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INDIAN PRESIDENT HERE, MEETS HIS MAJESTY...



SOCIALITE ARRESTED IN SA FOR DAGGA BAGS

SEE PAGE 2

ACC TO BE PROBED IN 30 DAYS

SEE PAGE 2

GETS ORDER OF THE LION

terday. (Plc: Mduduzi Mngomezulu) MORE PICS ON PAGES 4 - 5

...And will this morning address a joint house sitting





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SMS 1968 to 5050



Swazi couple, socialite arrested for 68 bags of dagga in Ermelo

THREE Swazi nationals have been arrested for alleged dagga dealing in South Africa (Ermelo) in separate operations.

They were found in possession of 68 bags last Friday during 'Operation Fiela' in Ermelo. All the suspects were expected to appear at the Ermelo Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Two suspects told SA police that they were from Manzini and were travelling to Pretoria to deliver the dagga in exchange for cash while the third suspect said he was from Sidvwashini in the capital city and was on his way to Johannesburg to deliver the cannabis to a client. In the first incident, the arrest of the two suspects came after police discovered nine bags of compressed dagga concealed in the rear panel of their vehicle on Friday.

"They face charges of dagga possession and dealing. The suspects, including a couple which was on its way to

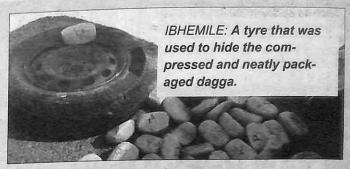


KWASHA: One of the Swazi suspects lying down and conversing with a police officer during the search.

celebrate the lady's birthday, were arrested during 'Operation Fiela' in Ermelo on Friday. They were found in possession of 30 kg dagga worth an esti-

mated value of E45 000," reads the Mpumalanga online newspaper.

While searching the car, the police also became suspicious of a spare wheel



whose sound suggested it contained something.

"The male suspect confessed he had more dagga stashed in the tyre and volunteered to cut the wheel open and indeed dagga was found stashed inside," explained Sergeant Peace Mbokane.

The suspects were arrested on the spot. They were both detained at Chrissiesmeer police holding cells. The third suspect, a Swazi male, was arrested during a routine search on the same day. "His arrest comes after police became suspicious that a false compartment of his car covering the petrol tank could be used to hide drugs. As a result, the rear bumper of the vehicle was removed in order to confirm the police suspicions," adds Mbokane.

"11 dagga bags craftily concealed were found there. The suspect told police that he was coming from the Sidvwashini near Mbabane and was on his way to Johannesburg to deliver the cannabis to his clients," reads the Mpumalanga online.

YOUNG MAN DODGES DEATH PENALTY, GETS 20 YEARS IN JAIL FOR KILLING LOVER

Stories by Sandile Nkambule High Court

A young man who killed his girlfriend by stabbing her in Nhlangano was yesterday lucky to dodge the death penalty as he was sentenced to 20 years in jail without an option of a fine.

The 27-year-old man, who killed his girlfriend for mocking him to the effect that he is cross-eyed, gladly accepted the sentence immediately after Principal Judge Qinisile Mabuza pronounced it.

Before passing sentence, Judge Mabuza stated that she considered Menzi Sihlongonyane's personal circumstances and that he committed the offence as a result of provocation by the deceased.

Justice Mabuza stated that she could not pass the death sentence owing to the fact that Sihlongonyane acted after provoca-

tion by the deceased Thembi, who was 16 years when she met her death.

"Lawyer Vusi Thomo for the accused person argued that the accused lost his senses because he was taunted by the deceased as she mocked him that he was cross-eyed.

Provoked

The persistent calls from her boyfriend Mhlongo upset and angered him, the accumulation of the above had a bearing on his state of mind in doing what he did as he was provoked by the deceased," Justice Mabuza said.

Thomo had also argued that the accused was 22 years old when he committed the crime and his youth indicated that he was immature and to further add to immaturity he was still in high school doing Form Four and had learning difficulties as he failed and had to repeat certain classes

many times.

It was Justice Mabuza's findings that extenuating circumstances existed in the

The accused person, according to Judge Mabuza, showed remorse during trial, surrendered himself to the police after committing the offence and has been attending all court proceedings after being admitted to E5 000 bail.

However, Justice Mabuza mentioned that the crime of murder is a heinous one noting that instead of abating, it is getting out of control, especially in a small country such as Swaziland which has a population of slightly over a million people.

Judge Mabuza stated that it was totally debilitating and traumatic to the family, relatives and friends of the deceased since in this case the deceased was very young and had a long future ahead of her but her

I want to finish my high school education - Convict

IMMEDIATELY after being sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, Sihlongonyane pleaded with the court to give him a chance to finish his high school education while incarcerated at the correctional facility.

"My Lady, I want to finish school since I was doing Form Four when I was arrested; may I be given that chance," he applied.

However, Justice Mabuza told him that the court's hands were tight in as far as his case is concerned since he is now old, stating that such orders

life was snuffed out by the accused person who has gone on with his life with ease.

"I have no doubt that her parents are still trying to pick up the pieces of their lives and trying to adjust to life without her.

The courts cannot assuage their pain or bring back their loved one but can give them some kind of closure so that they can get on with their lives," Justice Mabuza stated.

She further mentioned that society

were issued in cases of convicts who are school going and below the age of 18.

However, Judge Mabuza advised him to approach the office of the commissioner general and forward his request in as far as his wish to finish school at Vulamasango High School is concerned.

Justice Mabuza also noted that Sihlongonyane now has a wife and three children, which demonstrates that he is an adult. Under normal circumstances, school going convicts are enrolled at Vulamasango High.

expects the courts to pass sentences that are a deterrent to would be offenders and members of the public expect to live in a safe, tranquil and peaceful society.

It is up to the courts to provide society with such an environment according to Judge Mabuza and having outlined the above, she reached an appropriate sentence in the circumstances and sentenced Sihlongonyane to 20 years imprisonment without a fine option.

MPs to probe ACC in 30 days

Africa

By Mbono Mdluli Lobamba

THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) select committee has given itself 30 working days to probe the ACC.

This was revealed by Manzini North Member of Parliament (MP) Jan Sithole, who is the Chairperson of the probe committee.

He said this yesterday at the Parliament conference room during a media briefing by the select committee.

This means a report on the ACC probe is expected to be out by June 22.

The purpose of the media briefing was for the committee to spell out its

terms of reference to the public.

The terms of reference are the guidelines which the committee is expected to follow while carrying out its mandate of probing the corruption watchdog. The terms of reference are as follows:

- To investigate the alleged maladministration at ACC;
- To investigate the controversies surrounding fleet management at ACC;
- To investigate the alleged corrupt practices in the recruitment and promotion of personnel;
- To investigate the alleged misappropriation of government funds through the ACC special account, and
- To investigate incidental matters thereto.

Sithole further mentioned that the committee had functions and powers given by the constitution, just like other committees of Parliament. He quoted Section 129 of the constitution, which

(1) Each chamber of Parliament shall appoint sessional committees and other committees as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the functions of that chamber.

(2) The standing committees shall be charged with such functions, including the investigation and inquiry into the activities and administration of ministries and departments as Parliament may determine and the investigations and enquiries may extend to proposals for legislation.

(3) Every Member of Parliament not being a minister shall be a member of at least one of the standing commit-

to religible floor is of may

tees

(4) The composition of the committees shall as much as possible reflect the different shades of opinion or interest in Parliament.

(5) A committee appointed under this section shall have the powers, rights and privileges of the High Court or a justice of the High Court at a trial for:

(a) Enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining them in oath, affirmation or otherwise;

(b) Compelling the production of documents, and

(c) Issuing a commission or request to examine witnesses abroad.

The chairperson went on to state that the committee had actually started the probe and the first person to be interviewed was ACC Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ndiphethe Mabila. Sithole further said the logical department to investi-

gate was the ACC management and staff, which were formally invited by Mpendulo Ngcamphalala, who is the secretary of the probe committee.

"Dr Mabila was also informed that his staff and management will be invited and he was requested to facilitate their release as soon as he received the official invitation," Sithole said.

The committee also agreed that this was an issue of national interest, so they were going to give members of the public an opportunity to make their own submissions during the probe. Those interested were urged to call Ngcamphalala on 2416 2407 or 7912 8212.

Sithole said the probe would be conducted in camera because of the sensitivity of the matter. A report would then be tabled in the House thereafter.

KING CONFERS ORDER OF THE President pleages continued support LION ON INDIAN PRESIDENT

OVER STOR

Stories by Lungelo Nkambule Lozitha

HIS Majesty King Mswati III yesterday conferred the Order of the Lion on the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind for being the first Indian head of state to visit the Kingdom of Swaziland.

His Majesty making his remarks yesterday at a short welcoming ceremony for the President and his delegation at Mandvulo Grand Hall stated that it was a great honour for the country to host the president especially after all the support India had afforded the country.

He said the order was in recognition of the fact that Kovind was the first India head of state to visit Swaziland and in his African tour he had chosen Swaziland to be one of his destinations.

"In recognition of this visit and support, I would like to confer upon the president the Order of the Lion. This honour is to recognise the fact that Mr President, you are India's first head of state to visit the Kingdom. This also acknowledges the contribution India has made in advancing Swaziland's development agenda, including the new initiatives announced during the present visit," he said.

His Majesty also thanked the government of India for the medical support afforded to members of the royal family and other Swazis who had visited that country for special treat-

• In recognition of this visit and support, I would like to confer upon the president the Order of the Lion. This honour is to recognise the fact that Mr. President, you are India's first head of state to visit the Kingdom. This also acknowledges the contribution India has made in advancing Swaziland's development agenda, including the new initiatives announced during the present visit



MEDAL: King awards the Indian President with the Order of the Lion Medal. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

"We also appreciate the professional eye treatment afforded to a member of the royal family, as well other Emaswati who have gone to India for specialised medical care, who have returned with impressive recovery," he said.

His Majesty further thanked the president for his visit to the country that had come with additional support to various projects which would form part of the communiqué which will be issued today.

"Your excellency, we are pleased that your visit has come with additional support to various initiatives, which will form part of the communique that will be issued tomor-

These include the construction of the new Parliament building through technical and financial support, a new line of credit to help establish a disaster recovery site for the national data centre, a donation of medicines and medical equipment to the ministry of health, assisting the ministry of agriculture in establishing a centre for agricultural excellence, a grant for the construction of irriga-

tion infrastructure in the Lubuyane area, setting up 20 solar charging stations in various low electricity access areas in the country, financial support and food aid to the national disaster management agency (NDMA), doubling the scholarships for short term, as well as degree courses in India, and the donation of 500 blankets to the Philani Maswati foundation and Khulisa Umntfwana project by the first lady," said His Majesty.

"This support will greatly change the development landscape of the country.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate India's financial support towards the construction of the science and technology park, which the president will have an opportunity to open before he leaves tomorrow.

We expect the park to have downstream projects in areas of science, research and industry and we trust that India will encourage her business people to support this initiative," added the King.

His Majesty also invited the business community from India to take advantage of the special economic zone, which seeks to create an investment friendly sphere for the business community and boost economic growth. He pointed out that the zone had very good incentives for foreign

President pledges

THE president of India has reaffirmed his country's stance on supporting the government of Swaziland in various spheres in her quest to attain first world statues.

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, speaking yesterday at Mandvulo Grand Hall during his welcoming ceremony said the two countries were different geographically but were similar in many ways.

He pointed out that the two countries were both still deeply rooted to their ancient ways and they aspired for technological development.
"The Kingdom of Swaziland and India are dif-

ferent in terms of size and the equilation but we are similar in that we are both still deeply rooted to our ancient ways and we still have aspirations to develop technologically," he said.

He said they were aware of the aspirations of the country and they would continue to offer support where possible.

He further thanked His Majesty for the Order of the Lion conferred on him. He said this showed that Swaziland valued the relationship that they had with India. "It is an honour for me to be India's first Head of State to visit the Kingdom of Swaziland. I am honoured for the order bestowed on me, it is a sign of how much the country values the relationship it has with India,"

The president arrived in the country yesterday at King Mswati III international airport in the company of his wife.

He was welcomed into the country by the Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini and acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Phiwayinkhosi Mabuza.

He made his way to Lozitha Royal Palace where he met His Majesty and proceeded to Mandvulo Grand Hall for a brief welcoming

He will today join His Majesty King Mswati III at the official opening of the IT Centre at the Royal Science Technology Park.

Visiting president to address joint house

THE visiting president of India will address members of both houses of Parliament in a joint house sitting scheduled for this morning.

The government of India has provided technical and financial support for the construction of a new Parliament building and President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will today get to tour the current Parliament building.

Passing the information to senators yesterday Senate President Ngom'uyayona Gamedze said all members of both houses of Parliament were expected to be seated at 8.30 am ready for the address which would take place at 9am.

He said the president was on a tight schedule and therefore it was important that all members of the houses keep time.

"Honourable senators tomorrow we will be honoured by the president of India who is His Majesty's guest. He will tomorrow address members of Parliament in both houses. You are requested to be here at 8.30 am seated in the House of Assembly, because it will be a joint sitting. You are requested to come clad in traditional gear," he said.

Swaziland to open embassy in India - King

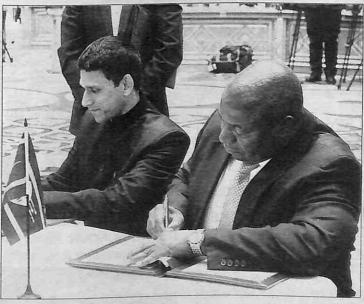
AS a sign that the relationship between the two states is intensifying, India will now have a permanent embassy in the country and Swaziland will reciprocate this by opening its own embassy in New Delhi, India.

This was revealed by His Majesty King Mswati III yesterday when addressing the visiting President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and his delegation at Mandvulo Grand

"His Excellency has also mentioned that they will open a residential embassy in the Kingdom of Eswatini to facilitate easier cooperation. As a kingdom we have also resolved to reciprocate this gesture by opening a Swaziland embassy in India, New Delhi. We once again thank the president, government, and the people of India for the support extended to Swaziland in the various sectors," he said.

His Majesty further extended the support of the country to India in her candidature for a permanent seat in an expanded United Nations Security Council.

"Mr President, the Kingdom of Eswatini would like to extend its



AGREEMENT: Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Joel Nhleko signs the communique with his Indian counterpart.

support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in an expanded UN security council.

Share

Our countries share the common objective towards reforms in the UN Security Council and the support for an early adoption of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism (CCIT). There is need for greater collaboration to eliminate terrorism, which poses a serious threat to mankind," he said.

His Majesty also congratulated the president of India for building a bridge between the government

His Majesty further extended the support of the country to India in her candidature for a permanent seat in an expanded United Nations security council.

of India and the African continent through the India-Africa Summit.

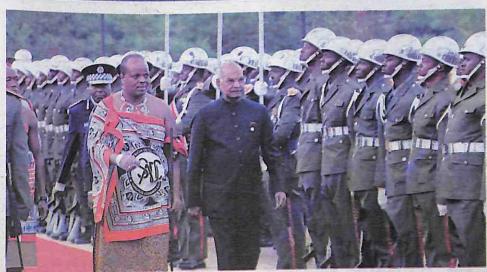
"In conclusion, I take this opportunity to congratulate you Mr President, the government and the people of India for building the bridge between your country and the African continent. The India -Africa summit has yielded great dividend for our countries and we look forward to the next summit in 2020. We also commend India for sharing her business acumen with the business community and African governments, through the confederation of India industry - Exim bank conclave on India, Africa project partnership.

Once again, we thank you Mr President, and your distinguished delegation for this historic visit. We do hope that the programme and hospitality prepared for you will leave an indelible mark in your hearts to cement the strong relationship that we share," he said.



INDIAN PRESIDENT HERE, MEETS KING





INSPECTION: His Majesty King Mswati III and the Indian President Shri Ram Nath Kovind inspect the guard of honour during his state visit in the kingdom yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



ROYAL HAND SHAKE: King and the Indian President shake hands.



ELEGANT: Emakhosikati LaNgangaza and LaMagongo leave.



STYLISH: Emakhosikati LaMahlangu, LaNkambulle and Liphovela LaMashwama leave at the end of the function.



GREETINGS: President Shri Ram Nath Kovind shakes hands with Prince Bandzile.



UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Prospective students who took application forms for the Master of Science (Midwifery) Programme are hereby advised to return the application forms to the Academic Office at the Kwaluseni Campus, by 27th April, 2018.

Dr S.S. Simelane Registrar



IT'S AN HONOUR: Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Diamini greeting the president.



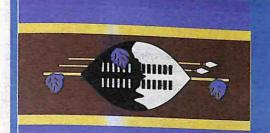
SIYAKWEMUKELA: The president meets PS in the Ministry of Ecconomic Planning Betram Stewart.



GREETINGS MR PRESIDENT: Hhohho RA Prince Tshekedi meets the President.



ALL SMILES: Indian President Shri Ram Nath Konvind greets Defence PS Andreas Mathabela.



INDIAN PRESIDENT HERE, MEETS KING





MEDAL: King confers the Indian President with the Order of the Lion Medal.



WELCOME: His Majesty King Mswati III and the visiting Indian President Shri Ram Nath Kovind join their hands.



ROYAL HAND SHAKE: His Majesty and the Indian president shake hands.



ROYALTY: His Majesty King Mswati III talking to Emakhosikati LaNgangaza, LaMagongo and LaMahlangu.



CHIT-CHAT: Prince Sicalo and Princess Sikhanyiso chat.



LONG-TIME: Governor of the Central Bank Majozi Sithole shares a light moment with Army Commander Sobantu Diamini and National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula.



IN BLACK AND WHITE: Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Joel Nhleko signs the communique with his Indian counterpart.



WHAT A LOVELY DAY: Indian Consular to Swaziland Mona Ashraff (r) talking to one of the delegation members during the signing of the communique.



BIG BOYS PLAY: Ministers Christopher Gamedze, Jabulani Mabuza and Dumisani Ndlangamandla take turns to take some pictures inside the Mandvulo Grand Hall.



RICH CULTURE: A member of the Indian delegation poses with the regiment members and Lutsango.

TWO STABBED IN BAR BRAWL, ONE DIES

Stories by Nozipho Sibiya Mbabane

A night of partying inside the Malkerns Inala Wine and Malt watering hole ended tragically on Saturday night when a bar brawl spilled out into the street, leaving a 34-year-old man

Another man was left with injuries after he was stabbed with a sharp object during the brawl at the bar next to

Phakama Investments premises. According to sources, the deceased was stabbed twice in the chest and collapsed outside the steps of Malkerns Inala Wine and Malt.

Stabbed

"The other man was stabbed in the stomach and he is currently fighting for his life at Mankayane Government Hospital," said the witness.

The source of the altercation between the clubbers was unknown but they

only saw the bouncers removing a group of men from the bar.

"Bouncers threw the group out of the bar, but the fight continued on the sidewalk. The deceased was suddenly attacked by a man armed with a sharp object and he stabbed him twice in the chest," alleged the source. The other victim was stabbed as he tried to rescue his friend (the deceased). Malkerns police were called to the scene and promptly arrived to take the two to hos-

Suspect hands himself to cops

THE suspect who allegedly stabbed and killed a 34-yearold man after an argument inside the Inala Malt and Bar situated in Malkerns has handed himself over to the police.

According to sources, the suspect, only identified as Mayibongwe, handed himself to Malkerns police late on Sunday evening.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba

pital, where one was declared dead on arrival. Chief Police Information and Communications Officer

vesterday said the suspect, who initially fled the scene after killing an unknown man of Sithomo, handed himself in at Malkerns Police Station.

Motive

"The motive behind this killing is still unknown but he will be making his confession today (yesterday) at the Magistrate's Court."

Meanwhile, Mamba said the police had not yet identified the deceased as they were still looking for his relatives.

Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the matter and said police were still investigating.

TRIO BUSTED FOR TAXI THEFT RING

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi Manzini .

POLICE believe they have cracked a syndicate specialising on hijacking and stealing taxis in the country.

This follows the arrest of three men over the weekend, namely, Mpendulo Senzo Nkomonye (29), Sotja Mancoba Zwane (32) and Mduduzi Robert Dlamini

All three have already appeared before court on two counts of robbery, where they are alleged to have stolen two vehicles used by taxi operators at gun point.

They appeared before Manzini Senior Magistrate Phathaphatha Mdluli. Information gathered is to the effect that the accused persons' modus operandi was to hire taxis pretending that they wanted to go to a certain destination.

It is said once they got to that destination, they would turn against the taxi driver and rob him of his vehicle. Two taxi drivers were taken to Luve, where they were tied with ropes and had their cars stolen with all their valuables inside.

On the first charge, it is alleged that on May 31 near Luve, the accused persons robbed Sifiso Mdluli (42) years of Ticantfwini of his vehicle. It is alleged that the accused used force by threatening to stab Sifiso with a knife.

The accused are said to have tied Sifiso with a rope and thereafter stole his Red Honda Fit taxi, registered YSD 7924 BH. It is said the stolen taxi was valued

Possession

The accused did not only steal the motor vehicle but allegedly also stole money amounting to E700 and a Nokia cellphone, which was in the possession of the complainant. The second taximan was robbed at Luve in an area known as Ka-Lamashwayi. It is alleged that the accused pulled a gun at one Sicelo Mndvoti (30) of Bulunga and threatened that if he did not surrender his car,

they would shoot him. The accused are said to have thereafter taken Mndvoti's vehicle, a Mazda 3, registered SSD 140 AS, which is valued at E48 000. Information gathered is to the effect that once the accused persons steal the taxis, they would then sell them in neighbouring South Africa. Police believe the suspects might be involved in many other taxi hijackings which have happened in the country recently, where taxi drivers were reported to be under attack from criminals. Police believe that this is just a tip of the iceberg. An urgent application was made before court yesterday to have the first accused person Mpendulo Senzo Nkomonye remanded into police custody and not Zakhele Remand Centre

in order for him to assist police in recovering one of the vehicles, which has been spotted in South Africa.

Senior Magistrate Mdluli granted the crown's application to have Nkomonye remanded into police custody. He informed Nkomonye that he would be taken back to police custody to help with further investigations. The magistrate also pointed out that he will not grant the accused persons bail because on the second charge during the robbery a firearm was used.

Mdluli informed the court that the Magistrate's Courts have no jurisdiction when it comes to bail on such crimes but it is only the High Court which deals with such. The accused were remanded back into custody until Thursday.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SWAZILAND TOURISM AUTHORITY

The Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA) is a public entity established by the Swaziland Tourism Act of 2001. STA is charged with fostering the development of the tourism industry in Swaziland and marketing the country as a preferred destination in Africa.

On behalf of STA we invite applications from experienced leaders who are passionate about the tourism industry to apply for the position of Chief Executive Officer. Responsible to the Board of Directors this position provides opportunity to engage with senior government officials, the private sector and various key stakeholders.

- Work with the Board of Directors to provide the vision, leadership and strategic direction required by the organisation to achieve growth in tourism arrivals, revenues and brand awareness
- Implementing all resolutions taken by the Board of Directors
- Submission of periodic reports to the Board of Directors
- Submission of quarterly and annual reports to Government
- Lead the implementation of the Strategic Plan of STA
- Supervise the Executive Management team
- Managing the day-to-day operations of STA providing clear leadership
- Promoting a high performance and team culture consistent with the organisation's values
- Establishing, managing and growing relationships with key regional, business and governmental

Professional background & competencies

- Relevant Master's Degree accompanied by 10 years senior management work experience in a Marketing, Tourism or Investment environment
- Ability to plan, organise and lead as required by the organisation Ability to translate strategies into operational activities
- Ability to engage flexibly across a range of sectors including government and business Ability to motivate and manage professional teams to achieve set standards
- Well established interpersonal, communication, networking and negotiation abilities
- Strong financial and business acumen Strategic agility and results orientation
- Passion for the tourism industry

Preference will be given to Swazi citizens.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 17 April 2018. All applications received will be acknowledged. No late applications will be accepted.

Written applications clearly stating the position applied for, and accompanied by a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae should be submitted to:

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





SPEAKING BOOKS: Luhhumaneni Primary School Head teacher Velibanti Magagula receiving E5 000 cheque and 50 speaking books from MTN Foundation Coordinator Landokuhle Dlamini yesterday at Mahlalekhukhwini House. These resources will help the school set up a library. The books were contributed by the National HIV and AIDS Information Centre in Manzini. (Courtesy pic)

PATRON BRUTALLY MURDERED AT POPULAR LOGOBA DRINKING SPOT

By Observer Reporter the drinking spot . Logoba

A night of drinking spree ended tragically when a patron was stabbed to death at a popular drinking spot at Logoba.

Information gathered is that the patrons who were drinking at House of Liquor were involved in a heated argument prior to the stabbing incident.

It is said the deceased, who was in the company of his friends, was enjoying his beverages at

It is said the deceased spotted the suspect who was also in the company of his friends and informed those he was with that the suspect once assaulted him and told him that he was going to stab him. Information gathered is that a quarrel between the two arose over a certain woman.

It is said the two were engaged in a brief confrontation and the suspect pulled out a knife and stabbed the deceased in the neck.

The deceased died on the spot. Police were later called and the

Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba confirmed the incident, saying Matsapha police were investigating a murder case.

He said on Saturday at 22:15 hours, a 35-year-old man of Mhobodleni reported that on the same date, a 45-year-old man of Mankayane was stabbed to death with a sharp object once in the neck by an unknown man while at Logoba. Mamba said investigations in the matter were still ongoing.

4 HOMES DEMOLISHED IN MALKERNS

By Samkelisiwe Khoza Embetseni, Malkerns

IT was a sad and sorry sight as confused children and their distraught parents watched in bewilderment the demolishing of their homes at Embetseni, Malkerns yesterday afternoon.

Piles of debris, destroyed furniture laying askew on the ground and trucks loading furniture is what welcomed the news team when they arrived at the four demolished homes at Embetseni. The demolitions happened in the presence of armed police who had been called to keep watch to ensure that the already tense situation did not boil out of control.

The four homes were razed to the ground by a bulldozer sent by Umbane Limited, a sugarcane company planted in the midst of the four homesteads.

Umbane Limited was established in 1992 at Embetseni.

The four families are said to have been illegally occupying the land which was earmarked for the extension of sugarcane fields in the area. "That company found us there and we have been living in this place for over six decades," a stressed Gavin Khumalo, one of the homestead owners, said when interviewed. Khumalo continued to explain that the act of demolishing their homes was not different to being treated as foreigners who came to the country ille-



PACK AND GO: Some of the Khumalo family members packing their belongings.

gally. "Where are our rights as citizens of Swaziland, when we are today evacuated from our homes which took years of sweat to make hospitable for our children," asked Khumalo. The bulldozer flattened the four homes one at a time with their owners watching helplessly and in utter disbelief.

"Those people don't belong there, we have wasted millions in court trying to solve this matter and a court order allows us to take the actions that seem inhuman today," explained Jeremiah Manana, Umbane Limited's Finance Manager.

Manana explained that from the Supreme Court they received an order to evict the four homesteads.

He further clarified that they had been talking and trying to come to an agreement with the residents for years, but failed.

"All we want is to be compensated, they can't just tell us to vacate while they found us here when they started their company," said LuckyThomo, resident of the demolished homes.

Thomo continued to clarify that they did not want to disrespect the court order, but instead wanted to be moved to houses already built for them not just to be dumped in the middle of nowhere.

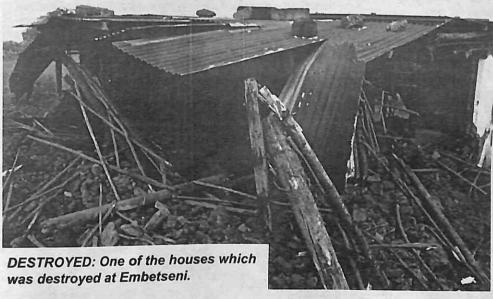
"These people wrecked our homes in front of these children (pointing at fouryear-olds), without even giving us a chance to at least take our belongings." In advance, Khumalo explained that it's a miracle that no one got hurt because they were running out of the houses with furniture on their shoulders trying to save



ARMED: A bulldozer which was used to destroy the four homestead in Malkerns yesterday.



REDUCE TO RUBBLE: Another view of the demolished house.





IDLING: Some of the items idle at one of the affected families.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SWAZILAND COMPANIES ACT NO. 8 OF 2009

SECTION 62(2)

Notice is hereby given that I have a reasonable cause to believe that the under mentioned company

BLESSINGS INVESTMENTS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED

Incorporated under the laws of Swaziland, is not carrying on business, the Directors and the Shareholders of the same company have applied for deregistration. The name of the aforesaid company, will unless cause is shown to the contrary at the end of the two month from the date hereof be deregistered and struck-off the Swaziland Registrar of Companies, and the company be dissolved.

> FOR BARNABAS MATSEBULA REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT An Equal Opportunity Employer

The U.S. Embassy in Mbabane, Swaziland is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the position of Information Assistant in the Public Affairs Office.

NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT (OR) APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION

OPENING DATE:

April 4, 2018 April 18, 2018

*Ordinarily Resident (OR): E235,841 p.a. - E239, 048 p.a. (Starting salary) (Position Grade: FSN-9)

Non-cash benefits include medical and pension.

Basic Function of Position

The incumbent advises the Ambassador, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), Public Affairs Officer (PAO), and other section heads on developments in the Swazi media and how those developments impact upon the bilateral relationship. Plans and implements Embassy media strategies designed to produce greater understanding of U.S. policies and achievements among the public. The incumbent reports directly to the PAO.

Qualifications Required

Applicants must address each required qualification listed below with specific information supporting each item. Failure to do so may result in a determination that the applicant is not qualified.

- 1. Education: A university degree in Journalism, Communications, International Relations, Political Science, Economics or Public Relations is required.
- 2. Experience: A minimum of four years of progressively responsible experience in a media outlet, think tank, university, NGO, international organization, foreign embassy, government office or corporation is required, with responsibility for public relations, public affairs, journalism, communications, marketing, managing public relations, outreach events, press conferences, and other media interactions as significant parts of the job. Must have experience managing digital properties, including direct online interaction with the public, and content creation in multimedia and traditional formats.
- ding/Writing English is required. Level 4 (Fluent) Speaking/Reading/Writing siSwati is required.
- 4. Knowledge: Expert knowledge of international affairs and Swazi foreign and domestic policy issues, including democracy promotion, economic development and HIV/AIDS. High level of knowledge and understanding of U.S. policies, Swazi and international media, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions
- Skills and Abilities: Significant communication skills are required. Excellent knowledge of computers, including MS 5. Skills and Adhittes: Significant Communication skills are required. Excellent knowledge or computers, including w Office suite and managing website is required. Ability to work under extreme time pressures. Ability to scan, comprehend and summarize quickly. Flexibility to adjust to shifting priorities and focuses. Ability to develop and maintain excellent contacts and working relationships with journalists and government officials. Ability to draft and

To Apply: view detailed vacancy announcement at https://sz.usembassy.gov/ Applicants must submit the following documents to be considered:

- Universal Application for Employment (UAE) (Form DS-174), which is available on our website or by contacting Human Resources at Mbabane_HRRecruitment@state.gov
- Any additional documentation that supports or addresses the requirements listed above (e.g. transcripts, degrees,

Submit applications to U.S. Embassy, Human Resources Office via email to: Mbabane_HRRecruitment@state.gov or post at P.O. Box D202, The Gables H106 include in the subject line: Application for Information Assistant position. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.





NEWSAR

SWAZI MOBILE'S HOME FIXED WIRELESS BRINGS YOU FIRST WORLD LIVING

hy wait for 2022? Enjoy first world living today with our Home Fixed Wireless ser-

Today in Swaziland, Swazi Mobile is working tirelessly to ensure every Swazi can have affordable Broadband Internet Connectivity at home through our Home Fixed Wireless Service.

With 80 per cent of Swaziland covered with our first world network's 4G LTE footprint, almost everyone can enjoy affordable Fixed Line and Broadband Internet at home for education, entertainment and business. This is an affordable plug and play solution that is easy to set up and is ready for use.

EQUIPMENT FOR THE HOME FIXED WIRELESS SERVICE

Router

This is the component that beams via Wi-Fi the broadband internet to all the connected users and devices in your home like laptops, tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles (up to 32 devices simultaneously).

It comes with a password for security reasons, so that not just anyone can connect.

You simply power it up and you can then access the internet right away.

Get yourself connected to the best Home Fixed Wireless in the market and enjoy hassle free downloading, browsing and streaming on super-fast internet speeds.



Desktop phone

The component of the service that allows you to make phone calls.

To cater for different customer preferences, we have also allowed customers to purchase their chosen desktop phone. From it, calls can be made to Swazi Mobile numbers (on-net) and to numbers on other networks (off-net).

Both the above components give you voice, data and SMS services according to your selected package.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUES-TIONS

1. How long is my contract?

Each Swazi Mobile Home Fixed Wireless contract is 12 months, after which the customer owns the Fixed Wireless device. Unless the customer gives one month notice to terminate, the contract is automatically renewed for a further 12 months.

2. Will my Swazi Mobile Home Fixed Wireless Line allow me to call outside the country?

The Fixed Wireless Line is provided with a Hybrid Contract that eliminates bill shock - your bill will never be more than your selected contract package. A customer can top-up with airtime in order to make international calls

3. What if I run out of my package units for calls, especially to other networks?

A customer can simply load airtime to carry on using their Home Fixed Wireless Line to make calls to other networks.

4. Can I upgrade or downgrade my package?

You can migrate from any data plan to Home Fixed Wireless.

5. How do I sign up?

Visit any of our Experience Centres and fill in the application form and submit the required documentation

The required documentation includes a copy of your ID, proof of residence and proof of banking.

Once your application has been approved, you will then have your Home Fixed Wireless activated.

6. What happens if I sign up in the middle of the month?

If you sign up in the middle of the month, you will get a pro rata invoice for the days of the month that you have used the service.

7. What happens if I change residence or office location?

If you move house, no worries. Just notify Swazi Mobile of your new address, pack your Fixed Wireless Line and continue using it at your new location.

THE HOME FIXED WIRELESS PACKAGES

Home Fixed Package	Subscription	Anytime Data	Night Data	Weekend Data	On-net Minutes	Off-net Minutes	SMS
Plan 1	E395	10GB	10GB	10GB	1000	200	200
Plan 2	E595	20GB	20GB	20GB	Unlimited	400	400
Plan 3	E795	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	600	400



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RARE CANCER CONDITION SEES MAN'S EYE POP OUT

By Nondumiso Mkhonta Malkerns

A 45-year-old man from Malkerns has a rare eye cancer condition, which led to his right eye popping out.

With the eye out, the hole regularly oozes blood.

Dumsani Dlamini of Mthomo, Malkems, has been living in agony for almost four years.

He was diagnosed with the rare disease in 2014 at Mbabane Government Hospital, which started as a small painful lump on the right eye.

The lump has spread to the cheek over the years while Dlamini has been waiting in the queue for close to 12 months to benefit from the Phalala Fund.

According to Dlamini, he submitted the doctor's letter to Phalala Fund offices in Mbabane requesting to send him to a South African hospital for an operation mid-last year.

"I submitted the doctor's letter to Phalala Fund offices immediately after I was diagnosed with the disease and they promised to call me but until today I have not recieved their call," he said.

Dlamini is currently employed as a labourer by Dalcrue Farm in Malkerns, which is under Tibiyo TakaNgwane. • He further states that he is struggling to support his two children because of the expensive drugs he has to regularly buy.





PLEASE HELP: Dumisani Dlamini (45) from Malkerns who has been diagnosed with an eye cancer which started in 2014. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

He stays alone in his stick and mud house after his wife left for her parental home in Dvokolwako for unknown reasons.

"I am struggling since my wife left

me, I have to cook, wash and also wake up at 4am everyday to get ready for work, which is a 3km walk from my house," he adds.

He further complained about a con-



DIRE CONDITIONS: The stick and mud at Mthomo in Malkerns where Dlamini stays.



SOURCE OF INCOME: The Dalcrue Farm in Malkerns where Diamini is employed.

stant terrible headache and difficulty in breathing which is caused by the growing lump towards the nose.

He gets financial support from his unemployed brother to buy painkillers from pharmancies to subside the pain. He further states that he is struggling to support his two children because of the expensive drugs he has to regularly buy.

Dalcrue Supervisor Jabulani Mazibuko confirmed that they are aware of Dlamini's condition which developed over the couple of years

"The condition got worse recently and as a supervisor I decided to assign him a light daily work in fear that his condition might worsen and we cannot terminate his conctract because he needs money to put bread on the table to survive," he said. Means to get comment from his wife were futile as her cellphone was not reachable yesterday.

Meanwhile, Director of Health Dr Vusi Magagula said he was yet



Build it wishes His Majesty King Mswati III, The Ingwenyama (King) of Swaziland, a Happy 50th Birthday.

Congratulations to the people of Swaziland on 50 years of Independence.



'Ace' Jele's fraud case set for June

By Sandile Nkambule High Court

THE trial of suspended Royal Swazi **National Airways Corporation** (RSNAC) Chief Executive Officer Charles 'Ace' Jele has been set for June 19 by the High Court.

High Court Principal Judge Qinsile Mabuza yesterday set the fraud matter for that date where the Crown will parade its witnesses.

Jele, who is represented by senior attorney Ben J Simelane, is facing fraud related charges as he is alleged to have defrauded the RSNAC over E320 000.

The crown was yesterday represented by Principal Crown Counsel Sandile Mdluli.

Jele is alleged to have defrauded the Royal Swazi National Airways over E320 000. This is contained in the indictment filed by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Phila Dlamini's office where Jele is facing a theft charge

He is alleged to have stolen E324

 Suspended RSNA CEO has a date in Court on June 19, he allegedly defrauded the corporation over E320 000 Prince Guduza implicated in Jele's matter

529.04 from his employer in the period between August 2006 and October 2009, thereby creating a deficit. Jele has not pleaded yet as the trial is to kick off in June.

The charge sheet has stipulated that Prince Guduza allegedly phoned Jele on May 15, 2009 wherein they discussed issues surrounding fuelling of a plane

It is stated that a fuel attendant from RSNAC, Aaron Simelane, will lead evidence before court that he received a call from Jele instructing him to discount charges after fuelling a plane with petrol.

It has been stated that Simelane will testify that Jele allegedly told him he had received instruction from Prince Guduza to effect the discounts."The witness fuelled the plane with 6 349 litres which was to the cost of US\$7 047," reads the indictment.

When converted into Emalangeni at the exchange rate of E8 to the US Dollar, the amount equals about E56 000. It has been alleged that Simelane refused to accept payment of E32 000 which was being offered to him.

Indictment

It has not been clearly stated who offered the money to Simelane and what it was for. The indictment has alleged that Jele thereafter called Simelane instructing him to accept the amount. Simelane then allegedly received and signed for it.

The corporation's Financial Accountant Gcebile Makama, it has been said, would testify that in August 2006, she noticed that fuel sales reflected a loss. She is alleged to have conducted some investigation to ascertain the causes of the loss.

The Senior Controller, Jabulani Simelane, allegedly told her that Jele had allegedly taken some money in foreign and local currency, but had promised to deposit it to RSNAC's bank account.

"This witness (Makama) then approached the accused (Jele) and requested a deposit slip which the latter could not produce.

The accused was thereafter debited by this witness for the E321 965.10. The money was never paid by the accused," the charge sheet stated.

Makama, according to the indictment, will also testify that in November 2009 the senior controller told her Jele had allegedly taken E58 936.74, which was for purchased fuel, promising to repay it, but such did not happen. She is said to have refused to sign a questionable aviation delivery

The fuel had allegedly been delivered to a Johannesburg based aircraft



CITED: Prince Guduza.

operator, Fortune Air.

Makama allegedly refused to generate an invoice in respect of the deliv-

Prince Guduza has reportedly presided over sittings in the House of Assembly, where another report of allegations into corruption at the RSNAC wasdiscussed. However, the parliamentary report is not linked to the court case.

The matter is pending before court and these are allegations which are yet to be ventilated in court.

Nkwene MP to use probase to campaign for re-election

Stories by Mbono Mdluli Lobamba

NKWENE MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini says he will use the chemical soil stabilisers in his quest to win elections

The legislator said this last week when MPs passed the Probase Swaziland (Upgrading of Unpaved Roads) Loan Bill No. 18 of 2017.

Nkwene Inkhundla is not among those expected to benefit from the first phase of upgrading unpaved roads using chemical soil stabilisers, commonly known as probase.

Nkwene Inkhundla is supposed to benefit from the second phase of the project, which is supposed to be implemented through a bill that will be passed by the 11th Parliament during the current 2018/2019 financial year.

MP Sikhumbuzo, speaking during the debate of the Bill in Parliament, expressed concerns on the manner in which the whole project was distributed among the Tinkhundla.

However, he said he would negotiate with residents of Nkwene Inkhundla to take it upon themselves to vote him back to Parliament during the elections that would be held later this year.

"It is important to understand that the person who is there when the bill of the first phase is passed should be there to call upon the second phase bill to be passed, as promised," MP Sikhumbuzo

He promised to nag government in this current financial year to implement the second phase of the probase project, should he be re-elected to Parliament this year.

Concerning the distribution of the project, the MP said other Tinkhundla benefitted more than others. He made



WANTS ANOTHER TERM: Nkwene MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini.

an example of Lobamba Inkhundla, which was the one that benefitted the most in this first phase.

The Lobamba Inkhundla benefitted thrice, without having to share the benefits with another Inkhundla.

MP Sikhumbuzo was of the view that the bill should not be passed last week, without some changes being made on the distribution of the first phase of the project.

He suggested that some projects should be taken from Tinkhundla like Lobamba in favour of places in the Shiselweni or Lubombo regions.

He said people of Lobamba had the privilege of having tarred roads yet other Tinkhundla did not have such

The MP's sentiments were shared by Zombodze Emuva MP Titus Thwala, who was also of the view that Lobamba appeared to benefit many times compared to other Tinkh undla. He said even though the Lobamba appeared two times on the beneficiaries list, the Inkhundla appeared three times because the Ezulwini-Elangeni Primary road was also in Lobamba. The 6.7km road, according to the list, is under Hhukwini Inkhundla.

The MP said he was surprised why Matsanjeni North Inkhundla was not included in the first phase of the pro-

"I once travelled on that road (Good Shepherd-Mambane) and my car was damaged because of the state of that road. I wonder why the ministry of public works and transport has not prioritised that road because the Minister (Lindiwe Dlamini) has been promising to attend to the needs of the road and it was at the top in the priority list of the ministry," the MP said.

In the end, his wishes did not come true as the bill was passed without any nendments.

'Lobamba got a small portion'

LOBAMBA Inkhundla got a mere 10 kilometres compared to other Tinkhundla in the first phase of the probase project.

This was said by Lobamba MP Michael Masilela when asked to respond on the concerns raised by his fellow MPs on his Inkhundla's appearance on the list of Tinkhundla to benefit from the project.

Masilela said he would not be focusing on whether his Inkhundla appeared more times than others because that was not what was important.

He said people should consider that his Inkhudla got a less number of kilometres compared to other constituencies.

"My Inkhundla got only 10, which is small when compared KaNcesi-Mtjopane (Malandzela Clinic) road, which is 12.4km. Mhlambanyatsi also benefitted more than my Inkhundla, with 15.5km," Masilela said.

However, the Lobamba legcomplain about the kilometres allocated to his constituency.

He was very grateful to government for seeing it imperative that his Inkhundla should also be included in the project.

The MP also understood that resources were scarce in the country, so it would be unreasonable to expect to be fully catered for yet there were other Tinkhundla which needed help

The MP urged his colleagues



10KM: Lobamba MP Michael Masilela.

not to look at the number of appearances made by his constituency on the list, adding that this did not suggest that his Inkhundla benefitted more than all the others from the first phase of the project.

Constituencies

It is also worth noting that constituencies like Maseyisini and Ntondozi also got 10km from the project, just like Lobamba. He said his colleagues would also get their islator stated that he did not own turn where they would benefit from the probase pro-

> Manzini Region was the most covered in the first phase of the probase project.

> About 104km would be covered during the implementation of the project in that region.

> Manzini was followed by Hhohho region with 65.9km whilst Shiselweni got 20.9km. Lubombo got the least, with only 9.2km.

> > and the money of the second second

Crime Stop fails to pay new guards

By Sizwe Dlamini Pigg's Peak

RECENTLY hired Crime Stop security guards stationed around Pigg's Peak have claimed that they have not received their salaries for two months.

The security guards, who preferred anonymity due to the fear of reprisals. said they were hired by Crime Stop Security in January, but only started to receive their incomplete salaries three months later, at the end of last month. Speaking to this publication, the guards said they were only given their salaries for the month of March and not for the previous two months.

"We were hired in January, but only received our first salaries at the end of March after we started complaining to our administration in Mbabane.

Over the last three months, we feel like our complaints were falling on deaf



ears. Just three weeks ago, we the unpaid employees decided to stop working, then 12 hours later, we were recalled back to work by our supervisor with the promise that we will be paid. Unfortunately,

this has not happened as we received only E1 400 for the month of March, so currently we have not been paid for January and February," they said. They claimed that they tried to speak to their

local supervisors about this, but were ignored. When approached for comment, Crime Stop Security Liaison Officer Thabile Maziya said she would investigate the matter further after her office had compiled all the required data.

"As Crime Stop we take care of all our employees, that is why we are concerned when we hear such complaints. We will work on the matter and test its authenticity because people could be misusing our good name for their own personal gain," she said.

ANOTHER SUSPECT CATTLE RUSTLER GOES MISSING

By Wonderboy Dlamini Siteki

FOLLOWING the shooting and killing of a suspect cattle rustler in the early hours of last Thursday, another man of Mzilikazi, who is believed to be a suspect, has gone

The name of the alleged suspect is deliberately withheld as there have been no formal complaints laid against

Police shot and killed a man, who was identified as Sabelo Gamedze, who was reportedly found driving a herd of 31 cattle near the borderline separating Swaziland and Mozambique.

He is believed to have been in the company of two other men who managed to flee into neighbouring Mozambique.

The shooting and killing of the suspect comes after the joint operation team against stock theft and rustling made a declaration to shoot to kill suspect rustlers. The joint operation team

comprises the Royal Swaziland Police, Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force and their Mozambican counterparts.

They had a joint meeting at Lomahasha about three weeks ago wherein a war against cattle rustlers was declared.

A relative of the man, who has since disappeared, stated that he could be in Mozambique where he has other relatives. He is said to have disappeared last Wednesday, just a day before the shooting of Gamedze near Sitsatsaweni.

Since the shooting incident, speculation has been rife to the effect that the 'missing' man was held hostage by furious farmers who caught him red-handed driving stolen cattle. Such speculations have, however, been quashed by the police as no report has been made to that effect. "We have also not reported him as missing because we are aware that he has relatives in Mozambique and it is likely that he went to visit them," said the relative. The relative said it was not common though for his brother to go to Mozambique without reporting. Meanwhile, Lungolweni community police leader Kaizer Mathonsi said the missing man is in their list of persons to be questioned about cattle rustling allegations which have been levelled against him. "We have received information that he has since disappeared, but our belief is that he escaped to his relatives in Mozambique after learning that he is wanted for his crimes," said Mathonsi.

110 arrested for drink-driving

By Nozipho Sibiya Mbabane

A total of 110 motorists were arrested for drink-driving over the past weekend.

The figure was announced by Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Assistant Superintendent Khulani Mamba.

Mamba said during the Buganu season which is almost nearing to the end, the police service had anticipated the number of drink-driving cases to increase.

"Many motorists make the mistake of drinking buganu and get

behind the wheel, which must come to a stop because the police will remain vigilant on the roads," he added.

Mamba said the buganu season should be one of happiness for Swazis, so people must enjoy it while obeying the rules of the road.

He stated that the buganu season was a headache to the police ser-

"Assault cases, grievous bodily harm (GBH), rape, drink-driving (DD) and other cases are rife during this period," he said, adding that some people had lost their relatives during this period as many behaved in an irresponsible way.

Staff exodus at Spar Supermarket

Stpries by Starsky Mkhonta Nhlangano

THERE is reportedly a mass exodus of employees at Nhlangano Spar and this has left customers worried.

Few employees are still with the company who started working when it began operating in the year 2000.

Branch Manager Philemon Tsabedze said of late, employees at the supermarket were leaving the company in large numbers.

One of the affected departments is the bakery where in a short space of time, four employees resigned from the retail outlet.

The departure of the employees is something which others said has become a cause for concern despite that others leave on their own without any pressure. "Others we are told leave for greener pastures, but there are those who find themselves left with no option but to resign under unclear circumstances. The bakery department is one of the most affected as four employees have resigned simultaneously," a close source said. Others said eyebrows were raised when recently the head of security of specause of pressure at the workplace.

"It's clear that there is something pushing them to leave, and we can't just say all of them have left because of greener pastures.

It's something which needs to be investigated as this exodus is shocking. Other customers are also beginning to ask as to what is happening as the majority of the employees in the shop are new," said another source.

There is also a word that more employees were also lined up to leave the supermarket and it's likely that by the end of the year, there would be new faces. The sources claimed that one of the senior employees had been slapped with a suspension and there would be a hearing soon.

Meanwhile, Tsabedze confirmed that several employees had left the shop, but it was not because of him or anyone forcing them to leave.

"Some employees have resigned, and it should be known that when someone resigns, there is no way vou can force him or her to stay. Others are leaving because of offers somewhere while some want to upgrade themselves. It's normal at work that employees leave," said Tsabedze. He said it would be wrong to assume that the employees left

also tendered his resignation. Management continuing with investigations

FOLLOWING the arrest of one of the junior managers at Nhlangano Spar a couple of weeks ago for allegedly defrauding the company over E140 000, management is reportedly keen to find out if indeed the said manager was alone in looting money from the

The branch Manager Philemon Tsabedze confirmed that investigations were ongoing to find out if no other employees were implicated in the fraud. It has been established that the arrest of the junior manager has necessitated further investigations as there is fear that others also benefitted in one way or the other. It is also believed that the investigations have made other employees not comfortable, hence claims are that others have even decided to tender their resignations as they do not want the outcome of the investigations, to catch up with them while they were still employees.

It is said the management roped-in the police in the investigations.





FALLING APART: Some of the stick and mud houses where Mthomo location in Malkerns residents stayed. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

WOMEN MORE LIKELY TO BE KILLED BY INTIMATE PARTNERS'

Stories by Simon Shabangu Mbabane

"IT has been statistically proven that a woman is more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than a stranger or any other eventuality such as illness or a car accident.

This is true across racial, political and class lines."

South African clinical psychologist Mthetho Tshemese made this revelation during the maiden PSYCH Talk series held at Sibane Hotel, organised by Kushamiri Human Capital and Wellness Consultancy.

He said issues such as gender based violence, specifically the scourge of rape, were manifestations of one's psyche, and the underlying problem was the incorrect belief system that fed the psyche.

Tshemese made an example that most young men were not socialised to appreciate, acknowledge and respect issues of sexual consent, because most of them taught themselves about sex from watching pornography.

He highlighted that pornography was made for the exclusive purpose of sexual arousal (for the pleasure of men in most instances), as opposed to having an emotional pleasurable connection, within the confines of a dignified relationship.

Tshemese said it was, therefore, important for men to rethink their positions on masculinity, psyche and intimacy to become better partners, husbands, brothers and friends

He added that such conversations were imperative in order to give young men healthy possibilities to feel compassion and vulnerability and to view their partners as equals, by challenging assumptions around manhood, parenting and reacting to conflict in rela-

tionships. Tshemese said addressing men's mental health meant acknowledging the way in which men befitted implicitly directly from the patriarchy system.

Patriarchy is the term used to describe a society characterised by current and historic unequal power relations between women and men whereby women are systematically disadvantaged and oppressed.

It is also a system of society or govemment in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from

Tshemese is an activist, whose clinical work has included working with men and couples in therapy. He is pioneering

community

interventions

in devel-

to speak about men who rape, but to masculinities, that made it acceptable jugation of women.

> He argued that feminism was the best available option to defeat patriarchy as a system and humanise men.

patriarchy as a belief system because it robs men of their humanity, and thus caused men to violate women indiscriminately.

EYE-OPENER: South African gist Mthetho Tshemese. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

oping healthy masculinities through psychological interventions.

The event was themed: 'Men's Mental Health - Moving towards Healthy Masculinities'.

The aim of the function was to interrogate and deconstruct the concept of one's identity as informed by the processes of development, socialisation and internalisation. Psychological identity involves the capacity for honest selfreflection and awareness, personal qualities, beliefs and ways of expression that make a person (self-identity) or group (social categories).

The event was attended by individuals, couples and two major corporates; Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) and Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC). The Wellness Champions represented the companies during the talk.

Tshemese said the evening was not interrogate internalised beliefs and toxic to perpetuate the violation and sub-

He said feminism was against

clinical psycholo-

Doo Aphane takes exception to Senator Princess Phumelele's comment

LAWYER and women's rights activist, Doo Aphane says the time has come for an intergenerational conversation about abuse, injustice and violation of women.

As a panellist at the PSYCHTalk, she said it was critical to note that change also had to be embraced by women, because they would often be heard making contradictory statements in the fight against the violation of women.

She said it was ironic that every negative system often used the very people who suffered the most to safeguard

Aphane said it was high time a shift took place concerning conceptions of patriarchy. She lamented the fact that women's jealously safeguarded patriarchy, even women in power who had influence to bring about change. She said this was evident in women supporting and vocalising shocking views about rape not existing within the con-



MY POINT IS: Panelist Nontobeko Tshabalala stressing a point as she makes her presentation while her fellow panelists Sifiso Shabangu, Doo Aphane and South African Clinical Psychologist Mthetho Christopher Tshemese listen.

text of marriage. She made these comments in reference to a submission made by Senator Princess Phumelele that a wife could not claim to have been raped archal self in her was speaking at that

time and I was very disturbed and shocked by her comments," she said. She emphasised the need for many stereotypes to be deconstructed and pointed toward by her husband. "The protected, patri- culture as the culprit and enabler of unhealthy masculinities in the society.

Kushamiri hailed for starting a movement

CLINICAL psychologist Mthetho Tshemese has hailed the directors of Kushamiri (Zothile Mabusela, Senele Mdluli, Zanele Dube and Carla Glover) for starting a movement.

The initiative would see young people and women in particular, being at the forefront of interrogating internalised beliefs about masculinity and mental health.

He said when people started movements in history, they kicked them off in such a manner. Tshemese emphasised that movements did

not thrive if the people in attendance left the venue and stopped engaging with themselves. He urged the audience, especially men, to have more of these conversations to a point where men could call each other out on inappropriate masculinities and to reject the narrative of men that says in order to be a man there must be a subjugation of women. He added that this was an intergenerational challenge because young men need role models who were willing to change and not hell bent on maintaining their privilege.



TOGETHER: Kushamiri Directors Senele Mdluli, Zothile Mabusila, Zanele Dube and Carla Glover pictured during the Psychtalk event they hosted at Sibane Hotel on Friday night.

What other panellists had to say:

Sifiso Shabangu-Clinical psychologist at the National Psychiatric Referral Hospital said that men are the minority seeking mental healthcare, yet they are the ones in dire need of interventions to curb toxic behaviours. He described men out there as 'very ill', with a poor state of mind that affected women and children in fatal ways. Sifiso's experience with therapy has brought his attention to the fact that men currently view women as the source of the problem in relationships, as opposed to having self-awareness and taking responsibility over their own toxic behaviours that contribute to poor relationships. He was concerned that there is a lot that was not addressed with men's mental health, giving an example that men seek help when the illness is serious making it difficult to prevent or cure, giving rise to serious mental health problems for men.

Quotable quotes "Most men have been complicit

in the rape or violation of women, because we have been quiet knowing it happened to a woman we know. Most men, (young and old) believe that just because he has bought her a drink or spent his money on her, it is his right to sleep with that woman."- Mthetho Tshemse, clinical psychology "Men come to seek help for counselling or therapy when it is too late; they wait until their condition is worse. It becomes difficult to deal with men's mental health at a preventative level. Men rarely voluntarily ask for help from mental health professionals, because they think they will be perceived as weak or vulnerable." -Sifiso Shabangu, clinical Psychologist at National Psychiatric Referral Hospital. "Rapists are not boogeymen or strange delinquents. Rapists are often people we know, and people we interact with; because rape and sexual harassment has been enabled at a normative age."-Mthetho Tshemese, clinical psychologist



THE CREW: Psychtalk 18 crew Temaswati Nzima, Nothando Ginindza, Bahle Vilakati, Thembelihle Khoza and Nokuphila Zondi following proceedings of the event.



INVITED GUESTS: SWAPA Vice-President Petros Horton, Mandisa Sigudla and Senator Ndumiso Mdluli during Sigudla's farewell function.

SENATOR BIDS FAREWELL TO MJINGO HIGH RETIRING TEACHER

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi Manzini

AFTER serving the teaching profession for over 30 years, Mjingo High School teacher Mandisa Sigudla has finally retired.

She received a befitting send--off on Saturday, in an event graced by the Minister of Public Service Owen Nxumalo and Senator Ndumiso Mdluli, among other important guests.

Senator Mdluli, who was the guest speaker during the event, said Sigudla served Mjingo High School with diligence and determination from 1988 to September, 2016.

The senator said the retiring teacher's pristine teaching career spans back from 1979 and without any doubt it is what he

believes could have led to her recruitment at Mjingo High School.

Mission

He commended the principal, school committee and the entire leadership of Mjingo High for finding it appropriate to give Sgudla a dignified and befitting send-off that commensurates with the level of contribution she has made to the advancement of education in the school.

Mdluli hailed Sigudla's heroism as a gallant soldier who has fought a good fight and prevailed in her noble mission to serve the youth of the school.

The senator said Sigudla had travelled a path of excellence in both the classroom environment and outside school, as attested to by the numerous positions she has held in various national committees such as Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT), National Netball Association of Swaziland and SOCGA.

