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SIPHO SHONGWE FILES HIS PAPERS

SEE PAGE 2

MVA STRIKE: WORKERS BLAST CEO, HRM

SEE PAGE 2

BIG SHOPS HEED GOVERNMENT'S ADVICE...

NO POLONY:
Empty shelves at Mbabane Super Spar after A.D Enterprises products worth thousands of Emalangeni were recalled from shops following the outbreak of listeriosis. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)



...After outbreak of listeriosis resulting in recalling of processed meats

FRIDGES LEFT EMPTY

Story on Page 3

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2 NATIONAL NEWS

STRIKING MVA WORKERS CALL FOR HEADS OF CEO, HRM

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

EMPLOYEES of Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF) who are currently engaged in a strike action have called for the immediate dismissal of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Helmon Vilakati and the human resource manager.

The employees whose strike action entered day two accused the members of the executive of being the cause of their problems because they didn't care about the welfare and wellbeing of the staff members.

They further alleged that had they been concerned about them and had it not been for them, they would have been given what was due to them long ago. "The CEO and HRM have no regard for us and our wellbeing. They are not bothered, we have been noting their attitude towards issues of employee wellbeing," they alleged.

The employees said had the two really considered the their feelings in most instances, there would be no strike action.

"There has never been a strike action in this company and this has led them to believe that we are scared of them hence the disrespect and disregard,"

...*"The CEO and HRM have no regard for us and our wellbeing. They are not bothered, we have been noting their attitude towards issues of employee wellbeing"*



HEADS MUST ROLL: Employees of Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF) singing and toyi toying during the second day of their strike in protest over a cost of living adjustment where they also called for the dismissal of the chief executive officer and human resource manager. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

they alleged.

They explained that this was evident in that there was no capacity building in the organisation and they were not

paid overtime.

The employees are currently engaged in a strike action in a quest to force their employer to give into their demands.



SOME OF THEIR CHANTS:

- Wasicasha njani ungafuni ne overtime ne training?
- Le exco le ayiye ekhaya kanye neboard.
- Ngubani longasiloyela Helmon na Nzima?
- Uyabuza umthetho imali yethu izofika nini?

The employees want their employer to implement findings of a salary review exercise which took place in 2014.

A consultant was commissioned by the company who amongst other things reviewed salaries and did job evaluations.

The employees alleged that the results of that review have not been implemented to date and they therefore demand that management does so before they can return to work.

The employees are also aggrieved over the cost of living adjust-

ments (COLA) agreement.

They accuse the company of not upholding their end of the promise. They accuse the company of owing them 1.2 per cent following that of the eight per cent COLA agreed on between the union and the employer but the employees only got 6.8 per cent for the year 2017/2018.

The employees who were found picketing outside the SMVAF office park in Mbabane yesterday said they would not be returning to work until what was due to them was paid.



HHAYI HHAYI: MVA workers protesting next to the company's main gate.



YOU CAN PROCEED: MVA clients were not disturbed.

'I solely rely on my memory regarding my release on parole'

Stories By Observer
Reporter
High Court

BUSINESSMAN Siphon Shongwe who is accused of the murder of businessman and football administrator Victor Gamedze says he solely relies on his memory regarding the events that led to his release on parole from the Barberton Prison.

Shongwe says these events occurred a long time ago, some as far back as 1997 since he was arrested during that year and cannot even remember which month of the year this occurred.

These are submissions contained in Shongwe's supplementary affidavit which he has filed before the High Court.

"You must bear in mind that these events occurred a long time ago some as far back as 1997, I have to rely solely on my memory regarding the events I deal with herein," Shongwe submitted.

He stated that he obviously does not have access to any records pertaining to his detention in Barberton Maximum Prison stating that these

documents are with the relevant authorities in South Africa and it is extremely unlikely that he or his legal representatives would be granted access thereto.

He submitted that before he was transferred to Barberton, he was detained in the Pretoria Maximum Prison and appeared before the Correctional Services authorities at Baviaanspoort Correctional facility where he informed the authorities that he was a Swazi and requested to be transferred to a correctional facility closer to Swaziland hence he was transferred to Barberton.

He said in as far as he recalls, the question of whether he came up for parole arose on several occasions between 2005 and 2008 and the correctional services parole board heard his submissions on each occasion and did not advise against the hearing process.

He submitted that when he was released from the correctional facility, he was advised that it was on the basis of a parole and was not puzzled as he had appeared before the board before adding that during his detention in Barberton, he was involved various recreational programmes.

...To avail SA Correctional Services Act on parole

AS part of his submission in as far as his release on parole is concerned, Siphon Shongwe stated that he will provide the court with a copy of the South African Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998.

This Act according to Shongwe, provides for a correctional system including release from a correctional facility and placement under supervision of parole and a copy which will be made available during his bail application proceedings.

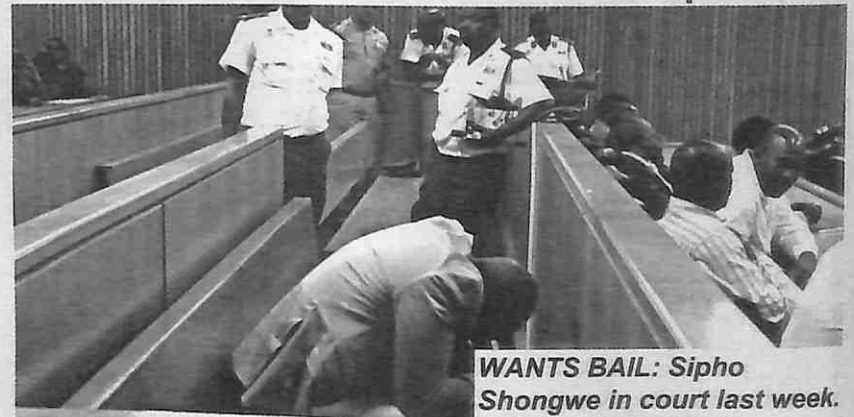
He submitted that he has been advised that Act 111 of 1998's date of commencement was July 31, 2004 and the previous Act was the Correctional Services Act 8 of 1959.

He stated that the 1959 Act had different parole procedures for persons sentenced to life imprisonment than the

I am not a flight risk - Shongwe

"I have stated in my founding affidavit and in my replying affidavit that I am not a flight risk, I still persist with this allegation," these are submissions made by Siphon Shongwe in his supplementary.

Shongwe argues that he did not escape from the Barberton Maximum Prison stating that the ineptitude of the prison official or officials who erroneously according to him escaped from prison should



WANTS BAIL: Siphon Shongwe in court last week.

correctional services act of 1998.

This, he said is more so because the 1959 act did not prescribe a minimum period of imprisonment that had to be served before an offender could be considered for parole but instead minimum periods used governed ministerial pol-

not be visited upon him to label him a flight risk.

He submitted that as indicated in his affidavit, the averments made by the crown with regards to the matter are irrelevant to the real issue to be adjudicated upon his bail application and still holds the belief and will elaborate later thereon during his application.

With regard to extradition, he stated that if South African authorities are desirous

to have him extradited to South Africa, he is advised that there are official channels open to do so which is not something that should prevent him from being granted bail by the court as this is an issue to be dealt with in the proper forum. He respectfully submitted that he is not a flight risk, did not escape from prison and applied that the court should grant him bail on such conditions as the court may deem appropriate.

LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAK UPDATE:

BIG SHOPS FRIDGES LEFT EMPTY

COVER STORY

Stories by Lungelo Nkambule
and Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

MOST big shops were yesterday left with empty freezers after an order to remove all processed meats irrespective of the brand.

The big retailers heeded the order and a visit to the shops confirmed that they had removed all processed meats. This has left members of the public frustrated as most consumed these on a daily basis.

The processed meats were banned from shops by government following the outbreak of listeriosis in South Africa.

Government has advised members of the public to burn, bury or return to retailers products implicated to be sources of the disease.

Addressing the media yesterday the Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati and Minister of Health Sibongile Simelane said it was important that members of the public remove these products from their fridges and homes in order to prevent getting infected.

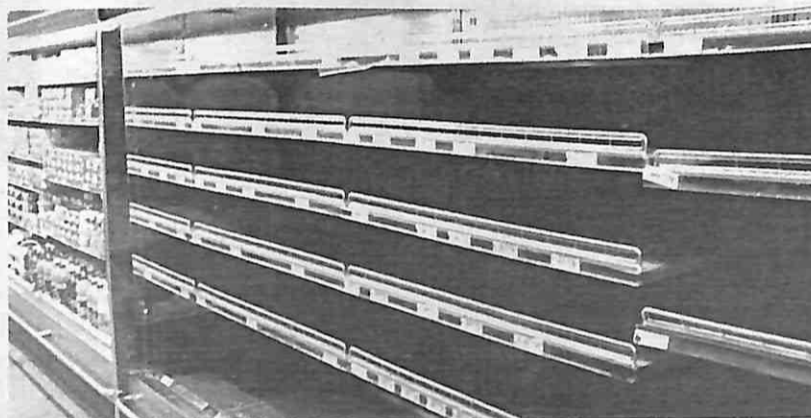
This follows after an ongoing investigation in South Africa on the outbreak of listeriosis showed that Enterprise cold meats were the source of the disease.

The ministers making the announcement stated that as government they had an obligation to protect the citizens hence they were advising people to dispose these products from their homes by either returning them to the retailer, burning or burying them.

He warned against feeding these products to pets.

The ministers further stated that government had resolved to suspend the

...With the information at our disposal, in line with protecting the health of the general public, the ministry of health and ministry of agriculture empowered by the Public Health Act 5/1969 and the Veterinary Public Health Act 17/2013 have decided on suspension of importation of all processed meats until further notice, immediate cancellation of all processed import permits issued, immediate suspension of retail of the implicated processed meats until further notice, recall of the implicated products from consumers back to the retailers of origin and safe disposal of all implicated products



CLEARED OUT: Empty shelves at Mbabane Super Spar.

importation of all processed meats until the investigation is completed and these products are cleared.

"With the information at our disposal, in line with protecting the health of the general public, the ministry of health and ministry of agriculture empowered by the Public Health Act 5/1969 and the Veterinary Public Health Act 17/2013 have decided on suspension of importation of all processed meats until further notice, immediate cancellation of all processed import permits issued, immediate suspension of retail of the

implicated processed meats until further notice, recall of the implicated products from consumers back to the retailers of origin and safe disposal of all implicated products," Minister Vilakati said.

The minister of health also emphasised that members of public practice proper hygiene and separate ready to eat food from raw food during preparation and storing.

She further advised people to visit their nearest health facility in the event they showed symptoms of the disease.

DO NOT PANIC - WHO

MEMBERS of the public have been advised not to panic following the outbreak of listeriosis in neighbouring South Africa, where at least 180 deaths have been reported to date.

Speaking during a press conference the World Health Organisation (WHO) Country Representative Dr Tigist Mengestu said the general public must remain calm because listeriosis is an abundant disease and it was more tragic for certain groups not the general public.

"Listeriosis is very common and it is found everywhere.

"While it is a dangerous disease it is also curable.

"Listeriosis is most dangerous to people with a weakened immune system such as people living with HIV/AIDS, Diabetes and Tuberculosis amongst others. Also pregnant women and young children are at a higher risk.

"The general public must however practice the precautionary measures as advised by the ministries of health and agriculture," she said.

The country rep further stated that the disease is curable and that in the event people show symptoms of it they must visit health facilities in

order to get treatment.

"Listeriosis is easily treatable hence people must remain calm even when they show symptoms of the disease because it is curable in local health facilities," she said.

Mengestu stated however that it was important for the country to remain vigilant to avoid an outbreak.

"As Swaziland has not recorded a case of listeriosis, continued vigilance is crucial.

"Let's join hands to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of the disease in line with the International Health Regulations (2005). It is also great to see how in different sectors such as Agriculture, Food Industry and Farming come together with the Health sector to prevent the outbreak reaching Swaziland," she said. She further assured that WHO was ready to support the ministry of health and all sectors involved in responding to the outbreak and other health security issues.



'Local products safe'

WHILE government has suspended the retail of all processed meats from South Africa until such a time that it is safe to consume them, local products have been cleared.

Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati said it was safe for the public to consume locally produced processed meats.

"Most products from eMbiveni in Swaziland are not ready-to-eat which makes them safe. Also this is a local company and the outbreak is in South Africa which makes them safe," he said.

Despite this aspect, the ministry said all processed meats would not be sold in local retailers regardless of the brand until further notice.

Vilakati further said the ministries of agriculture and health would work with those of commerce and housing through municipalities to see to it that retailers heed the call to suspend the sale of the implicated products.

"We have taken this exercise at a government level hence all ministries will play a part in seeing to it that government resolutions are met. There will be regular checks on shops by municipality inspectors. The commerce ministry will see to it that meat import licences are suspended and the ministry of education will make means to educate teachers and parents," he said.

"For health security measures we have for now suspended the retail of all processed meats regardless of the brand. The only meat to be sold is meat which can be thoroughly cooked before consumption," Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Bongani Masuku said.

WHAT IS LISTERIOSIS

Listeriosis is a serious, but treatable and preventable disease caused by the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes*. The bacterium is widely distributed in nature and can be found in soil, water and vegetation. Animal products and fresh produce such as fruits and vegetables can be contaminated from these sources.

HOW IS LISTERIOSIS TRANSMITTED

It is usually spread through the ingestion of contaminated food products most frequently with raw or unpasteurised milk and soft cheeses, but also vegetables, processed foods, ready-to-eat meats and smoked fish products. *Listeria* can survive in normal temperatures associated with refrigeration (4°C). The *Listeria* bacterium can also be transmitted from a pregnant woman to her unborn baby during pregnancy or at the time of birth.

SYMPTOMS OF LISTERIOSIS INCLUDE

» Fever

» Muscle aches
» Nausea or diarrhea
» Headache
» Stiff neck
» Confusion
» Loss of balance
» Convulsions can occur
» Flu-like illness.

ADVICE:

■ Stop the consumption of ready to eat meat products such as polony, Vienna, sausages and other cold meats.
■ Remove these products from your fridges and homes. Either return to the retailer or origin or safely dispose by burning or burying. Do not feed to pets.
■ Consume only thoroughly cooked meat.
■ Wash raw vegetables thoroughly before eating.
■ Practice good hygiene in the kitchen; wash your hands regularly and make sure cutting boards, cutlery and crockery are cleaned properly.

'Bring your products for refund'

MAJOR food retailers have advised consumers that they will be refunded their money for products that were compromised due to the Listeriosis outbreak.

Customers can return any Enterprise Foods and Rainbow Chicken processed meat like polony, viennas, russians for a full refund at A.D Enterprise (PTY) LTD distributors. According to A.D Enterprises (PTY) LTD Sales Director Tony Heyl, all Enterprise products brands have already been recalled by the company concerned and they are urgently withdrawing them from their suppliers.

"All fridges and food preparation areas in our stores will now be re-cleaned to prevent any cross-contamination. Recalled meat is being isolated and will be safely destroyed after a correspondence from Enterprise Foods and the ministry of health.

The safety of customers is always our top concern. Any customer who is concerned that they may have bought a ready-to-eat meat product linked to the outbreak can return it to our stores for a full refund."

He said this would be carried out in all stores supplied by the distributor. He mentioned that they started collecting the products yesterday in all the shops they supply around the country. These include Super Spar, Shoprite/Checkers stores, Boxers Stores and Pick n Pay stores.

"We are currently waiting for a correspondence from Enterprise Foods in South Africa on what will happen next. Meanwhile, we have also removed the products from our shelves and we have put them in an isolated store room," he said further stating that they were waiting for an instruction from Enterprise.

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LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAK: GOVT OFFICERS HIT SHOPS

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

THE ministries of health and agriculture have scaled up efforts to prevent an outbreak of listeriosis in the country as witnessed in South Africa where over 900 cases were reported with 180 deaths.

Yesterday shops around Manzini were abuzz with officers in white coats who were inspecting meat products in shops.

After an inquiry it surfaced that the officials who were spotted conducting inspections were from the two ministries. The Director of Health in the Ministry of Health Dr Vusi Magagula said the inspections were modalities carried out by the two ministries.

Such modalities were to ensure that shops are complying with the directive issued that shops must do away with processed ready to eat meat products.

Lunch

By lunch time yesterday, Eskort and Enterprise products were recalled by most local supermarkets.

Shelves were left empty as owners ensured that they comply with government's directive. Shops such as Shoprite, Boxer Supermarket, Save

More, Pick n Pay and Super Spar had already emptied their shelves by yesterday.



More, Pick n Pay and Super Spar had already emptied their shelves by yesterday.

Even though the director of health assured the public that there were no cases of listeriosis which were reported in the country most shops decided to get rid of their processed meat prod-

ucts and other products associated with listeria. Manzini Municipality Public Relations Officer Mathokoza Thwala on the other hand stated that as council they always made it a priority to do daily inspections of outlets around town to ensure that they sell food that is safe to be consumed by the public.

Pre-school to monitor lunch boxes

PRE-SCHOOLS will now monitor every child's lunchbox to make sure that a healthy lunch tin has been packed.

Some pre-school owners who were interviewed yesterday stated that the listeriosis outbreak is a concern for everyone and they will make sure that parents of the children follow the advice

on a good diet. The principals said many pre-schools around Mbabane have 'packed lunch policies'.

"Packed lunches should not contain crisps, chocolate or sweets and processed meats, such as sausage rolls," said one of the principals who further mentioned that parents are aware that processed meat is not allowed in their pre-schools.



'BHANYAZA' CALLS FOR TASK TEAM

SWAZILAND Consumer Association Chairman Bongani 'Bhanyaza' Mdluli says there is need for government to select a task team that will work on the issues surrounding the outbreak of listeriosis.

He said the task team will be responsible for compiling a report on the outbreak of listeriosis in Swaziland.

For example he said the task team members will have to reach all the homes in the country that had purchased the contaminated products. "And the contaminated products should be kept by the individual so that it could be evidence if a problem occurs to one of the family members in the long run," he said. He mentioned that destroying or

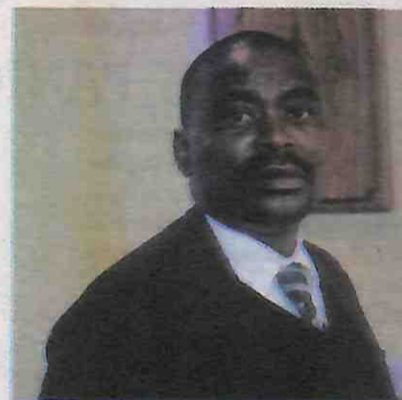
taking back the contaminated products to the stores will erase evidence in case a family member catches listeriosis.

He also advised the government of the Kingdom to have a Siswati name for listeriosis.

"This would make it easier for an old person to relate," he said. He said the word listeriosis is hard to pronounce.

People should stay away from eating the following food products

- Polony
- Russian
- Viennas
- Cold meat
- Sausages
- Ham



WANTS TASK TEAM:

Swaziland Consumer Association Chairman Bongani 'Bhanyaza' Mdluli.

- Salami
- Pepperoni
- And most refrigerated uncooked food

Helpful questions and answers on Listeriosis

What is listeriosis and why is it dangerous?

LISTERIOSIS is a serious bacterial infection caused by the rod shaped bacteria *listeria monocytogenes*.

The bacterium is spread when people eat food contaminated with the bacterium. The most common foods to be contaminated are raw or unpasteurised milk as well as soft cheeses, or vegetables, processed foods and

ready-to-eat meats and smoked fish products. Infection with listeria bacteria results in mild to severe gastroenteritis. In people with weak immune systems it can lead to meningitis or septicaemia.

And in pregnant women, listeriosis can result in a miscarriage or stillbirth, premature delivery, or meningitis in the newborn – leading to with permanent disability.

Listeria bacteria are found in the environment – for example in water and in the soil. This means that ani-

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

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



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EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF SWAZILAND

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

REGISTRAR

DOC:15834



EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF SWAZILAND

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

REGISTRAR

DOC:15835

A.D ENTERPRISES PRODUCTS **RECALLED** FROM SHOPS



TO BE DESTROYED: Some of the A.D Enterprises products worth thousands of emalangeni which were recalled from shops following the outbreak of listeriosis. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



KILLER POLONY: Chicken polony safely packed away.



PILED-UP: More of the products that were collected from shops.



NO POLONY: Empty shelves at Mbabane Super Spar.



LOSS: A.D Enterprises products which were supposed to be supplied different retailers.

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- * 3Y (E1100 **New**)



RADIATORS

- * Honda - Fit (E2500)
- * Mazda - Demio



CYLINDER-HEADS

- * 5L (E3950 **New**)
- * 3L Cylinder-head complete



- * 4AJB1 Crankshaft
- * 4JA1 Crankshaft Isuzu [1950]
- * 4JB1 Crankshaft
- * 3y Crankshaft
- * 4EFE Crank-gear with sensor
- * Quantum radiators
- * Honda-Fit radiators
- * Zola Steering rack [750]
- * Zola Gearbox [4900]
- * MF 188 Radiators
- * Ford 5000 Radiators
- * Golf Sump
- * Golf 4 Coils
- * Mazda Etude & 3 Coils
- * EE90 Radiator [750]
- * RZH Radiator [1600]
- * Quantum starter [750]

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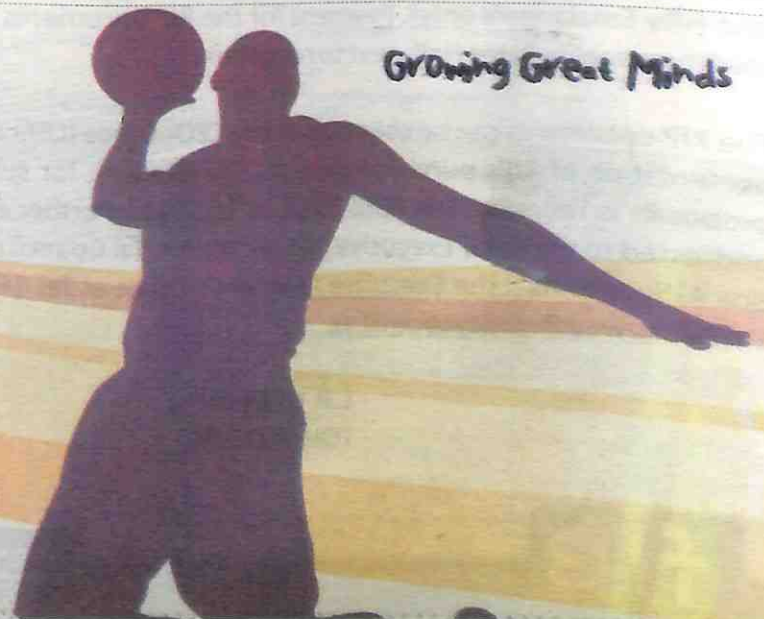
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DOC16011

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

SANGOMA ARRESTED FOR MURDER IN SA MAKES E16 000 A MONTH

FRESH allegations have surfaced that murder suspect and Swazi traditional healer Thokozani Msibi (32), who makes a living as a *Sangoma* in South Africa, makes about E16 000 per month.

Msibi was arrested in South Africa in connection with two children who were kidnapped and murdered in Witbank. The children were discovered with missing body parts, but Msibi, who is the first suspect in the matter, has denied ever committing these crimes.

He was arrested earlier last month after police discovered the bodies of two children in separate locations, believed to be those of the missing children, Gabisile Shabani and Nkosikhona Ngwenya. Yesterday, Msibi appeared at the Witbank Magistrate's Courts for his bail hearing amidst tensions from angry residents who are baying for his blood.

During his appearance in court, police offi-

cers had to use a barbed wire barrier to prevent community members from causing chaos trying to harm the accused in vengeance for the dead children. After denying taking part in the killings, Msibi is alleged to have been denied bail by the court.

During his court appearance, the accused for the first time since his appearances appeared in the presence of another co-accused who is the second suspect in the matter.

According to live tweets from a SABC reporter Sibongile Mpolweni, another man appeared next to the *sangoma* (Msibi) at the Witbank Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Information gathered is that his co-accused's bail hearing will be next week since he needs his own lawyer because the two suspects implicated each other in the case.

It is alleged that Msibi was asked to cleanse the second accused of bad luck after killing the two.

It is said the second accused promised to pay Msibi with the girls' body parts. However, it surfaced in court that Msibi refused.

Msibi is said to have denied ever having committed the crimes. Information gathered in court is that Msibi only travelled with the body parts in a bakkie after burying the girl with albinism and headed back to Swaziland, where he was to meet with another *Sangoma*.

It is alleged that Msibi presented to court that he was born in Swaziland but has a valid South African ID and family which still stays in the country.

Wanted

The court was told that Msibi frequently comes to the country and makes E16 000 per month as a traditional healer. Mpolweni said the court heard that he (Msibi) wanted a bone of a person with albinism to make his business flourish.

Information presented to court was that some body parts were found at his residence in South Africa while some were found in his second home in Swaziland.

Worth noting is that the South African Police Service Corporate Communications Office through Brigadier Leonard Hlathi had earlier reported that three more suspects, who are alleged to be involved in the kidnapping of a 13-year-old girl as well as a year-old baby boy at Vosman, were arrested.

Hlathi stated that police had previously reported that certain men broke into a house at Vosman on 28 January, 2018 and kidnapped the above mentioned children.



IN COURT: Msibi pictured while in custody in South Africa. (Courtesy Picture).

He said a manhunt for the suspects and search to locate the children were instituted, which led to the arrest of the first suspect, Thokozani Msibi, aged 32, who has already appeared at the Witbank Magistrate's Court.

Through further probe Hlathi said police also managed to locate the lifeless bodies of the two children at Culinan and along the N4 Highway respectively.

The trio, Thulani Thobela, aged 26, Donie Cavin Boshelo (22) and Mthobisi Brilliant Mkhize (26) were expected to join Msibi on the dock yesterday at the same court, facing charges of murder and two counts of kidnapping.

E3m remains unaccounted for at education ministry

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

OVER E3 million remains unaccounted for in the ministry of education and training, the auditor general's report for the financial year ended March 31, 2017 has indicated.

The report states that the money was part of E23 million allocated to the ministry. It was earmarked for rehabilitation of schools that were damaged by storms.

Only E20 million was used for the project.

The auditor general found that there was an under-expenditure of 13 per cent in the allocation of the budget. Under expenditures, according to the report, were as serious as over-expenditures in that if funds were locked up and not utilised, development would be retarded and economic growth of a country would be negatively affected. "An amount of E23 million was approved and released for the implementation of the above-mentioned project. However, actual expenditure amounted to E20 million, resulting in an under-expenditure of E3 million (13 per cent)," read part of the report.

The controlling officer of the ministry of education and training was expected to explain the

savings and update on the current status of the project. However, according to the report, the controlling officer did not respond to the concerns of the auditor general.

By so doing, the controlling officer is said to have violated Financial and Accounting Instruction 0315 (ii), which required controlling officers to reply promptly to any queries addressed to them by the auditor general.

Meanwhile, the AG also noted another under-expenditure in the ministry of education and training. An amount of E2 million was approved and released for the implementation of a project where water was to be supplied to schools.

However, actual expenditure amounted to E247 000, resulted in an under-expenditure of E1 753 000 (88 per cent).

The controlling officer of the ministry of education and training was expected to explain the savings and update on the current status of the project. However, according to the report, the controlling officer did not respond to the concerns of the auditor general.

By so doing, the controlling officer is said to have violated Financial and Accounting Instruction 0315 (ii), which requires controlling officers to reply promptly to any queries addressed to them by the auditor general.



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFPs) FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

1.0 Assignments

1.1 RFPs Integrated Development Plan (IDP)

The Municipal Council of Manzini's 5-year Integrated Development Plan (IDP) has come to an end as it was developed and implemented beginning of 2013. To this end, the municipality seeks experienced and competent consultancy services to facilitate for the review and development of the municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP), facilitation of data collection, stakeholder consultations, planning and prioritization sessions and deliver a comprehensive Integrated Development Plan for the period 2018-2023.

1.2 RFPs Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) Transaction Advisory Services

The Municipal Council of Manzini seeks professional services for PPPs Transaction Advisory services to technically support the development and implementation of its PPPs projects in the city. The PPP transactional Advisor consultant must be experienced and competent with good track record in PPPs conceptualization, project development, structuring and negotiation and successful implementation.

2.0 Submission Requirement

Interested consultants can purchase Request for Proposals (RfP) Documents with the submission requirements at the Municipal Council of Manzini Civic Offices located between Ngwane and Nkoseluhlaza Street, Opposite Riverstone Mall, Manzini, at a non-refundable fee of E350.00 (Three Hundred and Fifty Emalangenani only). Payment for the RfP documents can be made at the Municipality Rates Hall, next to reception.

The RfP documents can be collected at the CEOs Office (Office No. 204), upon presentation of RfPs purchase receipt. The deadline for submission of the proposals is Thursday, 5th April 2018, at 10:00am. Further enquiries can be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council of Manzini, P. O. Box 418, or contact the Executive Assistant's Office at Tel. (+268) 25052481, E-mail: sizwed@mzcitycouncil.sz.

L.P. DLAMINI
TOWN CLERK



manzini news

TEL: 2505 7000

website: www.mzcitycouncil.sz

TOLL FREE 111 000

DOC:15235



MANZINI NEWS

Read The Swazi Observer every Wednesday and get exciting news about Manzini...
...Interact with the Author on pro@mzcitycouncil.sz or 2505 2481 or 7611 4191

ARE YOU THE OWNER OF THIS PLOT?

If you have an undeveloped plot in Manzini and are not bothered to ensure it is cleared of overgrowth, you must know that you are playing with fire.

The Municipal Council of Manzini's 24/7 Call Centre is inundated with calls from frustrated residents whose families are subjected to constant fear as a result of your overgrown plot. The distress is caused by the influx of snakes, rodents and all sorts of scary reptiles that have suddenly found at home on your plot. The worst of them all is the fact that your overgrown plot has also become the preferred hideout for criminals. Ask yourself one question; "would you like your family to live in such an environment?" If your answer is to the negative, then please do the right thing. Visit your plot and clear it of the tall grass and shrubs as soon as possible.

If you are too busy and hardly have the time, Council is more than willing to do it for you at a reasonable fee. Please contact Council's Environmental Health and Social Welfare Department and you surely shall be assisted. Some people have a misconception to the effect that it is the responsibility of Council to maintain a plot as long as it is not yet developed. That is far

...500 overgrown plots in Manzini. Council says enough is enough, takes owners to Court



LET'S HOPE YOU ARE NOT THE OWNER: The owner of this plot located in Coates Valley will soon appear before court for failure to clear the overgrowth. 500 more will suffer the same fate.

from the truth. The true position is that, developed or undeveloped, the responsibility to clear overgrowth on a plot rests with the owner. Council only clears overgrowth on road reserves.

Well, for your own information, it is worth mentioning that Council has taken a rather stern approach to the issue of overgrowth in the Manzini Municipality. As you read this article, at least 10 property owners have been arraigned before court on charges of failure to clear

overgrowth on their undeveloped plots. More summonses are being prepared; which will see about 40 more property owners facing the Manzini Magistrate in the next week or two.

The Public Health Act, 1969, fully supports Council on this move. Manzini News hopes yours does not form part of the next batch. Council recently conducted a citywide inspection of overgrown plots with the view of getting an appreciation of the situation on

ground. To her chagrin, a whole inventory of 534 overgrown plots came out of that exercise. This means that even if it may happen that yours does not form part of the next batch of offenders that will soon 'greet' the Magistrate, your day in court is most certainly and inevitably coming. The wisest escape will be for you to take the initiative to clear your plot of overgrowth before you are even served with the summons.

'Please be patient after reporting overgrowth'

THE Municipal Council of Manzini pleads with residents to exercise some patience after reporting overgrowth on neighbouring properties.

Council does appreciate reporting of overgrowth and always encourages it. In fact she always springs to action in an effort to address such. However, it has been noted that some residents feel that Council is rather too slow to action.

Well, the truth of the matter is that there are laid down procedures (as supported by the Public Health Act, 1969) that apply when Council deals with overgrowth.

It is almost impossible to address the challenge overnight due to the processes that need to be followed as laid down by the law.

The following is the procedure that Council applies when dealing with issues of overgrowth on privately owned undeveloped plots;

STEP 1 - First notice is issued to the plot owner, giving them an instruction to clear the overgrowth within 14 days from day of issuance of the notice.

STEP 2 - Once the 14 days has elapsed, an inspection is conducted to ascertain whether or not the property owner has complied.

STEP 3 - In the event that the overgrowth has not been removed, Council issues the plot owner with a final notice; giving them an instruction to remove the overgrown vegetation within a further seven days.

STEP 4 - In the event of failure to clear the plot of overgrowth within the additional seven days, the property owner is made to answer before a court of law through court summonses.

STEP 5 - The court process takes its course until a final court order is issued.

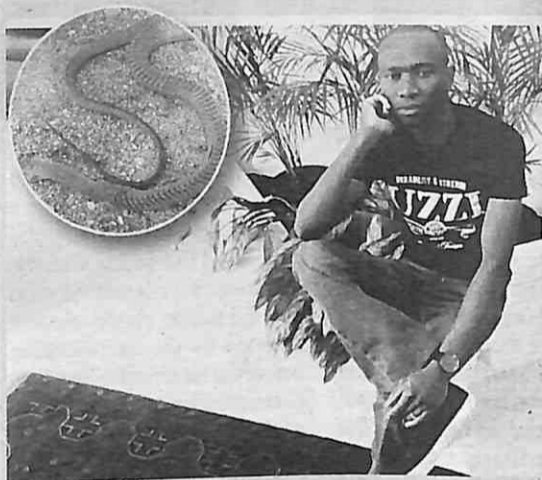
Ngwane Park, Fairview, Madonsa hardest hit

A recent inventory on overgrown plots; which was taken by Council in the entire municipality fingers Ngwane Park, Fairview and Madonsa as the most troubled townships in relation to overgrowth.

Helemisi has the least number of overgrown plots. The following table shows the number of overgrown plots in various townships within Manzini Municipality.

If you do have an undeveloped plot in any of these townships, please visit it and make it a point that it is not overgrown lest you find yourself having to answer before a court of law.

| TOWNSHIP | NO. OF OVERGROWN PLOTS |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Fairview North | 77 |
| Fairview South | 18 |
| Helemisi | 4 |
| Sterkstroom | 21 |
| Madonsa | 39 |
| Thomasdale and Extension 6 | 23 |
| Ntunja | 25 |
| Sikhunyane | 11 |
| Extension 19 | 24 |
| Extension 7, 5, and Coates Valley | 27 |
| Ngwane Park Extension | |
| Ngwane Park Township | 157 |
| Zakhele | 15 |
| TOTAL | 534 |



SAFA TINYOKA: Ngwane Park resident, Goodman Nene, narrating his frustration as a result of an overgrown plot.

'I killed 2 Mamba snakes in my yard'

A resident of Ngwane Park, Goodman Kunene, is one of the many that have called Council's 24/7 Call Centre (800 2004 or 2505 7000) reporting his frustration regarding a neighbouring overgrown undeveloped plot says he killed two Mamba snakes in his yard and his family now lives in fear.

"My neighbouring plot is constantly overgrown. If we are lucky, it is cleared only once a year. Unfortunately, it is now a whole year since it was cleared and the overgrowth is alarming. We are inundated with snakes in my residence as a result of the neighbouring plot. What pains me is

that I have children who play in the yard hence I live in fear for their safety. Just two weeks or so ago, we killed two Mamba snakes in my yard; on different occasions. I plead with Council to find a way to expedite her processes and ensure that owners of such dangerous properties comply as soon as possible. I have been told that Council applies a long and winding process when dealing with such issues and it is not working for us. Even today the plot has not been cleared of the overgrowth despite my reporting to Council a few months ago. Our lives are in danger. I would suggest that Council lobby for the review of the applicable law".



I KILLED IT IN MY YARD: One of the Mamba snakes that Goodman Nene killed in his residence.

| CALL CENTRE REPORT | LOCATION |
|---|--------------------|
| The plot next to my house is full of overgrowth. Council assist in cutting. I have killed snakes from the bushy plot. | Ngwane Park |
| Overgrown neighbour's plot. Please Council help, I am even afraid of opening my windows. | Zakhele, Ext 1 |
| There is overgrowth on the streets surrounding the Zakhele Remand Centre. It needs to be cleared because we are now troubled by snakes emanating from the grass. | Dr.David Hynd Road |
| There is overgrowth in two neighbouring plots, one is next to my plot and the other one is behind. There is also an incomplete structure in one of the plots which has been lying idle for some time now. It is now infested with snakes and was once used by criminals who attacked us as an escape route. | Extension 7 |

SD in need of food aid - FAO

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

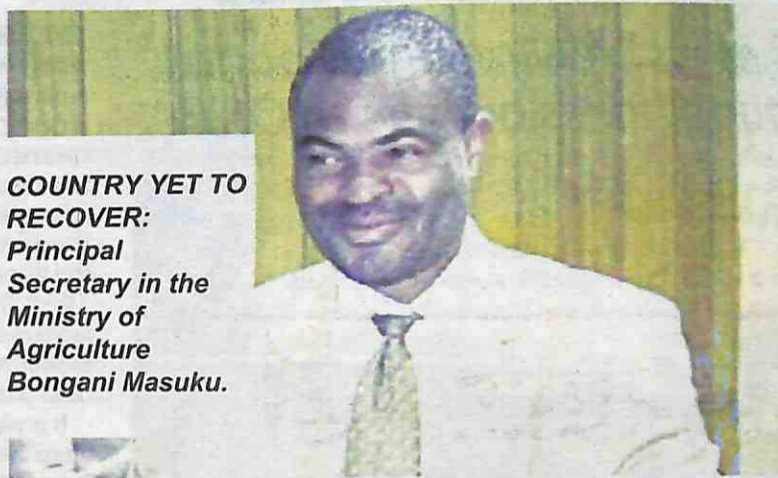
...cited among 29 African countries that need food aid

A recent report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) suggests that Swaziland is among 29 African countries that need food aid.

