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## MOURNERS COMFORT VICTOR'S GRIEVING WIFE



**HEARTBROKEN:**  
 The late Victor Gamedze's wife, Lungile, conversing with former Mbabane Swallows official Mandla Dlamini. This was during a visit to the Gamedze home by various sectors of society including Swallows players, friends, colleagues, relatives and members of the public yesterday. (Pic: Sibongiseni Zondi)

**CLOSE FRIEND REVEALS...**

# VICTOR **KNEW** OF PLOT TO KILL HIM

**...He told friends but never saw need for bodyguards**

**SRA WORKERS BACK AT WORK**

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## 2 NATIONAL NEWS

## VICTOR GAMEDZE ASSASSINATION:

## King informed about Gamedze's assassination

**THE tragic death of top businessman Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze has been officially reported to Their Majesties.**

This was gathered at Gamedze's Mbabane home yesterday during a meeting for family members to discuss the logistics of both the memorial service and the funeral.

The slain business giant and well known soccer administrator will be laid to rest at his parental home-stand at KaLanga, outside Siteki on Sunday morning after a memorial service to be held at the Prince of Wales Stadium in Mbabane on Saturday.

A relative confided in this newspaper yesterday that the family had formally reported Gamedze's brutal death to the country's authorities.

This was also confirmed by the presence of Deputy Chief Protocol Officer in the King's Office Khandlela Mdluli at Gamedze's residence yesterday. Mdluli attended the family meeting and is believed to have passed a specific message from the country's authorities to the Gamedze family.

Mdluli is also actively involved in the preparations of the memorial service and the funeral. After the meeting behind closed doors with family members, Mdluli then

travelled to the Prince of Wales Stadium with a family delegation for the planning of the service.

The team also comprised family lawyer Sidumo Mdladla and Mbabane Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.

The crew was overheard discussing logistics of the memorial service and brainstorming on the location of the stage, the parking and other issues.

There was a suggestion that the car wash next to the stadium should be closed on Saturday, to allow cars to park there. The police will also be roped in to control traffic and maintain order during what will undoubtedly be one of the biggest memorial services.

The mood was still sombre at the prestigious Gamedze home-stand yesterday as scores of mourners continued to pour in to deliver their condolences. Traffic on Imfuyo Street, which is the street leading to Gamedze's home in the Dalriach suburbs, is becoming a nightmare with each passing day.

Residents who are neighbours to the Gamedze home now have difficulty travelling between their homes due to the heavy traffic. Some abandoned their cars on the main road and walked on foot to their homes.

## 'GAMEDZE KNEW HE

## COVER STORY

Stories by Sisho Magagula and Sifiso Nhlabatsi Mbabane

**MURDERED businessman Victor Gamedze predicted and knew that he would be killed.**

Addressing journalists at Gamedze's home in Dalriach yesterday, long time friend and associate, Bongani Mamba said the businessman had, over a long period of time, informed him that there were people who wanted to assassinate him.

"He would call time and again to share his fears with me. He would sometimes mention people's names. He saw it coming but did not believe in bodyguards because he believed he was nobody's enemy," said a sombre Mamba when addressing journalists.

"On Sunday morning, before we went to Somhlolo, he called and we spoke for nine minutes and he mentioned names again of people whom he suspected were plotting to kill him. I won't mention names," he said.

...He would call time and again to share his fears with me. He would sometimes mention people's names. He saw it coming but did not believe in bodyguards because he believed he was nobody's enemy



**SAW IT COMING:** Victor Gamedze's long time friend and associate Bongani Mamba.

Mamba said towards the end of last year, him and Gamedze were called to

## Preparations for Victor's memorial underway

Stories by Mbono Mdluli Mbabane

**PREPARATIONS for the memorial service of slain businessman Victor Gamedze are already underway.**

Gamedze's memorial will be held on Saturday at the Prince of Wales Sports Ground in Mbabane.

Prominent people in the country were seen at the Prince of Wales planning on how the memorial service would be carried out. King's Office Deputy Protocol Officer Khandlela Mdluli, lawyer Sidumo Mdladla and Mbabane Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati were among the people who were found discussing how the memorial service could be carried out. They were later joined by Mbabane Swallows Captain Tony Tsabedze.

One of the people who was mowing the Prince of Wales lawn said they did



**LOGISTICS:** Deputy Chief Protocol Officer in the King's Office, Khandlela Mdluli discussing logistics of deceased Victor Gamedze's memorial service with family members at the Prince of Wales Stadium yesterday. (Pic: Sisho Magagula)

so just because they received an order that they should prepare the ground.

Gamedze's family on Monday

announced that his funeral would be held at his home in KaLanga, outside Siteki.

## Hlophe family shattered: Gamedze looked after us

**THE death of businessman Victor Gamedze has not only left business people and soccer administrators shocked.**

Ordinary members of the society have also been negatively affected by the death of the shrewd businessman.

One such is Gugu Matsenjwa from Mahlangatsha in the Manzini region.

Matsenjwa encountered an unfortunate incident when her brother, Phillip Hlophe and his wife were knocked down by a car from MVTel, a communications company owned by Gamedze. Hlophe and Matsenjwa share the same mother. The incident happened in 2004 in Mankayane, according to Matsenjwa. Upon hearing that his company car had knocked down the couple, Gamedze took it upon himself to shoulder the funeral expenses. He went to the Hlophe family in Mahlangatsha where the apologised for the terrible incident.

He offered to shoulder all the

funeral expenses.

Gamedze, at that time, was with Prosper Mpofu and other managers from MVTel.

"Gamedze did not end there. He went on to help even after the funeral, where he took care of us and the children. When we had problems, we went straight to him and he helped us. He never got tired of us," Matsenjwa said.

## Compensated

The businessman also helped them with the processes of receiving compensation from the Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF).

However, efforts to get the compensation proved futile as they were allegedly not helped.

But Gamedze, according to Matsenjwa, had tried his level best to ensure they got the money.

He is said to have even acquired the services of top lawyer Sidumo Mdladla, but it could not help.

When Gamedze started helping the

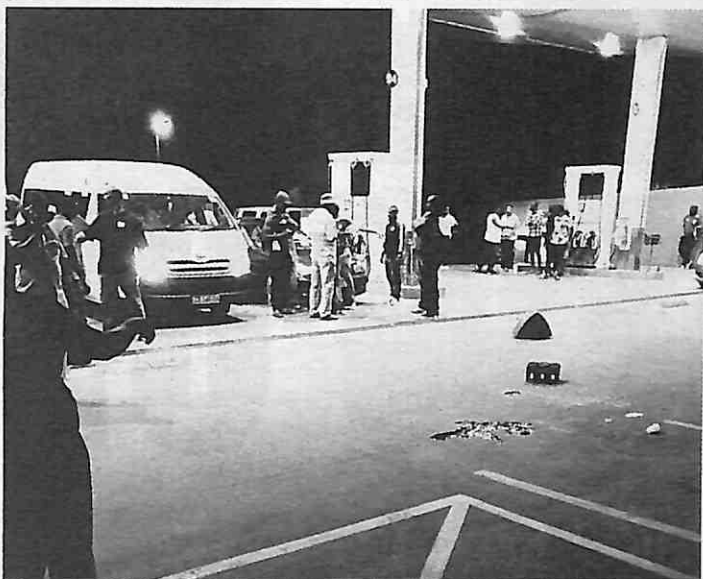
family, the children belonging to the slain couple had not even started at pre-school.

This year, the children are supposed to be completing their high school education. Matsenjwa was supposed to meet Gamedze last Wednesday, but didn't because he was busy and could not attend to her.

"His personal assistant (PA) suggested that I should return to the office next week (this week) because he was in a meeting at the time," she added.

She wanted help from Gamedze so that her family could buy school uniforms for the children and satisfy the other needs of the family. She was doing all this on behalf of Mariah Simelane, her mother, who could not do all these things because she was ageing.

Matsenjwa said they were very saddened by the loss of Gamedze and she sent words of condolences to his family, his friends and relatives.



**CRIME SCENE:** The scene where the incident happened.

## DAY 3: Still no arrest

**THE Royal Swaziland Police Service (RSP) has still not made any breakthrough in connection with the assassination of businessman Victor Gamedze.**

Today is the third day since Gamedze's fatal shooting and there are still no arrests made.

Police Chief Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed that nobody had been arrested in connection with the killing of the business guru.

"Intensive investigations are still on-going," he said.

Despite circulating rumours that two businessmen and a socialite had been questioned about the incident, the police have refused to

confirm this. Superintendent Mamba said the police were not at liberty to inform the public about who they had questioned in relation to a case.

## Reports

Mamba further refuted reports that some police officers involved in the investigation of the case leaked CCTV video footage showing the killing of Gamedze.

"I have talked to the officers involved in the investigation and they say none of them leaked that video. As things stand, the person who leaked the video remains unknown," he said.

Conversely, the person who shot and killed Gamedze remains unknown.



# WOULD BE KILLED'



**TRAFFIC CONGESTION:** Traffic is becoming a nightmare on the street leading to Victor Gamedze's homestead in Mbabane. (Pic: Sisho Magagula)

the police headquarters in Mbabane to sign affidavits relating to threats that Gamedze had received.

"Before Christmas, we were called to the police headquarters to write affidavits regarding an article carried by a certain publication. The police had more information even before the incident

which they could have used to take swift action," Mamba stated.

He stressed that he was not complaining about the police but merely saying they should be responsible and take action on information provided to them.

"Now that this (assassination) has happened, we are saying the police should

use the information that was given to them in investigating the matter," Mamba added.

He said there were SMSes that Gamedze showed him and the police.

"We don't care who eventually pulled the trigger because those people were hired but we care about the information that the police have but are not using," he said. Contacted on the allegations Police mouthpiece Superintendent Khulani Mamba said in their files they have a matter that was reported by Gamedze to the police regarding a newspaper that has been shut down.

"It is unfortunate that I cannot go into details of what was reported but what I can tell you is that the police launched investigations. The police were still investigating the matter when Gamedze met his death," Mamba said briefly.

Gamedze was assassinated on Sunday at the Galp Filling Station at Ezulwini by an unknown man who was in the company of others. He was pronounced dead on arrival at MedSun Clinic.

He was from Somhlolo National Stadium where his team Mbabane Swallows played against Manzini Wanderers and won 1-0.



**PLAYERS:** Some of the Swallows players present including Sifiso Mabila, Sanele Mkheweli, Sizolwethu 'Nunu' Shabalala, Sandanezwe Mathabela and Sandile Hlatshwako.

## Free airtime, sim cards was a farewell - Ingatja

**By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini**

A heartbroken group of ingatja currently involved in the weeding of royal fields sent their condolences to the family of slain businessman Victor Gamedze yesterday.

The young regiments said it has dawned to them that the free sim cards and airtime they got from Gamedze's company, Swazi Mobile was a farewell gift from the businessman.

During the commissioning of ingatja by His Majesty King Mswati III to cut lusekwane Swazi Mobile distributed free sim cards and airtime to the young regiment.

The gesture cost the company over E200 000.

"Our take is that God wanted Gamedze to bid us farewell and sent him to give us the free airtime and sim cards because he knew he was going to take him away from us. We are sad to have lost someone who was an initiated member of

the regiments and someone who never forgot where he came from," said one ingatja with teary eyes.

Another said he felt for the family and the people employed in all of Gamedze's business ventures.

"The family and workers must come together and form a formidable force. They have a duty to ensure that the vision that Gamedze had lives on. The death of Gamedze left many of us *etihonweni* shattered," said another ingatja.



**TRAGIC:** An image from the CCTV video footage showing Gamedze's assassination.

## CCTV footage of Victor's execution gets 400 views on YouTube

**By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini**

**THE leaked CCTV footage of businessman Victor Gamedze being gunned down at a Galp Filling Station has made its way to YouTube.**

YouTube is known as an American video-sharing website which has its headquarters in San Bruno, California. This social media platform allows users to upload, view, rate, share, add to favourites, report, comment on videos, and subscribe to other users. By yesterday afternoon the video had over 400 views.

The last moments of the business mogul even though they were horrifying, were posted for everyone to see on YouTube.

Some members of the public were not happy with the video and pictures of Gamedze going viral as they stated that it is disturbing for the family and it will be traumatic for the deceased's children.

However, some had different views. A social media user explained

that the police might have leaked the video on purpose so that they can speed up investigations.

The user said when a video is leaked to the public there are high chances that someone might notice something that can help in identifying the suspects.

By yesterday, people who had access to the leaked video were already coming up with their own theories on who might be involved basing this on the people who were spotted on camera.

Some even went to the extent of pointing an accusing finger at the old man who was spotted closely following Gamedze and talking to him moments before he was gunned down. Most of those who watched the video on YouTube expressed shock on how such could happen in broad daylight.

Some Facebook users claimed that they have pictures of the suspects. Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba expressed disappointment over the leaked CCTV footage.

## CEO mourns Gamedze's death

**By Starsky Mkhonta  
Hlatikulu**

**"It's something I never believed and still do not believe that Victor's life has been taken in such a cruel manner."**

These were the words of Hlatikulu Chief Executive Officer Bongani Dlamini when reacting to the death of businessman Victor Gamedze. He said he had known Gamedze from a distance and saw him as someone who was still doing a lot for the country both in sports and in uplifting the country in as far as development was concerned.

"It's something I did not believe when I first saw the news circulating on social media. I then contacted a police officer I know on that Sunday who confirmed the sad news," Dlamini said.

Dlamini said even Hlatikulu was still looking forward to benefiting from the hardworking Gamedze.

"My condolences go to his family.

"I think the town board is still

to meet to pass its condolences to the family of the fallen giant," said the long serving CEO of Hlatikulu.

Former Shiselweni Regional Football Association long serving executive member Aaron Mhlanga also passed his condolences to the Gamedze family.

"It's a great loss not just for football but for all sectors.

"His death has touched many," Mhlanga said.

Mfeneziyamtfofa Magagula, the outspoken Hlatikulu resident said he was in pain and never believed at first when he heard about Gamedze's death.

"We feel sorry for the country's leaders as he was a person who was still to contribute to the country's Vision 2022.

"May all those behind this be caught and face the consequences for their actions. If things could be done my way, all those responsible would be apprehended and killed. They should not be spared as they did not spare Gamedze's life," Magagula said.





**COULDN'T MISS OUT:** Cabinet Ministers David Ngcamphalala, Owen Nxumalo and Mduduzi 'Small Joe' Dlamini were also at Mfabantfu.

## GASKET MANUFACTURES

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# WEEDING MFABANTU DAY 3



**KUNJALO MABUTFO:** Jubilant Emabutfo in song and dance as they go about their royal duties. This was during the third day of the Mfabantfu Royal Field weeding yesterday morning. Work continues at Nkembeni and Echibini Royal Fields this morning. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



**LOYAL:** Minister Prince Hlangusempi and Sandile Nxumalo are always available for royal duties.

**PRESENT:** Chief Mawandla Gamedze (third from right) with emajaha from Illovo Sugar were among the throngs of regiments who came through for the royal Duties.



## NOTICE

### WATER INTERRUPTION IN MATSAPHA

The Swaziland Water Services Corporation would like to notify its valued customers, business community and the public around Matsapha Industrial Site that there will be interruptions in water supply on Saturday, 20 January 2018 starting from 08:00am to 04:00pm.

The interruption will be caused by scheduled maintenance works of the water supply network that will be carried out along the Parmalat Junction. Areas that will be affected include Nokwane, Industrial Site, Chibini Royal Residence and surrounds.

The Corporation regrets any inconvenience that may be caused by the interruption.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Emtfonjeni Building, Corner MR 103  
and Cultural Village Drive, Ezulwini.  
Tel: 2416 9000, Fax: 2416 3616  
Visit: [www.swsc.co.sz](http://www.swsc.co.sz)



**ALWAYS THERE:** Chiefs Ndabakawombe, Scunusa and Sibonginkhosi lead by example as they frequent the royal assignments.



**ONE OF THEM:** Reverend Mhlanga was also spotted at the weeding of the royal fields.



**PHANSI:** Chief Jabhane was also among the many chiefs who reported for royal duty.

**IN NUMBERS:** A section of the throngs of regiments present on the day.





# MR VICTOR GAMEDZE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN



The Shareholders, Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Swazi Mobile Limited are shocked and saddened by the terrible events reported on the evening of the 14th January 2018 that led to the untimely passing of our Executive Chairman, Mr. Victor Gamedze.

A man who was passionate about the nation, business and soccer. His selflessness and visionary thinking transformed communities and he will remain a daily inspiration to us all. His legacy in different spheres will live on, well beyond the borders of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

During this trying time, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Their Majesties and the nation at large. Our thoughts and prayers will always be with his wife and children, Emalangeni, the entire Gamedze family, the football community, and the business sector in Swaziland.

Swazi Mobile Limited owes its origins to the aspirations and tenacity of the now late Mr. Victor Gamedze and for this the Shareholders, Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Swazi Mobile Limited will forever be grateful.

Swazi Mobile Limited will continue to connect, work and serve the Swazi nation.

*Rest in peace Madlenya*





## 6 NATIONAL NEWS

# SRA WORKERS RETURN TO WORK

By Sisho Magagula  
Mbabane

**AFTER** engaging in a strike action for over a month, employees of the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) returned to work yesterday.

All staffers were busy in their different workstations yesterday. The SRA headquarters in Mbabane, which had become very quiet in recent times, was a hive of activity yesterday as workers from different departments went about their respective duties.

The strike action was suspended by the Swaziland Revenue Authority Workers Union (SRAWU) after the intervention of the Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula last week.

The workers were demanding a 6.5 per cent salary raise on top of the 6.8 per cent that had already been offered by the authority.

SRAWU's Secretary General Moses Masilela, in a brief interview yesterday, confirmed that all staffers had returned to work. "All I can say is that we returned to work as agreed with our members over the weekend. Everything

● The strike action was suspended by the Swaziland Revenue Authority Worker's Union (SRAWU) after the intervention of the Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula last week.



**INTERVENED:** Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula.

has returned to normal.

That is all I can say," he said.

Worth noting is that a majority of members of the union who engaged in the strike returned to work with empty pockets.

This follows that they earned E0.00



**CONFIRMS:** SRAWU's Secretary General Moses Masilela.

this month after SRA effected the notorious 'no work, no pay' rule on all striking workers. The deal between management and the union is that the workers would return to work pending talks relating to the contentious matters which include housing allowances.

## SRA's Pigg's Peak branch was operational yesterday

By Sizwe Dlamini  
Pigg's Peak

**THE** Pigg's Peak branch of the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) was operational yesterday after temporarily ceasing operations since mid-December.

The branch was closed following SRA's employees strike over wages.

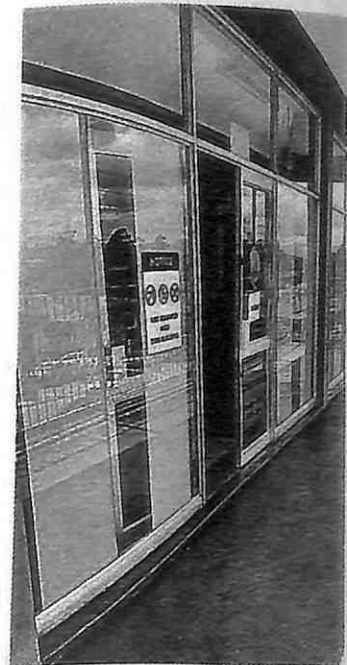
Speaking to this publication yesterday after finding SRA offices in Pigg's Peak open, members of the Pigg's Peak business community said they were happy to start balancing their books.

"I am happy that SRA is back in business, as a business owner, I often use January as the month to consolidate all my business accounts.

After doing that, I then see how much money I have to pay in taxes. I feel like it is better to pay taxes at the beginning of the year so that your business does not suffer any long term tax problems. When the SRA was not operational, I was worried that I will not get the chance to pay my taxes on time," said a business owner.

Another business owner said he approached the SRA building in Pigg's Peak around December only to find that the offices were closed.

"Unfortunately, I had originally planned to visit the SRA offices in Pigg's Peak during December, but due to the recent strike action, I



**WORKING DAY:** SRA's Pigg's Peak branch operational yesterday.

could not get any service now I hope that the strike action is over so that I can continue working as normal," he said. Meanwhile, when approached for comments the SRA's Pigg's Peak branch staff refused to comment on their decision to resume operations. They insisted we contact the head office in Mbabane for comments. On that note, SRA Director of Communications Vusi Dlamini advised that a questionnaire be sent to him so he give a response.

## GOVERNMENT BUYS FURNITURE FOR 148 NEW CLASSES



### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### BUDGET OR FINANCIAL ESTIMATES FOR 2018/2019 FINANCIAL YEAR

Notice is hereby given that the Council has passed the Budget or Financial Estimates for 2018/2019 Financial Year, as stipulated under Section 91 (2) of the Urban Government Act, No. 8 of 1969.

The estimates are now open for inspection by the public free of charge, between 8:00 am and 4:45 pm, for a period of 7 days with effect from 17<sup>th</sup> January till Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018, at the Town Council offices.

**STHEMBILE SIMELANE**  
TOWN CLERK / CEO

Stories by Nozipho Sibiya  
Mbabane

**MINISTER** of education and training Phineas Magagula says all systems are in place for the schools opening next week.

Schools using the government calendar will be opening next Tuesday.

In a telephonic interview yesterday, the minister confirmed that furniture for the 148 newly built classes was readily available.

He advised school principals to do a requisition with their Regional Education Offices (REO).

Magagula said principals should make

it their responsibility to approach the REO and request for furniture. "The furniture is readily available it is a matter of principals approaching the REO office and placing their requisition," he said.

The ministry of education built 148 classes for both primary and secondary school levels.

He said they had realised that the number of primary school pupils was increasing with each year and something had to be done to absorb them.

The minister added that when building the classes, quite a number of factors were considered including the population in that region.

Following the introduction of the Free Primary Education (FPE) programme the enrolment at primary level increased resulting in classes at secondary level being overcrowded.

He said the ministry conducted a needs assessment study to address the issue of the increasing enrolment at primary and it was concluded and recommended that more classes in different secondary schools be constructed, including the establishment of new secondary schools all together.

Magagula said following this assessment and recommendations, government built new classrooms in the four regions of the country.

## 'Zondle' also available for schools' opening

**MINISTER** of Education and Training Phineas Magagula said the schools' feeding scheme, commonly known as 'zondle' will be available as soon schools open.

The minister said the feeding scheme programme had been budgeted for by government and as soon as schools open, the ministry will start with the distributions.

Magagula said because someone has to sign for the food parcels upon delivery, the distribution will not take place while schools are closed instead it will commence when the term begins next

week. "The food should be received by someone who will sign and acknowledge that it has been received," he said.

He further mentioned the available food includes maize meal, rice, beans and other necessities that constitute 'zondle'. He said parents and teachers should not panic as the ministry has made sure that food is available to all schools benefiting under the programme.

He further reminded the media that in the 'Zondle' programme they work with National Emergency Response Council on HIV and AIDS (NER-

CHA). "Thus far they have not reported anything that may hinder the delivery of food at schools," he said.

He said teachers in the meantime can use leftovers for the first day of school. "Trucks will deliver food on the first day and head teachers have been made aware of this development," he stated. Meanwhile, the minister said for Free Primary Education (FPE) money, principals should check with the treasury department. "I am also going to make a follow up in order to know if the cheques are readily available," he said.





# MANZINI NEWS

Swazi Observer, Wednesday January 17, 2018

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



## MAYOR'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

**THE** mayor and councillors of Manzini would like to thank residents and ratepayers for assisting in ensuring that we had a safe festive season in Manzini. As the year begins, the Council would like to encourage residents to continue to work with us to ensure that the programmes scheduled for 2017/18 are successfully implemented before March. All the Council's programmes are dependent on stakeholder input, residents are encouraged to participate by engaging through the platforms provided – including contacting your councillors, utilising the toll free line, commenting on social media pages etc.

We would also like to express our pride in the performance of the schools in the Manzini area. Good students will mature into good citizens, therefore we are grateful to the school staff, the parents and the students themselves for performing so well and shining the light on the education sector in Manzini. Students that perform well in school are less likely to commit crime and participate in substance abuse. We would like to congratulate Manzini Central Practising School in particular for out performing all the schools in Swaziland. We would like to encourage those that did not perform well to keep studying and not be discouraged. Have a safe and happy 2018

### Participate to Help Prioritise:

Road Infrastructure is a key activity of the Council's Service Delivery Plan. Resident access to roads impacts their access to emergency

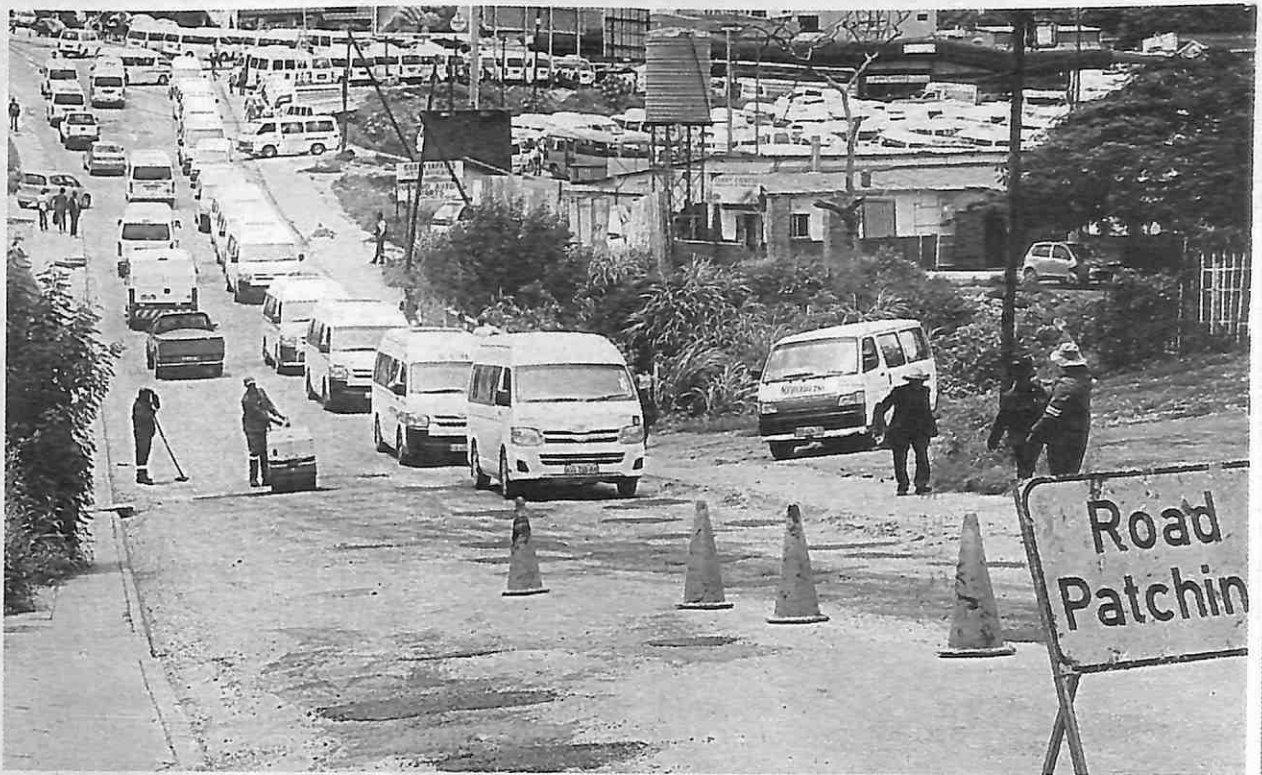
services, refuse collection and their safety in general. Road infrastructure has an impact on the economy - good roads make for good economic activity, moving of goods, and ease of access to markets etc. The Council strives to provide her residents and business people with world class infrastructure. Road upgrading and rehabilitation is a vital part of the Council's annual activities.

Road rehabilitation and upgrading is done through a priority list developed by the Council's experts and residents. Residents submit their infrastructure needs the Council develops its Integrated development Plan (IDP).

### Infrastructure

Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the upcoming IDP ward meetings to submit their infrastructure needs so that their needs are reflected in the long term plans of the Council.

The Council is continuing to address road maintenance needs. Following the heavy rains, a number of roads were severely affected- namely Meintjies Road leading out of the main bus rank and Stanley Road in Ngwane Park. The Council is pleased to report that Meintjies Road has been attended to. The potholes were filled Friday and work on Stanley Road has begun. Residents should be aware that the process of filling potholes requires that first they be filled with gravel then followed by bitumen after the gravel is compacted. Therefore the gravel filled potholes in Stanley are the first phase before they are filled with bitumen.



**COOPERATION:** Public transport officials cooperate in using one lane while the patching team proceeds.



**PATCHING:** Patching of potholes at the bus rank.



**KEEP IT CLEAN:** The removal of overgrowth in the CBD continues.



**PROGRESSING:** Road markings in progress along Mhlakuvane Street (Opposite the Manzini Market)



**PHASE 1:** The first phase of patching at Stanley Street in Ngwane Park



**JOB WELL DONE:** Road markings completed along Ngwane Street together with the parking bay.





## PRESS STATEMENT

# Condolences



### *Mr. Victor Gamedze*

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade together with the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA) wish to convey condolences to the Gamedze Family, relatives and close friends on the demise of businessman **Mr. Victor Gamedze** who has played a significant role in the development of the local business in particular the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) sector in the country. The Ministry and all stakeholders in the business sector have suffered a huge loss. His achievements will be remembered and will serve as an anchor to the success of many businesses in Swaziland. May His Soul Rest in Peace.

Honourable Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade



# FATAL ACCIDENT BUS DRIVER APPEARS IN COURT

By Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

DAVID Dlamini (55), the driver for Tit For Tat Bus Service yesterday made his first court appearance before the Magistrate's Court.

The bus he drove was involved in a fatal accident along the Lonhlopheko-Manzini road last November. One passenger died while undergoing treatment at Mbabane Government Hospital while about 20 others were admitted to various hospitals after sustaining serious injuries. The driver was amongst those who were admitted for several days at the hospital as he also sustained injuries. Appearing before Senior Magistrate Donald Mavuso yesterday, Dlamini faced a charge of culpable homicide.

He is said to have wrongfully and unlawfully driven the motor vehicle in a negligent,



**MATTER IN COURT:** At least 10 passengers were left lying critical in hospital after a bus they were travelling in veered off the road and ran through the bushes.

subsequently losing control of it when it went off the roadway before ramming into a ditch. Particulars of the offence include that the accused person failed to apply brakes timeously to avoid the accident from occurring. He is said to have been driving at a high speed and without due care.

The accused person repre-

sented himself before the court. Prosecutor Thobile Motsa told the court that the accused person was not held in custody due to his injuries. She applied for a date for commencement of the trial.

The matter was then adjourned and ordered to return to court on February 20 for commencement of the trial.

## Suspect wanted for attempted murder

By Nozipho Sibiba  
Mbabane

THE Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) are searching for a 29-year-old man who is wanted for attempted murder and housebreaking crimes that occurred last year.

According to Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Khulani Mamba, a warrant of arrest has been issued against Vusi Mahlasela Ntimane of Siteki in the Lubombo Region. Mamba said the suspect is wanted for shooting a man in Siteki last Thursday.

"The victim was shot in the leg once and was taken to the hospital where he was treated and released," Mamba said.



**NTIMANE**  
Given name: **VUSI MAHLASELA**  
Nationality: **SWAZI**  
Date of birth: **29 NOV / NOV 1988**  
Sex: **M** Place of birth: **SITEKI**  
Date of issue: **25 MAY / MAI 2015**  
Date of expiry: **24 MAY / MAI 2025**

**WANTED:** Vusi Mahlasela Ntimane who is wanted for attempted murder and housebreaking.

However, he said the cause of argument between the victim and the suspect is still unknown.

### Appear

On the other hand, Ntimane was supposed to appear in court for cases of housebreaking he committed in 2017 around Siteki but never showed up in court.

"He failed to appear in court and a warrant of arrest for contempt of court has been issued," Mamba said.

Mamba requested anyone who may have any information that may lead to the arrest of the suspect to contact the Siteki Police or call 999 for emergency.