Mdluli pointed out that teaching was about placing the interest of the child above that of the teacher.

Dream

He said teachers were change agents who keep sowing knowledge and competence in a child's life with the hope that these seeds will germinate and bear bountiful fruits later in the child's

He said it is the teacher's fundamental duty to produce people that would make a difference in nation building and realise the King's dream of a first world country.

The senator stated that some of the pupils taught by Sgudla have already risen out of their humble beginnings to become enviable achievers in their career

He said they have become

national assets that are contributing effectively to the country's national development agen-

The senator stated that Sigudla's 28-year-long service to Mjingo High School is evidence of her stable character and outright love for the school and entire community of the area.

He further urged Sigudla not to lose sight of her set goals, in

He urged her to keep aspiring for fresh achievements as long as she lives and refuse to procrastinate.

Mdluli said he was happy to learn that Sigudla has not stopped pushing the margins as she is currently rendering her excellent service to the Swazi community as she is a weekend mathamatics tutor at Emlalatini Development Centre.



PROPOSED IMPORTATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED MAIZE FOR COMMERCIAL MILLING

The Applicant:

The National Maize Corporation PO Box 1775 Matsapha

Wishes to import genetically modified (GM) white maize for the purpose of commercial milling. An application for the permit to "import for food, feed, processing and placing on the market" has been submitted to the Swaziland Environment Authority.

The importation is proposed to be carried out with effect from March 2018. Further information can be obtained from the (Biosafety Registrar, at The Swaziland Environment Authority.

Any person who wishes to object or comment to this importation of GM white maize for commercial milling may do so within 28 days from the date of first publication of this notice. Objections and comments should be mailed, emailed or hand delivered to:

The Executive Director Swaziland Environment Authority PO Box 2602 Mbabane Swaziland Email: biosafety@sea.org.sz

> ISHMAEL G. NDWANDWE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) has adopted a Vision and Mission statement and a new Work Programme for promoting sustainable development and deeper integration within the SACU region. The SACU Secretariat hereby invites suitably qualified and experienced citizens of the SACU Member States to submit their applications for the following positions.

VACANCIES

1. Job Title For the Position: Chief Legal Officer (Ref: CLO)

Main Purpose of the Job:

To provide of effective legal services to the organs of SACU, the Secretariat and Member States,

Key Areas of Responsibilities:

- Prepares for and coordinates the establishment of effective SACU institutions, including the Tariff Board and Tribunal, and monitors effective implementation.
- Ensures the effective operationalization of SACU institutions, and provides ongoing legal support. Advises on matters concerning legal interpretation, implementation and application of SACU legal
- instruments and the obligations of Member States under agreements binding upon them.

 Monitors implementation and compliance with international obligations including compliance by
- Performs in-depth research and analysis on regional and international legal topics and delivers opinions, technical papers for discussion or publication as assigned.

Coordinates the harmonization of Trade policies across Member States

- Scrutinizes and sanctions the negotiation, drafting and implementation of international agreements, including all trade related legal instruments, and assists in their incorporation into the national law of Member States and their domestic implementation.
- Ensures effective monitoring and compliance with international obligations including compliance by third parties
- Evaluates legislative and operational demands arising from SACU member states/SACU activities, and assigns appropriate legal resources to address these
- Scrutinises and approves Service Level Agreements with service providers to ensure effective service delivery. Oversees legal aspects of the Secretariat's property management and other corporate
- responsibilities. Represents or causes to represent SACU at legal proceedings.
- Develops, prepares and drafts Legal instruments
- Discharges depository functions of all SACU Legal Instruments.

Educational Qualifications Required:

- § Postgraduate Degree in Law § Qualified legal practitioner
- Qualification in International Trade law would be an added advantage

Relevant Work Experience and competencies Required: • Minimum 10 years relevant experience

- Experience with a regional or international organization
- Experience in dealing with International Trade Law issues Policy formulation and implementation experience
- Experience in report writing Computer literate[in MS Office
- Attention to detail

2.Job Title For the Position: Trade Facilitation Specialist (Ref: TFS)

To provide technical support and advise in the area of trade facilitation, taking into account the policies and operational tools required to strengthen collaboration and to enhance border efficiencies in SACU.

Key Areas of Responsibilities:

- Provides technical support to implementation of the SACU Trade Facilitation Work Programme. Provides analysis of the rules, regulations and procedures related to the implementation of policies. that supports trade facilitation, to strengthen collaboration and enhance border efficiencies amongst the SACU Member States. These include trade policy, agriculture, health, transport, and
- Builds and regularly updates an inventory of international, regional, bilateral conventions and other legal instruments for trade facilitation which are implemented by the SACU Member States.
- Provides technical support to facilitate the development and implementation of initiatives and technical work to enhance implementation of trade agreements that SACU Member States sign
- Provides technical support to enhance border coordination and management amongst the SACU Member States as well as to enhance cross border transport and logistical services to facilitate seamless movement of goods in the region.
- Conducts quarterly assessments and develop baseline data and repository of information on processes, procedures and documentary requirements for the movement of goods in SACU.

 Collects and analyse data on key cross border logistical initiatives and corridor performance that
- collects and analyse data of key cross border logistical initiatives and control performance that supports trade facilitation in SACU to assist in developing and implementing performance monitoring system for cross border trade in terms of air, land and sea modes of transport.
- monitoring system for cross porder trade in terms of air, land and sea modes of transport.

 Keeps abreast of national, regional and global developments and trends in trade facilitation and provide advisory notes on policy and technical developments affecting the SACU region.

 Contributes technical inputs on Trade Facilitation to the work of the Directorate as and when required, including weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reporting to the SACU Secretariat and the

Educational Qualifications Required:

Postgraduate Degree in any of the following: Economics, Law, Social Sciences, International Trade, Trade Policy, Transport and Logistics, Trade Facilitation, or related fields.

Relevant Master's degree would be an added advantage

Relevant Work Experience and Competencies Required: At least 5 years' experience in trade organization

- n at a senior level within a public, private or regional Knowledge and experience on Regional Integration and regional and global policies that affects
- Computer literacy in MS Office package including Excel
 Experience and exposure to writing official documents, technical papers and reports
- Good analytical skills

Applications must be accompanied by a detailed CV, e-mail and telephone contact details, certified copies of ID, educational qualifications and at least 3 contactable references. Quote the reference copies of ID, educational qualifications and at least 5 connectable references. Quote the reference number and job title. Applications must be submitted to Human Resources Manager, SACU Secretariat, Private Bag 13285, Windhoek Namibia Windhoek Namibia or send by e mail to:

The closing date for applications is 20 April 2018. For further information, please visit our website at www.sacu.int.

Should you have received no response within 4 weeks of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful in this instance, as correspondence will be limited to shortlisted candidates

LUBOMBO NEWS

...With

Siteki Market Offices, 2343 5779

Cell: 7643 6549 Email: observersitelti@realnet.co.sz Wonderboy Dlamini

EGRATED FARMING TO H FARMERS WITHSTAND DRY CONDITIONS - COSPE

THE first step towards responding to climate change is to understand the conditions of each particular area and implementing coherent farming practices.

This is what COSPE intends to instil in farmers as it recently launched a farming project which will help 23 communities for the next three

Speaking during the launch last week, COSPE Country Director Federica Masi explained their intended activities as they assist farmers to increase their productivity.

She highlighted that farmers must be empowered with skills and knowledge of what they intend to pro-

For their first activity, Masi said the organisation would distribute seed kits (legumes, cereals and vegetables), vegetative propagation material (sweet potato and cassava cuttings) to at least 2 000 farm-

She noted that among the smallscale farmers of the Lubombo region,



PRESENT: COSPE Project Manager Fabio Laurenzi, Saverio Frazzoli and Country Director Federica Masi following proceedings.

only 2.3 per cent had an irrigation system while 78 per cent does not have infrastructure and does not use adequate inputs. Masi said it was for this reason that almost all of them relied on the pluviometric regime (as in the Plateau the average annual rainfall varies between 700 to 825 mm per year) concentrated in different ways between September and May.

It was further uncovered that the

main crops in the region are maize, sorghum and legumes. In light of this data, Masi said through the project, they would distribute seeds of crops that are resilient to climate change, suitable for a low rainfall regime and of local varieties.

Two constituencies namely; Lugongolweni and Matsanjeni North are said to be part of the beneficiaries in this project.

In the meantime, Project Manager

Fabio Laurenzi said they would be contracting at least four irrigation perimeters with a minimum of one hectare.

On four hectares of land managed by four groups of farmers, drip irrigation systems will be installed for the production of vegetables. In fact, Laurenzi reported that COSPE had recently implemented a drip irrigation system of a similar nature on eight hectares of gardens managed by groups of farmers in the last 24 months and owns the appropriate knowledge for installation on site of an irrigation system.

To ensure that the project is a success, Laurenzi said the organisation will carry out frequent training to farmers, especially on seed reproduction and preservation.

This will be done through collaboration with the Swaziland National Agricultural Union (SNAU) and the Malkerns Research Institute and Seed Control Unit under the ministry of agriculture.

Cheating woman gets a beating from 'Ben 10'

PHUMAPHI Silindza (37) left the court gallery in stitches of laughter when she admitted to have been in a simultaneous relationship with two men after realising that her first lover was five years younger.

This was during the case of Thulani Mgodloli (32) who was facing a charge of common assault.

He was said to have assaulted Silindza by hitting her with open hands several times on the face.

The accused person pleaded guilty to the

In the meantime, the complainant also told the court that they have already discussed the matter outside court and resolved to forgive each other.

The court however wanted to know the bone of contention, to which the complainant stated that her boyfriend assaulted her for cheating on him.

She told the court that she had recently fallen in love with another man after realising that the accused person was younger than

However, a scuffle ensued when the new boyfriend called the woman in the presence of Mgodloli.

"I tried to explain to him that he was too young for me, but he insisted on keeping the relationship," she said.

Meanwhile, Court President Chief NdlondloTsabedze dismissed the matter while the accused person was ordered to pay a fee of admission of guilt.

Women still have

challenges in land

Lubombo RA pledges full support to COSPE project

THE project intended by COSPE, an Italian organisation has received full recognition and support from the Lubombo Regional Administrator Sylvia Mthethwa.

The project will run over the next three years. Mthethwa was represented by Bonwa Simelane, who is Lubombo Crime Prevention Officer deployed at the Lubombo Police Headquarters.

The RA noted that the two phases of the initiative recently concluded by COSPE have gone a long way in mitigating the drought situation which ravaged the region for the past three years.

It was reported that the first and second phase of the project saw beneficiaries receiving food and hygiene packages, and water springs protected for potable water supply.

Farmers were also supported with training and farm inputs in 16 communities.

The RA said having seen the past two phases being carried out successfully, her office will without doubt rally behind every project initiated by the organi-

She also noted that the organisation partnered with several other organisations for the success of its projects.



WORKING TOGETHER: COSPE officials and partners pose for a group photo.



ject comes to fruition.

"The regional office therefore pledges

its full support in evsuring that the

intended results of pha e three of your

Mthethwa noted that the spirit of partnership was vital in ensuring that a pro-

It was reported that the organisation would be working on the design and implementation of an improved conrol and monitoring information sys-

project are realised," said the RA.

Simelane who represented Lubombo RA Sylvia Mthethwa during the launch of COSPE proiects.

PLEDGES SUP-

PORT: Bonwa

ownership - SRWA DESPITE government imple- able to grow crops for their fammenting some improvements in the livelihood and empowerment of women, there are still challenges in terms of property ownership and other social

This was reported by Swaziland Rural Women Assembly (SRWA) Representative Nonhlanhla Mthethwa when speaking during a COSPE event at Magadzavane last week.

essentials.

Mthethwa was emphasising on the point that women; especially single mothers, still faced numerous challenges in society.

She said this saw women remain the face of poverty as they are the first to feel the effects.

Mthethwa said farming was one of their strong holds as women in the rural areas, where they are ilies and for commercial pur-

She said however, the challenge emerged when they are required to be represented by a man before being allocated land by the traditional authorities.

Mthethwa commended COSPE for assisting rural women by empowering them with farming and managerial skills through the various projects.

She noted that this would help them to be more productive and face the challenges of natural dis-

"We are hoping that in the near future, women in rural areas will be able to access any resource without having to be represented by a male counterpart," she said.

WOMEN LABELLED AS WORSE ABUSERS

Stories by Starsky Mkhonta Nhlangano

SOME women are worse abusers than men.

Some of these women abuse their partners to the extent that the men end up taking their own lives.

During a dialogue held at the Bethesda Church in Nhlangano last Thursday organised by the Shiselweni Crime Prevention department in collaboration with Nhlangano AIDS Training Information and Counselling Centre (NATICC), participants heard how at times women torture their husbands.

However, such is not reported to the police because of various reasons.

It is said men feel embarrassed to speak openly about being abused by their wives.

Close to 100 leaders from different churches were part of the dialogue.

From the police headquarters, participants included National Crime Prevention overseer Elvis Mashwama Shabangu, Inspector Muzi Dlamini, Inspector Menzi Kunene and Sergeant Siphesihle Ndlangamandla.

Topics discussed during the dialogue included gender based violence, murder, suicide and many others which are reportedly on the rise in the region.

When addressing the gathering, Coordinator of Shiselweni Crime Prevention Assistant Inspector Sakhile Mncina said some men had lost their lives at the hands of women.



IN NUMBERS: Some of the church leaders who were part of the dialogue.

She said with men, the sad part was that even if they were abused, at times they did not speak out while some ended up taking their lives when realising that the abuse is too much for them.

"Some men are subjected to unbelievable torture by their own wives. Others are bashed and slapped or even punched.

Men suffer in silence as they do not report such bad experiences; to them coming out is an act of weakness with some saying police humiliate them. It's not all the time where men are abusers," said Mncina.

Mncina said there were men who would report when they are being abused, but if they feel no one is paying any attention to them, they are discouraged and end up committing sui-

cide

"We have organised this gathering to seek help from church leaders as we have tried to address squabbles in families, including those related to gender based violence as well as brutalities but still such incidents have continued to escalate. We have decided to rope in church leaders as they are people tasked by God to preach the gospel of peace," said Mncina.

Mncina said the police, NATICC and church leaders should jointly find a solution to domestic violence. She said through this partnership, she was optimistic a lasting solution would be found. She said murder incidents were a cause for concern in the region as almost every week; police attend to such cases.

Church leaders also abuse spouses

CHURCH leaders have been advised not to mislead members of their churches but live a clean life in order to be taken seriously.

Inspector Fanyana Dlamini, who is in charge of the Domestic Violence and Child Protection in the Shiselweni region, told church leaders that some among them were hyenas in sheep skin.

"Some of you are monsters. There are those of you who are wife bashers in our midst. Some of you take to the pulpit knowing very well that they do not live the life they preach to the congregants. We have dealt with several cases of church leaders who abuse their wives in different forms. We have attended to cases touching on church leaders who are of double standards. Some of you are also molesters with the victims being members of the church," said

Dlamini

Dlamini said it was time church leaders do what God sent them to do and desist from doing horrible things which lower their dignity.

He said some of the atrocities happening in churches these days was the direct opposite of what they preach.

He said some of the church leaders were a disgrace in their communities. He said some pastors used the pulpit as a shield of hiding their sinful ways. "Churches have lost their meaning and purpose because of the leaders who have seemingly forgotten what their calling is.

There are church leaders who have loose morals and they pretend to be holy when taking to the pulpit. Being a pastor is the highest calling as it means someone entrusted with winning lost souls," said Dlamini.



WHY ARE YOU HIDING?: Assistant Inspector Fanyana Diamini, who is in charge of the domestic violence wing, delivering his speech.



LIVE A CLEAN LIFE: Zeph Nkambule with Pastors Jabulani Dlamini and Mduduzi Hlatshwako during group discussions at the dialogue.



THIS IS WHAT WE DO: Pastor Sipho Ncongwane from the Church of the Nazarene making an intervention.



WE ARE EMBAR-RASSED: Pastor Joseph Mazibela Dlamini also had something to say.



WELCOME: Shiselweni Crime Prevention Coordinator Assistant Inspector Sakhile Mncina welcoming the church leaders.



NATICC Programme Manager Thabani Ndlovu addressing the church leaders.



CLARITY: National Crime Prevention boss Elvis Mashwama Shabangu putting things into perspective.

LET'S WORK
TOGETHER:
Nhlangano
Station
Commander
Baraba Ginindza
during his presentation.

A total of 1 025 cases of abuse reported to police

THE Shiselweni Domestic Violence and Child Protection department has attended to about 1 025 cases of abuse in just a year.

Assistant Inspector Fanyana Dlamini said these were different abuse cases including; sexual, emotional as well as financial abuse.

He said the above statistics covered the period of last year. "Some of those implicated were church leaders. As a department, we often attend to cases where the pastor is the culprit," said Dlamini. Meanwhile, Dlamini also revealed that there were a total 84 cases of missing people reported. He said some of these individuals were found. "From this figure, 50 were found and the rest are still missing," said Dlamini.



'INITIATIVES LIKE MAHAMBA HIKING SHOULD BE SUPPORTED'

Stories by Starsky Mkhonta Nhlangano

INITIATIVES like Mahamba Gorge Hiking should be supported by everyone as the country moves towards vision 2022.

Chiefs from the Shiselweni region said since the inception of the Mahamba Gorge Hiking about five years ago, there has been a huge difference in their respective communities.

Speaking on behalf of chiefs during the fifth edition of the event on Sunday, Chief Makhosikhosi Khumalo of Ekwendzeni said it was encouraging to see sponsors coming forward to support the initiative of a noble cause.

He said as all the proceeds from the event were directed to the people in the communities, they (chiefs) were thankful to all the stakeholders for their support.

"We are excited when we see such events taking place as they are part of nation building. Such initiatives have changed lives of people in our areas

Ever since the hiking was introduced, lives of people in the communities events have also changed for the better," said the chief, when addressing a crowd of about 6 000 people.

He said events like the Mahamba Gorge Hiking, brought people together

"It's not only about raising money to assist needy people, but it is also where we get to know each other as it brings people together.

Again, we have seen that it is an event that also creates job opportunities as we have seen projects which are a result of funding coming from this initiative. Our wish as chiefs is to see the event succeeding and supported in the many more years to come," said the chief.

On the other hand, MPs also said they were pleased with the way the



ALL SMILES: Manzini REO Mlimi Mamba and staff members from his office also joined the thousands at the Mahamba hiking on Sunday. The fifth edition of this annual hiking attracted over 6 000 people this year. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



BANKERS: Swaziland Building Society staff came through in large numbers to join the charity initiative.

initiative has progressed since its introduction about five years ago. The MPs said they were also seeing improvements in terms of attendance every year.

Kubuta MP Njabulo Mabuza, who said it was his third year to taking part in the event since its inception, said no one should be a spectator when there were such initiatives meant to assist needy communities.

"What has also pleased me is the way the number of participants has been improving. The vibe has also improved and it shows that it's becoming a popular event in the country. The other good thing is that it promotes physical fitness and

keeps one healthy," said Mabuza.

The MP said the event has also become a tourist attraction vehicle and this would reflect positively in the country's economy.

Shiselweni I MP Mandla Nxumalo also said the initiative should have the backing of everyone. He said people from their constituencies were benefiting a lot.

"We have to support charity and I must say, I am pleased with the work done by Mahamba Gorge Hiking. If we can all support this event, it means more (needy) people stand a chance of benefitting. We are appealing to sponsors to continue sponsoring this programme,"

said MP Nxumalo.

Matsanjeni South MP Sikiza Mhlungu said he was impressed with the attendance.

He said everyone should come on board and be part of the initiative which has changed the lives of many people.

"We all should be seen playing a role in supporting initiatives which focus on changing people's lives," said Mhlungi

said Mhlunga.

Hosea MP Thulani Masuku said he was a fan for charity as he was aware that proceeds collected during the event were distributed to needy and vulnerable members of the society.

Govt thankful for Mahamba hiking initiative

GOVERNMENT appreciates the work done by Mahamba Gorge Hiking,

Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini said Mahamba Gorge Hiking work should be applauded.

The DPM was represented by the Minister of Housing and Urban Development Phiwayinkhosi Mabuza.

He said it was important to support such initiatives as at the end even the country in general benefits as such events were attended by people from other places.

Jobs

"Government is thankful for such initiatives since they assist her in alleviating the burden of caring for the needy," said the DPM.

Dlamini said with over 80 per cent of the country's population relying on farming and small scale businesses, the effect of climate change has made things impossible in some of the chiefdoms.

He said youth unemployment was another burden for government.

"There are those who are in employment but are also struggling to support their dependants, including the elderly. Government was tasked with the responsibility of providing social welfare assistance and at times it finds itself overstretched. We need such activities as they assist in addressing poverty and inequality in society," said the DPM.

Skills

Dlamini said figures of people in need keep on increasing almost yearly. He said with such a setup, it was important that communities were equipped with life skills so they could take care of themselves.

He thanked the Mahamba Gorge Hiking organisers for hosting the event with the sole intention of assisting in improving the lives of needy members of the community.

"Let me also thank the organisers for all the hard work they put in making this event a success," said the DPM.

Dlamini was also full of praise for the Mahamba Methodist Church mission for allowing the annual event to be held within their place.





LOVE BIRDS: Bheki Mdluli and his wife Kholiwe also joined the walk.



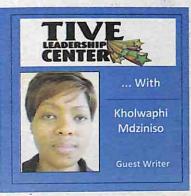
POSE: All Nations Christian Church leadership also took up the challenge and made it to the top and back.



EATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

info@observer.org.sz



The business environment has been dynamic since the start of the 20th Century and change has become part of our daily lives especially because technology continues to regenerate on a daily basis.

Leading and managing change has become the standard requirement for all leaders and that is leaders from all economic sectors. Gone are the days when the Private Sectors was the only sector that proactively sought change because it was interested in making profits. Governments globally are dealing with the crisis of change because for a long time they wished change away, Swaziland has not been spared but has its own story to tell as government continues to seek ways to redress the many issues she is faced with which among others includes economic growth and regeneration. Dr E Kotter (2009) of the Harvard Business School once said "change has become the province of the twenty first century leaders, true leaders actively seek to initiate and drive change" because change is where the opportunity is and will continue to

The human nature on change

It often seems people resist change. Yet it is also true that many people actively seek change and variety. This

LEADING, MANAGING CHANGE IS THE RESPONBILITY OF EVERY LEAD



paradox can be explained in that people want and seek change that they perceive as improving their lives. People resist change that they perceive as potentially hurtful and they also resist change when they doubt its usefulness. This then means that people do not naturally resist change, if anything they naturally seek it. When people resist change, it could be one of the following reasons and the leader or organisation that is initiating the change needs to reassess the reason behind and strategically manage that resistance.

Naturally as people we do not like change because of the uncertainty that comes with it, hence leaders need to consider managing the people in any transition because though people want change, the fear of the unknown brings uncertainty and cause the people to be somehow resistant.

People may oppose change due to one or more of the following reasons:

- · Fear of not knowing how to change or not being able to perform as well as before the change.
- · Lack of knowledge as to what is expected or why the change is important.
- · Fear of losing position, income, status or power.
- · Fear that things will be less con-

venient or more difficult.

- · Fear of losing desirable social interactions.
- · Resentment or anger at those initiating the change.
- · Perception that change is incompatible with personal beliefs and

People faced with change make costbenefit assessments of the situation when deciding whether to accept or resist. Individuals are not always aware of going through this thought process, and it is sometimes incomplete and unsystematic.

Another reason why people may resist change it is because people sometimes perceive the same thing differently. When a leader announces change, the one who will benefit will embrace the new process but the other team member may object for fear he will fall behind others in the new system. Sometimes leaders mistakenly assume that subordinates and or team members will perceive the desired change as they do; thus, they have difficulty understanding the resistance. Leaders should assume that people will perceive the desired change differently. They should then seek to understand the reasons behind people resistance when it occurs.

Individuals at all levels are prone to resisting change. When those at the top of the organisation fail to adapt, the consequences can be serious for

the entire organisation. When leaders of institutions fail to recognise the need adapt in order to survive, the results can be suicidal for that particular institution.

Important factors in managing change

Change can be planned or unplanned. The latter just happens in the natural course of events. Planned change, on the other hand, is the result of consciously preparing to reach a desired goal or organisational state. They key questions to be answered are

- Why do we want to change?
- · How do we plan to make that hap-
- · What consequences do we antic ipate from the change?

When a leader decides to initiate change, he/she needs to identify agents, people that will be instrumental in the change process. Change agents could be an individual or groups that assume responsibility for changing behaviour and systems. Managers or staff at various levels in the organisation can serve as change agents. Their role is to recognise the need for altering the status quo and to plan and manage the implementation of the desired changes. Change agents should be people that think in performance gaps. or the difference between the status quo and the desired new standard of performance or desired organisational state.

ANC finally getting its 'Lula moment', but it's not what they hoped for

Brazil's once revered revolutionary President Lula da Silva has begun serving a 12-year jail sentence following a corruption conviction last year.

I've been following the developments in Brazil with keen interest because their story could not be closer to that of South Africa on many levels. Lula has been one of the few credited for lifting a significant num-

South American presidents who struck a strong solidarity with leftist formations in South Africa, namely the ANC, COSATU and SACP. It is COSATU's fascination with Lula's economic progress that got the federation talking about a "Lula moment" for South Africa.

Lula's interventionist policies were

ber of Brazilians out of poverty. Given what has happened with the total collapse of the economy in Brazil, I wonder if COSATU still hold Lula in high regard. Towards the ANC's national conference in Mangaung in 2012, talks within the tripartite alliance were that South Africa needed to capture its "Lula moment". That ignited thoughts of radical interventionist policies within the tripartite alliance. Alliance members debated the idea of a "radical second phase" of the transition. The confusion was palpable. Luckily, nothing came out of the discussions on this, until recently when the ANC adopted radical interventionist policy resolutions at the Nasrec conference. It took a long time for the ANCled government to begin to sink its teeth into the "Lula moment" by voting for a parliamentary motion to expropriate land without compensation. The "Lula moment" is here, but in stranger ways than we could imagine. Lula is fighting to stay out of jail. and he argues that the corruption conviction against him is a neoliberal vendetta to undermine his progressive (leftist) legacy and prevent his political comeback.

News24



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The Swazi Observer commits itself to reporting news truthfully and accurately, and to publish comment that is fair, in accordance with our mission and vision of being the definitive news media, as well as abiding by the journalism code of ethics.

If we breach our code, please lodge your complaint with our ombudsman:

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ON THIS DAY

...APRIL 10

1741 - Frederick II of Prussia defeated Maria Theresa's forces at Mollwitz and conquered Silesia.

1790 - The US patent system was established when US President George Washington signed the Patent Act of 1790 into law.

1809 - Austria declared war on France and its forces entered Bavaria.

1814 - Napoleon was defeated at the Battle of Toulouse by the British and the Spanish. The defeat led to his abdication and exile to Flba.

1825 - The first hotel opened in Hawaii.

1849 - Walter Hunt patented the safety pin. He sold the rights for \$100.

1854 - The constitution of the Orange Free State in South Africa was proclaimed.

1862 - Union forces began the bombardment of Fort Pulaski in Georgia along the Tybee River.

1865 - During the American Civil War, at Appomattox, General Robert E. Lee issued his last order.

1866 - The American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) was incorporated.

1902 - South African Boers accepted British terms of surrender.

1912 - The Titanic set sail from Southampton, England.

1916 - The Professional Golfers Association (PGA) held its first championship tournament.

1919 - In Mexico, revolutionary leader Emiliano Zapata was killed by government troops.

1922 - The Genoa Conference opened. The meeting was used to discuss the reconstruction of Europe after World War I.

1925 - F. Scott Fitzgerald published "The Great Gatsby" for the first time.

1930 - The first synthetic rubber was produced.

1932 - Paul von Hindenburg was elected President of Germany with 19 million votes. Adolf Hitler came in second with 13 million votes

1938 - Germany annexed Austria after Austrians had voted in a referundum to merge with Germany.

1941 - In World War II, US troops occupied Greenland to prevent Nazi infiltration.

1941 - Ford Motor Co. became the last major automaker to recognise the United Auto Workers as the representative for its workers.

1944 - Russian troops recaptured Odessa from the Germans.

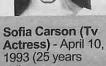
1945 - German Me 262 jet fighters shot down ten US bombers near Berlin.

1953 - Warner Bros. released "House of Wax." It was the first 3-D movie to be released by a major Hollywood studio.

1953 - Actress Hedy Lamarr became US

HAPPY BIRTHDAY







Steven Seagal(Movie Actor) - April 10, to 1952(66 years old)



Yesterday, on the 9th of April, my mother Mrs. Edith Palmer-Harrington was born.

KETH

HARRINGTON'S CORNER

Without her I wouldn't have been able to be here and write these messages every week. Wishing her a Happy birthday once again with lots of love. In 2017, the Church On The Move that my wife and I are currently Pastoring, was also born on the 9th of April. We celebrate 1 year of grace upon grace.

Proverbs 18:21 —"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

Today we will be exploring the power that is resident in the word that we speak and pray. Friends, words carry power. Words have the forces of life and death in them.

