is the only way we can grow. Perhaps one day we will invite MDs and CEOs to come and join us during the games so that they can see the excitement these games bring," Ngcamphalala said. Yesterday's games were hosted by Mahlanya.

E50 000 NEDBANK **VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE** RESULTS:

Males:

Mahlanya 3-2

RSSC

USDF Correctional 3-0 RSP Ludzeludze' 0-3 Females: Zakhele Chilly Babes

Ludzeludze

USDF



Players in action during the Nedbank Volleyball League games at OlympAfrica yesterday. (Pic: Sibongiseni Zondi)

Correctional thump Olymp Africa in SBS League

BY JONGILE XUBA

ETBALL - Swaziland Bulding Society (SBS) E100 000 league defending champions Correctional returned to winning ways following their derby loss to RSP a fortnight ago beating OlympAfrica Centre 82-24 at the latter's backyard, Olymp Africa Development Sports Centre vesterday.

The match started with Correctional displaying their dominance early to take the first quarter 13 - 7 to OlympAfrica.

The second quarter was pretty much the same as in the first with Correctional winning it 32 - 13. The third quarter saw Correctional Goal Scorer Vumile Vilakati display a splendid performance, ere she helped her side win the quarter by 56-18. The fourth and final quarr between the two teams was one that as highly charged with OlympAfrica wing grit to fight back in the game even though the match was pretty much

The quarter ended at 82-24 with cheers coming from the spectators who applauded the youthful home side for their galant showing on the day.

When interviewed after the match, OlympAfrica coach Themba Dlamini said he was happy that they achieved what they had set out to do before the game. "I'm very happy that with my team's performance considering we were up against the defending champions. That, coupled with the fact that we are a junior team both in age and experience compared to the others, we did well to stop them from reaching 100 points and for us to reach a minimum of 15 points," Dlamini said. Correctional team captain vumile Vilakati said it was a routine win for them. "We had a good game as we could move the ball up and down the court and put in the basket pretty easily so it was a good win for us," Vilakati said.

The teams

Correctional: Vumile Vilakati, Londile Mhlanga, Nokuphila Mkhonta, Nxobile Sithole, Phumzile Ncongwane, Shelty

Olymp Africa: Nobuhle Mkhonta, Phumlile Fakudze, Busiswa Fakudze, Sihle Fakudze, Sandisile Sibanda, Mukelwa Magagula, Dolly Magagula. Reserves: Mayibongwe Dlamini, Zethu Simelane, Ayanda Dlamini.

Tennis camp kicks-off at UNISWA

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

▼ENNIS - The Swaziland Tennis Association (STA) yesterday kicked-off their junior camp facilitated by an International Tennis Federation (ITF) development officer Tapiwa Musonga.

When this publication visited the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) Kwaluseni courts, Musonga was found busy with the youngsters.

The camp is attended by 15 children who were selected based on their performance in the Swaziland Building Society (SBS) juniors tournament held about a fortnight ago.

STA's Secretary Nqaba Mkhaliphi said the ITF officer's main objective was to assess the current standard of the sport in the country and to advise them on how to improve.

"This weekend's two day camp is for our selected juniors. This is aimed at making sure our junior stars are at world-class level. This camp's main objective is to assess the standard of tennis in the country and advise us on where we can improve. We are normally exposed during international tournaments, so we hope this



Nongaba Mkhaliphi doing press-ups whilst ITF Southern Africa officer Tapiwa Musonga instructs her. (Pic: Sibusiso

will now be a thing of the past. "She THE FULL SQUAD: comes with vast knowledge in the sport and years of experience she will impart to the children," Mkhaliphi

"We would like to plead with parents to allow their children to come through and again thank them for their support thus far. The selected 15 players were chosen based on their performance in the Swaziland Building Society (SBS) juniors tournament held about a fortnight ago."

The camp will finally come to an end this afternoon.

Uviwe Vilakati Thmba Tivane Thando Bembhe Sakhile Hlophe Livelenkhosi, Vusi Tsabedze, Fezokuhle Tsabedze

Nkosephayo Siwela Lunching Sorokhaibam Nonqaba Mkhaliphi Andiswa Dlamini Mphumela Simelane Andile Khumalo Malaika Dlamini Phumlani Fakudze.

RDS' HOLD ZESCO IN ZAMB



BY QONDILENTIWANE (In Zambia, courtesy of Inyatsi Construction)

Zesco.....(0)1 Swallows.....(0)1

SOCCER- Local giants Mbabane Swallows started their CAF Champions League group stages journey on a rather positive note after securing an away point at the expense of African giants Zesco United yesterday.