According to the 'Crop Prospects and Food Situation' report, conflicts and weather patterns strained food security, adding erratic rains and rising cereal prices intensified hunger risks around Eastern Africa.

The report pointed out that inadequate and erratic rainfall posed a growing threat to food security in Southern Africa as well as in Eastern Africa, where many rural households have suffered from four consecutive drought-affected agricultural seasons.

COUNTRY YET TO RECOVER:
Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Bongani Masuku.



Swaziland was struck by a deadly drought known as El Nino in 2015/16 and the most impacted area was the Lubombo region where thousands of

cattle died.

The United Nations food agency listed the countries as Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea and Kenya. Others are Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda and Zimbabwe. An FAO Swaziland agent said the report was based on regional findings and they are still collecting data to determine the position of the country as far as food stability and need for the food aid is concerned.

Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Bongani Masuku said it is

true that the country is still recovering from the El Nino and the impact was massive that the country hasn't fully recovered from the occurrence.

"The rains only started late this year and those that started with farming earlier had their crops destroyed by the rains.

There is a strong need for food aid even though the ministry might not have figures equivalent to the supply needed," he said. The UN food agency said unfavorable seasonal rains in southern Madagascar are expected to result in a further drop in crop yields in 2018, which, coupled with historically high prices of rice, should put additional stress to food security conditions especially in southern areas. The report particularly noted the East African and Near East countries, where large numbers of people continue to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

It stated that civil war and insecurity were direct reasons for high hunger rates in 16 of those countries, ranging from Burundi to Yemen.



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE

NOTICE

The persons whose names are listed hereunder or to whom it may concern, are kindly requested to furnish Council with their POSTAL ADDRESSES on or before the 31st March 2018.

The attention of all property owners in the urban area of Mbabane and particularly the persons underlisted is drawn to Section 37(4) and (5) of the Rating Act which reads as follows: The owner/s of immovable property shown in the valuation roll shall notify the local authority of his personal address within two weeks of acquiring such property and, thereafter, within two weeks of any change of his personal address. An owner who fails to comply with the provisions of this section of the Rating Act shall be guilty of an offence. Property owners are also requested to furnish Council with their Personal Identity Numbers and cellphone numbers in order to update their contact details.

| ACCOUNT NUMBER | NAME | TOWNSHIP | PLOT NUMBER |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| EXTENSION 4 | | | |
| 1000212 | BONGANI JETHRO MOTSA | EXTENSION 4 | 711 |
| EXTENSION 11 | | | |
| 1011552 | BAFANA MHLONISHWA DLAMINI | EXTENSION 11 | 1453 |
| EXTENSION 13 | | | |
| 1001343 | NGABISA Z. & NKOSINATHI NGOZO | EXTENSION 13 | 1755 |
| 1001376 | BOY JOHN MATSEBULA | EXTENSION 13 | 1790 |
| 1001339 | SALLY'S INVESTMENT TRUST | EXTENSION 13 | 1751 |
| FARM 2 | | | |
| 1002507 | INGWE TRUST | FARM 2 | 236 |
| 1003104 | KHUMBIZILE MABUZA | FARM 2 | 458 |
| FARM 73 | | | |
| 1011848 | ANGELINA BUSISIWE MNISI | FARM 73 | 30 |
| 1011842 | GUNGIAH VENGETSMAY | FARM 73 | 6 |
| 1012223 | NTOMBIFUTHI PRECIOUS SHONGWE | FARM 73 | 93 |
| FARM 188 | | | |
| 1011896 | MTHOKOZISI HLATSHWAYO | FARM 188 | 1114 |
| 1011891 | VELELISA DESMOND DLAMINI | FARM 188 | 999 |
| MAHWALALA | | | |
| 1005801 | MDVUMO VINAH DLAMINI | MAHWALALA | 171 |
| 1006111 | FIKILE KUNENE | MAHWALALA | 481 |
| 1006022 | MUSA DLAMINI | MAHWALALA | 392 |
| 1006023 | MUSA DLAMINI | MAHWALALA | 393 |
| 1006042 | MUSA DLAMINI | MAHWALALA | 412 |
| 1007951 | ERIC MKHWANAZI | MAHWALALA | 1150 |
| WOODLANDS | | | |
| 1012021 | TELFORD FAMILY TRUST | WOODLANDS | 20 |
| MSUNDUZA EXT 4 | | | |
| 1009786 | NOKUTHULA TEMBE | MSUNDUZA EXT 4 | 506 |
| 1011113 | SIMON VUSUMUZI SHONGWE | MSUNDUZA EXT 4 | 1838 |
| 1009718 | PAULOS OVUBA | MSUNDUZA EXT 4 | 438 |
| 1011272 | BIGBRAIN NKAMBULE | MSUNDUZA EXT 4 | 1997 |
| 1010558 | DOMENIC MQANDA SIMELANE | MSUNDUZA EXT 4 | 1283 |
| 1010381 | THEMBISILE JOICE SHONGWE | MSUNDUZA EXT 4 | 1106 |
| NKWALINI | | | |
| 1009374 | BUSISIWE HLOBSILE NENE | NKWALINI | 781 |

By: COLLECTOR OF RATES
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE

Doc. 16013

PM's appeal against Suppression of Terrorism Act appeal reinstated

By Sandile Nkambule
Supreme Court

THE Supreme Court yesterday issued an order in favour of Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini and three others by reinstating an appeal they noted against a High Court Judgement on the Subversive Activities Act No 46 of 1938.

The High Court had ruled in favour of Human Rights lawyer Thulani Rudolf Maseko and three others as it declared the impugned sections of the Act null and void.

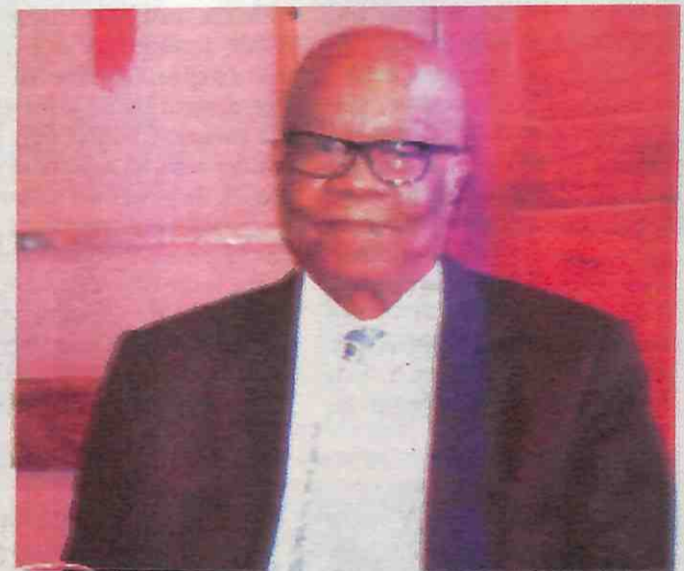
The High Court held that certain sections of the Act and those of Suppression of Terrorism Act of 2008 infringed the fundamental rights of expression of freedom and association guaranteed in the Constitution of the country.

In its judgment, the court had held further that in light of its own jurisprudence and foreign cases on the validity of restrictions on free speech, that these rights are not absolute but that the respondents (PM, AG two others) had failed to show that the restrictions placed on the appellants were reasonably required and proportionate.

In a consolidated application at the High Court, Maseko, Maxwell Dlamini, Mario Masuku and Mlungisi Makhanya in the initial case had challenged the constitutionality of the provisions of the Subversive Activities Act and Terrorism Act of 2008.

Following the judgment of the High Court, the prime minister who has been cited as the first appellant, the attorney general and two others launched the present application where they are appealing against the judgment of the High Court.

However, when the matter was enrolled and supposed to be heard at the Supreme Court, there was no appearance for the prime minister, attorney general and government hence the matter was struck off the roll.



WINS: Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini.

Represented by Vikindvuku Manana from the Attorney General's office, Manana sought the indulgence of the court to condone the applicant's non-appearance on October 23, 2017 and to have the appeal hearing reinstated. Manana submitted that there was confusion regarding the date of the hearing of the appeal based on correspondence issued by the office of the Registrar of the court since the hearing was November 21, 2017 and not October 23, 2017.

Reasonable

According to Supreme Court Judge Phesheya Dlamini, who was sitting alone in the constitutional matter, he noted that clearly the reasonable inference to draw in the circumstances is that someone within the AG's office took his or her eyes off the ball and dropped it regarding the hearing date of the matter resulting in the non-appearance before court, further noting that the appeal raises issues of significant national importance and that the court should not shut the door because of the non-appearance.

Judge Dlamini, however, said it may be in the interest of justice, that the appeal against the majority decision of the court

aquo (High Court) be disposed of in one way or the other in a fully blown hearing.

He stated that in line with the above, it is his considered view that the matter ought to come urgently for the consideration before the bench of the Supreme Court considering the importance of the matters arising from the appeal.

This, he said is from the view that it would leave a bitter after taste in the court's palate for such serious matters to be decided by default as it were due to the confusion that seems to have reigned at the office of the Attorney General.

"I accordingly but reluctantly order that the non-appearance of the applicants on October 23, 2017 is hereby condoned and that the appeal in hereby accordingly reinstated, the respondents are awarded costs and the matter is referred to the Registrar of this Court for allocation of hearing dates," Judge Dlamini ordered.

Judge Dlamini stated that such a conduct for non-appearance in court is a rarity which ought never to have happened in the first place however noting that the general principles of condonation should apply equally to the matter.

USDF CELEBRATES ARMY DAY, PASS-OUT SAME DAY

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

AFTER a three-year absence for unknown reasons, the Army Day is finally back and it will be celebrated concurrently with the pass-out.

Even though it has been unconfirmed, the milestone event is scheduled to take place on the 23rd of March at the army headquarters in Nokwane.

The last time the Swaziland Umbutfo Defence Force (USDF) celebrated the army day was back in 2015, where His Majesty King Mswati III, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the USDF, was present.

It was celebrated at the army headquarters, where an arena has been completed in preparation for both the pass-out and the army day.

Confirming the concurrence of the two army events was the USDF PRO Nkosinathi Dlamini, who said they were however yet to get the official date of the event from the commander-in-chief. "We have scheduled for the two equally important events to run con-



MARCHING: Swaziland Umbutfo Defence Force (USDF) celebrating their Army Day back in 2015.

currently but we have not yet finalised on the day," he said.

Dlamini refuted talks that the army day was absent over the years because of the construction of the arena at the headquarters, saying it was because of reasons that are known to them.

Army

The last time the army had a pass out was in 2015, where over 700 recruits graduated. The king is expected to bestow medals on a few recruits in recognition of their distinguished performances in certain drills while undergoing

training. Expectations on the day are for His Majesty the King to do a guard of honour and address the troops and the nation.

The army's recruits who will be passing out on the day are expected to be displayed before His Majesty and they will be joined by seasoned military soldiers who are expected to display drilling skills while marching before the king with vehicles and the USDF Air wing helicopter and the other army equipments complementing the event.

'Gigaba's return good news for SD'

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

THE return of Malusi Gigaba as Home Affairs Minister in South Africa will be to the country's advantage in the quest to have 24-hour operations at borders between the neighbouring countries.

This was revealed by Home Affairs Principal Secretary Anthony Masilela when sought for comment on the level of negotiations on the above mentioned subject yesterday.

The negotiations commenced at the time when Gigaba had his first spell as minister of home affairs in South Africa before a reshuffle that saw Pravin Gordhan sacked as finance minister with the former assuming the position in April last year.

Gigaba has since been reappointed to his former position as Home Affairs minister, replacing Ayanda Dlodlo. Masilela said it was with Gigaba that they began the negotiations and now that he has assumed his previous portfo-

lio as home affairs minister, it would be easy coming to solid conclusions on the matter.

"We never really engaged in negotiations with Professor Hlengiwe Mkhize and Ayanda Dlodlo led administrations in their respective tenures as home affairs ministers.

We were scheduled to meet with Dlodlo in the same week that there was another reshuffle in South Africa and we ended up rescheduling. We are waiting for South Africa to give us a new date to meet and further discuss the matter but I can confirm that talks are at an advanced level," he said. Currently, the country's borders are operating within a stipulated time and close after specific working hours. The only time they extend the working hours is during the festive season in December, whereby migration is at a higher level.

Meanwhile, His Majesty King Mswati III recently cited the issue of having the Ngwenya Border Gate operating for 24hrs among issues of priority for the country. The king was speaking during the opening of the fifth session of the 10th Parliament.



Public Service Pensions Fund

PUBLIC NOTICE / SATISO

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND
P.O. BOX 4469, MBABANE
Tel: 2411 9000 / Fax: 2404 2712 www.pspf.co.sz
TOLL FREE: 800 2401 email: info@pspf.co.sz

PSPF@Swaziland PSFP_Swaziland

PENSIONERS ANNUITY DISTRIBUTION BY PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND

The Public Service Pensions Fund invites the following deceased pensioners families to meetings to be held at the following scheduled times and dates at the various Pension Offices. Family members are requested to bring certified copies of the following: proof of identity, death certificate, deceased's last pension pay slip, deceased's ID, children's birth certificates, marriage certificate(s) and any other relevant documents.

Lihhovisi letemhlala phansi (PSPF) licela tihlobo tanaba labalandzelako lebebahola imali yemhlalaphansi kutsi tivele emahhovisi aka Pensheni ngalamalanga netikhatsi letilandzelako.

Tiyacelwa kutsi tiphatshe sitifiketi sekufa semufi, ipayslip yepenisheli yemufi, iID yemufi, titifiketi tekutalwa tebantwana bemufi, titifiketi tekutsatsana, nabomatise bebuve (P.I.N.) iID nato tonkhe tincwadzi letingasita.

The following deceased families are invited to attend a meeting on the following dates:

MONDAY 12 MARCH 2018

VENUE: MBABANE HEAD OFFICE, INGCAMU BUILDING.

| Name of Deceased | Pension. No. | Date of Death | Time |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| 1. Matsebula Mandlenkhosi | 2069803 | 03.02.2018 | 09h00 |
| 2. Maphalala Samuel Mjuda | 5016086 | 14.02.2018 | 09h30 |
| 3. Ntshangase Mandla Hoppy | 5119608 | 27.01.2018 | 10h00 |
| 4. Tsabedze Meshack B. | 32343 | 16.12.2017 | 10h30 |
| 5. Lushaba-Dlamini Siphesihle I. | 300087848 | 24.06.2017 | 11h00 |
| 6. Mndzebele Moses V. | 4209373 | 07.02.2018 | 11h30 |
| 7. Ncwane Nomsa Alice | 300271 | 01.10.1996 | 12h00 |

TUESDAY 13 MARCH 2018

VENUE: Nhlengano. FNB Building

| Name of Deceased | Pension. No. | Date of Death | Time |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| 1. Dlamini Themba Timothy | 7022142 | 31.12.2017 | 10h30 |
| 2. Lushaba Titus Mathamsanqa | 54618 | 26.01.2018 | 11h00 |
| 3. Simelane Nimrod Macatha | 24152 | 03.02.2018 | 11h30 |
| 4. Mkhonta Robert Fanyana | 6171748 | 05.02.2018 | 12h00 |

WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 2018

VENUE: SITEKI EVUKUZENZELE BUILDING

| Name of Deceased | Pension. No. | Date of Death | Time |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| 1. Shabangu Jabulani | 8139100 | 12.12.2017 | 10h30 |

THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2018

VENUE: PIGGS PEAK, LIDLELANTFONGENI BUILDING.

| Name of Deceased | Pension. No. | Date of Death | Time |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| 1. Mtsetfwa Michael Gibhithe | 64177 | 17.02.2018 | 10h30 |

FRIDAY 16 MARCH 2018

VENUE: MBABANE HEAD OFFICE, INGCAMU BUILDING.

| Name of Deceased | Pension. No. | Date of Death | Time |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| 1. Khoza Rio Madlambi | 36709 | 24.09.2017 | 09h00 |
| 2. Tsabedze Domenic Kula | 28376 | 14.02.2018 | 09h30 |
| 3. Kunene Phineas Mngqobi | 3213892 | 07.02.2018 | 10h00 |
| 4. Zwane Mzululeki Ntomp | 31254 | 07.02.2018 | 10h30 |
| 5. Lukhele Aaron Mphikeleli D. | 3071940 | 03.02.2018 | 11h00 |
| 6. Mkhathshwa Petros Mfundo | 4042907 | 15.02.2018 | 11h30 |

For more information please contact Nothando Dlamini at 24119000 or Toll Free Number 8002401

THE OPA BREAKDANCE

GREEK PARTY AT OCEAN BASKET MBABANE

Saturday 10 March 2018
from 19h00 till late

Belly dancers || Breaking plates || Normal menu

2404 1077 or 2404 7694 2897
FOR BOOKINGS

Ocean Basket



CANGO WARNS ON DANGERS OF TAX INCREASE

Stories by Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

INCREASING the Value Added Tax (VAT) and the introduction of other taxes will have a negative impact on the country's working class.

This is the view expressed by the Coordinating Assembly for Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO) following the 2018/19 national budget speech which was delivered by the Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini last Thursday.

CANGO is of the view that the working class, will be hit hard by the introduction of the taxes.

CANGO Director Emmanuel Ndlangamandla said what was even worse in this case was that many of the working people also supported members of their extended families.

If they were going to pay a considerable amount of the little they got from their employers, they would be in a huge problem because their needs would not be satisfied.

"With government unable to afford inflation adjustments for the civil servants, the increase in VAT and its effect on basic commodities will make life difficult even for the working class. It is in this regard, that the government should exempt all basic commodities including utilities like water and electricity to minimise these impacts," Ndlangamandla said.

Minister for Finance Martin Dlamini announced that government intended to increase VAT, which currently sits at 14 per cent, to 15 per cent.

The VAT hike was prompted by South Africa which also increased its own VAT from 14 per cent to 15 per cent. The government also intended to introduce a 15 per cent tax on electricity,



something the legislators spoke passionately against during the budget debate on Monday in Parliament.

The MPs threw out the budget and called for it to be reviewed by the ministry of finance and House of Assembly finance committees. It is expected back in the House today.

Ndlangamandla said as CANGO, they were saddened by the fact that corruption was one of the most talked about issues in the country, but nothing has been done to alleviate it.

What was even sadder was that the budget allocations remained small yet more money was wasted through corruption.

The director said he was hoped that during the 50/50 celebrations next month, the country would also reflect on its financial situation and identify other shortcomings, with the intention of fixing them.

"We hope that the celebrations will reflect the financial situation the country finds itself in so that we avoid lavish spending on a one-day event and plunge our country into further financial crisis," he said.

'Involve taxpayers on budget'

TAXPAYERS should have a say on the country's annual budget allocations.

CANGO Director Emmanuel Ndlangamandla said they advocated for an open budget policy which would involve the very people who paid tax to finance the budget. They were the ones who should have a say on the budget, instead of having it imposed on them.

He also mentioned that his organisation was worried about the cash-flow problems that continued to haunt the country as it had a negative impact on the small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The knock-on effect on this was their failure to rejuvenate economic growth and create employment as some of the small businesses were forced

to scale down operations, while others are marked for closure and even collapse.

"It must be in government's interest to promptly sort the issue of payments to its service providers so that they contribute to economic growth and job creation," Ndlangamandla said.

It was disappointing that the nation was not given bold strategies on how to contain the ever-growing spending to cushion spending within the country's means.

"Tax-payers feel short-changed if they saw continued wasteful spending at the expense of shortage of drugs in health facilities and poor delivery of services. Our country should learn to deliver more with less."

"The issue of the wage bill

continues to be raised by the finance minister but nothing tangible is done," he said.

He also expressed concern on the unemployment that continued to affect the country. The difficulties of job creation by the private sector ever on the decline made the government the employer of choice. This caused an over-bloated public sector.

It was not just a bloated sector that the minister should concern himself with but also improving the quality of services by civil servants who can deliver to the public 'value for money' service as they are employed to serve.

Government should also remember that access to services was a basic human right, therefore, must address this as a matter of urgency.

CANGO praises govt on elderly grants

WHILE raising concerns over issues of concern in the national budget, CANGO is happy with government's handling of elderly grants.

Government has allocated E417 million to cater for about 87 000 elderly people in the country. Minister for Finance Martin Dlamini announced that elderly people who would be turning 60 this year were also catered for in the budget.

CANGO Director Emmanuel Ndlangamandla said with the high levels of poverty in the country, social protection programmes played a critical role in cushioning the poor people.

Acknowledge

"In this regard, we acknowledge that the elderly and OVC grants have been budgeted for. However, the minister did not commit himself on the increasing it to cater for inflation.

Therefore, it is likely the money will be depleted by inflation," Ndlangamandla said.

He also highlighted that his organisation advocated for the commitment to allocate 10 per cent of national budget towards agriculture as the dictate of the Maputo Declaration, where a Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) was forged.

Critical

"We note that the government has identified critical stimulus for addressing development challenges. This includes: agriculture identified as a critical sector. More investment is needed in the agricultural sector to improve rural population which depends on land for survival," he said.

The organisation was pleased about investments in dams because that would facilitate

less dependence on rain water while enabling farmers to engage in commercial agriculture. Other areas of improvement that government should address included portable water because the availability of such would help in prevention of waterborne diseases.

Availed

CANGO also expressed its happiness on the allocation the government availed to the ministry of health. However, the organisation asked that there should be assurance that funds were available for the ministries to meet their obligations.

"We witnessed a sad situation where the Phalala Fund could not support cancer patients and hence they defaulted on their treatment and some lost their lives. This was indeed the lowest point in our country," Ndlangamandla said.

Swazi Observer appeal against Makhabane judgement postponed

● Appeal to be heard next session of the Supreme Court

By Sandile Nkambule
Supreme Court

AN appeal application filed by the Swazi Observer group of companies against a judgment of the High Court awarding gospel artist Siphosiso Makhabane E300 000 for an alleged defamatory article, was yesterday postponed by the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court comprising a full bench of Judges Dr Odoki, Robert Cloette and Stanley Maphalala postponed the matter by consent of both parties to the next session.

The Swazi Observer was represented by Senior Attorney Mangaliso Magagula in the matter yesterday while Makhabane is represented by Derrick Jele.

High Court Judge Mumcy Dlamini granted Makhabane the order last year and an appeal was noted by hence the present application at the Supreme Court.

Makhabane had sued the paper for an alleged defamatory article that appeared in a column in its 2007 edition an article that was in relation with the arrest of Nhlambeni MP Frans Dlamini who had been arrested for alleged fraud related charged that year. Although it has been suggest-

ed that South African Advocate Dali Mpofu has been instructed in the matter by Makhabane's defence, Jele however, said the matter is still being handled by him, adding that he will be arguing the matter even in Court.

Interviewed later after the postponement on the reports that they are instructing Mpofu, Jele stressed he will be the one handling the matter. "I will be the one who is even arguing when it comes back to court as we are yet to file some papers hence the postponement," Jele said in a brief interview.

Makhabane through his lawyers is opposing the appeal filed by the Swazi Observer.



SWAZILAND CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

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P.O. Box D361, The Gables, H126, Kingdom of Swaziland

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF MEDIUM VOLTAGE NETWORK AT KING MSWATI III INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

TENDER NO.39_ OF 2017/18

The Authority invites sealed bids from eligible electrical service providers for the Major Maintenance of Medium Voltage Network Apparatus and Ancillary Works at the King Mswati III International Airport.

1. Request for Proposal documents containing the Terms of reference and instructions to tenderers are available and may be purchased from; the **Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority Head Office, Matsapha Airport Road** effective **07th March 2018** for a non-refundable fee of **E300.00** per set. The method of payment shall be cash or bank guaranteed cheque payable to SWACAA offices.

2. Completed Tender Documents shall be delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to:
**The Secretary to the Tender Committee
Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority
Matsapha International Airport
P.O. Box D361
The Gables**

A compulsory Site Inspection shall be conducted on 21st March 2018 at 10:00 Hrs. at the King Mswati III International Airport.

On the outside, the envelope shall be clearly marked:

**TENDER NO. 39 OF 2017/18
PROPOSALS FOR THE PROVISION OF MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF
MEDIUM VOLTAGE NETWORK AT KING MSWATI III INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT**

"(Not to be opened before 12 noon on 17th April 2018)".

3. The Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tenderer and reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

BY MANAGEMENT

00015833

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR BUDGET - FINANCE MINISTER

Stories by Mbono Mdluli
Lobamba

MEMBERS of Parliament (MPs) should refer to the Constitution to find out who is responsible for budget allocations.

This was said by Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini on Monday when addressing the House during the debate of the budget speech he tabled last week Thursday.

The minister said this after the MPs had resolved to reject the budget and refer it back to the two finance committees of the House of Assembly.

Dlamini said this should be considered more so because when the budget speech was tabled, in most instances, the MPs were the ones who would ask him how

the budget would be financed.

Lobamba Lomdzala MP Marwick Khumalo said now that the budget was in Parliament it was up to the MPs to either pass it or not.

Attorney General (AG) Sifiso Khumalo advised the two sets of politicians (Ministers and MPs) to always strive to reach consensus in such matters.

Important

"What is important between these two arms of government is to always strive to reach consensus in such important matters. It is true that the minister of finance has the prerogative of deciding on the budget, but what is important is that a consensus is reached," Khumalo said. Speaker Themba Msibi also advised the politicians to put the country first in everything they did. He said it was wrong for

the politicians to try to prove their superiority over one another.

Politicians should be willing to move from their standpoints to try and find common ground that would allow all of them to work in harmony.



'Electricity tax only applies in first world countries'

ELECTRICITY tax should not be applied in Swaziland because the country has not yet reached first world status.

This was said by Maphalalaleni MP Mabulala Maseko when MPs debated the budget speech in the House of Assembly on Monday.

Maseko said the hike could have a negative effect on the environment, especially forests. People will be compelled to cut down trees will-nilly in

an effort to get themselves some fuel in order to live their normal lives. This could have negative effects on the environment as it could lead to desertification, which could affect farming. Nhlambeni MP Frans Dlamini said the issue of tax on electricity was one of the issues they sternly warned Minister for Finance Martin Dlamini about. He said they told him that electricity was expensive and it was a struggle for ordinary people to elec-

trify their homes.

Timphisini MP Apton Ndlovu told the minister that he should remember that electricity was no longer a luxury at this day and age. "It would be understandable if you taxed electricity as a luxury, but it is now a need. You cannot tax something that many people depended on for survival," Ndlovu said.



SUBMITTED: Nkhaba MP Menzi Dlamini.

Reduce barriers of education - Nkhaba MP

HIS Majesty King Mswati III talked about reducing barriers on education in his Speech from the Throne, but the budget does not seem to address such.

This was said by Nkhaba MP Menzi Dlamini when stating why the budget needed to be reviewed. He said the budget did not address how it was going to remove the barriers that existed in education.

The barriers, according to the MP, existed in the grants of scholarships. He submitted that 30 points were needed for students to get scholarships. The MP also complained about the non-upgrading of the Swaziland College of Technology (SCOT), and other vocational institutions to become universities.

Such was another barrier to education because Swazis, at this point in time, needed to go to other countries to get a bachelor's degree in disciplines

such as engineering.

He was seconded by Lugongolweni MP Joseph Souza, who pointed out that it was a disgrace for the country not to have universities after 50 years of independence. It was painful to see Swazi students sleeping at the South African High Commission offices just to get study permits.

Souza said the country should take a leaf from countries like Zimbabwe and Cuba. Those countries had heavily invested in education such that they managed to build their own universities. Their universities were highly regarded in the whole world.

LMB to deliver verdict on Motshane land case

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

THE people suspected of illegally allocating land to people in Motshane are expected to know their fate next week Wednesday.

Land Management Board (LMB)

Chairman Clement Dlamini said they would inform the residents of Motshane on what was going to happen to the suspected land allocators.

Other chiefdoms to be visited in the Hhohho region include Siphocosini and Hhelehhele. These chiefdoms, according to Dlamini, also had problems with land issues.

Dlamini further stated that they were still busy with the Motshane case. He said what they were going to do next week in Motshane was to make a follow-up on the matter they had attended in November last year. "You will remember that towards the end of last year, we went to Motshane after we were alerted about the illegal use of land there. We are going back there next week Wednesday to see if our advice is still adhered to," Dlamini said.

After addressing the suspected illegal allocation of land in Motshane, the LMB, together with Hhohho Regional Administrator (RA) Prince Tshakedi, sternly warned Motshane residents against doing any activity on the land.

They stated that it was illegal for the Motshane people to allocate land because the community was still without a chief. The LMB members further stated that they were going to have a further look at the case, with an intention of finding out what was supposed to happen to the people who were suspected to have illegally allocated land to people.

Motshane Chief Siphosongwe died in 2011 and a new chief is expected to be installed. Dlamini further stated that on Thursday next week, they were going to visit Siphocosini Chiefdom, which was also reported to have the same problems pertaining to illegal allocations of land.

After Siphocosini, the LMB is expected to visit Hhelehhele in the northern Hhohho region. Dlamini could not give the exact date on which the LMB would visit Hhelehhele.

GOVT ROBBED E3M IN DEED TRANSFERS

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

GOVERNMENT has been robbed E3 million in deed transfers by a certain conveyancer.

The name of the conveyancer, who is said to have done the robbery in 2014, has not been revealed in the report of the auditor general for the financial year ended March 31, 2017. The properties were numbered 413/2014 and 414/2014.

A conveyancer is a legal practitioner who plies his or her trade in trans-

ferring of legal title of real property from one person to another.

The conveyancer is said to have submitted false information regarding the transfer of the two properties.

The two properties were valued at E34 million and E21 million, respectively.

However, the Registrar of Deeds was informed that the properties were valued at E2 million and E1 million, respectively.

The actual money that was supposed to be paid to government in respect of transfer duty was E3 296 000 (E2 038 000 and E1 258 000, respective-

ly). To date, only E20 000 has been recovered from that money.

The E3 296 000 was questioned because the auditor general could not find transfer duty certificates, when auditing the revenue collections by the Deeds Registry.

The transfer duty certificates, according to the report, would serve as proof that indeed, transfer duty was remitted to government. Hence the AG was not able to ascertain if that transfer duty was remitted to government.

In terms of stamp duty tax, this act by the said conveyancer made government to gain an amount of E17 000

and E8 500, instead of E289 000 and E178 500, respectively.

The understated stamp duty tax was received through receipt numbers 5784014 and 5784019, which were dated May 23, 2014. As a result, government lost E442 000 in respect of stamp duty tax on the two properties.

Matters relating to land issues are under the ministry of natural resources and energy.

Principal Secretary (PS) in the ministry Winnie Stewart was informed of Section 14 (2) of the Stamp Duties Act of 1970. The Act stated that in the event of a failure by any person

to have any such instrument duly stamped or if a public officer has reason to believe that fraud or evasion of duty was intended, the public officer shall impound the instrument and submit it to the accountant general for the purpose of recovering the duty or any penalty incurred.

In her response, Stewart concurred with the findings by the auditor. She explained that the conveyancer lodged the deed of transfer and misrepresented facts in the matter.

After a follow-up by the AG, Stewart said only E20 000 out of E3 739 200 had been collected from the implicated law firm. The ministry had since referred the matter to the attorney general's chambers to recover the balance.



LET'S DANCE: Ngwane Teacher's Training College Lutsango performing.



SWAZI DELICACY: Indigenous fruits known as 'emantulwa' were also served.



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Members of the public are invited to a public auction for the sale of items listed below.

1. Vehicles and Equipment
 - (i) Skip Master Truck (ii) Compactor Truck (iii) Nissan Hardbody 2000i

2. Other Items:

Brush cutters, Chainsaw, Water Pump, Knapsack Spray, Hedge Trimmer, Office desks, Hedge Pruning Shears, Leaf Blower, Laptops, HP Compaqdx2300 computer, Printers, Water Tank (10,000lt), Office Chairs, Monitors (LCD & CRT), CPU HP, etc.

Conditions:

- Items are sold on as is basis.
- Sold items should have been removed by the 31st March 2018.
- Participants are required to pay the following refundable deposits upon registration fees:
 - E 2000.00 for vehicles and equipment
 - E 300.00 for all items except vehicles and equipment
- Unsuccessful participants will be refunded their deposits.
- Successful participants that will fail to pay for items will forfeit their deposits.
- Items may be inspected two days before the actual auction sale at the Council Main Depot.
- Council is not obliged to award the highest or any bidder.

VENUE: Council Main Depot
DATE: 15th March 2018

NHLANHLA VILAKATI
CITY TREASURER

DOC:16012

STOP DEMONISING

...He warned church leaders especially those who abuse the pulpit by diverting from the task given to them by the Lord, against talking blasphemy about the Swazi culture

Stories by Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlango

SWAZILAND National Council of Arts and Culture (SNCAC) Chief Executive Officer Stanley Dlamini says church leaders who talk badly about the local culture should know that they are not only insulting Swazis, but God himself.

He warned church leaders especially those who abuse the pulpit by diverting from the task given to them by the Lord, against talking blasphemy about the Swazi culture.

Dlamini said there was no verse in the Bible which said local practices were demonic as some pastors allege.

He advised the church leaders to be in the forefront in promoting Swazi culture and customs and desist from making such a practice looking ungodly. The CEO came down hard on church leaders who mislead their flock by painting the Swazi culture 'black'.

He said such leaders should not be taken seriously.

Dlamini was speaking during the Shiselweni Schools Culture Day, held at the King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium, on Monday.

He further highlighted how some church leaders divert from doing God's work as their calling and choose to discredit Swazi culture and

customs.

"These attention seekers who abuse the pulpit by saying bad things about our culture should never be taken serious. They are a poison to the nation and are opportunists. They should know that even in the Scripture, we are encouraged to stick to our cultures as it clearly states that His coming was not to separate us from what we believe in. Church leaders who read the Bible upside down call our cultures demonic and they should know that they are directing these not just to us as a nation but to God Himself. They should bear in mind that they will account for their actions one day in heaven as they belittle and undermine what has kept us united and peaceful," said Dlamini.

The CEO said church leaders should be people who respect cultures.

He said what the church leaders should know was that during the judgment day, they could be asked what role they played in promoting Swazi culture.

He added church leaders or pastors are expected to be part of all Swazi culture activities as there is nothing wrong with associating with activities that have united the nation and also made it peaceful.

Dlamini said even when the religion (Christianity) arrived in the country, those missionaries met with the leaders and never at any point in time started making a mockery of Swazi culture.



EMBRACING OUR CULTURE: Acting Ministry of Education Principal Secretary Dr Sibongile Mtshali directing the programme. RIGHT - ADDRESS: Shiselweni Regional Administrator Themba Masuku addresses the gathering.



Shiselweni chiefs applauded

THE Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture (SNCAC) has applauded the commitment of chiefs from Shiselweni in promoting Swazi culture.

SNCAC CEO Stanley Dlamini said it was encouraging to see chiefs from the region being in the forefront in making sure that Swazi culture is promoted and also preserved.

He said his office has been fortunate to attend a number of activities mostly those meant to promote Swazi culture organised by chiefs from the region.

He added activities which include ceremonies such as 'ummemo' remind Swazis of their roots and chiefs from the region deserve to be praised for staging such events in their communities.

"So far, our office rates the region's chiefs highly when it comes to promoting culture. It is in this region where we are invited to events such as 'ummemo' and others which are part of promoting our cultures.

"That's what the country's leaders are also encouraging and we feel the chiefs from this

part of the country are carrying out the mandate of our God given leaders.

"Let me encourage the chiefs that they should continue with this as it's what has kept us together as Swazis.

"In the other regions, there is still room for improvement," said Dlamini.

Culture

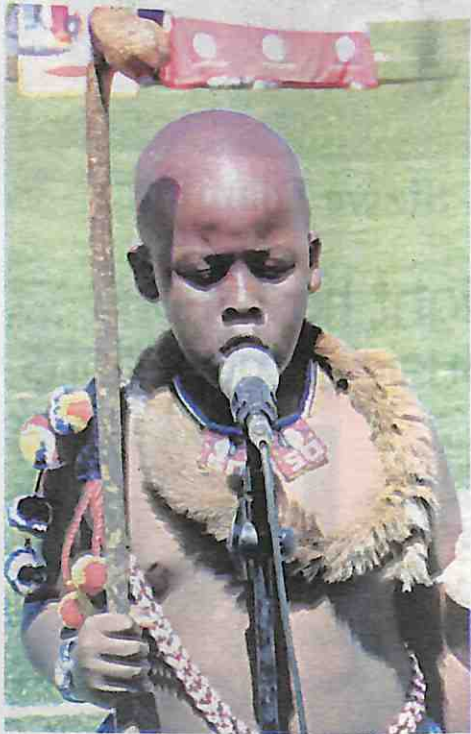
Dlamini said chiefs from the other regions were also playing their part in promoting Swazi culture, but still need to up their game in order to match their Shiselweni counterparts.

"Chiefs from the other regions are also doing their best, but they still have to make sure they close the gap as their counterparts from the Shiselweni region have been excelling," said the CEO.

Dlamini further encouraged schools to host culture days so that this could be instilled to the children just like it should happen in churches or at places of work.

"We all have a role to play when it comes to promoting our culture," said Dlamini.

OUR CULTURE - CEO STANLEY



TEACH THEM YOUNG: Nhlakanipho Dlamini, the son of Sandleni Indvuna Yenkhundla Nomcebo Dlamini singing His Majesty's praises. **CENTRE -** Imbongi Timisile Masuku singing Her Majesty Indlovukazi's praises. **RIGHT -** Popular Evelyn Baring High School teacher Ntombi Dlamini with Ngwane Practising Primary School Principal Ephraem Dlamini at the event.

However, some church leaders these days talk about the local culture and customs anyhow.

"When these missionaries arrived, they were introduced to the King who was dressed in Swazi attire, this was an indication that they were not coming here with the plan of doing away with what we value. What God says in the Bible is

that He has come not to do away with our cultures but to strengthen them," said Dlamini.