Words are identified in Greek as either Logos or Rhema. Logos is defined as saying, speech and account. Its root meaning has to do with a concept and an idea. Rhema has to do with the expression of an idea or concept in correct, intelligent and grammatical form of words and sentences.

Contrary to what some people believe, the primary purpose of the mouth is not for food but for creation through spoken word and prayer. The word is the divine tool by which we create like God; the mouth is the tool with which we present it accordingly. Simply said, we create with our mouth through the use of words that we speak, be it negative or positive.

A good example of the power in the word is when you speak about food, you will observe that you create an appetite for food and your palate and taste buds begin immediately working.

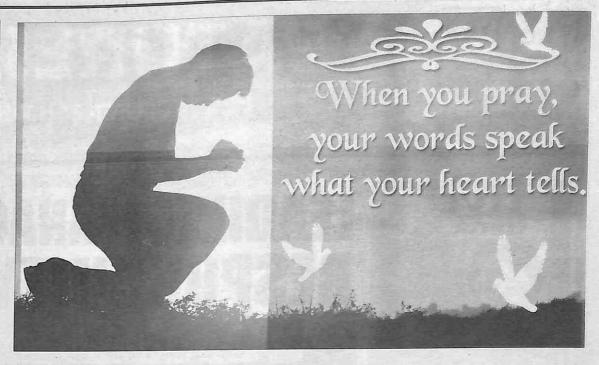
Your mouth is the key to your success or failure. You choose the quality of your life by the words you speak with your mouth. The Bible says that everything was created by the word, thereof everything can be destroyed by the word. Spoken word is the raw material of creation. There is nothing that exists that was not first spoken.

The record of creation in **Genesis** 1 is evidence. God spoke creation into being. He created us in His image and after His likeness. Therefore we are to create like Him by speaking the right words.

Psalm 107:20 – He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

God created all things through His word. He first spoke them and then they came into existence and became His creations.

We are created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, we are to create like God through our word We have to fire put God's wor



THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEAKING AND PRAYING THE WORD

our heart in abundance and then in our mouth to create. This is how the word of God works. Firstly, in the heart in abundance and believe it, then in the mouth with intentionality and boldness.

For example, if you need change in a particular area of your life, you start by finding out in scriptures how God has dealt with the issue in question; find scriptures that are available on the issue. Firstly, meditate on them until they become your conviction and richly dwell in your consciousness.

The word of God has to come alive within you for it to carry sufficient power when you speak it. There is no use learning and memorising scriptures if you are not going to capitalise and believe them. This is not a Bible quoting exercise.

The scriptures have to translate from a good idea to a God idea in you before it can translate to creations in the physical. That process occurs through meditation. When the word becomes real to you, begin to speak it consistently until you see what you are creating comes to pass. This is how the law of confession works.

In this context, a law is a principle that has predictable consequence every time based on an action or actions. Confession, in Greek, is homologia – meaning saying the same thing. By saying what God says with the same intensity and faith you create like Him every single time.

Friends, we are co-creators with God. God has finished His part of creation and has left the rest to us to finish up.

You will observe that creators like employers, inventors, writers, etc are more valued in any economy and country than consumers: Yes, they say most nations are democratic but the decisions are driven by creators of wealth and not consumers of wealth.

Through the spoken word we create and move into driving positions in our communities and become history makers and world shakers. I welcome you to the world of creators.

"Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him"—(Mathew 7:9—11)

Looking at the concept of prayer; there are many people today who are wondering whether God is indeed interested in answering their prayer. Come to think of this, how many people in this world are motivated to pray? God is a prayer answering God.

If He has recommended us to pray, then He is ever ready to answer our prayer. The reason He is motivating us to pray is the same reason He will answer our prayer.

If there is a call to prayer; then we have to do everything possible to get ourselves involved—this is what is going to bring change in our lives.

In Mathew 7:7 the Lord told us to ask and we would receive and we should seek and we would find. That means, receiving sometimes is not possible until one asks.

The question here is; why would God ask us to ask when He knows we have need of them? God wants us to totally rely on Him for all things. In asking, we will humble ourselves before, Him and place demands. It is in the placing of

demands that God hears us.

If we fail to place the demands then He is not going to hear us Seeking talks to us of making ar intent research on something until it is found. If we are needing something from God; we have to ask and then seek it until we see it made manifest in our lives.

Jesus in His message in our introductory scripture uses the crowd which were listening to Him to make this profound insight. He asked the crowd which of them when the child ask for bread will he give him a

Or when the child asks for fish and he will give him a serpent. He went on to say that; if you people who are evil and are men know how to give good gifts to your children how much more God who is ir heaven? That is wonderful! Goc who is in heaven is ever willing to answer your prayer. It is His delight to grant your request—including the Kingdom. When you appear before the Lord; place the demands—He is ever ready to meet them.

Look at how man's heart is wicked You just know it that; the heart of a man is desperately wicked Notwithstanding, man is able to give good gifts to people.

How much more God? This should let you understand that God is interested in meeting your demands.

When you place them He wants to answer them.

Do not allow the fear of being accepted by the Lord take you away from placing demands before the Lord. The Lord accepts you no matter your state of life. You have to always try as much as possible to be in His presence. He is going to meet your needs.

Till next week.

THAN BETTER CENTERS =

THE GREATEST LIETHE ANC TOLD JOBURGERS

ANC politicians that once ruled the City of Johannesburg have to count among the greatest illusionists of modern times.

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We began to understand that the previous ANC regime was all style over substance. They proved that not all that glitters is gold.

Since walking into office, it has become imperative that we must work together with our residents in turning the city around. Part of this, requires the common understanding of the scale of the issues we are required to overcome.

It also requires an appreciation that residents will not always be bombarded with self-praising advertisements and that this does not mean that the DA-led government is not working.

It's precisely because we are working that you do not always see us as much as you would like.

If we do not share this understanding, we will fail to partner as residents, business and communities to turn Johannesburg into a city of golden opportunities.

Meanwhile, a R12bn backlog in our roads has arisen from years of under-investment in our road network. Between 2013 and 2017, 3964 km of the road network (32 per cent) fell into the condition categories poor and very poor.

A R56bn backlog in our storm water drainage exacerbates the roads problem. Water running down the

roads, with nowhere to go, damages the road structure and increases potholes. Anyone who has driven since the recent heavy rains two weeks ago will know exactly what I am alluding to. It is estimated that the city has more than 100 000 reported potholes in the road network.

Our electrical infrastructure is no better. Over 27 per cent of our bulk transformers now operate beyond their useful lifespan, built between 1927 and 1970. In the instance of the inner city, it is powered by a substation that is over 70 years old and only one man alive today knows how to service its parts. Our electrical infrastructure backlog sits at a staggering R65bn. Our water network can be likened to that cartoon character with their fingers and toes plugging the leaks of a ship. The 2016/17 data, which is two years old, shows that the water network inherited suffered from 45 000 leaks per year. This in a situation where we know water will be a challenge in the future.

Our housing backlog stands officially at 152 000 people on our lists, and a demand for 300 000 City produced housing opportunities. Incidentally, the R17bn of fraud and corruption under investigation would have been enough to build houses for all of these people.

The unofficial backlog, including those in the 'missing-middle' of the housing market, is much, much larger. It manifests in the legacy of landlessness, illegal land occupation and frustration in our communities.

This is something I do not understand, despite wracking my brain over the issue for the last 18 months.

How could a city have been run down to this extent, allowed to deteriorate, when the link between infrastructure and economic growth is so widely accepted around the world?

We have over 900 000 unemployed people living in Johannesburg. These people were failed by successive ANC governments which failed to look to the long-term future of those they claimed to be serving and the many more that stand to join them unless something drastic is done.

I do not raise these issues to settle down into a morbid state of depres-

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The road we will begin travelling down as a city, is going to transform ours into a city of golden opportunities; a city where infrastructure works, the economy is growing and more people are being employed.

What remains critical in this process is that we embark on this journey together, knowing we have been misled, that we have a mountain to climb, but that government has the will to do it for the first time. - Mashaba is Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg. News24



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City Press

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release on the Sunday the kind of dignified and historic affair that it should be.

But there was a problem

Winnie Mandela, as she was then known, was nowhere to be found. Teams of comrades scoured Johannesburg into the early hours of the morning in search of the Mother of the Nation.

When she was eventually found, she was in a not-so-nice location, in notso-good company and in a not-sogood state of mind. Even when the aeroplane arrived in Cape Town, she

was still in need of some good rest so that, by the time she got to Victor Verster Prison, Mandela would be able to recognise his spouse and be excited to see her.

This obviously necessitated a delay in when she could be taken to him and, by extension, when he could eventually walk out of those gates. And so the old man twiddled his thumbs, unaware that the frolics of the person he loved were delaying his freedom. There are many who were involved with the logistics of that historic day who are still angry with her for being

partially responsible for the delay in Mandela getting his first taste of freedom. They will tell you that, even if it was a delay of a few hours, every minute must have felt like ages if you had been inside a prison's walls for 27

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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

Central Bank
Petrol (u) E12.40 per litre
Replacement E12.45 per litre

Replacement E12.45 per litre
Diesel E11.60 per litre

Paraffin E 8.85 per litre

Engen Garage

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

RATES

Correct as at 09 APR 2018							
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL					
US Dollar / SZL	11.9631	12.0131					
British Pound/SZL	16.8787	16.9492					
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.9078	8.9442					
Swiss France/SZL	12.4693	12.5201					
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2322	1.2494					
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.1996	9.2392					
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.3652	9.4036					
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942					
Euro/SZL	14.6918	14.7532					
Gold	1,331.2500						
Oil	65.7000						

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



Standard Bank

REBRANDED PTA BANK TO BOLSTER SD'S INVESTMENT BASE

By Majaha Nkonyane

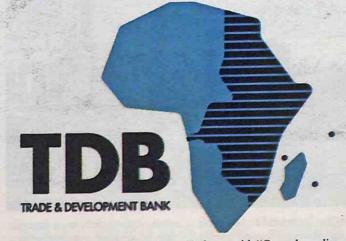
SWAZILAND, through the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (TDB), previously known as the PTA Bank, will now be in a better position to diversify its client base and trade platforms.

This comes after the country joined the TDB community which is a multilateral; treaty based financial institution with immunities and privileges and a balance sheet of E4.5 billion.

The country's export based economy is said to benefit from this move as it opens up more trade opportunities. This is according to the Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini.

"The country has positioned itself as an export oriented economy, a position which is enhanced by a strategic market access agreement that the country is entitled to covering more than 450 million people in Africa, the country is positioned to act as a global exporter, in an increasingly competitive market," he said.

Since its establishment over three



years ago, the bank operated under its legal name 'Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank' as well as two trading names in English and in French: PTA Bank/Banque de la ZEP.

The country, according to Dlamini, is supposed to maintain a global supply chain which through this platform will be in a position to enhance that position. The development bank, apart from incorporating the country as one of their members, further rebranded to strengthen their position.

In the meantime, President and Chief Executive of TDB Admassu Tadesse said: "Our rebranding represents our rejuvenation and commitment to innovate and play a more active role in promoting trade and economic development and regional integration, at a crucial time when the region is looking to more vigorously advance economic transformation and rachet up the tapering growth."

Furthermore, Tadessee mentioned that in recent years they have been giving a big boost to financing of trade, enterprise and infrastructure, which is evident in the tripling of their loan assets in the past five years.

"We have made substantial contributions to the rising economic growth and infrastructure development in the region, in line with regional and international development strategies, notably those aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's vision 2063," he said.

The bank is further inviting potential investors to join the bank so to increase their portfolio and entities like Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) have shown interest on the TDB.

"PSPF is open to collaborate with other reputable institutional investors. This we are doing so to spread or share risk, enable other players into a project, align with investment policy with respect to single counter investment limits and confirm our own investment analysis abilities," PSPF Director of Investment Masotja Vilakati said.

It was further noted that there are key considerations for investment which include alignment with the investment policy, viability of the investment as per their own assessment, risk and return, positive impact in economic development and creation of job opportunities.

Looming drastic increase in trading licence fees

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

ALL businesses, be it small or large enterprises, should brace themselves for drastic increases in trading licence fees once the Finance Bill of 2018 currently awaiting Parliament approval comes into law.

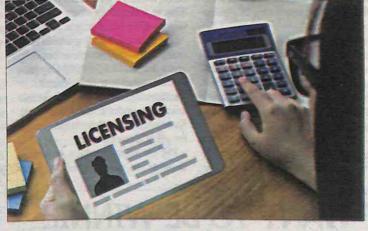
This is the same Bill expected to effect the VAT hike from 14 to 15 per cent.

This piece of legislation also comes with wide ranging increases in income taxes, duties, levies, tolls and fees which will affect a broad cross section of businesses.

The most expensive trading licence comes with a E9 500 price tag and it will be paid by supermarket/chain stores.

A bit of leniency, however, has been applied for supermarket licence owners based in rural areas as their licence is slashed by over 50 per cent at E4 750.

By contrast, peddlars, who are the people who hop from door-todoor selling items like jewellery, pegs, cooking utensils, cosmetics, clothes and household items, will



be paying the most minimal trading licence fee at E95 followed by shoemakers whose licences come at a cost of E114.

Bakeries will cough out E5 000 for their trading licences and a bit a leniency applies to rural based holders of the same licence as theirs is E3 100 cheaper at E1 900.

Since feedlotting has grown to become one of the serious trades in Swaziland with companies like Swaziland Meat Industries buying huge quantities of cattle from farmers in the countryside, dealers in livestock will pay E5 000 for their trading licences.

Livestock dealers often act as middlemen between the farmer and the companies that buy livestock.

Fishmongers, on the other hand, defined in the Bill as people who sell raw fish and those who fry or otherwise cook, pickle, curry or prepare fish in any way for consumption, will pay E380.

The price of a café trading licence comes at a cost of E950 and is a whole lot cheaper for rural based ones who will fork out E475.

Even though the Finance Bill hikes micro lenders trading licences to

E3 230, the same piece of legislation also comes with protection for consumers who are often subjected to unscrupulous practices when borrowing money.

This Bill prohibits micro lenders from demanding personal documents like bank cards and PIN codes from applicants as security.

It also makes it mandatory for micro lenders to use prescribed loan application forms which detail the amount borrowed, interest rate charged and the period in which the loan lapses.

Trading licence fees will also be effected for businesses such as furniture shops, estate agents, boutiques, butcheries, motor vehicle attendants, pharmacies, bookshops, contractors, general dealers, travel agents, mineral water manafucturers, salons and other businesses imaginable.

Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini announced in his budget speech earlier this year that government would increase taxes in a bid to diversify revenue collection from heavy dependence on the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).



50/50 CELEBRATION



Peace, Stability & Development

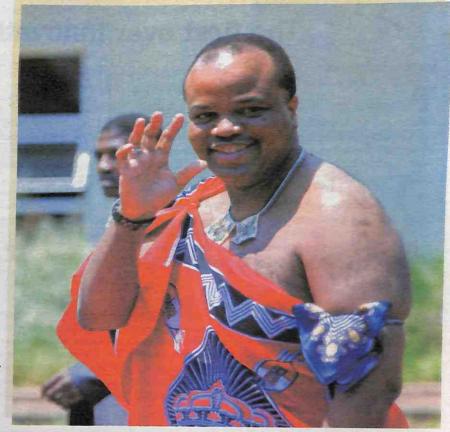
Royal Science & **Technology Park**

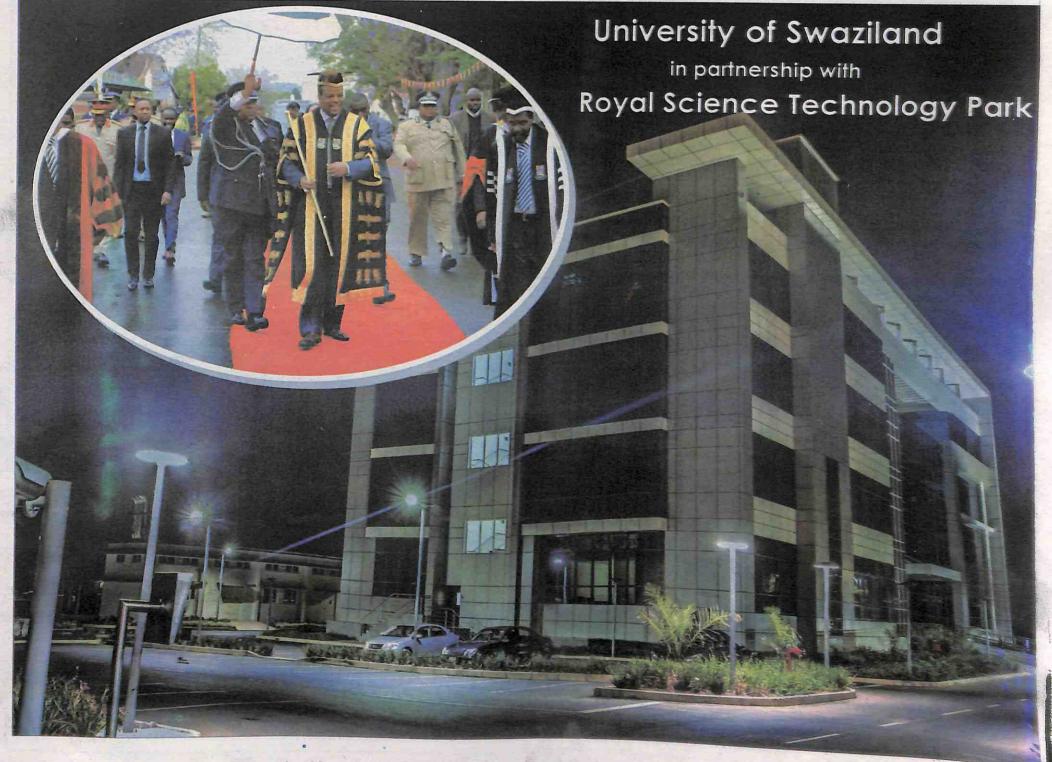
niversity of Swaziland (UNISWA) and 2022. His Majesty, may we congratulate you on independence of the Kingdom of Swaziland. His our independence. Majesty allow us to thank you for the outstand- Halala Eswatini! ing leadership that continues to promote peace, stability, development and prosperity. Fifty years have passed since the Kingdom of Swaziland gained its independence .The independence bestowed on us a new perspective, personality, sovereignty, history, and indeed a new future for the Kingdom of Swaziland. As we celebrate 50 years of independence, good governance, peace, stability and good leadership, we are all called to be constructive, progressive and forever looking forward to build our beloved country for our future generation. Let's us all commit our minds, energy towards achieving His Majesty's Vision

Royal Science and Technology Park your birthday, and RSTP and UNISWA family, (RSTP) would like to extend our warmest con- we wish you many more precious years to come. gratulation to His Majesty King Mswati III on To people of Swaziland, we say, long live our his 50th birthday celebration and 50 years of freedom, long live our sovereignty and long live Halala Mbangazitha!



CELEBRATING PEACE, STABILITY AND DEVELOPEMENT







50/50 CELEBRATION



Royal Science & Technology Park

Peace, Stability & Development

Introduction

The University's Strategic Plan (2016-2021) recognises the importance of establishing strategic relationships with Universities within and beyond Southern Africa. These relationships can contribute to the University's future financial sustainability by providing access to external research funding through collaborative research projects; increasing the enrolment of fee-paying international students; and supporting access to foreign foundations and global aid funding agencies.

In response to these strategic objectives, the Faculty of Science & Engineering has instigated a collaborative partnership between the Department of Computer Science at UNISWA, the Innovation Park at the Royal Science and Technology Park, and the School of Computer Studies and Electronic Engineering at the University of Essex, UK.

The partnership will be built around the development and evaluation of a virtual innovation laboratory. The Innovation or i-lab creates a virtual environment to support innovation by providing a space and tools that encourage collaboration, creative thinking and problem solving. The University of Essex will be responsible for the overall design and architecture of the system. The University of Swaziland will be responsible for building and researching some of the technical components (as specified by the Essex team), and the building and evaluation of a virtual i-lab test bed. The Innovation Park (RSTP) will house the testbed, and recruit incubatees to use the i-lab facilities.

All parties involved in the project will encourage close collaboration, particularly through the joint supervision of research students, staff and student exchanges, joint publications, and through engagement with relevant research networks (e.g. the immersive Learning Resource Network - iLRN).

Essex Visit

A team from Swaziland which comprised of members of the Faculty of Science and Engineering together with Members of the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP) visited the University of Essex, on 03/02/2018 to 11/03/2018. During this visit a number of discussions were made and the main item being that of the partnership which was going to be spearheaded by the collaborative i-lab project. Also, a tour around the University of Essex (Colchester Campus) was made where a number of facilities were explored including the CSEE building where we looked at their i-lab, robotics lab, smart home, etc. We also got a chance to explore their Innovation center, which is also housed within the same campus.



The team being taken on a tour around campus



A tour to one of the buildings



Like SA, Lesotho implemented VAT hike on April 1 while SD struggles-

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

WHILE Swaziland grapples with its VAT hike from 14 to 15 per cent, Lesotho implemented the one per cent increase in this consumption tax on April 1, the same date as South Africa.

The ministers of finance in Swaziland and Lesotho both announced in their

increasing VAT to 15 per cent following a similar announcement made by then Minister of Finance in South Africa Malusi Gigaba.

Swaziland Revenue Authority Commissioner General Dumsani Masilela recently made it clear that developments in tax that occur in South Africa normally have an impact on both Swaziland and Lesotho, "Unfortunately for Swaziland and budget speeches that they would be Lesotho, we are small economies and have very little policy independence. Developments occurring in South Africa definitely impact Swaziland and the sooner we accept and embrace this, the better," he said responding to a question posed to him in an impromptu breakfast meeting called by SRA last week.

It was in this meeting that SRA announced an administrative charge of E50 for all Sekulula VAT refund payments for goods purchased in South

The proposed hike in VAT was received with mixed feelings not just in Swaziland but in Lesotho too.

The Times of Lesotho quoted a small business owner as lamenting the increase and confessing that it would take time for them to comply with the new tax rate as it would be costly for them to

This newspaper argued that many small dealers were not familiar with



tax and Lesotho Revenue Authority issues which meant they had to engage professionals to educate them on their tax obligations, at an increased cost.

ELECTRICITY UNIT PRICE INCREASED

Stories by Majaha Nkonyane

THE Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority (SERA) has clarified that one of the reasons why the electricity unit price was hiked was due to

This was during the company's roadshow that was held at Siphofaneni during the past weekend. The clarity came after one of the attendees posed a question during the interactive question and answer session.

"The country went through a hard hitting drought in 2015/2016 which saw rivers drying up and the country produces some of its electricity through hydro processes, this therefore forced us to purchase electricity from South Africa which then pushed us to debt," SERA's Consumer and Stakeholder Management Manager Sikhumbuzo Nkambule said.

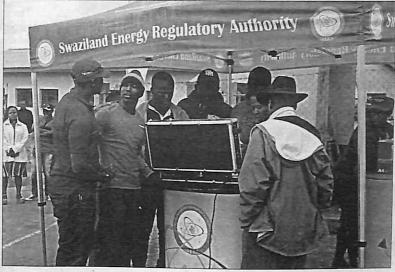
The unit price for electricity escalated from E1.49 to E1.75 which caused a number of the electricity customers to be unhappy and there have been complaints that depletion rate is high. This was however also clarified that some of the customers are using electricity wrongly which may lead to high usage.

The company explained that some of the reasons the customers have their electricity used up so quickly could be because of wrong light bulbs used, leaving the whole house lit when there is no one in those rooms and using big pots on small plates on the stove.

Furthermore the company explained that they are making sure that their customers are well treated as they are

EDUCATIONAL: SERA's Consumer and Stakeholder Management Manager Sikhumbuzo Nkambule teaching on the importance of saving electrici-





MORE INFO: Members of the public inquiring about the use of light bulbs.

looking out for anything that might be hindering their customer's wellbeing. 'When there is an outage it shouldn't exceed 72 hours, if it gets to a point where food is spoiled in refrigerators, customers have the right to claim for

spoiled food from SEC," he said.

Moreover the company mentioned that when customers request for quotations it should not exceed 10 days without a response from the compa-

Swaziland Beverages injects E800 000 for 'Price It Right'

By Ayanda Dlamini

SWAZILAND Beverages has injected E800 000 towards a new campaign known as 'Price It Right' which is meant to award the company's customers for selling retail products at the recommended price.

The company's Trade Marketing Country Manager Khetsiwe Dlamini revealed the campaign which will give away bakkies, television sets, generators, stock and braai stands.

The first phase of 'Price It Right' kick-started last week and it closes on the 30th of June.

As part of the launch, some lucky customers were awarded through a draw two television sets, two microwave ovens, and a total of a pallet 77 cases of Castle Lager 750ml beer.

The exciting launch was attended by customers from across the country.

Dlamini encouraged customers who missed the big event to contact their Swaziland Beverages sales representative or a member of the sales team for more information on this campaign. We hope these exciting Price It Right participating brands and packs will add value to outlets and to our consumers.

Through the campaign, Swaziland Beverages encourages all retail outlets who are currently at or below the recommended selling to prices to maintain their prices while those outlets currently greater than the recommended selling price were encouraged to have at least a 50 cent drop in price on mandatory entry packs to gain entries to the 'Price It Right'extravaganza giveaway. For 'Pricing It Right', customers were rewarded for the following:

Quarterly Price it Right entries to the Extravaganza

 Spot Prizes will be award during the campaign period

SERA NOT ALL

IN their plight to continue to increase awareness about their mandate and SERA continued with their planned educational roadshows which started at Buhleni.

According to SERA's Consumer and Stakeholder Management Manager, Sikhumbuzo Nkambule, the objectives of the roadshows are to educate consumers about their mandate and services that are available to electricity consumers.

He highlighted a study conducted in 2017 revealed that the public only know SERA for their role in reviewing electricity tariffs, whereas, there are other services that consumer could still access from them.

public consultation meetings that supply issues they hold, it always come up that a majority of consumers still have unresolved disputes or unsatisfactory service from the utility and they do not know where they can report or escalate such unresolved disputes, yet SERA, as a sector regulator, is available to attend to such unresolved

Highlighted

During the roadshow, he highlighted that, the entities that they regulate, through the issuance of licenses; such licenses are accompanied with certain

conditions which define standards He mentioned that, in most of the for service delivery and quality of

It is from these conditions that such licensed entities are bound to provide the highest level of service to their customers, within defined timelines, as stipulated on the standards.

The crowd was more engaging and asked questions as well as responded to questions that were asked by the SERA team.

The roadshows are ongoing as the Authority seeks to spread knowledge of their mandate all over the country.

Targeted areas include, Nhlangano and Lavumisa.



PRICING IT RIGHT: Swaziland Beverages customers with their goodies in the launch of the 'Price It Right' campaign. (Courtesy pic)



BOTH defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans offer various advantages to employers and employees.

The features of each are generally distinct and quite different. In this article, we will describe the basics of each plan type.

DEFINED BENEFIT (DB)

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

Usually, the employer underwrites defined benefit arrangements. This means that, in the event there is no enough money in the fund for your benefits, the employer has to stand in. The employer effectively carries the investment risk (the risk that investment returns are not strong enough to cover the benefits). To manage this risk, the investments are managed and decided upon by the trustees of the fund.

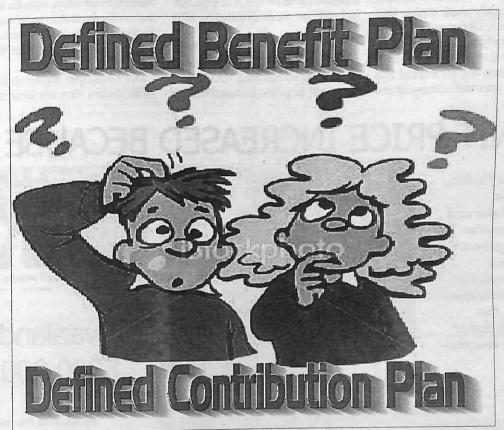
DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC)

The benefit you receive on retirement from a defined contribution fund is not pre-determined. It is based on the net contributions (employee and employer contributions) made to the fund, accumulated with any positive or negative investment return earned on those contributions. If the fund's investments do poorly, the benefit will be less. So, unlike defined benefit funds, in this case the members carry the investment risk.

How does the Share of the Fund build up? DEFINED CONTRIBUTIONS FUNDS;

Fund Credit; Equitable Share/ Share of Fund describe the same thing, namely, the benefit that you have accumulated in your fund which becomes payable when you resign or retire. It is made up of any transfers of money on your behalf from

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEFINED BENEFIT, DEFINED CONTRIBUTIONS PLANS



another fund, your member contributions, plus any employer contributions, less any expenses, plus any investment returns earned. Expenses would be, for example, the cost of administering the fund, the cost of any insurance provided through the fund, audit fees and similar. Investment returns could be positive or negative depending on the

investment performance.

What are my options on resignation/ dismissal/ retrenchment?

A variety of options are available to you should you resign, be dismissed or face retrenchment at your work and they are; 1. Preserve your money.