## Public Service Pensions Fund

**PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND**

P.O. BOX 4469, MBABANE

Tel: 2411 9000 / Fax: 2404 2712

TOLL FREE: 800 2401

[www.pspf.co.sz](http://www.pspf.co.sz)

email: [info@pspf.co.sz](mailto:info@pspf.co.sz)



/PSPFswaziland



@PSPF\_Swaziland

## PUBLIC NOTICE / SATISO

### PENSIONERS ANNUITY DISTRIBUTION BY PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION FUND

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

Lihovisi letemhlala phansi (PSPF) licele tihlobo tanaba labalandzelako lebebahola imali yemhlalaphansi kutsi tivele emahhovisi aka Pesheni ngalamalanga netikhatsi letilandzelako.

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

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

#### MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2018

VENUE: MBABANE HEAD OFFICE, INGCAMU BUILDING.

Name of Deceased	Pension. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Simelane Mbalekelwa A.	2017521	05.12.2017	09h00
2. Masilela Antony Madukuza	28359	19.11.2017	09h30
3. Shongwe Mary Siphwe	219964	28.11.2017	10h00
4. Mashaba Nelson Bhungwane	35763	20.10.2017	10h30
5. Mavuso Amos Viki	562702	14.12.2017	11h00
6. Mngomezulu Thelma Lillian	58289	15.11.2017	11h30
7. Dlamini Andreas Mhlabunzima	28650	04.04.2003	12h00

#### TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2018

VENUE: Nhlangu. FNB Building

Name of Deceased	Pension. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Thwala Patricia Hlelephi	211726	08.12.2017	10h30
2. Dlamini Titus Songolwako	216932	18.11.2015	11h00

#### WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 2018

VENUE: SITEKI EVUKUZENZELE BUILDING

Name of Deceased	Pension. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Dlamini Simon Dingizwe	31705	22.11.2017	10h30
2. Sibiba-Dlamini Busisiwe N.	26111	21.11.2017	11h00
3. Msibi Nicholas Mduna	267847	29.11.2017	11h30
4. Lukhele Richman M.	4439192	30.11.2017	12h00

#### THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2018

VENUE: MBABANE HEAD OFFICE, INGCAMU BUILDING.

Name of Deceased	Pension. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Phungwanyo Simon Vivian	57184	14.11.2017	09h00
2. Khumalo James Mfanzile	3044133	10.11.2017	09h30
3. Khumalo Amorie Mphiwa	5019371	15.11.2017	10h00
4. Nyamane Wilton Nkosiyani	29030	20.11.2017	10h30
5. Mziyako Amos Mncina	4067694	19.12.2017	11h00
6. Magagula David S.	57960	24.12.2017	11h30
7. Dube Michael Fanyana	2034708	22.12.2017	12h00

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

## CONGRATULATIONS! to all Shareholders

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each time you recharge

This Lifetime Offer Starts  
From 15th January 2018

Dial **\*202#** to check your bonus

Prepaid: 10% bonus every time you load airtime  
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This offer is valid for customers who have qualified for the Swazi Mobile Share Offer program and have submitted the required personal documents.

Terms & Conditions Apply  
For more information 980 (from Swazi Mobile) or 7979 0101  
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**swazi  
mobile**



## 10 NATIONAL NEWS

## Vendors attack, assault thief at market place

By Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

A petty thief who attempted to play smart with an airtime vendor by robbing her of her money got a thorough beating from other vendors operating at the Siteki Market.

People in the town centre were drawn to the market place when a woman operating various businesses at the market attacked a man who was claimed to have robbed a physically challenged airtime vendor.

The man is said to have approached

the woman who provides the Mobile Money service and asked her to transfer some money into his cell number.

While in the process of transferring the money, the man is said to have kept on exchanging a E200 note which he intended to pay with.

According to one of the vendors, Thobile Dlamini, the man would give the said amount to the vendor, and later on ask her to give back the E200 note, saying he would now give her various notes amounting to the same amount.

He repeated this stunt for several times, confusing the vendor in the process. He is said to have eventually left with about

E300 cash plus the amount she loaded into his cell number.

The airtime vendor discovered that she had just been robbed a few moments after the man had left. She raised an alarm which prompted a swift response from other vendors in the market.

The women ran after the man who was about to board a bus at the bus rank. Some conductors are said to have assisted the women in apprehending the man before giving him a thorough beating. An off-duty police officer who was at the market running his own errands swiftly intervened and took the man to the police station.



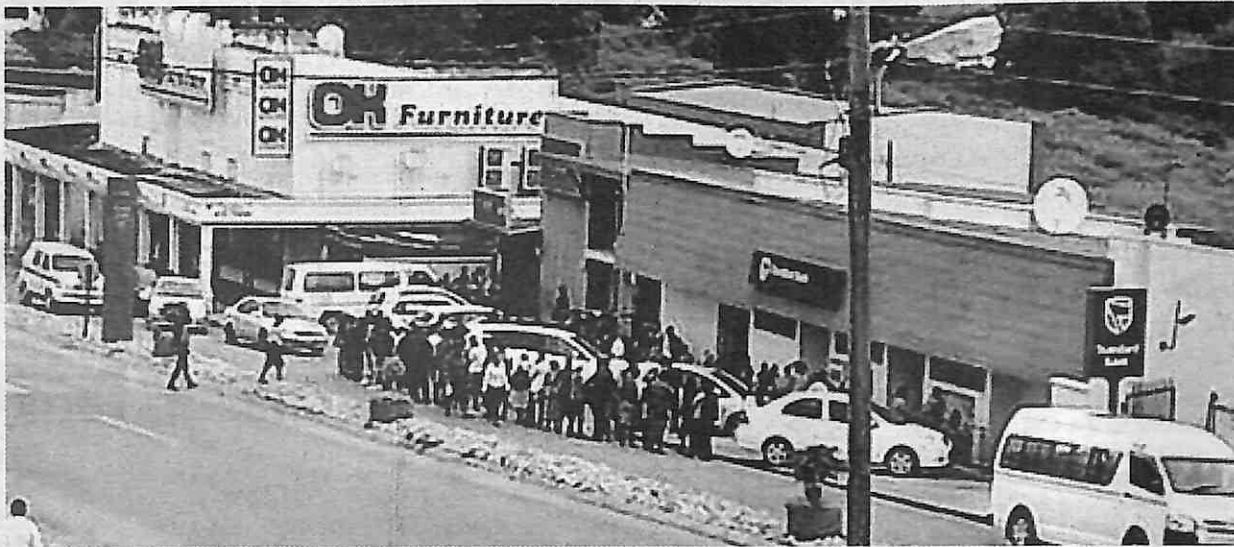
**BUSINESS AS USUAL:** Some of the vendors going about their work at the market place yesterday.

The vendor who was robbed, Rose Masilela stated that it was not the first time that the same man had robbed her.

She stated that however on the previous instance, she could not understand what had really hap-

pened when the man came to buy Mobile Money from her.

"I lost about the same amount even the last time he came to buy Mobile Money from me, but I just could not figure out what happened exactly," said Masilela.



## COPS SET-UP TENT TO PROTECT STANDARD BANK CUSTOMERS

By Sizwe Dlamini  
Pigg's Peak

**YESTERDAY**, Standard Bank Pigg's Peak branch was swamped by hundreds of parents and pupils who had come to pay school fees.

The queue saw the need for Pigg's Peak police to set up a tent in front of the bank so as to protect customers from criminals who were also on the prowl to steal money and other items.

Speaking to this publication, one of the managers at the bank who preferred anonymity said close to 2 000 clients had been assisted before 12:00 hours.

"Queues with long lines are a common occurrence here in Pigg's Peak, as members of the public are quick to secure places for their children in the various top performing schools around Northern Hhohho.

One of the parents even told me that



**PROTECTED:** Hundreds lined up outside Standard Bank Pigg's Peak to pay school fees yesterday.

the school where she wanted a place for her daughter was already full for 2018 meaning that the affected parent had to take her child to another school," he said.

The manager added that since morning there was a long queue of customers

adding that it continued to grow in size.

"We are trying our very best to assist as many people as possible, also we would like to thank the Pigg's Peak Police Anti-Crime Unit for stationing outside the bank to protect all our clients from criminals," said the manager.

## Owing UNISWA students have until Friday to pay up

By Tandzile Vilakati  
Mbabane

**THE University of Swaziland (UNISWA) has called upon all students who still owe fees to settle their accounts with the institution soon.**

A statement released by the UNISWA Registrar Dr. Salebona Simelane reads; "It is advised that students who owe University fees should settle their accounts with immediate effect".

The registrar added in an interview that this refers to students who not only owe fees from the first semester but also those who owe any previous fees to the university.

"We are reminding students who owe the university to pay up. This refers to fees from the first semester backwards and does not refer to the fees due for the oncoming second semester," he said.

The statement released by the uni-

versity further emphasised that failure to settle outstanding fees by Friday, January 19, "shall force the university to apply the appropriate academic general regulations."

When asked on the issue of the release of first semester results, Simelane said there is still no definite date that has been agreed upon on the release of results.

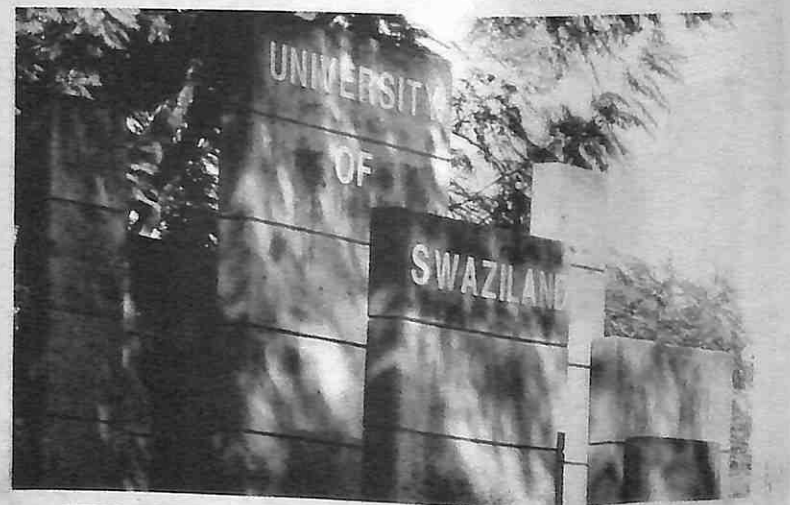
"We hope the senate will consider the results this week, only after such a meeting can it be determined when results can be released," he said.

The release of first semester results is closely followed by the commencement of the second semester.

"The commencement of classes is determined by the release of results, followed by the registering of students and only then can classes start," said Simelane.

Simelane added that the university is hopeful that classes would start on the last week of January.

"We hoping that classes will resume on January 29,"



## Swaziland Shopping was a mistake - Minister

By Mbono Mdluli  
Mbabane

**MINISTER for Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Dumisani Ndlangamandla said the continued operation of Swaziland Shopping was an irregularity.**

Ndlangamandla, when called on the matter, said all he knew was that the newspaper was closed because the registration requirements were never met. He said the newspaper should not have been allowed to operate without a licence.

"The operation of the newspaper with-

out a licence was an irregularity," Ndlangamandla said.

When asked if the newspaper would be allowed to operate after meeting the requirements, the minister simply said the ministry had officials whose job it was to issue newspaper licences.

He pleaded with those concerned to give the licencing officials a chance to do their job because they knew it better than anyone.

He did not want to commit himself any further on the issue, in fear of being seen as someone who interfered on their job. "We do not want government to be seen as interfering in the job done



by the officials," he said.

The minister said he never, at any point in time spoke to the editor of the closed newspaper Martin Dlamini on the issue of the newspaper.

This comes after Dlamini alleged that he was alerted by the minister on the pending closure on instructions from above.

"He once made an appointment with me. He wanted to talk about a different story, but unfortunately, I got engaged in other duties on the day we were supposed to meet," the minister said. They had to shift their appointment to another day and unfortunately, the issue of the newspaper ensued.

Dlamini's publication was shut down in December after the ministry revealed that he had failed to comply with the Books and Newspaper Act No.20 of 1963. After the closure of the publication,

Dlamini reportedly fled to South Africa fearing arrest as he claimed there was a warrant for his arrest.

The newspaper was closed despite the fact that a sum of E15 000 was paid to the ministry of ICT when the licence application for the newspaper was made by Editor Zweli Martin Dlamini.

However, Ministry of ICT Principal Secretary Bhethemba Gama explained, in an article printed by this newspaper last month, that the E15 000 was a pre-requisite when applying and payment of it did not necessarily mean automatic registration hence in the event one's application was unsuccessful the payment was reversed.



# IT IS GOOD TO BE CRITICISED - JAN

By Sisho Magagula  
Mbabane

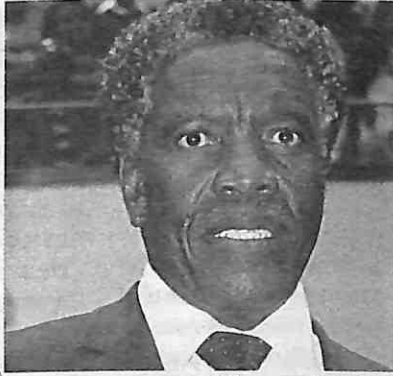
**AFTER** being roasted on social media over the weekend, Manzini North Member of Parliament (MP) Jan Sithole has responded by saying he is content with being criticised because he holds a leadership position.

Sithole was subjected to criticism on popular social networking site Facebook where he was accused of failing to formulate policies to bring democratic changes to the country.

He said people were free to express their opinions even though he felt some opinions do not deserve to be responded to.

"Some opinions expressed sometimes do not deserve to be responded to as some have the audacity to intentionally be naughty and deliberately mischievous.

Being criticised is part of the deal for leadership and public officers and I like it as it complements accountability and



transparency as part of democratic traits," he said.

The lawmaker said some opinions are made out of lack of information.

"That too is healthy for an environment that advocates for enjoyment of the freedom of expression and opinion. However, over time, some opinions and conclusions are baseless and sometimes not or sometimes they cannot be substantiated but still it is good to hear them.

I use such opinions and criticisms as a tool to assess opinions which people have and I pick the positives and improve

from there," he said.

Sithole stated that as a democrat and a human rights defender, he is a firm believer in freedom of expression and opinion and he encourages people to use this right as freely as they can.

"I, therefore, am not perturbed if people express opinions including perceptions about me as a public figure. Since time immemorial, I have thrived and improve on criticism I get from commentators.

It is also important to mention that unless one is a member of an organisation political or otherwise, they will not be privy to the strategy, work plan, tactics and priorities of that organisation and opinions and perceptions formulated without these internal insights could be premised on wrong benchmarks.

However, all forms of opinions and criticism are good to have and good to hear because any such opinions still add value to the criticised person and/or organisation," he said.

## Man arrested for stealing dad's booze

By Sisho Magagula  
Mbabane

**A man has been arrested for stealing alcoholic beverages belonging to his father.**

Sifiso Mhlabane broke into his father's apartment at Ntfontjane flats in Mbabane on Sunday and stole three bottles of expensive whiskey valued at close to E1 000.

He stole a bottle of Jameson, Chivas Regal and Black Label. Mhlabane also took his father's camera and a Samsung mobile phone before vacating the flat.

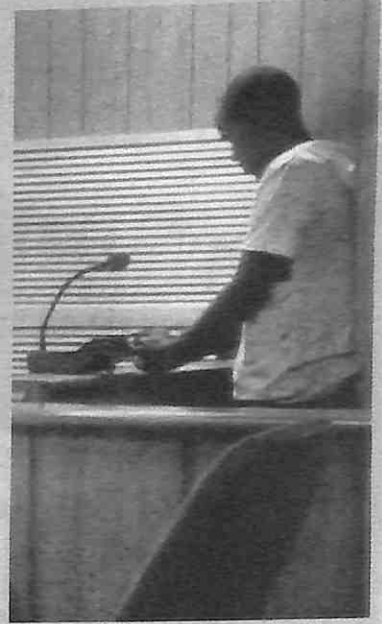
Upon return to his flat in the evening, his father, Mandlenkosi Mhlabane was surprised to notice that his booze and other items were missing from the house. He enquired from neighbours who informed him that they had seen his son entering the house earlier in the day and leaving later in a haste carrying a plastic bag.

He reported to the matter to the police who responded swiftly and commenced intensive investigations. The investigations led the police to Mhlabane's son.

He was arrested later in the evening in town after he had passed out. Yesterday, he appeared before Magistrate Lenhle Zulu on charge of house breaking with intent to steal. All the items he stole are worth E3 800.

When his rights to legal representation were read to him, he opted to conduct his own defence. He pleaded guilty to the charge and informed the court that he was drunk when he committed the offence was not thinking straight. "I regret what I did. I was drunk on the day and was not thinking properly.

"I went to see my father but only to find that he was not in the house and it was not locked. I entered the house and stole his



**BOOZE THIEF: Sifiso Gadaffi Mhlabane captured in the accused dock yesterday. (Pic Sisho Magagula)**

alcohol. The police arrested me in town after I had passed out," he said.

He pleaded with the court to be lenient with him.

"Where is the phone now," the presiding officer enquired. Mhlabane said the gadgets were with the police.

Magistrate Zulu also asked where the alcohol was.

"I drank all of it," said the accused person.

This seemed to surprise the Magistrate who wondered how one person could drink three bottles of different whiskey brands.

"You drank all that? You were a big shot in town and entertaining your friends with your father's drinks," said the Magistrate.

Magistrate Zulu warned Mhlabane against alcohol abuse since he was still relatively young.

He was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment.

## Swazi, Tanzanian nabbed with E100 000 dagga

By Nozipho Sibiyi  
Mbabane

**A Tanzanian and a Swazi were arrested by Bhunya Police after they were found with dagga weighing 124.25kg with a street value of close to E100 000.**

According to a press release by the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP), the two suspects were found in possession of dagga without a permit while driving a Toyota Run X at Mhlabubovu.

The Swazi has only been identified as a man from Hlatikulu. Their names will only be revealed once they have appeared before a Magistrate.

"On Sunday at 2200 hours Bhunya police arrested and charged a 27-year-old man of Hlatikulu and a 31-year-old Tanzanian man for being found in possession of dagga weighing 124.25kg with the street value of E99 400 while driving a Toyota RunX at Mhlabubovu,"

said Mamba.

Meanwhile, a man of Mbabane lost his life when a truck lost control and collided with the car he was driving.

The accident that claimed one life happened near C4 along UP 13 Bhunya/Mgotshane gravel Road. The sources said a Nissan diesel truck lost control and collided with a Toyota Corolla.

### Matter

"The matter was attended by Bhunya Police and the driver of the Corolla and his passenger were taken to Mankayane Hospital," alleged the source.

When sought for comment, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the matter.

The accident happened at 10:30 near C4 along UP 13 Bhunya/Motshane gravel Road.

"A Nissan diesel truck driven by a 34-year-old man of Mantabeni lost control



and collided with a Toyota Corolla driven by a 26-year-old man of Mbabane," he said. Mamba said the driver of the Toyota Corolla was certified dead at Mankayane Government Hospital.

"While a female passenger of Siteki was seriously injured and admitted at Mankayane Government Hospital," said Mamba.

The passenger was travelling in the Toyota Corolla.

## Sex with 13-year-old lands man in jail

By Sisho Magagula  
Mbabane

**A 21-year-old man has been arrested for having sex with a 13-year-old girl at SOS Children's Village in Mbabane.**

Mduduzi Michael Zulu of Manzana was arrested by police officers from the Mbabane Police Station on Monday. He appeared before the Mbabane Magistrate's Court yesterday charged with contravening section 3(1) of the Girls and Women's Protection Act of 1920. The identity of the victim has been deliberately withheld because she is a minor.

According to the charge sheet, Zulu did on January 2, wrongfully and unlawfully have sexual intercourse with the 13-year-old girl.

In terms of the law, a girl under the age of 16 is not capable of consenting to any sexual activity. The prosecution applied that the accused person be remanded into custody until next week.

In another matter, a man has been fined E1 500 for driving recklessly and crashing into a Nissan X-trail vehicle at the Engene traffic lights in Mbabane. Sandile Penuel Shabangu was also charged with failing to stop at a red traffic light.

He was further slapped with a contempt of court charge after he failed to appear in court on Monday. He pleaded guilty to all the counts.

On the contempt of court charge, he pleaded with the court to be lenient with him and said he thought he was supposed to appear at the Swazi National Court on Monday.

"When I arrived there, I discovered that my matter was not on the roll there. I then went to the Mbabane Police Station where I was advised to appear before this court.

"When I arrived here at around noon, I found that the warrant for my arrest had already been issued," he said. He also apologised for committing the other offences and said he had pledged to fix the X-trail that he wrecked.

"I also plead with the court to be lenient with me because I am currently unemployed after my contract was not renewed last December. I am currently very broke yet I still have to fix both cars, mine and the X-trail," he said.

He was sentenced to two months imprisonment in respect of the first count or E200 fine. On the second count, he was sentenced to eight months or E800 and on the third count, he was fined E500 or five months.

### LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licensing Board will hold its sitting to hear the following applications at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Conference Room on the **1ST FEBRUARY 2018** starting at **09.00am**.

#### Region MANZINI

1. **SANELE DLAMINI**, P. O. Box 1933 **MATSAPHA, RENEWAL / TRANSFER** of a **BOTTLE STORE** Liquor Licence situated at **FARM 523 SIDVOKODVO** known as **TOPS AT NKONYENI BOTTLE STORE**.

Any person who wishes to lodge an objection to the above-mentioned application may do so with the Secretary of the Liquor Licensing Board in writing, sending a copy to the applicant by registered mail to reach him/her at least ten days before the sitting of the Board.

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD  
P.O. BOX 451  
MBABANE

### LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licensing Board will hold its sitting to hear the following applications at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Conference Room on the **1ST FEBRUARY 2018** starting at **09.00am**.

#### Region MANZINI

1. **SANELE DLAMINI**, P. O. Box 1933 **MATSAPHA, RENEWAL / TRANSFER** of a **WINE & MALT** Liquor Licence situated at **FARM 523 SIDVOKODVO** known as **SHISANYAMA AT NKONYENI (WINE & MALT)**.

Any person who wishes to lodge an objection to the above-mentioned application may do so with the Secretary of the Liquor Licensing Board in writing, sending a copy to the applicant by registered mail to reach him/her at least ten days before the sitting of the Board.

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD  
P.O. BOX 451  
MBABANE



## 12 NATIONAL NEWS

# STA-HOSTED UK TRAVEL WRITER INTRIGUED BY SD

By Nomthandazo Nkambule  
Mbabane

THE Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA) last week hosted in the country renowned travel writer and public relations consultant from the United Kingdom, Bex Knight, who was in the company of her fiancé Ryan Gregory.

Speaking to local media at Mantenga Cultural Village last week Thursday, Knight described her visit to Swaziland as greatly eye-opening and vowed to return in the near future.

"It is amazing to find so much going on in such a small country.

Swaziland has been a delightful revelation," Knight said.

She revealed that she had visited other African destination before, and proclaimed that Swaziland had become her instant favourite mainly because of her landscape as well as incredible integration of modernity with traditional Swazi lifestyle. Knight described her visit to Gome Rural, at Malkerns, as the highlight of her trip and said it was quite gratifying to discover how the project was benefiting Swazi women.

She revealed that she writes travel press releases to a database that has about 500 journalists from all over the world.

"I'm also looking into sending a travel journalist to cover the 50/50 celebrations," she said. Ryan, who was in Africa for his very

first time, could not hide his awe following his 'great discovery'. He described Swaziland as amazingly beautiful and said Swazis had "an aura of friendliness".

He said he looked forward visiting again in the near future.

As part of their itinerary, Bex and Ryan visited Summerfield Botanical Gardens for a brief overview of the establishment, where they met and conversed with owner John Carmichael. They also drove up to Malolotja Nature Reserve where they experienced the unique thrill of the Tree Top Canopy Tour, gliding through the forest deep within the mountain and wilderness. They also visited Ngwenya Glass where they watched glass blowers turn recycled glass into beautiful works of art.

### Visited

Other places they visited include Malandela's Farm House Restaurant, Swazi Candles, and Mkhaya Game Reserve.

Meanwhile, STA Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini said the organisation was ecstatic to be hosting a travel writer of Bex's calibre, and said they were confident her writings would promote Swaziland as a must-see destination.

"Knight's visit comes right on the heels of yet another educational trip for British destination promoters John Hale and George Vernon-Hunt, signifying how intense we have taken into marketing our destination across all leading international media platforms," Dlamini said.



## CONDOLENCES



The Swaziland Communications Commission is profoundly saddened by the untimely passing of the Chairman of Swazi Mobile LTD, **Mr. Victor Gamedze**.

The Board of Directors, Management and staff of Swaziland Communications Commission would like to express their deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences.

**Rest in Peace Madlenya**

Doc 15477



Central Government Stores

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF COMMON USE ITEMS FOR 2018/19

## ADDENDUM

The Government Central Stores notifies all suppliers of an additional requirement to Annex A, Form A7 of the prequalification document of the contract to Pre-qualify for the Provision of Common Used tenders for 2018/2019:

- Submission of a Police Clearance for all Company Directors.

The requirement should be submitted by the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018, before 16:00 hrs at the Central Government Stores. Failure to adhere to the above will result to disqualification.

For further information contact The Controller of Government Stores Box 48 Mbabane / 2404 2171 or [mohammedf@gov.sz](mailto:mohammedf@gov.sz)



## INVITATION TO TENDER

Invitation to Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies for ICU / Renal

Tender Reference No.8 of 2018/2019

The Ministry of Health now invites sealed Tenders for the supply and delivery of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies for Intensive Care Unit (ICU) / Renal.

Tenders must be accompanied by a receipt for E 300 (three hundred) which should be paid at Swaziland Revenue Office; account number is 451-2101-21990. Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope.

The Outer envelope must be marked as follows:

"The Secretary to the Tender Board  
Treasury Building  
P.O. Box 38  
MBABANE"

The Envelope must be clearly marked with the following words; "Ministry of Health, Tender No.8 of 2018/2019 for Supply and delivery of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies for Intensive Care Unit (ICU) / Renal" Do not open before Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018 9.00 am"

Tenders must be delivered to the offices of Tender Board, Treasury Building, P.O. Box 38, Mbabane, Swaziland, by Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018 at 9.00 am and deposited in the Treasury Tender Box.

Tenders received in time by the date and time for submission will be opened at the Treasury Building immediately after 9.00 am on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018. Late, telegraphic, electronic and faxed tenders will not be considered. Tenderers or their Representative may attend the opening procedure.

The documents specified in the Instructions to Tenderers including the copy of current Tax Clearance Certificates, Trading Licence, Form J, Form C, Labour Compliance Certificate for local Tenders, Swaziland National Provident Fund (SNPF) Employers Compliance Clearance Certification for local Tenderers and Tender Security of E10 000 must be enclosed in an envelope and be attached to the tender.

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

For further information and collection of tender documents contact the Principal Procurement Officer, at the Central Medical Stores, Plot 77, King Mswati 111 Avenue, Matsapha Industrial Estate, Matsapha, Swaziland. Telephone No: 25184111 / 25184496 / 25184373. Send your request for a soft copy of the bidding document to [procurement.swazihealth@gmail.com](mailto:procurement.swazihealth@gmail.com) copy [snccedile@gmail.com](mailto:snccedile@gmail.com)





**DEVASTATED:** Barcelona Sibandze who is Chairman of the Mbabane Swallows, Nhlanguano branch. (c) Samkeliso Dlamini who happened to be at the scene when Victor Gamedze was gunned down. (far left) Samson Nhlengetfwa.

# VICTOR'S DEATH LEAVES SHISELWENI FOLKS DEVASTATED

By Starsky Mkhonta  
Nhlanguano

**THE untimely death of businessman Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze has been described by Shiselweni residents as a great loss not just to his family and relatives, but to the whole country.**

The Mbabane Swallows boss and Swazi Mobile Chairman was assassinated on Sunday near Galp Filling Station at Ezulwini.

The region's folks said it was shocking to learn about the celebrated football administrator and successful businessman's death.

Mbabane Swallows Chairperson of the Nhlanguano branch Barcelona Sibandze, a merchandiser said he could not believe the news as he had seen Gamedze earlier on the day he met his demise.

Sibandze said he learnt about Gamedze's death while returning after watching the quarter-finals at Somhlolo Stadium where Swallows played Manzini Wanderers.

"He was seated in the VIP box with other dignitaries. It was while we were on our way back to Nhlanguano when I received a call from a police officer I know informing me about the sad news.

It was hard to believe but another caller called and alerted me with same. I trembled and the other people I was with in the kombi were also devastated," said Sibandze.

Sibandze said Gamedze was almost like a brother to him as each time he had problems especially on anything to do with the branch, the late Gamedze always came up with solutions.

"Just not long ago, Swallows had to travel to Botswana and I was interested in accompanying the team but the challenge I had was getting a travel document.

I alerted one of the officials

who in turn notified Gamedze about the dilemma I was in. He (Gamedze) made arrangements for me and I was able to get the travel document which enabled me to travel to Botswana. He was one person who availed himself even when one was hopeless and he helped them to get strong. I can't even cope with work right now because of his death," said Sibandze who was found at work in Spar.

Samkeliso Dlamini, one of the Managers at Nhlanguano Spar, who also happened to be at the scene when Gamedze was gunned down said he was still haunted by what he saw.

A Mbabane Swallows die hard, Dlamini said he had also gone to watch his favourite club on Sunday and also proceeded to Ezulwini after the game.

He said he happened to see Gamedze next to the filling station and never thought a terrible thing would happen to him.

## Seated

"I saw him at Somhlolo and he was seated with other VIPs. Again, just when I got to Ezulwini I saw him and never thought anything bad would happen to him.

I was a few metres away when all of a sudden he was attacked and in a split second he was down and then the gunman who had shot him with two bullets was seen running to an already moving vehicle and it sped off with him.

I could not believe what I was seeing.

I still don't feel well as this happened right in front of me. It's a sad scenario that I won't easily forget.

Gamedze's passing is a loss to the whole country in general," said Dlamini.

Samson Nhlengetfwa, one of the security guards at the Spar entrance who has been praised by customers for being professional in the way he treats customers said he had never seen Gamedze in person other than seeing his pictures in the

newspapers but his death also left him shocked.

"The fact that I never had a chance to come across him, it's not important but because he was popular, I was also left devastated when I learned that he was no more. He was a giant who we looked up to in contributing and shaping the country's economy. The whole country has lost a great man," said Nhlengetfwa who wore a sorrowful look.

## Shocked

Sifiso Kunene, a businessman in the transport industry who owns kombis said he only heard about the death of Gamedze on Monday morning.

He said he never believed it when he read newspapers stating that he has passed on. "My wife (LaDlamini) used to go to the same school with Victor. She is also shocked and she recalled their years when they were pupils in one of the schools around Lobamba.

There is no doubt that Victor was an anchor in many things including providing jobs to many Swazis as well as his achievements in football.

Our condolences go to his family and also to all Swazis," said Kunene who operates kombis known as Sanele Transport.

Sandile Simelane, a successful farmer said Gamedze's death disoriented him a bit.

He said he never thought something like this could happen to a man who was the 'life and soul' to a number of Swazis whom he had employed and their families benefitted from. "I was touched and it was something I thought was a hoax. On Monday morning newspapers confirmed what I doubted. The whole country is in mourning.

The nation is also owed an explanation as to why such a great man could lose his life like this. It's sad and it's going to take time to heal the wounds for many Swazis who knew Gamedze," said Simelane.

## Central Bank Of Swaziland

### LAUNCH OF A 7-YEAR GOVERNMENT BOND TO THE SUM OF SZL 150,000,000 Issued Under the SZL 2,000,000,000 Note Programme, 2017

On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland, the Central Bank of Swaziland is announcing the launch of a 7-year Government Bond. The coupon rate for this bond will be fixed at 10.00%. The Auction Date shall be 26 January 2018 for the sum SZL 150,000,000 (One Hundred and Fifty Million Emalangeni).

The Bond will be issued by competitive multiple bid auction and is open to the public including individuals, corporate and institutional investors. All investors should apply through the Primary Dealers who are the four local Commercial Banks.

The purpose of the issuance is to develop the secondary market, establish a fair market price which will compensate both the borrower and investors for interest rate risks and to facilitate financial intermediation, whilst also meeting Government budgetary requirements.