Dlamini mentioned that his office expects church leaders to respect Swazi culture and not taint it.

He said church leaders should consider promoting the local culture in their churches, as this

could also be a sign of respecting the country's God given leaders.

Dlamini added that churches should consider organising culture days.

"It's time churches organise their own culture days and we are willing to assist on how they can go about this," said Dlamini

'Swazis can't be separated from their culture'

MINISTER of Education and Training Phineas Magagula says Swazis cannot be separated from their culture and customs.

He let everyone know that anyone who thinks he can divide the nation by talking ill about what Swazis believe in, is making a mistake. The minister disclosed that Swazis value and treasure their culture and are proud of it.

He recommended that culture should be promoted even in schools as a way of making sure that the young generation is made aware of what has kept the nation a unique one from the rest of other nations.

He was addressing a gathering during the Shiselweni Schools Culture Day.

"It is through our culture that we have remained a peaceful and respected country throughout the world, therefore let's all play part in promoting and preserving it. We are identified by our cultures and it's what makes us proud. We are proud of our culture and it unites us, and we should all be proud of our language, SiSwati," said Magagula.

He added that the Shiselweni Schools Culture Day is important as it makes sure that even school going children know that the local culture plays an important role in uniting the nation.

The minister said it was encouraging that the region is aware of the importance of adhering to culture that has also contributed to the peace the country has enjoyed.

"Let's treasure what has kept us going as a nation and we should



IT'S ALL ABOUT CULTURE: Minister of Education Phineas Magagula delivering his speech. **RIGHT -** Stella Lukhele from Khulisa Umntfwana making her remarks.

make sure that this is also passed on to the next generation. We should not make a mistake which can be disastrous and we all should continue promoting our cultures including having such practices instilled in young minds," said Magagula.

He applauded the region for being a trendsetter in doing what the country's authorities have advised the nation to do. Stating, the region is on the right direction and events of this nature should spread to the other regions.

"It is through our culture where we are sharpened with discipline and respect. We have earned a name for ourselves as a nation in the world through our culture and it is through that we have remained to be a peaceful nation. We are also advocating for peace in the global vil-

lage and other nations should learn from us," said Magagula.

The minister said as the country was working towards attaining Vision 2022, culture should be a vehicle to see that dream achieved.

Pleasing

Adding, it is pleasing that the region has realised the importance of bringing schools on board so as to make sure that as the country is marching towards 2022, culture is also not left behind.

He said all those who contributed in supporting and sponsoring the event should be commended as what they did was highly appreciated and should continue with that spirit.

Meanwhile, Macmillan which was one of the major sponsors said it would continue supporting culture in schools.



Macmillan Director Busi Simelane, said schools should not be left out when it comes to promoting Swazi culture. She emphasised that her company fully supports the promotion of culture and it's for that reason they felt duty bound to support the event.

"Teachers, you are encouraged to organise such activities in your schools. Make these children aware of where we come from and by doing this, you are not doing anyone a favour but it's part of everyone's responsibility that we don't lose what we value and what has made us to be a respected nation," said Simelane.

She then presented gifts to some teachers as well as to the chiefs and also the ministers who were part of the event.

'Small Joe' speaks on culture, peace

MINISTER of Tinkhundla Administration and Development Mduduzi 'Small Joe' Dlamini made mention that Swazis should be proud of their culture and never allow anyone to fool them by making them adopt foreign cultures.

He said experience has taught him that countries with people of different races, do not enjoy the peace which Swaziland have enjoyed.

The minister was addressing a gathering during the Shiselweni Schools Culture Day, an event held at King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium in Nhlangano.

"We should be proud that our language has also made us know the importance of sticking to our culture. We have one language and also practice a culture that is suitable for us. Tribes or should I say groups, we don't have here in the country, as we are one united family enjoying peace that is not experienced in other nations," said Dlamini.

Dlamini said culture has played a major role in making peace prevail in the country, adding that such was a gift which His Majesty King Mswati III always requests from the nation.

He said Swazis should present His Majesty with this gift which costs nothing but of great value.

"Worldwide, we are known for peace and it's what our King has continued to request. Let's make him proud and present him with this gift and through our culture, I have no doubt that we can enjoy this peace now and forever," said Dlamini. He said it was important to stage events of this nature in schools as well as in communities including at tinkhundla level.

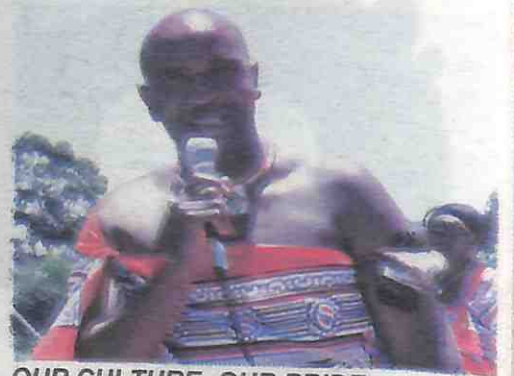
"As a ministry of tinkhundla, we encourage culture oriented events. We should listen to our leaders and honour them by doing what they feel it's good for us as a nation. We are also aware that His Majesty King Mswati III has already encouraged all of us to fully participate in national events such as the forthcoming national elections and many others," said Dlamini.

Dlamini further thanked organisers of the event including all the companies and sponsors for their contribution.

"To the businesspeople who have made contributions to make the event successful, I pray to the Almighty that your businesses flourish and profits not double but triple," said Dlamini.

Meanwhile, Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala was full of praise for the organisers of the event and stated that they were carrying out Their Majesties mandate.

"What is being done by this region, is exactly what His Majesty commanded us as a nation to do. Culture is our pillar and we all know that we are a unique nation because of it," said Ngcamphalala. On the other hand, Shiselweni Regional Administrator Themba Masuku thanked all sponsors as well as all those who made the event a success. He said since this would now be an annual event, it should see everyone coming on board in terms of support and sponsorship.



OUR CULTURE, OUR PRIDE: Minister of Tinkhundla Mduduzi 'Small Joe' Dlamini speaking at the event.

NORTHERN HHOHHO NEWS

...With

Sizwe Dlamini

Pigg's Peak Office

Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite,
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PIGG'S PEAK TO CONTINUE EDUCATING PEOPLE ABOUT LAW

PIGG'S Peak police anti-crime unit officer Constable Thulani Gwebu has continued to inform and educate people about the law that governs the country.

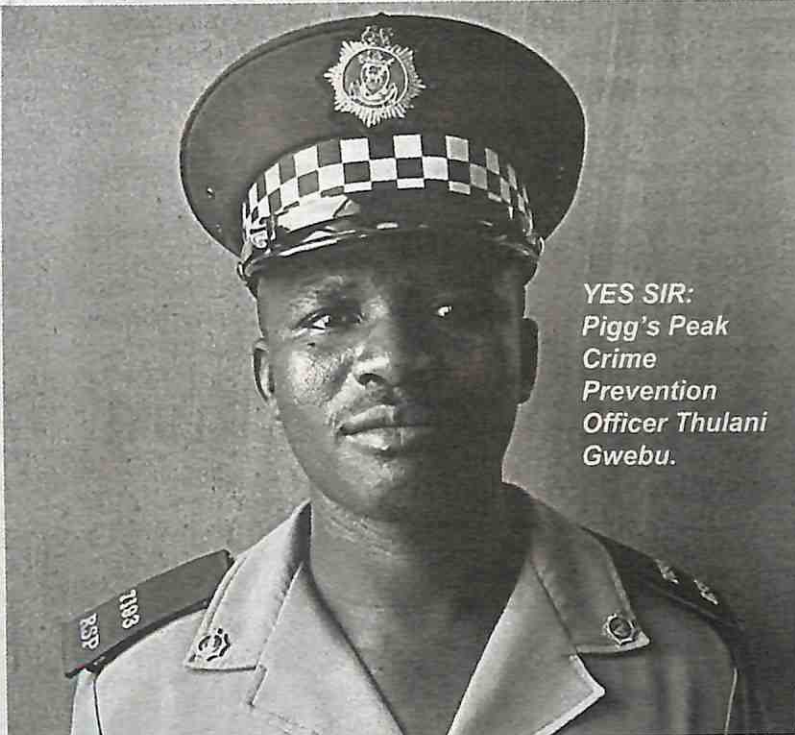
Gwebu was redeployed to Pigg's Peak in 2014 from Nhlanguano. He has been credited with taking the police to the people by hosting well organised events that target the various groups and sectors of society that are directly affected by certain crimes in the region.

Speaking to this publication, Gwebu said as a police crime prevention officer, his job was to be proactive and not reactive to crime.

"I thank all my superiors in the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) who have allowed me to implement various ideas that the unit has. A lot of people already know that sharing information is very important, not just between the police but with the communities that we serve and protect. As a crime prevention officer, operating in Northern Hhohho, my job is to analyse what crimes are on the increase and their cause. Part of my job can only be done if I am familiar with the crimes themselves, what a lot of people don't understand is that crime needs certain conditions to prosper. Therefore, as the police we then make these crime conditions known to the public to help them understand why a crime happened in the first place," he said.

Pigg's Peak police began a mass crime prevention campaign and they noted that a lot of the area did not understand the seriousness that they face every time drinking in the many bars found in the town.

Police observed a lot of minors being lured inside the bars by older



YES SIR:
Pigg's Peak
Crime
Prevention
Officer Thulani
Gwebu.

criminals.

"We also noted a lot of murders inside the actual bars, this trend was embarrassing Pigg's Peak in the eyes of the media. We then decided to approach the various bar owners and inform them that they are responsible for closing their bars on time so that people can go home and not fight in town," he said.

That initiative was followed by the Crime Prevention Day that was hosted at the Killarney Sports Ground in 2017. That event was headlined by Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso Bamabas Dlamini and National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula. Both guests imparted important information to the youth of Northern Hhohho.

After that event, Pigg's Peak police saw an increase in child abduction cases and in an effort to battle that crime, the police started to host choir competitions.

This is because when the choirs are gathered, the police can teach them about the dangers of getting abducted by older people.

"After such events, we have already started to see the level of abduction cases drop as people are more informed about the law. This work would have been impossible without the help of our wonderful stakeholders, so we then started to educate the bar owners on the dangers of allowing children to purchase alcohol," he added.

MP might host more Zionist music competitions

PIGG'S Peak Member of Parliament Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza wants to make the recent crime prevention Zionist music competition an annual event.

The MP's Communications Officer Precious Tsabedze said Mabuza had donated E28 000 towards the successful musical event that took place at the Gobolondlo Hall on February 18.

Tsabedze said such music competitions were productive and all inclusive to the different sectors of people around Northern Hhohho.

"Such occasions are important to the region because they afford everybody a chance to participate in musical events. Unfortunately churches often have many divisions and a multitude of factions and transcending believes, so with this in mind, we have seen that Zionist choirs cannot compete in evangelical choir competitions.

This is because society sees such a competition as a division because the actual churches that compete are different and they sometimes have different beliefs, but they are still called churches. So we feel it is important to make different competitions for all the different church denominations including a Zionist Church choir competition, another

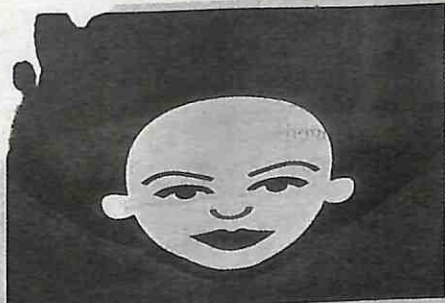


SUPPORTS: Pigg's Peak
Member of Parliament
Jabulani 'Buy Cash'
Mabuza.

one for the Evangelical Church. The intention is to make the choirs feel safe that none was cheated out of a prize because they are from a different church denominations," she said. Zionists and Jericho denomination's in Northern Hhohho often come out in their numbers to show support for the Northern Hhohho region. At community level, events that are hosted by various organisation not just by the MP, are supported by the public.



THE BEST: Winners of the choir competition Jordan at the 2018 Crime Prevention Competition.



FASHIONABLE: T-shirts that allegedly feature the face of Hlobile Ndlovu are becoming popular in the small town of Pigg's Peak.

T-SHIRTS WITH HLOBISILE NDLOVU'S FACE POPULAR IN PIGG'S PEAK

T-SHIRTS that feature the face of Hlobile Ndlovu are becoming more popular in the small town of Pigg's Peak.

The T-shirts which are branded Hlobile at the back are suspected to be a sure fire indication that Ndlovu is eyeing a return to politics. Speaking to this publication,

sources in Pigg's Peak said the return of Ndlovu is an open secret in Northern Hhohho.

"It is an open secret that Ndlovu will participate in the upcoming elections here, it is not yet time to start the official campaigning.

The aforementioned individual has been giving away red T-shirts

that feature a woman with a white face and black hair, the last known giveaway in Pigg's Peak was at the car park in front of the KK building in Pigg's Peak around early December, 2017," a source said.

"As you can see there are a lot of people in Pigg's Peak Town

wearing the T-shirts, the popularity is so big that new ones in navy blue have been added to the already popular red colour scheme.

I don't see them as a violation of the law that no one should be involved in campaigns until a specified time, all I see are the T-shirts that are extremely popular because of their design and simplicity," he added. Meanwhile, efforts to get a comment from Ndlovu proved futile as she did not answer her phone while this report was being compiled.

CHILDREN CHALLENGE MUM'S MARRIAGE TO STEPFATHER

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

AN elderly man from Motshane has come under fire for wedding a second wife while he married his first through the civil rights marriage.

Children of the second wife, the late Sarah Simelane who died in 2015, are challenging the marriage between their stepfather Johannes Vilakati and their mother.

Simelane was first married to Richard Mdluli who is the father of Thuli and Boy Mdluli, who are now questioning the legitimacy of their mother's marriage to Vilakati.

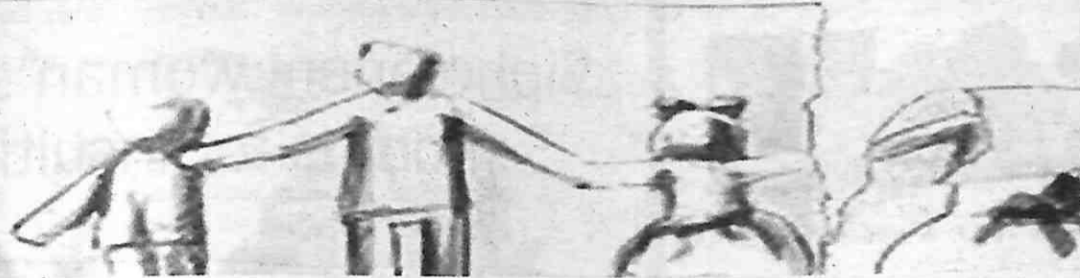
Simelane and Mdluli got divorced in 1976 and the latter was then *tekaed* by Vilakati.

Apparently, Vilakati is unemployed and only looks after his herd of cattle.

He has been accused of helping himself on his late wife's estate, ignoring the interests and welfare of the deceased's children.

Thuli Mdluli, the second born of

Family Break-ups, Separations, Estrangements, and Endings



the late Sarah, said her stepfather never presented *umsasane* to his in-laws upon marrying her mother, and he never paid the 11 dowry cattle that he promised to pay to the Simelane family.

Mystery

"My mother worked hard to build her own home, because her unemployed husband could not afford to do that for her. Her demise remains a mystery because she died while with him and he told us that she just collapsed. Instead of calling the health department, he called his first wife to witness

the predicament and it was until my arrival at the house that I called for help," she said.

Demanded

Simelane first worked for Jet Stores, before she was employed by Lewis as a sales clerk.

Mdluli said upon the death of her mother, Johannes wanted to handle all financial affairs of the deceased and at one instance, he demanded E1 000 to pay people who would dig the grave, something that is odd and had never happened in Swazi culture.

"We have issues about the legit-

imacy of the marriage because the Constitution does not allow for one to have another wife after wedding through the civil rights marriage. He never paid *lobola* and he never submitted *umsasane* back at my mother's home in Sihlutse," said Thuli.

Seconding her was Sarah's sister Evelinah Simelane who said all they wanted now is for Vilakati to surrender all the belongings of their sister which she worked hard for and keep the home because he claims it belongs to him.

...OVER E70 000 SPENT BY STEPFATHER

VILAKATI is accused of having spent over E70 000 cash with his first wife while the legitimacy of their marriage with Simelane still hangs.

Thuli said they went to the *umphakatsi* at Motshane to address the issue with the community council, however, they were referred to the Swazi National Court.

At the National Court, they were unsuccessful in their quest to have the marriage declared null and void. On top of E12 000 surplus from B3 funeral services, E10 000 was the deceased's December back pay in 2015 and E4 000 from Edgars Club.

Vilakati is also getting E2 500 monthly from Lewis for being the beneficiary of the deceased

and the latter's children have not benefitted a thing from their mother's money.

When contacted on the matter, Vilakati said they had an agreement with his first wife which allowed him to have another wife, hence he *tekaed* the deceased.

He claimed to have *khontaed*, where he built a home with the late Simelane.

"If anyone wants to challenge me concerning the legitimacy of my marriage to my wife, they are free to do so, I'm ready to go to court because I'm the legal beneficiary of my wife's belongings," he said.

Vilakati added he fails to understand why the children have interest in this matter because they are adults who are married and if anything, they should be focusing on their marital affairs not his.

Marula drunk Asian, beats-up fellow countryman

Stories by Sibusiso Gamedze
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

MBABANE Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati failed to contain his laughter after learning how accused Asgar Mohmood of Pakistan beat up Danish Bashir with a stick and open hands after drinking the marula brew.

The incident is said to have occurred last Friday at Motshane outside the capital city. After pleading guilty to the offence of common assault Mohmood said he was sorry and had only committed the offence after he had drunk the marula brew, which is extremely potent.

He said it was his first time to imbibe in the brew and he wanted to taste it. He was fined E500 or five months in prison.

...'YOU MUST QUIT DRINKING'

MBABANE Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati advised accused Banele Gwebu of Lobamba who was charged with malicious damage to property to quit drinking.

Gwebu pleaded guilty to the charge of malicious damage to property valued at E4 070.

Magistrate Vilakati then asked him as to how he sustained injuries to his face.

"*Ulinyetwe yini labusweni*", meaning "how did you sustain those injuries to your face?"

The accused said he did not know how he got hurt as he just noticed when he got to the Lobamba Police Station. "*Nkosi yenkantolo angati kutsi nglimele kanjani*" loosely translated to mean, "Your Worship, I have no clue as to how I sustained the injuries."

Vilakati then asked the accused if he was drunk when he committed the offence. To which the accused responded to the affirmative.

"*Yebo Nkosi yenkantolo benginatse buganu*" yes your worship I had imbibed in the marula brew, Vilakati then advised the accused to stop drinking as it was causing him to suffer from memory loss. "*Buyakwehlula lotjwala ncono ubuyekele*," meaning "stop drinking because you lose control." After pleading guilty the magistrate fined him E2 000 or two years imprisonment.

Pupil (16) arrested after sodomising boy (10)

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

A 16-year-old pupil has been arrested after he was caught sodomising his colleague (10) while at Dwaleni area.

The accused Phinda Masuku* made his court appearance on Monday at the Manzini Magistrate's Court. Due to his age, his parents were requested to come and represent him while he appeared before the magistrate.

His mother came forward to speak on his behalf.

According to the court record, it is alleged that on February 17, the accused person did wrongfully and unlawfully insert his

private parts in another boy's buttocks.

During his court appearance the accused was charged with indecent assault. However, his case was not tried as he was remanded back into the custody of his parents pending his next court appearance.

He was informed to come back to the Magistrate's Court next Tuesday where his case will continue.

Worth noting is that just recently a South African youngster who was on a visit to the country was arrested after he was allegedly found committing a similar offence to a boy he was playing soccer with. The accused was arrested and charged with indecent assault.

Sodomising

CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DECRY MoA DEALY

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

STUDENTS of the Swaziland Christian University (SCU) are condemning the stalling of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the ACM and government which is depriving them the chance to attain their qualifications and start looking for jobs.

It has been eight months since the students finished their studies, however, they are still in the dark regarding graduation owing to the dragging of an MoA that has taken forever to sign by the ministry of education and the Africa Continent Mission (ACM).

Response

Outgoing students have since formed a committee that is looking into catalysing the matter but they are getting one response in their inquiry from both parties, which is 'negotiations are at an advanced level'.

Chairman of the committee Khethokuhle Mabila said the stalling of the MoA has a social and psychological effect on them, because job opportunities are sur-

passing them by since they can not be awarded jobs without certificates and those wishing to further their studies are also delayed.

"We are grounded and frustrated because it's been multiple months since we completed our studies, but we are still as good as untutored."

"For the past eight months we have been inquiring from both the government and ACM on graduation, but they all tell us that negotiations are at an advanced level and we are tired of their public relations."

Opportunities

"The issue is taking a toll on us, we want to put our expertise into practice but we can't because we are not officially qualified and job opportunities are passing us by," said Mabila.

The students have since formed a campaign dubbed, #Justice for SCU students and they want to engage the nation into rallying behind them in their quest to have them graduate.

"We have lost some of the students partially because of depression due to this matter, some have even fallen pregnant because they are sitting idle at

home. Parents have invested a lot in through rent, food, and transport and tuition fees with the hope that we will be something in future because of our education, but seemingly that is far from reality," said Sifeziwe Thabede, a member of the committee.

ACM Chairperson Philemon Mgabhi said there is no truth in that they are in loggerheads with government, but negotiations are going well between the two parties.

Processes

He added the negotiations were delayed because these talks are a new MoA altogether and there are many processes and procedures to adhere to before everything can be finalised. The two parties have met twice, first in December 21 and January 24 and the matter is now with the Cabinet.

It would be addressed in Parliament. "We will be waiting for the government to call us on the signing ceremony after the approval of the Cabinet," he said.

Efforts to get Ministry of Education acting Principal Secretary Sibongile Mtshali proved futile as her phone rang unanswered.

16 NATIONAL NEWS

MOB STRIPS, KILLS ALLEGED DAGGA THIEF

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

ABOUT five men have been accused of the brutal murder of an alleged dagga thief at Nkamazi.

It is said the deceased was dumped by a secluded roadside completely naked and still holding a black plastic bag filled with some freshly cut dagga that he reportedly stole.

According to sources, the alleged dagga thief went to the fields to steal, only to be attacked by a heavily armed mob that was protecting the

same fields.

"The deceased went alone under the cloak of darkness, he crept into a certain dagga field at Nkamazi, and started harvesting. Those manning the field, assembled a mob of about eight men from the nearby homesteads, and they assaulted the deceased," said the source.

The mob used all types of weapons including sticks, bush knives, slashers and even belts to assault the deceased. He was stripped naked. The assault lasted for sometime.

After the assault, the deceased was dumped by the roadside with some of the stolen dagga left in a black plastic bag shoved in between his fingers. A bystander then phoned Emergency Medical Services (EMS) who then rushed the victim to the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital. He was later pronounced dead due to multiple head, neck and internal injuries.

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

Siphofaneni woman sentenced to 5 months for insulting another

Bongani Tsabedze
Swazi National Court

A woman from Siphofaneni has been sentenced to five months in a correctional facility for spreading false rumours about another.

Nandi Tsabedze under Prince Mshengu, insulted a woman aged 50, from Msunduzi under Chief Zembe, on February 26.

Tsabedze is said to have spread false rumours by saying the woman was an HIV and AIDS patient.

"I was going to visit my mother since we do not live together, and was walking with my sister when we found Nandi having a conversation with a friend.

"We greeted them, Nandi looked at our direction and asked why I was talking about her unfinished house and her rotting bricks. She said I should focus on my sickness and that I must collect my ARVS from the hospital," the aggrieved woman said.

The woman said her sister advised her to proceed with the journey to visit her mother and ignore Tsabedze.

"I went to ask for help from the community policeman, Mr Dvuba. I managed to ask him to

come listen to what Nandi was saying to me. When we reached Nandi's home, Dvuba called her and asked to rephrase her statement that was when Nandi further added salt to the injury. She insisted that I should focus on my sickness and must collect my pills at the dispensary."

Meanwhile, Tsabedze said she was pained by the fact that the plaintiff told her that her house was taking long to finish and that her building bricks had expired.

"It really pained me to hear her talking like this about my unfinished house," said Tsabedze.

Tsabedze further elaborated that when the community police approached her, she did not articulate that the woman was HIV positive.

"The community police asked if she was HIV positive, and I said I suppose, not even once did I say she was HIV positive," said Tsabedze crying. The court sentenced her to five months with a fine option of E300.



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GENERAL NOTICE NO: 1 OF 2018 THE TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1961 (Act No. 45 of 1961)

NOTICE ON THE PREPARATION OF THE NGWENYA TOWN PLANNING SCHEME FOR THE NGWENYA URBAN AREA (Under Section 10)

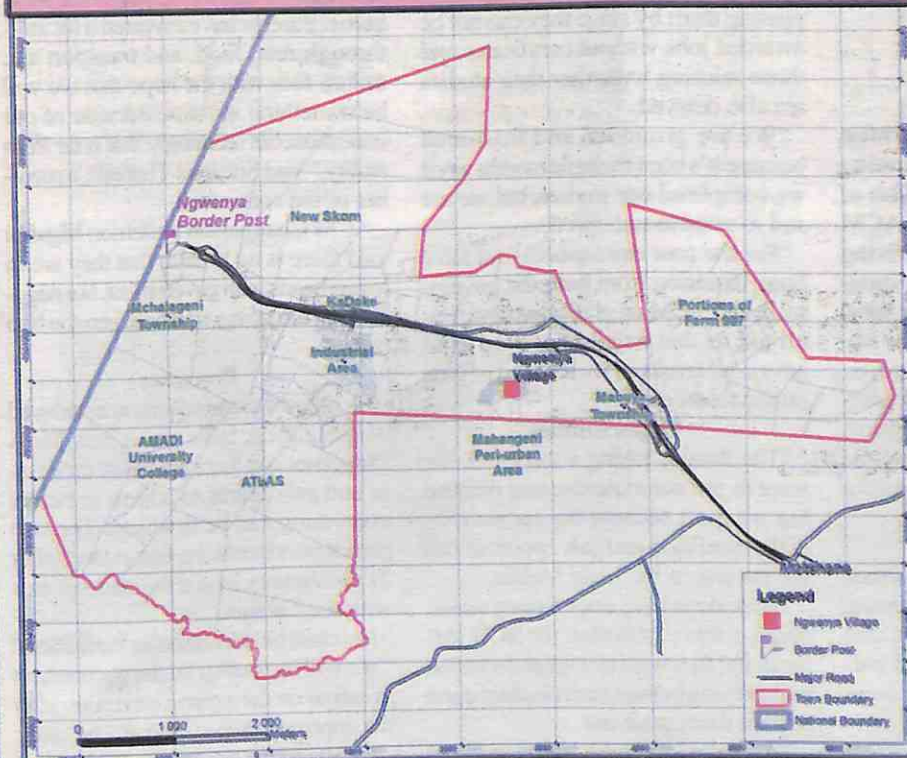
Notice is hereby issued, by the Ngwenya Town Board, informing and advising the General Public that the Minister for Housing and Urban Development has granted the Board authority to embark upon the process of the Preparation of a Town planning Scheme for the Ngwenya Urban Area. The Town Planning Scheme which aims to regulate physical development in an attempt to ensure harmonious development of the built environment will be applicable and binding to the entire Ngwenya Urban Area and its residents.

The Town Board has engaged for period of twelve (12) months beginning from January 2018 a Consultant by the name of **VIP Property Planning Consultants (Pty) Ltd** to prepare the Scheme. The Board pleads with all stakeholders in Government, Public Utility Agencies, Institutions, the Private Sector and the General Public to welcome this consultant during their consultation and research process, and to provide them with all the necessary and relevant information that will help inform the Scheme in Preparation for the benefit of the proper physical development of the Ngwenya Urban Area and its surroundings.

A map indicating the area to be covered by the Scheme is attached to this notice and can also be viewed at the Ngwenya Town Board offices, Lot 62, Ngwenya Village, at any given time during the working hours.

AREA TO BE COVERED BY THE TOWN PLANNING SCHEME IN PREPARATION

NGWENYA URBAN AREA



PHIWAYINKHOSI E. GININDZA
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

DOC:15644



FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

1 BILLION RISING REVOLUTION

GETTING education is required for men and women equally and when a man gets educated, only the man learns yet when a woman gets educated the entire generation learns.

You may look at the times and think we have moved away from the historic times where debates must be held to raise points why a girl child be given a chance to go to school. It is a sad reality that mentalities such as a girl child needs no education; a girl child's place is in the kitchen; once a girl child becomes educated she loses respect for her elders and finally loses respect for her husband.

A woman who has not had the pleasure of an opportunity to indulge in formal education and has with the little knowledge managed to start her own business, has that business as her joy and pride. Not to crush these

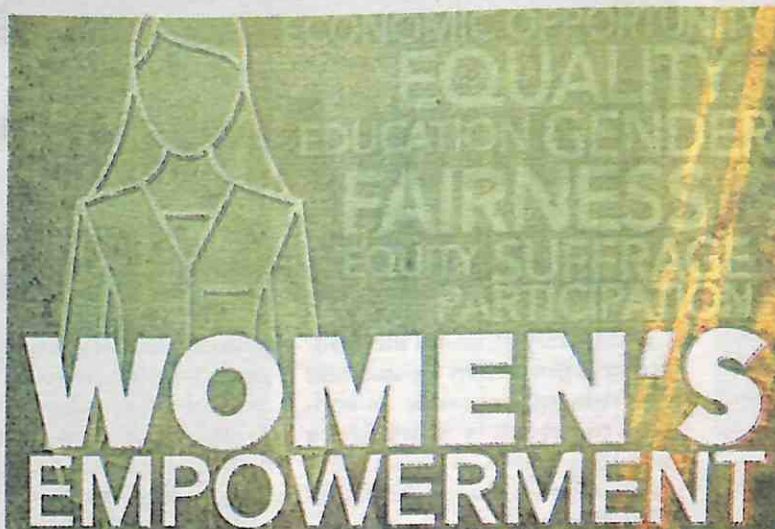
YES TO EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

women's achievements is important and also that we support women's businesses.

With the right skills, a young woman will be self-reliant, independent and strong. With the right mentorship, girls can take part in activities for women's empowerment and also mentor other girls in their locality. This enterprise should be taken to every area no matter how remote, so that each and every girl or young woman benefits from such programmes. Youth engagement services should also be accessible to every girl and young woman wherever they are. Such services will teach the young women how to confront life's challenges.

This may come as a shock to many people but the fact is many pregnant women living in poverty don't get enough iodine, so their fetuses' brains do not develop properly as a result their children routinely lose 10 to 15 IQ points particularly the girls, for reasons not fully understood.

We need not to search for the smartest answer to why women should be given education it is fairly simple because they are humans, no less no



more and they deserve to enjoy the same rights, the same burdens as men. Secondly because time and again women have proved that if given a fair chance they have a lot to contribute to this world.

Women empowerment is advantageous to both men and women, freeing a woman to be able to take her own decision.

In many parts of the world, women can't do anything it seems, without the consent or approval of men. In

some Arabic countries, women are not allowed out of their homes except under escort of men.

They are not allowed to own property. They can not inherit. They cannot make any significant decisions about their lives, at least as far as the law is concerned. We in Swaziland can keep our fingers crossed and shout louder that instruments such as the Marriage Bill and Matrimonial Property Bill be passed into law in order to move away from the state

of women being treated as second class citizens.

Girls must be taught to express themselves articulately to build their charisma so that they can claim a more active role in their society. In most societies, women have little to no say on the issues affecting them, such as governance, allocation of resources, marriage, childbearing, etc. Right from the family level, women should be participants in the decision-making process.

Confidence

Of all the activities for women's empowerment, providing a path to governance is the most instrumental. It does not only instill confidence but also puts women at a level where they can be able to empower other women. In a male-dominated society, affirmative action is the only way to help women to achieve leadership roles.

I believe, that it is the nature of empowerment that only those who seek power can empower themselves. You can not give away power. The voice of young women must be heard if they are ever going to contribute fully to the world.

Why gun debate needs to move away from simplistic ideas of 'good'

IN the lead-up to the Tasmanian election, one issue proved particularly incendiary.

Right before the vote on Saturday, the incumbent Liberal government was accused of having a hidden plan to "water down" the state's gun laws. Much was made of the long-running Firearms Consultative Committee's perceived role in shaping the policy.

Suddenly, the Liberals were cast as being in cahoots with the "gun lobby", leaving only Labour and the Greens to stand up against that insidious enemy. Cue politicians beating their chests, Twitter outrage and international news coverage.

The interesting aspect of this stoush is not whether the Liberal position was kept secret – it was being shared on social media platforms from early February, which seems a strange way of avoiding scrutiny – but how value-laden labels give licence to making instant judgments about policy.

The gun lobby is bad, right?

The term "gun lobby" is not clearly defined and seems to be applied to anything from large industry groups through to an individual writing a letter to the editor. Nevertheless, it instantly evokes frightening imagery of America's National Rifle Association (NRA) "persuading" politicians to

shake hands with the devil at the expense of dead children. This feeds into the perennial electoral battleground of law and order, where provoking strong emotions – particularly fear of crime – is a tried and true tactic to take the moral high ground and (so the conventional wisdom runs) sway votes.

However, it also creates a dichotomy where only "good" and "bad" are permitted to exist, and where our reactions look more like conditioned behaviours than considered positions. Just like Pavlov's dog eventually salivated at the sound of a ringing bell, we hear "gun lobby" and think "bad". We hear "anti-gun advocate" and think

"good". This may seem harmless enough. But as the reaction to the Tasmanian Liberal policy demonstrates, it prompts a rush to judge policies by the emotions they provoke and who the perceived supporters and opponents of those policies are, rather than on content, facts and calm consideration. Such a simplistic approach may satisfy a desire for constant conflict and moral outrage, but it also means that nobody takes a breath long enough to ask questions such as: What are the details? What does this actually mean in practice? Will this pose any credible risk?

Putting emotion ahead of reason

Emotional triggering and crude characterisations of "good" and "bad" devalue the role of reason in policy development and evaluation. This promotes the assumption that if we do not like who proposes or supports a policy, then the policy itself will necessarily be bad – and vice versa. Importantly, this is not only about firearms policy. It applies across the board.

The appeal of affective or emotion-based arguments, relative to evidence-based arguments, has been well documented in research. Public advocacy tool kits routinely advise using emotion to sway decision-making, accompanied by techniques such as having victims of violence act as spokespeople on issues.

The Conversation

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ON THIS DAY

... MARCH 7

1971 - A thousand US planes bombed Cambodia and Laos.

1975 - The US Senate revised the filibuster rule. The new rule allowed 60 senators to limit debate instead of the previous two-thirds.

1981 - Anti-government guerrillas in Colombia executed the kidnapped American Bible translator Chester Allen Bitterman. The guerrillas accused Bitterman of being a CIA agent.

1983 - TNN (The Nashville Network) began broadcasting.

1985 - "Commonwealth" magazine ceased publication after five decades.

1985 - The first AIDS antibody test, an ELISA-type test, was released.

1987 - Mike Tyson became the youngest heavyweight titleholder when he beat James Smith in a decision during a 12-round fight in Las Vegas, NV.

1989 - Poland accused the Soviet Union of a World War II massacre in Katyn.

1994 - The US Supreme Court ruled that parodies that poke fun at an original work can be considered "fair use" that does not require permission from the copyright holder.

1994 - In Moldova, a referendum was rejected by 90 per cent of voters to form a union with Rumania.

1999 - In El Salvador, Francisco Flores Pérez of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) was elected president.

2002 - A federal judge awarded Anna Nicole Smith more than \$88 million in damages. The ruling was the latest in a legal battle over the estate of Smith's late husband, J. Howard Marshall II.

2003 - Scientists at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center announced that they had transferred 6.7 gigabytes of uncompressed data from Sunnvale, CA, to Amsterdam, Netherlands, in 58 seconds. The data was sent via fiber-optic cables and traveled 6 800 miles.

2009 - NASA's Kepler Mission, a space photometer for searching for extrasolar planets in the Milky Way galaxy, was launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

2012 - The successor to Apple's iPad2 was unveiled.



South Africa returns to apartheid-era censorship

CENSORSHIP, one of the insidious strategies used by the apartheid government, has made an ominous comeback in South Africa with the recent X18 classification of the award-winning film *Inxeba* (The Wound).

In South Africa the film can now only be shown in locations licenced to screen adult entertainment.

The apartheid government tried to maintain its power over a racially segregated South African population through controlling the media. This included censoring films – initially international and then also local ones. The Publications Control Board had the power to ban a film outright, demand scenes be cut or, bizarrely, to restrict the screening of a film to certain (usually white only) audiences.

The purpose of censorship during this era, as film theorist and author Keyan Tomaselli points out in *The Cinema of Apartheid: Race and Class in South African Film*, was to support and keep apartheid in place.

What underpinned the control board's decisions was the belief that the majority of the population was "not sophisticated", as the Publications Control Board appeals adjudicator, Judge Lammie Snyman, claimed. Not sophisticated enough, apparently, to be trusted with the privilege to exercise their own – or be privy to others' – expressions of free speech.

After apartheid ended, the Film and Publication Board was creat-

ed to fulfil the role of screening and rating films. It is this body that took the decision to reclassify *Inxeba*. In my opinion it has claimed for itself a paternalistic role, attempting to dictate what South African audiences may and may not see. Like the apartheid government and the control board of old, they are infantilising South Africans. They want to protect citizens from perspectives that they, as individuals, don't agree with.

But this is not their right. They simply don't trust South Africans to be "sophisticated" enough to make up their own minds.

The history

The first film to be banned in South Africa was the 1910 *The Johnson-Jeffries Fight*, a documentation of a match between a white and black boxer. In the film Jack Johnson, the black boxer, defeats his white opponent. The Publications Control Board must have feared that it would incite black on white violence, or, god forbid, affirm the knowledge that the white man could, indeed, be beaten.