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

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

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

3. Transfer your money to a retirement annuity fund. There is a range of retirement annuity funds to choose from with different investment options. Speak to your financial advisor about the different options available to you.

What are my options at retirement?

The options available to you at retirement depend on the type of fund and the rules of the fund that you belong to. If you belong to a provident fund you can take 100 per cent of your benefit in cash (subject to the rules of the fund). Upon retirement from a pension fund, however, you can only take up a 1/3rd of your benefit in cash and have to take out an annuity (monthly pension).

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

The information presented herein this article is only intended for educational purposes and should not be construed as financial advice.

For further questions please contact the FSRA on 2406 8000 or email us on stakeholder@fsra.co.sz

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It's make or break for new pay deal

JOHANNESBURG - Today will be a make or break day for the acrimonious public sector wage negotiations after the parties failed to reach an agreement last week, with threats of industrial action looming large.

The public sector wage deal for about 1.3million civil servants lapsed on March 31, and negotiations have been ongoing since October at Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC).

The Public Servants Association (PSA) General Manager, Ivan Fredericks, said the current format of negotiations was not yielding the desired results, and that labour now needed to take steps to resolve the impasse. "It is clear that the employer is trying to deviate from the formal offer, which was circulated to members for a mandate. The PSA will not allow the employer to table a less favourable offer than the one that was originally tabled," Fredericks said. The PSA represents some 238 000 public service employees. Unions are demanding wage increases of Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus three per cent for junior government employees and CPI plus two per cent for mid-level employees. *Business Report*

Government to launch investor hub in Gauteng

JOHANNESBURG

Government is set to launch a provincial InvestSA One Stop Shop (OSS) in Gauteng in a bid to attract investment in the province, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said yesterday.

Its objectives include providing professional service to all investors through specialist advisory, reduce regulatory inefficiencies and reduce red tape for investors looking to invest in Gauteng.

The Gauteng Invest SA OSS will be launched by DTI Minister Rob Davies, together with Gauteng Premier David Makhura today in Sandton.

The Invest SA OSS is a pres-

idential programme to promote and facilitate investment in South Africa. Davies said that the provincial One Stop Shop investment centres that were being rolled

centres that were being rol
out in all the provinces
will be used to co-ordinate and incorporate
the special economic
zones, provincial investment agencies, local
authorities and
the relevant
government
departments
involved in
regulatory,
registration,
permits and
licensing

matters.



"Gauteng province is an economic hub for South Africa's investment opportunities abound in a number of sectors of the economy and hosts major multi-

national companies that are increasing their investment in South Africa.

"The launch will strengthen co-ordination in the three metros and econom-

> ic corridors in the province together with other departments and agencies under one roof," said Davies.

African News Agency

ESKOM'S NTSOLOKO WAS ON ACWA BOARD

JOHANNESBURG - Longstanding Eskom executive Mongezi Ntsokolo was, until November last year, a board member of independent power producer (IPP) Acwa SolAfrica Bokpoort Company.

Ntsokolo's membership of

Acwa's board raises conflict of interest questions, because Eskom is a designated buyer of renewable energy power. Acwa is one of the IPPs participating in the ongoing Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP)

Programme. Ntsokolo, Eskom's executive for transmission, resigned from Acwa with effect from November 1 last year. An Eskom veteran, Ntsokolo has held highprofile positions at the power utility, including head of distribution and generation. *Business*

'Rand again to take its cue from China/US trade dispute this week'

CAPE TOWN - The rand opened at R12.03 to the dollar yesterday, with market analysts of the view that it will still take its cue from trade tensions between the US and China, the world's two largest economies.

At 09:51, it strengthened slightly to trade at R12.01/\$.

"A lot of the rhetoric that was in evidence last week will rear its head again this week. The constant theme for the past couple of weeks has been 'trade wars', and it does not seem that this beast wants to go away," said Andre Botha, a senior currency dealer at TreasuryONE, in a statement yesterday morning.

Botha said that, due to a relative lack of local economic data set to be released, the local currency would likely trade in a tight range yesterday and stay above the R12.00/\$ level for the short term.

"[In] the week ahead, we can expect range trading unless we have a definite change in the trade wars stalemate. Then the rand will get clear direction," he said.

Bianca Botes, Corporate Treasury Manager at Peregrine Treasury Solutions, said she expects the local currency to push above the R12.00/S level. "There is not much data expected [on Monday], but moving into the rest of the week we will focus on South African mining production, South African manufacturing production as well as the US inflation and employment figures." African News Agency

Swazi Observer Tuesday April 10, 2018





TO HAVE TALKS: President Muhammadu Buhari.

President Buhari leaves for talks with PM Theresa May

ABUJA- President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday left Abuja for an official visit to United Kingdom, the President's Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Malam Garba Shehu disclosed in a statement in Abuja.

Shehu stated that the president while in Britain would hold discussions on Nigeria – British relations with Prime Minister Mrs Theresa May, prior to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings scheduled for April 18 to 20.

"The President will also meet the Chief Executive Officer of Royal Dutch Plc, Mr Ben van Beurden in connection with Shell and other partners' plan to invest \$15b in Nigeria's oil industry.

"These investment ventures will lay the foundation for the next 20 years production and domestic gas supply, bringing with it all the attendant benefits both to the economy and the wider society."

Shehu said that President Buhari would also renew discussions with the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby, "a good friend of the President on interreligious harmony in Nigeria and World-wide." He said that further meetings had also been scheduled for the President to see some prominent British and Nigerians residing in Britain.

African News Agency

Six killed in Ghana gold-mining site collapse

ACCRA – Six miners were killed and two injured when the roof of a tunnel collapsed at a gold mining site operated by US-based Newmont in Ghana's southern region, the company said on Sunday.

"I can confirm six fatalities to you. Two others were treated at the clinic and discharged after the tragedy on Saturday," said company spokesperson Agbeko Azumah. The accident happened in ong Anato region, some 430 kilometres from the capital, Accra, he said. "The entire Newmont family is devastated by this tragic accident and our priority is to provide support to the families, friends and co-workers of the deceased," Alwyn Pretorius, the company's vice-president in Africa, said in a statement. The firm said it had evacuated other workers at the site and that operations had been suspended to allow for an investigation."All other employees working in the area have been safely relocated and the scene of the accident has been secured. The police are on site and the appropriate government and regulatory agencies have been notified, including the Inspectorate Divisi Id-rich country. In July last year, at least 22 people were killed after an illegal gold mine collapsed in western Ghana.

MUGABE'S DELAY IN MEETING MNANGAGWA'IS TO HIS OWN DETRIMENT'

HARARE - Robert Mugabe's delay in meeting his successor Emmerson Mnangagwa to resolve their differences is to the former president's own detriment, a presidential spokesperson says.

Mugabe is understood to have left Zimbabwe at the weekend for a medical check-up in Singapore, pushing back any prospect of a meeting to ease tensions between the two former allies.

"He (Mugabe) is the one with issues to raise with his successor, which means the delayed contact is to his detriment," Mnangagwa's spokesperson George Charamba told the Daily News.

Charamba, who was Mugabe's spokesperson while the former president was in power, said his ex-boss was connected to the G40 faction of ZANU-PF that had been angling to take over from Mugabe.

But G40's ascent was foiled by the November military takeover that forced Mugabe to resign.

Charamba said Mugabe now "needs a strategy and solution to contain the meddlesome G40". The faction is alleged to be backing a new political party, the National Patriotic Front.

Church groups under the banner of the Zimbabwe Amalgamated Churches Council are understood to be backing efforts to bring Mugabe and Mnangagwa together. A church source close to the initiative told the paper: "All Zimbabweans are concerned by the tension between our former leader and the



DELIBERATELY DELAYS: Former Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe.

country's new president, and as an important constituency in our nation we are saying that we need to do something quickly to end his unnecessary tension." Last month Mugabe told journalists in his first press conference since stepping down that Mnangagwa's ascent to power was an "illegality". News24

Zim govt calls on citizens to return home

JOHANNESBURG - The new dispensation in Harare needs the buy-in and investment of millions of Zimbabweans who left the country and settled elsewhere, particularly the multitudes resident in neighbouring South Africa, if the vision of turning around the Zimbabwean economy is to be realised, Zimbabwe Consul General Henry Mukonoweshuro told expatriates in Johannesburg.

Addressing the Zimbabwe Achievers Awards ceremony in Johannesburg on Saturday night, Mukonoweshuro appealed to Zimbabweans based in South Africa to seriously consider moving back and investing in their motherland, now led by President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

"As we meet today, in the new dispensation as we called it since last November, the government of Zimbabwe is very proud. We, as the representatives of the government of Zimbabwe are very proud to say as you toil, as you make names in these foreign lands, you should now start looking north of the Limpopo (River). As the president (Mnangagwa) always says, his mantra—Zimbabwe is now open for business," said Mukonoweshuro.



COME BACK HOME: Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

"It (Zimbabwe) is indeed open for business, mostly from the diasporans. You will recall a Zimbabwe that you left probably 15, 20, or 35 years ago, and I think you are still yearning for a return to that Zimbabwe—the bread basket of Southern Africa. We believe we can do it together. *AFP*

CATHOLIC PRIEST SHOT DEAD IN DRC

GOMA, Democratic Republic of Congo - A Catholic priest was found shot dead hours after he said mass in Democratic Republic of Congo's restive North Kivu province, a member of the church told AFP.

"Father Etienne Sengiyumva was killed on Sunday by the Mai Mai Nyatura (militia) in Kyahemba where he had just celebrated a mass including a baptism and a wedding," father Gonzague Nzabanita, head of the Goma diocese where the incident occurred, told AFP.

The Mai Mai Nyatura is an armed group operating in North Kivu, in eastern DRC. Nzabanita said Sengiyumva (38) had had lunch

with local faithful before "we found him shot in the head". North and South Kivu provinces are in the grip of a wave of violence among militia groups, which often extort money from civilians or fight each other for control of mineral resources. Last week, unknown assailants kidnapped a Catholic priest in North Kivu, demanding \$500,000 (R6-million) for his release. AFP

BRIEFS

Mugabe, Grace 'refuse to vacate state house'

HARARE - Former Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe still has the keys to an official residence more than four months after he was forced to retire, a spokesperson has claimed. George Charamba, who was Mugabe's spokesperson and is now the spokesperson for new President Emmerson Mnangagwa, told the privately-owned Standard newspaper on Sunday: "Someone is not telling the country that the former president still holds the keys for that house." Charamba's comments come after claims that laptops stored by the former first family in haulage containers at Zimbabwe House—the 'residentia!" wing of State House in central Harare - have gone missing. News24

5 killed travelling in volatile central Nigeria

MAKURDI - At least five people were killed travelling on a road in central Nigeria's Benue state, an area wracked by deadly sectarian violence between herders and farmers, officials said."The travellers were attacked by unknown gunmen on Saturday when their vehicle broke down. The police has recovered five bodies," said Tahav Agerzua, spokesman for the state Governor, Samuel Ortom. He said the government has launched an investigation into the incident that happened at Yelwata town along the Lafia-Makurdi Highway. AFP



Benin, Niger back Chinese involvement

NIAMEY, Niger – The leaders of Benin and Niger have given their backing to Chinese involvement in a controversial major rail infrastructure project set to span several countries. "We have taken stock of the railway issue (and) we tried to see which measures could be taken to move forward," the Niger President Mahamadou Issoufou told reporters in Niamey alongside his Benin counterpart Patrice Talon. "We are talking about the Chinese in terms of financing," Talon said. *AFP*

Authorities find remains of abducted children

LIBYAN - Libya authorities have found the remains of three children abducted for ransom more than two years ago near the capital, in a case that highlighted the security deterioration in the country since the 2011 uprising. The children, a girl and two boys ranging from five to 12 years old, were kidnapped by armed men on their way to school in December 2015 in the coastal town of Surman. The bodies were found south of the town, according to police affiliated with the UN-backed government in Tripoli. The children were related to a prominent businessman, Reyad al-Shershari, who was quoted by local media as saying he had appealed to authorities but that they did not pursue the case. AP

Court suspends ban of ride-sharing apps

CAIRO – An Egyptian court on Saturday suspended a ruling banning the use of ride-sharing apps Uber and Careem until an appeal is exhausted, a judicial source said. In March, Cairo's Administrative Court banned the ride-sharing services following a lawsuit by a lawyer representing cab drivers. Uber and Careem appealed the ban, and Saturday's decision by the Urgent Matters Court suspends the ruling until the higher administrative court makes a final verdict. The ride-sharing apps sparked protests by taxi drivers who complained that ride-share service drivers do not have to pay the hefty fees usually necessary to operate transportation vehicles. AFP

Focus on sa scene

PLOT TO OUST PRESIDENT WILL FAIL, CYRIL TOO STRONG TO FALL

JOHANN ESBURG - Lxperts agree an alleged plot by the ANC in KZN has little chance because Ramaphosa has more power than Zuma now.

An alleged plot by former president Jacob Zuma's supporters to oust the country's leader, President Cyril Ramaphosa, as ANC President "is not surprising but will fail". Ramaphosa wields more power now than before, following his election at the ANC's December national elective conference, according to political analysts.

UNISA's Professor Lesiba Teffo said the alleged plan, as reported by the media, was "illadvised and bound to fail". He stressed that Ramaphosa was not weak enough to be pushed out. Teffo spoke after some ANC members in KwaZulu-Natal were said to be holding

"secret talks" to form an alliance and would work to split the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal to remove Ramaphosa.The Sunday Times reported that Zuma supporters

TOO STRONG: SA President Cyril Ramaphosa.

planned to oust Ramaphosa in next year's election by splitting the votes at provincial level and giving the national votes to another party.

They would purportedly work with Andile Mngxitama's Black First Land First (BLF) movement ahead of the 2019 election to "ensure" Ramaphosa's removal. Mngxitama is linked to the notorious Gupta family and has been campaigning for Zuma before and after his presidential term. He was in court in Durban to support the former president in his corruption trial. Teffo said: "I anticipated that he [Zuma] might come back to the ANC because he feels betrayed by some in the party and was therefore likely to behave in a manner that will hurt the ANC. Citizen

'Hogwash!' KZN ANC denies it plans to 'punish' Ramaphosa

JOHANNESBURG – The ANC in KwaZulu-Nata denies it has embarked on a well-orchestrated plan to undermine President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Weekend media reports said the party plans to sabotage the general elections by not voting for the ANC nationally but ensuring a massive victory in the province.

The move would be aimed at punishing the national leadership.

The ANC in KZN also dismissed reports it plans to punish President Cyril Ramaphosa over former president Jacob Zuma's early removal as head of state. "That is bizarre, it is something that is, in fact, those reports are just hogwash. Because in the province we've taken a decision as the ANC that we've entered a critical phase where we need unity," says ANC KZN interim



NOT TRUE: KZN interim committee co-ordinator, Sihle Zikalala.

committee co-ordinator, Sihle Zikalala. "And to unite the ANC we need to unite structures, we need to unite behind the elected leadership that was elected in the last 54th national conference as led by President Ramaphosa." African News Agency

DA Congress2018 adopted 'recall clause' to get rid of me - De Lille

TSHWANE - Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille says the Democratic Alliance's new "recall clause", which states that the party can remove members in executive positions who lack competence, is a witch hunt against her.

De Lille responded on her verified Twitter account with a series of tweets after the DA's federal congress in Pretoria adopted the constitutional amendment earlier. "It is no secret that there are individuals in the DA who have been trying to get rid of me at any cost for the last few months. They've shown that they would flout their own processes and ignore their own values of Freedom, Fairness & Opportunity' to remove me," she said. This comes after the DA became embroiled in a conflict with de Lille and failed to remove her. De Lille's future as a DA member and mayor has been hanging in the balance following various allegations, including security upgrades at her residence, mismanagement, and corruption. African News Agency



WITCH HUNT: Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille

Maimane happy with what #DACongress2018 has delivered

JOHANNESBURG - DA leader Mmusi Maimane has strengthened his hand on power after he and his supporters won the debate over diversity in the leadership ranks of the organisation.

Maimane - who was elected unopposed for another term - described the adoption of the diversity clause into the party's constitution as a great stride that will make the official opposition more representative and welcoming to its members and supporters.

The official opposition concluded its two-day federal congress in Pretoria which also saw Nelson Mandela Bay Mayor Athol Trollip win a hotly contested race against Tshwane Mayor Solly Msimanga for the position of DA Federal Chairperson.

The conference, which was the biggest in the party's history, also saw the adoption of a recall clause, paving the way for the expulsion of Patricia De Lille as the Cape Town mayor. In the lead-up to the federal congress, the debate around the diversity clause and proposed amendments divided the party, with the so-called black caucus saying the party's composition of public representatives and staff complement did not reflect the country's demographics in terms of race and gender. Those critical of the contents of the diversity clause accused the black caucus of "racial solidarity", pointing out that sections of the amendments were bordering on introducing quotas.

Political Bureau



DA to lay charges against Magashule

JOHANNESBURG - The DA in the Free State will lay criminal charges against ANC Secretary General, Ace Magashule.

The party alleged the former Free State premier meddled in a housing project to ensure that a company linked to his daughter secured a lucrative contract.

The contract is worth around R150-million.

The procurement processes were allegedly flouted to ensure that Unital Holdings was paid nearly R70-million.

Magashule is also currently under scrutiny over the Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Museum in Brandfort, which has not been completed, 11 years after work began on the project.

He is accused of siphoning off the money. *eNCA*

After R40m of renovations presidential house still 'not habitable'

DURBAN - The heritage JL Dube presidential house in Durban has been condemned as unfit for habitation, despite R40million being pumped into renovations the year Jacob Zuma became the head of state.

Plans are at an advanced stage to pour in a further R10m to revamp the home of the president, which would bring the total spend on renovations alone to R50m since 2009.

The Presidency's newly appointed spokesperson Khusela Diko said only 15 per cent of the house was habitable, despite the multimillion-Rand investment into its facelift.

The structure is considered so dan-

gerous that large parts of it have been secured to prevent use.

"The balance of the house has been cordoned off and no one can live in it," said Diko.

Three months ago, the department of public works appointed a contractor to do "general repairs" to the house, after it was damaged by floods in April 2016. At the time, the house was deemed "temporarily unfit for occupation", and could not be used by the presidency until repairs were done. Despite this, former president Jacob Zuma in his last days in office hosted Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta in the house during his three-day state visit. *The Star*

Mantashe calls for unity

RUSTENBURG - ANC Chair Gwede Mantashe on Sunday again called for unity within the party ahead of the 2019 national and provincial elections.

Speaking at the launch of the "Nomzamo Winnie Madikizela-Mandela volunteers brigade" at Seraleng near Rustenburg in the North West, he said people would not vote for a faction of the ANC, but rather for a united organisation.

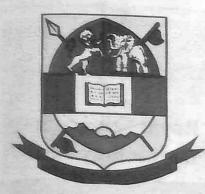
"Factions have no order. Let us be an organisation of action as we go and reach out for people. Let us bring development to the people, but also remember to involve them in the process. Our job as volunteers will be easy when we put the ANC first rather than to worship leaders," he said. The ANC in the North West has been divided, with one faction disrupting ANC events in Rustenburg

and Mahikeng.

On March 4, an ANC Youth League voter registration rally was disrupted in Boitekong near Rustenburg when men armed with golf clubs and knobkerries attacked people at the rally. A similar group attempted to block a public servants' march in Mahikeng on March 20. North West ANCYL spokesperson Tshiamo Tsotetsi said it was time to clean up corruption within the ANC in the province. Acting provincial secretary Sussana Dantjie said the ANC, at its special joint meeting of the provincial working committee (PWC) and national executive committee (NEC) members, had agreed that the planned motion of no confidence in Premier Supra Mahumapelo brought by the Economic Freedom Fighters should be defeated.

African News Agency





50/50 CELEBRATION



Peace, Stability & Development

Royal Science & Technology Park





CELEBRATING PEACE, STABILITY AND DEVELOPEMENT



The Chairman of Council (UNISWA):

HRH Prince Phinda Dlamini

As Chairman of the University Council, I am happy to see the University of Swaziland taking leadership in the operation of collaborating with the Country's Innovation Park. This happens after His Majesty the King and Chancellor of the University has stated in many occasions including the graduation ceremony that the University must take leadership of the activities taking place at the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP).

I would like to applaud the initiative undertaken by the Computer Science Department and Marketing Officer to inform the nation about intentions of the Computer Science Department in collaboration with the RSTP. It must be noted that this is a significant contribution to His Majesty's 2022 vision.

The University has positioned itself as a University of Choice in Africa as it boasts of the expertise of its young, innovative and qualified Computer Science personnel, who are geared to produce the necessary ICT manpower that would drive the Innovation Park towards global recognition, which will also play a pivotal role in the attainment of national Vision 2022. It is my hope that all ICT companies and practitioners take this opportunity to forge

Peace Stability & Developement

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Vice Chancellor (UNISWA) Prof. C.M. Magagula

UNISWA's contribution to the country's ICT growth and development.

- It produces the high-level human capital needed by the country.
- Helps in promoting research and development (R&D).
- Support new innovations and product development.
- Provides technical advice to parastatals (e.g. SPTC) and organisations (e.g. MTN), Government ministries, industries, etc.

ICT's contribution towards the attainment of the country's development Vision 2022.

Promoting economic growth through e-commerce, trade, communications, human capital development, marketing of the country's products for exports, promoting education at all levels (basic, secondary, high and tertiary).

Benefits of the collaboration of UNISWA and RSTP in the development of ICT in the country.

- By securing the state-of-the-art ICT equipment.
- · Producing and promoting innovations.
- Improving connectivity and infrastructure.
- Producing human capital needed by the country and RSTP in the ICT area.
- To promote e-commerce, trade, innovations and products for export.

LIME , CHOIC

Facilitating of ICT training programmes.

CEO of RSTP Mr V. Dlamini

Vision

His Majesty King Mswati III's initiative to establish the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP) is the first comprehensive effort to promote Science, Technology and Innovation in the country by providing steadfast support for basic research and innovation and a coherent approach to maximising the innovation dividend. Innovation Parks in developing countries have sustainably boosted their respective countries' innovative capacity and this has led to the benefit of research, industries and the economy.

Role of RSTP in the country's ICT sector development

Our role as RSTP, is to enable science; technology and innovation in Swaziland by providing a focal point for research, facilitating the links between research and industrial communities and stimulating the development of knowledge-based business through the incubation of techno-preneurship and high tech enterprises.

Business:

We provide infrastructure that will enable start-up companies and foreign companies in the field of IT and bio-technology, to contribute meaningfully to the economy of Swaziland through job creation and skills transfer.

Education:

RSTP also builds capacity by providing world class ICT training and nurturing entrepreneurship through innovation and research. RSTP links education and training with the field of work with emphasis on Research and Development to support Business Enterprises. RSTP lays the foundation for the development of a knowledge based economy. Ultimately, RSTP will foster the conception of new inventions and facilitate their patenting and will help knit various elements of the R&D cluster together.

Services:

RSTP will support the government policy of expanding the applications of ICT and creation of additional electronic delivery of public services through infrastructure and institutional capability development.

RSTP is also an enabler for government ministries, departments and the private sector through providing ICT services such as:



Peace, Stability & Development



Royal Science & Technology Park

ICT Fair: UNISWA & RSTP

The University of Swaziland (UNISWA) in partner- and demands in the digital transformation era. Techprogressive ICT awareness in the country to support advancements. Our new mind must have new vision to and achieve His Majesty's Vision 2022 through innovative and creative minds. The Vice Chancellor of University of Swaziland Professor Cisco Magagula appreciated the role played by communities, and companies who participated in the event. Major players in the industry sector had an opportunity to showcase their products and service during the event. The event also gave members of the public an opportunity to learn, interact and Halala Mbangazitha! Halala Eswatini! play with more advanced ICT gadgets from different companies in the ICT sector. Speaking during the event, Professor Cisco Magagula stated that RSTP and UNISWA have realised the need to educate the public about the role of ICT in the economic development of the country. In addition to that, the Honourable Minister of Education and Training, Dr Phineas Magagula, in his closing remarks said he was delighted to be amongst technologists celebrating innovation and relevance of ICT in the development of the country's economy.

With this in mind, the Department of Computer Science have successfully introduced two undergraduate degree programmes to meet drastic change in business needs,

ship with the Royal Science and Technology Park nology has become an important resource in digital (RSTP) managed to host a successful National Infor- transformation to achieve the first world class standard mation Communication Technology (ICT) Fair for the by 2022. Digital transformation requires every one of us first time in the Kingdom of Swaziland in 2017. The to be creative and innovative, with a new mind, a new main objective of the National ICT Fair is to create to heart, a new spirit to adapt to technological changes and come up with new innovative business ideas that move the country into technological-based (digital) economy as technology becomes imperative to make a difference in the lives of the people of Eswatini. The Department of Computer Science and the Royal Science and Technology Park staff members are working diligently in preparation for the ICT Fair 2018. The dates of the event will be announced in due course. Siyaphambili_Nge-ICT!









Honourable Minister Dr Phineas Magagula Chancellor Prof Cisco Magagula and other executive members



Kids outdoor games



FIFA Gaming contestants inside the Sport Emporium



Programming contestants inside the FNB Cyberspace

MARINE VETERAN WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO GET A BIONIC ARM

...can now feel with her prosthetic fingers thanks to a groundbreaking upgrade

- The former US Marine became the first woman to be fitted with a bionic prosthetic in 2006
- She now has a new prosthetic that allows her to sense objects with her fingers thanks to rewired nerves in her chest

CLEVELAND - A former US marine who lost her left arm at the shoulder in a motorcycle accident has been fitted with a bionic prosthetic arm that allows her to feel things through the fake fingers.

Claudia Mitchell, 37, never thought she'd be able to do things like open water bottles or pick up items with her left thumb and forefinger again after her arm was amputated.

However, through more than a decade of research trials a team at Cleveland Clinic has created a bionic prosthetic arm that allows her to do most of those things she didn't think would ever be possible.

The cutting-edge technology is part of a booming field of research into prosthetics that could revolutionise movement for amputees.

Claudia Mitchell, lost her arm at the shoulder in a motorcycle accident in 2004. After more than a decade of research trials she's been fitted with a bionic prosthetic that can feel for her

In 2006 Claudia became the first woman to be fitted with a bionic arm, a device that can be controlled by a person's thoughts.

This new arm is an upgraded version of that first one that has a computerised robotic touch system allowing her to feel sensations the same way she did with the missing hand, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

The technology allows her to feel an object and know how hard to grip it.

"I know if something I'm holding is starting to slip away, or if I'm squeezing someone's hand too hard,' Claudia said.

"Before, I could only tell by looking. These are things that may not seem like a big deal, but that really make a dif-





BIONIC ARM: Claudia Mitchell, 37, lost her arm at the shoulder in a motorcycle accident in 2004. After more than a decade of research trials she's been fitted with a bionic prosthetic that can feel for her.

ference in someone's life."

The prosthetic arm was developed by a team of researchers at the Cleveland Clinic and Advanced Arm Dynamics who customised it specifically for Claudia.

The arm's harness has small electrical amplifiers that connect to nerves in her chest that were surgically relocated from her amputation site.

Hand

As a result, when Claudia thinks about moving her hand, her chest muscles twitch to generate an electrical signal that enables the arm and hand to move.

At the same time small sensors in the fingers of the prosthetic hand relay information back to the nerves in her chest, signalling to the brain that her fingers can feel.

"The prosthetic arm isn't just a tool that she wears — it's actually part of her," lead researcher Paul Marasco said.

"With the touch sensation, the user is able to actually interact with people and objects in a more natural way."

The arm has travelled the world with Claudia from Europe to Puerto Rico to Thailand.

She had the top part decorated with a

blue pattern to remind her of the ocean.

The avid diver calls the arm '2Ocean' because like the ocean it makes her feel free and whole again, she told the Cleveland Clinic.

She said she keeps the nails on the hand manicured because "it's really important for the prosthetic to be as close as possible to what I had before."

Claudia is one of many amputees working with the Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute to test bionic prosthetics.

"We're learning more about how the brain processes movement, so we can integrate that into our technology and ultimately improve the quality of life for patients," Marasco said.

Marasco's team also hopes to apply the technology to help people with loss of sensation due to conditions such as diabetes, stroke and spinal cord injury.

The programme has been granted more than \$3 million in funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, National Institutes of Health and US Department of Defense.

Daily Mail

African girl finally smiles after surgeons remove massive tumour

CAMEROON - A 12-year-old girl can finally smile and eat properly after surgeons removed the football-sized tumour engulfing her face that was killing her.

Known only as Kaltoumi, she was given three months to live as the mass restricted her eating and slowly suffocated her as it grew over five years.

But she was saved after medics aboard the Africa Mercy - a hospital ship providing care to third world countries - docked in Cameroon to perform surgery.

Kaltoumi - who can finally smile and eat properly for the first time in five years - said after the surgery: "It feels like a heaviness has been lifted from me."

Dr Gary Parker, Chief Medical officer of the charity, described Kaltoumi as the 'poster child' for five billion people unable to access timely, affordable, safe surgery' in impoverished countries on the continent. He added: "Because of lack of access to the care she needed, a 12-year-old girl ended up with a massive tumour threatening her life.