The applicable Pricing Supplement and other relevant documents pertaining to the issuance is available for viewing at the Financial Markets Department of the Central Bank of Swaziland situated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Umntsholi Building in Mbabane, as well on the Central Bank website [www.centralbank.org.sz](http://www.centralbank.org.sz)

The Central Bank of Swaziland invites interested parties to contact their commercial banks or collect application forms and further details at the Financial Markets Department, Central Bank of Swaziland, Mahlokohla Street, P. O. Box 546, Mbabane. Telephone: (+268) 2408 2144/2100/2294/2210

E-mail: [sandilmd@centralbank.org.sz](mailto:sandilmd@centralbank.org.sz), [gcinadi@centralbank.org.sz](mailto:gcinadi@centralbank.org.sz), [sabatham@centralbank.org.sz](mailto:sabatham@centralbank.org.sz), [philat@centralbank.org.sz](mailto:philat@centralbank.org.sz), [sandileng@centralbank.org.sz](mailto:sandileng@centralbank.org.sz)

Website: [www.centralbank.org.sz](http://www.centralbank.org.sz)

Specific details for the 7-year Government Bond are contained in the following "Call to Tender" table:-

## CALL TO TENDER

### LAUNCH OF A 7-YEAR 10.00% FIXED COUPON GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND BOND SG031 - AUCTION TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 26, 2018

The Central Bank of Swaziland as agent for the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland invites bids for the above Government Bond whose terms and conditions are summarised as follows

1. Issuer	Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland
2. Amount	SZL 150,000,000 (One Hundred and Fifty Million Emalangeni)
3. Greenshoe / Over-allotment option	The Issuer reserves the right to allocate an additional amount of up to 50% of the amount on offer
4. Procedure for bidding	Investors to submit application forms for bids through their Primary Dealers. Investors should ensure that applications are submitted timely in order that all bids are captured on the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) before 10:00am on the auction date.
5. Auction date	January 26, 2018
6. Settlement date	January 31, 2018
7. Form of issuance	Paperless (Central Securities Depository)
8. Auction results	Auction results shall be made available on the Bank's Website immediately after the auction.
9. Yield	Yield to Maturity to be quoted in multiples of 0.005%
10. Minimum bid size	SZL 10,000 for individual (non-competitive) bidders SZL 1,000,000 for Institutional direct bidders
11. Interest payment date	31 July and 31 January in each year
12. Coupon	Fixed at 10.00% per annum
13. Day count convention	Actual/365
14. Tax	Interest income is not subject to any withholding tax
15. Currency	Swaziland Lilangeni (SZL)
16. Redemption date	31 January 2025
17. Listing	Issued under the E2,000,000,000 Note Programme, 2017, listed on the Swaziland Stock Exchange
18. Trading	Secondary market trading in multiples of SZL 10,000 to commence on Thursday, 08 February, 2018
19. Defaulters	Successful bidders who fail to honor their obligations on time will be disqualified from participating in one subsequent bond auction.

The Central Bank of Swaziland reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications.



## NORTHERN NHOHO NEWS

Pigg's Peak Office

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

...With

Sizwe Dlamini

EUROPEAN BIKERS  
SPOTTED IN P. PEAK

ABOUT 20 senior European touring motorcycle riders have begun the Swazi leg of a month-long tour of Southern Africa.

The riders who are predominantly Danish and Belgian nationals started their tour in Durban last Monday and were spotted in Pigg's Peak refuelling on Saturday.

Speaking to this publication spokesperson of the group, Otto Hanson said it took a ship three-weeks to transport the motorcycles from Italy to Durban where the tour officially started last week.

"We enjoyed riding here in Swaziland, some of our riders have been to Swaziland before on three separate occasions in the past, but most of us are new to the area. Swazi people have been very friendly and supportive to us, they help us with directions and other very important information. Currently in Europe it is the winter season, it is cold and the weather is horrible, to combat this, we decided to re-visit Swaziland where the weather is always sunny and extremely beautiful," he said.

**Touring**

Hanson said their touring motorcycles travelled by ship from Italy to Durban adding that the ship usually takes three weeks to transport the bikes.

He said they followed their bikes by air travel.

"We usually fly on South African Airways, when we get to the main Durban port, we collect and declare our motorcycles. After this exercise, we then started riding from Durban to Mozambique through Swaziland.

"Then in Mozambique we will ride along the coastal highways that will eventually reconnect us back to South Africa, before returning to Europe plan to ride through the southern part of Botswana and northern Lesotho, during these rides we take in all the beautiful sights and



**LET'S RIDE:** Senior Danish national Otto seen at the filling station.

**RIDE OR DIE:** Two more senior touring bike riders in Pigg's Peak on Saturday. (Pics: Sizwe Dlamini)

sounds of the beautiful Southern African continent," he added.

Meanwhile, South African motorcyclist at the Bike House, Andy De Boar said motorcycles are often categorised in three main groups namely super bike, touring bike and cruising bikes.

"You can tell what type of motorcycle you are looking at just by the way the bike rider sits on it. A sports bike has the rider bending forward to reach the low lying handle bars, the bike is built for speed so the rider's body has to be as low as possible to promote good aero dynamics.

**Expensive**

There were cruisers bikes and these are the Harley Davidson style bikes.

They are often expensive and are built with a lot of chrome, the bike itself has wide slightly tall handle bars, and are built that way so that the rider's back stays upright and comfortable.

The rider's legs are usually in a forward position, this is done so that the bike rider could spend a lot of hours riding the motorcycle.

These bikes are more expensive than

most bikes as this segment has a lot of prestige for the bike companies.

There is also the touring bikes which are built for all types of roads; gravel or highways. These bikes are also called scrambler bikes, they have an upright riding position like a cruiser but the rider has to bend his knees slightly behind his body, these bikes are good for all day use.

Speaking to bike specialist at Carson Wheels in Manzini, Jabulani Ngwenya said cruiser bikes are the most expensive bikes ranging from E150 000 all the way up to E500 000.

"Cruiser bikes like your Harley Davidson style bikes are the most expensive because of good branding. Next, the touring bikes come at E200 000 up to E400 000, these are priced that way because they possess off-road capability in some models. Also, they have additional features like a comfortable rear seat as well as heated handle bars, cruise control and a lot of hidden storage bins.

"A super bike starts at E125 000 all the way up to 250 000, these bikes are built for speed," he said.



**FINALLY:** The rear of Boxer Super Market that now has security lights installed. (Pic: Sizwe Dlamini)

Cops happy with newly installed  
Boxer Supermarket security lights

**THE Pigg's Peak police are happy with the new security lights that have been installed around Boxer Supermarket in Pigg's Peak.**

The light installation took place last Thursday barely 24 hours after the Swazi Observer reported that Boxer Pigg's Peak did not have adequate security lighting.

According to sources, Pigg's Peak police, under the anti-crime unit had approached Boxer administration way back in 2016 to install the security lights but the request fell on deaf ears at the time.

"The Pigg's Peak police had approached Boxer Supermarket on a multitude of occasions urging them to add security lights, these requests started from 2015 up to 2017.

"The Pigg's Peak anti-crime unit held a number of meetings with Boxer administration as well as other businesses in Pigg's Peak to discuss the importance of having proper security lights.

"During these meetings, the media was invited and heard Constable Thulani Gwebu telling all the invited business owners on different occasions that the security lights as well as proper alarm systems will reduce the likelihood of crime because criminals will be reconsider because

of these obstacles," he said.

After countless meetings, the lights have been installed much to the elation of the Pigg's Peak police.

Speaking to this publication on Friday, Pigg's Peak police said the area of concern to them at Boxer was behind the super market.

"In 2017, Boxer Supermarket in Pigg's Peak was burgled twice, on both occasions the criminals used the darkness behind the supermarket to conceal themselves and then climb onto the roof of the supermarket. They used power tools like grinders to cut through the corrugated iron roof tiles to gain successful entry, on both these occasions the lack of proper security lights around the supermarket played a major role in the criminals gaining successful access because nobody on the outside could see what was happening on the inside of the shop. In 2015, criminals broke into Boxer through the roof and blew up a safe, none of these crimes would have happened if the shop had proper security lights that would have inhibited the criminals movements," he said.

Meanwhile sources at Boxer confirmed the installation of the security lights last Thursday behind and in front to the supermarket.

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR FINALLY  
ADMITS TO ENVELOPS SHORTAGE

**PIGG'S Peak Government Hospital Administrator Fikile Bulunga has admitted that indeed the entity does lack envelopes, but only in the X-ray department.**

Bulunga was speaking to this publication in a telephonic interview last Thursday afternoon after this publication reported that the hospital had an envelope shortage.

She said the reason for the lack of the envelopes was because the hos-

pital's stationery supplier had a shortage.

"I can confirm that there is an envelope shortage caused by our stationery suppliers, we have reported this to all the relevant authorities that promised to look into the anomaly and correct it as soon as possible. Unfortunately, during the time your publication was seeking an official comment from myself, I was in a day-long meeting with all our

stakeholders," she said.

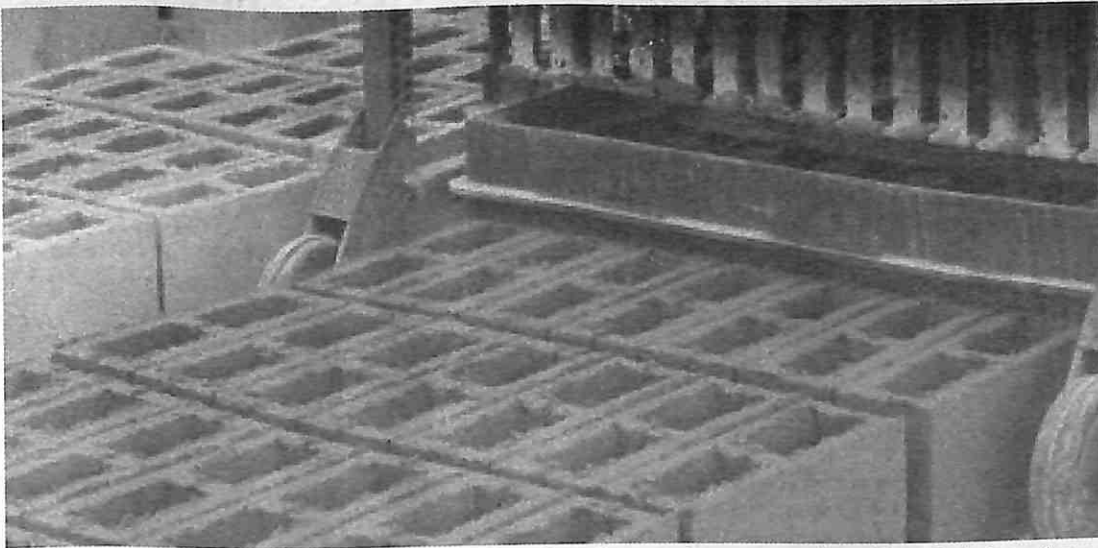
"It appears as though our suppliers had made a mistake or miscalculated the total number of envelopes needed, but we have been talking to them on a constant basis and we are sure that the issue will be resolved quickly," she added.

At the time of the original story Director at the Ministry of Health Dr Vusi Magagula said to his knowledge the envelopes were available



**SHORTAGE:** The Pigg's Peak Government Hospital. as he contacted both the envelope suppliers as well as the hospital.





**NO JOBS:** Picture from the internet showing the modern way of making bricks at a brickyard.

## LANGA BRICKS CLOSES DOWN INDEFINITELY

By Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

**WORKERS** at Langa Bricks were on Monday turned away after the management allegedly reported financial challenges.

Apparently, the brick manufacturing company closed in November last year when the alleged financial challenges started showing impact in the running of the company. It has been gathered that the management gave the workers an unpaid leave commencing from November 25, and were expected to return to work on Monday. At the time of closing business in

November, workers allege to have also been owed some money in respect to salaries which the company failed to pay between September and November. Some workers who spoke to this publication alleged that the company had promised to pay them the pending salaries before January.

When the workers arrived at the company premises on Monday, they were informed that the company was still not ready to resume operations. The management is said to have reported that the director have stated in no uncertain terms that the company is currently faced with a financial crisis, and was in no position to resume operations.

When reached for comment, Mandla Madonsela who is factory manager confirmed that the company has since closed down indefinitely. Madonsela stated that the management was however working around the clock to address the financial situation. He said the director of the company has reported that he is currently making negotiations with potential investors who would assist the company to rise from its financial problems.

"At this particular point the company has closed down due to reported financial problems. We are however hopeful that it will resume operations in the near future as the director is working tirelessly in roping in investors to partner with," he said. Madonsela further stated that workers would also have another meeting tomorrow to get feedback from the management. The management is also expected to meet with the workers on this day.

self a makeshift residence next to a local school at the official Vimbizibuko residence. He was chucked out by the faction challenging Gaswa Ngwane's authority. "He no longer carries out his duties as headman at the official Umphakatsi. He is now working under a tree and we are told that

## Mob pounces on Gaswa's headman

By Starsky Mkhonta  
Lavumisa

**WITH** the unrest in areas around Lavumisa where some residents question the authority of Chief Gaswa Ngwane, one of his headmen was attacked by some members of the anti-Gaswa faction.

Vimbizibuko Junior Headman, Gadlaza Phakathi was last week confronted by a mob of close to 15 people believed to be residents who demanded that he should pay back money he had demanded from a widow.

Vimbizibuko is one of the mini chiefdoms of Gaswa Ngwane whose main residence is Qomintaba.

The widow, it is said had approached Phakathi to assist her with documents for one of her children to apply for a scholarship.

It's said the widow got more than she had bargained for when told that

there was no way she could be assisted as one of her sons was believed to be amongst those questioning Gaswa Ngwane's authority.

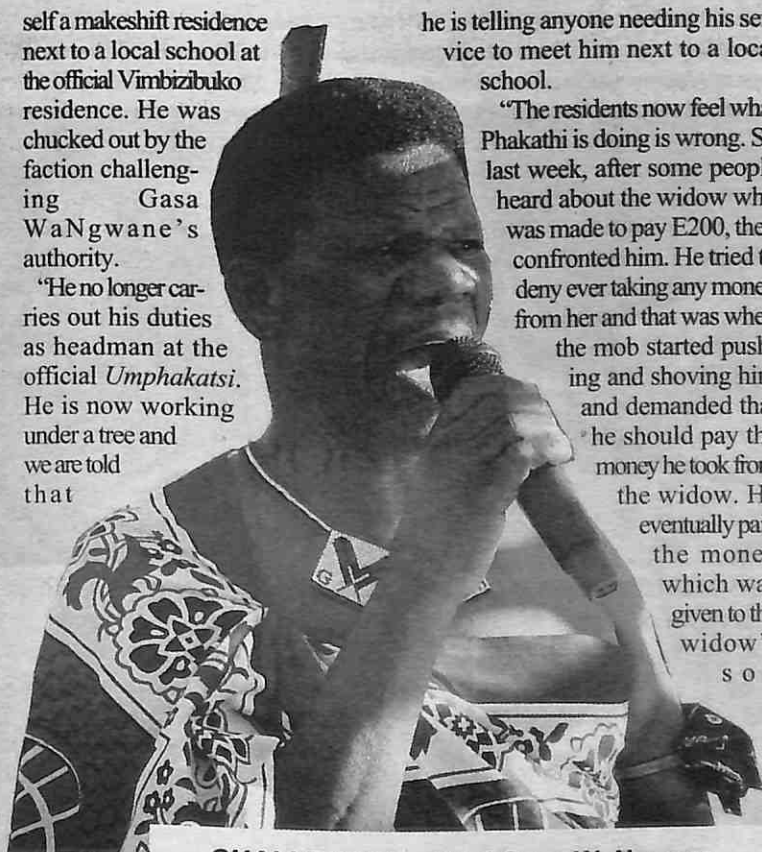
It's said the widow was then requested to forward a goat as a fine before she could be assisted with any service she needed from Indvuna Phakathi.

"We understand that the widow (identifying her) was first asked to forward a goat on behalf of her son, but she told the headman that she did not have any.

It was then that she was asked to pay E600 and she also said she did not have that amount of money. She ended up paying E200 as that was an amount she had. The mob upon hearing about this then decided to confront Phakathi to demand an explanation for why he frustrated the widow and why he took money from her," said one of the residents.

The mob decided to search for Phakathi and they were made to believe that he had established him-

self a makeshift residence next to a local school at the official Vimbizibuko residence. He was chucked out by the faction challenging Gaswa Ngwane's authority. "He no longer carries out his duties as headman at the official Umphakatsi. He is now working under a tree and we are told that



**CHALLENGED:** Chief Gaswa Ngwane.

## BOGUS USDF 'RECRUITER' NABBED BY COPS

By Starsky Mkhonta  
Nhlangano

**A man who for a long time has been going around swindling members of the public by claiming to be a USDF recruiter has been arrested.**

It's believed the man who identifies himself as a 'Groening' tricked a number of residents around Nhlangano and other places.

From others he would take clothing on credit especially hawkers and promising to pay them at the end of the month.

It is said others were conned as they were promised jobs as he claimed ties with the army authorities who asked him to go around recruiting those interested in joining the army as there were vacancies left by deceased members. He claimed other vacancies were as a result of recruits leaving before they finished the training.

The man who would be clad in the army's uniform when going around doing the evil act, took sums of money after he demanded to have it paid in order for the process to be sped up.

"He targeted mostly women especially with relatives looking for jobs. He claimed to be connected with the army authorities and his loyalty resulted in him being 'asked' to go around looking for these people interested in joining the army. He crooked others by telling them that those he would recruit will not even undergo training but go straight to the workstations. Some people who 'bought' his story forked out E10 000 and others E15 000. Other families had to sell their livestock to raise the amount the bogus soldier demanded," a source said.

Some of the residents started getting worried after waiting for months without them or their relatives being called upon by the USDF. The issue was reported to the police. "He would leave all his details and other information on how he could be contacted. Some of the people he provided with contacts that were



**CONFIRMED:** Police mouthpiece Superintendent Khulani Mamba.

nonexistent and to those he gave the correct ones, each time when called, he would either give an excuse of being busy with the process. Sometimes when called, someone else would answer the phone and claimed to not know the person they were looking for," said a source.

One of the victims ran into the bogus soldier last week, and she demanded all the items and money he took from her. Like someone who seemed to have no problem in being taken to the police station to make a statement, it is said the man obliged to come along with the victim to the police station and that was when he got arrested as police all along were looking for him for having conned people. Police mouthpiece Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed that police arrested a man said to be linked in conning people items and money.

"He tricked the victims by claiming to be in the army and many fell for his tricks as they believed him," said Supt. Mamba.

he is telling anyone needing his service to meet him next to a local school.

"The residents now feel what Phakathi is doing is wrong. So last week, after some people heard about the widow who was made to pay E200, they confronted him. He tried to deny ever taking any money from her and that was when the mob started pushing and shoving him and demanded that he should pay the money he took from the widow. He eventually paid the money which was given to the widow's son

who was part of the mob," said one of the residents.

The *indvuna* then went to the police to lay charges against some of those who were part of the mob which subsequently led to the arrest of four residents on Sunday who were charged with robbing him a sum of E200.

One of the arrested four said it was not true that they robbed Phakathi any money but the E200 was money he handed himself when he was asked why he made the widow pay for services that should be free.

"He lied that we robbed him when in actual fact he paid the money he took from the widow," said one of the four arrested residents.

Those arrested were identified as Sicelo Ndwandwe, Zakhe Simelane, Lihle Zwane (widow's son) and Bheki LaNgwenya.

Police mouthpiece Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed that four men were on Sunday arrested and charged with robbery.

"They are expected to appear in court soon," Supt. Mamba said.





EDUCATION IS KEY: Minister of Education Phineas Magagula addressing the gathering.

## PM COMMENDS UNESCO FOR IMPROVING EDUCATION IN SD

By Mbono Mdluli  
Mbabane

PRIME Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini has commended the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for helping the country to improve its education system.

Dlamini was speaking on Monday at a ministerial meeting with the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD).

The meeting was held at Happy Valley Hotel in Ezulwini.

He said UNESCO had chosen 13 countries for implementation of quality education assessment. Swaziland was among those countries.

"We thank the IBE for selecting Swaziland to be amongst the 13 countries to implement the General Education Quality Assessment Framework. The initiative will assess and provide improvement to their education systems," Dlamini said.

Dlamini said the process of identifying and addressing the gaps in the country's education system would bring the country closer to attaining Vision 2022.

The country, through His Majesty King Mswati III, has set a goal of reaching one of the first world status by 2022.

The premier noted that there were considerable challenges for the country in the implementation of the ECCD.

The challenges included the low degree of access to ECCD, because it was provided mainly by private institutions, relatively expensive, and not free of charge. Furthermore, children were not fed at the ECCD centres and there was also a need for the provision of special training of ECCD personnel. An ECCD Policy is yet to be drawn up.

### Gain

Dlamini stated that there was absolutely no doubt of the overall gain from there being an ECCD system in place for all the children of the country.

But what was equally clear was the size of the challenge inherent in the financial feasibility of implementation.

Many of the government ministries, according to the premier, had a stake in the concept of a national ECCD and it

...The premier was speaking on Monday at a ministerial meeting with the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) on Early Childhood Care and Development



EDUCATION FIRST: Director of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education Dr Mmamstetsa Marope presenting documents to Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini during the launch of the workshop at Happy Valley Hotel yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



A FEW WORDS: The PM making his remarks during the launch of the workshop.

was essential that they were fully represented.

What is eagerly anticipated by all is a draft prototype of a sustainable ECCD service and programme, which is expected in April next year.

The premier further commended UNESCO for providing support for a Swazi delegation that attended a Moscow

conference in Russia in 2010.

This was the first one that was dedicated to the area of ECCD, ever.

It gave insights on how to understand the transformative powers of ECCD better and reinforced its role as an integral part of development, as well as prompting the country to take stock of its progress and identify the challenges.

## Manzini Municipality fixes roads after heavy rains

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

THE Municipal Council of Manzini has managed to rehabilitate some of the roads which were damaged during the recent heavy rains which were witnessed across the country.

The recent rains left roads in a very bad state in most areas of the country.

The Municipal Council of Manzini has spent about E100 000 buying material which was used in fixing the roads from mid-December to date. The council has further urged residents to attend Integrated Development Plan (IDP) meetings in order to single out areas which need attention the most.

According to the Municipality Public Relations Officer Mathokoza Thwala road rehabilitation is done through a priority list developed by Council experts and residents. He said residents submit their infrastructure needs when council develops the IDP.

He said the IDP established the critical targets to be achieved for by Municipal Council of Manzini

through the input of stakeholders and residents of the city.

Thwala said residents and stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the upcoming IDP ward meetings to submit their infrastructure needs so that their needs are reflected in the long term plans of Council. The City PRO said council would continue to address road maintenance needs.

"Following the heavy rains a number of roads were severely affected- namely Meintjies Road leading out of the main bus rank and Stanley Road.

"In Ngwane Park. Council is pleased to report that Meintjies Road had been attended to. The potholes were filled Friday and work on Stanley has begun," Thwala stated.

He further added that residents should be aware that the process of filling potholes requires that first they be filled with gravel then followed by bitumen after the gravel is compacted.

Therefore, the gravel filled potholes in Stanley are still in the first phase they are going to be filled with bitumen.



ON TOP OF THINGS: Manzini Municipal Council PRO Mathokoza Thwala.

## Academic Achiever Awards for 250 Mbabane pupils

By Tandzile Vilakati  
Mbabane

ABOUT 13 schools from Mbabane will on February 3, receive awards for academic excellence courtesy of the Academic Achiever Awards 2017.

The event will be held at the UNISWA Sports Emporium and tickets to celebrate the achievements will cost E100 per person.

About 250 pupils will receive awards.

These schools include Mbabane Central, Sifundzani, St Mark's, Mater Dolorosa, St Francis, Siam Christian, Ka-Boyce, Bahai, Woodlands, SOS Hermann Gmeiner, John Wesley and Fonteyn High Schools.

They were all required to pick the top five performing pupils from each grade (Form One to Form Five) according to their continuous assessment marks.

The subjects that the awards will concentrate on are Mathematics, Science, Agriculture, Accounts and Information Technology

According to the Academic

Achievers Award web page, the goals and aims of the event are to "improve the standard of education in Swaziland, to maintain and encourage a high positive outlook in studies throughout the year, to assist teachers in bringing back academic excitement in students, to reward and encourage academic excellence and create a new breed of career professionals."

### Officials

Guest speakers and award presenters who are expected to be present at the event include officials from the ministry of education, UNISWA Foundation, Macmillan Swaziland, UNICEF, Waterford Kamhlaba as well as PSI Swaziland.

This initiative is in association with organisations such as Macmillan Education, Waterford Kamhlaba, UNISWA Foundation, PSL, Mbabane City Council, UNICEF and Apollo Printers.

Those behind the awards also appealed to the public to support this initiative and stated "your presence and participation is humbly requested as this event and it will go a long way in assisting the nominated pupils."

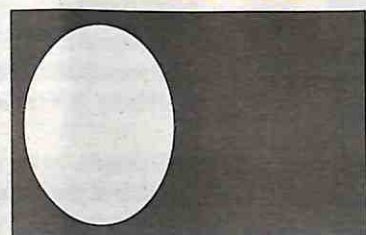




# FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

## 1 BILLION RISING REVOLUTION



ONE of the most popular questions whenever the conversation about the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill (SODV) comes up is, 'Why the focus on women?'

While the Bill seeks to protect both men and women, there has always been the need to protect women from violence because they are the primary victims of violence, with consequences as serious as death. The way in which the law protects men and women against violence cannot be the same because there is a difference between the experiences of violence between these two genders.

While any men may claim to have experienced violence from women, this does not bring context to the matter. It does not explain the motive or seriousness of the crime, regardless of whether a serious or a minor injury results. How the law protects men and women against violence considers the

comparable physical injury inflicted on men and women. This is why everyone needs to be actively involved in the advocacy for passing of the Bill because such factors (physical injury) completely disregard the other consequences and types of abuse such as psychological and financial abuse.

But still, why the focus on women? While men suffer domestic violence, it is women who suffer chronic abuse, post-separation abuse, and serious abuse such as strangulation, severe injury, sexual abuse and death. And most of these crimes are usually perpetrated by men on women.

Both men and women under-report abuse. Women opt not to report because 'tibitendlu', they are advised by family members not to report because the matter can be resolved at family level. Or they simply do not report because the perpetrator is a bread winner at home, if he is sent to jail no one will take care of the family. Other women do not report abuse because they feel that the man was justified in hitting her because she may have done something to provoke him, or she was raped because she 'asked for it' by wearing revealing clothing.

While on the other hand, a study by Davis (2016) revealed that men under-report simply because they are not bothered or not impressed.

Women have different motivations, such as self-defense. But whatever reason, it does not justify any form of violence inflicted against men. However,



it does explain why violence against women is the major focus in the Bill – because it is used on women as coercive control. It is part of a pattern of behaviour which has been described as 'intimate terrorism' or 'passion killing', where violence is used as a strategy to control the victim through isolation, intimidation, humiliation and deprivation of money. When a partner says he will not pay maintenance for his child unless the mother agrees to take him back if they happened to break-up for whatever reason.

The justice system's response to gender based violence has generally been poor. It does not matter how many

women have died or suffered in the hands of men, no drastic measures have been taken. It is for that reason that the SODV Bill is expected to not bring miracles, but at least be the first step in the right direction.

Before we lose any more of our sisters, mothers and friends. Despite the reports that the police have been trained on GBV, many still show a general misunderstanding of the seriousness of domestic violence. Yet, when the law changes to accommodate gender based violence, the police are supposed to roll with it, primarily because they are the first ones to receive victims of gender based violence.

In summary, it is common understanding that the law should protect all victims of violence, but due to many factors and severity of consequences women need protection the most. When two soldiers come from war, one cannot walk because both his legs are severely injured, while the other one only has a scratch on one of his arms, the most natural thing to do is focus on the one soldier that needs the most attention – while keeping in mind that they BOTH need help. But the focus will be mostly on the one that is in most danger. That is how it is with gender based violence and the protection of men and women.

## RACISM TIME BOMB IS TICKING

Without a proper dialogue about our recent racist past, more radical actions can be expected to follow in future instances of racism by corporates and individuals.

It would seem January brings with it racial tensions in South Africa.

Last year we had to contend with

the Penny Sparrow saga, and this year it's a Cape Town racist calling a black woman by the k-word. Swedish retail fashion brand H&M chose that moment to launch what was supposed to be an international campaign with a black boy wearing a hoodie with the words "coolest monkey in the jungle" emblazoned across the front. And as is to be expected on our shores, all hell broke loose. Although this was an international campaign the racist undertones of which were first slated on Twitter and Instagram by international opinion makers, it received particular attention in South Africa.

This was because the EFF launched a store invasion campaign in major retail centres like Sandton City and the East Rand Mall, trashing H&M stores there. Strangely, some of these stores still had the offending poster on display even after the company issued an apology for their "unintended" racism. Given our context and most recent history, it is to be expected this issue would receive particular attention here, but were the

EFF justified in going as far as invading H&M stores? A casual survey of social networks reveals that the answer depends on which section of the population you're asking that question of. Young black people are tired of what they regard as obvious cases of racism by either individuals or corporates that are then followed by what seems like a standard apology. *eNCA*

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## ON THIS DAY

... JANUARY 17

1966 - A B-52 carrying four H-bombs collided with a refuelling tanker. The bombs were released and eight crewmembers were killed.

1977 - Double murderer Gary Gilmore became the first to be executed in the U.S. in a decade. The firing squad killing took place at Utah State Prison.

1985 - Leonard Nimoy got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

1991 - Coalition airstrikes began against Iraq after negotiations failed to get Iraq to retreat from the country of Kuwait.

1992 - An IRA bomb, placed next to a remote country road in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, killed seven building workers and injured seven others.

1994 - The Northridge earthquake rocked Los Angeles, CA, registering a 6.7 on the Richter Scale. At least 61 people were killed and about \$20 billion in damage was caused.

1995 - More than 6 000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe, Japan.

1997 - A court in Ireland granted the first divorce in the Roman Catholic country's history.

1997 - Israel gave over 80 per cent of Hebron to Palestinian rule, but held the remainder where several hundred Jewish settlers lived among 20 000 Palestinians.

1998 - US President Clinton gave his deposition in the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit against him. He was the first U.S. President to testify as a defendant in a criminal or civil lawsuit.

2000 - British pharmaceutical companies Glaxo Wellcome PLC and Smith Kline Beecham PLC agreed to a merger that created the world's largest drugmaker.

2001 - Congo's President Laurent Kabila was shot and killed during a coup attempt. Congolese officials temporarily placed Kabila's son in charge of the government.

2001 - The director of Palestinian TV, Hisham Miki, was killed at a restaurant when three masked gunmen walked up to his table and shot him more than 10 times.

2002 - It was announced that Microsoft had signed a joint venture agreement to produce software with two partners in China. The two partners were Beijing Centergate Technologies (Holding) Co. and the Stone Group.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**Steve Harvey**  
(COMEDIAN) -  
January 17, 1957  
(60 years old)



**Betty White (TV**  
**ACTRESS)** -  
January 17, 1922  
(95 years old)

# A NEW ERA OF MODERN LEADERSHIP HAS DAWNED UNDER RAMAPHOSA

**JOHANNESBURG** - South Africa's era of being ruled over by an African Strongman, like a traditional chief, is over and a new era of modern leadership has started.

It may sound obvious, but it's a big thing, a fundamental shift that I believe historians will one day write a special chapter on.

There was a telling incident, small but symbolically significant, on Saturday when the new ANC President, Cyril Ramaphosa, insisted that the ANC rally start exactly on time and strongly stressed that it was the way of the future. President Jacob Zuma arrived some forty minutes later with a phalanx of bodyguards.

Did we, with our history and demographics, perhaps have to go through a Zuma period before we could cross a kind of Rubicon and become the country we're ready to be?

## Favours

It's going to be a big adjustment. For nearly a decade we were used to a singing, dancing head of state, a man with a huge family not averse to wearing the traditional dress of leopard skins; a patriarch who sat on a throne like a king, dishing out and receiving favours and gifts; a much feared figure who showed off his power like a bodybuilder flexing his muscles.

The contrast between Zuma and Ramaphosa are as stark as the contrast between Barack Obama and Donald Trump.

Zuma is a wily, ruthless street fighter wielding a machete, Ramaphosa a fine, calculated strategist who prefers a scalpel.