Swallows had to dig deep to snatch a late goal through substitute striker Simanga Shongwe who replaced Daniel Atakorah in the second half of the encounter played at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola, Zambia.

The red and white glamour side started on a slow note as they failed to play their normal game.

They seemed too cautious of the opponents, opting to play more defensively, a move that denied them a possible victory over their opponents.

Zesco gave them a good run in the first half and could have scored at least two goals in the opening minutes of the game but they squandered their

The first goal could have come as early as the seventh minute but Lazarous Kambole sent his shot past the target while face-to-face with Swallows goalkeeper Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza.

Swallows, on the other hand, had no attempt at goal until the 27th minute when free kick specialist Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko shot straight at the Zambian goalkeeper Jacob Banda, after a free kick was awarded by top Gambian born referee Bakary Gassama. This was after Atakorah was fouled by an opposition player.

Zesco failed to capitalise on a place kick awarded right at the edge of the



Mbabane Swallows players pose for a group photo ahead of their CAF Champions League clash with Zesco United at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium yesterday. The match ended in a 1-all draw. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

box after Ginindza was penalised for handling the ball outside the box in the 34th minute.

The game went to the breather with both sides still deadlocked.

The second stanza saw the home side come hard on Swallows as they pushed numbers forward in search for a goal. Their efforts finally paid off in the

64th minute when David Owino Odhiambo headed home a Jesse Were cross, much to the delight of over 2 000 Zesco supporters at the stadium.

The goal seemed to have woken the Mbabane giants from their slumber as they started to attack.

Lanky midfielder Felix 'Fela' Badenhorst was unfortunate not to score in the 76th minute as his shot was swallowed by the Zesco goalkeeper.

Swallows were rewarded three minutes later and it was the former Midas City forward Simanga Shongwe headed past Banda after a Tony "TT" Tsabedze left-flank cross.

Swallows continued to dictate the terms during the last 15 minutes but were unfortunate not to find the back of the net.

Zesco also tried to make a comeback but their efforts were also in vain as they failed to snatch the maximum points at home.

The point away is expected to give Swallows the much needed confidence as they prepare to host Angolan outfit Premeirode Agosto at the Mavuso Sports Centre on May 15.

The teams

Zesco: Jacob, Fackson, Marcel, Simon, Lazarous (Jackson), Agay, Winston, John, David, Kondwani,

Swallows

Sandile, Mandla, Felix, Daniel (Simanga), Wonder, Banele (Sewu), Sifiso, Njabulo, Tony, Stanley, Sanele

Fix Somhlolo National Stadium - Tony

BY QONDILE NTIWANE (In Zambia, courtesy of Inyatsi Construction)

OCCER-Mbabane Swallows captain Tony "TT" Tsabedze has appealed for the fixing of the Somhlolo National Stadium ahead of their first home game in the CAF Champions League group stages.

Interviewed after their 1-all draw against Zesco United at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola, Zambia yesterday, the veteran midfielder said they must play the games at Somhlolo, as this was their home ground and not the Mavuso Sports Centre.

As it stands, the local giants will host their games at Mavuso Sports Centre as the dressing rooms at Somhlolo were said to be a threat to human life by the continental football mother body CAF. The red and white glamour side will host Premeiro de Agosto of Angola in their next game of the CAF Champions League group stages at the Mavuso Sports Centre next Tuesday.

"Playing at Mavuso would be like playing away. Our plea is that they should fix Somhlolo. That is our home ground.



Swallows captain Tony Tsabedze tries to go past a Zesco defender.

Playing at Mavuso will be of advantage to our opponents more than us and that would be unfortunate," he said.

Coming to the game, the speedy winger said they were happy with the result on

He said the away draw against Zesco United was the perfect confidence boost ahead of their next game.

"Zesco is a strong team and we knew playing them away would not be easy. We needed to be cautious but when they scored, we also knew we had to go all out. We are happy with this point and it will definitely boost our confidence," he said.

THE POINT IS VITAL - KOKI

BY QONDILENTIWANE (In Zambia, courtesy of Inyatsi Construction)

OCCER-Mbabane Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati is happy that his team secured a CAF Champions League point at the expense of Zambian giants Zesco United.

In a post-match briefing at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola, 🌗 Zambia yesterday, the coach said the away point was very valuable for them in this competition.The coach admitted that their game plan was to be cautious against Zesco as they are known to be a strong team in the continent.

"A point away is very vital for us. When playing giants like Zesco, it's not like jumping in a

swimming pool but you have to be tactically disciplined hence being cautious," he said.

The coach added that the team had been whipping boys for Zambian sides for far too long and it was time for that to come to an end. Going forward, Vilakati said they had learnt from the game against Zesco and would work on rectifying their mistakes.