"A man becomes a creature of his uniform. The "uniform" that's put on someone like Kaltoumi, as this tumour relentlessly enlarges, is that you're cursed." The Cameroonian government flew Kaltoumi to the port where the Africa docked - and the surgical team worked tirelessly - with precision - to remove the tumour. Kaltoumi saw her new face in the mirror the next day.

But the road to recovery was long and she returned to the ship sever-



CURSE REMOVED: Known only as Kaltoumi, she was given three months to live as the mass restricted her eating and slowly suffocated her as it grew over five years.

al months later to tighten the skin where the tumour sat.

Crew rallied around Kaltoumi, showering her with affection and friendship.

She formed a sisterly bond with volunteer Carys Parker, a chaplain on-board. Ms Parker said: "When I first met her, she was reserved and tentative to try new games and activities with me.

"But within a matter of weeks I found it impossible to see Kaltoumi without hearing her laughter and being body slammed by one of her bugs."

"She loves life and she wants to share that love and joy with others. It truly does take a village to bring about such amazing change." Daily mail





FRIENDSHIP: The crew rallied around Kaltoumi, showering her with affection and friendship. She formed a sisterly bond with volunteer Carys Parker (pictured), a chaplain on-board



BEFORE THE ACCIDENT: The former US Marine is pictured while on active duty in Kuwait in 2003. She now spends her time travelling around the world.



BRIEFS

Socialist leaders resign on election defeat

BUDAPEST – The presidency of Hungary's main left-wing opposition party, the Socialists, tendered its resignation on Sunday after a crushing defeat by Prime Minister Viktor Orban's nationalist Fidesz, Socialist Party President Gyula Molnar said. "We regard ourselves responsible for what happened, (and) we have acknowledged the decision of voters," he told Socialist supporters and journalists. Orban won a third straight term in power at the election, and his party may also retain its two-theds majority in Parliament. AFP

Trump, M- cron vow 'stror J, joint response'

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron vowed on Sunday a "strong, joint response" to a suspected chemical attack that left dozens dead in Syria's rebel-held town of Douma, the White House said. "Both leaders strongly condemned the horrific chemical weapons attacks in Syria and agreed that the Assad regime must be held accountable for its continued human rights abuses," a statement read after Trump and Macron spoke by telephone stated. AFP



Cops rule out 'political motive' in attack

MUNSTER - German police said on Sunday they did not see an extremist motive behind a ramming attack with a van that claimed two lives and placed the driver's mental health issues in the foreground. There are "no indications of a political motive," said Hajo Kuhlisch, chief of police in western city Muenster where the attack took place. Rather, "the motive and origins (of the crime) lie within the perpetrator himself," he added.Far-right opponents of Chancellor Angela Merkel's refugee policy suggested in the immediate aftermath of the attack that it might be an Islamist act of terror, while some media reported the killer had links to right-wing extremist organisations. AFP

Abbas says he won't return to Gaza

RAMALLAH - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas says that unless he gets full control over the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, including the group's weapons, he will "not be responsible for what goes on" there. Abbas' comments late on Sunday dealt another blow to months of US-backed Egyptian efforts to negotiate a deal that would sideline the Islamic militant Hamas and enable Abbas' self-rule government to return to Gaza. Hamas seized Gaza from forces loyal to Abbas in 2007. Recent talks between Abbas and his rivals failed, mainly because Hamas refuses to

Gaza war crimes may be prosecuted

THE HAGUE - The world war crimes court's chief prosecutor on Sunday called for an end to ongoing bloodshed in the Gaza Strip, warning that the court could try those who commit gross atrocities."The resort to violence must stop," Fatou Bensouda said in a statement issued by the International Criminal Court, based in The Hague. "Any person who incites or engages in acts of violence including by ordering, requesting, encouraging or contributing in any other manner to the commission of crimes within ICC's jurisdiction is liable to prosecution before the Court," Bensouda said. Israel is facing mounting questions. AFP





LONDON - British military action against Russia in response to the Salisbury nerve agent attack would not be supported by NATO, according to a security expert.

Prime Minister Theresa May has punished Russia through diplomatic means over the poisoning of ex-KGB spy Sergei Skripal, 66, and his daughter Yulia, 33.

She managed to convince the US, the European Union and NATO that Russia was "highly likely" to be responsible for the attack in Salisbury, Wilts, on March 4.

In an unprecedented show of solidarity with Britain, 26 countries kicked out more than 140 Russian officials, many described as "undeclared intelligence officers".

May said "the largest collective expulsion of Russian intelligence officers in history" showed Vladimir Putin's attempts to "intimidate" Britain has "spectacularly backfired".

NATO, a military alliance between Europe and

North America, took similar steps, expelling seven Russian diplomats over the Novichok attack.

But besides from sanctions and expulsions, a military response has not been mooted by May or NATO, whose presence in eastern Europe has long been seen as a deterrent to Russian hostility. Despite the united front against Russia, Britain would not gain backing for military action from NATO, according to Keir Giles, a leading military expert for think tank Chatham House.

"I don't think the UK would achieve the consensus and backing from other NATO allies that it would need to translate that into any meaningful response," he told Daily Star Online.

A group of allied Northern American and European countries established NATO in 1949 by signing the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington DC.

The aim of the alliance, now comprised of 29 members, is to "guarantee freedom and security" through "political and military means".

Dailystar

Porn star wants Trump questioned about hush money

WASHINGTON - The lawyer for adult film star Stormy Daniels, who claims to have had an affair with US President Donald Trump, filed court papers on Sunday demanding that Trump submit to questions about the \$130 000 (R1.5-million) hush money paid just before the 2016 presidential election.

The dispute centres on whether the agreement is valid and if the matter should be settled in open court or private arbitration.

Trump asserted to the press on Air Force One on Thursday that he did not know about the payment to keep the actress, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, quiet.

The White House has denied that Trump ever had sex with Clifford. The actress said in a recent CBS '60 Minutes' interview that they had sex one time and she later felt threatened to sign the agreement. Trump's lawyers are seeking \$20-million in damages for Clifford's violations of the agreement. Trump's attorney, Michael Cohen, who has said that he paid the \$130 000 settlement money from his own pocket through a personal home equity loan, wants the dispute settled in private arbitration, as prescribed by the agreement.

Clifford's attorney, Michael Avenatti, said it should be settled in open court.

"If Mr Trump did not supply the funds or did not even know about the funds, this would be another relevant fact demonstrating that he never consented to the settlement agreement," he said in the filing. Spokesmen for Trump and Clifford were not immediately available for comment.

Reuters

Brazil's Lula spends first day in prison, already hoping to get out

CURITIBA – Brazil's leftist icon Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva served the first day of a 12-year prison sentence for corruption on Sunday, but was already hoping for a way out through the courts this week, threatening to extend the drama ahead of presidential elections.

The 72-year-old, who served two terms as head of state between 2003 and 2010, entered prison in the southern city of Curitiba late on Saturday, becoming Brazil's first ex-president to be jailed on a criminal conviction.

His cell is located in the same federal police building that serves as the base of operations for 'Car Wash,' the wide-ranging anti-graft investigation that brought him down. Since World War II, Brazil's presidents have often ended up in trouble --impeached, felled by a coup and even one suicide -- but Lula is the first to have been convicted and locked up.

He was found guilty last year of accepting a luxury apartment as a bribe from a construction company and is the biggest scalp so far in the 'Car Wash' probe. He insists on his innocence and says he was framed to stop him running in October presidential elections in which polls show him as frontrunner. But there could be surprises ahead, with a potentially explosive legal development coming as early as tomorrow when the Supreme Court could revisit the current law on incarceration during appeals, local media said.

As things stand, anyone convicted and losing a



CONVICTED: Brazil's leftist icon Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

first appeal, as in Lula's case, must conduct further appeals from prison. But there is pressure to change that so that higher court appeals could be pursued in liberty — which could provide a reprieve for Lula. Analysts are quick to point out that, given the country's history of rapid and unexpected changes, anything could happen. "In Brazil, everything is possible, so he could spend a week in prison and then a judge from the Supreme Federal Court could send him to house arrest, for example," said Oliver Stuenkel, a specialist in international relations at the Getulio Vargas Foundation in Sao Paulo. *AFP*

14 die as jets hit air base hours

SYRIA - Missile strikes on a Syrian air base have left 14 dead hours after Donald Trump warned 'animal' dictator Bashar al-Assad there would be a 'big price to pay' for a horrifying chemical attack that killed dozens of children

Syria and Russia has blamed Israel for the strike on the T-4 military base in Homs province, but the country has refused to comment on its possible involvement.

Moscow said two Israeli F-15 fighters launched the attack while flying over neighbouring Lebanon, targeting the base with eight missiles - five of which were shot down. The aircraft did not enter Syrian airspace, it said, while local reports claimed the rockets crossed Lebanese airspace over Keserwan and Bekaa districts.

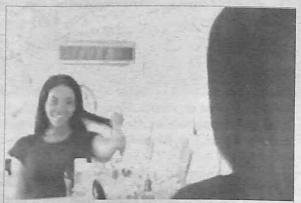
The US and France have both denied launching the attack, which is understood to have killed a number of Iranian fighters loyal to Assad. It followed a suspected poison gas attack on Saturday on the last remaining foothold for the Syrian opposition in the eastern suburbs of Damascus. At least 40 were killed while horrific images showed men, women and children gasping for air. *Daily Mail*



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ON TV: Socialite Yaya Maphalala featured on Arthur Mafokate's 'Welele We' video.

SOCIALITE YAYA MAPHALALA IN ARTHUR MOFOKATE'S VIDEO

Yaya Maphalala is a local socialite now based in Pretoria where she is furthering her studies. She is one of the most followed personalities on social media especially Instagram.



By Ayanda Dlamini

SWAZI girls are well known for their beauty, and this is shown by Yaya Maphalala in Arthur Mofokate's new music video 'Welele We'.

Pretoria based Socialite Yaya Maphalala is seen in Mofakate's music video; 'Welele We' looking all pretty as she looks at herself in the mirror wearing black crop top and pants.

She does not do much in the video but simply admires herself in the mirror, playing around with her weave and later joins the crowd in the living room looking all gorgeous with curl weave, leaving

Arthur sleeping on a bed with white linen.

Yaya Maphalala is furthering her studies. She is one of the most followed personalities on social media especially Instagram. She oozes class in most of her pictures on Social media.

This is Arthur's comeback single since the award winning track with Kelly Khumalo titled 'Nguye Lo'. This one goes by the name 'Welele We' which is a happy phrase often used in townships to express joy,

achievement and

jubilation.



COMING TO SD: Argentinean duo, Ariel Zamonsky and Juana Pires Rafael.

Ariel and Juana to launch new album in SD

By Lusito Tsela

SOUTH African based Argentinean duo, Ariel Zamonsky and Juana Pires Rafael are set to launch their album in the country on Friday.

The show slated for 7 pm at Bahle Art Gallery will see the duo performing songs from their new album titled 'Between two worlds', which is a fusion of traditional South American music and contemporary South African

The show hosted by Into Music Society will see the duo sharing the stage with the extra ordinary pianist Yonela Mnana, award winning saxophonist Abraham Mennen and local based jazz drummer Ben Clark.

This was confirmed by Into Music Society's Nelisa Lawton yesterday.

"This will be an interesting show, as the artists will be performing together for the first time; hence it's a show to watch.

Looking at the artists, Abraham Mennen is a South African saxophonist, improviser and composer currently living in New York. He mostly plays free jazz, improvised

and experimental music and he has worked with many

> On the other hand, Yonela Mnana is a blind pianist and singer.

Ben Clark is a qualified jazz drummer from the UK and a Waterford KaMhlaba teacher, who doesn't play often; however, he is one of the best drummers in the

This will be a very special show with a combination of great experienced people.

country.

This is powerful because the artists are big names even in the South African jazz, and for them to come

together shows that the event will be one worth watching," she said.

Nelisa continued, "As Into Music Society, they are also promoting education in music, as all the artists who will be performing at the show have got their degrees.

Into Music Society is now doing smaller shows with the latest jazz talents and throughout the year we are going to do one or two shows a month featuring young artists.

The new generation of artists is not well known; hence they have their degrees in music which back up their talents; thus they are very excited to be coming to the country for the first time as they also promote their music and build their audience in the country." Nelisa encouraged aspiring jazz musicians to work harder and keep their eyes opened for the latest developments as Into Music Society, together with international artists conduct workshops with local aspiring artists where they are taught about music and given the value of the jazz concept. She further encouraged people who love music to come in their numbers for the show will be one of a kind. "This time around we have two shows, one on Friday at Bahle Art Gallery and the other one on Saturday at The Place in Manzini, so people should come in their numbers and have a great time.

Cd's of Ariel and Juana's new album will be available on set as they will be on sale costing E150."

Fun lovers will pay E100 at the gate.

... About Ariel and Juana

The acoustic duet (Ariel Zamonsky on Double bass and Juana Pires Rafael on vocals) generates a sense of intimacy with the listener through the exploration of the vast possibilities of dynamic and emotional range.

Each performance is different, as improvisation is one of the main ingredients and the expression varies from deep, sometimes even visceral, to celestial crystal-clear sounds.

The repertoire presented navigates through traditional South American folklore, the North American song book (jazz standards) and original compositions.



By Ayanda Dlamini

There is high demand for tickets to South African superstar Black Coffee's show which is scheduled for April 28 at Solani's Shisanyama Mbabane.

In as much as tickets are still not out with pricing not yet announced, fun devotees and Black Coffee's fans are already pledging tickets payments and questioning Solani's Shisanyama Entertainment Director Mbekezeli Dlamin on the availability of the tickets; when are they coming out and how much are going

"Someone has already pledged E

Million Constitution of the Constitution of th

even though we have not revealed the ticket prices.

Our social media pages is flooded with posts and inboxes from our loyal customers wanting to know the availability of the tickets and pricing," said the entertainment director of the most loved club.

Availability

Dlamini yesterday told the entertainment desk that the public will know about the availability of the tickets before the end of the week and supporting acts of the show.

Black Coffee is set to rock Solani's Shisanyama on April 28 and he has confirmed the show as he posted

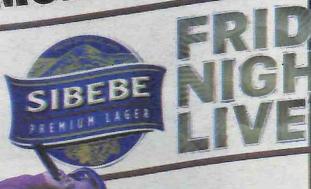
4 000 cash for tickets to the show his gig guide on social media platforms.

Mind you, He will be making his way to the country after performing at the world's renowned Coachella Valley Music Arts and festival in California, where he will be playing alongside international music icons like Eminem and Beyonce who will be the headliners of the show.

1 1 - 1 4 1 . L. C. 1



MORE FROM





FIRST: Eimsofly was the first artist on stage.



LISTEN: Rapper KrTC directing proceedings.



BEAUTIFUL: DJ Lady Zee dishing out a beautiful



FOR ME: SwaziBoy Entertainment's Lyrikal Busta joined Eimsofly in his performance.



JIGGY: House on Fire's Jiggs Thorne getting jiggy with it on the dancefloor at the Sibebe Friday Night Live at the House on Fire Amphitheatre. (Pics: Nomfundo Sifundza)



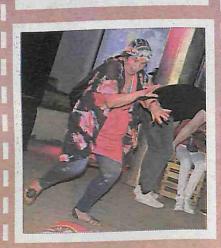
FEATHERS: DJ Lady Zee on the decks whilst her dancers do the most creative dance moves even carrying feather dusters.

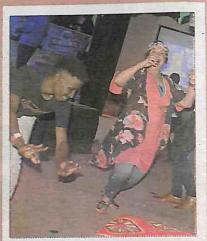


COUPLES AFFAIR: The situation on the dance floor during DJ Mkay's opening set.



UP HIGH: Dance-hall artist M.Triggerson high in spirits during his performance.









NGWANE HOP: Diba Diba also joined Eimsofly in his set.



VOTE FOR YOUR CHOICE OF AN ARTS AND CULTURE ARTIST TO CELEBRATE THE 50/50 NACAS.

THE HOMINEES ARE;

SHONGWE AND KHUPHUKA SAVED GROUP, SANDS, NOTHANDO HLOPHE,

Name of or list

Name of votor...

Cell Number...

(Send in as many entries as you can to stand a chance to vin a prize)

Fill in the form and send it to Swazi Observer offices aswell as Swazi Mobile outlets

VOTING GLOSES APRIL 28, 3PML

pensared by the Swazi Observer

Swazi-ORSERVER MDURA LEAVES NHLANGANO FANS YEARNING FOR MORE

Stories by Entertainment Reporter

COMEDIAN Mdura has once more proved why he is undoubtedly the country's best comedian.

This was during the third installment of his national tour themed, 'Based on a True Story,' that was held at the Nhlangano Casino Royale on Saturday evening.

The comedian first kicked off his tour in Nhlangano at Ngwane Teacher's College where over 200 fanatics attended and this was his second show in the Shiselweni region.

Despite dishing out a hilarious hour long set, it proved not enough for the comedy lovers as they still wanted more of him when he wrapped up his set. This went to the extent of some comedy lovers even shouting that it was too early for him to stop as they were enjoying every bit of the set and wanted him to continue. However, that was not to be the case as the show had to come to a conclusion, marking a great night with all the performers having brought their best game for the well-attended comedy show in Nhlangano. Summarily, Mdura's set consisted of his experiences growing up in Simunye, being the only male in a family of girls, and life experiences as a



FUNNY GUY: Mdura in his element during his tour of Nhlangano.

whole. Ideally, the event was set to begin at 7:30pm but ended up starting half an hour later as by the time of start the attendants were still settling down in their numbers, whilst being entertained by Mdura's short clips which were projected in the conference room. At around 8pm, the Programme Coordinator of the night, Mangaliso 'Elfoe' Masilela took to the stage where he officially opened the event, where he ran a brief competition

issuing out airtime vouchers to the audience, whilst interacting with them and shared a great deal of humour he possessess

Mood

Thereafter, 'Elfoe' introduced the National Arts and Culture Awards (NACA) nominee, poet Majaha Nkonyane who set the mood just right with his poetic words that were received with excitement by the crowd. Following Majaha,

...Special mention for Strydom Mpanza Foundation

THE performers could not hide their excitement for the well-attended and organised show at the Nhlangano Casino Royale as they made numerous special mention to the organisers of the comedy show, the Strydom Mpanza Foundation.

This they did throughout the night as one after the other made sure to send their appreciation to the foundation under the directorship of Shiselweni resident, Strydom Mpanza.

During his remarks in between the sets, MC Elfoe made a light joke about Mpanza, which he took well and fur-

Elfoe did a freestyle as he intro-

duced himself, once more stating

that he was from Nhlangano but

originally born in Mbabane, much

to the amusement of the crowd as

he went on to share how hard being

a pastor's child was. He recalled

one moment where his father held

him hard by the shoulder, pointing

at Strydom Mpanza of the Strydom

Mpanza Foundation who was seat-

ed on the front row saying he seemed

to have the kind of hand that his

father used to hold him with.

ther responded to it in the form of a joke too when he took to the stage to welcome and thank everyone for attending the event.

Mpanza joked that, "Just as Elfoe has introduced himself that he was from Nhlangano but originally from Mbabane, I was born at the old Health Centre here in Nhlangano and coincidentally that was where he was working from now." The foundation also got a special mention from Mdura at the end of his set where he appreciated it for having pulled up such a great event for them.

He also appreciated management of the Casino Royale for providing them with the venue.

Following on stage was Anakhonza Kunene who delivered a lovely musical set before making way for Bonginkosi 'Dr Shakes' Dlamini.

As though no one wanted his name in the bad books for the show, the doctor with no qualification kept everyone in stitches during his 15 minutes set. During his set, he made jokes from how much potholes there were on the *Yith'abantu* highway to how hard it would have been for him to be a comedian if he had sinuses.

'I NEED YOU' NO. 21 ON EAST COAST RADIO

By Lusito Tsela

THE latest DJ Qness featuring Mathew Gold and Mozaik the producer track titled 'I need you' is presently lying on number 21 on East Coast Radio.

According to Coca-Cola charts under East Coast radio website, the song is number 21, ahead of 19 hit tracks in the likes of 'River' by Eminem and Ed Sheeran, 'How long' by Charlie Puth, 'Filthy' by Justin Timberlake, 'Feeling you' by MiCasa and 'I know you' by Craig David featuring Bastille to name a few.

Mozaik the producer confirmed the news. "The song has been on the list for the past two weeks and it is taken out of DJ Qness' latest album titled 'Art of EDM'. Basically, the whole album was produced and mixed in the country by me and co-produced by DJ Qness.

The album includes a few other prominent South African artists in the likes of Kyle Ditch and Freshly Ground's Zoleka Mahola, to name a few," he said.



NO. 21: Mozaik.

He continued saying, "It feels good, and actually it's always exciting to have your work as an artist on the charts, especially on an international radio station, and one that plays big names.

Charts

"Obviously it is not the first time to have our song featured on the same charts, and it's starting to feel very familiar; however, it doesn't change the fact that it is exciting."

Mozaik added, "I am glad that the hard work I have been putting is paying off.

The fact that people are starting to recognise my work, not just for the production or as an artist but also the engineering services as I am a mastering and mixing engineer.

Glad

I am really glad that throughout the years the work that I have been doing is starting to pay off in the long term, as more than anything it is not about having a popular song on the radio and being played for one season; however, it's about being consistent; hence I am happy that the long term foundation is being built."

East Coast Radio is a South African Live Streaming Online site.

This station is also known as ECR and is a KwaZulu-Natal commercial radio station.

It is the second largest regional radio station in South Africa. It broadcasts from Umhlanga, KwaZulu-Natal.

All set for Nothando's JHB recording

By Nomfundo Sifundza

PREPARATIONS for Nothando Hlophe's live recording in Johannesburg are at an advanced stage.

This was confirmed by Leserato Events' Sphiwe Nxumalo. Nxumalo said: "we are excited about the developments so far and the support we are getting towards the recording. As part of her growth plan, we have decided to share her with another group of her supporters, a journey that started in Swaziland in 2016."

Hlophe will be recording her second album following her debut one which was recorded at Esibayeni Lodge in 2016.

She will take to Johannesburg, Soweto Theatre her mellifluous sounds for her first ever live DVD recording.

This recording encompasses a

blend of traditional and contemporary gospel sounds. She opted for a venue that embraces diversity and out of her home country.

Even though April 28 is the same date for the National Arts and Culture Awards (NACAs) where Hlophe is nominated, her recording is set for the day and representatives will be sent to the awards on her behalf.

Promotions
Hlophe is already in Johannesburg
ngaged in promotions and rehearsals

engaged in promotions and rehearsals for her upcoming live recording. She has already been to Daily Sun and Joyous radio in Soweto to promote this recording and will be visiting a number of churches as part of the build-up to the show.

Tickets to the show are available online at Webtickets and at Pick n Pay outlets in RSA.

Swazis that are interested in attending can also get them from (+268) 7845 4219 or (+268) 7945 4219.





Murphy, girlfriend Paige going stronger

They've been dating for more than five years.

But Eddie Murphy, 57, and Paige Butcher, 38, looked like a new couple in love as the sauntered into the Staples Center holding each other's hand on Sunday afternoon ir os Angeles.

The sweet pair walke sideby-side ato the arena watch the Los Angeles Lakers take on the Utah Jazz from their courtside seats. Eddie kept with an all-black colour scheme,



GOING STRONGER:
Paige Butche and
boyfriend Eddie Murphy.

sporting a matching shirt, pants and zipped-down hoodie.

Daily Mail

Kendra confirms split from husband

HOLLYWOOD Kendra Wilkinson says she and NFL star husband Hank Baskett are officially no more in an emotional video. Wilkinson posted several videos yesterday after rumours swirled in recent months of ongoing issues in their relationship that signaled a split was imminent. She also broke down in tears on video recounting her time with Hank, saying she'll always love him and, "I did everything I could." She and Hank have two kids togeth-



CONFIRMED: Kendra Wilkinson with her husband Hank Baskett.

er -- eight-year-old Hank IV, and three-year-old Alijah. TMZ

Meek Mill's main chick is wearing a diamond ring

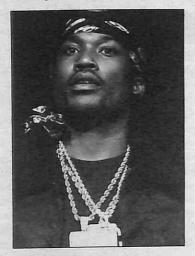
NEW YORK - Rapper Meek Mill is still locked up for parole violation, though new reports show that he may be released in as little as a few months. Just because he's free from prison, doesn't mean he's going to be a free man though.

MTO News is hearing reports that Meek Mill may have gotten engaged while locked up.

While he fights for his freedom, he is fighting for love with his girlfriend Nessa.

We can't help but wonder if the two are getting ready to tie the knot after going strong for a little more than a year.

MTO



ENGAGED: Rapper Meek Mill.

Did Nicki Minaj set Safaree up to get robbed?

NEW YORK - There is a stunning rumor swirling around social media - and some are suggesting that Nicki may have somehow (possibly inadvertently) been involved in getting Safaree robbed. Safaree told people close to him that he knows who robbed him and who pushed the person to rob him. One of the two men involved in robbing Safaree was his long time childhood friend Shawn Harewood. Safaree knew Shawn since he was 14 years old.

According to the internet chatter, Shawn is still close with Nicki and Safaree believes some how someway Nicki may be involved. The



IMPLICATED: Nicki Manaj.

second man arrested in the robbery was Jonathan Ricketts. MTO

SA Celebrity News

Babes Wodumo's dad rubbishes engagement rumours

hitmaker was reportedly spotted with some massive bling on her ring finger at the launch of Mampintsha's single, Amaketanga.

Drum magazine is reporting that when Babes was asked about the ring, she shut down speculation.

"It's not an engagement ring—

it's just swag " she said.

it's just swag," she said.
Babes' father, Mbongeni Simelane,
also poured cold water on the
rumours. "To be engaged in my
culture means a man sends his
family to negotiate a price for
the bride and that has not hap-



SPECULATION: Babes Wodumo.

pened for her," he told the publication. Sowetan

Celeste Ntuli, Ayanda Borotho on their roles in Isibaya

JOHANNESBURG
- They have very little in common with their much-loved characters, yet they'll defend them at every turn.

Although they don't support polygamy, they believe rural, traditional women should have a voice and be allowed to live in whichever way they want. Fighting for the rights of women is something the two stars have in common, whether it's their right to dress, behave or live as they please.



TALK ABOUT ROLES: Celeste Ntuli and Ayanda Borotho.

When we catch up with Isibaya stars Celeste Ntuli and Ayanda Borotho, they're bubbly and vivacious. *Drum*

KO talks swagger, pick up lines & love

JOHANNESBURG - KO
ain't a man of too many words
when he's not spitting bars
but the rapper shared that he's
a man in love despite his lack of
pick up line skills and is keeping
his happiness to himself.

The rapper had the whole of Mzansi wondering who inspired his love-themed song 'Pretty Young Thang' when it came out with lyrics like: "Been in the market for a minute You, kunini ngigudlala high and low I tour cities and amalokshini Ngilokh' ngibusy looking for some real love". Even though speculation has been rife that KO made the track for a special lady, he's avoid-

60024:12



TALKS SWAGGER: KO.

ed the questions. Until now that is. *TshisaLive*

Mob kills singer Tebogo Louw's brother over Easter

JOHANNESBURG -While millions were celebrating the Easter weekd festivities, former Idols SAcontestant and recording artist Tebogo Louw was dealing with a family tragedy. Louw, who competed three times in the music talent show and made the Top 10 in 2016, was reeling from the shock after his 36-year-old brother, Mawande, was killed during a mob justice attack at the star's home in Stellenbosch, Western Cape, on Easter Sunday. Police spokeswoman Wynita Kleinsmith confirmed that Mawande was beaten to death while his friend remained in a critical con-

dition in hospital. Sowetan



BAD NEWS: Tebogo Louw.

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY



PAYS: Ngwebedla.

Pleasure discovers Khanyi's suspicions and she flips. Ngwebedla pays Mbodla to find Gloria. Qondi agrees to Iris's request while Mkabayi has a plan brewing for Judas.

ISIDÍNGO



DECIDED: Nina.

Nina decides to take the war with the Molois to another level and Lerato is on the receiving end of her wrath. Kgothalo is angry with her mother and decides to put her in her place. Lalage is in huge trouble with Hendrik.



TODAY



SHOCKED: Azwindini.

Azwindini gets a horrible shock when the Sherriff of the court delivers devastating news. The meeting between the Motsamai's and the Zikalala's does not conclude amicably. Imani thinks her plan with Ranthomeng is working.



TODAY



The #WhereIsElektra campaign goes viral - and Musa and Robert start to worry. Kop clashes with Rene's birth father. Bash accuses Bongi of trying to kill him.



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Aries March 21 - April 19

Money problems could be on your mind, Aries, perhaps more so than necessary. You might have a tendency to blow

them out of proportion and think they're worse than they are. Try to make a special effort to be objective. You might need to cut a few corners and devise a few temporary economy measures, but your situation should be back to normal within a week or two. Relax!

Taurus April 20 - May 20

Today you could look in the mirror and panic about your

appearance, Taurus. You might be feeling a little under the weather and look a little tired. Nonetheless, you prob-

ably look a lot better than you think you do. Don't fall into the trap of blowing every little flaw out of proportion. A little rest is probably all you need in order to look like yourself again.