Ramaphosa is an educated, sophisticated urbanite and citizen of the world; a thinker, a constitutionalist, someone who really understands the economy and international affairs.



**NEW ERA: ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa.**

To him, cheap populism is as offensive as cheap whiskey.

## Detached

What is more, Ramaphosa is democratic South Africa's first President not coming from the ranks of the ANC in exile or the Mandela-era Robben Islanders. His early political activism was intertwined with the trade unions and the UDF with its pluralistic tradition. His student activist roots were in the Black People's Convention.

Thabo Mbeki was, of course, also an urban intellectual, but he was a detached figure in the shadow of Nelson Mandela and his legacy has been totally eclipsed by the Zuma era.

Ramaphosa is clearly very aware that many South Africans will be wary of his new style. That was why his first action as party leader was to visit traditional chiefs and

why he speaks almost all the indigenous languages at every possible occasion.

He needs to at the same reassure traditionally-minded citizens and seduce them into walking the modernising road with him. He is the party's only hope to win next year's general elections.

Ramaphosa didn't speak only as ANC President on Saturday, he spoke as the incoming president of the country.

He did not only spell out his vision for his party, but for the country: the economy, land reform, corruption and state capture, tertiary education, the problems with the criminal justice system and state-owned enterprises.

His theme was change and rejuvenation and virtually every second sentence was a damning judgment of the Zuma era, without being

too obvious about it. (He used the word 'decorum' in every interview he gave since his election.)

Many South Africans feel Ramaphosa should have forced Zuma's resignation by now, but he clearly knows that a Zuma exit should be negotiated meticulously to minimise the fall-out. It's a delicate issue, he said in his Sunday interviews, stressing that Zuma's departure should not amount to a humiliation.

## Remarks

Ramaphosa will represent his country at the weekend's World Economic Forum as its de facto leader.

It is hard to imagine that he will allow Zuma to present the State of the Nation Address in a month's time.

Ramaphosa's remarks on the need for new leadership at the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) are significant and an indication that he plans to force criminal investigations on Zuma and his state capture friends.

It is not a coincidence that after all these years, the Asset Forfeiture Unit has suddenly moved on the Guptas, the NPA has served a preservation order on Trillian and McKinsey and the Hawks have reportedly asked for an arrest warrant for one or more of the Gupta brothers.

Even Zuma's staunchest supporters now know that the pending commission of inquiry into state capture will be limited to the public protector's report and that the evidence against Zuma is likely to be overwhelming.

Having said all this, I would advise against over-optimism that Ramaphosa will 'fix' South Africa quickly.

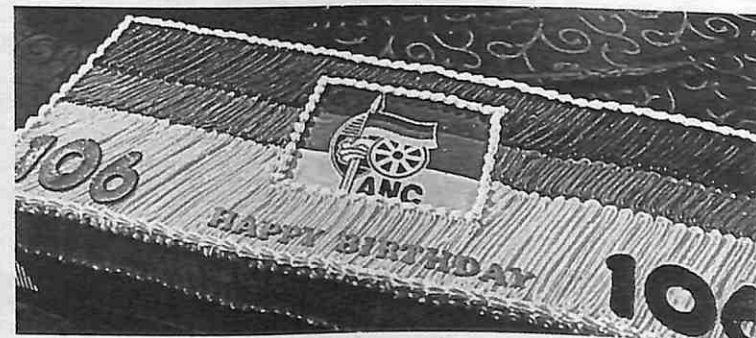
The ANC is still a fractured movement and its culture of entitlement, corruption and nepotism that built up over years is still largely in place. **News24**

## The ANC's January 8th Statement and its great expectations

**It's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new lease on political life for South Africa's governing party.**

This, at least, is what the newly elected leadership and several pundits want to believe, and want to persuade the rest of us to believe as well. Politics, after all, is like religion, not only in that both make for potentially awkward conversations when in confined spaces with strangers (think taxis, dinner parties, or workplace canteens). Both require proselytes to the party creed to convince others and bring them into the fold.

Much has been made of the shifts which could be observed at the ANC's 106th anniversary celebrations in East London's Buffalo City Stadium. Not only did proceedings begin on time - four minutes earlier than scheduled - but the entire programme ran mostly according to the timetable. The event was well-attended, the supporters vocal



in their support for the new leadership, especially the party's new President, Cyril Ramaphosa. While starting on time and running to schedule should not be a cause for celebration, the party's record on this score over the last few years made this shift notable.

Many critics have long maintained that those who cannot run an event should not run a state. Hopefully, the changes indicated in the ambitious programme of renewal announced in this January 8th

Statement will be implemented. Of course, such announcements are the stuff of every recent January 8th Statement, but this time, the expectation is that it will be implemented. And that, indeed, is the test for the governing party. With just over a year before the next general election, the importance of the ANC's ability to make good on the promises cannot be understated.

Much of the work lies inside the party, cleaning up its structures and processes. The dysfunction in the

branches and in the provincial structures led to several public and at times humiliating court battles, some of which have yet to be concluded. This may be tested earlier rather than later, with questions about the functioning of the party's disciplinary processes. Can they function effectively, without fear of interference, and will members and officials abide by the findings and recommendations? The historical record on this matter does not necessarily inspire confidence.

In response to the 'two centres of power anxiety', Jeff Radebe was unequivocal: Luthuli House, named for one of the party's two Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, would be the strategic centre of power. Ramaphosa went further, indicating that any deployed cadre, no matter how senior, who sowed division, would be instantly called to account for their conduct. **enCA**



# Trump's shitholes and the semantics of politics

President Donald Trump is at it again, this time causing a global storm by referring to Haiti and African countries as "shithole countries" that do not produce desirable immigrants for the United States (US).

America's self-proclaimed "stable genius" has broken the diplomatic etiquette by calling it as it is. Poor African countries are usually politely referred to as "developing nations".

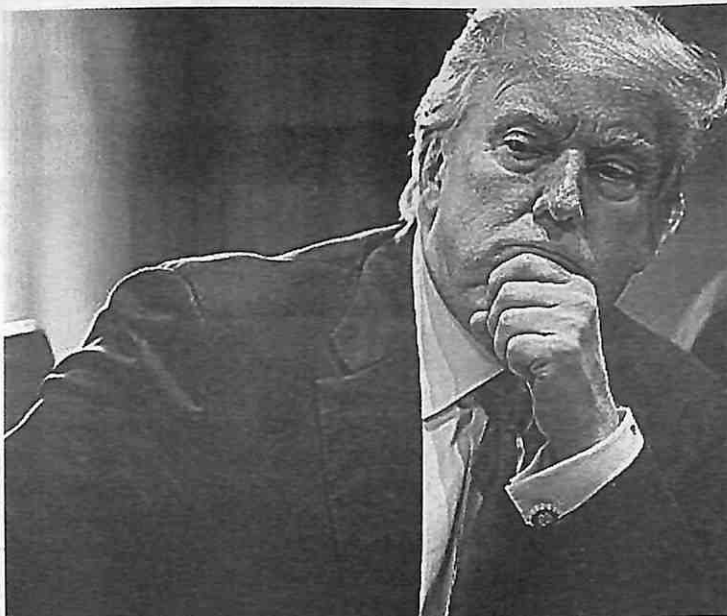
Some of those countries have eventually made it from being classified as developing nations to a more prestigious class of the "emerging markets". This is because of their fairly decent mixed economies and a just-better-than-worst measure of economic growth.

If a country handles its economy fairly well by putting in place a few austerity measures to show that the leaders understand that inflation is not a soccer team then that country gets bumped up to the emerging market category.

Those countries are often, however, functionally corrupt and have a social backlog that causes occasional social unrest and so forth.

Trump is not known for his politeness. He is rude and at times naively honest, as he has shown with his recent remark.

Some years back before he could even dream of running the US, African countries and some of their South American counterparts were



AT IT AGAIN: US President Donald Trump.

referred to as "third world countries", while advanced countries such as the US and other western European nations were referred to as "first world countries", or normal countries for that matter.

The term "third world" smacked of a superiority complex and imperialism. The use of the phrase was discontinued because it became generally accepted among development scholars that colonialism and slavery enriched western countries at the expense of those countries on Trump's shithole list.

Academics became more and more polite and desisted from using historically unpalatable classifications such as "third world".

A great deal of improvement has happened at semantic level with a shift from using disparaging terms to refer to post-colonial nations, while the actual problem of their poor state of development largely remains the same.

By referring to those countries in the manner he did, Trump only blathered out what most people see but find rude to say.

Even among African nations there are those who consider others to be more inferior. Remember what President Jacob Zuma said about Malawi back in 2013? Responding to people's refusal to pay for the use of Gauteng Highways, Zuma said: "We can't think like Africans

in Africa, generally. We are in Johannesburg. This is Johannesburg. It is not some national road in Malawi." Zuma was actually saying that South Africa is not a shithole country like Malawi.

The problem with being polite is that you have to work hard at your use of language because the whole idea is to find a way to avoid the elephant in the room. Inventing meaningless phrases to refer to poverty and hopelessness is a disservice to those who live under poverty and sheer destitution.

African countries really get worked up when referred to in a negative manner, even if the classifications are not always far from the truth. In my favourite politics satire TV show *Yes Minister*, the minister (Sir Humphrey) is warned not to refer to an African country as a "Tin Pot Little African Country" (TPLAC) because the country has oil and its leaders will be upset by the use of such a term. The minister is rather urged to use the polite term "Less Developed country" (LCD).

In all this, I don't think we should have sleepless nights because of Trump's statement. He is a moron, as his secretary of state Rex Tillerson has rightfully concluded. This time his stupidity has offended African countries. The African Union (AU) is demanding an apology.

I wonder when last did an African leader meaningfully apologise to the people after wrongdoing.

It's a shithole world of hypocrisy and political posturing by morons and super morons.

**- Ralph Matheka is a Fellow at the SARChI Chair: African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at the University of Johannesburg and author of When Zuma Goes. News24**

## Churches appeal court ruling on spanking of children

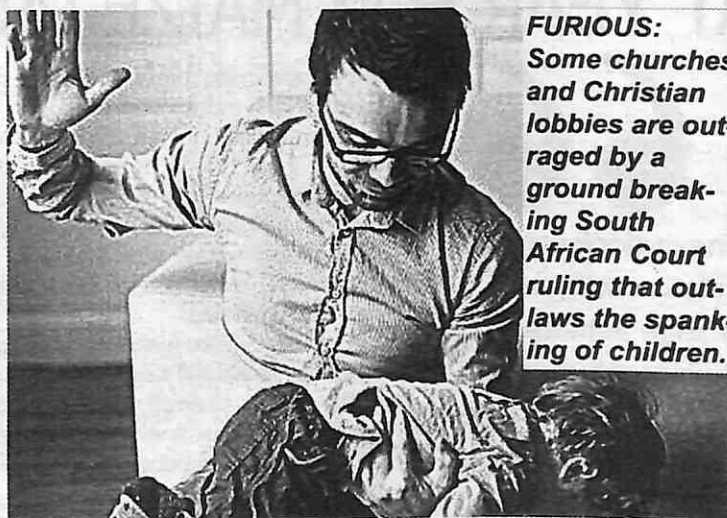
SOME churches and Christian lobbies are outraged by a groundbreaking South African court ruling on October 19 last year that outlaws the spanking of children. The court found that the common law defence of spanking as a "reasonable and moderate chastisement" of a child in the home is unconstitutional.

Violence against children is a major problem in the country. A disturbing 2016 study with more than 9 500 adolescents suggested that one in three children under 18 has been hit, beaten or kicked by an adult care giver. Earlier studies show that more than half of South African parents have admitted they hit their children; 38 per cent termed this a "severe beating".

There's been a flurry of negative responses to the court ruling by some vocal faith groups.

They promote a conservative and contested understanding of religious freedom in post-apartheid South Africa that reinforces biblical literalism, hierarchical family structures and the right of parents to discipline children in a so-called "godly way".

This approach is epitomised by the organisation Freedom of Religion South Africa (FOR SA). It claims to represent 12 million South Africans



**FURIOUS:** Some churches and Christian lobbies are outraged by a groundbreaking South African Court ruling that outlaws the spanking of children.

and has launched an appeal against the court judgement.

Other local Christian organisations such as The Warehouse have offered a more constructive response. This recognises a need to rethink tradition and scriptures in the light of new knowledge. This approach aims to better equip churches to play a leading role in reshaping social norms to embrace progressive changes; in this instance when it comes to the treatment of children. This is more in line with the many global faith organisations that are working to end violence against children. Their views were reflected in commitments made in Panama

in 2017.

These approaches represent two poles in a wider theological debate around the possible relationships between religion and human rights. One uses sacred texts in a literal way to legitimise certain forms of hierarchical violence as God-ordained. The other seeks to transform these texts by adopting a contextual approach to the same traditions.

When faith does violence South Africa has a long history of using Christian sacred texts to underpin ideologies of superiority and domination.

This includes justifying slavery,

colonialism, apartheid, homophobia and patriarchy. In 1985 a group of predominately black theologians used a grassroots process to produce a contentious document that challenged the churches to reject this state theology as well as silent complicity by churches.

The same pattern can be seen today on the issue of spanking and children's rights. Biblical literalism is being used to support corporal punishment, framed as both loving parenthood and obedience to God's commands.

Specific texts such as **Proverbs 13:24** promote complex reinforcements between religion and culture, underpinned by a view of the child as bad, disobedient and in need of physical correction. According to this passage:

He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

Children are often presented as being at the bottom of a hierarchy of human importance, where a father historically held the power of life and death over "his" household as God's representative. In this authoritarian system, men wield power over women, adults over children, rich over poor, straight over gay and white over black. **AFP**



Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."  
— Dr. Seuss

"I'm selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes, I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best."  
— Marilyn Monroe

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."  
— Oscar Wilde

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."  
— Albert Einstein

"So many books, so little time."  
— Frank Zappa

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind."  
— Bernard M. Baruch

"You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, Love like you'll never be hurt, Sing like there's nobody listening, And live like it's heaven on earth."  
— William W. Purkey

"A room without books is like a body without a soul."  
— Marcus Tullius Cicero

"You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."  
— Dr. Seuss

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."  
— Mae West

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."  
— Mahatma Gandhi

"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on."  
— Robert Frost

"If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals."  
— J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

"Friendship ... is born at the moment when one man says to another 'What! You too? I thought that no one but myself ...'"  
— C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

"Don't walk in front of me... I may not follow. Don't walk behind me... I may not lead. Walk beside me... just be my friend"  
— Albert Camus

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."  
— Eleanor Roosevelt, *This is My Story*



# BUSINESS UPDATE

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## VITALS

Prime Rate	10.75%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	5.4%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.25%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E12.80 per litre
Replacement	E12.85 per litre
Diesel	E12.00 per litre
Paraffin	E 8.95 per litre
Engen Garage	

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 12 JAN 2018

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	12.3800	12.4300
British Pound/SZL	16.7706	16.8383
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.9517	8.9871
Swiss France/SZL	12.6831	12.7278
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2541	1.2666
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.7567	9.7278
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.8795	9.9162
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	14.9111	14.9713
Gold	1,328.8600	
Oil	71.18	

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## Digital marketing to take over

Stories by Majaha Nkonyane

AS technological advancement takes over the world, the world of business is also being taken over by digital marketing.

This marketing trend is set to boost businesses in their marketing strategies and companies considering digital marketing can consider different trends within the digital marketing space.

Businesses considering digital marketing platforms can be assisted by internet solutions companies like real Image; this is according to sales and marketing Manager Sisekelo Dlamini.

"Our focus for 2018 is on high-speed connectivity at affordable prices," he said.

Marketing trends to follow in the New Year include moving from screens to life, this is a trend by digital marketing agency, (Yellow Door Collective), co-founder Dominique Kotze Technology is all around us and the internet of things is becoming more and more prevalent in our daily lives. Consumers are no longer reachable only through screens but via devices interwoven into everyday tasks.

"There are platforms like Siri for the Apple iPhone and Google talk for android users. If a consumer is



looking for an address of a local furniture store and the business is listed as the closest one, these platforms can direct a consumer to a shop," she said.

The digital marketing trend also includes going live, this is a process where companies can use live video feeds to stream events, offer question and answer sessions, give product reviews and more.

This real time ability to connect allows consumers to feel that the brand cares for them and creates loyalty that is seldom matched by other marketing efforts.

In addition, companies can also consider keeping the customers attention; this can be achieved by creating short videos that can be watched in seconds.

"Consumers attention spans are short so bringing your message across as quickly as possible is imperative. There are also platforms like Facebook which have led the way by allowing easy display of 360 degrees video and panoramic photos. Innovative brands will be those who keep up with this trend and create their own content for consumers to interact with," she

said.

Allowing customers to tell the story was also noted as a working strategy that can boost the business. Kotze said while content marketing and paid advertising is an important part of your marketing strategy, it shouldn't be the only thing a company does to reach customers.

Word of mouth was noted as an effective form of marketing and there is now the ability to reach more people through social media.

In making this a reality, Real Image has assured the nation that their wireless footprint will reach a great part of the country.

"Our areas of priority are to aggressively grow our wireless footprint to reach a great part of the country. We are already servicing a number of areas like, Mbabane, Ezulwini, Lobamba, Lozitha, Matsapha, Manzini, improving our current product and service offers include free night and weekend data, upgrading our core systems and network infrastructure to reach the highest levels of systems availability," he said.

Dlamini further mentioned that for a mountainous and sparsely populated country like Swaziland, wireless technologies like (3G/4G, LTE-A, Wi-Fi) are one of the ways that will allow them to provide high speed affordable services.

## 2017 A GREAT YEAR FOR MAIZE PRODUCERS

THE previous year's good rainy season has gone a long way in bringing a good harvest for local maize producers.

This is according to a report from The National Maize Corporation (NMC)

"The 2017 harvest proved 2017 was a great year for maize producers in the country as compared to the past 10 years of production.

"With the previous season being the worst experienced in decades, it was forecasted that good rains would be experienced and production was also projected at 84 344 metric tonnes," the report said.

The rainy season's results have been echoed by South African online publication News24.

"The outlook on food inflation will not change significantly in the near to medium term, because of the buffer of large stocks from the previous agricultural season.

"Overall, a clearer picture of SA's 2017/18 grain and oilseed production will unravel later this month when the National Crop Estimate Committee releases its preliminary planting data estimates," the report said.

South African economist Wandile Sihlobo, at the Agricultural Business

The outlook on food inflation will not change significantly in the near to medium term, because of the buffer of large stocks from the previous agricultural season

Chamber (AGBIZ) added and said, "The eastern parts of SA - generally Mpumalanga, KwaZulu Natal, the eastern Free State and the northern parts of the Eastern Cape - received good rainfall during the festive season. Crops are generally in a fair condition. But in some areas crops were affected by hail," he said.

NMC reported that by the end of November 2017 the corporation had brought 8945 metric tonnes from local farmers.

"This is the highest local purchase

in a decade for the corporation followed by 6364 metric tonnes recorded during the 2011/12 farming season.

"It is also an increase of over 400 per cent compared to last season's 1586 metric tonnes which also reflected the lowest purchase thus far," the report said.

In addition Sihlobo further reported that the central and western parts of the country received very little rainfall in the last few weeks of 2017 and also experienced a drier start to 2018.

### Delays

This led to delays in summer crop planting activity, particularly in the North West, and the western parts of the Free State. These provinces collectively account for 68 per cent of the intended maize planting area of 2.47 million hectares in the 2017/18 season.

They also account for 86 per cent of the 665 500 hectares intended for sunflower seed production in the 2017/18 season, Sihlobo pointed out in the AGBIZ newsletter.

The good rains have also helped in ensuring food security in the country as NMC has capacity building programs to sustain the increase in the production and supply of

maize.

"Generally Shiselweni, Manzini and Hhohho regions recorded the highest tonnages, which is an indication that these are high maize producing areas," the report said.

It was further noted that farmers were encouraged to grow and supply maize to NMC as there were predictions of good rains.

"NMC together with the ministry of agriculture played a significant role in motivating farmers to grow and supply maize to NMC.

"This was through programs such as farmer contracting, farmer development (extension services) and farmer awareness.

"The corporation also made efforts in collecting maize from farmers situated in some parts of the country distant from the silo sites," the report said.

According to the Central Statistical Office Statistical News for December 2017, "Food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation decreased from 3.5 per cent in November 2017 to 2.6 per cent in December 2017.

"Food such as vegetables, bread and cereals and non-alcoholic beverages coffee, tea and cocoa were the largest contributors to the lower index," the report said.



# BITCOIN COULD BE TAXED IN SOUTH AFRICA

Stories by Majaha Nkonyane

**POPULAR** cryptocurrency trend 'Bitcoin' is soon reported to be taxed in South Africa despite being an illegal platform to trade; this is according to South African online publication eNCA.

"The South African Revenue Service (SARS) will soon provide clarity on the tax implications of transacting in crypto-currency like Bitcoin.

The tax regulatory, however, said while traders wait on guidelines, those who need to declare should do so now," the report said.

This comes after the cryptocurrency has gained momentum globally despite its dangers that have been raised.

This was at a conference was hosted by the Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC) in collaboration with the University of Swaziland, the Swaziland Economic Conference held at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre in October last year and the Central Bank of Swaziland.

"The Central Bank governor warned in the conference that because Bitcoins are not a legal tender in Swaziland, they are not regulated and as such, people who lose out or do not get the desired returns do not have any protection from government.

"The governor, nevertheless, did not shy away from the Bitcoins debate as he pointed the need for central banks to conduct research on cryptocurrencies. Sithole said wishing cryptocurrencies away would not be a wise thing to do because indicators show that they are here to stay.

Economist Sanele Sibiyi also warned potential investors to exercise caution when investing in Bitcoin this year.

He said it is highly possibly that the virtual currency may not bring the same returns this year as it did in 2017.

"People should not expect the same rapid growth that Bitcoin had last year in 2018," he said, warning potential investors to refrain from the blind belief that they will get high returns this year. Because of the astoundingly high value, many people the world over invest in



Bitcoins with the hope of making quick cash.

The use of Bit coin has been rapidly growing in South Africa and it is so popular that people can pay with the crypto currency at certain spots. SARS is treating cryptocurrencies under Capital Gains Tax, but it is an area it said it plans to explore further.

"Because by the very nature it lends itself to money laundering and anonymised trading, so yes we have to put in and place additional regulations. And to that end, we are going to release an interpretation note from our legal department to guide taxpayers as to their implications with respect to this Bitcoin technology," said the head of SARS' tax research, Randall Carolissen.

The revenue service said it is consulting with top technology companies in the world that are doing similar work.

SARS said it is very difficult to monitor block chain technology and depending on what Bitcoin is used, it will determine how tax deductions are determined.

"Since it's not legal tender it is treat-

ed as an asset in your hands. And depending on your intent with this asset, it can trigger different tax instruments. It can either be a revenue nature or it could be an asset, capital gains tax in nature," Carolissen said.

Even though taxpayers are still waiting for the interpretation and guidelines of cryptocurrencies, SARS has urged all traders or buyers to declare where necessary.

"People need to come forward and regularise their tax affairs with us. And the guideline will also assist them with that. But as and when you submit your tax returns you must declare that as either additional income or additional asset revenue realisation that you've had.

"So it's very important that you don't discard or ignore that part. Especially those people who took advantage of Bitcoin currency in the early stages."

SARS is also liaising with the South African Reserve Bank to see how they can better match cross-border outflows and inflows of money so that people will have less room to hide things.

## SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT BAN BITCOIN

**SOUTH** Korea's justice minister said last Thursday the government is preparing a Bill to ban cryptocurrency trading, throwing the virtual-coin market into turmoil as the nation's police and tax authorities raided local exchanges on alleged tax evasion.

The clampdown in South Korea, a crucial source of global demand for cryptocurrency, came as policy makers around the world struggled to regulate an asset whose value has skyrocketed over the last year.

"There are great concerns regarding virtual currencies and the justice ministry is basically preparing a Bill to ban cryptocurrency trading through exchanges," said Park Sang-ki at a press conference, according to the ministry's press office.

A press official said the proposed ban

on cryptocurrency trading was announced after "enough discussion" with other government agencies including the nation's finance ministry and financial regulators.

The nation's largest cryptocurrency exchanges like Coinone and Bithumb were raided by police and tax agencies this week for alleged tax evasion.

The raids follow moves by the finance ministry to identify ways to tax the market that has become as big as the nation's small-cap Kosdaq index in terms of daily trading volume.

Park Nok-sun, a cryptocurrency analyst at NH Investment & Securities, said the herd behaviour in South Korea's virtual coin market has stoked concerns.

Indeed, Bitcoin's 1 500 per cent surge last year has stoked huge demand for

cryptocurrency in South Korea, drawing college students to housewives and sparking worries of a gambling addiction.

"Virtual coins trade at a hefty premium in South Korea, and that is herd behaviour showing how strong demand is here," Park said.

"Some officials are pushing for stronger and stronger regulations because they only see more (investors) jumping in, not out."

Bitcoin sank on Monday after website CoinMarketCap removed prices from South Korean exchanges, because coins were trading at a premium of about 30 per cent in Asia's fourth-largest economy.

That created confusion and triggered a broad selloff among investors.

## Banks, retailers push JSE higher on buoyant global backdrop

**JOHANNESBURG** - The JSE gained yesterday as locally focused company shares rose against the backdrop of continued positive sentiment in global equity markets

The rand boosted banks, financials, property and general retailers after hitting a two-and-a-half-year high against the Dollar, ahead of the Reserve Bank meeting on interest rates later in the week.

A firmer currency holds the promise of an interest-rate cut, which will support consumer spending and so benefit these sectors.

Miners were down on the firmer rand, with expectations of further gains by the local currency. Data released on the day indicated that production in the mining sector accelerated to 6.5 per cent in November from 5.2 per cent in October, with platinum group metals the biggest driver.

Retailers were supported by Shoprite, which rebounded after initially falling, on a subdued operating update. Shoprite said it increased turnover 6.3 per cent for the six months to December 2017, in contrast with the flat results from Woolworths on Monday, with the latter also having a weaker outlook.

The listed property sector continued its recovery, jumping more than two per cent after retreating

last week. Shares in the Resilient stable were top performers, after plummeting last week on rumours that it would be the next local company named by the shadowy Viceroy Research Group.

Naspers bucked the trend among the Rand hedges, with the sector generally weaker on the firmer Rand.

The Dow opened 0.84 per cent higher, hitting 26 000 points for the first time, only two weeks after crossing 25 000. European markets were mixed with the FTSE 100 down 0.12 per cent, while the DAX 30 was up 0.92 per cent.

Some analysts are worried about the high valuations of global markets. "It's been a relatively quiet start to the new year, yet markets have continued to push on higher, with investors clearly optimistic ahead of the fourth-quarter earnings season," Oanda analyst Craig Erlam said.

The all share closed 0.68 per cent higher at 60 649.60 points and the blue-chip top 40 rose 0.65 per cent. Banks added 3.02 per cent, property 2.42 per cent, general retailers 2.26 per cent, financials 2.05 per cent and industrials 1.29 per cent. The gold index shed 3.75 per cent, resources 2.3 per cent and platinum 2.09 per cent.

Anglo American lost 2.97 per cent to R292.94. **BUSINESSDAY**

## 'SA ready to fund free university education'

**JOHANNESBURG** - South Africa is pushing ahead with a plan to offer free university education to students from poor households and will announce funding details in next month's budget, Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba said yesterday.

President Jacob Zuma said last month the government would bankroll the tuition without giving details of how it would be funded. The announcement rattled financial markets and critics said it was a populist promise that risked widening an already gaping budget deficit.

A government report and the treasury said the plan is unaffordable. Some critics also said the timing of the announcement, which came days before Zuma stepped down as leader of the ruling African National Congress, showed he no longer cared about fiscal respon-

sibility.

Gigaba told reporters at a televised briefing in the capital Pretoria that costs estimates had been finalised and the plan would be implemented over eight years.

"The president found himself in an invidious position... It is about how to manage the process and implement it in a sustainable manner without having to breach the fiscal expenditure ceiling," he said.

"If the president had not acted this year to provide some funding it would have resulted in further protests," he said.

Since 2015 protests by students demanding free education rocked campuses across the country, disrupting teaching and examinations and culminating in a march to Zuma's offices in Pretoria that saw the president freeze tuition increases.

Fin24



**READY:** Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba.



# ZIM TOURISM INDUSTRY HAS GROWN SINCE MUGABE'S EXIT

**HARARE** - Zimbabwe's tourism industry has started to pick up, with arrivals seen growing this year following the exit of former leader Robert Mugabe in November last year, while online booking platform, Airbnb, says visitors booking for accommodation through the application are mostly originating from Johannesburg and London.

The country has dangled a \$15 million (R185.22m) incentive facility for the tourism industry, Central Bank Governor John Mangudya said last Friday.

The Hotels Association of Zimbabwe said hotel occupancy levels during the December festive season increased from 85 per cent in 2016 to about 92 per cent in 2017. Traveller risk perceptions of Zimbabwe have worsened over the past few years, owing to poor road infrastructure, police roadblocks and political uncertainty that frequently turned violent. But following the installation of a new administration in Harare, travel experts and government officials said the situation was now improving.

Zimbabwe's new administration has extended open arms to travellers to the country in a bid to grow the tourism



**IMPROVEMENT:** Zimbabwe's tourism industry has started to pick up, with arrivals seen growing this year following the exit of former leader Robert Mugabe in November last year.

industry's contribution to the country's economic recovery.

"There has been keen interest in Zimbabwe, particularly after the events that took place in November 2017. We have seen growing demand for destinations, mainly in Hwange and, of course, Victoria Falls," Mlandeli Ndlela, a safari operator with Sikiliza DMC, told Business Report. Other operators and tour experts say Zimbabwe's Eastern Highlands have

witnessed resurgent tourist arrivals in December and so far in January. Travel across Zimbabwe has become easier, with police roadblocks being whittled down and spot fines being stopped.

Zimbabwe's Tourism Minister Prisca Mupfemira said on Friday that 'normalcy has returned' to roadblocks.

"We need to have a re-look at our pricing strategies and competitiveness."

- Business Report

## Woolworths faces the eye of the storm

**JOHANNESBURG** - Latest trading update confirms worrying outlook for Woolworths in SA and Australia.

Ian Moir, the straight-talking Scotsman at the helm of Woolworths, was unusually bearish about the retailer's outlook at its annual results presentation in August last year.

Woolworths earned the title of 'SA's retail darling' for staying resilient during uncertain times, is in the eye of a storm. "It's going to be tough. We are under no illusions about that... margins [a key metric for measuring profitability in the retail industry] will tread down over the medium term," Moir told analysts.

But investors didn't expect the extent of Woolworths' woes, which first came to a head in a grim sales update two years ago. Woolworths is facing many battles: declining clothing sales as a result of aggressive promotions by competitors, SA's moribund economy and the burning of cash in turning around the fortunes of its Australian business, David Jones. Woolworths completed its ambitious R22 billion acquisition of David Jones and sister retailer Country Road Group in 2014 - tipped to turn it into a substantial retailer in the southern hemisphere. Some investors were nervous at the sheer scale of the acquisition while others cheered the bold move down under over concerns that Woolworths had limited growth opportunities in Africa.

But the excitement around David Jones and Country Road fizzled out

in 2016 when sales growth began to lag those of average department store sales in Australia - 12 per cent versus 5.3 per cent. It became clear that management could not deliver on their overzealous expectations from the Australian operations.

In two years, its share price has sunk by 43 per cent from highs of R105.66 in November 2015 to R59.85 at the time of writing. Woolworths, a JSE top 40 stock, featured in the list of top ten worst performers in 2016.

The latest sales update underscores how 2018 will be another extremely tough year for Woolworths. On Monday, it said group sales increased by 2.5 per cent in the 26 weeks to December 24, 2017, which failed to keep in line with SA's inflation rate of between 4 per cent and 5 per cent over the same period.

One of its biggest problems is the South African fashion, beauty and home division, which saw sales decline by 0.2 per cent while comparable store sales (excluding new stores opened) fell by 3.4 per cent. Alec Abraham, a senior analyst at Sasfin Securities, said the division's performance was worse than expected.

"I get the sense that most fashion retailers have been hit more by structural changes such as competition and promotional activity changes than cyclical changes like economic growth and low consumer confidence. Woolworths will have to be on top of its game as there is more competition," said Abraham.