Meanwhile, Zesco coach George Lwandamina said it was unfortunate that they could not win at home.

He, however, stated that all was not lost as they have other games to play in this tournament.

"Failing to win at home is not a big issue. There are other games that we are still to play both in this tournament and at home. Hence I cannot focus much on the return leg against Swallows. We will cross that bridge once we get

Swallows continue to amaze us - Cruiser

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

OCCER-Minister of Sports, Culture do for us as a country. d Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala has praised Mbabane Swallows for picking up a point in their opening CAF Champions League group stage match against Zesco United.

Simanga Shongwe scored late in the second half yesterday as Swallows came from behind to record a 1-all with the Zambian champions and 2016 Champions League semi-finalists in a match played at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in

Interviewed shortly after the match, Minister Ngcamphalala heaped praises on Swallows.

State Bush

"We are at a loss for words. We are so happy with what Swallows continue to

Sometimes we wish we can do something for them.

We would like to thank and congratulate the club's management, the players, technical team and supporters for their efforts as well as the entire nation for their prayers," the Minister said.

Ngcamphalala then congratulated Manzini Wanderers and Young Buffaloes for reaching the SwaziBank Cup final while also urging supporters to behave during the finals at Somhlolo National Stadium today. "Firstly, let us urge everyone to be well behaved tomorrow (today) because we expect on such days that we

Swallows' upcoming Champions League matches: Tuesday, May 15:

vs Club Desportivo Swallows Tuesday, July 17: Swallows vs Etoile du Sahel Friday, July 27: Etoile du Sahel vs Swallows Saturday, August 18: vs Zesco United 3pm Swallows Tuesday, August 28: Club Desportivo vs Swallows

will be with His Majesty so respect is important. We congratulate both teams for reaching the final and wish them a good match. We also thank SwaziBank for their continued investment in local sports," Ngcamphalala said.

CHANNE BUT

2pm

Bad Boys, Hub, Amalanda relegated from NFD

there," he said.

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

OCCER- Former Premier League side Bad Boys have been officially relegated from the MTN National First Division League.

The Fairview based side had it tough in the second tier division after finishing second from the bottom with 17 points following their 0-1 loss to Tambankulu Callies yesterday afternoon.

Also joining Bad Boys to Super League was Shiselweni side Amalanda FC, who joined their regional counterparts Mahlalini, to the Shiselweni Super League where both teams will be campaigning next season.

The former cup specialists, Amalanda, could not save themselves from the dreaded axe despite their 2-1 win over rivals Hlatikulu Tycoons at the King Sobhuza II Stadium yesterday.

Hub Sundowns also form part of the four teams that have relegated from the League after finishing in position eight in the standings with 28 points.

RESULTS

Bournemouth

1 - 2 Crystal Palace 1-0 Swansea

Leicester Watford West Brom

Everton

0-2 West Ham Newcastle Tottenham Southampton

GAF Champions League

4-1 ES Setif TP Mazembe 1 - 1 Mbabane Swallows ZESCO 1-2 Horoya

AS Togo-Port 1-1 Etoile Sahel Primeiro de Agosto

FIXTURES

Premier League

Huddersfield Town 14:30 Manchester City vs Burnley



MAY 6, 2018







ACCLESFIELD Legendary former football manager Sir Alex Ferguson has undergone surgery for a brain haemorrhage after being rushed to

hospital amid fears for his health.

An ambulance was called to Ferguson's home in Cheshire at about 9am yesterday and took him to Macclesfield district hospital.

The Scotsman was subsequently transferred, with a police escort, to be treated at the Salford Royal.

A statement from Manchester United read: 'Sir Alex Ferguson has undergone emergency surgery today for a brain haemorrhage.

"The procedure has gone very well but he needs a period of intensive care to optimise his recovery. His family request privacy in this matter." Ferguson was present at Old Trafford last weekend as his former club took on Arsenal in what was Arsene Wenger's final match against his old foe. Ferguson took to the pitch to present Wenger with a gift from the club, along with current boss Jose Mourinho. His son, Doncaster Manager Darren Ferguson had to miss out on his side's final fixture of the League One campaign yesterday due to a "severe family issue."

Rovers ended their season at home to League One leaders Wigan, though the manager had more pressing matters to attend to and rightly put the football on the back burner.

Ferguson, who's father is legendary Manchester United former manager Sir Alex, informed bosses at Rovers he would be unable to take charge of the season finale. A statement on the official club website read: "Darren asks for privacy, and will provide an update through the club during the week." Assistant Gavin Strachan, son of former Scotland boss Gordon, sat in the dugout instead to take over the managerial duties.

Daily Mail