Under apartheid many films, some of them fine ones with artistic merit, were cut, banned and sidelined for reasons including explicit sex, content that was not in line with Christian values, interracial relationships and interracial violence. A sad byproduct of censorship was that South African filmmakers learned to apply self-censorship, limiting the topics they addressed in their films and the events and actions they por-

trayed. A feeling of freedom in film began to emerge with the transition to democracy in the early 1990s. In 1994 the then minister of home affairs, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, even proclaimed that:

Never again... will anyone decide what other intelligent and rational beings may or may not read, watch or hear.

South African documentary and fiction filmmakers started embracing their newfound freedom of speech, taking rightful ownership of their role in new national debates around identity, reconciliation and social justice in a changing South Africa.

The general perception, certainly among filmmakers, was that the era of censorship was over and that The Film and Publication Board's mandate was merely to protect younger viewers and inform the public of sensitive content in films and media, not to control what South Africans could watch.

There was therefore a shocked response to the board's decision in 2013 to refuse a rating to *Of Good Report*, a noir thriller-horror film that had been selected to open the 34th Durban International Film Festival.

This meant the film could not be screened publicly. There was an uproar, an appeal and the film was quickly classified 16, a justifiable rating for the nature of the content.

De facto banning

The Film and Publication Board has given *Inxeba* (The Wound) the

harshest rating in its armoury – X18. This is usually reserved for hardcore porn, dooming the film to be shown only in locations licenced to screen adult entertainment.

Read more: No, the award-winning film *Inxeba* isn't a disrespectful gay sex romp.

X18 normally means the film contains explicit sex scenes, with shots of genitalia. But anyone who has seen the film can attest that this simply isn't the case.

This is a disgraceful outcome for a film that was shortlisted for the Oscars and won awards at, among others, the London Film Festival, Sydney Film Festival and World Cinema Amsterdam.

It appears that the decision to "ban" the film had more to do with politics and ideology than with legal considerations. This is because, as legal commentator Prof Pierre de Vos has pointed out, the board didn't follow the Film and Publications Act or its own guidelines. He wrote that: the minimum legal requirements required to have a film classified as X18 were not present.

This shows the decision wasn't made on the basis of objective criteria, which leaves ideology or politics as the only possible explanations.

I think the Film and Publication Board buckled under pressure from a small number of organisations who found the depiction of gay sex and references to Xhosa initiation offensive. But these organisations don't represent the majority of South Africans.

The board don't seem to believe that the stories of men who are marginalised, harassed and even killed for being gay should be told. And they have no regard for the importance of talking openly about the risks associated with certain initiation practices, a topic that other filmmakers, like Mayenzeke Baza in his documentary *Ndiyindoda: I am a Man* (2013), have broached.

Instead they seem to support the idea that "what happens on the mountain stays on the mountain" must prevail, even though it means keeping the mouths of young men who have been exposed to bullying, trauma and even mutilation closed.

The Film and Publication Board won't allow South Africans to see these stories. But the country's citizens have the responsibility to bare witness. And to resist this blatant return to apartheid-era censorship.

The Conversation

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Laura Prepon (TV actress) - March 7, 1980 (38 years)



Brandon T. Jackson (TV actor) - March 7, 1984 (34 years old)

Nudging the city, residents of Cape Town to save water

CAPE TOWN could become the world's first major city to run out of water – what's been termed Day Zero. Sao Paulo faced similar difficulties in 2015 leading to significant social unrest.

On Day Zero – which could be in mid-July if there's no significant rain – residents of the city will have to travel to one of 200 city-wide collection points to get the allocated 25 litres per person, per day, under the watchful eye of an armed guard.

The city has done a great de-

work to manage water use, even winning multiple awards, although equity concerns have frequently been raised in relation to these efforts. In light of the ongoing drought, the city is now trying to encourage even stricter targets of 50 litres of water per person per day – a difficult goal that continues to raise issues of equity and justice.

To its credit, the city has worked with researchers at the University of Cape Town to test strategies to nudge domestic users into reduc-

ing their water use. Nudges are interventions to encourage behaviour change for better outcomes, or in this context, to achieve environmental or conservation goals.

What key insights could help inform the city's strategies? Research from psychology and behavioural economics could prove useful to refine efforts and help to achieve further water savings.

The most effective tactics

Research suggests the following types of nudges could be effective in promoting conservation behav-

iours.

Social norms: International research, as well as studies conducted in Cape Town, suggest that effective conservation can be promoted by giving feedback to consumers on how they perform relative to their neighbours. To this end, Cape Town introduced a water map that highlights homes that are compliant with targets.

But concerns have been raised that this could lead to a backlash against homes that aren't saving water. In light of these criticisms researchers are working with the city to evaluate the effectiveness

Real action on land needed to counter extreme EFF rhetoric

IT is time for the high emotions around the land debate to subside so that a real debate can start to get to sustainable and lasting solutions to the urgent problem of the redistribution of agricultural and urban land.

Political opportunism and cheap populism surely played a role in forcing the crisis upon us now, but now that we are here, let's get to the bottom of a century old problem, the product of the "original sin".

White South Africans should try hard to understand that it is about much more than just reorganising ownership patterns. It is also about symbolism, history and inequality, and even, among some, a need to have the white minority "put in its place", to make them feel the pain the majority felt for so long.

There are many black citizens, especially among younger generations, who still yearn for the psychological release of a liberation moment that they feel 1994 did not deliver.

But we should all be honest about it that the ANC's present position on expropriation without compensation has a lot to do with next year's general election.

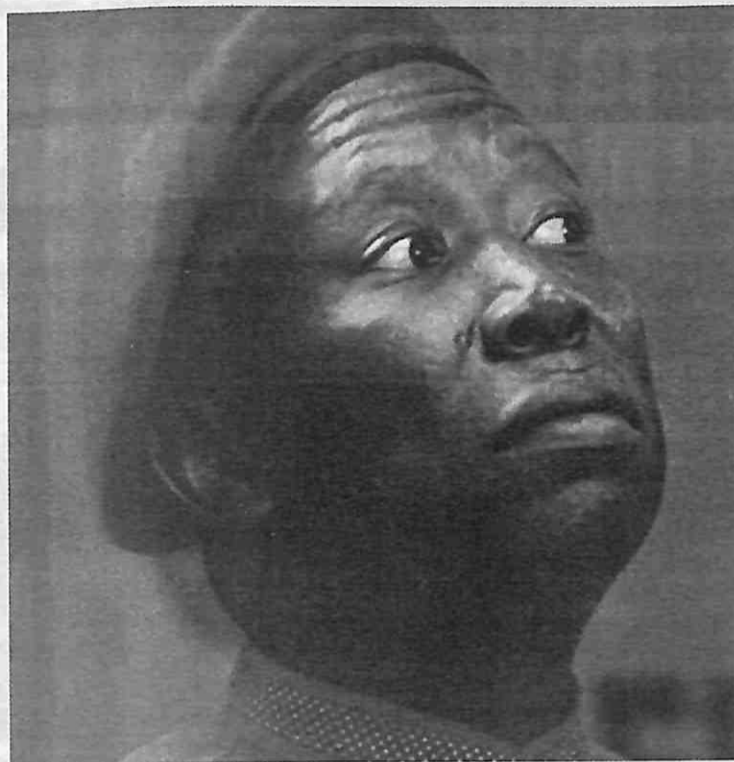
It is no secret that the Ramaphosa-ANC - because there are still two ANC's - still believes that the present Constitution provides enough room for expropriation without compensation, or very little compensation, when circumstances determine that. ANC speaker upon ANC speaker made this point when they opposed the EFF's expropriation motion in Parliament last year.

But Ramaphosa and his faction are playing along with the populists to steal the EFF's thunder until after the 2019 election.

It doesn't need sophisticated political analysis to understand that the EFF has lost the most lethal arrows in its bow: Jacob Zuma, the Guptas, state capture and corruption.

This happened at a time the EFF is pushing hard to make real electoral progress and break through the 10 per cent barrier to at least 15 per cent of the vote in next year's election so it can set itself up as a coalition partner to the ANC.

The EFF has now replaced Zuma and the Guptas with two new arrows



LASTING SOLUTIONS: EFF Julius Malema.

they hope will be as lethal: land expropriation and anti-white sentiments. These are the drums it will be beating for the next year.

The ANC has indeed stolen much of the EFF's thunder when it embraced the EFF's parliamentary motion on land.

But the reality is that a critical issue such as the sanctity of ownership of property enshrined in the Constitution cannot reasonably be resolved without lengthy debates, in-depth research, workshops and summits, which probably means no final decision on a change in the Constitution will take place before next year's election.

The workshops and land summits will have to seriously and honestly consider the real research into the failures of the state since 1994 to effect real land reform, as articulated in the ANC's own think tank, Kgalema Motlanthe's High Level Panel that published its report in November last year.

The identified lack of state capacity, corruption and bureaucratic tardiness and incompetence cannot be ignored.

My feeling now is that the ideal result would be for Parliament to formulate a new and clear Expro-

priation Bill and to ask the Constitutional Court to test it against the Constitution as it stands.

But I think we could go much further than that and draw up ambitious and innovative plans that would not only bring justice, but would genuinely empower people without the negative unintended consequences of a blanket licence to the state to take people's property away from them.

Unfortunately the EFF is hell-bent on thundering ahead with the most extreme race rhetoric I have ever heard in my lifetime - excluding the now defunct AWB, of course.

It is reckless to set up an entire population group as the common enemy of the black majority.

For Julius Malema to use language, as he did on the weekend, that whites should "go to hell" and that the EFF plans to "cut the throat of whiteness", complete with a finger across the throat, is not tolerable in any real democracy.

Malema got many cheers from his crowd with these cheap populist threats, but I'm not convinced that this is the kind of thing that would make his party grow beyond 10 per cent. It's just too Mugabesque.

Whites, and other "non-blacks", to turn a nasty old term around, should find ways to not internalise this aggression and insults, because to hit back with their own insults and threats would just serve to reinforce Malema and his ilk's recklessness.

This column will probably be met with accusations of "white fragility" and attempts to protect white privilege, but there is no denying that it is in no-one's interest to push white feelings of being under imminent threat and unwanted over the edge.

I do think it would be very appropriate for Ramaphosa to pour oil on the waters in the next few days and utter a few words of reassurance. Our Constitution does, after all, state in its preamble that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity".

The danger of the ANC's strategy to steal the EFF's thunder and embrace land expropriation blindly, as it has mostly done so far, is that it raises expectations sharply, with the result that whatever orderly solution is eventually found, won't satisfy many people.

It is simply untrue that "giving the land back" would end all poverty, result in enormous black wealth and turn poor townships like Alexandra into model neighbourhoods with hospitals, good schools, shopping centres and business centres, as Malema promised on Sunday.

The people of Mozambique and Mali, for instance, are among the poorest in the world, yet almost all of them have access to land.

Hopefully the debate will soon calm down as we get into the business of working on real solutions with realistic contributions from all sides.

The national discourse will inevitably divert somewhat once the criminal charges against Zuma have been reinstated and the Zondo Inquiry into state capture and other corruption hearings start.

If we South Africans don't solve the land issue to the satisfaction of a majority of citizens during the current process, it will continue to haunt and destabilise us. It won't get better if we don't act decisively, it won't go away. It can only get worse.

Justice must be done. Historic wrongs must be reversed. I wish more white South Africans would embrace these truths and understand that it isn't only the right thing to do, it is also in their long-term interests.

of the map and how it compares to other strategies. For instance, might it be more meaningful to communicate information to individual households only, or to highlight successful performance at the neighbourhood level?

The city has also been bundling information on usage with easy to implement water saving tips, something that research has shown to be particularly effective.

Research also suggests that combining behavioural interventions with traditional measures - such as tariff increases and restrictions - are often effective to reduce use in

the short-term. Real-time feedback: Cape Town is presenting the daily water level in major dams on a dashboard. This approach is consistent with research that shows that real-time information can effectively reduce water and energy consumption.

Critical

Such efforts could even be more effective if the information is highlighted in relation to the critical level that's been set for Day Zero, in this case 13.5 per cent.

In the early days of a drought, it is also advisable to make information like this readily accessible

through news outlets, social media, or even text messages. The water tracker produced by eighty20, a private Cape Town-based company, provides an example.

Social recognition: There's evidence that efforts to celebrate successes or encourage competition can be effective - for instance, recognising neighbourhoods for meeting conservation targets. Prizes needn't be monetary. Sometimes simple recognition, such as a certificate, can be effective.

Social recognition was found to be the most successful intervention among nine others nudged tested in

research conducted in Cape Town in 2016. In this experiment, households who reduced consumption by 10 per cent were recognised on the city's website.

Another study showed that competition between the various floors of a government building in the Western Cape led to energy savings of up to 14 per cent.

Cooperation: In the months ahead, the city would also do well to consider the support it might offer to encourage cooperation, particularly as the situation becomes more acute and as tensions rise.

The Conversation



"A man with outward courage dares to die; a man with inner courage dares to live."

— Lao Tzu, *Tao TeChing*

"Music melts all the separate parts of our bodies together."

— Anaïs Nin

"I'd rather learn from one bird how to sing than teach ten thousand stars how not to dance"

— EE Cummings

"There are two ways to reach me: by way of kisses or by way of the imagination. But there is a hierarchy: the kisses alone don't work."

— Anaïs Nin, *Henry And June*

"There's so much to be grateful for, words are poor things."

— Marilynne Robinson, *Home*

"People have to forgive. We don't have to like them, we don't have to be friends with them, we don't have to send them hearts in text messages, but we have to forgive them, to overlook, to forget. Because if we don't we are tying rocks to our feet, too much for our wings to carry!"

— C. JoyBell C.

"Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly, and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love - for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you from misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world."

— Max Ehrmann, *Desiderata: A Poem for a Way of Life*

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Do not set aside your happiness. Do not wait to be happy in the future. The best time to be happy is always now."

— Roy T. Bennett

BUSINESS UPDATE

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VITALS

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Prime Rate | 10.50% |
| First National Bank | |
| Inflation Rate | 4.7% |
| Central Statistical Office | |
| Mortgage Rate | 10.5% |
| Swaziland Building Society | |
| Bank Rate | 7.0% |
| Central Bank | |
| Petrol (u) | E12.80 per litre |
| Replacement | E12.85 per litre |
| Diesel | E12.00 per litre |
| Paraffin | E 8.95 per litre |
| Engen Garage | |

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 06 March 2018

| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|
| US Dollar / SZL | 11.8088 | 12.8588 |
| British Pound/SZL | 16.3558 | 16.4250 |
| Japanese Yen/SZL | 8.9545 | 8.9899 |
| Swiss France/SZL | 12.5759 | 12.6251 |
| Botswana Pula/SZL | 1.2305 | 1.2464 |
| Australian Dollar/SZL | 9.1861 | 9.2261 |
| Canadian Dollar/SZL | 9.1033 | 9.1411 |
| Mozambique Meticals/SZL | 5.5211 | 5.5942 |
| Euro/SZL | 14.5886 | 14.6504 |
| Gold | 1,323.8100 | |
| Oil | 66.57 | |

For more information contact:
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Standard Bank

Broke civil servants bare it all in Old Mutual pre-retirement meeting

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

CASH-strapped civil servants are amongst the group of people barely coping under the country's current financial quagmire, it has emerged.

Yesterday, Old Mutual Swaziland and the Public Sector HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee (PSHACC) hosted a pre-retirement planning breakfast meeting under the auspices of the insurance company's On The Money (OTM) programme.

The meeting was held at Gigi's Restaurant at the Royal Swazi Sun Hotel and sought to prepare and present civil servants with investment options tailored to bring financial relief after retirement. OTM is a financial education programme which is used to empower civil servants to make sound financial decisions.

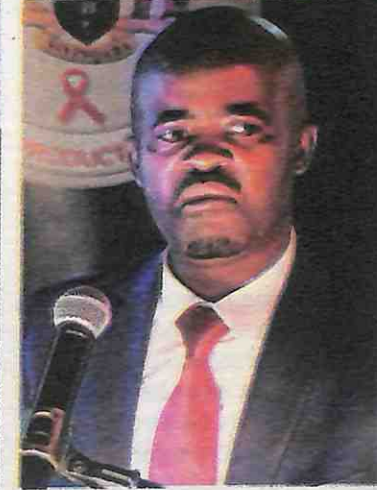
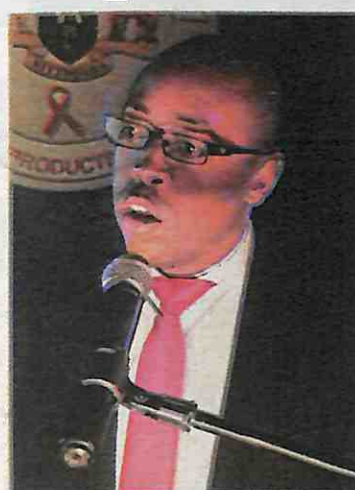
It was in the Question and Answer section of this meeting that a number of civil servants bared it all on the state of their finances, also revealing how majority of them are currently trapped in such a serious pool of debt that making investments and saving money had become nothing but a far-fetched dream.

Acting Trading Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) Secretary General Muzi Mhlanga said government's revenue collection techniques such as increasing VAT from 14 to 15 per cent, and proposed reviews of fuel tax and the income tax order amongst other tactics all have a negative bearing on civil servants.

He said this is because money will be drained out of government employees to bulge the public purse without talk of salary increases from the employer.

The breakfast meeting was attended by representatives from different government departments and ministries.

PSHACC Director Sandile Mweli was the first to acknowledge that many civil servants are in plunged



SPEAKING IN ONE VOICE: Old Mutual Chief Operations Officer Anele Mbuya, Business Development Manager Mthokisi Ntshingila and PSHACC Director Sandile Mweli making their remarks at the meeting held at Gigi's Restaurant.

in such serious financial troubles that others even absent themselves from work to avoid loan sharks.

He thanked Old Mutual for providing financial advisory services to civil servants through OTM. Thando Makhanya from the Royal Swaziland Police acknowledged that a significant number of their officers had become so financially insolvent that investing in retirement plans was currently out of the question.

She said in some situations, the only relief from debts for affected individuals can only come after retirement when they receive their pensions.

Mistakes

She asked whether Old Mutual has mechanisms for such people who realise mistakes they made with their finances and are willing sort them out.

In response, Old Mutual Sales Manager Banomile Hlatshwayo said many financial problems are more behavioural and require a complete change of mindset. She said for instance, people should avoid making unnecessary debts.

Her words were echoed by Business Development Manager Mthokisi Ntshingila who advised that people

should learn to live within their means to avoid unnecessary debts. TUCOSWA's Mhlanga was further critical of the fact that many civil servants live in government houses as this prevents them from properly investing in their own property.

He made an example that some neighbouring countries do not have houses for civil servants. Instead government employees, including police officers, live in their communities and take bonds to invest and develop their own properties.

Mpendulo Dlamini from the Fire and Emergency Services Department described the financial condition of many civil servants as being so terrible that many survive by borrowing from loan sharks.

"The situation is bad. This is illustrated by the fact that after 30 years of service you find most civil servants with no assets, no wealth or investments," he said, pleading with Old Mutual to partner with government in a bid to

Jethro Ndzingane from His Majesty's Correctional Services lamented peer pressure and the choice of lifetime partners as having negatively affected many warders.

"With our officers, peer pressure

has had a negative effect on many of them. What we have observed with our recruits is that the first thing that they think to buy after being employed are cars. When you make a follow-up, you find that some of them do not even have a house back at home," said Ndzingane, adding that investing in retirement plans is sometimes determined by one's spouse or partner.

"An officer may want invest for their retirement, but it all depends on who they are married to and what vision for the future the partner holds," he said.

In another matter, Old Mutual Chief Operations Officer Anele Mbuya explained that they had established a partnership with PSHACC three years ago.

He said the objective of this partnership was to position Old Mutual's On The Money programme to be part of the holistic proposition of employee wellness in the workplace, for all civil servants.

Old Mutual's Ntshingila explained that the partnership with PSHACC was also one of the insurance company's ways of giving back to society through their Corporate Social Investment programme.

SEPARC advocating for Genetically Modified Organisms

By Majaha Nkonyane

SWAZILAND Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC) is advocating for the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

This was through a public lecture where the research hub hosted Professor Lanier Nalley, from the University of Arkansas in the United States of America. GMOs are living organisms whose genetic material has been artificially manipulated in a laboratory through genetic engineering.

This creates combinations of plant,

animal, bacteria, and virus genes that do not occur in nature or through traditional crossbreeding methods.

"GMOs are a tool which producers can use to help increase yields reduce costs, and increase profits whilst reducing environmental impact of agricultural production.

They are, however, not a magic bullet, they are associated with huge upfront costs. Even if they do increase yields if consumers won't accept them there is no market, profits could decrease," said Professor Nalley.

Nalley noted that GMOs date back to 1994 with tomatoes being the first crop to be sampled with. There has

been a dramatic increase in plantings ever since and by 2015, the global planted area was 171.5 million hectares.

Professor Nalley said genetically modified crops like soya beans and maize are herbicide tolerant. He noted that in South Africa, herbicide tolerant maize has been grown commercially since 2003, and in 2015, a total of 1.65 million hectares used this trait.

"These cost savings do not take into consideration any labour cost savings that may arise from reduced need for hand weeding. Register G et al (2013) identified amongst small

farmers in Kwazulu Natal savings of over E952 per hectare from reduced requirement for hand weeding with the adoption of GM maize," he said.

The professor said the United States of America was cultivating insect resistant (IR) maize since 1917 and in 2015 seed containing GM IR traits was planted on 81 per cent of the total US maize crop.

"Unlike Soya where the largest benefit of GM was a reduction in costs, IR's largest benefit is increased yields. Interestingly in the US the cost savings recently has been negative, but since yields increase net profits are higher than non IR maize.

Civil servants urge govt to introduce medical aid

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

CIVIL servants feel deprived of proper access to health care because they do not have medical aid.

As a result, when in need of urgent and specialised medical care, most government employees are forced to borrow money from loan sharks to foot the exorbitant private health care bills.

The absence of medical aid was one of the thorny issues which emerged in yesterday's Old Mutual, PSHACC breakfast meeting held at Gigi's Restaurant in Ezulwini.

Mpendulo Dlamini from the Fire and Emergency Services Department said that medical aid should be made a basic prerequisite for every civil servant.

NAPSAWU President Aubrey Sibiyi shared different sentiments as he felt

that government should upgrade government hospitals to such impeccable standards that there would be no difference between private and public health care facilities.

"Government hospitals must be equipped with medicine, machines and health care workers to ensure that they become the best," he said, also criticising government for making health care worse in the country.

His concern with civil servants being

on medical aid was that they already earn too little and further deductions from their salaries would further worsen their already sinking finances.

"VAT has gone up, electricity costs are expected to soon escalate amidst the many factors which have caused the standard of living to go up. So, there is just no way that further deductions can be made for medical aid as this would cripple government employees," he said.

Reacting to concerns raised on medical aid for civil servants, PSHACC Director Sandile Mveli said they had tried to push for government to introduce medical aid for civil servants in the past.

"I think we still need to go back to the drawing board and consult on this matter and further engage government on this matter," he said, adding that some medical aid options would be affordable for civil servants

Business Doctors to help business sector measure success

By Majaha Nkonyane

IN launching their company in the country Business Doctors have promised to help the business community measure success and evaluate progress towards His Majesty's Vision 2022.

This is according to Business Doctors Africa CEO, Steven Sutton.

"Business Doctors has promised to make Swaziland Business Sessions an annual event where business, government, entrepreneurs, stakeholders and financiers can be able to measure success and evaluate progress in anticipation of 2022," he said.

The launch that was held at Ezulwini Sharma House hosted business, bankers, entrepreneurs, government, investors and stakeholders.

The launch was also to look at how they can all sustainably grow the SMME and SME sectors to levels where these sectors can be major contributors toward the growth of the country's economy.

The SME sector needs constant monitoring and flexible policies by banks and government to ensure that the environment is conducive for growth.

Sutton also mentioned that government renewed commitment to look into policies that will empower local entrepreneurs using the current infrastructure and systems that are readily available like the online company registration and renewal of company licenses via e-Government.

Launch

Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Under Secretary Nkululeko Dlamini welcomed the launch of Business Doctors into the country. Dlamini said it is all in the interest of the country to see all stakeholders open their doors to share insights and deliberate on how best Business Doctors could add value to the business sector.

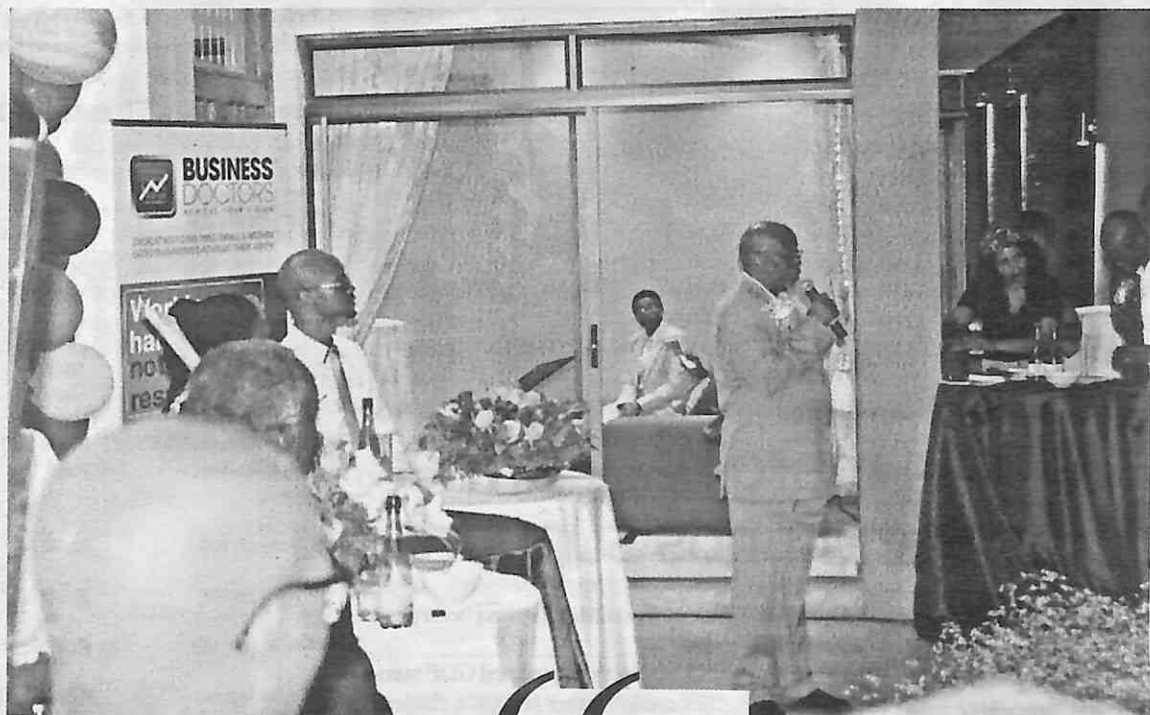
As part of the launch it was discussed how the country seems to have made it a silent death. Policy to always go for the cheapest product or service which does not necessarily mean its cost effective.

"This is also proving to be detrimental to the country's vision to attain first world status by 2022 because first world countries have achieved their status by always making sure they support and only require the best services and products.

"This attitude can be seen in the way we as Swazis are also attached to international brands and services



ABOVE AND BELOW: Business Doctors launch at Ezulwini Sharma House where they hosted business, bankers, entrepreneurs, government, investors and stakeholders.



like BMW, Mercedes Benz, Samsung, SONY, Internet, Apps and Clothing labels even though these services as well as products come at a high cost," he said.

The continuing plight of the youth also came up as it is still clear that the youth are the largest part of our population.

Yet they are the most affected by unemployment and lack of support from financiers. By supporting the Buy Swazi initiative across all sectors of business, the current and staggering numbers of unemployed youth

As part of the launch it was discussed how the country seems to have made it a silent death, Policy to always go for the cheapest product or service which does not necessarily mean its cost effective

can be turned around.

As this would have a great impact on SME growth by having a positive effect on the whole value chain

of all products and services.

In addition Dlamini said as a country that imports billions of Emalangeni worth of services and products we have literally condemned most of our own people to abject poverty and exacerbated the scourge of unemployment which in turn encourages the numbing crime rate and prostitution in the country.

With just five years to 2022, there is hope though, that Swazis are now willing to work together to come up with Swazi solutions for the country's economy.

SACU, WCO sign cooperation framework agreement in Brussels

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

SWAZILAND, as a member of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), stands to benefit from a cooperative framework agreement signed by SACU and the World Customs Organisation (WCO) on Monday for the implementation of the WCO-SACU connect project.

The signing ceremony took place in Brussels where SACU was represented by Paulina Elago and WCO by Secretary General Dr. Kunio Mikuriva.

In a statement, SACU Communications Manager Kungo Mabogo said significant progress had been recorded in the SACU-WCO Connect Project whose main focus is on IT connectivity, risk management and enforcement, trade partnership and legislative framework.

Progress was made in the following areas: Regional Customs Risk Management Strategy and three joint Enforcement Operations targeting illicit trade in tobacco, alcohol, and textile and clothing industry, respectively; regional IT Connectivity Framework to facilitate automated data exchange between the SACU member states; regional training manuals for the preferred trader programme; and regional manuals to guide traders and customs officials on the implementation of the preferred trader programme.

Commenting on the signing of the agreement, the SACU executive secretary said: "The signing of the Cooperation Framework Agreement signals the commitment by the WCO and SACU to continue working together to strengthen the relationship and partnership in order to derive tangible benefits that will improve the trading environment in SACU."



PROGRESS: SACU Executive Secretary Paulina Elago and World Customs Organisation Secretary General Dr. Kunio Mikuriva. (courtesy pic)

Standard Bank denies opening accounts for Gupta business

JOHANNESBURG - Standard Bank has denied that it opened accounts for the use of business rescue practitioners running Gupta-owned companies, saying its employee did not have permission to conclude any agreement.

On Monday, business rescue practitioner Louis Klopper confirmed to SowetanLIVE's sister publication TimesLIVE that he had communicated to creditors of the seven Gupta companies that Standard Bank had agreed to open an account.

Klopper was appointed to oversee the Gupta mining companies and property investment entities after the directors applied for voluntary business rescue.

After initially declining to comment on Monday, citing confidentiality, Standard Bank issued a short statement to the media yesterday morning.

"Standard Bank South Africa elected in April 2016 to terminate all dealings with the Gupta family and all entities controlled by it with effect from June 2016. This decision still stands and has not been reviewed," the statement read.

"Standard Bank has not opened and will not open accounts with these companies. Any impression created to the contrary was created by an employee [who] was acting out of mandate."

"Communication between the employ-



ee and the Business Rescue Practitioner was not authorised and did not follow the internal processes of the bank. Disciplinary procedures are currently underway."

Klopper confirmed that Standard Bank had agreed to open a new account, with strict conditions limiting access only to Klopper and his partner practitioner, Kurt Knoop.

Klopper on Monday said this had been a crucial stumbling block in getting the Gupta companies, particularly the four mines owned by the family, back up and running.

On February 16 the directors of Gupta-owned Tegeta filed for business rescue, placing Optimum, Koorfontein and Brakfontein coal mines in Mpumalanga as well as Shiva Uranium in North West under Klopper's control. Property investment companies Confident Concepts and Islandside Investments 180 were also placed under business rescue.

The mines employ roughly 3 000 people, most of whom went on strike when salaries were not paid on February 25. The permanent staff, around 1 500 people, were paid last week. *SowetanLive*

SA's economy grows 1,3% in 2017

JOHANNESBURG - Statistics South Africa (StatsSA) yesterday revealed South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 3.1 per cent in the final quarter of 2017.

Overall, South Africa's economy grew by a better-than-expected 1.3 per cent last year, driven mainly by agriculture.

The growth was driven by financial, real estate and business services.

Treasury had only predicted growth of only one per cent. *eNCA*

FirstRand reports slower H1 profit rise

JOHANNESBURG - FirstRand reported a six per cent increase in half-year profit yesterday, a substantial slowdown from a year ago, as a weak economy hit investment and consumption.

The company is South Africa's number one lender by value.

Basic diluted headline earnings per share (EPS) came in at 224.2 cents in the six months ended December, compared with 211.5 cents a year earlier.

This six per cent profit increase was less than half the 14 per cent rise posted in 2017.

Headline EPS is the primary measure of profit in South African that strips out certain one-off items. *Reuters*



Bonds marginally firmer as Rand finds support

JOHANNESBURG - Local government bonds were marginally firmer yesterday morning, tracking overnight gains in the Rand, as investors waited for a series of risk events later in the week.

Local exporter interest in the Rand helped the unit strengthen, while foreigners continued to be net buyers of local bonds, as they had for the past two weeks, said Nedbank Corporate and Investment Banking analysts.

The Rand was flat yesterday morning, but has recovered about 20c from its worst intraday levels on Monday.

Local focus will be on Statistics SA's GDP growth data for 2017, expected at 11.30am. Sentiment has been given a slight boost after newly re-appointed Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene said a meeting with Mood

analysts on Monday had been positive.

A higher than expected GDP number could further lift SA's chances of avoiding a downgrade, as it would point to improved tax revenue collection.

Globally, focus remains on possible implementation by the US of import tariffs, with analysts saying European politics was playing second fiddle to the possibility of a trade war. At 9.30am the benchmark R186 was bid at 8.17 per cent from 8.19 per cent while the R207 was at 6.74 per cent from 6.76 per cent.

The rand was at R11.8171 from R11.8316.

The US 10-year treasury was last seen at 2.8826 per cent from 2.8615 per cent. *iNet Bridge*

Take a look at the new coins honouring Madiba

CAPE TOWN - A new special edition of coins featuring former President Nelson Mandela will be released.

The coins will be released in hopes of honouring the life of Madiba as we celebrate his centenary on July 18. Each coin will represent a different stage of Mandela's life.

A R50 base metal alloy coin depicting him as a young man;

A R50 sterling-silver coin depicting him at an older age (his presidential years);

A R500 24-carat gold coin depicting him in his later years.

All three coins feature South Africa's coat of arms on the obverse, replacing the Black Wildebeest.

No official pricing or release dates are available at this stage. *Business Report Online*



SA contract prices of Samsung S9 and S9+ revealed

JOHANNESBURG - This Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, photo shows the Samsung Galaxy S9 Plus, left, and back of a Galaxy S9 mobile phone, during a product preview in New York.

The Samsung Galaxy S9 and S9+ made their debut on the 25th of February and now South Africa's mobile operators have revealed pre-

order contract prices for the devices. The devices are set to launch on March 16 but are currently available for pre-order.

Additionally, Pre-orders before March 31 will receive an R500 Samsung accessory voucher and six months of free Samsung Mobile Care cover.

Business Report Online

The Galaxy S9 prices

| Deal | Price | Data | Minutes | SMS | Extras |
|---------------------------|--------|----------|--------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Telkom FreeMe 1GB | R649 | 1GB | 100 | 50 per day | |
| Telkom FreeMe 2GB | R699 | 2GB | 3,000 Telkom | 50 per day | 60GB once-off for 3 months |
| MTN Made for Me M | R699 | 1GB | 150 | 100 | |
| Vodacom Smart S | R699 | 1GB | 75 | 200 | 30GB once-off for 30 days |
| Telkom FreeMe 5GB | R849 | 5GB | 3,000 Telkom | 50 per day | |
| Telkom FreeMe 10GB | R949 | 10GB | 3,000 Telkom | 50 per day | |
| Telkom FreeMe 20GB | R1,199 | 20GB | 1,500 | 50 per day | |
| Telkom FreeMe Unlimited | R1,599 | 25GB FUP | 3,000 | 50 per day | |
| MTN Made for Me L | R869 | 2GB | 200 | 100 | 30GB once-off for 30 days |
| MTN Sky Lite 3GB | R1,499 | 3GB | Unlimited | Unlimited | 30GB once-off for 30 days |
| MTN Sky Lite 5GB | R1,599 | 5GB | Unlimited | Unlimited | 30GB once-off for 30 days |
| MTN Sky Lite 10GB | R1,849 | 10GB | Unlimited | Unlimited | 30GB once-off for 30 days |
| MTN Sky Supreme | R2,599 | 25GB FUP | Unlimited | Unlimited | 30GB once-off for 30 days |
| Cell C Pinnacle 250 | R849 | 250MB | 250 | | 250 1GB x 12 months |
| Cell C Pinnacle 600 | R999 | 1GB | 600 | | 600 2GB x 12 months |
| Cell C Pinnacle Unlimited | R1,399 | 10GB | Unlimited | Unlimited | Free Black smart box |



SA TO RAISE GDP GROWTH FORECASTS IN OCTOBER

JOHANNESBURG - National Treasury will probably raise projections for economic growth this year in its October mid-term budget as the country overcomes governance and financial problems that have lowered confidence, said Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene.