Moneyweb

## The price of sending a parcel overseas via Post Office

**CAPE TOWN** - The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), a regulator for the South African communications sector, has revealed the new postage fees for 2018.

These fees will apply from April 1, 2018.

### 1. Domestic parcels

Any domestic postal item larger than 250 x 353 mm and/or thicker than 30mm and/or weighing more than 1kg is considered to be a parcel, the Post Office said.

Domestic parcel services such as counter-to-counter deliveries are charged as follows:

R52.50 for the first kilogram.

R7.05 for each additional kilogram or part of a kilogram.

### 2. International parcels

Parcel services are available worldwide, either by airmail or surface mail.

"These services may be accessed by posting either at post offices or by posting in street posting boxes," said the Post Office.

"Exchange control regulations apply equally to postal items as they do to other exports," the company added.

### 3. Small parcel pricing

A small parcel may not exceed 900mm when its length, width, and depth are combined.

The greatest dimension may also not exceed 600mm, while the maximum weight of the parcel can be 2kg.

Small Parcels  
Delivery  
Air Mail  
Surface Mail  
Area  
Southern Africa  
Rest of World  
Southern Africa  
Rest of World  
Per 100G  
R24.45  
R43.05  
R43.05



## ESKOM aims to challenge NERSA's 5.23% tariff increase

**CAPE TOWN** - ESKOM said it will take action, only after the National Energy Regulator of South Africa has justified the reasons for the 5.23 per cent tariff increase.

ESKOM's Deputy Spokesperson, Dikato Mothae told Fin24 that they are awaiting for the regulator's reasons for the decision to determine what impact it will have on the business and then decide on the way forward.

It is believed that ESKOM was considering a court review of the NERSA's decision.

NERSA caught ESKOM by surprise when it rejected the 19.9 per cent proposed tariff increase.

The energy regulator substantiated that it followed due regulatory processes in considering ESKOM's revenue application for 2018/19 before it took its decision.

ESKOM's release of interim financial results had to be postponed in December 2017, as it claimed it had to review the impact of the 5.23 per cent price increase as well as to allow the newly-appointed board members sufficient time to review the financials.

"ESKOM is assessing the impact

of the lower than anticipated tariff increase for the 2018/19 financial year approved by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) last week Friday. NERSA approved an allowable revenue of R190 billion, resulting in an average percentage price increase of 5.23 per cent against ESKOM's request for an average standard price increase of 19.9 per cent," ESKOM announcement read.

ESKOM said it is within rights to challenge NERSA's decision, considering the National Energy Regulator Act.

In June 2017, ESKOM said the major reason for the need for a whopping 19.9 per cent tariff increase, is to make up for its own sales projections made earlier, which were not realised.

The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse, however, slammed this reasoning, saying ESKOM's own false projections did not give them the licence to punish the consumer.

It is understood that if the 19.9 per cent tariff increase is approved, municipalities could then in turn increase electricity to consumers by up to 27 per cent. *Business Report Online*

## Bitcoin slides 14% on crackdown fears, hits 4-week low

**LONDON** - Bitcoin slid as much as 14 per cent yesterday to hit a four-week low below \$12 000, as fears grew of a regulatory crackdown after reports that South Korea's finance minister had said banning trading in cryptocurrencies was still an option.

South Korean news website Yonhap reported that Finance Minister Kim Dong-yeon had told a local radio station that the government would be coming up with a set of measures to clamp down on the 'irrational'

cryptocurrency investment craze.

Bitcoin slid on the news, trading as low as \$11 730 on the Luxembourg-based Bitstamp exchange, down 13.6 per cent on the day.

The latest tumble leaves Bitcoin more than 40 per cent down from the record highs of around \$20 000 reached in mid-December, wiping about \$125 billion from its 'market cap' - the price of Bitcoin multiplied by the total number of Bitcoins that have been 'mined', or released into the market. - Reuters





# RAND BRIEFLY TOUCHES THREE-YEAR HIGH AS DOLLAR ON BACK FOOT

CAPE TOWN - The Rand broke below the R12.30/\$ level yesterday morning, and even tested R12.20 to the US currency.

By late morning it was at R12.24/\$. The last time the local unit was at the R12.20 level was around June 2015.

According to TreasuryONE dealer Andre Botha, there is no clear reason as yet for the currency's sudden surge, except the impact of the weaker dollar.

"No official headline for the current surge is forthcoming, but we are enjoying the fruits of a weaker dollar and possibly the after effects of the National Prosecuting Authority looking at the Guptas," Botha commented yesterday morning.

By late morning the Rand was trading at R12.23.

Botha added that much of Monday's "lacklustre performance" of the market can be attributed to a public holiday (Martin Luther King Day) in the US. "We saw the Rand floating in a 10 cent range for most of the day (Monday), still looking for direction," said Botha.

"Even though the US was out of the market, it didn't stop the dollar from sliding further against the Euro. The US Dollar reached 1.2296 yesterday on the speculation that the European Central Bank might halt the quantitative easing programme abruptly instead of gradually taper-



ing the programme." In his view, the weaker Dollar theme seems to be firmly entrenched for the first part of 2018. "On the local side, we still await any real news regarding domestic politics which is a constraint on the rand rallying stronger. The Rand is stuck between no-man's land with global factors such as the weaker Dollar and

global yield-seeking behaviour favouring the Rand," said Botha.

"However, the threat of local politics upsetting the appcart is also real. This has led the Rand to trade in limbo as it is awaiting direction from either one of the two camps."

Momentum economist Sanisha Packirisamy also agrees it is likely mainly Dollar weakness - the greenback is touching a three-year low - reflected in the Rand's performance at the moment.

"Potentially, there may have been some additional uplift on recent political developments - speculation that President Jacob Zuma may not serve out his full term in the Presidency and an indication that law agencies are acting on state capture allegations," she told Fin24.

Bianca Botes of corporate treasury management at Peregrine Treasury Solutions said the Rand breaking through the key support level of R12.25 briefly, touching on R12.20, was mostly driven by "political noise" coupled with the weaker Dollar and strong commodity prices.

"The key, however, still remains in getting this to translate into gross domestic product (GDP) growth, stimulating the economy," said Botes.

In her view, some recovered confidence in the ANC is definitely helping the Rand, giving it a boost. She expected the Rand to remain within the R12.20 to R12.35 range yesterday. *Fin24*

## Smooth-sailing for university walk-in's - Chairperson

CAPE TOWN - The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training, Connie September commends higher institutions extra efforts in accommodating the Department of Higher Education and Training's registration challenges.

This comes after universities have announced that they are allowing prospective students a second window to apply for admission at tertiary institutions.

Some of the universities who will be allowing walk-in applications include Sol Plaatje University in the Northern Cape and the University of South Africa (UNISA).

"Whilst taking issue with the short period within which they had to respond to the new policy, the institutions nevertheless welcomed the decision of free education for the poor. It is worth noting that these institutions are now working with each other in a coherent way due to the new policy," said September.

"We must also welcome the efforts made by the institutions to take the opportunity to make improvements in the manner applications are processed, as well as the installation of more technologies and volunteers to assist the process," added September.

As part of her constituency work, September had undertaken visits to various institutions where she says she observed a "steady but organised registration of students including first time applicants, who decided to do walk-in applications".

September's visits to various Higher Learning institutions is set to continue throughout the registration period.

The chairperson says that she was informed that the Minister of Higher and Education and Training, Hlengiwe Mkhize, had sent letters to various institutions, informing them of their grants in December 2017.

*Business Report Online*

## FNB ex-CEO Michael Jordaan to launch app-driven bank

CAPE TOWN - Former FNB CEO and current venture capitalist Michael Jordaan is making a return to banking with a new "app-driven bank" he has co-founded, which is set to launch later in 2018.

Jordaan yesterday morning tweeted that he had an "exciting announcement" to make at around 09:00.

"Business banking fees are much higher than fees for individuals. That's a problem. And an opportunity for a startup to bring relief," he tweeted, before publishing a link to the new venture, Bank Zero.

According to a press release on Bank Zero's website, it is 45 per cent black-owned. The bank is expected to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2018, and has been granted a provisional licence by the South African Reserve Bank.

The venture was founded by Jordaan, as Chairperson, and



"APP-DRIVEN BANK": Michael Jordaan. (City Press)

Yatin Narsai, who is the CEO. They previously both worked together at FNB. "Bank Zero will offer a unique and fresh approach to banking without any legacy systems which can be costly to maintain," the statement read.

"Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and Instagram are the new normal for societies. Why shouldn't banks also innovate in this era of wider connectedness while still ensuring a robust banking value proposition? *Fin24*

## SA Federation of Trade Unions backs workers strike at Dis-Chem Pharmacies

CAPE TOWN - The South African Federation of Trade Unions (SAFTU) has come out in support of workers who are preparing for a countrywide strike at Dis-Chem Pharmacies starting today.

SAFTU affiliate, the National Union of Public Service and Allied Workers (NUPSAW), last week announced that it was preparing for a strike at Dis-Chem for being denied recogni-

tion and organisational rights in terms of section 21 of the Labour Relations Act (LRA). Part of NUPSAW's action will take place at the Dis-Chem warehouse in Midrand, Johannesburg, starting at 5am today.

A dispute between NUPSAW and Dis-Chem was referred to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) in December 2017 but the matter remained unre-



solved. A certificate of non-resolution concerning organisational rights was then issued by the CCMA Commissioner. Section 21 of the LRA sets out considerations which the

CCMA must take into account when it resolves a dispute about organisational rights - whether or not a trade union is a representative trade union. - ANA



## Shoprite blames deflation for disappointing growth

JOHANNESBURG - Shoprite [JSE:SHI] announced subdued growth yesterday, blaming deflation for its lacklustre performance.

The group increased its turnover by 6.3 per cent for the six months to December 2017 - less than half of the 14 per cent achieved in the same period in 2016.

CEO Pieter Engelbrecht said overall internal price deflation occurred in the last quarter, and that the slowdown in turnover growth should be viewed in the context of average grocery price inflation decelerating to 0.4 per cent during the reporting period. It was 7.4 per cent in the corresponding period.

Supermarkets RSA, Shoprite's primary business, increased sales by 7.8 per cent during a period when internal inflation fell to 0.4 per cent for the six months compared to 7.4 per cent in the previous corresponding period, driven mainly by a drop in the price of basic commodity items.

Shoprite said economic and trading conditions in its foreign markets remained unchanged, and as a result the group's non-South African supermarket operating segment reported a 0.4 per cent drop in rand terms. The impact of lower commodity prices and the depreciation of local currencies remained prevalent in the larger economies it operates in outside South Africa, the group stated. Shoprite's furniture division reported increased sales of 10.8 per cent while other operating segments, mainly driven by the OK Franchise division's performance, saw 6.7 per cent growth. Engelbrecht said this was pleasing given low internal price inflation, and was in line with the group's South African supermarket performance. Shoprite's interim results are scheduled for release on February 27.

Shares in Shoprite were trading at R214.54, up 0.72 per cent on the JSE shortly before 14:00. *Fin24*



# Focus on SA scene

## IT'S QUITE CLEAR THE ANC IS ON A NEW ROUTE – MADIKIZELA-MANDELA

JOHANNESBURG – There is no greater task for the newly elected ANC leadership than the renewal of the 106-year-old liberation movement, says ANC stalwart and struggle icon Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

The ANC's top officials, led by party President Cyril Ramaphosa, minus its Deputy President David Mabuza, paid her a courtesy call this week.

This was their first stop since the ANC's birthday celebrations in East London last week.

Ramaphosa said the visit formed part of their pilgrimage to honour the party's former leaders. This also included visiting the families of deceased ANC leaders.

Madikizela-Mandela, known as the mother of the nation, welcomed the leaders to her home and joined them in an impromptu media briefing in which she told journalists she was proud of the current crop of leaders.

"It's time that we had a renewal of the ANC," she said, gushing over how excited many in the party were with its new



**THERE IS HOPE: ANC stalwart and struggle icon Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.**

leadership.

"I am really short of words to explain my pleasure at what my president has done. I've been watching him giving speeches - he promised the renewal of the ANC and I am deeply honoured by his visit.

"It's quite clear we are on a new route

to revive the ANC," she said.

"We had this leadership at the right time, when we needed the ANC - not only to be inspired by us but also this new energy."

She added that she could feel the vibrancy of the energy brought to the party by Ramaphosa's leadership. *News24*

## OUTA praises new ANC

JOHANNESBURG – The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA) has praised the new ANC leadership for changing the party's attitude towards tackling corruption.

The organisation was reacting to action against Gupta-associated businesses by the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU).

OUTA Chief Operating officer Ben Theron said in a statement that the organisation was pleased with the action taken by AFU against perpetrators implicated in a number of cases and charges laid by civil society and labour organisations.

"There is no doubt that where there is smoke, there is fire. The current media activity appears to indicate that positive action is happening within certain elements of the prosecuting mechanisms within the state," Theron said. A preservation order is expected to be served on Trillian and McKinsey for assets worth around R1.6bn, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) confirmed to *News24* on Monday.

NPA spokesperson Luvuyo Mfaku said the order relates to consultancy work done by the companies for ESKOM and TRANSNET.

The preservation order was obtained on December 14 last year, and once it is served, a curator will ensure that the companies' accounts are frozen and the assets are preserved. *News24*

## The DA's scathing findings against power-drunk de Lille

CAPE TOWN – A high-level investigation into embattled Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille by the DA paints a picture of an erratic and vindictive megalomaniac who "clearly has something to hide".

*News24* has obtained a copy of the report compiled by chief whip John Steenhuisen, MP Patricia Kopane, Gauteng leader John Moodey and councillor Karen Smith. The report forms the basis of the DA leadership's decision on the weekend to discipline de Lille for misconduct.

De Lille has vowed to fight back and clear her name.

The report's findings include that:

- The residents of Cape Town were the big losers in a 'turf war' between de Lille and councillor JP Smith over the shutting down of the city's Special Investigations Unit (SIU);
- De Lille pushed for a family friend to be appointed to the board of a municipal entity;
- A close family member of de Lille's may have benefitted from a controversial city tender;

• De Lille believes she, rather than the DA, was the driving force behind the party's successful 2016 election campaign, and

• De Lille is prone to bullying councillors who do not agree with her, calling them "stupid".

The Steenhuisen panel believes that instead of trying to get to the bottom of tensions, De Lille planned to punish DA members who made submissions against her to the commission.

Tensions between Smith, the mayoral committee member for safety, security and social services, and De Lille boiled over in August 2017 when she controversially ordered the shutting down of the SIU, which he headed.

**'CT residents are victims of a political turf war'**

The report has found that: "The SIU and the citizens of Cape Town, have clearly become the victims of a 'turf war' between the mayor, speaker (Dirk Smit) and (JP Smith)."

In August 2017 the DA's federal executive mandated Steenhuisen to head up a subcommittee to look into tensions and political management in the City of Cape Town. Councillors were invited to make submissions on the matter in both writing and in person.

It is this report on this subcommittee's work, which the City has not released to the public, which details several shocking findings about De Lille's conduct and deep-rooted problems threatening to cripple the DA's Cape Town caucus - described in the document as the party's "flagship municipal government". *News24*



## H&M has shown racial insensitivity before

CAPE TOWN - While H&M deals with a furore which has erupted following what has been labelled a racist advert, the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation on Monday said it was not the first time that H&M had come under scrutiny regarding racial insensitivity.

"In 2015, the company came under criticism from a social media user for not featuring black models following the opening of their stores in South Africa. The company's response via Twitter implied that white models were featured to create a 'positive image'," the foundation's Executive Director Neeshan Balton said in a statement.

"These two incidents are perhaps indicative of the type of ignorance that continues to prevail around issues related to race, perhaps not only at H&M, but in the broader advertising sector and in society in general."

The retailer recently caused outrage after it showed a black child in a sweatshirt with the words 'Coolest monkey in the jungle' printed on it.

H&M has since apologised and removed the image as well as the

sweater from retail, saying it was "investigating internally to ensure this can't ever happen again."

The foundation said it had requested a meeting with H&M about how "such a racist advert could have passed by the company's marketing team, and its management, without the racial undertones being picked up."

In the letter, which was sent to its global headquarters as well as its South African office, the foundation said it questioned how the advert had been published "without considering the historical context of how the word and image of a monkey has been used to racially demean black people for generations."

The company had agreed to a meeting with its country manager, the foundation said.

"The foundation would use the opportunity to urge H&M to see the incident as a platform to effect change within the company. We want to get an understanding from the South African offices of how they have understood the incident and to get an overview of how they intend to remedy the situation," Balton said. *News24*

## EFF's Mbuyiseni Ndlozi hits back at Pearl Thusi

JOHANNESBURG - Twitter was once again the site of choice in Thusi and Ndlozi's opposing views on the current H&M debacle.

EFF Spokesperson Mbuyiseni Ndlozi has hit back at the actress after she spoke out against the actions of EFF supporters who ransacked and vandalised various H&M stores, in response to the international clothing brand's 'racist' advert. In Thusi's tweet, she points to the EFF spreading violence and fear, instead of dealing with the issue at hand in a

calm manner. Her tweet was in response to EFF Spokesperson Mbuyiseni Ndlozi's tweet, which stated that the 'racist institution' will be visited by the red brigade. The Twitter spat sparked responses from many users, who berated Thusi, calling her privileged and accusing her of trying to strike deals with H&M. Ndlozi weighed in and tweeted that Thusi was "an ANC self-hating mascot who believes blacks with stones fighting oppression are savages." *Citizen*



**PEARL WHO?: EFF Spokesperson Mbuyiseni Ndlozi.**



# DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME!



**LET'S HOPE THEY'RE NOT GOING FAR:** Attaching the wheel of a trolley is one way to deal with a flat tyre.

**LONDON** - Sometimes in life, the only thing you can rely on to get yourself out of a bind is your own ingenuity.

And these photos from around the world shared by Go Social certainly prove that there's no problem that can't be solved with a bit of thinking and some DIY.

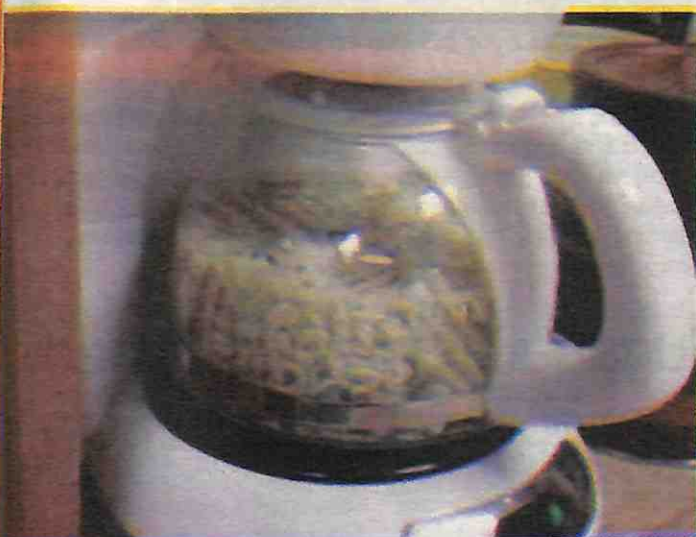
One bright spark managed to create their own makeshift toilet, using a wooden seat and a traffic cone, while another attached a whisk to a power drill when their hand mixer broke down.

Other unorthodox tricks that might be best avoided include balancing a coffee cup in the centre of a roll of brown tape, stuck to the dashboard instead of investing in a proper drinks holder, while another inventive soul cooked pepperoni slices on an iron. From drilling holes in a coin to turn it into a button, to taping a hand mirror on to the side of the car, it's possibly for the best if you don't try these tricks at home.

*Daily Mail*



**MIXING IT UP:** If you're ever too lazy to whisk by hand, this unorthodox idea could help you out.



**NO NEED:** If you've run out of saucepans, there's no need to forsake pasta for dinner.



**MISSING:** A missing car door might count as a write off for some people, but not this DIY fan.



**FLASH IN THE PAN:** The person who designed this makeshift toilet gets top marks for ingenuity.

## The world's coldest village..temperature reaches minus 62C

**SIBERIA** - Welcome to the coldest village on earth where the average temperature in January is -50C and inhabitant's eye lashes freeze solid mere moments after stepping outside.

The remote Siberian village of Oymyakon is the coldest permanently inhabited settlement in the world.

It was so icy in the Russian village that a new electronic thermometer conked out after recording a bone-cracking minus 62C.

The official weather station at the 'pole of cold' registered minus 59C, but locals said their readings were as low as minus 67C - less than 1C off the lowest accepted temperature for a permanent settlement anywhere in the world.

And that record breaking recording was taken in the town back in 1933.

One villager in Oymyakon recorded a temperature of minus 67C, while others agreed that the official reading of minus 59C did not tell the full story.

The digital thermometer was installed last year to help Oymyakon market itself to tourists, but it gave up the ghost at minus 62C.

"It broke because it was too cold," reported The Siberian Times. The town's name translates as 'the



**EXTREMES:** Temperatures dropped so low in the Russian village that a new electronic thermometer broke at a bone-cracking minus 62C. (*Daily Mail*)

water that doesn't freeze' and comes from the fact it sits above a thermal spring. The village is home to around 500 hardy people and in the 1920s and 1930s was a stopover for reindeer herders who would water their flocks from the thermal spring. This is how the town got its name which translates as 'the water that doesn't freeze'. The Soviet government later made the site a permanent settlement during a drive to force its nomadic population into

putting down roots.

In 1933, a temperature of minus 67.7C was recorded in Oymyakon, accepted as the lowest ever in the northern hemisphere. Lower temperatures are recorded in Antarctica, but here there are no permanently inhabited settlements. Daily problems that come with living in Oymyakon include pen ink freezing, glasses freezing to people's faces and batteries losing power.

Locals are said to leave their cars



running all day for fear of not being able to restart them. Rock solid earth makes burying the dead a difficult task. The earth must first have thawed sufficiently in order to dig, so a bonfire is lit for a few hours.

Hot coals are then pushed to the side and a hole just a few inches deep is dug. The process is repeated for several days until the hole is deep enough to bury the coffin.

*Daily Mail*



**FREEZING:** Temperature in the remote Siberian village of Oymyakon average -50C.



**HARD TIMES:** Locals are said to leave their cars running all day for fear of not being able to restart them.



## BRIEFS

## Tropical cyclone threat

ANTANANARIVO - Tropical Cyclone Berguitta is intensifying in the southern Indian Ocean and is likely to have a major impact on the 'island paradises' of both Mauritius and Reunion. There remains a great deal of uncertainty regarding the track of Berguitta. It is currently over open water, but forecasts suggest it will track very slowly towards the south-west, striking Mauritius around 00:00GMT on Thursday. At 09:00 GMT on Monday, Berguitta was the equivalent of a Category one storm on a five-point Saffir-Simpson scale, with sustained winds of 140km per hour (km/h). **ALJAZEERA**

## US ambassador summoned

ABUJA - Nigeria's government on Monday summoned the United States ambassador to explain reported remarks by US President Donald Trump that some immigrants from Africa and Haiti come from "shithole" countries, Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyeama said. He was responding to a text message from Reuters in which he confirmed that Ambassador Stuart Symington had been summoned. He gave no more details. Trump reportedly made the remarks at a private meeting with lawmakers on immigration last Thursday. **Reuters**

## Force mission begins

BAMAKO - Five Sahel countries - Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso - on Monday launched their second anti-Jihadist operation in the troubled region, after talks in Paris with their partner France. After the discussions between the defence ministers of the so-called G5 Sahel and their French counterpart no details were released about the new operation due to "security reasons". "We are moving forward... the joint force is gaining momentum... the first operation has taken place, the second one is starting today," Malian Defence Minister Tiena Coulibaly told a press conference, alongside his G5 counterparts and French Defence Minister Florence Parly. **AFP**

## Anti-cholera ban anger

LUSAKA - Police in Zambia's capital Lusaka on Monday fired tear gas at angry traders marching to the president's office in protest over a ban on street commerce aimed at curbing a deadly cholera outbreak. The 500-strong crowd was trying to deliver a petition to President Edgar Lungu who has become the public face of the campaign against the outbreak that has claimed at least 70 lives since September. "Kill us if you want... it's hunger that is going to kill us." **AFP**

## Activist dies in prison

MALABO - An opposition activist died in prison after being tortured in Equatorial Guinea, the country's main opposition party said Monday, accusing the government of "cruel and inhumane" treatment of its detainees. Santiago Ebee Ela, 41, died at the central Police Station in capital Malabo on Saturday night as a result of "cruel torture", Citizens for Innovation (CI) said in a statement. "The death of Santiago Ebee Ela is a consequence of the cruel and inhumane treatment shown to CI detainees by security forces of the PDGE regime," it said, referring to the ruling Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea headed by President Teodoro Obiang. **Citizen**



# Boko Haram 'Chibok girls' video a propaganda counter - strike

LONDON - The release of a video purporting to show some of the Nigerian Chibok schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram apparently happy with their lives is a propaganda strike to show the Islamist group is unbowed, security experts said on Monday.

The video shows a group of about 12 teenage girls and young women, some of them holding babies.

"We are the Chibok girls. We are the ones you are crying about for us to come back. By the grace of Allah, we are never coming back," said one of the girls in the Hausa language widely spoken in northern Nigeria. Of some 220 girls abducted from their school in Chibok, northern Nigeria in April 2014, more than 100 have since been released



**PROPAGANDA:** The 21-minute video, obtained by a US-based journalism website, Sahara Reporters, purports to show the former schoolgirls being well cared for. **AFP**

after mediation while a handful of others have escaped. About 100 of the girls are still thought to be in captivity. "The latest release can definitely be tied to the Nigerian government's claim that Boko Haram

is defeated," said Ryan Cummings, Director of risk management consultancy Signal Risk. "It's fighting the Nigerian government's narrative regarding the trajectory of the insurgency." In a New Year's mes-

sage, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said Boko Haram had been pushed out of its stronghold in the remote northeastern Sambisa forest and was almost defeated. **Reuters**

## Grace supported her ageing husband's decision to resign

Harare - Former Zimbabwean first lady Grace Mugabe supported her ageing husband's "decision to resign", Robert Mugabe's former spokesperson George Charamba has reportedly revealed.

Reports indicated that Grace had previously held her own presidential ambitions, as she reportedly led a campaign to get the then Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa out. She was a key figure of the G40 faction that, until November 15, had the upper hand within the ruling ZANU-PF party.

Grace reportedly looked certain to become one of the country's two vice presidents following the sacking on November 6 of then Vice President Mnangagwa, who led a rival faction.

But, according to Charamba, Grace was behind her husband's decision to resign after the military took over

control in November, reported Daily News on Sunday.

"Even the first lady (Grace Mugabe) was behind Mugabe's decision to resign," Charamba was quoted as saying.

Charamba said that Mugabe himself had wanted to leave office in his own terms but "they were a number of scenarios at play including marchers coming to force the veteran leader out of power", said Charamba. He said that the last days of Mugabe's presidency were very painful as loyalties to the nonagenarian had shifted.

Charamba said he had to remind the 93-year-old that there were "other dimensions" threatening his hold on power, including the peaceful protests that saw tens of thousands of Zimbabweans pour out onto the streets of Harare in support of the army. **News24**

## Mugabe 'desperately tried to reappoint his ex-deputy

HARARE - An aide to former Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe has revealed how generals warned him to step aside as protests against him grew, or face being "lynched" like Libya's Muammar Gaddafi.

Massive street protests against 93-year-old Mugabe erupted after the military briefly took power in November following the veteran leader's sacking of then-Vice President, Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Mugabe subsequently resigned after apparently striking a deal with the army and supporters of Mnangagwa who then succeeded Mugabe.

"The commanders sent us with a very chilling message, they said 'please go and get the president to appreciate the gravity of the situation out there'," Mugabe's

former spokesperson, George Charamba, told the Daily News Sunday paper.

"There was the possibility of a Libyan scenario where the president would have been dragged out of the Blue roof and lynched," he added, referring to Mugabe's private residence in Harare.

Gaddafi was overthrown in 2011 after a violent popular uprising and slaughtered by a mob after he was found hiding in a drainage pipe. Charamba, who now serves as Mnangagwa's official spokesperson, revealed that Mugabe desperately tried to reappoint his former deputy at the height of massive street protests against him. Charamba was heavily involved in the negotiations that eventually led to Mugabe stepping aside. **AFP**

## French soldiers accused of child rape in CAR off the hook

PARIS - French investigating magistrates have closed a probe into allegations that the country's soldiers raped children in the Central African Republic while on a peacekeeping mission, judicial sources said Monday.

Members of Operation Sangaris, deployed to keep warring militias apart, had been accused of abusing children at a camp for people displaced by the fighting in 2013 and 2014.

But magistrates dismissed the

prospect of a trial saying there was not "sufficient evidence", according to their ruling, seen by AFP. The state prosecutor had last year called for the case to be closed. While admitting "it is not certain that no sexual abuse took place", the prosecutor said that "differences" in the testimonies of the children who came forward made it impossible to establish guilt among the troops.

The allegations were first reported by the British newspaper The Guardian in April 2015, tarnishing

the reputation of the French military. The Guardian reported that six children aged nine to 13 had said they were abused in a camp in CAR's capital Bangui, in return for food and money.

The Childhood and Sharing civil group will appeal the magistrates' decision to dismiss the case, lawyer Rodolphe Constantino said. ECPAT, an international organisation against the sexual exploitation of children, will also likely appeal, according to lawyer Emmanuel Daoud. **AFP**



**OFF THE HOOK:** A French court has dismissed a case against troops accused of child rape in Central African Republic. **AFP**





# World News

## KING'S CHILDREN LAMBAST TRUMP, CONDEMN RACISM ON #MLKDAY

ATLANTA — Two of Martin Luther King Jr.'s children and the pastor of his historic Atlanta church marked the national King holiday Monday with sharp denunciations of President Donald Trump, focussing on disparaging remarks he is said to have made about African countries and Haitian immigrants.

Angry pro-Haiti protesters and Trump supporters yelled at each other from opposite sides of a street near the president's Florida resort.

At gatherings across the nation, activists, residents and teachers honoured the late civil rights leader on what would have been his 89th birthday and ahead of the 50th anniversary of his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee. But in the many speeches delivered from pulpits and podiums across the country, Trump's name came up nearly as often as King's, with speakers indicating that



**STOP RACISM: Daughter of Martin Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Rev Bernice King making her remarks.**

his turbulent presidency was undermining efforts to ease racial tensions in the US.

The president spent his first Martin Luther King Jr. Day in office buffeted by claims that during a meeting with senators on immigration last week, he used a vulgarity to

describe African countries and questioned the need to allow more Haitians into the US. He also is said to have asked why the country couldn't have more immigrants from nations like Norway.

In Washington, King's eldest son, Martin Luther King III, criticised

Trump, saying, "When a president insists that our nation needs more citizens from white states like Norway, I don't even think we need to spend any time even talking about what it says and what it is."

He added, "We got to find a way to work on this man's heart."

In Atlanta, King's daughter, the Rev. Bernice King, told hundreds of people who packed the pews of the Ebenezer Baptist Church that they "cannot allow the nations of the world to embrace the words that come from our president as a reflection of the true spirit of America."

"We are one people, one nation, one blood, one destiny. ... All of civilisation and humanity originated from the soils of Africa," Bernice King said. "Our collective voice in this hour must always be louder than the one who sometimes does not reflect the legacy of my father."

News24

### 'Very normal' US parents charged with torture of 13 children

PERRIS - An emaciated 17-year-old girl escaped a home in Perris, California, early Sunday morning where she had been held captive alongside her 12 brothers and sisters in filthy conditions, according to police.

Authorities arrived at the home to find several children shackled to beds with chains and padlocks, "in dark and foul-smelling" conditions, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department said in a news release.

The parents, David Allen Turpin, 57, and Louise Anna Turpin, 49, have been arrested on charges of torture and child endangerment. Their bail is set at \$9 million each (about R111 million). They were "unable to immediately provide a logical reason" why their children were shackled and chained, authorities said.

Sheriff deputies were "shocked" to discover that seven of the "children" in the home were actually adults, according to the news release. The ages of the 13 victims ranged from 2 to 29. They appeared malnourished and dirty, and told authorities they were starving.

News24

## US readies North Korea invasion force

SOAL - At US military bases across America, more than 1 000 reserve soldiers are getting ready to be moved overseas.

They will practise setting up mobilisation centres, which quickly ship troops abroad to warzones.