Gemini May 21 - June 21

Your artistic abilities could seem a bit blocked today, Gemini. You

could be anxious to complete a half-finished project, but at this point you may have no idea where to go with it. Don't



panic! Do something else for a day or two and ideas will probably flow as if by madic. If you don't have a tight deadline, there's no rush to complete the work now. Give it some time!

Cancer June 22 - July 22

Today you could have a strong desire to get out and socialise

Cancer. You could well spend a lot of time on the phone trying to reach some friends, but not have



much luck with it. If they're busy, a frustrating game of phone tag could result. You might try just dropping by. Even if he or she can't see you right then, you can make arrangements for later

Leo July 23 - August 22 Today you could receive an invitation to a

social event that you'll really want to attend, Leo. People could be there who might turn out to be important con-

tacts. Nonetheless, you

might find that other responsibilities interfere with your plans, and experience a wave of disappointment. If you're creative, you will find a way to fulfill your obligations and attend the event, too. Think about it!

Virgo August 23 – September 22 An opportunity to travel to a place you've

always wanted to visit, perhaps for business reasons, could come your way today, Virgo. This could be



very exciting, but you might have some difficulty making the arrangements. Flights could be full, hotels too costly, and responsibilities at home might need attention. But you can find a way to deal with any obstacle. Think creatively and get busy!

Libra September 23 - October 23

Daydreams full of adventure, perhaps involving travel, could take up a lot of your time today, Libra. You're probably bored with



your situation and longing to do something to break your routine. You might have no idea how you can escape from everything right now. Don't force it. Spend the afternoon in a place you don't usually visit. You'll come up with a workable idea in due time. Go for it!

Scorpio October 24 - November 21 Your desire to see a romantic partner could

be very strong today, Scorpio. However, if you ask, you might be turned down. Don't jump to the conclusion that your friend doesn't want to see you.



If he or she says there are responsibilities to attend to, believe it! You might have to wait until another day, but that's probably the worst that will happen. Have a little faith and hang in there!

Sagittarius November 22 - December

Overindulgence in food and drink over the past few days could be causing you to feel a little out of sorts today, Sagittarius. You might even wonder if the fun



was worth it! A little careful attention to yourself will have you back to normal in no time. Don't be surprised, however, if another opportunity to live it up presents itself! Take care. You don't want to feel this way again.

Capricorn December 22 - January 19

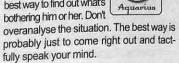
A strong desire to meet with a romantic partner could come over you today, Capricorn. However, you might not be able to reach your



friend. He or she could be busy and unable to respond to phone messages or emails. Nonetheless, don't get too frustrated.

Aguarius January 20 - February 18 A moody family member

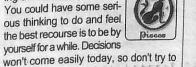
could have you confused, Aquarius, and you might not be able to discern best way to find out what's bothering him or her. Don't



Pisces February 19 - march 20 You might want to spend most of today outside, Pisces, perhaps tak-

ing a walk through a park. You could have some serious thinking to do and feel the best recourse is to be by yourself for a while. Decisions

force them.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE









PUZZLE CHOICE

WILD THINGS

Can you find the hidden creatures? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

TANAUGIPSJDOEKOLMTV MNJPAJRAAULNABREOVI SZANPCGGLARNGAAONFJ EOEHVVUMFLGLTVGPKLS TLRLPAPFUAITAOUAEOE AXGEREURRALRAWORYWA PRBACBLOCEALOJCDCNL IDALEOOESELRGGTETBI RINUBTNNPINADREEEDO ENDIGGAIGDDINVLOJDN RGINMKRAHNXDIOANARI UOCAEDTEORCJPPORAAN TOORAOLCGINEROERKZO POARIANJOMDBSBDRZC VITONOJMDAAGEKJEUL VALBATROSSBBZRAEBBA HATEENCELIDOCORCRJF EFFARIGTKWAHTWBTTJJ BSUMATOPOPPIHANEYHE

AARDVARK, ALBATROSS, ALLIGATOR, ANACONDA, ANTELOPE, BABOON, BADGER, BANDICOOT, BEAR, BUFFALO, BUZZARD, CENTIPEDE, CHEETAH, COUGAR, CROCODILE, DINGO, EAGLE, ELEPHANT, FALCON, GIRAFFE, GORILLA, HAWK,

HIPPOPOTAMUS.

and never in

HYENA, IGUANA, JAGUAR. KANGAROO, LEOPARD, MONKEY, RATTLESNAKE, RHINOCEROS, SEALION, TAPIR, TARANTULA, VULTURE, WALRUS, WOLF, ZEBRA.

THE MAGIC MIROR

THREE girls live together. Melissa is a born leader and smart. Kayla is very pretty and popular.

Jessica is dumb. One day Melissa says to Kayla and Jessica," I think we should get a miror." Kayla and Jessica Agree. They go down to the trift shop and Melissa sees a beautiful miror with a goldon trim. All of the girls love the miror. Melissa goes up to the store keeper and asks to see the miror. The store keeper replies, "I can't sell you that miror.



says a lie while looking in it they will disapear for ever!" Melissa didn't belive in this and went up to the mirror and said," I think i have the pretties shoes in this store!" And POOF! She disaperes. Then Kayla goes up to the miror and says, "I think I have the pretties shirt in the whole world!" And POOF! She disapears! Then Jessica goes up to the mirror and says, "I think..." POOF! She disa-

USELESS FACTS

1. In the marriage ceremony of the ancient Inca Indians of Peru, the couple was considered officially wed when they took off their sandals and handed them to each other.

2. Ninety percent of all species that have become extinct have been birds.

3. There is approximately one chicken for every human being in the world.

- 4. Most collect calls are made on father's day.
- 5. The first automobile race ever seen in the United States was held in Chicago in 1895. The track ran from Chicago to Evanston, Illinois. The winner was J. Frank Duryea, whose average speed was 71/2 miles

BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

YESTERDAY'S BRAINTEASERS

1. There are many types of this food Wild, brown and white to name a few Before it ever reached your plate A paddy field is where it grew

Answer: Rice

2. I can be fried Boiled and mashed Roasted and baked Scalloped and hashed.

Answer: Potato

TODAY'S BRAINTEASERS

1. This is a fruit that You might be fed. You just need to mix Yellow and red.

2. You might make this on Christmas So that you can stuff your face with cake, icing and candy An edible dwelling place.



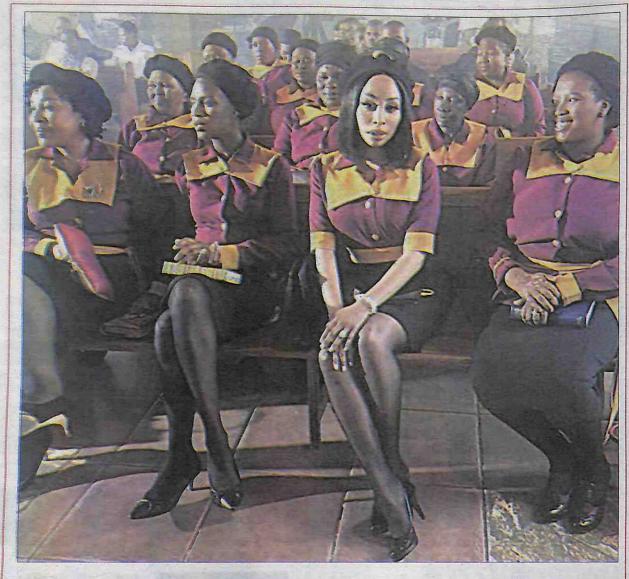












ABOMAMA ALREADY HAS TWITTER HOOKED, HERE ARE 5 REASONS WHY

SUNDAY night saw the debut of new drama Abomama Bomthandazo and Twitter is already hooked.

The drama, which is centered around a religious group of women in Soweto, was produced by Parental Advisory Production and promises to keep viewers on the edge of their seats.

The story sees five religious women finding themselves in the middle of a money-laundering scheme.

While Sunday was only the first episode, the drama promises to be a winner with most viewers already setting reminders for next week.

Here are the reasons why:

LIT CAST!

The cast is flames. What else could one possibly get after putting acting greats such as Nokuthula Ledwaba, Joyce Skefu, Kenneth Nkosi, Masechaba Mtolo and Jerry Phele among others, except fire?

The addition of people like Khanyi

Mbau and newcomer Unathi Guma also means that Mzansi will get to see blossoming talent.

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Looking forward to Somizi's roast on Comedy Central

THE upcoming Comedy Central Roast of Somizi, will premiere on Comedy Central (DStv channel 122) in May.

DStv is excited to announce the upcoming Comedy Central Roast of Somizi, coming to Comedy Central (DStv channel 122) on Monday May 7, 2017 at 21:00 CAT.

The popular format sees an illustrious panel assemble to 'roast" each other before getting to the Roastee. International celebrities have over the years hilariously and flamingly insulted each another, including Justin Bieber, James Franco

and Donald Trump. Dillon Khan, Vice President for Comedy Central Creative Services for Viacom International Media Networks Africa said: "We're thrilled to bring our audiences this latest instalment of Comedy Central's Roast of Somizi. We're definitely looking forward to seeing both Somizi and the panel feel the burn. South Africans throw shade

on a daily

basis with no filter and that's how we like our roasts. Expect singed egos and plenty of laughs." In South Africa, the Comedy

Central Roast of Somizi will be the third local iteration of the international format, with previous Roastees being Steve Hofmeyr and Kenny Kunene. Somizi is one of the most dynamic media personalities in the country, having so

far enjoyed a successful career on radio and television with no end in sight on bigger opportunities for one of the brightest shining stars in SA.

Somizi Mhlongo said: "I am really excited to be the Roastee. The moment Comedy Central approached me I grabbed the opportunity. I have always wanted to be part of this project. I have what it takes to handle the heat because I am thick skinned. Despite my trials I am here standing and ready for the next bout. I'm definitely up for this, especially when I get to have the last laugh at the panellists."

The Notorious Biggie on HISTORY Channel

THERE are 11 new titles for DStv customers to look forward to this week, from series and movies to documentaries and to animation to watch and enjoy on DStv Now.

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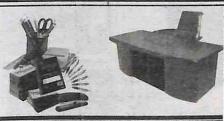
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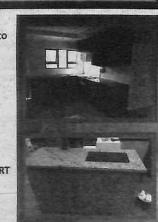
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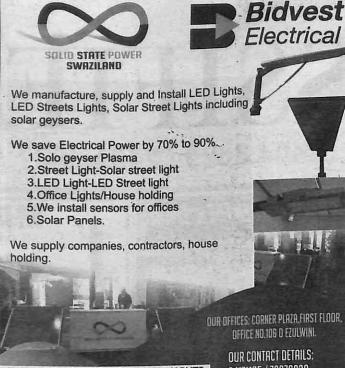
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Any person objecting to the account may lodge his or her objection in writing with the executor and with the Master of the High Court at any time before expiry of the said period.

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Zlatan fails to inspire LA Galaxy

LOS ANGELES - Zlatan Ibrahimovic could not recreate his winning performance from the bench as LA Galaxy lost 2-0 toSporting Kansas City.

The Swede, who scored twice in 20 minutes after coming on as a substitute in the 4-3 win over Los Angeles FC, came off the bench after Daniel Salloi and Johnny Russell had found the net in five second-half minutes.

Russell, whose previous club include Dundee United and Derby, used a deft touch to knock the ball past Ashley Cole and Daniel Steres before slotting home after 61 minutes.

This saw the introduction of Ibrahimovic who failed to make an impact despite having five shots as Kansas City won their fourth game of the season.

The Portland Timbers saw a 2-0 lead become a 3-2 defeat thanks to a spirited comeback from Orlando City. Portland might have found themselves down to 10 men early as Sebastian Blanco was shown a



DASHES: Ibrahimovic runs with the ball while Ike Okpara chasing on.(mirror pics)

second yellow card for a dive in the box, but this was overturned by VAR and Diego Valeri who scored from the spot. A Valeri free kick was met by Bill Tuiloma's header to put the Timbers up 2-0 after 59 minutes, before Orlando started their late comeback.

Chris Mueller headed in his first MLS goal after 80 minutes, Sacha

Kljestan scored a penalty two minutes later before Dom Dwyer coolly slotted past Jake Gleeson for the winner.

Mirror

Van der Burgh wins gold in 50m breaststroke

GOLD COAST - South Africa's Cameron van der Burgh scored an upset victory to take gold in the men's 50m breaststroke at the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, Australia, yesterday.

Coming into the race, England's Adam Peaty was the heavy favourite but had to settle for second behind the 2012 100m breast-stroke Olympic champion.

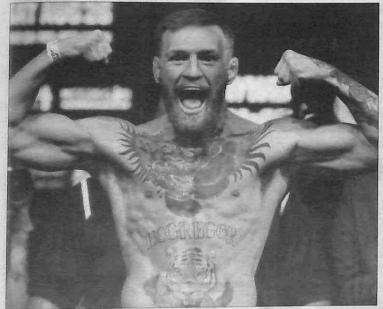
Van der Burgh touched the wall in 26.58 seconds, marginally ahead of Peaty in 26.62. England completed a double medal haul with James Wilby taking bronze in 27.37.

Van der Burgh went out fast, rising out the water in the lead but Peaty steadily cut into that gap.

In the final few metres it looked like the pair were level, but Van der Burgh just managed to edge out his opponent.

As soon as the results were displayed on the big screen, it prompted a jubilant celebration from Van der Burgh as he bagged a memorable victory

African News Agency



Conor McGregor breaks silence with cryptic message

NEW YORK - Conor McGregor has broken his silence on social media with a cryptic message, three days after he was released on bail.

The Irishman has been silent since he was arrested and charged following an attack on a bus carrying fighters in New York.

His teammate Dillon Danis paid the \$50 000 bond following a brief court appearance.

Yesterday McGregor posted a picture of himself leaving court with a praying emoji, as if asking for divine intervention.

But within half an hour, he had deleted the post.

The 29-year-old could face 11 years in prison according to New York's sentencing guidelines.

The former two-weight world champion will return to the city on June 14 for his next hearing.

McGregor was charged with assault and criminal mischief with the former charge carrying a year's prison sentence if he is found guilty. But the second charge is considered far more serious and could carry a much a longer term.

The former two-weight UFC champion flew into the Big Apple ahead of UFC 223 after his teammate Artem Lobov had an altercation with McGregor's rival Khabib Nurmagomedov.

The Irishman and his entourage headed for the loading bay at the Barclays Centre where several fighters were leaving in a bus following a media day.

The 29-year-old attempted to throw a railing at the bus and then smashed a window with a trolley before fleeing the scene and jumping into a waiting car.

Two fighters were injured in the attack as Michael Chiesa suffered cuts to his face from the sma

Two days after the incident, Nurmagomedov beat Al Iaquinta to win McGregor's former lightweight belt at UFC 223.

Mirror

DIEGO SIMEONE STAYING ON AS ATLETICO MADRID BOSS

MADRID - Diego Simeone has ended speculation surrounding his future at Atletico Madrid by stating he will remain at the Wanda Metropolitano for next season.

The Argentine had been linked with a move away from the Spanish capital in the summer following a disappointing first campaign in Atletico's new stadium.

Future

But after Sunday's 1-1 draw with rivals Real Madrid, Simeone was unequivocal when asked about his future at the club. "My future? I'm staying with Atletico," Simeone said in the wake of the Madrid derby." This is a big club and we're growing. "I'm proud of the level this club have been at for the past decade, how we've competed against two superpowers like Madrid and Barcelona and how we've kept competing."Simeone also insisted he was still looking to improve the players at his disposal:
"T'm working so that Antoine Griezmann and Jan Oblak keep going and get even better.

I put on Gabi because I needed legs in midfield." Atletico eamed a draw after Griezmann's effort cancelled out Cristiano Ronaldo's opener but the result leaves them 11 points behind La Liga leaders Barcelona.

The Spanish side also endured a belowpar Champions League campaign, finishing third in their group behind Roma and Chelsea to earn qualification for the Europa League. Atletico head to Lisbon to face Sporting on Thursday evening, looking to defend their 2-0 lead over the Portuguese side from

the Europa League quarter-final first leg. Simeone has won La Liga, the Copa del Rey and the Europa League during his seven-year spell as Atletico boss and has twice finished as Champions League runners-up to rivals Real. *Daily mail*

NOT LEAVING: Diego Simeone.

FERRARI MECHANIC HIT BY RAIKKONEN, 'OK' AFTER SURGERY

SAKHIR -The Ferrari mechanic who was hospitalised with a broken leg after being struck by Kimi Raikkonen's car says he is "OK" following surgery.

On Instagram, Francesco Cigarini wrote "Surgery ok. I have to thank all the people worried for me."

Cigarini included a photo of himself on a hospitable bed giving the thumbs up with his left leg covered in a cast from his thigh down to his toes.

The post was liked by Raikkonen.

The incident occurred during a botched tire change at the Bahrain Grand Prix on Sunday. As Raikkonen pulled away, his rear left tyre hit Cigarini's leg, knocking him to the ground Ferrari said Cigarini likely sustained a "shinbone and fibula fracture." AP



I AM OK: Ferrari mechanic Francesco Cigarini.



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ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



BRIEFS

Mkhitaryan could return sooner

LONDON - Arsenal Manager Arsene Wenger says he is hopeful Henrikh Mkhitaryan can feature for the club again before the end of the season despite the midfielder suffering knee ligament damage. Mkhitaryan limped off after 61 minutes during Arsenal's 4-1 home win over CSKA Moscow last week and a scan confirmed the 29-year-old will face a spell on the sidelines."

Mkhitaryan has medial knee ligament damage," Wenger told reporters after Arsenal's 3-2 Premier League victory over Southampton on Sunday. *Reuters*

Kane hopeful of catching Salah

LONDON - Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane remains hopeful of overhauling Liverpool's Mohamed Salah in the race for Premier League Golden Boot but is also focused on helping Spurs finish the season strongly. Kane is bidding to end the campaign as the division's top scorer for the third time in a row, a feat no other player has managed since Arsenal's Thierry Henry won the last of his four

scoring titles in 2006. The
24-year-old England
international has
scored 24 times in
the league and
currently trails Salah
by five goals with six
games remaining.

Liverpool have five fixtures left,"I still believe I can," Kane told British media. Reuters

Foster to stay on if West Brom go down

MANCHESTER - Ben Foster wants to stay at West Bromwich Albion and believes that many of his teammates will follow suit despite the club's looming relegation from the Premier League. Basement club West Brom are 10 points from safety with five games remaining after Saturday's 1-1 draw with Swansea City.

The club are likely to lose a raft of players if their relegation fears are confirmed but goalkeeper Foster, who has been at the club since 2011, has no intention of jumping ship. "I'll be here," the 35-year-old told British media.

Reuters

Hughes sees positives despite loss

LONDON - Southampton Manager Mark Hughes said he was encouraged by the improvement in his team's mentality in the last week even though Sunday's 3-2 defeat at Arsenal left them fighting for Premier League survival.

Southampton took the lead early in the game through Shane Long, only to give it away and go behind by halftime. They drew level again through substitute Charlie Austin but ended up losing after Arsenal's Danny Welbeck scored with a late header.

Reuters

SALAH NAMED PFA PLAYER OF THE MONTH

LONDON -Mo Salah has been named PFA Premier League Player of the Month for March.

The Liverpool forward struck six times in three games in the top flight to cement the Reds' spot in the top four.

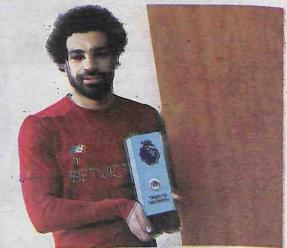
He turned in arguably his best display of an incredible debut campaign on Merseyside in the home game against Watford, scoring four times in a 5-0 win.

Salah also netted in games against Newcastle and Crystal Palace either side of the Watford drubbing, taking his league tally to 29 for the season. The Egyptian is five goals clear of Harry Kane in the race for the golden boot, with Sergio Aguero a further three strikes adrift.

He has 38 goals in 42 games in all competitions so far, with his latest strike coming in the 3-0 win over Manchester City in the Champions League last week. Salah picked up a slight knock in victory at Anfield and missed the weekend's Merseyside derby stalemate against Everton.

But the former Roma man should be fit to take his place in the starting XI as the Reds look to seal their place in the last four of Europe's top tier competition at the Etihad tonight.

Mirror



THE BEST: Mo Salah has been named PFA Premier League Player of the Month for March.

Conte under pressure once again

LONDON - Chelsea Manager Antonio Conte's position is under fresh scrutiny following Sunday's toothless showing against West Ham.

Despite the fact Chelsea can still win the FA Cup there is growing concern at Stamford Bridge that their season will capitulate.

Conte was expected to go at the end of the season, however, the decision for him to leave could yet accelerate.

Chelsea's recent form has been

poor, with last weekend's 3-1 home defeat by Tottenham Hotspur leaving them adrift of their north London rivals in the race for the top four.

That margin now stands at 10 points after Chelsea dropped points in the wake of Spurs winning 2-1 at Stoke City on Saturday. With just six matches to play, it looks increasingly likely the Blues will be playing Europa League football next season.

They can still win the FA Cup,

and face Southampton in the semi-final at Wembley on April 22, but that will come as small consolation.

They were also outclassed by Barcelona in the last-16 of the Champions League last month, losing the second leg in the Nou Camp 3-0. On Sunday, they led West Ham courtesy of a goal from Cesar Azpilicueta 10 minutes before half-time. But they had to settle for a point after Javier Hemandez levelled.

Daily Mail



FROM RED DEVILS TO REDS: Maroune Fellaini.

Welbeck insists he can compete with Aubameyang and Lacazette

LONDON - Danny Welbeck has backed himself to compete with Arsenal's big-money signings and fill the void left by Henrikh Mkhitaryan's injury.

The England international scored a brace as the Gunners beat struggling Southampton 3-2 at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

Welbeck was praised by Manager Arsene Wenger for overcoming the mountain that lay ahead of him as he recovered from two serious knee injuries.

Now the 27-year-old faces a different kind of battle as he looks to keep his place in the side despite the recent club-record acquisitions of Alexandre Lacazette and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Welbeck is no stranger to battling it out with superstars, having also played alongside the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo, Wayne Rooney, Dimitar Berbatov, Carlos Tevez and Robin van Persie during his time at Manchester United.

Alexis Sanchez, Theo Walcott and Olivier Giroud have all been in the mix with Walcott at Arsenal before departing in January - with Aubameyang and Lacazette now Welbeck's main rivals for a starting berth.

"As you've seen, I can play with Pierre and with Laca" he said. "It is nice. It gives you that added motivation. The competition is there so you are going to improve and better yourself.

"I've had that throughout my whole career. Being at an academy where players come from all over the world and it is the same here, you are always going to have that competition. It is

I know I can link up with plenty of the players in this team."

Welbeck's path to a regular first-team place could now come through the misfortune of Mkhitaryan, who Wenger admits is likely to miss the remainder of April after suffering knee ligament damage in last week's Europa League win over CSKA Moscow.

"We don't know how bad Henrikh's injury is at the moment," he said.

Daily Mail

Liverpool open talks with Maroune Fellaini

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool have made a shock move for Marouane Fellaini with the Manchester United midfielder out of contract this summer.

Reports in France claim Jurgen Klopp's side have drawn up a three-year contract for the Belgium international.

After five years at Old Trafford the 30year-old is set to leave this summer having failed to agree a new contract.

And L'Equipe report that Liverpool are leading interest from a clutch of Chinese clubs, Besiktas, Monaco and PSG for Fellaini's signature.

PSG are keen for Fellaini to be the successor to Thiago Motta, with the 35-yearold veteran set to depart the Parc des Princes this summer.

Former Everton man Fellaini has been used sparingly by Jose Mourinho this season and has not started since the Champions League defeat by Sevilla last month.

His most recent appearance came as a substitute in the dying minutes of the FA Cup quarter-final win over Brighton.

Fellaini arrived at United as a £27.5m signing from the Toffees in August 2013, following David Moyes across from Goodison Park.

Only 18 of his 151 games for the Old Trafford club have come this season.

Daily Mail

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE°

GUARDIOLA BELIEVES CITY WILL SUCCEED IN CHAMPIONS LEAD

MANCHESTER -Pep Guardiola believes Manchester City will eventually taste success in the Champions League despite their struggles in the competition.

> City face an uphill battle to make the semifinal stage in Europe for just the second time in their history, trailing Liverpool 3-0 from last week's first leg.

And ahead of the return at the Etihad Stadium tonight, the Spaniard has not given up hope that this year will be his side's year. When asked whether they could succeed in the Champions League considering the little history they have in the competition, he replied: "We need titles in Europe, that is so complicated.

What this club has done in the last 10 years in terms of creating amazing facilities with a lot of investment sooner or later it is going to happen.

"If it doesn't happen this season maybe it will be next. Sooner or later it will happen." The Spaniard also played down fears that Liverpool will be targeted by Manchester City fans in revenge for last week's attack on their team bus. The coach carrying Guardiola and his players was pelted with missiles by Liverpool supporters when it arrived at Anfield last Wednesday.

They had to arrange for a replacement bus to return to Manchester afterwards, and City felt let down by Merseyside Police and the Liverpool stewards after the route to the stadium was well publicised.

Guardiola insisted that Greater Manchester Police will prevent any reprisals taking place.

"Since I am here it has never happened," he said. "Opponents arrive in the right way, you don't need to ask me. You knew it before Liverpool and it happened. Where were the police? Tomorrow the police know what they have to do. "I wish they will come and see a football game. Come here and support us. They know anything can happen. They can applaud, boo, whatever." Guardiola admitted that City will need a 'perfect game' if they are to stage one of the great comebacks and clinch their place in the secondfinals. They beat Liverpool 5-0 in the league at the Etihad in September, raising hopes that it might be possible.

"Of course, to go through you have to make perfect game," he added. 'Create chances, be clinical, concede few chances. All the conditions have to be perfect. The result is tough but we have 90 minutes, and in football everything can happen.

"What we are going to do is try. We have to score the first one, then make the second one. We'll see the momentum, try to keep it longer and then we'll see.

Midfielder Fernandinho warned Liverpool that City will fight to the end to salvage their Champions League dream.

The Brazilian said: "Now is the time for all the experienced players to take over, to be in charge, to be in front of the group.

Of course, the two defeats is not easy but it happens to the best teams in the world so we have to keep going.

'What we have done this season is amazing now we are so close to be champions in Premier League and we have a chance to go through in the Champions League. Daily Mail

Di Francesco hoping for Barca 'miracle'

ROME - Roma ceach Eusebio Di Francesco has urged his side to believe in a "miracle" to overturn a 4-i deficit against Barcelona and advance to the Champions League semi-finals today.

"We have to believe in something important and go for it with great love and passion. They will play their best to confirm the result

but we can also produce a miracle," Di Francesco told a pre-match press conference. "It's difficult, but we have to believe. We stopped (Lionel) Messi (in the first leg) and we have to try to do it again tomorrow." Edin Dzeko scored a valuable away goal after own goals from Daniele De Rossi and Kostas Manolas in the Camp Nou, but the Italians need a remarkable comeback at the Stadio Olimpico to advance to final four for the first time since 1984. Here are some talking points ahead of the quarterfinal second leg clash:

MESSI HOPING FOR MORE ROMAN **HEROICS**

Barcelona star Lionel Messi returns to the Stadio Olimpico where his stunning header sealed the Champions League title in 2009 against Manchester United. The Argentine - back from a

hamstring problem and subdued in the first leg - warmed up with a hat-trick in a 3-1 win over Leganes Saturday as Barcelona equalled the record longest unbeaten run in La Liga history. "I don't see it as being tied up in any way," said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde ahead of the return. Messi and teammate Andres Iniesta are poised for a milestone of 100 Champions League appearances together. Iniesta is a veteran of 129 Champions League games, and Messi, 124.

ROMA STRUGGLING AT HOME

Roma have slipped to fourth in Serie A after a 2 - 0 home defeat to Fiorentina, making it three games without a win, and a seventh home defeat. Di Francesco's side will be king to avoid equalling the club's record of eight home defeats in all competitions going back 70 years. "Maybe Barcelona away are not the same team as at the Camp Nou, we will try to close down Messi wherever he is on the pitch," said the Roma coach. Roma have kept a clean sheet in all of their European games at home this season while the Catalan giants have struggled to get goals away in the Champions League, setting the scene for a lowkey scoring affair in the Stadio Olimpico. Daily Mail

MANCHESTER -Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola fears the dramatic collapse in the local derby could weigh on his players' minds as they seek to overturn a 3 - 0 deficit against Liverpool in today's Champions League quarter-final second leg. Standard Chartered

the title, City had one hand on the Premier League trophy after cruising to a 2-0 lead against Manchester United on Saturday but conceded three goals in a remarkable 16-minute second half spell to lose 3-2.

"It's difficult for our mood not winning and, yeah, that can happen," the Spaniard told reporters. "But maybe we will improve for the future on that, to realise that sometimes it's not enough what you've done to win

"I came here in the first half to try to do what we've done all season, but maybe it's not enough to win at Champions League level or the Premier League."