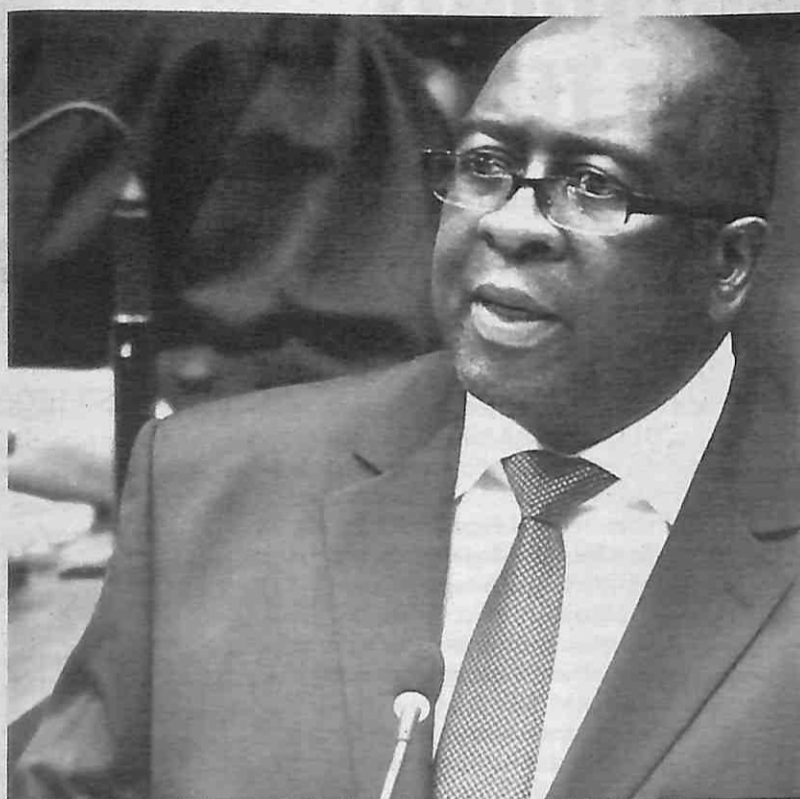
Newly appointed President Cyril Ramaphosa reappointed Nene to the role last month. When former leader Jacob Zuma fired him and replaced him with a Des van Rooyen in 2015, the move triggered a sell-off in the rand and bonds.

Policy uncertainty and state graft concerns saw Fitch Ratings and S&P Global Ratings lower their assessments of the nation's debt to junk. The economy slumped into a recession in 2017 and has mounted a fragile recovery since.

The economy is forecast to expand 1.5 per cent this year, compared with the previous projection of 1.1 per cent and an estimated one per cent in 2017, National Treasury said in its 2018 budget review on February 21. Growth will probably accelerate to 2.1 per cent in 2020 as measures aimed at creating policy certainty and attracting investment pay off, it said.

"Prospects look good for an improvement in growth forecasts," Nene told reporters east of Pretoria on Monday.

The government will from April 1 raise value-added tax for the first time since



FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH: Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene.

1993 as part of measures to stabilise debt and prevent a third junk credit rating. Higher taxes will raise an additional R36bn in the year through March, 2019 and be coupled with budget cuts totalling R85bn

over three years.

The funds will go toward plugging a revenue shortfall estimated at R48.2bn for this year.

fin24

Listeriosis outbreak puts fragile value chain in spotlight - expert

CAPE TOWN - The ripple effect of the outbreak of listeriosis in certain processed meat products in South Africa has identified the fragility of the industry's value chain, Professor Andre Louw, chair of Agribusiness Management at the University of Pretoria, told *Fin24* on Monday.

He said the outbreak has shown this is something that can occur right from the production stage up to supermarkets, finally impacting consumers.

"The fact that it is contagious is of concern and implies further action needs to be taken from a health and safety point of view," said Louw.

He pointed out that initial uncertainty about the source of the outbreak and the fact that it could not be determined accurately at first led to some speculation.

"The fact that the sources have now been determined, from both a product and geographic point of view, has led to different companies taking swift action which is commendable," he said.

Louw emphasised the outbreak also highlights the issue of the reputation of companies, saying the way these items are produced needs to be revisited and re-evaluated in terms of possible negative impacts on these and further products.

"The issue of not only the physical and health risks come to play, but also what companies will do to

reposition these types of produce. Many questions are certainly going to be asked about the way the products are produced and the level of contamination that could take place. Steps therefore have to be taken to ensure the health, safety and protection of the consumer."

In Louw's view, the producers will have to reposition these items so that buyers can feel they are safe to consume. He said this fact has been illustrated by that fact that so many goods have already been withdrawn from almost all supermarkets which carry them. This implies the outbreak could have a longer lasting impact on the minds of consumers and the ability to market the products.

"I would say it could especially have an impact on the lower income groups, in that these are relatively lower priced products providing protein to them. They will probably seek alternative products and there might also be special efforts from the producers and supermarkets to ensure and convince consumers that in future products will be far safer and healthier to buy and consume," said Louw.

"The issue of trust becomes extremely important as well as the issue of the interdependency of stakeholders along the value chain. It will certainly be tested in future regarding these products."

fin24

Fronting must be investigated without fear

CAPE TOWN - The B-BBEE Commission should be able to investigate fronting by businesses without fear or favour, said Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies.

He was responding to a question about the investigation into fake B-BBEE certificates issued to Gupta-linked businesses, at a briefing to Parliament yesterday.

The complaint was made to the B-BBEE Commission by the DA on Monday. It relates to three Gupta companies namely Tegeta Resources and Exploration, Optimum Coal Mining and Trillian Consulting which were issued B-BBEE certificates and then secured contracts at state power utility Eskom.

The DA alleges that the certificates that were issued to the companies did not appear to meet the B-BBEE requirements as they misrepresented themselves as micro-enterprises. Commissioner Zodwa Ntuli agreed to investigate the matter.

"The investigation will also be expanded to focus on Eskom's internal procurement procedures, especially as it relates to enforcing B-BBEE compliance with external suppliers," the DA said in a statement.

DA MP Dean Macpherson said that the matter constitutes criminal behaviour and that the commission could refer the matter to the National Prosecution Authority, or the appropriate division of the South African Police Service if criminal behaviour is uncovered.

fin24

SA plans return to Islamic bond market to plug budget gap

JOHANNESBURG - The debut sale of Islamic bonds had investors clamoring for four times the amount offered. The government is hoping for more of the same as it returns to the market to help plug a budget shortfall of more than \$4bn (R48bn).

South Africa is considering a rand-denominated sukuk in the fiscal year starting April 1, after becoming the first African nation to issue a sovereign Shariah-compliant bond when it sold \$500m of securities in 2014.

The rand sukuk would also set a benchmark for local corporate issuers to tap the market, according to the National Treasury.

"There is very strong interest, particularly from Islamic asset managers



as well as Islamic banks," Tshepiso Moahloli, the Chief Director of Liability Management at National Treasury, said by email.

"There is a strong market-develop-

ment element with this decision, which is broader than just funding."

South Africa is increasing issuance in domestic and foreign markets to help meet \$16.5bn of bond redemptions over the next three years and plug a stubbornly high budget deficit. In addition to introducing local-currency sukuk, it plans to raise \$3bn in international markets over the next financial year starting April 1, up from \$2.5bn this year.

The dollar Islamic bond was priced to yield 3.9 per cent.

The securities yielded 3.57 per cent on Monday, on par with similar-maturity dollar bonds. Since South Africa tested the market, Nigeria and Kenya have also sold sovereign dollar-denominated sukuk.

While much of the uptake for the Islamic bonds is expected to be from foreign investors, there is local appetite for Islamic investments too. South Africa has a sizable minority Muslim population.

"There are Shariah-compliant local and offshore funds looking to invest in sukuk with a good credit rating," Asief Mohamed, the Chief Investment Officer at Aeon Investment Management in Cape Town, said by phone.

South Africa's local-currency debt is rated Baa3 at Moody's Investors Service, the lowest investment level. The Treasury said by email that the amount of sukuk issuance would "depend on market interest and timing." *fin24*

SA to announce wide-ranging reforms at SOEs - Gordhan

PRETORIA - South Africa will announce details of wide-ranging reforms at state-owned enterprises (SOEs) within four weeks, the public enterprises minister said yesterday, as government seeks to return credibility to companies hobbled by graft and mismanagement.

The control board members have over procurement at state companies, one of the main processes alleged to have been abused by officials in the past, will be changed within two to

three months, Pravin Gordhan told a union meeting.

He said new board members will be appointed to state firms in need of reform within two to three months, without naming the companies.

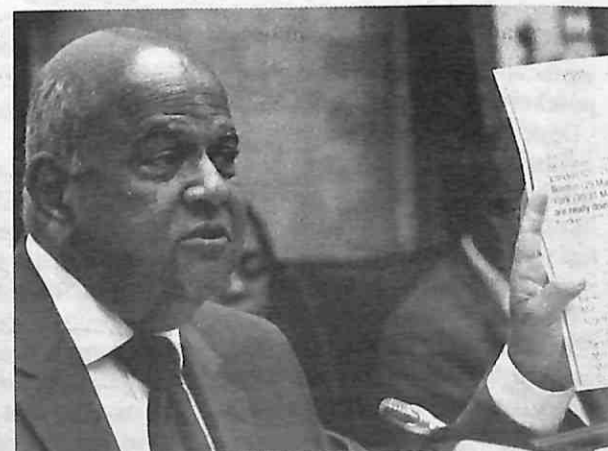
Gordhan, a popular figure with investors, was appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa in a Cabinet reshuffle last week with the mandate to clean up state firms that have become a burden on government finances and a focus of ratings agencies.

Gordhan served as finance minister from 2009 until 2014 and again from 2015 until 2017, but was fired by scandal-plagued former president Jacob Zuma after openly criticising the corruption in his government.

"We're on a good wave of change in South Africa," Gordhan told union members and reporters in Pretoria.

"Hopefully in the next four or so weeks, one will be able to say these are the ten steps that we're taking."

Reuters



REFORMS: Pravin Gordhan.

Focus on SA scene

ACE MAGASHULE ASSOCIATE CONVICTED OVER CORRUPT TENDER

BLOEMFONTEIN - A marathon corruption case in the Free State involving dodgy tenders awarded by the province's department of education has culminated in the conviction of a close associate of Premier Ace Magashule.

Isaac "Blacky" Seoe, a former business partner of both Magashule and one of his sons, Tshepiso, was found guilty on charges of corruption, fraud and other related crimes in the Free State High Court in Bloemfontein in February.

Seoe is the same Free State businessman who can be seen on CCTV video footage accompanying the premier and officials from the Free State Development Corporation (FDC) on a site visit to a Shell Fuel Station in Phuthaditjhaba in the eastern Free State in 2014.

News24 recently revealed that Magashule's daughter secured the fuel station in a questionable property deal with the FDC.

Seoe, who is a former chairperson of the

FDC, was first implicated in a corruption racket back in 2001 along with 12 co-accused, including Tebogo Lioma, the provincial education department's former deputy director-general.

The court has now found Seoe and one of his co-accused guilty of bribing Lioma in order to influence a tender for learning materials awarded to a company called Mabilela Distributors by the provincial education department in 2001. The court also found that Mabilela

Distributors was a front set up by Seoe, resulting in a guilty conviction on a count of fraud.

The contract awarded to

Mabilela formed part of tenders worth around R30m awarded to several companies by Lioma's department.

Seoe was also convicted on counts of money laundering and racketeering resulting from the corrupt tender.

Seoe and his 12 co-accused will be sentenced in May. Virginia Moseia, Seoe's former wife, is among the accused.

In 2013, Seoe and Moseia unsuccessfully applied for a permanent stay of prosecution.

The controversial Free State businessman is linked to Magashule and his family. In 2011, amaBhungane reported that Magashule's office had signed off on a government lease deal with Sambal Investment, a company in which the premier and Seoe were once co-directors. Company records also show that Seoe and Tshepiso Magashule, the premier's eldest son, were co-directors in a company called Chitoss Trading. This company was deregistered in 2015.

Seoe was also present when Magashule and his daughter, Thoko Malembe, along with officials from the FDC, visited the Shell Fuel Station in Phuthaditjhaba in 2014.

News24

KUYABHEDZA: Ace Magashule.



THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS: President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Ramaphosa urges youth to register to vote

JOHANNESBURG - President Cyril Ramaphosa is urging young people to register to vote.

Voter registration will take place across South Africa this weekend ahead of the 2019 national elections.

Districts will be open to new voters and those who need to update their credentials.

Ramaphosa called on the youth to play their part in defining the future of South Africa.

The president said that Home Affairs offices will be open on both Saturday

and Sunday if anyone needs to collect their identity documents (ID).

"If you are 17-years-old and above or will be voting for the first time [next year], go and register. If you have moved from one place to another, go and register as well. If you have moved from one part of your township, suburb or rural area, go and register," Ramaphosa said.

"If you have voted before, you can also verify your details on the voters' roll by SMSing your ID number to 32810," he added.

eNCA

DA marches against VAT increase

PRETORIA - Democratic Alliance (DA) leader Mmusi Maimane is expected to lead a march in Pretoria to the National Treasury opposing the Value Added Tax (VAT) increase.

Former Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba announced in his Budget speech that VAT will increase from 14 to 15 per cent.

Maimane said the increase will have a negative impact on the poor and the unemployed.

"The increase of VAT, along with

a huge increase in fuel levies, will cause an increase in food and transport costs for all South Africans.

"The ANC cannot make the poor pay for their looting of public money, and we will fight this increase in VAT on behalf of the poor and the unemployed," Maimane said in a statement.

He will be joined at the march by DA Gauteng provincial leader John Moodey and Tshwane Mayor Solly Msimanga.

African News Agency

ANC MP Fezeka Loliwe killed in car crash

PORT ELIZABETH - African National Congress (ANC) Member of Parliament, Fezeka Loliwe died in a fatal car accident which took place in Fort Beaufort in the Eastern Cape on Monday.

In a statement ANC Chief Whip, Jackson Mthembu, expressed shock and extended his condolences to her family, friends and fellow comrades. Loliwe died in a motor vehicle accident while on her way from her Parliamentary Constituency Office in Fort Beaufort in the Eastern Cape. "Comrade Loliwe was a dedicated public representative who joined Parliament in 2014. She served as the

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee (PC) on Labour and had previously served as the ANC Whip for the PC on Labour." She formed part of the team who conducted the Parliamentary Inquiry into the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC). Loliwe was also the Whip of our ANC Caucus Disciplinary Committee (CDC). "Her untimely departure leaves a deep void within structures of the ANC Caucus and Parliament as a whole. The people of South Africa have truly been robbed of one of the most dedicated public representatives," the statement read. Police spokesperson, Captain Mali Govender said police were investigating a case of culpable homicide. Govender said the accident took place on the R63 near Alice. "The circumstances around how the accident occurred are still unclear and will be investigated but [the South African Police Service] SAPS can confirm that a single vehicle was involved and the driver was alone in the vehicle," she said. News24

LATE: Fezeka Loliwe.

Listeriosis fallout: Firms involved could face lawsuits

JOHANNESBURG - The companies involved in the manufacturing of contaminated processed meat products could face lawsuits.

Since January 2017, 948 people have contracted listeriosis - a disease caused by bacteria from soil, water, vegetation and animal faeces which can contaminate fresh food, notably meat.

At least 180 have died, according to official figures.

An attorney warned that lawsuits won't be an easy process, especially for those who have already lost their loved ones.

"Only somebody who is dependent on those people for support could then claim the loss of support. There isn't

a claim for emotional distress or anything like that because of the people passing away," said Ian Jacobsberg, a Hogan Lovells partner.

On Sunday, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi advised South Africans to avoid eating all processed meat products sold as "ready to eat" after announcing Enterprise as the outbreak's source.

The department of health ordered retailers to immediately recall affected products. The chief executive of Tiger Brands, which owns Enterprise, denied that its products had been shown to be responsible for the deaths.

"There is no direct link with the deaths to our products," Lawrence MacDougall

told a news conference.

MacDougall did acknowledge that the government had linked the ST6 strain of listeria bacteria detected in Enterprise facilities with the outbreak.

"We are being extra cautious and vigilant, we are recalling all products made from the two facilities" affected, he said, adding that the government had only ordered the company to withdraw three product lines.

"Any loss of life is tragic. It is devastating for me to have our products linked to this outbreak."

As fears of listeria continued to rise in South Africa, food retailers have announced product recalls.

eNCA

Want to buy some rhino horn? Log in here, DNA required

JOHANNESBURG - South African ranchers launched an online market for rhino horn on Monday, saying the open trade would help squeeze poachers out of the business.

Dealers have been able to buy and sell the horns of South African rhinos legally inside the country since a court lifted a moratorium on domestic trade last year - though a global UN ban means none of it can be exported.

The Private Rhino Owners Association (PROA) said its new trading system would help people know they were buying horn taken from rhinos in South Africa legally and humanely.

"Every rhino horn offered for sale

must possess a DNA certificate. Genetic profiling is the key control in establishing the provenance of every rhino horn on offer. By this mechanism, no 'blood' horn is able to enter the market."

Campaigners fought for the global ban as poachers slaughtered rhinos across the continent, pushing some regional varieties to extinction. Five per cent of South Africa's rhino population were killed in 2017, amid a recent surge in poaching.

But ranchers point to the fact that the horn can also be cut from a tranquilised animal and allowed to grow back.

PROA said its website,

www.rhta.co.za, would "provide a managed, efficient platform from which genuine buyers and sellers can trade in 'clean', humanely acquired rhino horn."

The main demand for horn comes from Vietnam and other Asian countries where rhino horn is a coveted ingredient in traditional medicines.

In South Africa, analysts say the bulk of demand comes from collectors and speculators betting that the global trade ban will one day be lifted.

News24



FROZEN CORPSES COULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE

MICHIGAN - Cryogenics could be our best chance at cheating death.

That's according to one expert, who believes we could soon revive frozen bodies.

Dennis Kowalski, 49, President of the Michigan-based Cryonics Institute, claims humans could one day be revived from a cryogenic state, and stem cell therapy could help them bring them back to an even younger age.

He also suggests that the first human frozen by cryonics could be revived within the next 50 to 100 years. The Michigan-based Cryonics Institute, is a non-profit organisation that offers human freezing services for \$28,000 per person (£20 200). Kowalski, who also works as a firefighter, paramedic and paramedics teacher in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, says that a lot of things that weren't possible will soon be possible with regards to cryonics. He told the MailOnline that if reviving cryogenically frozen people is not possible, at least we are learning.

Around 2 000 people have put their names down to be cryogenically frozen by Mr Kowalski's institute and more than 100 pets and 160 people have already been frozen at the their laboratory. "After cardiac arrest, you have around five minutes to half an hour to revive someone," says Mr Kowalski. "But it depends on temperature and how long they were alive for. 'We're finding that when you cool people down you have more time,' he said. Mr Kowalski said that his work is an extension of stem cell research, and that stem cells could be injected into cryogenically frozen patients to help repair damaged cells.

"We're trying to save your DNA and mind," said Mr Kowalski. "If all we cared about DNA, we could save that and clone you and you would look no different, but it would be a totally different person," he said.

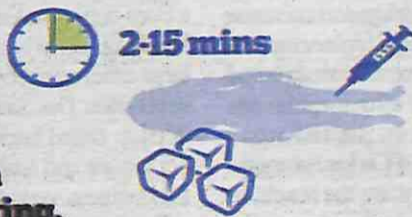
Mr Kowalski says that in the future, if there is super advanced technology that can 'reverse engineer nature,' then there is no reason elderly people couldn't be revived and brought back, possible even as their healthy, 20 year-old selves.

Cryonics, also known as cryogenics and cryopreservation, is the art of freezing a dead body or body parts in order to preserve them.

Advocates see it as a miracle procedure to cheat death, with the hope that they will be revived once medical science has progressed far enough to cure whatever killed them. The Cryonics Institute's website states that absolute death may only be said to occur when the brain's essential information is destroyed. Brain preservation is the ultimate goal of what cryopreservation aims to achieve.

CRYONICS: THE FACTS WHAT IS CRYONICS?

1 Once legally dead, process should begin within two minutes of heart stopping - and no more than 15. Body packed in ice and injected with chemicals to reduce blood clotting.



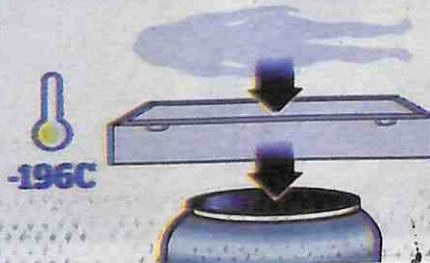
2 Body taken to cryonics facility and cooled to just over freezing point. Blood replaced with solution to preserve organs.



3 Another solution injected to stop ice crystals forming in organs and tissues, then body cooled to -130°C.



4 Body placed in container then lowered into tank of liquid nitrogen at -196°C.



5 Tank maintains ultra-low temperature, waiting for a medical breakthrough.

...and made to look YOUNGER than when they died using stem cell injections, claims expert

The deep freezing of a body to -196°C (-321°F). Anti-freeze compounds are injected into the corpse to stop cells being damaged.

The hope is that medical science will advance enough to bring the patient back to life.

Two main US organisations carry out cryonics in the US: Alcor, in Arizona, and the Cryonics Institute, in Michigan. Russian firm KrioRus is one of two facilities outside the US to offer the service, alongside Alcor's European laboratory in Portugal.

HOW IS IT MEANT TO WORK?

The process can only take place once the body has been declared legally dead.

Ideally, it begins within two minutes of the heart stopping and no more than 15.

The body must be packed in ice and injected with chemicals to reduce blood clotting.

At the cryonics facility, it is cooled to just above 0°C and the blood is replaced with a solution to preserve organs. The body is injected with another solution to stop ice crystals forming in organs and tissues, then cooled to -130°C.

The final step is to place the body into a container which is lowered into a tank of liquid nitrogen at -196°C.

WHAT'S THE CHANCE OF SUCCESS?

Many experts say there is none.

Organs such as the heart and kidneys have never been successfully frozen and thawed.

It is even less likely a whole body, and the brain, could be without irreversible damage.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Charges at the Cryonics Institute start at around £28 000 (\$35 000) to 'members' for whole-body cryopreservation.

Rival group Alcor charges £161 000 (\$200 000) while KrioRus' procedure will set you back £29 200 (\$37 600).

HOW LONG BEFORE PEOPLE CAN BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE?

Cryonics organisations claim it could be decades or even centuries.

However, medical experts say once cells are damaged during freezing and turned to 'mush' they cannot be converted back to living tissue, any more than you can turn a scrambled egg back into a raw egg. In a previous interview with the Daily Star, Mr Kowalski, 49, said: "If you take something like CPR, that would have seemed unbelievable 100 years ago. Now we take that technology for granted. Mr Kowalski said that when the first patients are reanimated depends on the rate at which modern medicine improves.



RISE AND SHINE: In cryogenics, the freezing process must begin as soon as the patient dies in order to prevent brain damage, with facilities currently available in Russia, the US and Portugal. (stock image)



INVITATION TO TENDER

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

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

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

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

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

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

The deadline for submission of tenders

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

Tender opening

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

The following documents must accompany the Tender:

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

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

For further information please contact in writing: Mr Ndumiso Sigwane, (Divisional Officer)
P.O.BOX 773 Mbabane, Swaziland.

(Email address: sigwanen@gov.sz / sigwanend@gmail.com)

BRIEFS

Ruling party claims 'president's legacy'

MAKENI - The ruling party candidate seeking to succeed President Ernest Bai Koroma as Sierra Leone's president claimed Monday he was his boss's "biggest legacy" to the country as election campaigning wrapped up. The ruling All Peoples Congress (APC) held a rally attended by thousands in the northern city of Makeni while the opposition Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) gathered crowds in its southern stronghold of Bo ahead of Tuesday's general election.

AFP

Angola wavers in prosecution

LUANDA - Angolan prosecutors appeared to waver on Monday in their pursuit of prominent Human Rights activist and journalist Rafael Marques de Morais who faces charges of subversion, defence sources said. The charges relate to a story Marques, 46, wrote in 2016 about the country's former attorney general's purchase of rural land designated for urban development. A court in Luanda postponed the case indefinitely. De Morais's lawyer Horacio Junjuvili told AFP by telephone. De Morais was charged with insulting public authority after alleging that the attorney general exploited the country's weak land rights laws by paying the price of rural land for what would later become prime beach-front real estate. **AFP**

Eight Zim children repatriated

PRETORIA - Eight Zimbabwean children aged between two and 14 are set to be repatriated yesterday.

The North Gauteng High Court on Monday dismissed an urgent application from eight adults who claimed to be their parents. The Department of Social Development said the judgment was a victory for those acting in the best interests of the children. On Monday evening, Judge Bill Prinsloo ruled the department was acting in the best interests of the children. "I am fortified in my view that it may not be appropriate at this stage to release the children to the respective applicants," Prinsloo said.

eNCA

Ethiopians strike over state of emergency

BURAYU - Businesses closed in Ethiopia's capital and its largest region on Monday to protest a state of emergency declared after the prime minister's resignation last month. Shops were shut and roads deserted in parts of the capital Addis Ababa and in towns in the surrounding Oromia region, a hotbed of anti-government dissent since 2015.

AFP

Suicide bomber kills three

KANO - A suicide bomber on a bicycle killed three people late on Monday when he detonated his explosives on the outskirts of the north-east Nigerian city of Maiduguri, civilian militia told AFP.

Eighteen people were also injured in the attack, which happened in the Muna Dalti area of the city, said Musa Ari, a civilian militia member helping with security against Boko Haram.

News24



'TOP RULING ZANU-PF PARTY OFFICIAL QUILTS TO LEAD PRO-MUGABE SPLINTER GROUP'

HARARE - A new party linked to loyalists of former president Robert Mugabe is likely to be led by a top ZANU-PF official who quit last week, reports from Zimbabwe say.

Former Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament Ambrose Mutinhiri quit the ruling ZANU-PF party last week citing his objection to the "military coup" that removed Mugabe from power in November.

He is the first big name to leave

ZANU-PF since the military takeover that replaced Mugabe with Emmerson Mnangagwa.

"It is a matter of profound national concern to me that, subsequent to the military

coup, ZANU-PF as well as government and state institutions have been captured by the Zimbabwe Defence Forces," Mutinhiri said in his resignation letter.

Mutinhiri said that the turning of guns on Mugabe was

"by extension, the turning of guns and military tanks on the millions who voted President Mugabe into power".

Meeting at Mugabe mansion

The private Standard newspaper quoted sources as saying Mutinhiri, a veteran of the 1970s independence war, was "likely to be unveiled as the leader of the ZANU-PF splinter party known as the New Patriotic Front (NPF)". The state-run Herald said on Monday that Mutinhiri met Mugabe and his wife at their Blue Roof mansion in Harare last week where Mutinhiri was "anointed" as the NPF leader.

"The fact that he (Mutinhiri) was invited to the Blue Roof meant obviously that the former president and his wife are part and parcel of the New Patriotic Front," an unnamed

government source told the paper.

The Mugabe's mansion had now become "a cell to launch opposition politics", the source added.

The Herald said the Mugabes and Mutinhiri had the backing of key members of the ruling party's former G40 faction loyal to Grace Mugabe, such as exiled ex-Cabinet minister Jonathan Moyo.

Threat to Mnangagwa

Writing on Twitter at the weekend Moyo complimented Mutinhiri on his "bold leadership step". He referred to the military takeover as a coup that "must be cured, reversed & permanently destroyed!"

Analysts say if there are other disgruntled members like Mutinhiri still in ZANU-PF it could pose a threat to Mnangagwa's presidential election bid.

News24

Isabel dos Santos denies graft allegations by oil firm chief

LUANDA - Isabel dos Santos, daughter of Angola's former president, has denied allegations of suspicious activity during her tenure as head of state oil firm Sonangol made by the current chair of the company, describing them as "slanderous".

Dos Santos ranked Africa's wealthiest woman by Forbes, said in a statement issued late on Sunday that she would take all measures to protect her reputation and rejected accusations of wrongdoing made by Sonangol Chairman Carlos Saturnino last week.

Saturnino said an internal audit at Sonangol uncovered a transaction of \$38 million (R449.92 million) made to a Dubai-headquartered company that was approved by dos Santos after she had been dismissed from Sonangol.

Dos Santos said the payment was "totally legitimate" and made for consultancy services, adding that under Angolan law, dismissed pub-



IT'S NOT TRUE: Isabel dos Santos.

lic officials are obliged to continue in their roles until a replacement is sworn in. No payments were approved by the old board after the new one had been sworn in, she said.

"The attempts of Carlos Saturnino to rewrite history are the result, in my understanding, of a return to the

culture of irresponsibility and dishonesty which sunk Sonangol in the first place," dos Santos said.

Angola's public prosecutor's office said last Friday it had opened an investigation into the alleged events described by Saturnino at Sonangol - the most important company in a country that relies on oil for 95 percent of its exports.

President João Lourenço has promised to tackle graft since he took over from Jose Eduardo dos Santos last September, though this is the first high-profile investigation against a member of the Angolan elite. Another question raised by Saturnino concerned why a joint venture partner was allowed to repay a Euro-denominated debt in Angolan Kwanza, on which there exists a large arbitrage between official and street rates. Dos Santos said the partnership dated back to well before her tenure and had been a successful business venture.

Reuters

Mugabe has 21 farms, he leases some to white farmers

HARARE - Zimbabwean ex-president Robert Mugabe owns 21 farms in the southern African country, a source has revealed, according to the state-owned Herald newspaper.

The source was quoted by the newspaper as saying that Mugabe amassed the 21 farms during his reign as president of Zimbabwe, and was likely going to be "forced to surrender some of them".

The source also revealed that the former president had leased some of his farms to white farmers, in a move that was viewed as being "hypocritical" of his rhetoric.

"There is an issue of farms that they (Mugabes) have been leasing to whites. Here was a president who was preaching one-person, one-farm, but who has 21 farms."

AFP



THE CINEMATIC DREAM OF A UGANDA SLUM: Wakaliga, a slum in Kampala with about 2 000 inhabitants, is home to a young booming Ugandan cinema industry known as "Wakaliwood", the Ugandan Hollywood. Here, low-budget films are produced by using everyday household items, such as frying pans, and PVC pipes as mock rocket launchers, and condoms filled with red dye for exploding squibs. Asiimwe Apollo, 25, from Western Uganda, actor, is playing a scene in which he gets arrested by soldiers. (ALJAZEERA)



World News

WHITE HOUSE CLARIFIES TRUMP-NORTH KOREA 'CALL'

WASHINGTON - The White House on Monday said Donald Trump had been referring to a call with South Korea's leader when he appeared to suggest a landmark direct contact with the nuclear North.

Trump raised eyebrows at a Washington media dinner on Saturday when he said "they, by the way, called up a couple of days ago and said 'we would like to talk'".

"And I said, 'so would we, but you have to de-nuke, you have to de-nuke,'" Trump added.

A senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that Trump had in fact been referencing a call he had on Thursday with South Korean President Moon Jae-in. Pyongyang is the Korean peninsula's only nuclear-armed power, prompting speculation of rare direct contact between US and North Korean officials. Moon has prodded Trump toward negotiations and has met North Korean officials himself. Trump has taken a more bellicose position, suggesting military action is possible if North Korea does not stop efforts to develop a nuclear-armed missile capable of hitting the United States. **AFP**



THEY CALLED ME: US President Donald Trump (L) and South Korean President Moon Jae-In (R) at a joint press conference at the presidential Blue House in Seoul. (Daily Mail)

At least 25 killed as wedding party truck overturns in India

AHMEDABAD - A truck carrying a wedding party plunged off a bridge early yesterday in western India killing at least 25 people, most of them women and children, officials said.

Initial investigations indicated the driver lost control causing the truck to swerve off the bridge and fall

eight metres onto a dry riverbed in Gujarat state, police said. "Around 60 people were travelling in the truck and most victims are women and children," Gujarat police inspector KJ Kadapda told AFP.

Officials indicated the toll could rise as many of the passengers, who were on their way to a wedding,

remained trapped under the truck which overturned. Other injured victims have been rushed to hospital.

The accident happened in Bhavnagar district, about 200 kilometres from the state capital Ahmedabad. The district collector, Harshadkumar Patel, told AFP that "at least 25 per-

sons have lost their lives in the accident".

India has some of the world's deadliest roads. More than 150 000 people are killed each year with most accidents blamed on poor roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving.

AFP

Freed Russian spy reportedly sickened after mystery exposure

SALISBURY - A former Russian spy was critically ill after exposure to an "unknown substance", British media reported in a case that immediately drew parallels to the poisoning of former Russian agent Alexander Litvinenko.

National and local authorities said only that a man and a woman were found unconscious on Sunday afternoon on a bench in a shopping mall in Salisbury, about 145km west of London.

British media identified him as Sergei Skripal, 66, who was convicted in Russia on charges of spying for Britain and sentenced in 2006 to 13 years in prison. Skripal was freed in 2010 as part of a US-Russian spy swap.

Wiltshire Police, which is responsible for the Salisbury area, said the man and woman appeared to know one another and had no visible injuries.

"They are currently being treated for suspected exposure to an unknown substance.

Both are currently in a critical condition in intensive care," the police department said in a statement.

The discovery led to a dramatic decontamination effort. Crews in billowing yellow moon suits worked into the night spraying down the street, and the Salisbury hospital's emergency room was closed.

The BBC, which first identified Skripal as one of the victims, quoted eyewitness Freya Church as saying it looked like the woman and man had taken "something quite strong".

"On the bench there was a couple, an older guy and a younger girl. She was sort of leaned in on him. It looked like she had passed out, maybe," Church said.

Daily Mail

Sri Lanka imposes state of emergency over communal violence

KANDY - Sri Lanka's government has imposed a nation-wide state of emergency to "take stern action" against people instigating communal violence, a government spokesman has said.

The measure comes after a local curfew was imposed on Monday in the central city Kandy, after days of unrest between religious communities with a Buddhist man killed and Muslim businesses set ablaze.

Police said on Monday there had been riots and arson attacks since the weekend in Kandy district, while sources told Al Jazeera the violence was spreading throughout the South Asian island nation.

In the past, religious and ethnic violence had turned deadly in Sri Lanka, where Muslims account for 10 per cent of the 21 million population, and Buddhists Sinhalese make up nearly 75 per cent. Another 13 per cent of the population are Hindus.

Some observers blame the nation-



STATE OF EMERGENCY: Witnesses say recent clashes are reminiscent of 2014 attacks by Buddhist nationalists. (AP)

alist Buddhist organisation Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) group for the ongoing violence.

In February 2018, five people were wounded and several shops and a mosque were damaged during a clash between Buddhist and Muslim groups.

Aljazeera

BRIEFS

Thieves steal \$5m from plane in Brazil

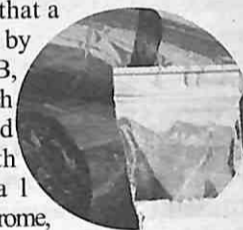
SAO PAULO - A group of thieves stole \$5-million (R60-million) in cash, which had been due to travel from Brazil to Switzerland aboard a Lufthansa jet, at a large freight airport near Sao Paulo, police said Monday. The spectacular heist, which took place late on Sunday, was completed in a matter of minutes, and authorities have yet to arrest a suspect. The crooks entered Viracopos International Airport's freight terminal using a pickup on which they had "placed stickers mimicking the runway security company's logo," federal police said in a statement. **eNCA**

Florida passes gun restrictions

TALLAHASSEE - In response to a deadly Florida school shooting last month, the state's Senate narrowly passed a Bill that would create new restrictions on rifle sales and allow some teachers to carry guns in schools. The 20-18 vote came Monday evening after three hours of often emotional debate. Support and opposition crossed party lines, and it was clear many of those who voted for the Bill weren't entirely happy with it. "Do I think this Bill goes far enough? No! No, I don't!" said Democratic Senator Lauren Book, who tearfully described visiting Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School after 17 people were fatally shot on Valentine's Day. **AP**

Family of opioid-addicted baby sues

ILLINOIS - An Illinois family of a baby born addicted to opioids is suing 20 pharmaceutical companies alleging they're responsible for the mother's addiction to opioids and heroin. The lawsuit states that a baby, identified by his initials TWB, was born in March 2017 and diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, which can cause breathing and feeding problems. The lawsuit says baby TWB spent his first days in "excruciating pain" as he weaned from an opioid addiction inherited from his mother, the Belleville News-Democrat reported. **AP**



New setback for Netanyahu

JERUSALEM - An ex-aide to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has signed a state witness deal in a corruption probe linked to his former boss, Israeli media reported Monday, dealing a new setback to the premier. News of the agreement broke ahead of Netanyahu's meeting with US President Donald Trump at the White House later Monday. The widely reported agreement between Israeli authorities and Nir Hefetz, a former spokesman for the Netanyahu family, comes as corruption investigations into the prime minister intensify. Israeli police provided no details on the reported agreement.

AFP

Big Tobacco must be 'held accountable'

PARIS - Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who made his fortune selling financial data, has given more than \$1bn since 2007 to curb global tobacco use, which claims nearly seven million lives every year. Along with World Health Organisation (WHO) Director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and South African health minister Aaron Motsoaledi, Bloomberg will launch the World Conference on Tobacco or Health in Cape Town today. **AFP**



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SYMPHONY DROPS STIMULATING ALBUM

By Nomfundo Sifundza

IN 12 songs, Symphony is trying to stimulate passion, encourage and build the listener.

With a daring spirit of a fighter, the dynamite Symphony has released her debut album 'Sengikhona'.

'Sengikhona' is also one of the singles she released last year right after winning the MTN Bushfire Firefly competition.

Yesterday the urban soul artist held a media launch and listening session at the Mbabane Club where in attendance were representatives of the prime minister and the minister of sports, culture and youth affairs, Dr Sikhomba Gumbi, SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini and members of the music industry including KrTC and Larry Mhlana.

Percy Simelane represented the premier whilst Ministry of Sports Under

- PM, Minister Representatives attend listening session
- Bennedict Bennet pleads for cut on venue fees for artists
- No International artist at the 50/50 celebrations please - Zox

Secretary Nhlanhla Motsa represented Minister David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala.

In her brief introductory speech Symphony's manager and elder sister Buyisile Cele shared that her sister's passion for music dates way back to when she was young and would return home late from spending ample time in a studio that was situated at the Swaziland Theatre Club.

Returning

"After returning late from her lengthy studio time, she would feel our mother's wrath as she would scold her (Symphony) for returning home late but at the end of the day we all saw and realised how passionate she was and is about her music," Cele added.

Proving true and cementing the

immense talent Symphony has, was the singer herself belting out her first song in the 12-track album.