As the Winter Olympics kick off in South Korea next month, the Pentagon is also thought to be considering sending more Special Operations soldiers to the Peninsula.

Special Ops have been deployed to large global events before - like the 2014 World Cup in Brazil - but their numbers will supposedly be far greater this year.

The deployment could see the formation of a Korea strike force ready to cripple Kim's dictatorship.

The US will also carry out military exercises this year where troops are placed in chemically contaminated environments that could be found in North Korea.

Special Ops will also work to counter weapons of mass destruction - including nuclear and ballistic missiles.

At Fort Bragg in North Carolina last month, 48 Apache gunships and Chinook helicopters practised moving troops and equipments under live artillery fire.

Two days later, 119 soldiers parachuted out of C-17 military cargo

planes in a simulation of a foreign invasion.

The Army's Chief of Staff, General Mark A Milley, is worried that US troops have forgotten how to fight a land war.

He said: "Do not wait on orders and printed new regulations and new manuals."

"Put simply, I want you to get ready for what might come, and do not do any tasks that do not directly contribute to increasing combat readiness in your unit."

The US and its allies have already stepped up military drills in a bid to intimidate Kim.

BBC

## Palestinian leaders reconsider recognition of Israel

PALESTINE - The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Central Council, the second-highest Palestinian decision-making body, has recommended revoking recognition of Israel until the latter recognises the State of Palestine in its 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

During a meeting in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah late on Monday, the PLO, which is an umbrella of major Palestinian political parties, said it "assigned" its Executive Committee "to suspend recognition of Israel until it recognises the State of Palestine on the 1967 borders and revokes the decision to annex East Jerusalem and expand and build settlements," according to Wafa, the official Palestinian news agency.

In a final statement read after the meeting, the PLO also said that the Oslo Accords, signed with Israel in the early 1990s, "no longer stand".

It added that it would renew its decision to "stop security coordination [with Israel] in all its forms" and called on all Arab states "to sever all ties with any state that recognises Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and transfers its embassy to it".

But several Palestinian political parties expressed their reservations on the final statement, saying the language was vague.

Omar Shehadeh, a leader in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) party, said there was no clear decision to end the Oslo Accords, withdraw recognition of Israel and stop security coordina-



**RECONSIDERING: Palestinian Authority President Abbas.**

tion. He added that assigning the PLO's Executive Committee to take such actions could take some time.

Aljazeera

### BRIEFS

#### UK Air Force scrambles jets

LONDON — Britain's Royal Air Force scrambled two fighter jets to intercept Russian bombers near UK airspace on Monday, in another illustration of ongoing tensions. The RAF confirmed a "quick reaction alert," deploying Typhoon aircraft from the Lossiemouth base in Scotland as two Tupolev TU-160 Blackjack bombers approached Britain. The Russian aircraft were initially monitored by a variety of friendly nation fighters and subsequently intercepted by the RAF in the North Sea, the air force said.

AP

#### Kashmir border violence kills nine

SRINAGAR — At least nine people including four Pakistani soldiers were killed in fighting in disputed Kashmir on Monday, India and Pakistan said.

The Pakistani army said four of its soldiers and three Indian troops had been killed in an exchange of fire across the heavily militarised de-facto border known as the Line of Control (LoC). India denied it suffered any casualties, but said its soldiers had killed five "militants" who attempted to cross the LoC in a separate incident in Uri, 100km northwest of the main city of Srinagar. AFP

#### Disabled Palestinian killed

GAZA CITY - The autopsy of a disabled Palestinian protester killed in December showed Israeli fire was responsible for his death, a Hamas-affiliated commission in Gaza said on Monday. Ibrahim Abu Thurayeh died on December 15 during protests and clashes along the Israel-Gaza border against US President Donald

Trump's controversial recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. His family says he had lost his legs in an Israeli strike a decade earlier. AFP



#### 4.4- magnitude quake jolts Athens

ATHENS - A moderate but shallow 4.4-magnitude quake jolted Athens on Monday evening, the national observatory and experts said. The quake had a depth of just five kilometres (3.1 miles) and an epicentre 24 kilometres northeast of the Greek capital. It was followed by weaker aftershocks, the observatory said. "The 4.4-magnitude earthquake was felt across the capital and as far as Lamia and Corinth," Efthymios Lekkas, head of Greece's state earthquake planning and protection organisation told state television ERT. AFP

#### Schools shut as volcano spews lava

MANILA - The Philippines' most active volcano spewed lava that cascaded downslope and emitted ash that fell on nearby towns, state volcanologists said yesterday, prompting the provincial government to shut more schools. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) recorded nine episodes of tremor, four of which accompanied lava fountains, and 75 lava collapse events as pressure builds up leading to lava flows and ash plumes, reiterating its warning that a hazardous eruption could happen any time.

Reuters





NEWS  
REVIEWS  
STAR SIGNS  
CELEBRITY WATCH  
CARTOONS

# ACASWA mourns Victor Gamedze's death

Stories by Simon Shabangu

**THE Association of Christian Artists in Swaziland (ACASWA) has mourned the death of businessman Victor Gamedze.**

The artists who were led by their President, Mzwakhe Myeni, yesterday visited Gamedze's home in Mbabane where they paid their condolences to the family of the late Mbabane Swallows boss.

## Visiting

Myeni and the association are among the many people who have been visiting the family to comfort them since Monday. Myeni was joined by Apostle Maculuve, Ronnie Dlamini, Thabile Myeni, Nduduzo Matse



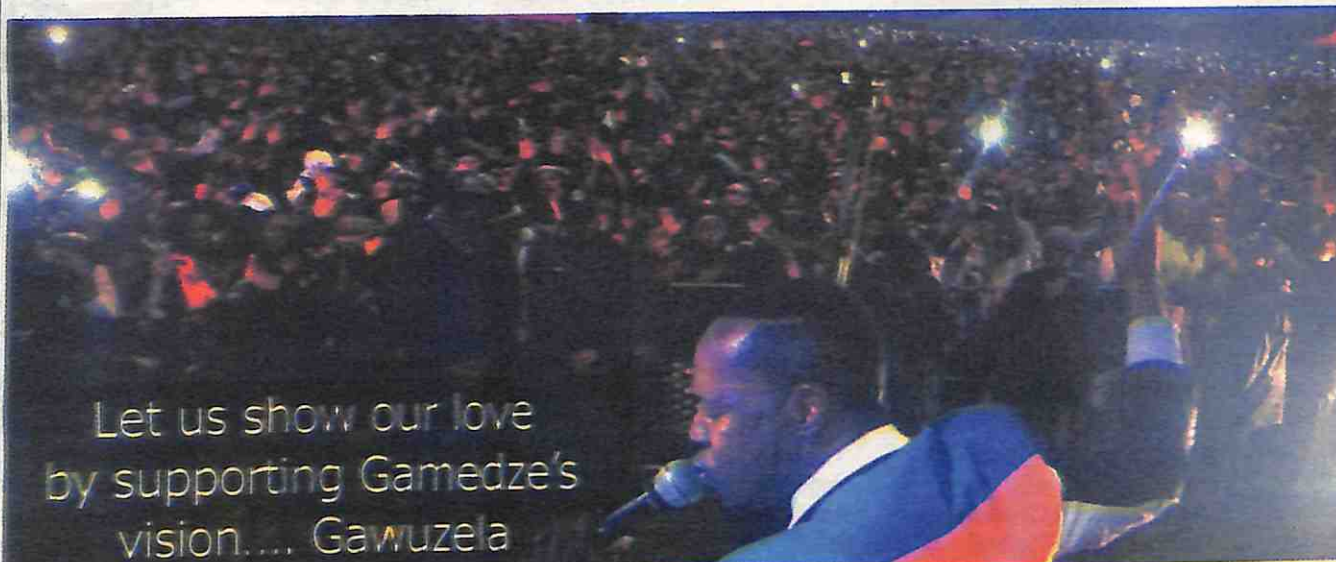
and Webstar Lukhele at the Gamedze homestead where they prayed and passed words of comfort to the family.

## Shot

Gamedze was shot dead ex-

ecution style at Galp Filling Station next to Corner Plaza on Sunday evening after witnessing his team Mbabane Swallows beat Manzini Wanderers in the Ingwenyama Cup competition

at Somhlolo National Stadium. Police are still investigating in a bid to bring the perpetrators forward of what has been described as a brutal murder of the businessman to justice.



Let us show our love by supporting Gamedze's vision... Gawuzela

**GOSPEL giant Mduduzi 'Gawuzela' Simelane has urged the nation to show love to Victor Gamedze by supporting the vision he had in different aspects of the country.**

Simelane who is affectionately known as 'Gawuzela' recently benefitted from Gamedze's generosity when he, through Swazi Mobile sponsored the Umlilo Cross-Over to the tune of E200 000.

The gospel all night show attracted over 20 000 people on the night where Swazi Mobile customers received E10 discount on entry.

Gawuzela said the Swazi nation must continue to support the company and all the initiatives that Gamedze had started with the view of devel-

oping the country. Simelane said he was personally hurting because of the loss of Gamedze stating that he was a generous and humble person who had the interest of the people at heart.

He said Gamedze was a long time friend even before he started Swazi Mobile. "I have had a personal encounter with Gamedze on a number of occasions.

## Cross

Through the company he recently rescued us by sponsoring the cross-over at Mavuso, which happens to be the biggest gospel show in the country. Despite that he was the chairman of the company but when I went to seek for the sponsorship for the show, he humbled himself and met me in person

to discuss the sponsorship which was eventually granted," he said.

## Worried

Simelane said he was worried if the sponsorship will continue now that Gamedze is gone. He said his wish and dream is for the management to carry forward Gamedze's visions and aspirations in ensuring that the nation which gathers annually for this event continue to benefit from his vision stating that Gamedze saw the importance of gathering the nation at Mavuso praying together for the new year" he added.

"I pray that the administration unite and work hard to ensure that his vision lives forever. I am also hoping that they will carry forward the vision he had of supporting the cross-

over because this is now a national event which is something that Gamedze wanted to support," he said.

Simelane also extended his condolences to the family, friends and the nation for the loss of such a great man who did not discriminate or undermine any person despite his financial stature.

Simelane said the nation must put everything in God's hands, noting that the scripture says that 'God is no man that He should lie', there is no mistake with God. Gamedze might have died in such a brutal manner, but God knew it all before it happened. As a nation we must take comfort that God had a plan for Gamedze's death which no man could have prevented" he said.

## Thando Zwane for Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition

Stories by Lusito Tsela

**Opera Singer Thando Zwane, a baritone will be trying his luck in the Hans Gabor Belvedere International Singing Competition.**

The much anticipated competition is taking place in Pretoria and Cape Town from March 22.

Zwane is the country's only professionally trained Opera singer who earlier last year made history for Swaziland by becoming the first Swazi opera singer ever to join Africa's premier Opera Company, Cape Town Opera.

In this year's edition, Zwane will represent the country in his quest to put Swaziland on the map with his singing talent.

Also acclaimed for launching the careers of some of the opera world's foremost opera singers through not only the lucrative prizes and engagement contracts it presents, the competition also links these young singers with the industry's decision-makers from the world's leading opera houses which includes the Metropolitan Opera New York, Royal Opera House Covent Garden London, Teatro alla Scala Milano, Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona, Cape Town Opera, and Deutsche Oper Berlin to name a few.

Zwane said the 2018 qualifying rounds are held in 61 cities world-wide with the finals taking place in cooperation in Dzintari Concert



**READY: Thando Zwane.**

Hall on June 10. "The singers will continue to be judged by a jury consisting of artistic and casting directors," he said.

Zwane believes that he stands to write even more history for Swaziland.

"In what looks like the start of a good year, I am beyond humbled by this opportunity, which I believe presents a perfect picture of the talent Swaziland has. I am optimistic that my qualification for the Hans Gabor Belvedere will mark the beginning of a very necessary conversation we need to have as a nation about support for the arts, a lot is going to waste.

Otherwise, as the Zwane household of Ngwane Park, we are ready, we were born ready and may I personally guarantee that Swaziland will be very well represented here," Zwane said.

## ...About the International Hans Gabor Belvedere

**THE International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition is the "springboard" for a career in opera: Past participants and prize winners include Elina Garanča, Angela Gheorghiu, Marina Mescheriakova, Ildikó Raimondi, Irina Samoilova, Stanislav Schwez.**

Recent winners include Italian tenor Antonio Poli, who made his debut at the Salzburg Festival alongside Anna Netrebko and Piotr Beczala.

Soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen, the prize first winner of the International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition in 2011, made her highly-acclaimed Royal Opera House Covent Garden debut in 2012.

And Pretty Yende, winner of all main prizes in 2009, makes an international career with engagements at the most renowned opera houses in the world.

The competition administration and headquarters are based in Vienna.



# THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE WORM AS

Over 1500 MTN Bushfire tickets sold  
But Line-up not yet revealed

Stories by Ayanda Dlamini

**THE country's pride, MTN Bushfire is one of the biggest festivals worldwide.**

This has been proven by the uptake of tickets locally and internationally since the early bird and pre sale tickets for this year's festival went on sale September last year.

According to House On Fire Communications Officer Noncedo Dlamini, they have sold over 1500 tickets; both early birds and pre-sale tickets over the past three months.

The festival has gained popularity over the years as now festival goers do not necessary need to know the headliners of the festival before buying the tickets; they just purchase tickets without knowing who will be performing. This is due to the hard work done by

the team in making sure that each and every year they deliver the best services and the perfect line-up for the festival patrons.

Dlamini said the response from the public both internationally and locally is quite overwhelming and it has increased from the previous years.

"The tickets are selling pretty much faster as compared to the previous years and by the look of things the festival will be sold out before the date of the festival," Dlamini stated yesterday during an interview with this publication.

It is worth noting that full festival main arena tickets were sold out in less than two hours after release last September. This record-breaking response from MTN Bushfire fans reflects the major increase in interest in the festival from across Africa and the globe.

Dlamini mentioned last year that



they would only have full festival passes and no day passes.

Dlamini also revealed that the line up will be out as soon as possible since they are still confirming with the artists after receiving over 500 applications to choose from. "Line-up will be revealed soon through the various media houses and we urge festival goers to buy their tickets to avoid disappointments," said the commu-

nications officer. Dlamini also revealed the physical tickets will be out in February and will be available locally and in Mozambique. For now, presale are still available online and going at E 780 for full festival main arena, E 1550 for festival golden lounge and E 230 for full day/ full festival for Children. The 12th edition of MTN Bushfire 2018 is schedule for May 25 to May 27.

**MTN Bushfire 2018 will be sold out earlier than expected as the camping site for the festival goers is filling up fast.**

This was revealed the communications officer.

Dlamini said, "Looking at the number of tickets holders who also opted for our camping site, we are going to be sold out soon."

According to Dlamini, this year's festival brings a new luxury camping option available for those festival goers looking for a bit more comfort in their camping experience.

## ...Camping site space running out

"The main MTN Bushfire campsite has great facilities, including hot showers, flushing toilets and running water available all weekend," she said.

Moreover, there would be a 24-hour café that sells breakfast, muffins, tea, coffee and juices throughout the weekend. "It is also a great spot for meeting new friends, and relaxing around fires. The information cen-

ter is where you can charge your mobile devices and find out more about your travel plans," Dlamini explained. This year's festival will come with a security team, and a team of staff with wheelbarrows to assist the festival goers with taking their camping gear into the site.

"In a group of 20 or more per party, those who wish to bring their own tentscan contact tours @ all-

outafrica.com to make plans for their group," she added.

Dlamini has urged fun lovers to make sure they purchase their MTN Bushfire ticket separately to their camping package. "Many of the camping options also have limited space so book now and all accommodation and tickets information can be found on [www.bush-fire.com](http://www.bush-fire.com)," Dlamini said.

## Cuba Nora to host ladies night karaoke

By Lusito Tsela

**WITH the country's fast growing appetite for a good time, Cuba Nora will be hosting the first Karaoke night of the year on Friday.**

This was revealed by the Manager Pamela Mashaba saying "This is for the single ladies.

We are celebrating the new year as single ladies." The manager said all the ladies are welcome to come and have fun, as there will be other few performances including local artists like the Unitone group and others who are yet to be confirmed.

Mashaba urged all ladies who are interested to come since Karaoke is just another way of refreshing one's brain and having fun at the same time.

Mashaba added that the night will be a night of pure fun, "people who are tired of singing in the shower or tired of convincing their friends that they are actually talented and believe they are destined for greatness should come show case their singing talents," she stated.

Mashaba also mentioned that entrance will be free, however attendees will be expected to buy a meal in a form of burgers, sandwiches, Mozambican meals and freshly baked products.



**KARAOKE NIGHT: Cuba Nora Manager Pamela Mashaba.**

## Nomalungelo drops another single 'Mamawe'

By Ayanda Dlamini

**SHE is the queen of Afro pop and she is here to stay.**

MTN SWAMA Award winner Nomalungelo Dladla has dropped another jam song titled 'Mamawe' after her smashing hit song 'Ziyamporoma' that was a cross over song at the Swazi Mobile Big Five 24 hour party on New Year's Eve.

According to the Afro-pop queen, the song is basically a story of mother Africa informing her children about the beauty of Africa in terms of music. "It is a house beat song, and embodies what mother Africa offers. It was proudly produced by Mozaik," said Dladla.

The song has already got its airplay on international radio stations such as Metro FM and locally SBIS 1 and SBIS 2 as well.

'Mamawe' is available on all streaming services.

The 'Ziyamporoma' hitmaker is currently cooking her album that will be released soon so she says.

Dladla is also a songwriter and by far one of the top female Afro-soul musicians to emerge out of that country. Her music career kicked-off early 2009 when she featured on fellow stable mate's album, the 'Psycho-tik Revolution', which was released in March of that year.

Worth noting, she released her debut single 'Imiyalo' at the age of 21. The song saw her receive several awards. With her 'Lilungelo



**DROPS SINGLE: Nomalungelo Dladla.**

Lami' album, she made waves in several local and South African radio and TV stations.

Her vocal ability and song writing skills earned her mileage in the music scenery when her song 'Imiyalo' was remixed by a number of house producers from Swaziland and South Africa with effort by house music group The Antidotes. Shortly afterwards, she began to meet big game players in the South African music scene including Ringo Madlingozi and Robbie Malinga among others.

## Loyiso's Ndimbonile featuring Sands on 13 000 views

By Ayanda Dlamini

**WITHIN a month of Loyiso Bala's Ndimbonile music video release, it has received a resounding response from fans and music fanatics as it has recorded over 13 000 views and 42 affirmative comments on YouTube from local and international fans.**

South African award winning musician Loyiso Bala and the country's superstar Sands released the music video of their heart pulse song last year in December and it was premiered on TRACE Africa.

The song was well received by music fanatics as they went on Social Media; Facebook to be precise and congratulated both stars on the collaboration.

The love song music video was shot in the comfort of a mining town, just outside of Johannesburg called Nigel and it tackles on a youthful man finding his true love and ready to make her his sovereign.

The two had never met prior recording the song last year. According to reports, it was a

**...Gets 42 thumbs up comments**

Bala's idea to ring up Sands and request for collaborating with him and the rest was history. Loyiso Bala is one of the highly rated South African musicians in terms of the genres of music he specialises in.

In 2001 Bala kicked off his RnB solo music career after being part of groups; 'Bala Brothers and TKZee'.

He released his debut album in 2003 which was followed by a series of music videos.

He is not an artist to be easily forgotten considering his appearances on One Gospel TV Channel where he sings gospel music.





International  
Celebrity News

## Chris Martin Dakota Johnson take walk on beach

**LOS ANGELES** - Dakota Johnson and Chris Martin are going public - the new couple strolled on the beach over the weekend, packed on some PDA and, for good measure hang out with Kenny G. Chris and Dakota have been dating for a few months, but previously took great measures to keep it private. That all changed Sunday in Malibu where the "Fifty Shades of Grey" star and Chris looked inseparable. They had some unexpected company on the beach when Kenny G popped up, sadly with-



**IN LOVE: Chris Martin and Dakota Johnson.**

out his saxophone. So, no Coldplay-Kenny G collaboration. That Dakota's a lucky woman. **TMZ**

## Dolores O'Riordan Dead

**LOS ANGELES** - Dolores O'Riordan, singer for The Cranberries, has died at the age of 46. Her publicist confirmed the news to BBC News. "The lead singer with the Irish band The Cranberries was in London for a short recording session," a statement from the publicist read. "No further details are available at this time." The statement continued, "Family members are devastated to hear the breaking news and have requested privacy at this very difficult time." According to a statement obtained by The Guardian, the singer passed away "suddenly" on Monday.



**R.I.P: Dlore O'Riordan.**

Per the band's website, The Cranberries were formed in Ireland in 1990 and have sold more than 40 million albums worldwide. In fact, the website claimed the group sold more than 15 million albums in the US alone. **Eonline**

## Lifetime to create TV movie about P Harry and Meghan

**LONDON** - Lifetime is planning on creating a TV movie about Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's relationship called Harry & Meghan: The Royal Love Story. According to Deadline, which broke the news, Lifetime's head of programming Liz Gateley mentioned the film at the Television Critics Association event on Sunday. The media outlet claimed the film will give a timeline of the couple's relationship portraying everything from the moment they met, to the early stages of their courtship to the global media attention surrounding their romance. As for who will play Markle and Harry, Deadline wrote that the film is still casting.



**LOVE STORY: Prince Harry and Meghan.**

It also reported that Menhaj Huda will direct the movie and that Merideth Finn and Michele Weiss will executive produce the film. **Eonline**

## Serena Williams says childbirth made her 'Stronger'

**LOS ANGELES** - After opening up about her childbirth complications, Serena Williams took to Facebook on Monday to thank her followers for sharing their own stories and reveal how the experience made her "stronger." "I didn't expect that sharing our family's story of Olympia's birth and all of complications after giving birth would start such an outpouring of discussion from women—especially black women—who have faced similar complications and women whose problems go unaddressed," Williams wrote on Facebook. **Eonline**



**STRONG WOMAN: Serena Williams.**

## SA Celebrity News

## Alfred Ntombela plans to take music world by storm

**JOHANNESBURG** - Several years after a failed attempt to launch a music group, actor Alfred Ntombela has launched a solo music career, with an album due to be released in the next few months. The star of several Leon Schuster films told TshisaLIVE he has been hard at work putting the finishing touches to the album and is determined to make it big in the music industry. "I have always had a passion for music and so when I am not acting, I like to make music. I tried



**PLANNING AHEAD: Alfred Ntombela.**

to form a group in 2014, but it was never marketed properly and so it never went anywhere. **TshisaLIVE**

## Pearl slams EFF's H&amp;M vandalism

**JOHANNESBURG** - Actress Pearl Thusi has added her voice to the debate around a decision by the EFF to vandalise several H&M stores over the weekend, questioning if their plan was to spread fear and violence to get their way. Protesters broke windows at an H&M branch at the Menlyn Park shopping centre in Tshwane, leaving an entire floor at the centre shut down. There were also reported incidents of vandalism at Clearwater Mall in Johannesburg, Sandton City and Mall of Africa while EFF members held a peace-



**SPEAKS OUT: Pearl Thusi.**

ful demonstration at the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town. The protests came after an advertisement by the company showed a black child in a green hoodie written: "Coolest Monkey in the Jungle". **Sunday World**

## 'I've been Brenda all my life,' says Mabrrr look-alike

**JOHANNESBURG** - Forex agent Bathabile Ngubeni has been challenged by social media users to claim her "birthright" to play the role of the late Brenda Fassie in an upcoming biopic of the iconic musician. Bathabile's striking resemblance to Brenda Fassie has had people mistaking her for the famous songstress all her life. She explained to TshisaLIVE that she has been "Brenda all her life" and was going to take a shot at portraying the iconic singer in her biopic. "Nobody uses my real name, so I go by the name of Brenda. I've been



**LOOKALIKE: Bathabile Ngubeni.**

Brenda all my life and because of how much I look like her, I have just embraced it as my own name. Someone noticed the other day that my access card at work has the name Brenda and the person was like, 'yasss Mabrrr'." **TshisaLIVE**

## 'I prayed for a husband before I met Phat Joe'

**JOHANNESBURG** - Phat Joe's fiancée, Palesa Morgan, has revealed that she prayed for a husband like the popular radio and TV host just months before they met. In an Instagram live video this week, Palesa told fans that she had been taught to pray her goals into existence, a technique which she believes helped her find Joe. "I do this mediation over what I really want God to do for me in the new year and I promise you guys it works. I have been doing this since the year I met Joe. We met after I put on a prayer list: 'God, I want



**PRAYING WOMAN: Palesa Morgan.**

a husband', and I met him two months later." She went on to explain that it was love at first sight. **TshisaLIVE**

## WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY



**HAPPY: Mabuyi.**

Mabuyi is over the moon. Melusi impresses his father. Blade reports his findings regarding Richard to Mpiyakhe. Zanele goes to Qaphela seeking help.

ISIDINGO

TODAY



**LOSES IT: Sechaba.**

Hendrik discovers that Zandre plans on leaving for Korea in two days and orders him to destroy the travel documents. When Sechaba loses it on Gabriel at the counselling session, Lerato questions how he's going to help other men change if he can't control his own anger.

Muvhango

TODAY



**GOES HOME: Rendani.**

Rendani has had enough of the situation with Matodzi and decides to go home. Gugu and Tenda make peace. But is he really sorry? Rashaka comes to the rescue and helps Hangwani with her renovation woes.



TODAY



**SEES OPPORTUNITY: Emmanuel.**

David has a surprise in store for Quinton and for Gail. Madikgetla tries to bully the truth out of Sabelo. Emmanuel sees a new opportunity.



PICTURE OF THE DAY

Is Google a Boy or A Girl?

OBVIOUSLY A GIRL BECAUSE IT WON'T LET YOU FINISH YOUR SENTENCE WITHOUT SUGGESTING OTHER IDEAS

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 - January 19

Today you might find yourself at a loss as to how to proceed with a particular task or project in which you're involved, Capricorn. There might be a number of options open to you, all workable, and this could prove confusing. If all options are efficient and practical, don't agonise over your decision. Flip a coin if you have to! Success is strongly indicated if you don't stress yourself out in the process.

Aquarius January 20 - February 18

Something may be troubling a family member, Aquarius, and this person doesn't seem inclined to talk about it. Your intuition seems to be temporarily blocked, so you can't figure it out for yourself. Don't try; it's probably buried too deeply within the other person. Make it clear that you're there if needed and then allow this person to go his or her own way. Don't let this situation cause you to doubt their need and respect for you.

Pisces February 19 - March 20

Today you might feel as if you're living in a fog, Pisces. Some interesting but puzzling news may come your way today. It might be information of such a bizarre nature that you find it difficult to accept, yet your source could be more than reliable. Conversations with others might seem vague and uncertain, as those around you aren't really feeling all that communicative. You might have to rely on intuition to discern how they're feeling.

Aries March 21 - April 19

Unexpected premonitions and gut feelings might prove too strong for comfort, Aries, especially if they sense upcoming events that aren't all that pleasant. These feelings are sent to you not to worry you or cause upset but to give clues as to how to deal with the possibilities. You may also have to deal with your own self-doubt. Dig in, do what you can, and assure a positive outcome. Remember, it's possible to spin straw into gold!

Taurus April 20 - May 20

A goal that you've been working toward for a long time and in which you've placed a lot of hope and confidence, may suddenly seem in doubt today, Taurus. This doesn't mean it's dead in the water by any means. It only means that for now you just need to work a little harder and rebuild your faith in it. Tomorrow your doubts could well be a thing of the past. Work hard and hang in there.

Gemini May 21 - June 21

A partner or colleague might be going through some changes right now, causing you to wonder if you have a future with this person. It might appear that you're moving ahead while this person is lagging behind. This could be just a temporary condition, Gemini, so take care not to jump to any conclusions at this time. Offer your assistance and do what you can, then let the person work things out. This may pass in a few days.

Cancer June 22 - July 22

At this time you might be in the space where you tend to doubt concepts and attitudes that you've accepted all your life. You generally tend to be a service-oriented person, Cancer, and today you might want to help out someone close to you. Yet this person may have deeply buried issues that only he or she can deal with, and therefore might give the appearance of being unappreciative. Rest assured that this is not the case.

Leo July 23 - August 22

Dreams and visions might give rise to the desire to be especially artistic and creative today, Leo. Ideas for new artistic projects could be popping in and out of your head all day, and you might go into a panic doubting that you'll ever have the time to make any of your ideas a reality. At this time, you can only write down whatever pops into your head in order of your own preference. Then work with each in turn.

Virgo August 23 - September 22

Successes over the past several weeks, along with an increase in money, might give rise to the desire to improve your living situation, Virgo. You might have doubts, however, as to how best to go about doing it. Should you move or should you simply remodel? Should you move close by or to a different area? It's best to simply list the pros and cons of each option and then consider them all carefully. You don't have to decide right now.

Libra September 23 - October 23

Stress from whatever work pressures you've been experiencing might cause you to feel a bit under the weather. Yet you're probably unwilling to take some time off because you're too concerned about finishing what you're doing in a timely manner, Libra. It's important to remember that you won't finish it at all if you exhaust yourself. Move slowly and steadily, take time out to relax a little, and all will go more smoothly than you think.

Scorpio October 24 - November 21

Blocks and obstacles that you may have reached with regard to your projects might cause you to wonder if you have what it takes to get them done at all, Scorpio. This is OK, but don't get caught up in doubting your abilities. Step back, be objective, and work out the most practical and efficient ways to get past the obstacles and attain the results you want. Don't let your insecurities get the best of you.

Sagittarius November 22 - December 21

Although almost everything in your life seems to be going well, Sagittarius, today you just might find yourself in a bit of a panic. You might have a temporary fit of fear that your luck won't last. However, this is most likely due to your deepest insecurities flaring up.

BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PUZZLE CHOICE

WADERS

Can you find the volcanoes hidden in the box? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

E P O R A L A H P S S S T S S D T P W  
W V Y O T G I C N A A L H T T N V J I  
R O U M V P M N N R U N O O A I G T L  
A E O H B W G D N V E R D T E S L J L  
V G C D E L P P V D K T U E L B A T E  
V G R L C I E X Q K G J T N R T I C T  
G C R R P O N V X B D K X I T L R L G  
O U C E O Q C A B A E G V G B O I V L  
C T R V B H K K G A G N I W P A L N W  
V O Y S T E R C A T C H E R N M P G G  
C V S C P R R E N O T S N R U T L E L  
B V N J M O H L A E M V R P Q M O O H  
N D I D D N R Y D T A C U A L R V U A  
R V P H I H V H T J I G I I D L E R N  
T M E R N V O R N E H W P S W M R I A  
J E S G B I O N E R R D T I V E B C  
N V O Y E L L O W L E G S O D B D A A  
P T E C O V A C O U R S E R G T I J J  
R E E D L L I K U O B A R A M A C C D

PUZZLE CHOICE

ADJUTANT,  
AVOCET,  
BITTERN,  
COURSER,  
CURLEW,  
EGRET,  
GODWIT,  
HERON,  
IBIS,  
JABIRU,  
JACANA,  
KILLDEER,  
LAPWING,  
MARABOU,

OYSTER CATCHER,  
PHALAROPE,  
PLOVER,  
SANDERLING,  
SANDPIPER,  
SHOEBILL,  
SNIPE,  
STILT,  
STORK,  
TURNSTONE,  
WILLET,  
WOODCOCK,  
YELLOWLEGS.

LOL  
Laughing ut Loud

Talking Dog

A guy spots a sign outside a house that reads, "Talking Dog for Sale." Intrigued, he walks in. "So, what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog. "I've led a very full life," says the dog. "I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq."

And now, I spend my days reading at a retirement home." The guy is flabbergasted; he turns to the owner and asks, "Why on earth would you want to get rid of a dog like that?" The owner says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that."

USELESS FACTS

1. Libya has the only flag which is all one colour with no writing or decoration on it.  
2. Australia is the richest source of mineral sands in the world.  
3. Iowa is the only state bordered on both east and west entirely by rivers. (Mississippi on the east,

Missouri and Big Sioux on the west.)  
4. I, Q, and X are the only letters that don't start a city that ends in -ville in the state of Ohio. i.e. Brownsville, Zanesville, etc.  
5. The Atlantic Ocean is saltier than the Pacific Ocean.