City, who remain 13 points clear in the Premier League, have conceded six goals in their last two matches, with Liverpool scoring three in 19 minutes at Anfield in the first leg of their Champions League tie last Wednesday.

Similar lapses in concentration have cost Guardiola when he was in charge of Bayern Munich, with Real Madrid scoring three in 18 minutes in the second leg of a Champions League semi-final in 2014.

Pep fears derby hangover The German side also lost to Barcelona 3-0 in the first leg of the semi-final the following season, despite the game being goalless after 77 minutes. "I thought

many times about that. I've dropped a lot of Champions League games in the space of 10 or minutes," Guardiola added.

"Maybe it's my fault. I have to think about it. But I feel that when you dominate and create chances you are closer to winning games and I think this season showed that."

Reuters

38 WORLD SPORT

'We will not perfom guard of honour'

MADRID - Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos has insisted the decision not to give championselect Barcelona a guard of honour does not show a lack of respect. Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane confirmed at the weekend they will not offer the runaway La Liga leaders a guard of honour before the El Clasico next month if the Catalans are crowned champions before then. Barca hold an 11-point lead over Atletico Madrid following their draw with Zidane's men on Sunday wit' only seven games remaining in 's season and could wrap up the to e with just two nore victories. Daily Mail

Capello blasts lack of Italy talent

ROME - Former Real Madrid and England coach Fabio Capello has blasted the lack of talent in the Italian national

> team as he insisted yesterday his coaching career was over. The 71-year-old Italian had been linked with the vacant Italy coaching job after leaving Jiangsu Suning of the Chinese Super League (CSL) last month."In Italy there is no talent, in the national team there are no players able to make

the difference," Capello told Radio Rai. Giampiero Ventura was fired as coach last November, days after four-time world champions Italy's shock failure to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in 60 years.

Ronaldo rests crucial to Madrid's dream

MADRID - With the score poised at 1-1 in Sunday's Madrid derby in La Liga between Real and Atletico, Cristiano Ronaldo's number appeared

on the fourth official's electronic board in red and the crowd in the Santiago Bernabeu fell silent. Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane took off the Portuguese forward for Karim Benzema in the 64th minute. Even though his careful management of Ronaldo's minutes has become increasingly obvious, it is still jarring to see him removed. Ronaldo

had sent Real ahead 11 minutes earlier, positioning himself perfectly to volley Gareth Bale's looping cross beyond the reach of the previously unbeatable Jan Oblak. However, Antoine Griezmann fired Atletico level moments later. With Ronaldo off the pitch, rested ahead of tomorrow's Champions League quarter-final second leg clash in Turin against Juventus, the game petered out.

funirates

Reuters

Simbine, Bruintjies stun Jamaican star

JOHANNESBURG - South African sprint star Akani Simbine has won the gold medal in the final of the men's 100m at the Commonwealth Games on Australia's Gold Coast.

Simbine stopped the clock in 10.03 - and in a stunning result, fellow South African Henricho Bruintjies finished in second in 10.17.

The bronze medal went to Jamaica's Yohan Blake £n 10.19.

Blake had been the favourite before start of the race, he was slow out of the blocks as Simbine took advantage.

Blake got stronger as the race progressed, but he could not get anywhere near Simbine while Bruintjies held on for the biggest result of his career.

It capped off a fantastic 24 hours for Team South Africa, who claimed nine medals on day five of competition. Sport24

STEVE TAKES POSITIVES FROM CHIEFS LOSS

JOHANNESBURG -Kaizer Chiefs coach Steve Komphela says he look to take the positives from his side's 3-0 defeat to Chippa United in the Premiership on Saturday.

Thabo Rakhale (26') Mxolisi Macuphu (78') and Edward Manqele (90+7) were all on target at the FNB

Stadium. The result left Amakhosi in fourth place on the standings with 39 points level with Maritzburg United and six and



seven points behind Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns respectively.

Sundowns have long been touted as Champions-elect, and with games in hand over the chasing pack, the league remains theirs to lose.

Chiefs, though have a Nedbank Cup semi-final with Free State Stars to look forward to, and Komphela is hoping this result with motivate a good performance from his side ahead of the cup competition encounter.

Speaking after the loss to Chippa, Komphela

was reported on Times Live as saying: "If you are a proud person, sacrifice and responsibility are part of the components of the job. "I'm not allowing my emotions to become negative because that will deflate you. You have to try and stay positive.

"The way out of it is to club together as a group of players and coaches."

The philosophical coach continued: "You cannot imagine a scenario where there is a cold wind coming from outside and you are opening the cracks even further.

SAFA agree on new

Election congress date?

JOHANNESBURG-The South African

Football Association (SAFA) and its

National Executive Congress (NEC) have

agreed on a new date for their elective

Teamtalk

Tau delighted with the progress he is making

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns attacker Percy Tau says he is happy with his progress as he drew level with Polokwane City's Rodney Ramagalela at the top of the **ABSA Premiership's scorers** chart.

Tau bagged his 11th league goal of the season when Sundowns came from behind to beat Baroka FC 2-1 on Sunday, extending their lead at the summit to four points.

The Bafana Bafana forward's goal proved to be the winner for the league leaders, after defender Wayne Arendse had cancelled out Lucky Nguzana's opener for Bakgaga at Peter Mokaba Stadium.

"I just try contribute to the team and lucky enough I get on the scoresheet. I am happy with my progress so far. I have scored more

goals than

last season

and it's a

good

ON FORM: Mamelodi Sundowns players cele-

brating one of their goals against Baroka FC.

thing," the Sundowns product said.

Tau clocked up 270 minutes of football in six days last week and admits he felt the effects of playing so much in a short space of time. Tau has, in fact, played 90 minutes in all but one of Sundowns' matches in 2018.

The Brazilians' next match is against outgoing champions Bidvest Wits at Loftus this

Saturday, which will give Tau and the rest of the team some time to take it easy before the must-win encounter.

"Today I felt the demands of the game because we played three games in a short space of time. At least now we have some time to rest before we play Wits. We welcome the rest and we will come back fresher.

KickOff

The elective congress was originally scheduled for Saturday March 24, however, was postponed by the NEC on account of various issues relating to its legitimacy.

"I can confirm that a new date has been finalised of which the SAFA NEC members are all happy with," revealed a Siya source close to the FA.

"All that's missing is the go-ahead from SAFA in terms of making the new date known," added the source.

SAFA's presidential run-up to, and the elective congress itself has suffered various hindrances. These have ranged from the legitimacy of several presidential candidates vying for the FA top seat, most notably Mwelo Nonkonyana to the withdrawal of candidates under uncertain circumstances.

Furthermore, the congress run-up saw the withdrawal of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) at the eleventh hour.

As things stand, current SAFA President Dr Danny Jordaan still remains unopposed for a second term in office when SAFA announce the new date for their elective congress.

Soccer Laduma



It's squeaky bum time - Pitso

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane believes it is the time of the season at which the nerves are tested as the race for the **ABSA Premiership title** comes down to the wire.

The Brazilians appear to be closing in on the PSL championship having beaten Baroka 2-1 on Sunday,

and the club currently enjoy a four-point advantage over Orlando Pirates in second place. Coining a phrase once famously used by Manchester United's former legendary manager Alex Ferguson, Mosimane takes the view that it is the time of the season that nerves begin to jangle. Teamtalk

SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Weekend Sports Results

SwaziBank Cup qua	rter-finals	3		Month				7inuna	
Green Mamba	3	Malanti Chiefs	1	Northern Zone		40.0 11	A ROLL	Zinyane	2
Royal Leopard	0	Young Buffaloes	0	Horo Spinners	7	19 Celtic	1 2	Lonhlalane Chealsea	_2
Manzini Wanderers	0	Manzini Sundowns	0	Khanjana	2	Phachanga			
(Wanderers won 9 -			0	Ndeva	1	B Swallows	3	Movers	2
Matsapha United	1	Mbabane Highlanders	1	M Arsenal	1	Mvuma	1	Asemal	1
(Highlanders won 5	-4 on per	nalties)		Kappa Kappa	1	Vultures	0	Bhulane Resort Ndzi	nanni
				N Swallows	0	Manchester	U	Mphondla	ngeni
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Lobamba Highlande		Kappa Ladies	1	D Action	1	Veni	1	Sigodlo	0
(Lobamba Highlande	ers won 4	- 3 on penalties)		FC Vaal	2	M Arsenal	2	Fontotje	5
				Amawele	2	M Celtics	0	Seven	2
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Royal Leopard	3	Manzini Sundowns	0	Corporation	6	SuperSport	3	Hungry Lions	3
Young Buffaloes	3	Mbabane Highlanders	0	Gordon Stars	2	White City	7	M Sundowns	2
Mbabane Swallows	1	Green Mamba	1	Sidwashini	1	Interstars	0	R Mbombers	- 1
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Mbabane Citizens	1	Sikhalo	1	Lusoti	0	Thembelihle	0	Phophonyane	6
Tambankulu Callies	1	Milling Hotspurs	0	MbaabneUtd	1	M Movers	0	Darkies	0
Hlatikulu Tycoons	2	Hub	1	Junction Stars	3	N Rangers	2	Citizens	0
Mahlalini	2	Tinyosi	4	R Dynamos	2	Mangwaneni	4		33
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Mhlane United

Dark City

Young aces

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SWAZIBANK CUP 2018



MORE ACTION FROM SUNDAY | MORE ACTION FROM SUNDAY | MORE ACTION FROM SUNDAY



UYAYIFUNA NA?: SwaziBank MD Zakhele Lukhele with other senior staff members watching the quarter-final games at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



THROW BALL: Wanderers defender Menzi Gamedze prepares to throw the ball while taking instructions from coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe.







SAFE HANDS: 'Downs keeper Lwethu Simelane makes a save during the penalty shootout.



TUSSLE: Manzini Sundowns'
Mkhuleko Magagula and Wanderers'
Sicelo 'Junior' Simelane fighting for
the ball.





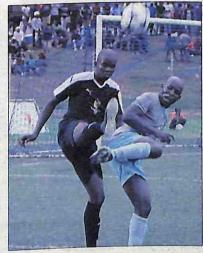
GIVE WAY: Mike Dombo trying to go past 'Downs defenders.



DASHING: Highlanders' Menzi Sithole outpacing Matsapha's Dennis 'Yuki' Masina.



NET: Khanyakwenzwe goes the wrong direction during the penalty shootout.



MY BALL: Players fighting for the ball.



50-50 BALL: Highlanders' Thabiso Mokenkoane with Matsapha United's Menzi Mamba vying for the ball.

SWAZIBANK CUP 2018



GUNS ARE DRAWN: Mbabane Highlanders Chief Executive Officer Celucolo 'Dino' Dlamini and Manzini Wanderers Manager Berger Nxumalo posing with the trophy during the semi-finals draw held at the SwaziBank auditorium yesterday. The two teams will face each other at the Somhlolo National Stadium this coming weekend. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



THANK YOU: Management Committee Chairman Comfort Shongwe making his remarks.

draw.





I GOT YOU: Royal Leopard Under-20 Manager Bhekithemba Mthupha smiling after picking Young Buffaloes as PLS Development Officer Banele Masondo watches.



BATTLE OF THE FORCES: Green Mamba Chief Executive Officer Thamie Phakathi and Young Buffaloes counterpart Sandile Gwebu feeling the trophy.



SEE YOU SOON: Mthupha shaking hands with Young Buffaloes Under-20 Manager Thando Nxumalo after the draw.



IT'S ON: Mbabane Swallows Under-20 Manager Mduduzi Masilela and Tambuti Under-20 official Sandile Nhleko posing after the draw.



BIG GUNS: SwaziBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele and National Football Association of Swaziland President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa following proceedings with Management Committee members and SwaziBank staff.



YES: Highlanders 'Dino' Diamini reacting during the draw.



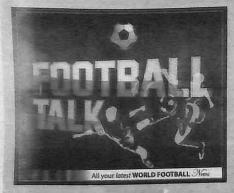
ATTENTIVE: FA Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe and PLS Development Officer Banele Masondo following the draw.



IN NUMBERS: SwaziBank staff members were also present during the



THREE
MUSKESTEERS: The
three semi-finalists
representatives
Sandile Gwebu
(Young Buffaloes),
Thamie Phakathi
(Green Mamba) and
Berger Nxumalo
(Manzini Wanderers)
keenly follow proceedings with Royal
Leopard's Frank
Hurube.



Liverpool have drawn up a three-year deal

for Manchester United and Belgium midfielder Marouane ellaini, with Pa is St-Germain and Monaco also interested in the 30-yearold, who is out of

contract in the summer. (L'Equipe - in French)

- Manchester United are hoping to beat Manchester City to the signing of Shakhtar Donetsk and Brazil midfielder Fred, 25, this summer. (Mirror)
- Liverpool's 24-year-old German midfielder Emre Can, who is out of contract at the end of the season, could make a decision about his future in the next two weeks, according to Juventus chief BeppeMarotta. (Mediaset Premium, via Express)
- Bayern Munich will offer new contracts to French winger Franck Ribery, 35, and Dutch wideman Arjen Robben, 34. Both players are due to be out of contract in the summer. (Bild - in German)
- Chelsea Manager Antonio Conte says his team does not deserve to qualify for the Champions League if they cannot beat teams like West Ham, after a 1-1 draw with the Hammers. (Times - subscription required)
- Tottenham midfielder Christian Eriksen

says there have been arguments in the dressing room over whether he or Harry Kane got the final touch on Spurs' second goal against Stoke on Saturday. (independent)



- Sheffield Wednesday's 19-year-old forward George Hirst - son of ex-Owls striker David - is set to join Manchester United, with the Championship side due compensation for the move. (Mirror)
- Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola says he could be to blame for his side's defeats against Liverpool and Manchester United, but added his team's lack of ruthlessness in front of goal means they are not ready to compete with Europe's elite. (Times - subscription required)
- Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho was struck by a pound coin thrown from the crowd during their derby victory over Mand City on Saturday, but the Portuguese did not report the incident. (Star)
- Liverpool boss JurgenKlopp says Manchester City's offer to use a training base in Manchester o prepare for the second leg of their Champions

eague quarter-Milal on Tuesday was made too late. Manchester United also rejected an approach from the Reds to



use their junior facilities. (Telegraph)

[STRIKING, STRAIGHT AND STRENGTHENED

SWAZIBANK CUP SEMI FINALS SET TO DAZZLE

THE four sides remaining in this year's SwaziBank Cup competition are one step closer to glory and making their dreams of lifting the coveted UYAYIFUNA NA? Cup trophy come true.

After an intriguing set of quarterfinals games played over the weekend, we know the step each side needs to take to reach the SwaziBank Cup final.

Manzini Wanderers and Mbabane Highlanders went through to the semis following their win after penal-

The 'Weslians' beat Manzini Sundowns 9-8 while the 'Black Bull' also got the better of Matsapha United, winning 5-4 after the lottery shootout at a the packed Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.

The games started on Saturday at the same venue with Correctional Services side knocking out Malanti Chiefs 3-1 while Young Buffaloes beat Royal Leopard 1-0 in the second match.

Of note is the Saturday games ended in regulation time while the Sunday matches had to be decided on penalties. The second match on Sunday (Highlanders vs Matsapha United) ended in a 1-all draw after extra-



FORCES: Green Mamba Chief Executive Officer Thamie Phakathi and his Young Buffaloes counterpart Sandile Gwebu.

time. Striker Thabiso Mokenkoane scored for Highlanders in the 11th minute of extra-time but only for Kwenzokuhle Khumalo to score the equaliser with only a minute left, which forced the match to be decided on penalties. These were all good games but I want to single out the Mbabane Highlanders vs Matsapha game, which was a fast-flowing encounter that could have been mistaken for a final. Both sides were eager to assert themselves and while

there was good end-to-end action, a number of loose passes in the final third curtailed the number of clearcut chances.

We were treated to great football action and credit must go to the two teams for living up to expectation and giving fans their money's worth and something to talk about. One can also thank fans for coming out in their numbers to watch the games. They were well behaved as there were no scenes of violence and one can only encourage that spirit going forward.

It was really encouraging to see fans accepting results, be it good or bad. With all that said, the semifinals draw was conducted yesterday and we can expect mouth-watering clashes. The draw for the semifinals served up some interesting duels with intriguing subplots within them.

Capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders have been drawn against hub crowd pullers Manzini Wanderers in a match that is set to be a thriller while 'Buffs' have a date with Green Mamba in the other match.

The semi-finals are scheduled to be played this weekend with the exact dates, venues and kick-off times to be confirmed by the Premier League of Swaziland in due course. But the SwaziBank Cup excitement is, as ever, never limited to just what happens on the pitch. Now all the four teams are two games away to clinch the glittering trophy and the one million winner's prize at stake.

All four teams will be looking at winning their first silverware this season, with Mbabane Swallows having won two trophies already as they are also set to win the league. UYAYIFUNA NA?

Lwethu Simelane a rare gem

DYNAMITES usually come in small packages.

This adage seems to be existing for Manzini Sundows who have unleashed a new goalkeeping gem in 19-year-old shot stopper Lwethu Simelane, who is slowly but surely becoming one of the best goalkeepers in the country.

At such a tender age, Lwethu is outdoing himself with his splendid performances week in and out.

The Ngwane High school pupil is maturing with time like wine between the sticks of the Kappa Boys where he is displaying brave performances since he got promoted from the clubs youth ranks at the begining of the current campaign.

The boy appears to be brave by dishing out five star performances even when the odds are against his side.

He has already won man of the match awards both in the League and in the ongoing Swazi Bank Cup.

His gallant performance during their quarterfinal defeat to Manzini Wanderers at the Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday saw the National Under 20 shot stopper win the hearts of many football sup-

porters. He kept a clean sheet throughout the entire 120 minutes of football played during the grueling hub derby. He also transformed his

safe hands into the lottery shootouts where he made a penalty save that nearly transported his side to the semi finals.

Despite his team eventually exiting in the competition, the goalkeeper was deservingly rewarded for his sterling performance with the man of the man award. Keep it up young man, your good work will not go unnoticed and you have all the potential to reach the class of legendary local goal-

keepers such as

Willam 'Cool Cat' Shongwe, the late Robson 'Sparks' Dlakubi, Sipho 'Shlton' Dube and

> Chistopher 'Tototo' Khoza, who all made their name in the local football circles. You are indeed a true testimony of investing in football development something which your

> > club Chairman Mark Carmichael has been known for over the years.

Lwethu

Simelane.

SHINING:

ALL THE BEST TO SITSEBE

SITSEBE take on Lesotho in the second leg of their Africa Women Cup of Nations (AWCON) first round qualifier today.

The nation's pride lost the first leg away in the mountainous kingdom 0-1 last week and will now need all the local support to overturn the scoreline and keep dreams of qualifying for a first ever AWCON alive.

A 0-1 defeat away from home is not the end of the world and if Sitsebe apply themselves to the cause and get the much needed support from the nation today, they can turn this tie on its head. Women football, despite some problems especially at administrative level, is quickly gaining momentum in the country.

This has been evidenced by SwaziBank pumping in E75 000 towards the SwaziBank Women's Cup which is already underway. Tournaments like this will elevate the standard of women's football in Swaziland and it is high time that the nation as a whole embraces the ladies' game. The starting point should be supporting Sitsebe as they navigate the AWCON 2018 qualifying route.

None of our senior national sides have ever qualified for continental showpieces and it would be lovely to see Sitsebe break that barrier and reach the AWCON finals.

Anything and everything is possible against Lesotho tonight. All the best to Fisiwe Hlophe and her team today.

Buffaloes vow Silve Weep the boards in 2018 Silve Weep the

Stories by Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER-YOUNG Buffaloes have vowed to win all the trophies in the 2018 SwaziBank Cup.

'Amathole Ezinyathi', who are still represented in the three categories of the tournament, the male senior side, Under-20 and women's competition promised to clinch all the three competitions under the tagline 'Uyayifuna

Club Chief Executive Officer Sandile Gwebu said this during the semi-finals draw held at the sponsor's auditorium vesterday morning.

"We have already made history as a club by making it this far in the three categories of the competition. I can assure our supporters that we will not lose any of these trophies. We will have all three cups in our trophy cabinet," he said.

Preparations

Coming to their semi-final draw against rivals Green Mamba, Gwebu said they would intensify their preparations for the game against the Executive Officer Thamie s counterpart Sandile Gwebu.

VOWED: Green Manha Chie Phakauni and Young Buffa 16 (Pies: MduduziiMng)mezulu)

Correctional Servicesside

"We have already played Greet Mamba three times this season are they haven't beatenus. This record gives us pressure toworkerta have in training. We will do all thenece sary preparation forthis upcoming match," he said.

Meanwhile, his counterport of Gree Mamba Tharni Phakethidescribed the draw as a fair one for limballulucon We are happy we have been drawi against Buffaloes and we will come up with a good plan on how we will approach the match. We are pleading with the sponsor to prepare us a kit we will use in the finals since we will emerge victorious during the upcoming match.

"We appeal to our supporters to come in their numbers to watch the games and further continue purchasing the promotional SwaziBank pre-paid card," he said.

O AFRICA

WESLIANS WANT

SOCCER - HUB giants Manzini Wanderers want to compete in the 2019 CAF Confederations Cup.

The maroon and white ensemble has to overcome Mbabane Highlanders during the semi-finals before reaching the finals of the annual knockout competition that carries a ticket to the international club competition.

This was said by the team's Manager Berger Nxumalo during the semifinals draw held yesterday.

"This is one the fans wanted the most and their wish has been granted. We will do our level best to advance to the finals, something that will keep our dream alive. We are determined to keep our dream alive at the expense of Highlanders," he said.

Meanwhile, Highlanders Chief Executive Officer Celucolo 'Dino' Dlamini said they will be geared up for the match against their opponents



UYAYIFUNA NA: Mbabane Officer Celucolo 'Dinu' Di Manager Berger Naumalie

over Matsapha United in the quant ter-finals over the weekend

"We will prepare for Wander who have been to be our super by do dies over the past years. We will our level best to make our support

Highlanders Chief Executive Ally and Manzini Wanderers

ers happy and we are appealing for unity and support from the entire Highlanders family," he said.

The matches will take centre stage this coming weekend at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

SOCCER - CAPITAL city side Mbabane Swallows and hub side Manzini Wanderers ladies teams will headline the inaugural SwaziBank Women's Cup quarter-finals.

This was revealed during the draw held at the company's auditorium yesterday.

Following the round of 16 games played this past weekend, the stage is set for the quarter -finals.

The two teams will headline an entertaining round, after qualifying straight The quarter-final days

R Leopard Lob Highlanders Mb Swallows Manzini Wandier Divas

for the knockout stages

Another interesting clash will see take on Divas. Siteki qualified for ski quarters after thrashing Shiselweni 8 - 0. Mdumiseni Hlawe's clean were all out on Sunday and inspired captain fantastic Patricia Mhlonge completely dismanted the Shister Ladies defence and eventually

Swallows vs Weslians in Women's SwaziBank Cup

By Sibusiso Dlamini Their opponents, on the other hand, Divas managed go past through to knock-out stages after narrowly ning 4 – 3 on penalties against Olympi. The match had ended 1-all in regulation time

Police side Royal Leopard, who also claimed a high scoring victory with a 7 - 0 win will face-off Lobards Highlanders, who progressed to the last eight after winning. eight after winning 4 – 3 on penalties Meanwhile, star-studded army hand, Young Buffaloes will on the other hands

Security forces derby in SwaziBank Under-20's

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER - THE security forces derby will this coming weekend headline the SwaziBank Cup Under-20 semi-finals.

This was after the draw held at the company's auditorium yester-

The two teams will face-off for the final both after they both claimer victory in the quarter-finals this past week. Police side Royal Leopard, who are also defending champions, made it to the semi-finals after claiming an emphatic 3 - 0 win against the Penuel Malinga-led Manzini Sundowns to kick them out of the tournament. The two will meet

DRAW: Mbabane Swallows Under -20 Manager Mduduzi Masilela and Tambuti Under-20 official Sandile Nhleko posing after the draw.

The last four draw R Leopard Young Buffaloes Tambuti

Mbabane Swallows

each other in what is expected to be a thriller as Buffaloes are also a force to be reckoned with in the development ranks. The army side qualified for the last four after trashing capital city side Mbabane Highlanders 3 - 0.

The other match will see Lubomnbo based Tambuti taking on capital city side Mbabane Swallows.

The green and white ensemble has been doing exceptionally well in the tournament, and this past week they squeezed through to the last four after winning 4 - 4 on



Thabiso is player of the season - 'Professor'

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - MBABANE Highlanders coach Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane heaped praise on striker Thabiso Mokenkoane on Sunday and hailed the forward as a deserving candidate for Player of the Season.

Mokenkoane scored a beautiful freekick as Highlanders drew 1-all with Matsapha United in 120 minutes before winning 5-4 on penalties in the SwaziBank Cup quarter-finals at Somhloo National Stadium yesterday.

Speaking to journalists after his side's victory, Ngubane said Mokenkoane's goal was reminis. cent of another one he scored don ing his heydays.

"It was one of the best games of the season.

Matsapha can play, we can also play. We scored a beautiful goal When I was still a player, I scored a similar goal.

They (Matsapha) wanted it; we wanted it more than them.

I'm happy we are through. Thabian joined in January but he looks like the Player of the Season. For me he is the Player of the Season at the moment," Ngubane said,

Meanwhile, Matsapha coach Dumsani Makhanya said his side had prepared for penalties.

"We did practise for penalties but unfortunately we couldn't put in



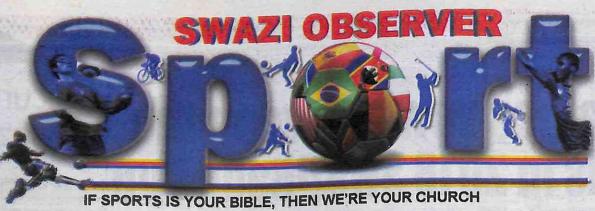
Mbabane Highlanders coach Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane.

our goalkeeper (Mxolisi Dlamini) who is good with penalties because we had finished our substitutions," Makhanya said.



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Liverpool



Tuesday April 10, 2018



Young Buffaloes will take on Green Mamba in the other semi-final match

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - THERE will be no 'dream final' as giant clubs Mbabane Highlanders and Manzini Wanderers have been paired together in the semi-finals of the SwaziBank Cup.

Going into yesterday's last four draw at SwaziBank headquarters, football lovers across the country were hoping the two clubs would be separated to keep hopes of them meeting in the final alive. But those hopes of a repeat of the 2009 final which Highlanders won 2-1 were quickly dashed as the two sides were drawn to face each other in what has now been termed the 'final before the final.'

Young Buffaloes, the defending champions, and Green Mamba were paired together in the other semi-final, something that guarantees that an armed forces club will be in the SwaziBank Cup final for the third

year in a row. The four sides will play their semi-final ties this coming weekend. Making his remarks after the draw yesterday; SwaziBank Cup Management Committee (MC) Chairman Comfort Shongwe said the Highlanders vs Wanderers tie was the 'final before the final.' "It seems like we have a final before the final. We will have very exciting games this coming weekend and we can only invite the nation to come out in numbers to watch great football.

Sharp

"We also urge the clubs, especially the marshals, to be on high alert and be very sharp on the day of the semi-finals so that we avoid anything that can embarrass the sponsor and our football as a whole," Shongwe said. Both Highlanders and Wanderers reached the semi-finals of the SwaziBank Cup last season but were knocked out by Buffaloes and Matsapha United, respectively. Highlanders have won



UYAYIFUNA NA?: Mbabane Highlanders Chief Executive Officer Celucolo 'Dino' Dlamini and Manzini Wanderers Manager Berger Nxumalo posing with the trophy during the semi-finals draw held at the SwaziBank auditorium yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

the tournament twice, their last triumph coming in 2010 while Wanderers have never lifted the trophy since its inception in 2004. Green Mamba,

meanwhile, have won the tournament twice, the inaugural edition in 2004 and again in 2012 when they beat Highlanders 3-1. They were beaten

Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini (Manzini Sundowns coach and 2015 SwaziBank Cup winner)

"IT'S a fair draw. It is fair for the teams and for the sponsor as well because we are guaranteed one big team in the final.

All these four teams have the potential to reach the semi-finals but the most important thing is that the players control themselves. The big problem with our players is that they get over excited and then lose focus. So the two coaches who will be able to get their players focused and under control will reach the final."



G. Mamba	0-2	Buffaloes	(February 15, 2018, MTN
Buffaloes	2-1	G. Mamba	Premier League) (January 14, 2018.
Dullaides	2-1	G. Mairiua	SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup quarterfinal)
Buffaloes	1-0	G. Mamba	(October 15, 2017, MTN
Buffaloes	0-3	G. Mamba	Premier League) (May, 25, 2017, MTN

by Mbabane Swallows 2-1 in their last final appearance in 2016. Buffaloes have won it just once, lastseason, but were beaten in the final in 2014.

EDICT THE UNDER 20 CHAMPIONS &

1ST PrizeE15,000

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