She sang 'Chance' a song in which she shares her deep insights and encouraging words, enough to stimulate passion.

Another keynote speaker at the listening session was the one directing proceedings Bennedict Bennett who stressed an important point with regards to artists failing to secure venues for their shows due to hiking fees.

"How can you charge an arm and a leg for venue costs to somebody who is trying to grow and make a living out of their talent, the least we could do is cut off the ridiculous venue costs and try meet these artists

half way because the talent alone will not get them where they need to be," he said.

Bennett's stance was received by ulu-

lat-
ing
sounds and
claps of
hands
showing
that the

audi-
ence
shared his
sentiments.
Destiny Group,
who had provided the
sound and further pledged

sponsorship to the singer towards her official launch then presented a special microphone gift to the singer.

"Thank you so much," cried Symphony whilst receiving and appreciating the gift.

With lyrics of her album title song such as 'mhlaba lungela/ m a n i

ngemu-
mo/ sikhatsi sami
lesi/ sengikhona'
(loosely translated be prepared/ be in order/ this is my time/ I am here) indeed the urban soul artist has arrived.

**DROPS
ALBUM:
Symphony.**

she went on to join the MTN Bushfire Firefly competition last year which she won. That one was followed by the Sibebe Friday Night Live (SFNL), which she also won and is yet to perform on the SFNL stage.

The singer is also taking part in the Afrimusic song writing contest which she also hopes to win, having written all 12-tracks in her debut album.

...No International artist at the 50/50 celebrations please - Zox

FOREWARNED is fore-armed and thus SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini warned Symphony and her manager.

The experienced entertainment pioneer said "be ready for the challenges, this is a dark industry and currently our neighbouring country is not pleased with us because we are breaking records they never have."

This the president said

with reference to afro soul singer Sands breaking the biggest song record in South African radio stations.

Most importantly in his brief speech Dlamini made a plea to Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane who was representing the prime minister. "Mr Simelane, no one from outside Swaziland at the 50/50 celebrations please, it is our time and we will make it worthwhile," he pleaded.



...Symphony official launch for March 31

HER journey has since begun but before breaking international records her music career will be officially launched.

This was revealed by the singer's manager Buyisile Cele at the listening session held yesterday.

The official launch will be held at the Convention Centre on March 31 and featuring artists will include Bholoja, Chord Unbreakable, Saxophonist Fakazi Samuel

and comedian Smallz. Praising Symphony's spirit of a fighter and confidence in her craft SWAMA President said "I know and I am confident of her career, we have seen her entering for music competitions and conquering others," he said.

Symphony gained popularity when she stole the hearts of many at the T55 Talent Search in 2015, she did not win the competition but that did not deter her spirits as

MTN Bushfire Physical Tickets Activated

By Lusito Tsela

MTN Bushfire Festival fans can now flock to all the MTN outlets where bushfire festival tickets are sold.

The physical tickets for the 2018 festival were activated yesterday at the MTN Service Centre situated at the Corporate Place in Mbabane.

The event that was graced by MTN Brand and Sponsorship Manager Meshack Maseko, House on Fire Director Jiggs Thorne and other MTN and House on Fire staff members saw a lot of fun fanatics coming in to purchase their early bird tickets.

Scott Flintstone who was one of the early bird physical ticket buyers said

he was very excited to be one of the very first MTN Bushfire Festival 2018 ticket buyers.

"I have never missed Bushfire Festival since 2014, and I wasn't about to miss it now. I am looking forward to the festival as it has always brought fire with it in terms of the artist's performing, the selection of music and other activities coming along with the festival. Now that I have bought my ticket, my friends will follow suit which is why I am looking forward to the event," he said.

On the other hand, MTN Brand and Sponsorship Manager Meshack Maseko said he was happy with the response they have witnessed, from the social media platforms to the launch in South Africa. "A lot of people including South Africans are actually itching to

come to the festival. The hype has been growing remarkably since artists were revealed," he said.

He added that MTN will be lining up different promotions where they will be giving away a lot of tickets to MTN customers.

Festival

"The festival being the 12th edition, it has never disappointed before, hence this year MTN is celebrating 20 years in the country thus MTN will be taking its celebrations to the festival to celebrate with its customers making the festival bigger and better than in recent years," said Maseko.

Bushfire Festival Director Jiggs Thorne said, "It all gets real as soon as we start physically processing tickets as it gives the sense that things are not far away."

"We are a month away from the festival and basically it speaks to the wrapping up of the whole marketing and communication process of the whole event, letting people know shows what's to be expected from the MTN Bushfire 2018, what the new developments are and the commitment to improve the overall experience of the Bushfire Festival," he said.

Thorne encouraged fun lovers to pay for camping so they can get the whole experience of the festival.

"People who want to organise camping need to process that at The House On Fire at Malkerns as that is the only place liable for camping payments," he said.

Thorne continued saying Bushfire Festival has been sold out for the last four years in a row and this year they have witnessed a significant rise in the number of tickets being bought as they began selling tickets in September last

year. Worth noting is that the Bushfire Festival is the second largest Festival in the world and it generates millions to the economy of the country.

"It is really an exciting phenomenal and it speaks to the out take of the ticket sales as everybody wants to be there and partake in the event as it is not only locals but the amazing influx of people coming to the event both regionally and internationally and that has a positive impact in creative economy as there is a high range of people and business that benefits from event," said Thorne.

"Bushfire has a lot to offer as it puts the country and local artists on the map as it creates a unique marketing platform for local artists in the region and abroad," he added.

Thorne urged fun lovers to buy their tickets as soon as possible so they cannot miss out on the 2018 edition of the Bushfire Festival.



LIKE THIS: Reverend Elias Shongwe of Shongwe and Khuphuka joined by gospel artists Banele Dlamini, Nduduzo Matse and the host Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule. This was part of the action on Monday night at the Back to the Cross Crusade which ended on a high note yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



FIRST ROW: Bishop Mpendulo and wife Zanele together with guest preacher Prophet Ebenezer Ndlovu reacting to Shongwe's statement.



VOSHO: Mpume Hlabisa leading the praise team as they show the congregation how the Vosho dance move is done.



IN PRAYER: Congregants in deep prayer during the performances.

SHONGWE PAYS FOR 'BACK TO THE CROSS' MARQUEE

By Simon Shabangu

REVEREND Elias Shongwe the founder and leader of Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group extended his appreciation in a special way when he offered to pay for the expenses for the marquee used to host the Back to the Cross Crusade which ended yesterday.

Shongwe said he was aware that hosting such a crusade was costly stating that Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule must not worry about the costs of the marquee as he will cater for them. He said this was a small token of appreciation he was extending to Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule and his wife Zanele Mbokazi for affording him the platform to shine in South Africa.

The founder of Light of Christ Ministries told the gathering that Gospel Powerhouse which hosts the SABC Crown Gospel Awards, a brainchild of Zanele Mbokazi-Nkambule, played a huge role in his music career which he said he felt very much

indebted to them for the opportunity which took his music to another level.

"I want to say that I am humbled for the love, support and the trust you had in me that enable me on to live up to the expectations of the people on that big stage. That opportunity made a huge impact in my music career. If I had failed it was not going to be your fault," he related.

Crowds

Shongwe was the last on stage on the list of three local artists who included Banele Dlamini, Nduduzo Matse and Mpume Hlabisa who also leads the crusade's praise team. Shongwe did not disappoint the crowd present on the night as he gave them the best of performances which kept them on their feet.

Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule the founder of Ambassador's House Ministries in response said he was grateful for the kind gesture Shongwe extended stating that it was a pleasant surprise to them because indeed hosting a crusade of that magni-

tude was costly.

"I just want to appreciate you man of God for this and also want to say it was your God given talent that gave you the platform because were it not for it the Gospel powerhouse would have not seen you as deserving a chance to perform at the crowns.

The country is blessed to have humble servants of God like you. I remember when you took to the stage the whole of ICC Durban was dancing to your music. You represented the country well and may God prosper you in your music ministry and take to even greater heights" he said.

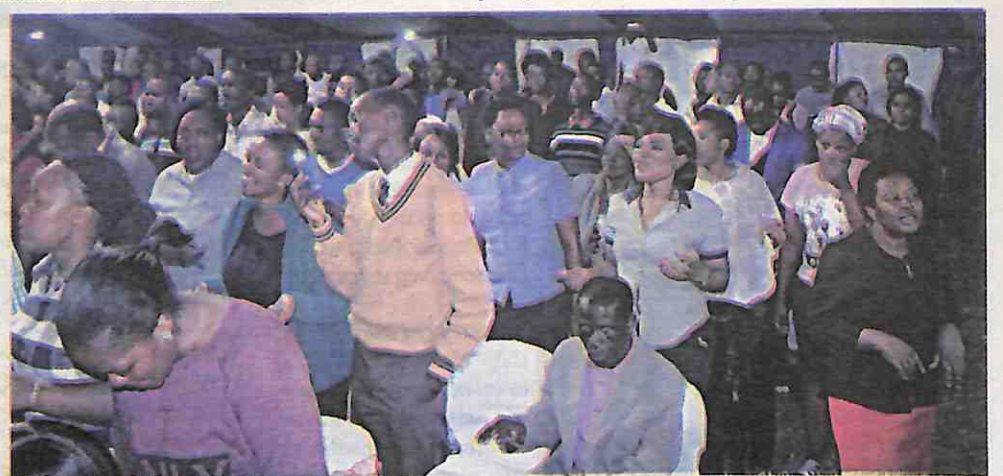
On the night, guest preacher Prophet Ebenezer Ndlovu from South Africa performed miracles and prayed for deliverance of people present. He also prayed for pictures which he had ordered people to bring the previous day. This he said was a way God will deliver them from their many problems and challenges they faced.



SHWELE GAZI: Bishop Mpendulo leading the congregation in song.



AMEN: Reverend Shongwe leading the congregation in song as he was joined by Banele Dlamini, Nduduzo Matse and Bishop Mpendulo on stage.



IN NUMBERS: A section of the congregation who attended the service.

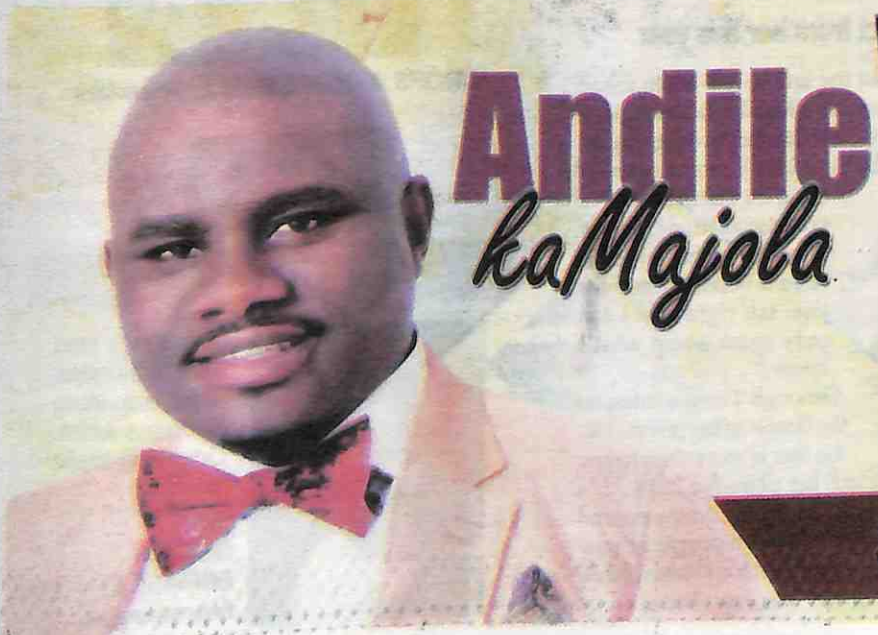
WIN A HAMPER TO ANDILE KAMAJOLA'S 'WE SHALL OVERCOME' TOUR IN SWAZILAND

HAMPER INCLUDES E100 TICKET, AN ANDILE/ HLENGIWE MHLABA CD & BRANDED T-SHIRT

Terms & Conditions

- The Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will entered into
- Send more sms's to increase the chance of winning
- This competition is NOT open to Swazi Observer employees and their immediate families.
- The Closing date of the competition is 22 March, 2018
- Each sms cost E1.71

SMS "FUN ANDILE" TO 6464



International
Celebrity News

Nicki Minaj unveils her pregnancy

HOLLYWOOD

MediaTakeOut.com told you guys a few months back that Nicki Minaj was pregnant and now we've got the uncontroverted proof.

Nicki showed up at the Oscars afterparty and she was pregnant.

We have multiple sources inside that confirm that Nicki is very visibly pregnant, and yes, we also confirmed that the baby belongs to Nas.

So this explains her disappearance from the spotlight. We had previously reported that Minaj was holed up in rehab trying to kick her addiction to Percocet. But if Nicki is pregnant, now would be the time to get rid of the habit. *MTO*



EXPECTING: Nicki Minaj.

Beyoncé and Jay-Z are going on tour together

LOS ANGELES - Get in formation! Beyoncé and Jay-Z are going on tour together.

Shortly after an 'On the Run 2' tour date appeared (and then disappeared) on Bey's Facebook on Monday, a source tells E! News that the couple is indeed going on tour together again.

"They are scheduled to go on tour together," the insider shares. "This should happen before the end of the year if everything goes as planned. This is something they are really looking forward to." This chapter in the couple's lives "is the strongest they ever been and they feel it will be an epic experience," the source says. Their three kids will be going with them. *Eonline*



GOING ON TOUR: Jay-Z and Beyoncé.

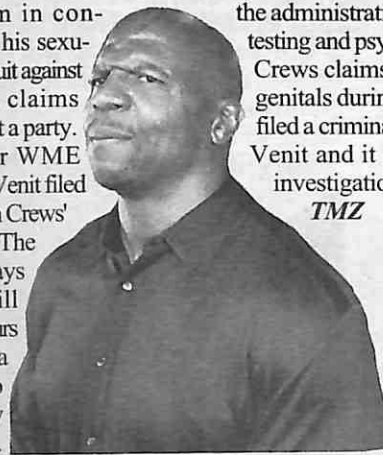
Terry Crews to take mental health exam

LOS ANGELES - Terry Crews has agreed to take a mental health

exam in connection with his sexual

assault lawsuit against an agent he claims groped him at a party. Lawyers for WME agent Adam Venit filed a stipulation in Crews' civil lawsuit. The stipulation says the exam will take seven hours and it names a doctor who was mutually agreed upon.

According to the docs, the exam will include a "comprehensive psycho-social and medical history and the administration of mental status testing and psychological testing." Crews claims Venit grabbed his genitals during a party. He's also filed a criminal complaint against Venit and it is currently under investigation. *TMZ*



TO TAKE MENTAL HEALTH EXAM: Terry Crews

Inside Eva Mendes, Ryan Gosling's famously private world

HOLLYWOOD - Their existence as human beings is verifiable, but their status as a couple of going on seven years and the parents of two children is provable only via the sparsest shreds of evidence, including a couple of birth certificates and a few spoken acknowledgements that have escaped from the actors' mouths while in a public setting.

Ryan and Eva started out as your average celebrity couple in that they didn't exact-

ly invite attention, nor did they eschew it, but there were walks to grab coffee, some date nights and a trip to Disneyland, as well as two red carpet appearances to date, the only water in the photographic well. They even did a Funny or Die video together very early on, in 2011.

But in hindsight, those red carpet photos probably wouldn't even exist if they hadn't both been in a movie that needed promoting, the melancholy 2012 drama 'The Place Beyond the Pines'.

MailOnline



PRIVATE: Eva Mendes and Ryan Gosling.

SA Celebrity News

Club 808 ends after seven years

JOHANNESBURG - It has been confirmed that e.tv has pulled the plug on music show, 'Club 808' after seven years.

The news was officially announced on last Friday's episode of the show.

"Club 808's final episode will air on e.tv on March 30 at 4:25pm. The show will conclude with a special episode showcasing the talent and hosts that have graced the



show since its premiere," said e.tv Publicist Michael Pocock.

"We would like to thank the presenters of 'Club 808', all the talent that have featured on the show and Red Pepper Pictures for an entertaining seven years on e.tv."

In September last year the show changed time slots to make room for 'Days of Our Lives', however the broadcaster dismissed speculation that it was

because of dwindling viewership figures. *Sowetan*

AKA confirms 'Touch My Blood' will be his last album

JOHANNESBURG - AKA's management have that his upcoming album, 'Touch My Blood', will be the last album the rapper puts out. This comes after AKA himself hinted at the news on Twitter over the weekend.

The rapper's Manager Tshiamo Letswene said AKA wants to pursue other interests beyond music. "Yup. This is it. This is his last album. He wants to do other things with his life beyond music. He is a father and a businessman. He has a company to run and he will be focusing on that and other projects. He will always be AKA and will dip in



and out of music." Tshiamo revealed that Touch My Blood was "coming along nicely" and should be released in May.

During an interview with TshisaLive in September last year, AKA said he felt albums were 'restrictive'.

"I will drop a new single this year. I like to make music and, to me, albums are a bit restrictive, but it is what it is. People want albums, so I will put my heart into it. Every song is a painting for me and Van Gogh didn't make 12 paintings and then put them in a gallery," he said.

TshisaLive

LAST ALBUM: AKA.

UB40 are coming to SA

JOHANNESBURG - 'Red Red Wine' is just one of the many UB40 hits that South African radio

stations play to this day - and now the band themselves are returning to South Africa as part of their 25th anniversary tour.

Original band members Ali Campbell, Astro and Mickey Virtue are the most successful UK reggae band yet, having been at the top of their game since 1979. After a hiatus, the musicians got

back together in 2013 and started touring again to perform their classic hits such as 'Kingston Town', 'I Can't Help Falling in Love with You', 'Homely Girl', and 'Cherry Oh Baby' alongside new songs.

In 2014, they released their critically acclaimed Silhouette album, and there are plans for another new studio album later this year. UB40 have toured extensively in Europe and the Americas and played in countries as diverse as Nigeria, Dubai and Papua New Guinea. *TimesLive*



FOR SA: UB40.

Terry Pheto on what to expect from her this year

JOHANNESBURG - Terry Pheto likes to keep her private life private, which is why it was such

a surprise when the Sunday Sun reported that the actress was happily in love and engaged.

The publication stated that, according to a source, the Madiba star has been in a relationship with IT mogul Masande Peter for almost a year and is "head over heels" with her alleged fiancé.

But, on speaking to DRUM, Terry says she doesn't know anything

about the article and when asked about the alleged relationship the actress and businesswoman brushes the topic off. "I cannot say anything on that since I have not seen anything, maybe after seeing the article I'd have a better answer for you, but right now I can only speak about what I know."

Although Terry is mum on the details of her private life, the star is more than happy to reveal her plans for 2018. "It's going to be an exciting year and I'm working on a couple of projects, some of which I cannot speak about yet," she says. *Drum*



PRIVATE LIFE: Terry Pheto.

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY

Judas and Beauty agree to work together to overcome their challenges. Thandi is shocked that Pleasure fell for Mandla's tricks. Gloria schemes with Ngwebedla against Duma.



TO WORK WITH JUDAS: Beauty.

ISIDINGO

TODAY

Rajesh is not happy with the way Kgothalo is dealing with things. Hendrik gives Anja a pep talk before her supplementary exam but she gets distracted. Gabriel's first day at the mine has a rocky start.



DEALING WITH THINGS: Kgothalo.

Muvhango

TODAY

Livhuwani feels terrible when she can't get hold of Tendamudzimu. Are the ancestors punishing her? Gugu is stressed about facing Ranthomeng. Thandaza drops a bombshell on James.



DROPS A BOMBSHELL: Thandaza.

RHYTHM CITY

TODAY



Nomalanga sees evidence of a miracle, while Lerato sees a mysterious decline. Only Bongi knows the truth.

SEES A MIRACLE: Nomalanga.

Bese kuthiwa singawudli u-polony entweni emnandi kanje?



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

Actions speak louder than platitudes, Capricorn. That goes double today, when the moon in your social zone syncs up with unpredictable Uranus. If certain "friends" consistently fail to deliver on promises, it's time to either cut them some slack or cut 'em out of your life altogether.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

Lose the guilt, Aquarius! As your co-ruler, changeable Uranus, shades the moon, you won't be able to stomach obligatory social engagements. If you're feeling lackluster about going on that second date or joining friends for the same-old night at the dive bar, don't push it.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 20

Today, have a good long think about money and how you can make yours work harder. Don't fall into the shortsighted "a penny saved is a penny earned" mentality. You need to step back and get a wider perspective. How much will a penny INVESTED be worth by the time you need to cash in your chips? If you don't have the funds (or stomach) for the stock market, think about investing in yourself and your own future.



ARIES MARCH 21 – APRIL 19

Take an unconventional approach to your work, and watch the results roll in! Under today's galvanizing angle between the moon and iconoclastic Uranus, a little "shock and awe" can give you the leading edge. Indulge your competitive nature but stop short of drawing battle lines.



TAURUS APRIL 20 – MAY 20

How fascinating, Taurus: Just when you were SURE you figured out what (and who) you needed, someone comes along and introduces a totally new set of standards. With the moon and unconventional Uranus disrupting the status quo, you'd be wise to keep an open mind.



GEMINI MAY 21 – JUNE 21

Who, you: a predictable creature of habit? Perish the thought! Under today's wonky mashup of the moon and spontaneous Uranus, you'll make people's heads spin with your unexpected moves. But this is as much for your own benefit as theirs since you lose steam when you're bored. Shake up anything that's become routine, from workflow to wellness.



CANCER JUNE 22 – JULY 22

Today may bring a big career opportunity—but is it legit? With spontaneous Uranus beaming shock waves to the moon, you could get caught up in the "new-ness" of an offer before you've done your due diligence. While it's fine to be excited, give yourself a few days to mull over the likelihood of long-term stability. While working for a startup or launching a new initiative can be exhilarating, you're not one who does well when finances are unpredictable.



LEO JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

Late to the party, Leo? Don't fixate on that. You're here now, aren't you? Today's fast-moving cosmic current will help you make up for lost time. Start by observing people in action, orienting yourself to systems and reading up on best practices. Need some answers filled in? Ask! Don't worry about appearing naive or uncool. This isn't a competition. Focus on finding your place and giving 100 percent. Before you know it, you'll find your rightful position in the ranks—which is bound to be somewhere at the top.



VIRGO AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

Keep your ears peeled for profitable financial opportunities! With groundbreaker Uranus nudging the moon, it's worth at least considering a cutting-edge investment, like a friend's inspiring startup or a promising cryptocurrency. Pay attention when, in casual conversations, someone mentions property values slowly creeping up in an emerging neighborhood.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 23

Set some social parameters today, Libra, or plans could balloon out of control. If you're envisioning an intimate evening with friends, let them know up front. Otherwise, they could show up with others in tow and make it impossible to find a table at the busy restaurant you're dying to try. With spontaneous Uranus nudging the moon, however, it might be advantageous to adopt a "the more, the merrier" approach for PART of the day.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 24 – NOVEMBER 21

Be honest, Scorpio: Are you keeping any dramatic friends around because they make life "interesting?" While they may be entertaining, they can't provide the sustained loyalty that you as a Scorpio require. After all, you want people who will listen to YOU too.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

Need to unblock your creativity? Clear your space. As electrifying Uranus beams the moon in your twelfth house of transitions, you may get the urge to purge. Easy does it, though! This rash cosmic combo could send you on a slash-and-burn mission, and you could wind up trashing a few treasures in your frenzy.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES

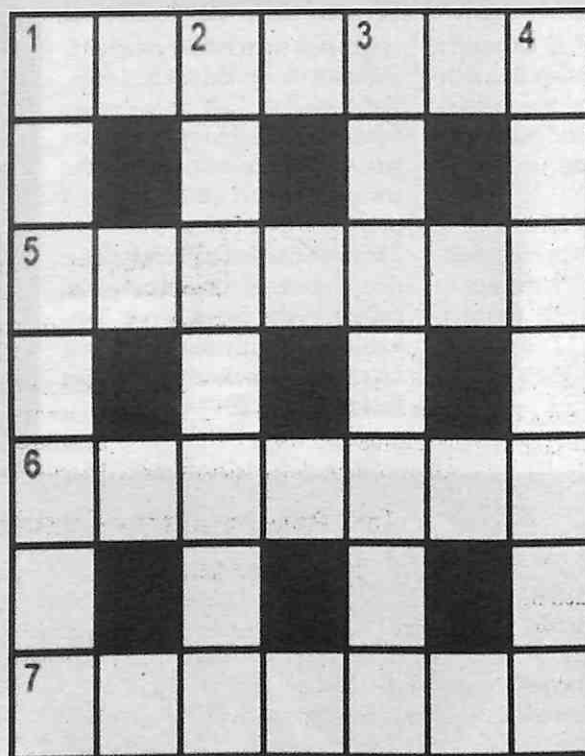


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



HOME WORDSEARCH

PUZZLE CHOICE



Down

- Merry
- Mark or stamp as paid
- Belief or sentiment
- Vest

Across

- Angry
- Segment
- Occurring at the beginning
- No longer in existence

LOL

Laughing out Loud

Jill, a love-starved spinster, was so desperate that she went to a local newspaper office and inquired about putting an advertisement in the 'Lonely Hearts' column.

"Well, madam," the assistant said, "we charge a minimum of \$1 per insertion." "You don't say," said the spinster "Well then, here's \$20 and to hell with the advertisement!"

USELESS FACTS

- The first meal on the moon was roast turkey, eaten by Niel Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin.
- Coffee is the world's most recognisable smell.
- Carrots have zero fat content.
- A typical banana travels 4 000 miles before being eaten.
- When honey is swallowed, it enters the blood stream within a period of 20 minutes.

BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's brainteasers

- If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it?

Answer: None, it's already built.
2. If Mr Smith's peacock lays an egg in Mr Jones' yard, who

owns the egg?

Answer: Peacocks don't lay eggs, just peahens.)

Today's brainteasers

- How do you know carrots are good for your eyes?
- Take off my skin and I won't cry, but you will. What Am I?



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NEWS



BLACK COFFEE NOMINATED IN KIDS CHOICE AWARDS

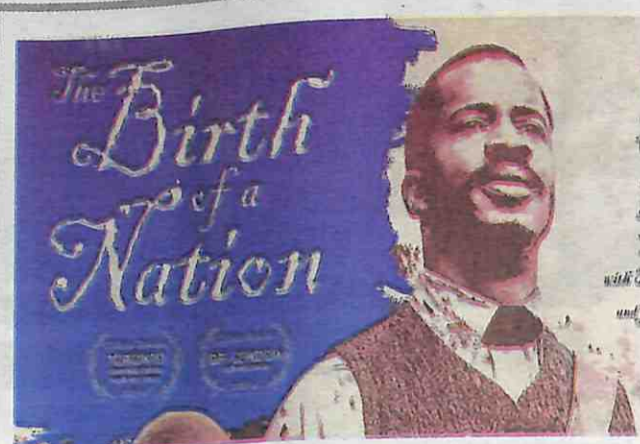
HE is only black excellence by default but by purpose indeed.

South African, internationally acclaimed DJ Black Coffee is nominated for the Favourite Global Music Star category alongside international counterparts. The Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards offer a platform for African stars to be recognised for their excellence in their various talents including, music, sport and television by kids all over the globe.

Other nominees include Dwayne Johnson, Beyoncé, Kevin Hart, Taylor Swift, Camila Cabello, Luis Fonsi, Shawn Mendes, Zendaya, Chris Pratt, Khalid, Cardi B, Selena Gomez, Millie Bobby Brown, Kendrick Lamar, Justin Bieber, Harry Styles, Chris Hemsworth, Ed Sheeran among others.

WWE Superstar John Cena will return to host the Nickelodeon 2018 Kids' Choice Awards on Saturday, March 24 which will premiere on Nickelodeon (DStv channel 305) and Nick Toons (DStv channel 308) on Sunday, March 25 at 17:05.

Starting today, Nickelodeon will roll out a brand-new, four-week voting wave, where new categories will be revealed each week leading up to the show. Kids can cast their votes on Nickelodeon's digital platforms including **Nick.com** and the Nick App on iPad, iPhone, Kindle, and Android devices by using special KCA hashtags and the hashtag of their favourite nominee. In addition, kids will have the chance to influence the show in real time with all-new live votes.



THE BIRTH OF A NATION PREMIERING TONIGHT

WE are so excited for The Birth of a Nation, premiering at midnight on Wednesday, March 7 on M-Net Movies Premiere.

With an all-star cast, here are a few facts about this movie;

- Nate Parker writes, produces, directs and acts in this 2016 movie, for which he also invested \$100 000 of his own money, to get the movie made.

- Other actors you can see in this period drama based on the slave rebellion by Nat Turner are Gabrielle Union, Aja Naomi King, Penelope Anne Miller and Armie Hammer.

- The movie was filmed in Georgia in just 27 days on a former plantation.

- In 2016, The Birth of a

Nation released at the Sundance Film Festival, where FOX Searchlight Pictures bought the rights to screen the movie for \$17.5 million. This was the biggest deal in Sundance history.

- The movie won two awards at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival. The Audience Award: Dramatic and the US Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic.

- The story of Nat Turner is well documented. In addition to this movie, his name has been referenced in songs from Lecrae (Freedom) and Chance The Rapper (How Great). Even the great Tupac spoke of Nat and it is believed that the cross tattoo on his back is a reference to the rebellion led by Nat.

YIM'lo TV personality, Dineo Ranaka, helps various people come clean to their loved ones about their double lives.

How will their loved ones react?

UTHANDO NES'THEMBU

Well last week's episode made other viewers think MaCele is not a bad person after all in fact they fell in love with her, what can we say it is the Mselekus.

This is a reality show that follows businessman Musa Mseleku and

his four wives as they navigate a polygamous relationship, their family dynamic, staying true to tradition in a modern world and the sisterhood of the wives.

PROJECT RUNWAY SA

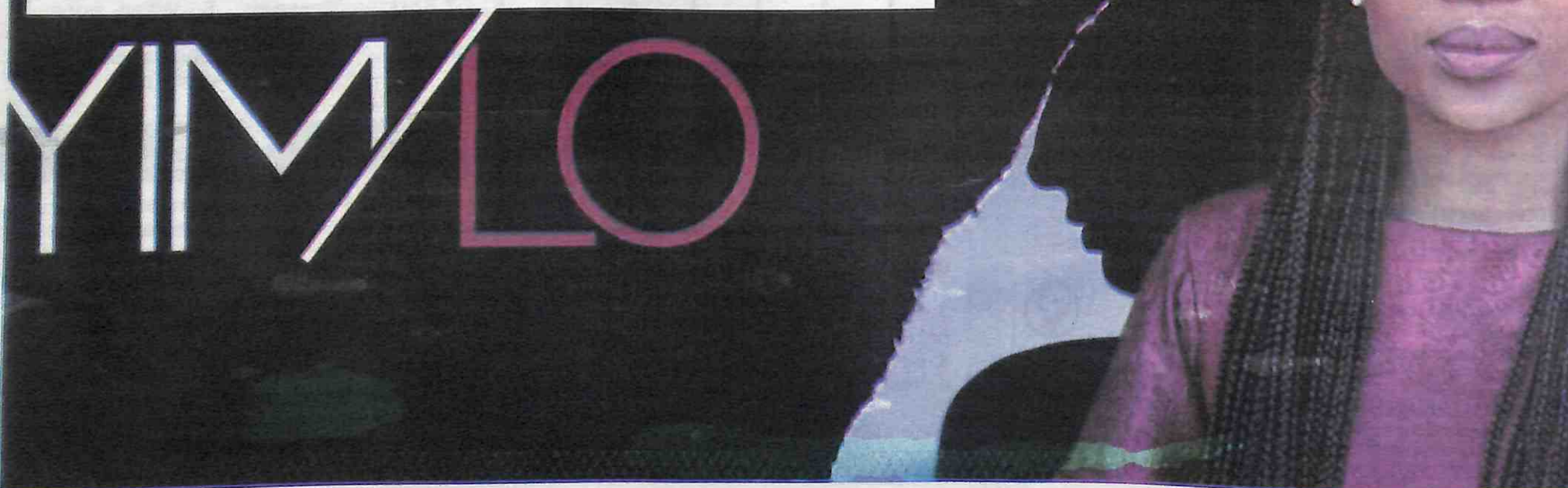
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7 MAR, 14 MAR, 21 MAR, 28 MAR

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JOSE MOURINHO WILL EARN £1.7m IN 4 DAYS

MANCHESTER - Jose Mourinho is already guaranteed to be one of the big winners at the World Cup — earning £1.71million for spending just four days in Russia during the tournament.

Mourinho, who was being chased by the BBC and ITV, has signed up for Russia's international news channel RT, who have no live rights.

Their agreement with the Manchester United manager requires him to be in Moscow at the start of the World Cup for those lucrative four days doing a variety of punditry.

Then he will work for RT on World Cup final day, but that will be done via a satellite link-up with Manchester. He is also advertising RT's World Cup service through a video launched yesterday, which mainly promotes himself.

The World Cup has proved a great earner for Mourinho, who was paid more than £1m when he provided his views for Yahoo in 2014.

Mourinho's commercial agents Creative Artists wanted to negotiate a deal that earned their client the biggest fee for the smallest amount of his time, and they have certainly succeeded.

The Portuguese intends to take a family holiday between his RT commitments at the start and end of the World



MONEY MAKER: Jose Mourinho is already guaranteed to be one of the big winners at the World Cup.

Cup. He said: "I am looking forward to attending the World Cup in Russia and sharing my insights."

England rugby union head coach Eddie Jones can't win with the Scots. Not only was he physically and verbally harassed by drunken Scotland fans, but there were rumblings of disapproval at the official dinner after the Murrayfield game about Jones wearing an open-neck shirt and jumper rather than a jack-

et and tie.

AN RFU spokeswoman said she was surprised at such an opinion being expressed because 'Eddie wore smart clothing from the official Eden Park range, as he always does'. Also, the Scottish Rugby Union statement apologising for the abuse dished out to Jones in Manchester made reference to the dignity he and his team had shown at the dinner. **DAILY MAIL**

Serena makes first singles appearance after giving birth

NEW YORK - New mother Serena Williams took on her first singles event of 2018 at the winner-takes-all Tie Break Tens event at Madison Square Gardens in New York.

Williams was making her singles return after the birth of her daughter Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr. in September last year.

Last month she made her return to tennis by competing in the Fed Cup alongside sister Venus playing doubles in the Fed Cup, but the pair lost against the Netherlands.

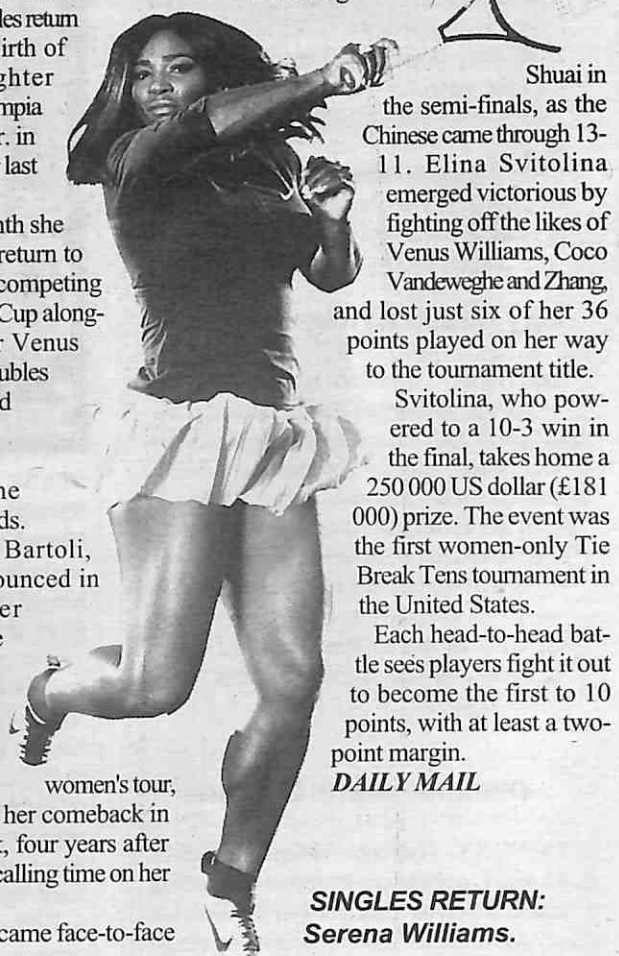
Marion Bartoli, who announced in December that she would be making a return to the

women's tour, also made her comeback in New York, four years after originally calling time on her career.

The pair came face-to-face

in the first round of the event on Monday, with Williams triumphing 10-5.

But the multiple grand slam winner met her match in Zhang



SINGLES RETURN: Serena Williams.

Shuai in the semi-finals, as the Chinese came through 13-11. Elina Svitolina emerged victorious by fighting off the likes of Venus Williams, Coco Vandeweghe and Zhang, and lost just six of her 36 points played on her way to the tournament title.

Svitolina, who powered to a 10-3 win in the final, takes home a 250 000 US dollar (£181 000) prize. The event was the first women-only Tie Break Tens tournament in the United States.

Each head-to-head battle sees players fight it out to become the first to 10 points, with at least a two-point margin.

DAILY MAIL

Deceased Astori's club contract extended

ROME - Italian football club Fiorentina have extended the contract of their deceased captain Davide Astori, who was found dead in a team hotel room on Sunday.

The news was announced by Giovanni Malago who is President of the Italian Olympic Committee, who currently oversees Italian top flight and international football.

"Fiorentina have renewed Astori's contract. His salary will go to his family, his partner and his daughter," Malago said.

"It's a lovely gesture from the Della Valle family," Malago said of the family which runs Fiorentina.

On Sunday the club revealed the player had been on the verge of extending his contract and the only thing that had been missing was the signatures.

Italy is still reeling in shock following the sudden death on Sunday of the 31-year-old defender who played for his country 14 times.