BRAINTEASERS  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's brainteasers

1. A rooster laid an egg on top of the barn roof. Which way did it roll?  
Answer: It didn't roll - since when did roosters start laying eggs?  
2. A truck driver is going down a one way street the wrong way, and passes at least ten cops. Why is

he not caught?  
Answer: Because he was not driving! He's walking on the sidewalk.

Today's brainteasers

1. How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it?  
2. How can you lift an elephant with one hand?





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Feel every moment

**NEWS**



# MZANSI MAGIC PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

## SATURDAY 27 JANUARY

### Unstoppable at 20:30

The late Tony Scott directs Denzel Washington and Chris Pine in this pulsating action film. An unmanned train is hurtling towards the city, and only two people can stop it.

## SUNDAY 28 JANUARY

### Nkululeko Season 1 at 20:00

#### [Episode 4]

It appears Nkululeko, Mandla and Buhle were not the only ones with the Brigadier that night... Tina's job keeps interfering with tradition. Zuks sends a message to Poncho.

### Hard Target at 21:30

Action superstar Jean-Claude Van Damme stars in a thrilling game of cat and mouse. A drifter is hired by a woman to help find her father, but first they must face much danger.

## MONDAY 29 JANUARY

### Jackpot at 18:00

When a beautiful young woman discovers that her workplace is a front for illegal dealings, she enlists the help of her boyfriend and others to rob the place.

### Ring of Lies Season 2 at 19:00

#### [Episode 105]

It's the day of Sli and Neo's long-awaited wedding. Rendani tries to come to terms with losing Neo forever.

### Isithembiso at 19:30

#### [Episode 173]

Banzi spirals into paranoia and anger after his encounter with the cop.



Elsewhere, Claudia pleads with Kero for help.

### Ikhaya Season 1 at 20:00

#### [Episode 4: Closet Secrets]

Eddie receives good and then bad news. Frank uses Cebile's weakness to continue to worm his way into the Mbatha family.

### Isibaya at 20:30

#### [Episode 1219]

Tragedy has hit Jabu and Zama's *umembeso*. News of events at Orlando start to spread. Jabu and Qaphela suffer a heart-wrenching and devastating blow.

### The Queen Season 2 at 21:00

#### [Episode 131: Dishonest Hearts]

Mmabatho refuses to believe that Shaka has done anything wrong in his past. Gracious takes a gun and vows to kill her enemies.

## TUESDAY 30 JANUARY

### Isithembiso at 19:30

#### [Episode 174]

Karlujah's fate turns, while Tiro enjoys

being "the man".

### Isibaya at 20:30

#### [Episode 1220]

Judas receives tragic news about Orlando. The Zungus and the Ngwneyas are in shock and decide to tread carefully as they face a mutual enemy.

### The Queen Season 2 at 21:00

#### [Episode 132: The Devil's Halo]

Goodness and Gracious try to convince Mmabatho to stay away from the Khozas. Vuyiswa and Jerry fight about their roles at work.

### Isikizi Season 1 at 21:30

#### [Episode 4]

Sizwe finds a friend in Mthatha. Nomazwe is distraught by the fact that Vuyisile never came home the night before.

## WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY

### Isithembiso at 19:30

#### [Episode 175]

Claudia sets her plan to poison Banzi against Karlujah in motion. Later, Simi must decide if she is going to tell Palesa the truth about her father.

### Isibaya at 20:30

#### [Episode 1221]

Blade's hunt for the assassins take him to a dead end. Rich arrives at Protea to offer help and support. It seems both the Zungu and Ngwenya families are under attack.

### The Queen Season 2 at 21:00

#### [Episode 133: The Message]

Shaka breaks Mmabatho's heart. Vuyiswa decides it's time to take things farther with Jerry.

## BOLLYTUNES

Monday to Friday 17h00 | Zee World  
Channel 166

BollyTunes is a new music show on Zee World that will showcase the latest and the hottest Indian pop music. BollyTunes will dish out song and dance from your favourite artist starting this July. Experience the fun of Bollywood through the biggest music videos from various genres. We pick the best ever Bollywood songs seen on screen to satisfy your soul. It's spectacular, it's dazzling, it's BollyTunes. Love...look what you made me do

SATURDAY @ 21H00 | ZEE WORLD  
CHANNEL 166

Love is an intriguing and strange feeling. When cupid strikes, it brings with it the feeling of happiness, pain, envy, greed, lust and sin. We have all loved and lost, we have all been hurt, we have all moved on... There are some however, who do not believe in moving on, there are some who do not give up, there are some who will do anything for love... Our new show, Love...look what you made me do! talks about love and other feelings. Watch it and discover the stories of love, happy endings and more.





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Global College is looking for a qualified lecturer in the field of **Information Technology (IT)** and **Advanced Mathematics**.

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- Candidate must possess in minimum, BSc Degree in Information Technology or equivalent
- Minimum of four (4) years field experience, or in related field

Written applications along with C.V. are to be hand delivered or submitted by post to;

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Swaziland  
M200

**Deadline:** All applications are to be submitted on or before 31 January 2018.

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# PELE BACKS BRAZIL TO WIN SIXTH WORLD CUP

**BRASILIA** - Footballing legend Pele said on Monday that Brazil are favourites to win the World Cup in Russia, four years on from their humiliation on home soil.

Five-time winners Brazil were thrashed 7-1 in the 2014 semifinals by eventual champions Germany at the Maracana, but Pele, considered one of the best players of all time, insisted that new coach Tite has formed a team ready to put his country's painful memories to rest.

"Those who are Brazilian and believe in Brazil always point to Brazil as the favourites," the 77-year-old said while attending the opening ceremony of the Rio de Janeiro league.

The 'Selecao' romped to qualification as winners of the South American group, with Tite building an excit-

ing side featuring the world's most expensive player Neymar and new Barcelona signing Philippe Coutinho.

"One of the good things that happened was the arrival of Tite, he's making a team," Pele added.

"In the last World Cup we had the best players in the world but the team was disorganised.

"It seems that now we'll have a team and a Selecao that gives us confidence."

Pele, who won three World Cups with Brazil in 1958, 1962 and 1970, has been struggling with ill health and Monday was his first public appearance with a zimmer frame, having attended December's World Cup draw in a wheelchair.

"I'm fine, thank goodness, and I want to thank all those who sent me messages wishing me a good recovery from all over the world," he said.



**BEHIND BRAZIL:** Footballing legend Pele.

Pele, who scored over 1 000 goals during his career, also claimed that modern football produces fewer great players than in his era, despite the presence of Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar.

"Today, there are only three players who really stand out; Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar," he said.

"Before, at the time of Cruyff or Beckenbauer, there were three in each team."

AFP

## We want to measure ourselves against world class team- Van Wyk

**CAPE TOWN** - Accolades are important in tracking and measuring improvement, but it also places a football team squarely in the spotlight.

They are no longer an unknown entity - instead they are now in the focus of other nations as the team to beat.

Banyana Banyana's recent success in the COSAFA Cup and their award as the African women's team of the year has had the requisite effect of elevating the SA national team into international recognition.

And it was this particular aspect highlighted by Banyana captain Janine van Wyk when



**EAGER:** Banyana skipper Janine van Wyk and coach Desiree Ellis are looking forward to play world number 11 Sweden in Cape Town this week.

revealing her thoughts about Sunday's international friendly against Sweden at the Cape Town Stadium (kick off 2pm).

Entry is free, but tickets still

have to be accessed via Computicket or any Shoprite, Checkers, or Checkers Hyper.

This is the first time Banyana are playing such a high pro-

file friendly in the Mother City.

"I am really looking forward to the match," said Van Wyk at a press conference at the former World Cup venue on Monday. It will be the second time I play against Sweden. They are tough opponents, they are world class, and it is an honour to have them here.

"It shows that Banyana are a good team, otherwise world class teams like Sweden wouldn't come here to prepare. "For us, this is part of the preparation for the women's Africa Cup of Nations, with the ultimate aim of qualifying for the 2019 World Cup." *IOL Sport*

## Fury backs Parker to upset Joshua in heavyweight showdown

**CARDIFF** - Tyson Fury believes Joseph Parker's speed and power will prove too much for Anthony Joshua when they meet this spring.

The two heavyweight world champions will collide in a historic unification clash at Cardiff's Principality Stadium on March 31. Fury and Parker formed an unlikely friendship in the wake of the New Zealander's victory over Hughie Fury in September.

Now the self-styled Gypsy King is backing the WBO titlist to maintain his

unbeaten record against AJ.

"If I'm honest I fancy Parker, and that's being gospel," Fury told the Pound for Pound podcast. "He's young and ambitious, he's got fast hands, he hits hard and he fights excellent against opponents who stand still and don't move."

Now the self-styled Gypsy King is backing the WBO titlist to maintain his unbeaten record against AJ.

"If I'm honest I fancy Parker, and that's being gospel," Fury told the Pound for Pound podcast. *Daily Mail*



**BACKS:** Former unified world champion Tyson Fury believes Joseph Parker will beat Anthony Joshua.

## Cheetahs address yellow card issue

**CAPE TOWN** - Cheetahs captain Torsten van Jaarsveld has called for better decision making from his players after a string of yellow cards in their last two matches.

The Cheetahs received three yellow cards in last Saturday's PRO14 win over the Southern Kings in Port Elizabeth.

Lock Justin Basson, prop Charles Marais and No. 8 Junior Pokomela all spent time in the sin-bin but the men from Bloemfontein still managed a comfortable 45-21 victory.

However, in the previous week-end's clash in Italy, yellow cards for hooker Van Jaarsveld and scrumhalf Shaun Venter proved costly in a 27-21 defeat to Treviso.

In an interview with Netwerk24, Van Jaarsveld said the yellow cards

were down to the wrong decisions made at the wrong time.

"It's all about timing, especially when attempting to turn over possession. We'll simply have to make much better decisions."

Cheetahs coach Rory Duncan said the yellow card issue will be discussed with the players.

"We're having a look at the decisions made and how we got those yellow cards. We'll have a look so we don't find ourselves in another position of being down to 13 men in the final 10 minutes."

The Cheetahs are currently third in the PRO14's Conference A, with seven wins from 12 matches.

They host the Kings in a return fixture at the Free State Stadium on Saturday (17:00 kick-off).

*Sport24*



**THREE YELLOW CARDS:** Cheetahs Captain Torsten van Jaarsveld. (Gallo Images)

## Pirates to offer Billiat lucrative deal

**CAPE TOWN** - Orlando Pirates are bidding to try and sign Mamelodi Sundowns' attacking midfielder Khama Billiat, according to a report.

Billiat is currently in the last six months of his contract with the Brazilians and can open negotiations with any club for a pre-contract or a straight deal.

The 26-year-old has been the subject of much speculation regarding his future throughout the season and was recently linked with a move to Azerbaijan champions FK Qarabag.

However, Billiat could potentially stay in South Africa and according to the KickOff website, Pirates are

interested in offering the Zimbabwean a lucrative deal should he opt to become a 'Buccaneer'.

"Pirates have been talking to the player's representative," said a source. "The first offer was rejected. They have made another offer." The 'Buccaneers' are willing to increase Billiat's salary from R160 000 a month to R200 000. With time running out for the talented forward to make an overseas move,

having won just about every trophy and accolade on offer in South Africa, the former Ajax Cape Town player and his representatives may well also hold on for an offer from Europe.

Sundowns head coach Pitso Mosimane revealed in December last year that he was confident that Billiat

would sign a new deal with the Pretoria-based side and remain at Chloorkop.

*Sport 24*



**GOING:** Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder Khama Billiat.



# UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

## WENG WON'T PAY AUBA THE TOP

### Arsenal could pull plug on deal

**LONDON** - The Arsenal boss has serious concerns about signing the temperamental Borussia Dortmund star as a replacement for Manchester

United-bound Alexis Sanchez.

Wenger's fears about Aubameyang's disciplinary issues mean he has told the German club he

is only willing to pay £35m.

But the German club, who rate Aubameyang at £53m, are determined to squeeze more out of Arsenal for a player who has scored an impressive 98 goals in 126 starts.

The striker was left out of the Dortmund squad for their game against Wolfsburg on Sunday after missing a pre-match meeting.

He was also axed for Dortmund's 2-1 defeat by Stuttgart in November, with the club citing 'disciplinary reasons' for his omission.

He was also dropped for an unauthorised trip to Milan in 2016.

#### Persuade

But it is his lethal touch in front of goal that may yet persuade Wenger to up the ante.

Aubameyang has found the net 21 times in 23 appearances this season and topped the goalscoring table in the Bundesliga last season.

His record in Europe also shows he is a top-quality striker with 15 goals in 32 Champions League games and 11 in 14 in the Europa League.

Aubameyang's former team-mate Henrikh Mkhitaryan already looks to be heading to the Emirates as part of the deal with Manchester United to sign Sanchez.

Arsenal's new head of recruiting Sven Mislintat helped sign both for Dortmund and may be able to persuade Wenger to take a risk and up his bid for Aubameyang.

The 'Gunners' are also confident of wrapping up a deal for Bordeaux's £45m Brazilian winger Malcom.

#### Move

They have also been weighing up a move for Portuguese international wide man Gelson Martins, who Liverpool are also keen on. He is valued at £53m by Sporting Lisbon.

Meanwhile, Dan Gosling says Bournemouth knew Arsenal were there for the taking before beating them 2-1 on Sunday.

Sanchez and Mesut Ozil both missed the game after being left out of the squad.

And 'Cherries' midfielder Gosling said: "They have got a few problems off the field with players leaving and not sure they want to be there."

"That probably dictates what they are getting on the pitch."

"Sanchez and Ozil make a difference to their squad and they had a few defenders missing and we played on that."

*Daily Mail*

## Giggs' father ashamed of him

...After Ryan had affair with brother's wife

**LONDON** - Ryan Giggs' father says he is 'ashamed' of his son, who he says stabbed brother Rhodri in the back after having an affair with his wife, Natasha, and not apologising.

Speaking after Giggs was appointed as Wales Manager on a four-year contract, Danny Wilson told *The Sun*: "I should be the proudest dad in the world, as happy as a lark by what he's achieved - but I am ashamed of him."

"I can't even bring myself to use his name - I refer to him as the ex-footballer."

News of Giggs' affair with his sister-in-law emerged in 2011, after it emerged the Manchester United hero had also had an affair with former *Big Brother* contestant Imogen Thomas.

#### Exposed

He paid £150 000 for a gagging order over his tryst with Thomas but was eventually exposed in parliament by then Liberal Democrat MP John Hemming, who used parliamentary privilege to break the court order.

Natasha Giggs also claimed she aborted the Giggs' baby shortly before she married his brother Rhodri.

Giggs finally divorced his own wife, Stacey, last November after finally splitting in 2014.

But father Wilson says his son, 44, has shown no remorse for the pain his actions have caused to his family.

"As the eldest he should have been watching his brother's back - not stabbing him in it."

"He cheated in the worst possible way and is not man enough to apologise for it."

Rhodri gave his version of events in an appearance on *This Morning* in 2015.

#### Denied

"Ryan denied it," Rhodri said. "It was bizarre, all kind of emotions. Numbness, shock and disbelief. I said to him I had texts and pictures and that was when he admitted it. He said 'it was about sex, nothing more, nothing less.'"

"I just felt sorry for him. He had a nice wife, nice children, nice home, nice life. He obviously wasn't happy with it."

After being unveiled as Wales boss on Monday, Giggs dismissed scrutiny over his own international record as 'unfair'.

Giggs was regularly criticised for withdrawing from Wales squads - particularly for friendly matches - during a career where he played 64 times for his country.

Giggs said: "I think it is a bit unfair, but football is about opinions."

"The people who have got an opinion of me not giving my all, I can promise you that I did when I played for Wales and I'll continue to do that as Welsh manager."

*Daily Mail*

## Paul Pogba is the man who makes Man United tick

**MANCHESTER** - Paul Pogba is the man who makes Manchester United tick... he is 35 games unbeaten and Jose Mourinho believes he is only going to get better.

This season, Paul Pogba has played 13 Premier League games. Nine wins, four draws, no defeats. He is 35 games unbeaten in total, and is only getting better. He is making Man United tick.

On Monday night, he ran the show against Stoke, helping his team to a 3-0 win. You may not see his name on the scoresheet, but he is becoming king of the assist. Two more this week took his tally to nine for the season.

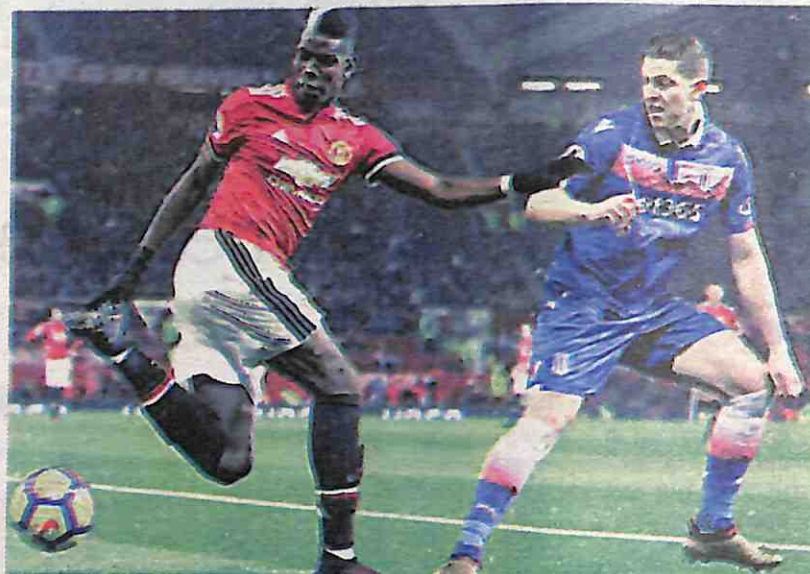
In fact, most of the stats are in his favour. Be it passes, tackles, chances created... you name it, he can do it, and he is only getting better.

After the win against Stoke, Mourinho was quick to praise his main man. United are moulding to the Frenchman, and becoming his team.

"He was moving the ball fantastically well, with long passes changing the direction and creating problems for the opponent," Mourinho said.

"He had an assist and if he had scored the free-kick with the last shot of the game, it would be really a reward for him. I think he is happy with the way the team is playing and he's happy because the team is changing the profile and the profile is going more in his direction."

United's system changes often, but if Pogba is injury-free then he will be at the heart of it. He has been given a new



**MAIN MAN:** Paul Pogba doing his thing.

role, further forward. With more time and space on the ball, he is able to create and roam.

And he said as much after the game: "I can use more of my ability, my attributes, to go forward, to use my power, shoot, try to make an assist. I think it suits me more."

#### Terms

Let's take a look at the stats. In terms of Premier League players, nobody has more assists than Pogba this season. Leroy Sane and Kevin De Bruyne are level, but both have played far more games.

In fact, in all of Europe's top five leagues there is not one player with more assists. He is in the top 10 for passes per game,

too. An average of 69.2 puts him above Cesc Fabregas and on the same level as Mesut Ozil.

Delving into the United squad, it is much the same. Passes into the final third, only Nemanja Matic is ahead of him... and yes, the Serbian has played 10 more games.

Only Juan Mata and Henrikh Mkhitaryan have created more chances, despite the Frenchman's lack of football. He is right up there for tackles, too.

There is no cherry-picking here, no being selective to suit a pro-Pogba agenda. It's just how it is. Every stat this season seems to be in his favour, and he is improving by the game. *Daily Mail*

## MOURINHO 'RELAXED' ABOUT SANCHEZ

**MANCHESTER** - Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho remains relaxed about his chances of signing Arsenal forward Alexis Sanchez despite reported late interest from Chelsea.

The United Manager was speaking at the end of a Monday of high drama in the pursuit of the Chilean, who looks likely to leave the

Emirates in the January transfer window ahead of his contract expiring at the end of the current campaign.

That will enable Arsenal to recoup some cash for the highly-rated Sanchez, with United understood to have put together a package that will be

worth £35 million to Arsenal

Wenger's club, and include United midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan, valued at £10 million, as part of the deal. Sanchez had long been expected to join Manchester City, who failed in a bid to secure his services on the final day of the



European summer transfer window.

As recently as last week, Sanchez looked set for a reunion with his former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola at the Etihad but late on Monday saw City officially withdrew their interest, scared off apparently by the escalating fee and wage demands that are reported to be around £300 000 a week. *AFP*



**DEINED:** New Wales Manager Ryan Giggs





## GOVERNMENT OF SWAZILAND Terms of Reference

<b>Title:</b> <b>Country of Assignment:</b> <b>Type of Contract:</b> <b>Start Date:</b> <b>Duration:</b> <b>Expected Duration of Assignment:</b> <b>Supervision:</b>	<b>Review of the 2010 National Gender Policy</b> Swaziland Individual Contract (Team of an International and National Consultant) 15 February 2018 45 working days 4 months Ms. Jane Mkhonta-Simelane, Director for Gender and Family Issues Department Ms. Sithembiso Gona, UNDP Programme Specialist - Policy Services
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### BACKGROUND

Swaziland adheres to a number of international, regional and national instruments that express commitment for the promotion of gender equality commitments, namely the 1995 Beijing, 2004 CEDAW and the 2007 SADC Gender Policy. These pledges recognize the promotion of gender equality as a development objective and a prerequisite for sustainable development. Such recognition and commitment calls for appropriate measures to ensure the full realization of equitable sustainable development that leaves no one behind through national policy and programme interventions. The domestication of the various instruments led to the Government of Swaziland (GOS) developing the National Gender Policy in 2010.

The Beijing Plus 20 Outcome Document, and its First 10-Year Implementation Plan, both adopted in 2015 have been translated into the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development for alignment by the Member States. Additionally, the global community, including Swaziland endorsed, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Africa Union Agenda 2063. These instruments foster gender equality across the 17 SDGs, and further embrace and close interface with culture in the AU Agenda. The country has taken the initial steps to integrate these two in unison, into the National Development Strategy (NDS), Vision 2022, for realisation of inclusive gender-responsive outcomes.

Sustainable development participation and opportunity deviation status for the country was assessed through the 2016 Swaziland Gender Development Index. The Index revealed progress made regarding the social-related development in particular in the education sector. Economic opportunities and women participation in decision-making however lag, in particular when considering that women parliamentary representation is recorded at 15%. Access to credit and production tools and skills remain low contributing to the high unemployment rate of 40% amongst women versus 28.1% of the general population. Maternal mortality rates remain high with access to quality services challenging the public health sector. On the other hand, the national surveillance mechanism on the gender-based violence indicates an increase in reported cases and more women and children than men falling victims.

Gender indifferent sectoral policies and strategies limit the ability of the country to translate the gender equality mainstreaming agenda, and combined with inadequate monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools the national resources allocation requires a review to enhance commitment through resource allocation and targeted results and timeframes.

The 2010 National Gender Policy capacity to drive effective national institution coordination through the Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO) Department of Gender and Family Issues (DGFI) remains deficient of benchmarked national performance targets along the 2015 Agenda 2030 SDG 5 and the AU 2063 Agenda. Promotion of comprehensive gender mainstreaming and protection of human rights ensuring coherent gender definitions and conceptualisation for improved understanding of gender equality process and its integration in the various sectors has to be achieved, hence the call for the review of the Gender Policy.

A team of an International Consultant (IC) and a National Consultant (NC) is required to undertake a comprehensive valuation of the 2010 National Gender Policy under the leadership of the Department of Gender and Family Issues and develop a comprehensive costed Strategy Action Plan (SAP) with and M&E Framework and indicators. The International Consultant will lead in achievement of the assignment deliverables with support by the National Consultant. The team of consultants will work closely with the Technical Working Group (TWG) that will be established by the DPMO.

### SCOPE OF WORK AND OBJECTIVES

The Team of Consultants will review the 2010 National Gender Policy and align it with the international instruments such as the Beijing Plus 20 Outcome Document, CEDAW, Agenda 2030, African Union Agenda 2063 and AU Gender Policy, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and on the Rights of Women in Africa, Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality, African Charter on the Rights of the Child, Protocol on the Suppression and Punishment of Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, Convention on the Rights of the Child, the reviewed SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and its indicators and the United Nations' Resolutions 1325, 60/2.

This process is envisaged to align all gender equality related issues with the National Development Strategy (NDS), Vision 2022 and the Nation Action Plan 2013-2018. The SAP will be transformational in its nature, highlighting the strategic direction of gender equality including institutional frameworks, capacity provisions and clear benchmarks and indicators for monitoring and evaluating policy performance.

### ASSIGNMENT TASKS AND DELIVERABLES

The assignment tasks will include:

1. Development of a detailed Inception Report, indicating the roles and responsibilities of the IC, NC and TWG, and work plan for the review of the 2010 National Gender Policy. The Report is to be presented within five (5) days of signing the contract.
2. Review all relevant international, regional and national instruments and documents, including the 2005 National Constitution, Parliamentary Reports, policy guidelines, and legal framework that provide the gender equality institutionalization, mainstreaming and implementation in the country;

3. Review the SDG 2030 and AU63 NDS-integration process and facilitate prioritization of gender equality targets at national and sectoral levels;
4. Conduct in-depth national stakeholder discussions, including DPMO Parliament National Portfolio Committee, Traditional Leaders and community members and groups (women and the people leaving with disabilities), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector to solicit further inputs on the formulation of the reviewed National Gender Policy and Strategy Action Plan document addressing the key focal areas: Constitution and Institutional Arrangements; Human Rights and Legal Regulatory Instruments of Good Practice; Gender Equality Development; and Sectoral Management for education, health food-security and nutrition, HIV and AIDS, Economic Production and Trade; and, Women Empowerment and Participation; and Capacity Building, Research and Training;
5. Review the national budgetary allocation and mainstreaming process and suggest improved resource envelopes to meet gender equality outcomes.
6. Conduct quality assurance in the development of the SDG-aligned sectoral-based M&E Framework with ASmart Indicator Reference per thematic area and design disaggregated Sector-based Data Reporting Tool;
7. Develop the National Stakeholders Consultation Report;
8. Facilitate the validation of the comprehensive National Gender Policy and cost;
9. Strategy and Action Plan by national stakeholders; and
10. Draft the final National Gender Policy and Strategy and Action Plan for approval by the Government of Swaziland DPMO.

### Deliverables:

The assignment will crystallize to the following deliverables:

- (i) Inception Meeting and Inception Report detailing methodology and work plan including schedule of deliverables and budget one week after signing of the contract.
- (ii) Stakeholder's Consultations Report.
- (iii) Draft National Gender Policy, Strategy and Action Plan with Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for presentation in a validation meeting.
- (iv) National Stakeholders Validation Meeting.
- (v) Final draft of the reviewed National Gender Policy, Strategy and Action Plan with Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with ASmart Indicator Reference per thematic area and design disaggregated Sector-based Data Reporting Tool.

### REPORTING

The successful Team of Consultant will work with a TWG and report to the Director for the Department of Gender and Family Issues in the DPMO. The Team is encouraged to maintain a dialogue with the national counterparts, the PSC, UNDP country office Programme Specialist - Policy Services to report on progress and address emerging challenges during the undertaking of the work, on monthly basis.

### QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCIES

#### Qualification

Basic qualifications required for the consultants include but are not confined to the following:

- A Masters in Gender Development Studies, Social Sciences, Law, Demography with good knowledge and skills on Monitoring and Evaluation. A PhD would be an added advantage.
- Seven (7) years' experience in gender equality policy development for the International Consultant and five years (5) for National Consultant.
- Knowledge of gender promoting and protecting international, regional and national instruments.
- Proven record and experience in Policy formulation.
- Experience and knowledge in working in countries with dual system of governance and strong cultural foundations would be an asset.
- Experience with development of Strategy Action Plans and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Frameworks and research on gender and development.

### COMPETENCIES

- Strong conceptual and analytical skills, in particular on gender equality
- Excellent facilitation, communication and presentation and report- skills.
- Proven analytical, organizational development and inter-personal skills.
- Ability and demonstrated experience in working with multi-disciplinary teams.
- Ability to meet deadlines with minimum supervision.
- Proficiency in English, written and spoken.

### SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Interested candidates are invited to submit detailed CV's and Expression of Interest marked, 'Review of the 2010 National Gender Policy Consultancy' to UNDP Offices, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Lilunga House, and PO. Box 261, Mbabane, or email application to: [registry.sz@undp.org](mailto:registry.sz@undp.org) by 26 January 2018.

#### Additional Considerations

- Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
- Only those candidates that are short-listed for interviews will be notified.



## Easy for Federer in Australia opener

MELBOURNE - Defending champion Roger Federer dazzled under the Australian Open lights to waltz through to the second round with a straight sets win over Aljaz Bedene yesterday.

The ageless Swiss marvel, rated as the favourite to win his 20th Grand Slam title, thrilled the Rod Laver Arena crowd with a virtuoso performance.

The second seed cruised to a 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 win in 1hr 39min and will next play German Jan-Lennard Struff.

Federer is coming off an extraordinary 2017, when he won a fifth Australian Open title and a record eighth at Wimbledon, after returning from an injury lay-off.

He said the margin the elite players had over others helped them to make successful comebacks from injuries, pointing to himself last year, and Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Stan Wawrinka at this year's Open.

"I think because we maybe have a margin against a lot of the players normally, when we do come back, we can maybe find that level," Federer said. "Even though we're not feeling good, we can still find a way and eventually play good again, whereas others would struggle early on and it becomes more difficult."

"I think then because of our results, we just back ourselves. Mentally and physically we're going to be there. AFP

## Mkhitaryan key to Sanchez Utd deal

LONDON - Manchester United's bid to sign Alexis Sanchez from Arsenal hinges on Henrikh Mkhitaryan moving the other way, the Armenian player's agent said yesterday as Antonio Conte distanced Chelsea from a potential deal.

Chile international Sanchez, who appears to have played his last game for Arsenal, had been strongly linked with a move to either Manchester United or Manchester City and Chelsea boss Antonio Conte has also spoken of his admiration for the player. The player, who is out of contract this summer, had appeared certain to sign for Pep Guardiola's team after a transfer fell through in August but it is understood City have pulled out of the race for the 29-year-old due to the costs involved.

There has been speculation Mkhitaryan will be offered as a makeweight from United to land Sanchez, and Mourinho left the playmaker out of the squad to face Stoke on Monday due to "doubts about his future".

Mkhitaryan's agent Mino Raiola told Britain's Times newspaper that Sanchez's transfer to United was reliant on his client joining Arsenal as part of the deal.

"Manchester United are not going to sign Sanchez unless Mkhi agrees to join Arsenal," Raiola told the newspaper.

"Mkhi is going to do what is best for him. He has two-and-a-half years left on his contract so it's his decision. Sanchez is part of the deal, not the other way around." AFP

# BENNI FIRES FIRST SHOT AHEAD OF DERBY

JOHANNESBURG - Cape Town City coach Benni McCarthy fired the first shot leading up to the Cape derby against their rivals Ajax Cape Town on Saturday at Cape Town Stadium.

This derby - fuelled by the rivalry of the two families who worked together at Ajax before falling out, the Efstathiou who remained at the Urban Warriors and the Comitits who now own the Citizens - has captured the imagination of the Mother City.

McCarthy was at the centre of derby in the first leg as the inspiration of the formation of Ajax but got his first job as head coach with their rivals the Citizens.

"Listen, I think that it's good for South African football that in most provinces we have two good teams that are rivals.

Here in Jozi you have the Soweto giants with the ultimate derby that we have in the country (between Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates).



**SHOTS FIRED:** Benni McCarthy, coach of Cape Town City commented on the upcoming Cape Derby during the 2018 Nedbank Cup Launch on Monday evening. (BackpagePix)

Then you have the Tshwane Derby (between Mamelodi Sundowns and SuperSport United) which is fast growing with beautiful football and lots of goals.

You have the Free State derby (between Free State Stars and

Bloemfontein Celtic). And then there is the Cape Derby, Ajax and us a newly formed team but fast becoming superior because you have the Mac Daddy (McCarthy)," McCarthy jokingly said.

"It's good for South African foot-

ball and for Cape Town as a whole, showcasing the good game of football with a lot of young players who are on display. For me to have a player like Craig Martin who came from the amateur ranks, played in his first derby and did so well is unbelievable. It shows you the amount of talent that comes out there and the passion that you see in the derby.

Then you get me saying you mustn't push my players (in reference to his profane-laden utterance during a heated moment in the last Cape derby). It's fantastic."