A judicial inquiry had been launched following the death of the player, who was found dead in his hotel room in Udine, where his team was due to play Udinese on Sunday.

An autopsy into the death will be carried out yesterday while his funeral will be held in Florence on Thursday. **AFP**

Accusations fly at SASCOC inquiry

JOHANNESBURG - The Department of Sports and Recreation's hearing into the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) continued on Monday.

Day five of the Ministerial Committee of Inquiry into SASCOC saw three of the five witnesses making accusations and counter-accusations against each other regarding governance issues at SASCOC. Labour law expert Shamima Gaibie shot down persisting arguments around the legality of the co-

opting of members to the SASCOC board. Gaibie said the council itself had opted to go ahead with the vote, despite being aware of the ineligibility of some members. New revelations included the R200 000 per month earned by former CEO Tubby Reddy.

There were also differing views on why Norton Rose Fulbright had been appointed to oversee the disciplinary hearing into Reddy and his two associates. Sascoc President Gideon Sam was also not spared from abuse of power claims. **eNCA**

Haas returns to PGA Tour after fatal car accident

CAPE TOWN - Bill Haas is set to play his first PGA Tour event since being involved in a car accident that resulted in the death of his friend.

The 35-year-old has committed to play in this week's Valspar Championship, with the February 13 crash that killed his friend Mark Gibello still fresh in his mind.

Haas was the passenger in a vehicle driven by Gibello when the crash occurred in Pacific Palisades, California - and was lucky to avoid serious injury.

The American admitted he still hasn't fully come to terms with the incident, or exactly how he should move forward.

"There's not many templates to go by on something like this," Haas told the Associated Press in his first interview since the accident.

"I was in a state of shock, disbelief. It was a tragic event, traumatic. I'm still unsure how to handle it. I keep going back to focusing on the Gibello family." **Sport24**



BACK: Bill Haas

Fiorentina and Cagliari retire No 13 shirt

UDINE - Fiorentina and Cagliari have retired their Number 13 shirt in memory of Davide Astori, the Italian clubs have announced.

The 31-year-old was found dead in his hotel room in Udine on Sunday, hours before Fiorentina were due to face Udinese in a Serie A fixture.

All of Sunday's seven Serie A games were postponed as a result and tributes from across the footballing world poured in for the defender, who won 14 caps for Italy.

Yesterday Fiorentina and Cagliari, Astori's club between 2008 and



ACF Fiorentina Verified

To honor his memory and make the memory of Davide Astori indelible, @CagliariCalcio and Fiorentina have decided to jointly withdraw the shirt with the number 13. #DA13CC

QUESTA MAGLIA

2016, announced they had retired the number 13 shirt in honour of

their former player. Fiorentina tweeted: "In honour of

Davide Astori's memory, Cagliari and Fiorentina have decided to retire the Number 13 shirt."

Cagliari, having changed their Twitter handle to 'Ciao Davide', added: "To honour their memory and make indelible the memory of David Astori, @acffiorentina and @CagliariCalcio have decided to jointly withdraw the jersey with the number 13." Fiorentina announced on Sunday morning that Astori had died following a 'sudden illness', and a day later prosecutors opened a culpable homicide case over his death. **DAILY MAIL**



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



BRIEFS

Mori eyes starting spot

LIVERPOOL - Everton defender Ramiro Funes Mori is ready to stake his claim for a first-team spot ahead of Saturday's Premier League tie against Brighton and Hove Albion after featuring for the Under-23 team on his return from a long-term knee injury. The Argentina international, on what was his 27th birthday on Monday, delivered an assured performance in a 2-0 win over Swansea City. *Reuters*

City thrashing a wake-up call

LONDON - Tottenham Hotspur's Kieran Trippier made himself watch several reruns of Spurs' 4-1 Premier League defeat to Manchester City in December in a bid to learn from his mistakes and the fullback says the game served as a wake-up call. Spurs, who face Juventus in the second leg of the Champions League last 16 today, were torn to shreds by the league leaders at the Etihad Stadium that day, with Trippier enduring a difficult afternoon against Leroy Sane. *Reuters*

Dembele wants trophies

LONDON - Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Mousa Dembele is pleased to be earning praise from his manager but the Belgian says he wants to finish the season on a high and collect silverware. Manager Mauricio Pochettino hailed Dembele a "genius" and compared his ability with the likes of Diego Maradona and Ronaldinho after his dominant performance secured a 2-2 draw at Juventus in the Champions League last 16 tie. *Reuters*



Long term No.1 discovered

LONDON - Arsenal are chasing Bayer Leverkusen keeper Bernd Leno as they look for a new long term No.1. They want to sign a keeper, centre half and holding midfielder this summer and Leno is on their list of potential keepers. German newspaper Bild also report that Napoli are interested in the 26-year-old who has been capped six times by Germany. Current Arsenal keeper Petr Cech, 35, still has another year left on his contract and will expect competition this summer but will be determined not to give up his place, having held off David Ospina. *MIRROR*



MANCHESTER - Chris Smalling revealed how Manchester United's amazing comeback win reminded him of the Sir Alex Ferguson glory days.

Former United boss Fergie was famous for inspiring victories after his team had gone behind. The most stunning were in 2001 when they recovered at Tottenham from 3-0 down at the break to win 5-3 and the Champions League Final fight-back against Bayern Munich in 1999 when two goals in added time earned a 2-1 victory.

On Monday, United were 2-

0 down at Crystal Palace but bounced back to win 3-2, with Nemanja Matic bagging the winner with an added-time rocket. "It did remind me of that era," said Smalling, who scored United's opener. "There's not been many games where we've come back - granted, there's not many games when we've gone 2-0 down. "But you can see how close we are as a group that everyone celebrated together, and how much it means to us, because that was a huge win." Agreeing United had not previous responded in such a manner this season, Smalling

added: "Our intensity really increased and you could see probably four of their guys cramping up. "That gave us that edge where we thought we could go after them. Even when it was 2-2, where in some games you'd probably take that after being 2-0 down, we went after them. It was great. "We showed a lot of character. Before the game we knew how important this was to really try and make a gap with the other teams, so it's such a great feeling. "You can see from the celebrations at the end how much that meant to all of us." *Daily Mail*

Gary Neville labels Pogba a YouTube player

LONDON - Gary Neville has criticised Paul Pogba for performing as if "everything he does is like a YouTube or Instagram video" during the first half of Manchester United's come-from-behind win at Crystal Palace.

The United midfielder gave the ball away with a long attempted pass before Andros Townsend gave Palace a 1-0 half-time lead at Selhurst Park.

Palace made it 2-0 through Patrick van Aanholt early in the second half but the visitors rallied through goals from Chris Smalling and Romelu Lukaku before Nemanja Matic's stoppage-time stunner earned them all three points.

That had looked highly unlikely during a poor first 45 minutes and Pogba's display drew the ire of former United defender Neville. "His great weakness is that he plays like he's playing in the park with his mates," said Neville during the half-time analysis on Sky Sports. "It's like everything he does is like a YouTube or Instagram video. It's like it's not serious, it's like a joke to him in terms of the way he goes about things. "It's no wonder (manager) Jose Mourinho has left him out for the past few weeks a number of times." Neville was also critical of the lack of chemistry between Pogba's team-mates. *Sport24*

All-rounder Aguero better than ever for Guardiola

MANCHESTER - Sergio Aguero's next goal will be his 200th for Manchester City, but it is the Argentine's willingness to do much more than just score that has won the confidence of his manager Pep Guardiola.

The Catalan embraced Aguero in a bear hug as he left the pitch having ran himself into the ground in Sunday's 1-0 win over Chelsea, which edged City to within four wins of the Premier League title.

It was the first time in eight home games Aguero had failed to find the net, but that mattered little to Guardiola, who is now seeing the all-round game from Aguero he demands of his strikers.

"Since we were together here with Sergio, I think the last month, two months is the best Sergio I have seen," said Guardiola, preparing his team for the visit of Basel in the Champions

League today.

"Not just scoring goals, but he doesn't lose one ball. "He makes a movement for runs in behind, he is the first guy to make a high pressing, to help that second line be more comfortable with the ball." Those words contrast sharply with a reportedly frosty relationship between the coach and his star striker during Guardiola's trophyless first season in the northwest of England.

Aguero, 29, still scored 33 goals in all competitions, more than he ever had for City in a single season, but often found himself on the sidelines in the second half of the season as Guardiola opted instead for Gabriel Jesus.

"In the first year at times we didn't adapt," Aguero admitted to Spanish radio station Cadena SER.

"But this year, with all we have learned from last year, I think we have learned what he wants -- how to play out from the back, the movements, so it makes it much easier on the pitch." *AFP*

Guardiola accepts FA charge over Catalonia ribbon

LONDON - Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola has admitted a charge from the Football Association for wearing a political symbol, the English governing body announced on Monday.

Guardiola has said he wears a yellow ribbon to support imprisoned pro-independence politicians in his native Catalonia.

The FA ruled it breached their rules on kit and advertising regulations.

Guardiola said in November: "If one day in prison was already too much, look how many days they've been there now."

"Like everybody knows, hopefully sooner or

later I can stop wearing it."

The 47-year-old has been wearing the ribbon in support of the political leaders jailed following the Catalonia independence referendum last October, which was declared illegal by Spain.

Controversy

An FA statement read: "Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola has admitted an FA charge for wearing a political message, specifically a yellow ribbon, in breach of the FA's kit and advertising regulations."

A paper hearing has been requested, with a date to be set in due course."



ALL ROUNDER: Sergio Aguero.

His much-publicised stance over the controversy in Catalonia has become a major issue in his homeland where, according to reports in Spain, the City manager's private plane was searched at Barcelona's El Prat airport two weeks ago by police looking for exiled Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont.

Since the charge was issued Guardiola has either covered up the ribbon during games or not worn it.

AFP

BRIEFS

Dikwena players refuse to throw in the towel

JOHANNESBURG - Placed at the bottom of the ABSA Premiership table with 17 points, doubts are likely to creep in but Platinum Stars defender Gift Sithole says there's no way Roger De Sa's men can surrender. "It's tough but I think we still need to focus," said Sithole. "We still have a chance. We haven't played the last match as yet. We must try to win the next game at all costs. "Honestly the guys are down but as senior players we have to lift their spirits. I have belief that we still have a chance. We haven't being relegated. *Sport24*

Heric promises Chippa fans an attacking brand

CITY - New Chippa United head coach Vladislav Heric has revealed that he will look to play an attacking brand of football during his time at the club. Heric replaced Teboho Moloi on Monday for his second spell at the club. The Serbian helped the Chilli Boys win promotion to the ABSA Premiership in the 2013/14 season, when he was at the club for six months. In an interview with Chippa, Heric talked about his football philosophy and his first game in charge against Free State Stars in the Nedbank Cup last-16 on Saturday. *Sport24*

Sundowns will play on grass

PRETORIA

Mamelodi Sundowns goal-keeper Denis Onyango says they have no complaints about training on astro turf, even though they are going to play on grass against Rayon



Sports. Sundowns arrived in Rwanda on Saturday to start preparing for tomorrow's first round, first leg CAF Champions League clash against Rayon at Amahoro Stadium in Kigali. They trained on grass for the first time yesterday, as it's mandatory for teams to train at the match venue the day before the game. "It's not the same [as training on grass], but we have no choice. We are in a country where they do not have a lot of grass pitches. The astro turf is not bad," Onyango said. "It's one of the new ones they used in the CHAN tournament [in 2016], so it looks better. We will have a chance to go to the main stadium today, which is proper and is good for football. *Kick-Off*

New Coach Takes Charge At Eagles

JOHANNESBURG - A new head coach has been appointed to take charge of a team in the National First Division. Earlier yesterday, it was reported by the Siya crew that Super Eagles had parted ways with their coach Antonio Jesus Flores, and his assistant Tshagofatso Mashego. The Free State team moved quickly to replace the Spanish coach with Ian Palmer, who has been roped in on a short-term deal to run until the end of the season, as confirmed by his representatives from P Management. "Ian Palmer has joined Super Eagles as their new head coach. The coach will be attempting to save the team from relegation. He has joined the club on a short-term contract," P Management's Ntuthuko Zwane confirmed to the Siya crew. Eagles are 15th on the NFD log with only five wins from 23 matches so far this season. The team's next match will be against Royal Eagles on March 17.

Soccer Laduma

De Sa, Pitso must explain ref comments

JOHANNESBURG - Both **Roger de Sa and Pitso Mosimane** have been asked to explain comments made by them about the standard of officiating following recent outbursts, the Premier Soccer League said yesterday.

"The Premier Soccer League has addressed formal correspondence to the Platinum Stars FC head coach Mr Roger de Sa and to the Mamelodi Sundowns FC coach Mr Pitso Mosimane," said a statement.

"This follows comments made by the two respective coaches concerning match officials on 23 and 24 February 2018.

"The League has given both coaches five working days to respond to a request asking them to formally confirm or deny the comments attributed to them." De Sa had a long rant about Victor Gomes after Stars lost in the last minute to Maritzburg United on February 23. "The worst thing about it, I said to him after the game,

"Victor, come on man, you can't have the Gomes Show every week." Those were my exact words. Is that a red card? That's all I said. I was actually trying to give him a bit of advice. And he turned around and said that was 'ungentlemanly conduct' and gave me a red card."

Mosimane is in potential hot water for an outburst after a 1-1 draw in the derby with SuperSport United at Attardville.

Mzansi Football

Chiefs, Bucs, PSL against Women Abuse

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa's biggest and most loved beer brand, together with the Soweto Giants, each possess a massive following of Champion Men nationwide.

In understanding the power of this partnership; Carling Black Label, Kaizer Chiefs, Orlando Pirates and the Premier Soccer League came together to unite in support of the #NoExcuse movement against women abuse.

Before the much-anticipated Soweto Derby, a group of brave and inspiring women where pre-selected to create a #NoExcuse choir that performed a beautiful rendition of the popular "Mas'hambe Nono" song. In true Mzansi style, the well-known song had readapted lyrics that aimed to bring awareness to the reality many women face on a daily basis, abuse by a partner.

The song tells a story of a woman who is abused after her partner arrives home from



a big soccer match where his team had lost. The choir's rendition of Mas'hambe nono raised the emphasis on the all-important message of #NoExcuse. Being under the influence of alcohol is not an excuse. Your team losing a match is not an excuse.

There is #NoExcuse for women abuse.

Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs also joined forces for the movement and showed their full support against Gender Based Violence (GBV) by wearing #NoExcuse branded armbands for 90 minutes of

the match.

The Buccaneers and Amakhosi amplified their support by taking a combined post-match group photo following the Soweto Derby. The symbolism behind this gesture was to communicate to South African men that we need to set our differences aside and unite against women abuse. Last year, Carling Black Label in partnership with Takuwani Riime, embarked on the #NoExcuse journey, which marked the beginning of this bold new movement.

Super Sport



INDUCED COMA - Young Maritzburg United striker Luyanda Ntshangase.

Ntshangase fighting for his life after lightning strike

MARITZBURG - Young Maritzburg United striker Luyanda Ntshangase remains in an induced coma after being struck by lightning during a training session with his club last week.

The talented 21-year-old was said to have been involved in a training match when the incident took place last Friday, and was rushed to hospital before being placed in a coma.

While there are no updates as to the state of his health currently, Team of Choice Operations Manager Quintin Jettoo has asked South African football supporters to keep the young starlet in their prayers.

Speaking to Soccer Laduma, he said: "We hope that the whole football fraternity keeps him in their prayers at this very difficult and crucial time.

"Luyanda is still in hospital, and we will only know more this week. We're hoping for the best, and know that the thoughts of South African football fans are with him." *Sport24*

Baroka give Thobejane the boot

JOHANNESBURG - Baroka FC have announced that coach Kgoloko Thobejane has been released from his position with immediate effect.

Thobejane was shown the door after appearing at a second club hearing for allegedly drinking on the team bus after their 2-0 loss to Free State Stars at the beginning of February.

He had failed to show up for his initial hearing last week, but was present on Monday.

The club's Chairperson Khurishi Mphahlele added that interim boss MacDonald Makhubedu will remain in charge of the team for the rest

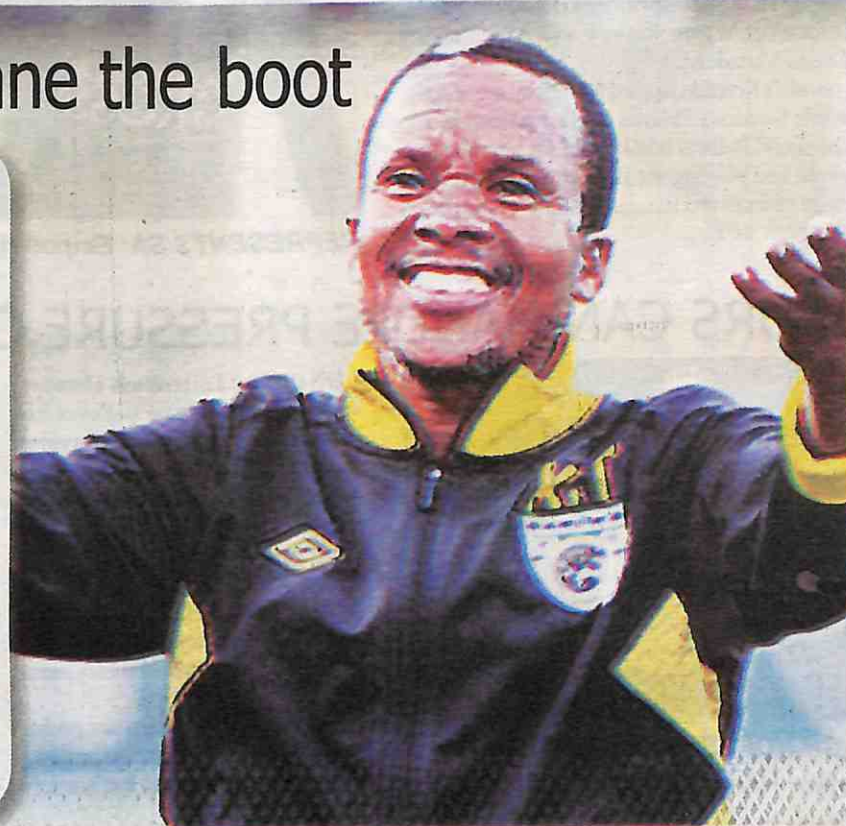
of the season. Makhubedu had been in charge of Baroka's five matches since Thobejane was suspended, winning two and drawing the other three.

Mphahlele told the KickOff website: "Yes we have released him, and this time he showed up for the hearing."

Mphahlele added that they will back the former Acombush United head coach until the end of the current campaign.

"He will finish the season, we think he can do well. He has done well and we have not lost in the last five matches, so we will give him until end of the season and then we will take it from there."

Kick-Off



BRAZILIANS SICK OF FUSS OVER NEYMAR'S TOE

BELO HORIZONTE – News crews from around the world may have flocked to cover Neymar's foot operation but some Brazilians would rather see the spotlight on the country's woes.

No-one here doubts the talent of the 26-year-old star of the Brazilian national team and Paris Saint-Germain. But people are sick of seeing him treated like a pampered rich kid.

The sport's most expensive player ever



INJURED: Brazil Star Neymar.

underwent surgery last Saturday at Mater Dei Hospital in the south-eastern city of Belo Horizonte.

The private, ultra-modern facility's tinted windows make it look more like an office building. The roof boasts a chopper pad, which Neymar used when he was released from the hospital on Sunday. Across the street is a decrepit maternity hospital called Odete Valadares. Like most state-run hospitals in Brazil, it is short on staff and all kinds of equipment, even beds. The pale pink paint is peeling. Several windows are broken.

"We need more beds in the neo-natal emergency room. Sometimes patients have to sleep on cots," said Dr. Klaus Morales on Facebook the day of Neymar's surgery on a broken metatarsal.

"Fifty metres from here in the Mater Dei Hospital, Neymar will undergo surgery on a toe," Morales wrote. "Helicopters are flying over the area non-stop and the news media focus only on this, while our patients here must wait hours to be treated," said Morales. The situation was dis-

graceful, he added.

Dozens of camera crews staked out spots for hours outside the Mater Dei Hospital while Neymar was inside – the fate of Brazil team at this year's World Cup finals could rest on him making a full recovery. And Neymar's teammates will sorely miss him when they take on Real Madrid in the Champions League.

But no-one was covering the problems that many Brazilians face, said Priscila Silveira, a 28-year-old government employee in Belo Horizonte.

"The public health system is in a state of crisis and we have major crime problems that do not get the attention they deserve in the news media," she said.

Brazil has one of the world's highest homicide rates, and after two years of recession that is just now beginning to ease, the jobless rate is almost 12 percent.

"For us it is hard to see a public figure abroad such as Neymar while we here are suffering because of so many things, such as violence, muggings every day, a terrible public education system, besides all the problems with corruption," said Aderaldo Pulquerio, 47, a maintenance worker. **AFP**

Pochettino eyes defining Spurs moment

LONDON – Mauricio Pochettino faces a defining moment as the Tottenham Hotspur Manager aims to join the managerial elite by masterminding a famous Champions League triumph against Juventus today.

Long regarded as one of the sport's brightest young managers, Pochettino can use this season's Champions League to reach the rarified air inhabited by the likes of Pep Guardiola, Jose Mourinho and Diego Simeone.

Like his former Argentina teammate Simeone, Pochettino is coveted by some of Europe's biggest clubs.

But while Simeone has defied the odds to lead Atletico Madrid to La Liga and Europa League titles, as well as reaching two Champions League finals, Pochettino is still waiting for his breakthrough moment.

Despite earning plaudits throughout his nine-year managerial career with Espanyol, Southampton and now Tottenham, the 46-year-old has failed to lead any of his clubs to a major trophy.

Clearly, silverware isn't the only measure of a manager and no one would doubt Pochettino overachieved

at Espanyol and Southampton given the lack of financial backing available.

Although Tottenham have greater resources than either of Pochettino's other teams, they largely steer clear of the huge fees paid by their top four rivals in the Premier League.

Since arriving in north London 2014, Pochettino has deftly navigated those constraints to turn Tottenham into a genuine top four force after years of underachievement.

But the crucial black mark on Pochettino's CV remains his failure to push Tottenham across the finish line when they have been on the brink of landing a trophy.

Having reached the League Cup final in 2015, Pochettino's side slumped to a disappointing 2-0 defeat against Chelsea, while in 2016 a late-season swoon allowed Leicester to coast to the Premier League title.

A vital loss at West Ham cost Tottenham dearly last season when they were unable to keep pace with eventual champions Chelsea, who also knocked out their rivals in the FA Cup semi-finals. **AFP**

PUTIN PLAYS FOOTBALL WITH FIFA BOSS

MOSCOW – President Vladimir Putin played football with FIFA boss Gianni Infantino in the Kremlin yesterday as Russia marked 100 days before the start of the World Cup.

The footage was released by football's world governing body in a tweet featuring legends of the beautiful game juggling the ball and doing tricks.

The clip ended with Putin heading the ball back to Infantino after a heavily edited kick-about set to Rimsky-Korsakov's Flight of the Bumblebee. "Some people just can't wait for the greatest show on earth," FIFA said in the tweet. Others playing around with the official Telstar 18 World Cup ball included ex-England midfielder Wayne Rooney and Argentina's Diego Maradona.

Brazil's Ronaldo juggled the ball by the beach while Sweden's Thomas Brodin had his fun in the snow. Putin is best known for learning to skate and playing ice hockey with government officials and Russian veterans of the winter sport. **AFP**

Empoli right-back Untersee chooses Bafana Bafana

JOHANNESBURG – Bafana Bafana coach Stuart Baxter has confirmed that Italy-based defender Joel Untersee has committed to representing South Africa.

Baxter has been in contact with Untersee since his return as senior national team coach in May last year, with the hopes of convincing him to play for his

country of birth.

The 24-year-old right-back, who is currently on loan at Serie B side Empoli from Juventus, was born in Roodepoort on the West Rand of Johannesburg. He moved to Switzerland at a young age and represented the Swiss junior national teams from Under-15 through to U-21 level until 2014.

Confirmed

However, Baxter yesterday morning confirmed that Untersee has since committed to turning out for Bafana ahead of The Nati.

Untersee has been on the books of The Old Lady since October 2010, when he joined their U-17 team from FC Zurich juniors, but has yet to make a first team appearance, spending most of his time out on loan. **Kickoff**



REPRESENTS SA: Empoli right-back Joel Untersee.

Costa sparks Juventus treble bid

MILAN – Douglas 'The Flash' Costa owes his nickname not only to his thunderbolt haircut but also to his lightning speed and dribbling skills which are driving Juventus's treble bid.

The 27-year-old ex-Bayern Munich winger is coming into his own at his new club as the six-time Italian champions look to keep their bid for titles burning on three fronts.

Juventus – with a game in hand – are just one point behind Napoli in the Serie A title race, but are also through to their fourth straight Italian Cup final largely thanks to Costa's skills.

Massimiliano Allegri's side next head to Wembley Stadium for today's Champions League last 16 second leg tie against Tottenham Hotspur with the tie finely balanced 2-2.

Juventus – who lifted the European Cup in 1985 and 1996 – have been losing finalists in Europe's elite competition twice in the past three editions.

This year's quest remains in the balance after Allegri's side threw away a two-goal lead earned by Gonzalo Higuain's double in the opening nine minutes of the first leg in Turin last month.

Allegri has heaped praise on Costa, who has in recent months provided game-changing speed down the wing and been a thorn in the side of opposition defences.

"Costa was excellent – at both ends of the pitch," said Allegri after the Brazilian's performance in inflicting a first defeat of the season on Napoli in December.

The Brazilian again shone in the Italian Cup semi-final against Atalanta last month, as Juventus booked a place in the final against AC Milan.

"Costa put

himself behind the centre forward and that broke the game open," enthused Allegri.

Costa moved to Turin initially on loan with option to buy from Bayern Munich in a record 46 million Euro deal for the German club last summer, in what was seen as a last-gasp bid to revive his career for the World Cup in Russia. He has scored three goals and made six assists in 31 appearances for Juventus. **AFP**

SPURS CAN HANDLE PRESSURE OF JUVE TIE



HIGH HOPES: Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane.

LONDON – Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane believes his team are favourites to beat Juventus in the UEFA Champions League and insists they relish the pressure.

Mauricio Pochettino's side surprised many by pulling off a 2-2 draw with the Serie A champions in the first leg of their last-16 clash in Turin last month, and now enjoy the away-goal advantage for today's Wembley meeting.

Kane agrees that Spurs are probably considered favourites to progress into the quarter-finals, but has told

team-mates not to get too carried away with the praise.

"Probably we were not the favourites before but people are looking at us after that performance at Juventus and saying we should go through now," he was quoted as saying by the Evening Standard. **AFP**



SPARKS: Douglas Costa.

LOGS

STANDINGS

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

MTN Premier League log

| Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | Pts |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Mobane Swallows | 22 | 15 | 7 | 0 | 38 | 12 | 26 | 52 |
| Young Buffaloes | 22 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 35 | 11 | 24 | 48 |
| Green Mamba | 22 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 37 | 21 | 16 | 40 |
| Matsapha United | 22 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 23 | 19 | 4 | 34 |
| Manzini Wanderers | 22 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 26 | 25 | 1 | 34 |
| Royal Leopards | 22 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 23 | 16 | 7 | 33 |
| Mobane Highlanders | 22 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 24 | 20 | 4 | 31 |
| Manzini Sundowns | 22 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 26 | 21 | 5 | 30 |
| Malanti Chiefs | 22 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 28 | 34 | -6 | 29 |
| Moneni Pirates | 22 | 5 | 11 | 6 | 21 | 25 | -4 | 26 |
| Vovovo | 22 | 7 | 3 | 12 | 19 | 31 | -12 | 23 |
| Tambuti | 22 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 23 | 33 | -10 | 22 |
| Red Lions | 22 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 17 | 38 | -21 | 12 |
| Midas City | 22 | 1 | 2 | 19 | 12 | 48 | -36 | 5 |

Swazi Bank U-20

| Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | Pts |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Tambuti | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| 2 Manzini Sundowns | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| 3 Matsapha United | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -1 | 1 |
| 4 Malanti Chiefs | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 14 | -13 | 0 |

| Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | Pts |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 Young Buffaloes | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 Swallows | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 Manzini Wanderers | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | -5 | 1 |

| Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | Pts |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 Royal Leopards | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 Moneni Pirates | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 Red Lions | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | -9 | 0 |

| Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 Green Mamba | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| 2 Mobane City | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -2 | 0 |
| 3 Highlanders | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | -2 | 0 |

Swazi Trac Hhotho Super League

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|--------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Imbombe | 16 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 33 | 10 | 23 | 37 |
| 2 PMT | 16 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 35 | 10 | 25 | 34 |
| 3 Burning Spear | 16 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 13 | 11 | 28 |
| 4 Billy Ocean | 16 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 24 | 21 | 3 | 26 |
| 5 Wizards | 16 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 28 | 26 | 2 | 25 |
| 6 Kapheleni | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 28 | 21 | 7 | 24 |
| 7 Sibovini | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 28 | 28 | 0 | 24 |
| 8 Emajukujuku | 16 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 15 | 20 | -5 | 18 |
| 9 Swazi Sun | 16 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 23 | 24 | -1 | 16 |
| 10 Umbebele | 16 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 16 | 31 | -15 | 14 |
| 11 Sibovini | 16 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 26 | -14 | 12 |
| 12 Vusweni Killers | 16 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 11 | 47 | -36 | 8 |

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|-------------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Vultures | 15 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 32 | 10 | 22 | 31 |
| 2 Black Swallows | 16 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 26 | 14 | 12 | 30 |
| 3 Khanjara Rovers | 16 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 32 | 27 | 5 | 30 |
| 4 Horo | 15 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 24 | 11 | 13 | 28 |
| 5 Manchester | 14 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 21 | 13 | 8 | 24 |
| 6 Kappa Kappa | 16 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 27 | 26 | 1 | 22 |
| 7 N. Swallows | 15 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 12 | -3 | 18 |
| 8 Pachanga | 16 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 25 | 35 | -10 | 18 |
| 9 M. Arsenal | 15 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 15 | 15 | 0 | 17 |
| 10 Ndeya Galaxy | 15 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 18 | 24 | -6 | 17 |
| 11 Mvuma | 15 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 28 | -16 | 11 |
| 12 Celtic | 16 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 13 | 39 | -26 | 4 |

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Early Sunset | 19 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 49 | 20 | 29 | 44 |
| 2 Lunkanka | 19 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 41 | 18 | 23 | 42 |
| 3 Happy Fighters | 19 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 42 | 18 | 24 | 39 |
| 4 Hill Stars | 19 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 23 | 7 | 16 | 39 |
| 5 Love & Peace | 19 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 33 | 12 | 21 | 37 |
| 6 Mighty Birds | 19 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 35 | 27 | 8 | 33 |
| 7 Jubukweni United | 19 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 28 | 18 | 10 | 26 |
| 8 Top Classic | 19 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 24 | 31 | -7 | 23 |
| 9 Siphambanweni | 19 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 26 | 27 | -1 | 19 |
| 10 Rollers | 19 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 30 | 33 | -3 | 18 |
| 11 Happy Tigers | 19 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 21 | 28 | -7 | 17 |
| 12 Sunrise | 19 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 24 | 42 | -18 | 13 |
| 13 Academy | 19 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 12 | 32 | -20 | 11 |
| 14 Iubuyane Pirates | 19 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 9 | 73 | -64 | 3 |

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Cosmos | 18 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 31 | 18 | 13 | 36 |
| 2 Green Sea | 18 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 35 | 18 | 17 | 35 |
| 3 Timbongulu | 19 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 29 | 24 | 5 | 30 |
| 4 Sundowns | 19 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 23 | 19 | 4 | 30 |
| 5 Rangers | 18 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 23 | 20 | 3 | 28 |
| 6 Arsenal | 16 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 21 | 17 | 4 | 27 |
| 7 Monaco | 19 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 19 | 20 | -1 | 24 |
| 8 Rhinos | 18 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 21 | 20 | 1 | 23 |
| 9 Rebels | 19 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 28 | 31 | -3 | 23 |
| 10 Rhumba | 17 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 21 | 21 | 0 | 22 |
| 11 Kasiko | 19 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 28 | 27 | 1 | 21 |
| 12 Top Centre | 19 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 21 | 30 | -9 | 20 |
| 13 Barcelona | 19 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 21 | 31 | -10 | 20 |
| 14 Swallows | 19 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 25 | 29 | -4 | 19 |
| 15 Bush Bucks | 19 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 22 | 32 | -10 | 18 |
| 16 Chiefs | 18 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 24 | -11 | 18 |

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Black Mashuba | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| 2 Drakoppies | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 12 |
| 3 Amacabane | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 11 | 5 | 10 |
| 4 All Stars | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 7 |
| 5 Highlanders | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 16 | -11 | 0 |

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Arsenal | 9 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 6 | 10 | 22 |
| 2 Rangers | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 19 |
| 3 Bush bucks | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 19 | 4 | 15 | 17 |
| 4 Drakoppies | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 17 |
| 5 Top centre | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 14 |
| 6 Sundowns | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 13 |
| 7 Green sea | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 14 | -3 | 10 |
| 8 Rhumbas Stars | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 13 | -3 | 10 |
| 9 Black Mashuba | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 15 | -5 | 9 |
| 10 Barcelona | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 | -1 | 7 |
| 11 Rhinos | 9 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 13 | -7 | 6 |
| 12 Monaco | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 17 | -11 | 4 |
| 13 Amacabane | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 24 | -19 | 4 |

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 Shooting Stars | 19 | 18 | 0 | 1 | 74 | 9 | 65 | 54 |
| 2 Majotini | 19 | 15 | 1 | 3 | 54 | 20 | 34 | 46 |
| 3 Ngwenya United | 19 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 53 | 27 | 26 | 38 |
| 4 Barcelona F.C. | 19 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 37 | 29 | 8 | 31 |
| 5 Super Stars | 19 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 27 | 26 | 1 | 29 |
| 6 Nkoyoyo | 19 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 27 | 26 | 1 | 29 |
| 7 Bafana | 19 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 29 | 29 | 0 | 27 |
| 8 Dribbling Stars | 19 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 28 | 34 | -6 | 26 |

Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League 70 000

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Sidwashini | 19 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 41 | 19 | 22 | 42 |
| 2 Amawele | 20 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 45 | 19 | 26 | 41 |
| 3 Interstars | 19 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 42 | 26 | 16 | 41 |
| 4 Corporation | 20 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 32 | 22 | 10 | 36 |
| 5 Pot O Gold | 19 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 27 | 20 | 7 | 32 |
| 6 Real Tec | 20 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 39 | 28 | 11 | 31 |
| 7 Sandia | 19 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 27 | 28 | -1 | 25 |
| 8 Mbabane Celtics | 19 | 5 | 10 | 4 | 20 | 21 | -1 | 25 |
| 9 Pine valley | 19 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 28 | 25 | 3 | 24 |
| 10 Double Action | 20 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 34 | 46 | -12 | 20 |
| 11 White City | 19 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 22 | 26 | -4 | 18 |
| 12 Supersport | 18 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 25 | 34 | -9 | 18 |
| 13 Veni Cosmos | 18 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 24 | 36 | -12 | 18 |
| 14 Mbabane Arsenal | 18 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 24 | -12 | 15 |
| 15 FC Vaal Stars | 19 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 20 | 44 | -24 | 13 |
| 16 Gordon stars | 18 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 23 | 47 | -24 | 9 |

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Thembellhle | 19 | 14 | 4 | 1 | 52 | 22 | 30 | 46 |
| 2 Classic | 19 | 14 | 2 | 3 | 78 | 29 | 49 | 44 |
| 3 Freestyle | 19 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 41 | 17 | 24 | 39 |
| 4 Royal Dynamos | 19 | 11 | 2 | 6 | 55 | 37 | 18 | 35 |
| 5 Mpolonjeni | 19 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 44 | 43 | 1 | 30 |
| 6 National Rangers | 19 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 44 | 43 | 1 | 30 |
| 7 Mphahali | 19 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 46 | 43 | 3 | 26 |
| 8 Mangwaneni | 19 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 48 | 38 | 10 | 24 |
| 9 Lusoti | 19 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 37 | 36 | 1 | 24 |
| 10 The Wallers | 19 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 27 | 44 | -17 | 19 |
| 11 Movers | 19 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 33 | 72 | -39 | 15 |
| 12 Mbabane United | 19 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 36 | 42 | -6 | 13 |
| 13 Junction stars | 19 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 33 | 80 | -47 | 12 |
| 14 Mantsholo United | 19 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 23 | 67 | -44 | 8 |

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Arsenal | 9 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 6 | 10 | 22 |
| 2 Rangers | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 19 |
| 3 Bush bucks | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 19 | 4 | 15 | 17 |
| 4 Drakoppies | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 17 |
| 5 Top centre | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 14 |
| 6 Sundowns | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 13 |
| 7 Green sea | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 14 | -3 | 10 |
| 8 Rhumbas Stars | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 13 | -3 | 10 |
| 9 Black Mashuba | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 15 | -5 | 9 |
| 10 Barcelona | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 | -1 | 7 |
| 11 Rhinos | 9 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 13 | -7 | 6 |
| 12 Monaco | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 17 | -11 | 4 |
| 13 Amacabane | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 24 | -19 | 4 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|----|
| 1 White City | 19 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 22 | 26 | -4 | 18 |
| 2 Supersport | 18 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 25 | 34 | -9 | 18 |
| 3 Vuni Cosmos | 18 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 24 | 36 | -12 | 18 |
| 4 Mphahane Arsenal | 18 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 24 | -12 | 15 |

MHLAB'UHLANGENE

THE DEEP BLUE OCEAN

With: Victor Dlamini



WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE DONE BETTER

GREETINGS Mhlab'uhlangene, welcome to another subscription, hope you are all well!

It's been yet another eventful week for Matsapha United with the new coach's arrival, an MTN Premier League of Swaziland Week 22 match against Manzini Wanderers, our Under-20 side losing to Tambuti and the SwaziBank Cup draw.

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!

MATSAPHA United gave away a 2-0 lead, allowing Manzini Wanderers to claw back and steal away a point in an MTN Premier League of Swaziland Week 22 match played at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

One might have felt dashing 2-0 ahead, courtesy of a Sphamandla Dhlamini's 14th minute beauty spiced up by a Zivai Verenga 24th minute strike, one would have been forgiven to assume Mhlab'uhlangene had this tie all wrapped in their finger grips but alas the visitors had other ideas pulling a rabbit out of the bag.

Lwazi Maziya reduced the arrears in the 40th minute before Mike Dombo snatched the point with a 50th minute but thankfully the Nyanga Hlophe coached outfit seemed content with a point that kept fourth with a superior goal difference ahead of Matsapha United.

And just to say, Wanderers were equally the afternoon's Santa with their shyness at goal twice seeing them falling for Khanyakwezwe Shabalala's plea for mercy, with the



visiting set of forwards settling for wide shooting.

Coach, Dumsane 'DU' Makhanya lamented the collapse in focus soon after the second goal.

"I feel we opened the match very well, my players played well but someone lost focus after taking a 2-0 lead. We couldn't bury the numerous chances that came our way otherwise we could have easily won the match," said Makhanya.

Matsapha United: Khanyakwezwe Shabalala, Jimoh Moses, Sibonelo Dlamini, Sifiso Maseko, Sabelo Gamedze, Sphamandla Dhlamini (Sidumo Shongwe 69 minutes), Vusumuzi Zungu (c) (Banele Ndzabandzaba 85 minutes), Mthobisi Mdluli, Zivai Verenga, Dennis Masina

(Nkosinamandla Nkambule 67 minutes) and Menzi Mamba.

OUR UNDER-20 LOST TO TAMBUTI IN THE SWAZIBANK CUP!

IT seems our Under-20 side is finding it difficult in their category after losing 0-1 to Tambuti FC in the ongoing SwaziBank Cup Under-20 edition.

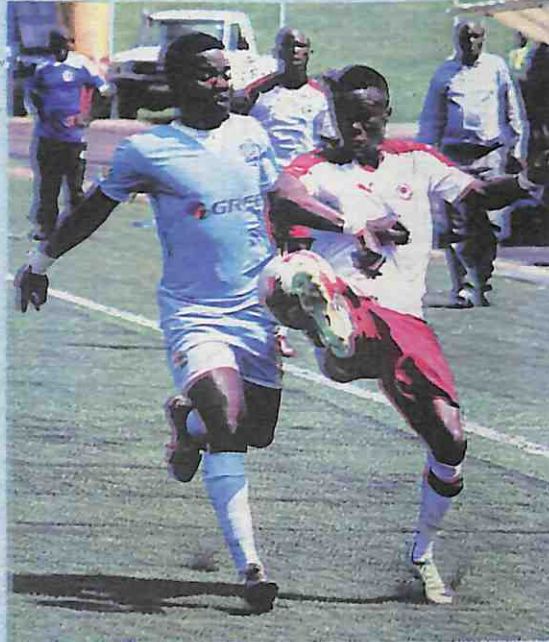
The defeat left our boys literally hanging by the thread almost staring a dead end in the tournament, winless after two matches. We wish our boys better luck next time.

'DU' MAKHANYA TAKES OVER

FORMER Green Mamba and Red Lions coach, Dumsani 'DU' Makhanya was last Friday night appointed new Matsapha United coach, replacing Zimbabwe-born Saul Chaminuka, who quit the club on Monday afternoon.

We have agreed terms with Makhanya, who will take over the reigns as our new coach with immediate effect. We believe his experience which has seen him in charge at Green Mamba and Red Lions will be valuable to us.

Makhanya's immediate assignment was an MTN Premier League of Swaziland Week 22 tie against Manzini Wanderers played at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday in which Mhlab'uhlangene was seeking to overturn a 0-1 defeat on



October 25 last year.

'DU' replaces Chaminuka, who left after 51 matches in charge posting 31 wins, 10 draws and as many draws scoring with such highs as gaining premiership promotion after winning the MTN National First Division and also emerging as the losing finalists in their first ever SwaziBank Cup participation.

Makhanya will also be expected to do better on the club's maiden SwaziBank Cup performance in the ongoing edition dubbed UYAYI-FUNA NA in which Mhlab'uhlangene opened up with a 3-2 win over Tinyosi FC last Saturday.

He arrived from Malanti Chiefs where he took charge of four matches winning one game.

#GoodLuckDu!

PROBABLY SAUL CHAMINUKA WAS HOME SICK!

IT is very rare for any soccer coach to quit his job after a winning cause but for one Saul Chaminuka's 51 match tenure as Matsapha United coach came crushing on Monday afternoon and results will indeed confirm it just had nothing to do with the results.

Since his appointment on the 12th of September 2016, Chaminuka marked his arrival in Swaziland's domestic football with a charming 2-0 win in the National First Division on September 16, 2016.

In his debut Matsapha United dismissed Madlenya to pick their first win of the season at Mavuso Sports Centre when central defender Sabelo Gamedze and striker Sidumo Shongwe scored on either side of the break to secure maximum points for Matsapha United.

"It was not the best of the games, but sometimes you need to win. There are times when you need to think about the result, the destination and not the journey. I think when I look at the game, this is what I'll see, but again I also think it was the starting point, the first step. Now the real journey begins," Chaminuka was quoted by a Zimbabwe paper, Chronicle on September 19, 2016.

A starting point it became with the match tally rising to 51 with an immaculate 31 wins, 10 draws and as many defeats, scoring 102 goals and conceding 51.

WE FACE ZIBONELE VULTURES IN THE SWAZIBANK CUP LAST 16!

GOOD morning Pigg's Peak, finally Matsapha United is headed to your town.

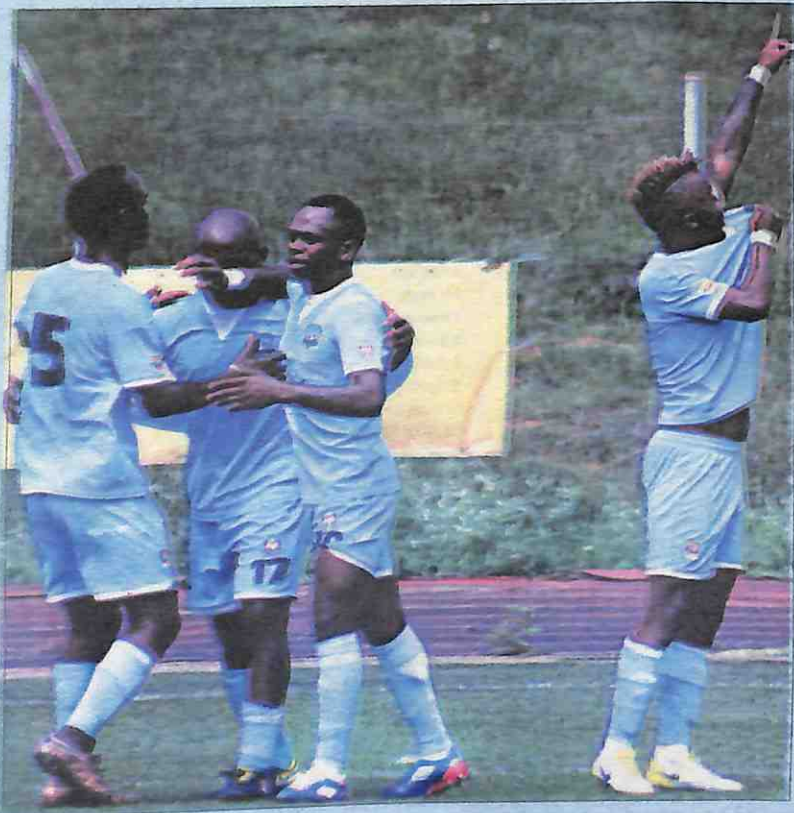
Ladies and gentlemen, for the very first time the 'Deep Blue Ocean' will flow in Pigg's Peak on Sunday at 2:30pm when we face Zibonele Vultures in the SwaziBank Cup 'Uyayifuna Na' last 16 match.

As we head into this tie we have to guard against a dash to our ego and treat our opponents seriously lest the history from the Ingwenyama Cup revisits us.

We urge our fans to come in their numbers and for those who might need directions feel free to get in touch with our office, management committee or the head of publicity. Alternatively you can visit our Facebook page for more details.

OUR PARTING SHOT!

SIBLOMA ekasi, siphethe i-vibe sene strategy, sizobashiya bedizzy #VeldFire. Until next week, Mhlab'uhlangene - The Deep Blue Ocean wishes you a Fair Play filled weekend.



GOOD PLAY: Wanderers assistant coach Velekhaya Mthethwa shaking hands with Matsapha coach Dumsani 'DU' Makhanya.

SWAZIBANK CUP UNDER-20



AIDING: The Sundowns team doctor had to help the opposition who had no doctor for the match. This was during her side's 8 - 1 demolition of Malanti Chiefs during their SwaziBank Cup Under-20 group encounter played at the Old Trade Fair Sports Ground.

(Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)



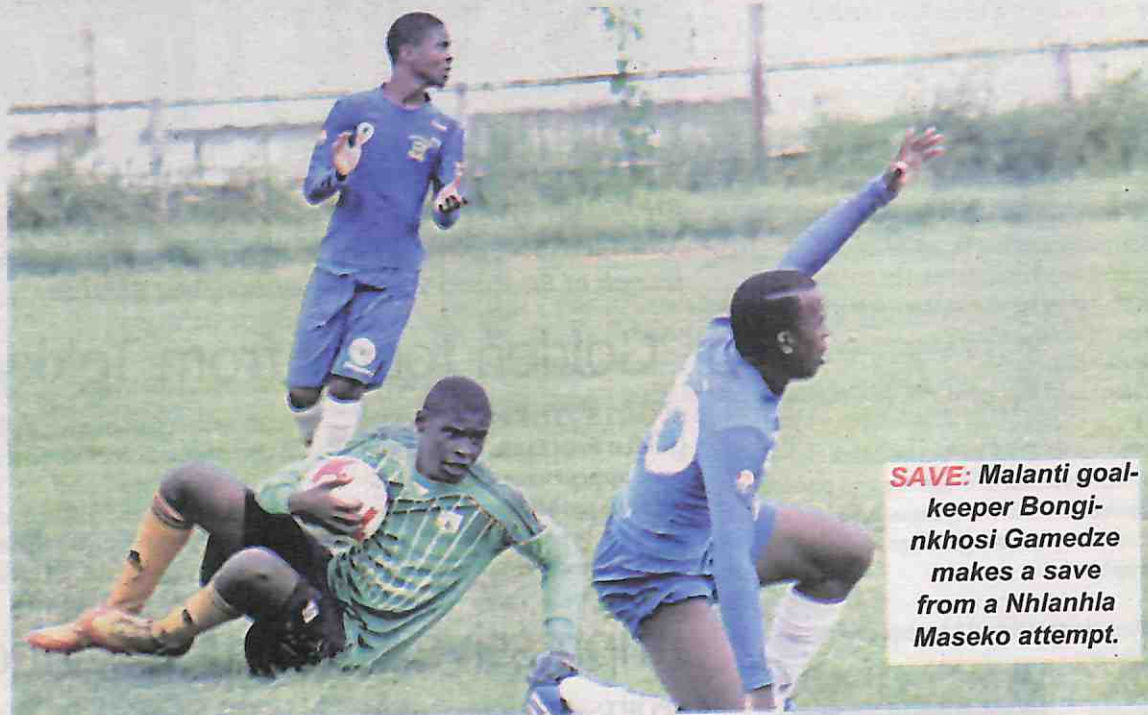
IN CONTROL: Sikhanyiso Gwebu shields the ball away from Masotja.



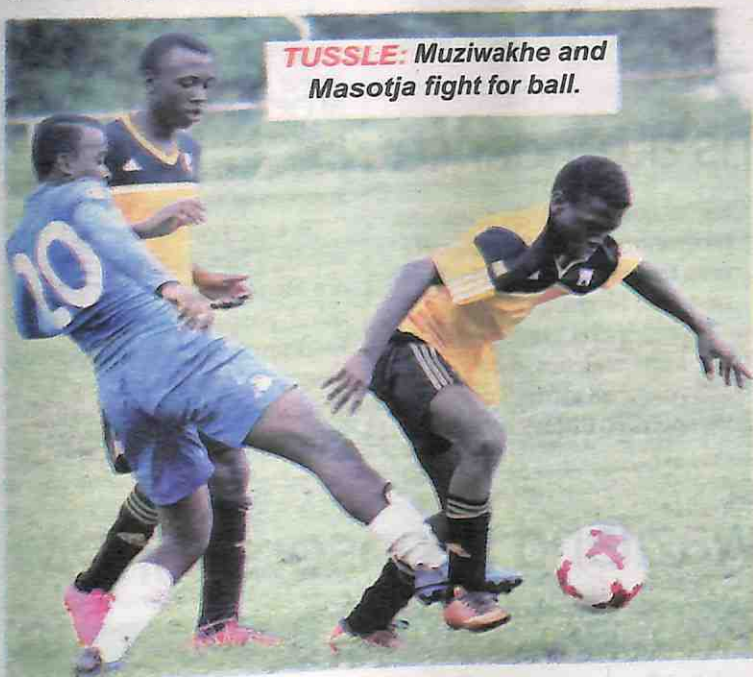
CLOSING IN: A Sundowns player tries to clear the ball as a Malanti player closes in.



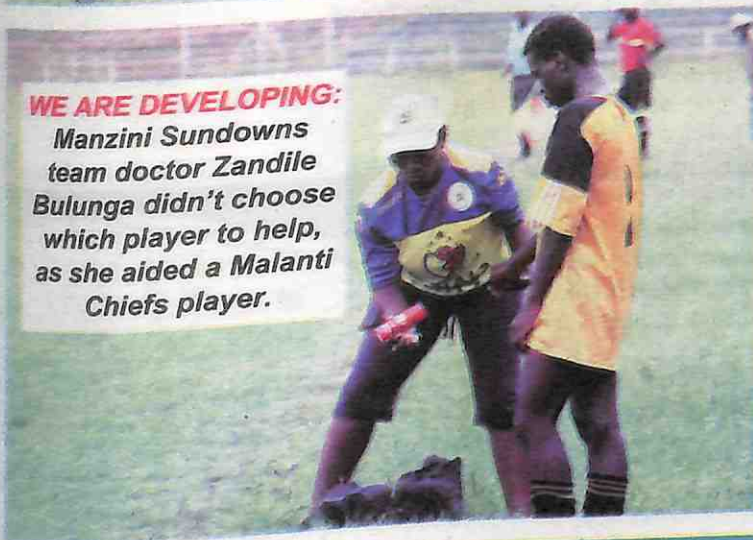
MISS: Muziwakhe Mahlalela missing one of Sundowns' glorious opportunities.



SAVE: Malanti goalkeeper Bonginkhosi Gamedze makes a save from a Nhlanhla Maseko attempt.



TUSSE: Muziwakhe and Masotja fight for ball.



WE ARE DEVELOPING: Manzini Sundowns team doctor Zandile Bulunga didn't choose which player to help, as she aided a Malanti Chiefs player.



TROUBLESOME: Nhlanhla Maseko and Masotja Gama in a tussle for the ball.

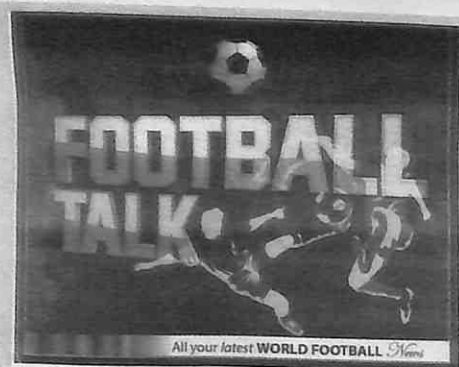
MISSED OPPORTUNITY



PENALTY: Muziwakhe Mahlalela steps up to take the spot-kick.



EISH: He reacts after missing from the penalty spot.



● Arsenal Manager Arsene Wenger believes he is the best man to take the club forward, and has told his coaching staff that he will not step down this summer. *(Times - subscription required)*

● Arsenal full-back Hector Bellerin, 22, is furious with Wenger after he was dropped for the Brighton game on Sunday when the team was named just two hours before kick-off. *(Sun)*



● Chelsea's Belgium international forward Eden Hazard, 27, is stalling on signing a new contract in the hope Real Madrid make a move for him. *(Mail)*

● Manchester City, Manchester United and Arsenal have all sent scouts to watch Napoli's £60m-rated Italy midfielder Jorginho, 26. *(Sun)*

● Southampton will sack Manager Mauricio Pellegrino at the end of the season, even if they survive in the Premier League. Fulham boss Slavisa Jokanovic and FK Ostersons boss Graham Potter have been lined up as replacements. *(Mirror)*

● West Brom Chief Executive Mark Jenkins has travelled to meet Baggies owner Guochuan Lai in China and expects to be questioned about Manager Alan Pardew. *(Telegraph)*

● Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho is keen to sign Real Madrid centre-back and France international Raphael Varane, 24, this summer. *(Diario Gol - in Spanish)*



● Brazil midfielder Ramires, 30, would like to rejoin Chelsea, two years after leaving the Blues for Chinese Super League club Jiangsu Suning. *(Mirror)*

● Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante, 26, fainted and lost consciousness at the club's Cobham training ground last Friday but a series of cardiology tests on the France international all came back clear. *(Telegraph)*

● Nice forward Mario Balotelli is interested in a move to Juventus or Napoli, with the 27-year-old's form set to earn him a recall to the Italy squad. *(La Domenica Sport, via Mail)*



SHUKUMA SIGWE PACKS THEM

Stories by Sibusiso Dlamini

SPORTS - THE first Shukuma of the year attracted about 1 000 people, young and old at the Sigwe Inkhundla this past Saturday.

Shukuma is the Swaziland National Sport and Recreation Council (SNSRC) flagship programme aimed at encouraging mass participation in sports and recreation activities. The Sigwe Sports Ground, about 2 km from the Inkhundla,

was indeed a hive of activity as people flocked to the venue as early as 7am for the activity.

Interestingly, the Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala is the area's MP and he led by example, as he took part in almost all the activities under the Shukuma banner.

The minister first led the participants in the five kilometre walk, alongside the SNSRC Board Chairman Lawrence 'Lolo' Mthethwa, SNSRC Chief Executive

Officer (CEO) Darius Dlomo, guest of honour Nkhamba MP Menzi Dlamini, SNSRC Business Development Manager Zama Tsabedze and the Sigwe residents.

Play

It was a fun filled day, as the children; both young and old came out to play. After the aerobic session, which was led by top instructor Khanya Mavuso, the participants then took part in the different sporting codes available.

Games included netball, tennis, darts, taekwondo, cricket, table

tennis, kids' athletics, boxing and many other fun games.

The SNSRC Media Officer Dumisani Ntiwane said they were extremely grateful for the support given by their other partners on the day. He hailed the Sigwe residents for their enthusiasm.

"We were pleasantly shocked to see so many people. Being the first Shukuma of the year, we could not have asked for better. Our partners were also so supportive and it is clear that Shukuma will no longer be the same," Ntiwane said.



SHUKUMA SWAZILAND: Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala (3rd from right) leading residents of Sigwe during the launch of Shukuma 2018 first edition last Saturday.

'Golden touch' from Tokky Sports Houz

SPORTS - TOKKY Hou of the Golden Foot fame, made a surprise appearance at Sigwe during Shukuma this past Saturday.

She on behalf of her company Tokky Sports Houz pledged to

assist the women of Sigwe, while also donating a soccer kit to the area's football team Celtic.

Hou, addressing the residents of Sigwe said the Minister of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs, David

'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala had informed her of the challenges the residents faced.

"We will be back to give more," she said to the appreciation of the residents.

Impressive Sports Associations attendance

SPORTS - THE Sigwe residents were treated to a variety of sports, courtesy of the local sports associations that were part of the Shukuma Sigwe.

Worth noting is that the Shukuma programme has failed to attract so many associations in one day in

the past. However, this past Saturday, over 10 associations made their way to Sigwe in the Shiselweni Region for the programme.

Grateful

The SNSRC Media Officer Dumisani Ntiwane said they were grateful to the associations for mak-

ing it, noting that the Shukuma programme offered the associations the perfect platform to showcase their product.

Tennis, cricket, boxing, table tennis, kids' athletics, darts netball and volleyball to mention a few of the sports on display on the day.

MTN Swaziland joins in on the fun

SPORTS - MOBILE phone network company MTN Swaziland were keen partners last Saturday during the Shukuma Sigwe.

MTN Swaziland surprised the hosts when they offered their state of the art truck, which doubles as a stage and powerful sound system. The SNSRC Media Officer Dumisani Ntiwane said they were at a loss for words to express their gratitude to MTN Swaziland for their kind gesture.

Function

"MTN Swaziland is a true friend indeed. Everyone could tell that the function turned out to be something much more because of MTN's support. We could not have delivered the event the way we did without the tremendous support of the company.

"We are hoping that such partnerships can continue. In fact, we are also grateful to a host of our other partners including Dups Insurance, Breast and Cervical Cancer Network and the Royal Swaziland Police Service (RSP)," he said.

By Sibusiso Masilela

POOL - THE Manzini Regional Pool Association (MRPA) have announced Dixies Swaziland as their new league sponsor.

The two parties have reportedly fostered a new marriage that would see the league being bankrolled by the Matsapha based clothing company to a tune yet to be announced in due course.

MRPA Chairman Muntu Dlamini confirmed the developments when contacted yesterday.

"We have since patterned with Dixies Swaziland after the company agreed to sponsor our league as of this coming weekend.

We will announce other details of the sponsorship in due course, hopefully before the end of the week. We are grateful to the company for their commitment towards the revival of the sport in the country.

"We are appealing to teams to support the sponsor and further behave themselves during

Dixies Swaziland sponsors MRPA

WEEKEND FIXTURES:

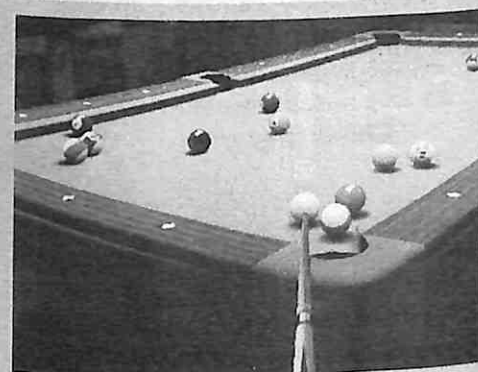
| | | |
|------------|----|--------------|
| Mankayane | vs | Correctional |
| Macembe | vs | Way Inn |
| Nicks | vs | Garrison |
| Figaredo 5 | vs | M. Eagles |

the matches by demonstrating fair play," he said.

The first fixtures under the new sponsor will take place this coming weekend at various venues in the country with the Malkerns derby between Macembe and Way Inn headlining the series of matches.

The much awaited encounter is likely to take place on Saturday at the Macembe Pool Club.

Another interesting clash will see Mankayane take on newcomers Correctional at their fortress, the Mankayane Pool Club.





GOVERNMENT FREEZES SIHLANGU GRANT!

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - THE National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) is having it tough in the current financial year of 2017/18 in as far as the running costs of senior males national team Sihlangu Semnikati are concerned.

This follows government's decision not to release the second quarterly grant of E1 043 225 during the period of July to September 2017.

This is contained in the third quarterly report of the ministry of sports, culture and youth affairs which stipulates the government allocation of funds to the nations pride for the financial year of 2017/18.

"A total of E3 129 675 (three million one hundred and twenty nine thousand six hundred and seventy five

Emalangeni only) was received in the period under review. This amount was received in three installments of E1 043 225 (one million and forty thousand two hundred and twenty five Emalangeni) in the month of October 2017, November 2017, and December 2017. It must be noted that no money or grant was received in the second quarter of the financial period (July to September 2017)," reads part of the report.

Expanded

The report also states the utilisation of funds in the current financial year for Sihlangu and national Under-20.

"A total amount of E1 742 775 (one million seven hundred and forty two thousand seven hundred and seventy five) was expanded in the period under the examination. For the senior national team it's E992 26 (nine hundred and ninety two thousand Emalangeni), E589 723 (five hundred and eighty

nine thousand seven hundred and twenty three Emalangeni) for the national U20 national team and for the senior women national team it's E160 792 (one hundred and sixty thousand seven hundred and ninety two Emalangeni)."

FA Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe referred queries to the ministry of sports, culture and youth affairs when sought for comment.

Efforts to get Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala were futile as he was reportedly locked in a meeting for the better part of yesterday.

Sihlangu has been inactive since their AFCON 2019 qualifier against Niger where they played to a goalless draw.

Sihlangu is yet to play North Africans Tunisia and Egypt later this year in their quest to qualify for the continent's showpiece to be hosted by Cameroon.

City vs 'Landers in Under-20 SwaziBank Cup group decider

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER - AS this year's edition of the SwaziBank Cup Under-20 tournament heads to the group stages, capital city sides Midas City and Mbabane Highlanders will play the deciding match on who joins Correctional services side Green Mamba as the qualifying Group D teams.

This is as according to the fixture released by the Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) yesterday.

The two teams will meet in the second match of the double header scheduled for the country's soccer Mecca, the Somhlolo National Stadium. Both teams have lost to Green Mamba and will now have to grind a result amongst themselves to decide, who goes through. Kick-off is 11am.

The first match which is a curtain raiser will feature Group B qualifying teams in army side Young Buffaloes and Capital city giants Mbabane Swallows. This match will start at 9am.

The games begin with a double header also to be played at the Somhlolo National Stadium, where Moneni

THE FULL FIXTURE

Saturday at the Somhlolo National Stadium

M Pirates vs Royal Leopard 9am

Matsapha U vs Malanti Chiefs 11am

Sunday at the Somhlolo National Stadium

Mba Swallows vs Y Buffaloes 9am

Mba Highlanders vs Midas City 11am

Sunday at the Manzini Club

Man Sundowns vs Tambuti noon

| Gp | Teams | P | W | D | L | Gf | Ga | Gd | Pts |
|----|----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| | Tambuti | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| | Sundowns | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| A | Mat United | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -1 | 1 |
| | Malanti Chiefs | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 14 | -13 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| B | Y Buffaloes | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| | Swallows | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Man Wanderers | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | -5 | 1 | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|
| C | Royal Leopards | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| | Moneni Pirates | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| | Red Lions | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | -9 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|
| D | Green Mamba | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| | Mbabane City | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -2 | 0 |
| | Highlanders | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | -2 | 0 |

Pirates and Matsapha United will host Police side Royal Leopard and Malanti Chiefs, respectively. Kick-off is 9am for the first game and the next match will start at 11am. On Sunday, Group A leading teams Tambuti and Manzini Sundowns will take each other on at the Manzini Club. Kick-off is at noon.

Katlego Piana back at Red Lions

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - FORWARD Katlego Piana has resurfaced at Red Lions having tried to force a move away from the side in the January transfer window.

Piana joined the Manzini club at the beginning of the current season but demanded to leave in January after the club was hit by serious financial troubles. The management of the club gave the player his clearance but after failing to find a new home, Piana has returned to 'Amabhubesi.'

The speedy forward came on as a substitute in his side's shock 1-2

defeat to Midas City in the League last Saturday at Somhlolo National Stadium and afterwards, the club's Chairman Elvis Dube confirmed Piana's return.

"Yes, he is back with us. As you know, we had given him his papers but he is back now and we are delighted to have him back. We are hoping that he will help us as we continue to fight for survival in the League," Dube said.

Red Lions lost defender Thami Zulu as well as striker Ugochukwu Ohakwe in the January transfer window. The former joined Mbabane Highlanders while Ohakwe returned to Moneni Pirates.

'Downs part ways with Manyatsi

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - MANZINI Sundowns have parted ways with their assistant coach Musa Manyatsi with immediate effect.

The club decided to end their five-year 'marriage' with the national Under-17 assistant coach due alleged fallout following the club's decision to redeploy Manyatsi into the goalkeeping department.

Sundowns Public Relations Officer Muzi Matsenjwa confirmed news but refused to commit himself on the reasons behind their 'divorce' with the soft spoken mentor.

"Manzini Sundowns Football Club does confirm that with effect from March 1, Musa Manyatsi is no longer the assistant coach of the team. We will not be drawn into exposing the circumstances under

which we parted ways with Manyatsi as those are confidential matters between employer and employee.

"The public is, therefore, not privy to such information and we take this opportunity to thank Manyatsi for the invaluable contribution he has made to the team over the years. We hope he will come back to the team in the near future after accumulating more experience," he said.

Manyatsi did not want to commit himself on the matter when also reached yesterday.

"I am currently at home, sorting out my personal problems, therefore, I can't talk much about the matter you are referring to," he said.

Manyatsi has worked with several coaches at the 'Kappa Boys' in the likes Christopher Tembo (Zambia), Godfrey Tamerepi (Zimbabwe) and Mlamuli 'Sputla' Zwane.



FA chiefs in Morocco for first ever women's football symposium

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - NATIONAL Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) chiefs are in Morocco for the first ever Confederation of African Football (CAF) Women's Football Symposium.

NFAS President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa, CEO Frederick Mngomezulu and Chairman of the Women Football Association (WFA) Sonnyboy Mabuza are all in the Moroccan city of Marrakech for the symposium which began on Monday and ends today.

In a statement sent to the media, NFAS Media Officer Muzi Radebe said the trio would be back in the country tomorrow.

"In their absence, the Vice President of the NFAS, Dr. Comfort Shongwe is the acting President of the NFAS whilst the Finance and Administration Manager, Nkosinamandla Mavuso is the acting CEO. They are expected back home on Thursday; March 8" read part of the statement.

CAF, in a statement on its website,

said the symposium was aimed at developing the women's game on the continent.

"The two day event under the theme 'raising our game' is expected to chart a new course for the development of women's football on the continent. It will also define the future of the women's game as various stakeholders discuss, exchange ideas and knowledge towards raising the standard," a section of the statement read.



OUT OF THE COUNTRY: NFAS President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa.

RESULTS

YESTERDAY

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Liverpool 0 - 0 FC Porto
PSG 1 - 2 Real Madrid

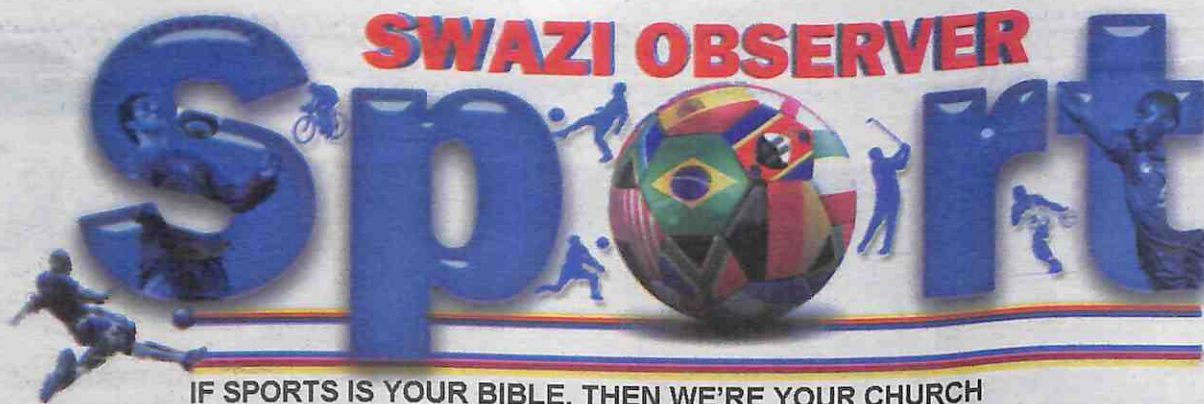
FIXTURES

ABSA PREMIERSHIP

Bloemfontein vs Polokwane 19:30

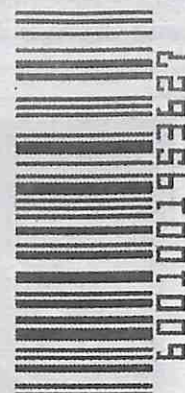
EFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Tottenham vs Juventus 21:45
Man City vs Basel 21:45



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

Wednesday March 7, 2018



BIRDS, BULL IN SUNDAY SWAZIBANK CUP THRILL

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCKER - MBABANE Highlanders and Mbabane Swallows will both be in action on Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium as both sides aim to reach the quarterfinals of the SwaziBank Cup.

This is according to the fixture released yesterday following the Monday draw.

Highlanders, who take on Midas City, will play in the first match at Somhlolo on Sunday before the biggest tie of the round between Mbabane Swallows and Green Mamba later on the same day.

On Saturday, Manzini Wanderers will travel to the King Sobhuza Stadium in Nhlanguano where they will take on Vovovo.

Hosting

There are also two double headers on Saturday with Manzini Sundowns and Malanti Chiefs hosting Sikhalo Se-Africa and Moneni Pirates at Somhlolo, respectively.

Meanwhile, at Mayaluka Stadium, Tabankulu Callies will take on defending champions Young Buffaloes before Tambuti face Royal Leopard.

The only other match on Sunday sees surprise package Zibonele Vultures, who knocked out Red Lions in the last 32, face Matsapha United at Killarney Stadium in Pigg's Peak.

FULL SWAZIBANK CUP FIXTURE:

ON SATURDAY AT KING SOBUZA II STADIUM:

Vovovo vs Wanderers 3pm

ON SATURDAY AT SOMHLOLO NATIONAL STADIUM:

Manzini Sundowns vs Sikhalo Se-Africa 2pm

Malanti Chiefs vs Pirates 4pm

ON SATURDAY AT MAYALUKA STADIUM:

Tabankulu Callies vs Buffaloes 2pm

Tambuti vs Leopard 4pm

ON SUNDAY AT KILLARNEY STADIUM:

Zibonele Vultures vs Matsapha Utd 2:30pm

ON SUNDAY AT SOMHLOLO:

Midas City vs Highlanders 1:30pm

Mbabane Swallows vs Mamba 3:30pm

BIRDS ARRIVE SAFELY IN ZAMBIA



Stories by Sibongiseni Zondi

...and team hails warm welcome from opponents

SOCCKER - LOCAL envoys Mbabane Swallows have hailed the warm welcome they received from Zambian side Zanaco ahead of the two side's CAF Champions League showdown today.

The two sides clash in the first leg of a Champions League first round tie at Nkoloma Stadium before the return leg to be hosted by Swallows on the weekend of 16-18 March.

Interviewed yesterday, Mbabane Swallows General Manager Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane said their trip had been flawless.

"We left Johannesburg at 7 pm (on Monday) and arrived at 9 pm on the same Monday in Zambia. Everything went well through God's grace. They (Zanaco) welcomed us well, gave us a bus and took us to our hotel. Everything is going well so far, they have been very welcoming. This morning (yesterday) we took a walk of about three kilometres and came back

and rested. We are going to train now at 4pm at the stadium where the match will be played.

"At 7pm (yesterday) we will have our pre-match meeting and then after that they will give us tomorrow's (today's) programme," Zwane said.

He added that Zambia as a country has many similarities with Swaziland, something that

was making their stay more comfortable.

Similar

"This place is similar to Swaziland. The food is similar and the people are like Swazis as well. The weather is also similar to Mbabane weather. For that reason, therefore, there's no huge need for us to acclimatise," Zwane added.



'We are ready to fight for Swaziland'

SOCCKER - MBABANE Swallows say they are ready to fight for the country when they take on Zanaco of Zambia in the CAF Champions League today.

The winner of the first round tie between the two sides will advance to the group stages of the competition where each side is guaranteed over E6 million in prize money. Swallows arrived in Zambia on Monday evening.

General Manager Sandile Zwane said they would give it their all inside the field today.

"All our players are available except for the suspended Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu and Sanele Mkhweli. The other players are raring to fight for Swazis and our loyal supporters. The spirit is very high and I think the training camp we had in Big Bend over the weekend helped us a lot. The players look sharper and ready to go."

Zwane then added that Zanaco were keeping their cards close to their chests ahead of the match.

"We have noticed in the media that they are not giving much away. They are reserved and we think we should also play our cards close to our chests and be a closed book so that we can win the match. We hope

we will be able to make Swazis proud. It will be a tough match, we know, but we want to get a result that will please the nation," he said.



SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP FINAL ON MARCH 25

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCKER - THE much anticipated SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup final between Mbabane Swallows and Royal Leopard will be played on March 25 at Somhlolo National Stadium.

The date of the final, which will also see the crowning of the country's best cultural sides, was announced by the Chairman of the tournament's

Board of Trustees Prince Hlangabeza at the King's Office in Nkhanini yesterday.

The Prince said the date of the final had been blessed by His Majesty King Mswati III himself.

"We have been sent by His Majesty to all Swazis, as well as our friends in other countries to tell the world about the day he has blessed for the final of the Ingwenyama Cup so that the nation comes together at the stadium. His Majesty has

given us March 25 for the final," the prince said.

The tournament's PRONkhosilenhle 'Makawosi' Masuku then appealed to the whole nation to attend the final without fail.

Message

"His Majesty has asked the entire nation to go all out and attend the final. Today we have brought just that message from the King and will announce other logistics in due course," Masuku said.

Defending champions Swallows, who also won

the inaugural edition of the tournament back in 2016, reached the final by beating Mbabane Citizens 3-0 in the semifinals while Leopard beat last season's finalists Young Buffaloes 1-0.

This year's final will be a repeat of the inaugural edition final back in 2016 which Swallows won 2-0.

Swallows and Leopard met in the league on January 28 in what was the 'Birds' first match since the tragic murder of their boss Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze on January 14. Swallows scored a dramatic late winner to edge the police side 2-1 on that day.