What wasn't fantastic for McCarthy was seeing his team drawn against Bidvest Wits in the Nedbank Cup last 32 that will be played in February.

"Awful! I came here hoping for a nice, really 'tough' opposition, maybe from the NFD or something at home," McCarthy said. "And then I get the shark. Yes! But hey, what can you do? That's football for you. IOL Sport

## Third seed Muguruza labours past French wildcard

MELBOURNE - Garbine Muguruza wore heavy strapping on her injured right thigh as she laboured to a 6-4, 6-3 victory against wildcard Jessica Ponchet in the Australian Open first round yesterday.

The world number three took an hour and 24 minutes to quell the virtually unknown 21-year-old French world number 256.

Muguruza said before her match she was hoping to be "pain-free" to begin her Australian Open campaign, but her mobility was hampered and she looked anything but fully fit against Ponchet.

A quarter-finalist in Melbourne last year, Spain's Muguruza dropped her first service game but from there battled back to take the first set in 43 minutes. "It wasn't easy. I didn't know anything about her," said



Muguruza of her opponent who was making her first main draw appearance in a WTA event, let alone a Grand Slam.

"She's super talented. Serves and volleys, so I had to stay very con-

centrated."

The Wimbledon champion had a problematic start to the year, pulling out of the Sydney International to protect her right thigh.

Only a week earlier she had retired

from the Brisbane International with severe cramps. Her bad luck almost continued when she clutched her left knee as her shoe stuck awkwardly in the court at 2-2, 30-30 in the second set, bringing gasps from the Margaret Court Arena crowd.

But she recovered to outlast Ponchet in a game that went to a marathon six deuces and take a break of serve and then broke again to seal the win. Muguruza, seeded three, next faces Taiwan's Hsieh Su-wei who prevailed in a see-saw match against China's Zhu Lin 0-6, 6-0, 8-6.

The two-time Grand Slam winner is in the same half of the draw as world number one Simona Halep and is projected to face another French woman, number eight seed Caroline Garcia, in the quarters.

AFP

## Caster nominated for top Laureus award

MONACO - An impressive collection of the greatest men, women and teams in sport have been nominated for the 2018 Laureus World Sports Awards, following a ballot by the world's sports media.

Tennis superstar Roger Federer's impressive return to form after a knee injury, which saw him win his fifth Australian Open and eighth Wimbledon titles, sees him nominated in both the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year and Laureus World Comeback of the Year categories. Federer, who is currently a four-time Award winner could become the most decorated Laureus Award winner at

the 2018 ceremony in Monaco on February 27.

The football world also features heavily, with Cristiano Ronaldo up for Laureus World Sportsman of the Year, Real Madrid nominated for Laureus World Team of the Year, Kylian Mbappé in contention for Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year and FC Barcelona and Chapecoense nominated for the Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award.

Joining Federer and Ronaldo in what is sure to be a hotly contested Laureus World Sportsman of the Year category is athletics world championships 10 000m gold and 5 000m silver medal-

winning athlete Mo Farah, four-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome, four-time Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton and French and US Open champion Rafael Nadal.

In the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year category Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza and three-time 800m world champion Caster Semenya join an all-American quartet of Australian Open champion Serena Williams, 16-time world athletics championship medalist Allyson Felix, 19-year-old swimming sensation Katie Ledecky, Overall World Cup champion skier Mikaela Shiffrin.

Sport24

**NOMINATED:**  
Caster  
Semenya.



# REGIONAL LOGS

## STANDINGS

Compiled by Sibesiso Dlamini

## MTN Premier League

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Mbabane Swallows	17	12	5	0	29	8	21	41
2 Young Buffaloes	17	11	5	1	28	9	19	38
3 Green Mamba	17	9	4	4	29	16	13	31
4 Manzini Wanderers	17	9	3	5	22	19	3	30
5 Matsapha United	17	6	7	4	15	13	2	25
6 Malanti Chiefs	17	7	4	6	25	28	-3	25
7 Royal Leopard	17	5	8	4	16	13	3	23
8 Mbabane Highlanders	17	6	5	6	15	15	0	23
9 Moneni Pirates	17	4	8	5	17	20	-3	20
10 Vovovo	17	6	2	9	16	24	-8	20
11 Tambuti	17	5	3	9	17	23	-5	18
12 Red Lions	17	1	3	13	11	31	-20	6
13 Midas City	17	0	0	17	8	36	-28	0

## MTN National First Division

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Citizens	12	9	2	0	27	8	19	30
2 Madlenya	12	8	2	2	21	7	14	26
3 Sea Birds	12	7	2	3	25	14	11	23
4 Tinyosi	12	6	3	3	22	8	14	21
5 Milling	12	5	2	4	11	11	0	18
6 Calles	12	5	3	4	13	15	-2	18
7 Hub Sundowns	12	4	1	7	10	14	-4	13
8 Sikhalo	12	3	3	6	10	16	-6	12
9 Mhlatini	12	3	2	7	16	25	-9	11
10 Bad Boys	12	3	2	7	12	21	-9	11
11 Tycoons	12	3	1	8	15	18	-3	10
12 Amalanda	12	3	1	8	11	20	-9	10

## FA Rainbow Stationery Manzini Super League

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Ludzeldze Killers	14	10	1	3	34	13	21	31
2 Moyeni United	14	8	5	1	16	7	9	29
3 Seven Dreams	14	8	4	2	29	16	13	28
4 Sisonkhe	14	8	2	4	24	10	14	26
5 Nsuka United	14	7	1	6	18	16	2	22
6 Young Warriors	13	6	3	4	16	14	2	21
7 L. Brothers	14	5	5	4	14	11	3	20
8 Stumbo's XI	14	6	2	6	18	16	2	20
9 Luyengo Foxes	13	5	4	4	13	12	1	19
10 Boyane Young Aces	13	6	1	6	19	20	-1	19
11 Mhlateni United	14	4	7	3	14	15	-1	19
12 Cutter Cosmos	14	3	3	8	10	18	-8	12
13 Maliyaduma United	14	2	5	7	18	23	-5	11
14 Luvu Cosmos	12	2	4	6	9	26	-17	10
15 Kwaluseni Rebels	14	1	5	8	6	18	-12	8
16 Malkerns	13	1	2	10	7	30	-23	5

## Manzini Promotion

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Villa Stars	13	11	2	0	28	1	27	35
2 Siboniso SeLwandle	13	8	4	1	26	6	20	28
3 Fairview Chiefs	13	8	2	3	19	11	8	26
4 The Bones	13	6	5	2	19	10	9	23
5 Home Sparrows	13	6	4	3	22	14	8	22
6 Wonderful Touch	13	6	4	3	26	25	1	22
7 Kholwane Flying Birds	13	6	3	4	23	12	11	21
8 Two Sticks Comrades	13	4	7	2	23	14	9	19
9 Combine Stars	12	3	4	5	18	21	-3	13
10 Lwandle	12	4	1	7	13	21	-8	13
11 African Chiefs	13	4	1	8	13	24	-11	13
12 Superstars	13	2	5	6	14	29	-15	11
13 Big XI	13	2	5	6	14	29	-15	11
14 Young Tigers	13	3	2	8	12	30	-18	11
15 FC North	13	2	2	9	12	25	-13	8
16 New Generations	13	0	5	8	6	24	-18	5

## Manzini First Division

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Green Way	10	9	1	0	24	6	18	28
2 Manzini United	8	5	1	2	28	9	19	16
3 Nhlambeni United	7	4	3	0	15	8	7	15
4 Healing Boys	10	4	3	3	14	14	0	15

5 Hot Beans	9	4	1	4	18	14	4	13
6 Mbulane FC	9	4	1	4	14	20	-6	13
7 Chaos LTD	9	2	4	3	12	9	3	10
8 Bremer United	8	2	3	3	11	11	0	9
9 God's Property	10	1	6	3	9	11	-2	9
10 Ngwane Park	9	2	2	5	17	27	-10	8
11 Skom Boys	8	2	1	5	5	25	-20	7
12 City Eagles	9	0	2	7	9	22	-13	2

## Malkerns Promotion

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Ngodini	13	9	4	0	28	8	20	31
2 Home Talent	13	7	5	1	21	13	8	26
3 Swazi Can United	13	6	4	3	19	16	3	22
4 Don Don	13	5	6	2	16	10	6	21
5 Current Toasters	11	5	3	3	20	14	6	18
6 Makhungutsha	12	4	5	3	26	20	6	17
7 Vickery Nomads	13	4	5	4	18	15	3	17
8 Ndinavolcanoe	13	4	5	4	17	17	0	17
9 Gebeni	13	4	5	4	13	14	-1	17
10 Troublemakers	13	4	3	6	13	20	-7	15
11 Home Boys	13	3	5	5	19	24	-5	14
12 Star Point	12	3	4	5	16	17	-1	13
13 Phondo	13	3	4	6	12	16	-4	13
14 Dynamite Hotspurs	13	2	4	7	6	20	-14	10
15 Mahlanga United	11	2	3	6	8	15	-7	9
16 Power Sparks	13	1	5	7	9	22	-13	8

## Malkerns First Division

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Vuka Aces	9	7	2	0	22	5	17	23
2 Golden Arrows	9	5	2	2	13	8	5	17
3 Ntandozi	9	4	3	2	11	7	4	15
4 Mdonjane Arsenal	9	4	2	3	19	10	9	14
5 Skom Boys	9	3	5	1	10	5	5	14
6 FC Navara	9	4	2	3	12	9	3	14
7 Red Swallows	9	3	4	2	15	14	1	13
8 Usuthu Rangers	9	3	2	4	18	14	4	11
9 Thunderbolt	9	2	1	6	8	18	-10	7
10 Survivor	9	1	3	5	6	17	-11	6
11 United Brothers	10	1	0	9	9	36	-27	3

## OK Foods Kwaluseni Promotion

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Real Professionals	14	11	0	3	35	12	23	33
2 Sacramento	14	10	3	1	29	11	18	33
3 Royal Swallows	13	9	2	2	26	9	17	29
4 Kwaluseni United	14	7	4	3	23	15	8	25
5 Dark City	14	7	4	3	18	12	6	25
6 Zombodze United	14	7	3	4	24	16	8	24
7 Nsenga Comrades	13	6	1	6	15	23	-8	19
8 Mhlane United	14	5	3	6	22	29	-7	18
9 Amajita	14	3	7	4	18	19	-1	16
10 Ntunja Arsenal	13	4	4	5	16	23	-7	16
11 Zama United	13	4	3	6	13	14	-1	15
12 FC Logoba	12	3	5	4	25	20	5	14
13 Gooeweni Trompies	14	3	5	6	24	23	1	14
14 Fashion International	14	3	3	8	19	25	-6	12
15 Swazi Wire	14	2	2	10	14	33	-19	8
16 Nhlambeni Real Hero	14	0	1	13	8	45	-37	1

## Kwaluseni First Division

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Ngonini United	12	9	1	2	37	10	27	28
2 Nkamazi AK47	11	8	3	0	39	12	27	27
3 Lozitha Spurs	13	8	2	3	33	13	20	26
4 Ludzeldze Celtics	12	6	5	1	26	15	11	23
5 Umfuntl	11	7	1	3	22	14	8	22
6 Ludzeldze Kicks	11	6	1	4	24	18	6	19
7 Supersport	11	6	0	5	31	15	16	18
8 Shali United	10	5	2	3	22	14	8	17
9 Gum Valley	11	4	1	6	17	22	-5	13
10 Ludzidzi	11	3	3	5	12	18	-6	12
11 Fletcher United	10	3	1	6	13	22	-9	10
12 Nsenga Shagari XI	12	2	2	8	12	32	-20	8
13 Mahashulane	10	2	1	7	10	33	-23	7
14 Manila Stars	12	1	2	9	11	42	-31	5
15 Mhlateni Superstars	11	1	1	9	5	34	-29	4

## CORBAN Hardware Mafutseni Promotion

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Khamatfo	12	8	3	1	26	8	18	27
2 Timbutini	11	8	1	2	29	14	15	25
3 Nkongolo Pirates	11	7	4	0	28	13	15	25
4 Bhudla Celtics	11	7	2	2	22	9	13	23
5 Supersport	10	6	3	1	25	8	17	21
6 Young Cannibals	11	5	3	3	18	15	3	18
7 Vulamehlo Classic	12	4	4	4	15	15	0	16
8 Ntabamhoshana	8	4	2	2	15	9	6	14
9 Young Killers	10	3	3	4	19	21	-2	12
10 Sicemelo Sa-Chief	11	3	3	5	10	13	-3	12
11 Madubula Rovers	10	4	0	6	14	19	-5	12
12 Mkhuzweni United	11	2	5	4	13	16	-3	11
13 Ma-G-Man	9	2	3	4	12	17	-5	9
14 Timbutini C.Stars	10	1	6	3	11	16	-5	9
15 Vultures	10	2	3	5	7	18	-11	9
16 Timbutini All Stars	9	1	4	4	8	13	-5	7
17 Mafutseni United	10	2	0	8	11	28	-17	6
18 Dynamos	11	1	3	7	10	27	-17	6
19 Emataliyane	9	1	2	6	8	22	-14	5

## Mkhweni Promotion

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Executive FC	15	13	1	1	27	7	20	40
2 Ngonini Y. Aces	15	9	3	3	28	7	21	30
3 White Killers	14	9	1	4	20	11	9	28
4 Thuluzobona	13	7	4	2	29	9	20	25
5 Liverpool	13	8	1	4	26	10	16	25
6 Zama United	15	7	4	4	24	16	8	25
7 Sangcofo	15	7	3	5	30	24	6	24
8 Bantu City	15	6	6	3	23	18	5	24
9 Luvu Stars	13	6	3	4	21	16	5	21
10 Manchester United	15	6	2	7	28	32	-4	20
11 Luvu Classic	14	5	5	4	16	27	-11	20
12 All Nations	15	5	4	6	27	22	5	19
13 Luvu Suncity	14	5	4	5	16	13	3	19
14 Colani United	15	5	2	8	22	25	-3	17
15 Mantshonga	14	4	3	7	17	21	-4	15
16 All Stars	15	4	2	9	16	32	-16	14
17 Luvu Home Defenders	14	4	1	9	15	31	-16	13
18 Toronto	13	4	0	9	15	24	-9	12
19 Step Ahead	13	3	2	8	16	27	-11	11
20 Mbasheni Brothers	14	3	2	9	13	28	-15	11
21 Moveni FC	14	1	3	10	13	42	-29	6





## MHLAB'UHLANGENE

'THE DEEP BLUE OCEAN'

With: Victor Dlamini



**GREETINGS** Mhlab'uhlangene, welcome to another subscription, the very first one in 2018.

I hope you are all well! It's yet another week, a week that started with that trip to KaNyamazane Stadium situated on the

outskirts of Mpumalanga Province's city of Nelspruit for practice matches against Mbombela United.

Some of you made individual sacrifices to find yourselves there for the love of the team, something that warms our

hearts as the team and thus we are very thankful for such love and I assure you we will pay it back in full if not multiplied by three.

We went, we saw and we learnt and by the way, remember we are not new so it

was more of a recap and we celebrate such partnerships with teams such as Mbombela United, we learn from them and they learn from us. We will always cherish and maximise on such opportunities as team merely in its second year.

# OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE GAMEDZE, DLAMINI FAMILIES

**MATSAPHA United co-directors, the board, management committee, technical committee, players and entire Mhlab'uhlangene family would like to extend its sincere condolences to the Gamedze and Dlamini families, the Mbabane Swallows family, Premier League of Swaziland, National Football Association of Swaziland and the entire Swaziland football fraternity following the passing on of renowned and revered football administrator Victor Gamedze on Sunday.**

We are shocked and deeply saddened by the callous nature of Gamedze's death whose pain cuts across any football divide.

What makes it even more sad is that guns

still continue to claim lives uncontrollably and African football still has another three-year-old loss in Senzo Meyiwa from South Africa which remains unresolved.

### Loss

This is a huge loss, not only to the Gamedze and Dlamini families, but to the football fraternity at large. Victor Gamedze will be remembered as a gentleman who was ready to impart all his football wisdom to the new breed of administrators.

To Mbabane Swallows, we say soldier on and to the Gamedze family we say please find comfort in the good arms of the Lord during these difficult moments. We are indeed with you. May his dearest soul rest in eternal peace.

## GRIEVING



**MOURNING:** Family members and friends who were at the Gamedze homestead on Monday.



## UNDER -17 UNBEATEN RUN CONTINUES

**OUR Under-17 unbeaten run in the Under 17 Esibayeni Lodge League continued this past weekend, when we notched up a 2-1 win over Mbabane Highlanders at Prince of Wales Sports Ground.**

This made it five straight wins on the trot leaving them at the top of the log standings with 15 points from five matches.

I must say we are very proud of our young lads who continue doing wonders in the developmental league and living up to their word that is to do even better than the senior team and so far so good for them. They opened up the league with a 2-1 over Mbabane Swallows, followed it up with a 3-1 win over Green Mamba before choking Tambuti FC 2-1. The Under-17 were

then awarded the fourth match 3-0 after Red Lions failed to turn up for a match. As a club it makes us proud to see our future stars holding their own in such a league and paints a bright future for the club considering that such platforms creates opportunities for sustainable future development not just for the club but for the national teams. The future is certainly and indisputably bright, well done to the boys.

### SPHA'S BRACE IGNITES KANYAMAZANE

A Sphamandla Dhlamini's brace ignited KaNyamazane Stadium as Matsapha United played two practice matches against Mbombela

United on Wednesday afternoon.

In the first match featuring largely trialists we lost 0-2 because as most of the players could hardly play as a team despite showcasing individual flare of high brilliance.

However, Dhlamini was to hunt down a brace in the 2-2 drawn second match which featured on six trialists. Coach Saul Chaminuka said prospects of good quality midseason signings were bright.

### UPDATE ON NEW SIGNINGS

Ladies and gentlemen, we are due to complete three notable big player signings before the end of the week given that the mid season transfer

window period is now open.

We have assessed several players and speculation has been rife on who have been signed.

We urge you to treat it as such until the club makes an official announcement, something we are due to do this week. I am not at liberty to speculate any names and loose ends are being tied up.

### OUR PARTING SHOT!

Sibloma ekasi, siphethe i-vibe ene strategy, sizobashiya be-dizzy #VeldFire. Until next week, Mhlabuhlangene - The Deep Blue Ocean wish you a fair play filled weekend. We lead they follow!



# BIRDS MOURN TO THE GAMEDZE FAMILY



**ARRIVING:** Mbabane Swallows players Siphamandla Mathenjwa and Felix Badenhorst arriving at the Gamedze homestead.



**HEARTBROKEN:** Mbabane Swallows Director Robert Magongo also came to pass his condolences to the Gamedze family. This was during a visit to the Gamedze home in Dalriach, Mbabane by various sectors of society including Mbabane Swallows, friends, colleagues relatives and members of the public yesterday. (Pics: Sibongiseni Zondi)



**DOWN:** Birds' Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze seated on the floor.

**(R) FAMILY:** Senior family members seated at the front.



**PRESIDENT:** A visibly sad NFAS President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa following proceedings.



**WORDS OF COMFORT FROM THE BIRDS' NEST:** Swallows manager Lwazi 'Zidane' Maziya and team doctor Samkeliso Mdluli waiting to speak to Mrs Gamedze.



**UNBELIEVABLE:** Swallows winger Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko looking on.



**WHY:** Swallows' General Manager Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane following proceedings with SPTC's Nqobile Magagula.



**(R) WHAT NOW:** Birds' defenders Sanele Mkhweli and Sifiso Mabila in conversation after the service.



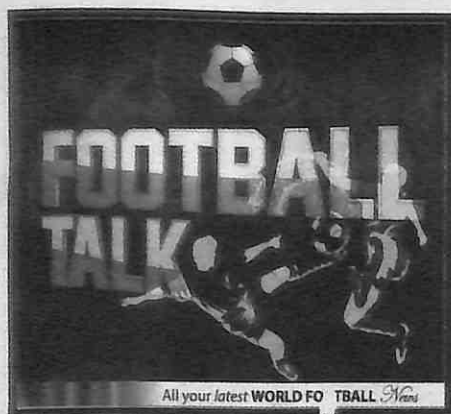
**SAD:** Swallows team doctor Samkeliso Mdluli and captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze looks on.

**SORRY:** Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati conversing with Magagula.



**ATTENTIVE:** Some of the Swallows players listening to the proceedings.





● Manchester United forward Henrikh Mkhitaryan, 28, is open to the idea of a move to London to join Arsenal. (*Mirror*)

● Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has serious concerns about signing the temperament of 28-year-old Borussia Dortmund forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang. (*Star*)

● Tottenham are among the clubs interested in signing highly rated Norwich midfielder James Maddison, 21. (*London Evening Standard*)

● Newcastle forward Dwight Gayle, 27, has been linked with a £15m move to Championship side Fulham. (*Newcastle Chronicle*)

● Arsenal are in talks to sign Borussia Dortmund and Gabon forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang as a replacement 29-year-old Chile forward Alexis Sanchez. (*Mirror*)

● The Gunners are pressing ahead with a £53m move for 28-year-old Aubameyang. (*Mail*)

● Jose Mourinho says he is 'not confident but not unconfident' of bringing Sanchez to Manchester United. (*Mirror*)

● Chelsea have also entered the race for Sanchez but United are confident that offering Henrikh Mkhitaryan, 28, as part of the deal would make them favourites. (*Telegraph*)

● Real Madrid and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo, 32, wants to return to Manchester United. (*As.com - in Spanish*)

● Midfielder Emre Can, 24, says he has not signed an agreement to join Juventus in the summer and that he is still talking to Liverpool about extending his stay at Anfield. (*Times*)

● Swansea City have held talks with Atletico Madrid over deals to bring 30-year-old France forward Kevin Gameiro and Argentina midfielder Nicolas Gaitan, 29, to south Wales during the January window. (*Wales Online*)

● Everton are trying to complete a £20m deal for 28-year-old Arsenal and England winger Theo Walcott this week. (*Mirror*)

● La Liga side Sevilla are confident of securing a loan move for 24-year-old Chelsea and Belgium striker Michy Batshuayi. (*ESPN*)

● New Wales boss Ryan Giggs is weighing up an approach to make former Manchester United team-mate Paul Scholes part of his backroom staff. (*Mail*)

● West Brom are offering £12m for Fulham's Scotland midfielder Tom Cairney, 26. (Sun) Birmingham City are interested in signing Feyenoord's 27-year-old Dutch left-back Miquel Nelom. (*Mail*)



# Crookes United claim top spot in Lubombo Southern Zone League

By Sibusiso Dlamini

**SOCCER - UNBEATEN** former Swazi Trac Lubombo Super League side, Crookes United are showing strong intent for championship in the Lubombo Southern Zone League as they claimed the top spot after the past weekend fixtures.

The Big Bend ensemble has 21 points in nine games while their closest challengers are the duo of Matata FC and Manzamnyama Callies, who both have 20 points, occupying position two and three, respectively.

Liverpool, who are also unbeaten

## Arsenal maintain lead in RSSC Siyakha League

**SOCCER - SHEWULA** Arsenal are showing consistency in the RSSC Siyakha 1800 Lubombo North East League as they recorded three consecutive victories to maintain the top spot with 26 points in 11 games.

Hot on their heels is Zwelanantu FC, who have 23 points while third placed Juventus have 19

points in the 12-team league.

Summarise FC occupies the 4th spot with 18 points. Bacambi and Cosmos are perched 5th and 6th, respectively.

Former champions, Shewula Classic are seemingly finding the going very tough this time around as they remain at the bottom of the table with a single point in 10

games. Classic are separated by 3 points with 11th placed Silver Stars, who have 4 points in 9 games.

The league is financially backed by giant sugar manufacturing company, RSSC which pumped in a sum of E180 000 for a programme which is spread into three categories.

are placed fourth with 19 points. On the opposite side of the table, Young Stars are rooted in the bottom with 4

points in 11 games.

The Southern Zone League comprises of 16 teams whose champions

are promoted to play in the Swazi Trac Lubombo Super League.

## SNDA suspends league games

By Sibusiso Masilela

**DARTS - THE** Swaziland National Darts Association has joined the local sporting fraternity in mourning the death of Premier League of Swaziland Chairman Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze after suspending the league games bankrolled by the Swaziland Royal Insurance Corporation (SRIC).

This decision comes after that of the ministry of sports, culture and youth affairs to suspend all football activities in the country scheduled for the weekend. SNDA President Michael 'Scara' Gama said the move was aimed at honouring the late football administrator, who shot dead on Sunday. "We have decided to put on hold league games in order to allow our teams to attend the memorial service and funeral

of the late Gamedze, who has left a great legacy in local sports. We felt we should give respect to his contribution in the country by suspending our games. "Our sincere condolences go to his family the Mbabane Swallows family and the entire football fraternity. I will forever cherish the times I spent with the late Gamedze during my playing days at the national team (Sihlangu) and may his soul rest in peace."

### SRIC E90 000 Darts League log standings:

	P	W	D	L	LF	LA	LD	PTS
1. Illovo	12	11	0	1	185	80	105	33
2. Kilowatts A	11	10	0	1	190	60	130	30
3. Scandza	10	9	0	1	154	74	80	27
4. RSP B	12	8	0	4	185	99	86	24
5. Correctional 2	11	8	0	3	159	90	69	24
6. Correctional 1	9	7	1	1	139	75	64	22
7. Eco Water	11	7	0	4	149	97	52	21
8. Kilowatts B	10	5	0	5	116	116	0	15
9. Mbn C Council	9	4	0	5	88	118	-30	12
10. Mzn C Council	10	3	1	6	96	123	-27	10
11. Railway	9	3	0	6	77	135	-58	9
12. RSP 1	12	1	1	10	103	172	-69	4
13. RSSC	7	1	1	5	47	90	-43	4
14. Makie	8	1	0	7	75	127	-52	3
15. SRIC A	9	0	0	9	23	155	-132	0
16. SRIC B	9	0	0	9	11	157	-146	0

### Results

RSSC	0	Scandza	13
Correctional 2	15	Railway	8
SRIC B	4	Killowatss	19
Illovo	13	RSP B	12
Mbabane C Council	13	RSP	12
Manzini C Council	14	Makie	9
Correctional	16	Mbabane C Council	8
Manzini C Council	9	Illovo	16
Correctional 2	19	SRIC A	5
Railway	3	Killowatss A	20
Eco Water	21	SRIC B	2

## Mankayane beat Bhunya in MRPA

By Sibusiso Masilela

**POOL - Mankayane E** were on fire during the western derby against Bhunya where they won 15-10.

This pushed Mankayane closer to

the top four after brushing aside their neighbours during a Manzini Pool Association (MRPA) encounter played on Saturday at the Mankayane Pool Club.

Mankayane Eagles spoiled the party for fans at the small town after going down to Figaredo 7-18 to remain

rooted at the bottom half of the log table.

The much anticipated encounter between Way Inn and Figaredo was eventually postponed due to bereavement of one of the Way Inn players.

MRPA Secretary, Mbongeni

## SGU announces Windhoek qualifiers venues

By Sibusiso Masilela

**GOLF - THE** Swaziland Golf Union has announced venues for the 2018 annual Windhoek Qualifiers.

Local golfers will fight for places in the five-man team to represent the country at the regional championships in Namibia in June.

The venues for the qualifiers are the Royal Swazi Sun, Mbabane Club and Usuthu Club. The search for the best golfers will take centre stage at these venues.

SGU President, Albert Mhlanga confirmed the develop-

ments when contacted yesterday.

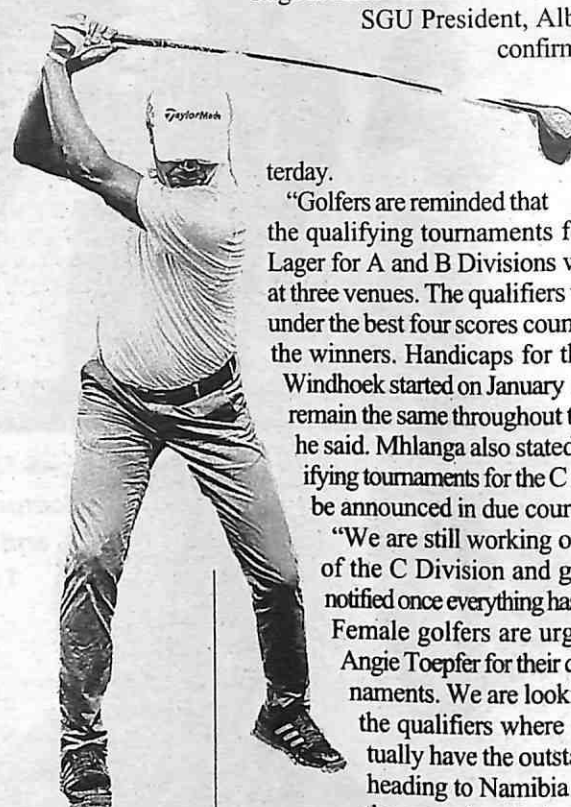
terday.

"Golfers are reminded that the qualifying tournaments for Windhoek Lager for A and B Divisions will take place at three venues. The qualifiers will be played under the best four scores count to determine the winners. Handicaps for the purpose of Windhoek started on January 1 and they will remain the same throughout the qualifiers," he said. Mhlanga also stated that the qualifying tournaments for the C division would be announced in due course.

"We are still working on the logistics of the C Division and golfers will be notified once everything has been finalised. Female golfers are urged to contact Angie Toepfer for their qualifying tournaments. We are looking forward to the qualifiers where we will eventually have the outstanding golfers heading to Namibia to compete in the annual main tournament," he said.

Gamedze confirmed the results when contacted yesterday.

"The games went well and we are quite happy with the performances of the teams. We had one match postponed due to unforeseen circumstances and we will announce the dates for the rematch in due course. We will release the log tomorrow," he said. The association was last night expected to close its registration deadline for clubs.





# KOKI'S LAST CONVERSATION WITH SLAIN VICTOR GAMEDZE



**VICTOR'S LAST WORDS TO ME: Mbabane Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.**

By Sibongiseni Zondi

**SOCCER - MBABANE** Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati says he last spoke to his murdered boss on the phone just after their 1-0 win over rivals Manzini Wanderers in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup quarterfinals at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.

Gamedze was shot dead just before 7pm that Sunday evening as he was about to leave the Galp Filling Station in Ezulwini. He had been travelling from the stadium when he met his death. Swallows coach Vilakati says Gamedze's death is still hard to believe.

"I am trying to put on a brave face but this is just devastating. Only God knows why it happened. It is sad because in a short period of

*"...when I tried calling again, he wasn't picking up."*

time, two prominent Swallows leaders have passed away (Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana passed away in May last year).

Mr Gamedze treated us so well. He was a straightforward person and would tell you directly when you did something that he didn't like," he said.

## Recounted

Vilakati then recounted his last conversation with his late boss.

"We were always communicating. So as usual we communicated a lot in the build up to the match on Sunday.

He called me on Saturday at about 2pm and we spoke about various things including if we had settled plans for camp for the team. He called me again on Sunday at 4am and we spoke.

At 12:15pm on Sunday I called him to tell him my line up for the match. We then saw each other during the match and after that I saw him, which was my last time seeing him. I went to the Lobamba Police Station to collect our gate-takings and while I was there we spoke on the phone again and his last words to me were, "okay call me after you have collected the money and tell me how much we got." So after I had collected the money I tried calling again but he wasn't picking up," a sad Vilakati narrated.

Gamedze will be buried on Sunday at his parental homestead in Siteki, Ka-Langa after a night vigil. His memorial service will be held at the Prince of Wales Ground in Mbabane on Saturday from 11am.



**SHOCKED: Green Mamba Chairman Bongani Khumalo.**

## Green Mamba mourn Victor Gamedze's death

By Sibusiso Masilela

**SOCCER - CORRECTIONAL** services side Green Mamba have mourned the death of Premier League of Swaziland Chairman Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze.

'Inyoka Eluhlazana' through its Chairman Bongani Khumalo forwarded their condolences following the brutal killing of the Mbabane Swallows boss, who was shot dead on Sunday at Ezulwini.

"Green Mamba President Isahiah Mzuthini Ntshangase, directors, Management Committee and the entire green and white ensemble structure have received with disbelief, shock, grief, and sadness the news of the passing on of the PLS Chairman Mr Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze."

It is disastrous for local football to lose such an innovative, hardworking and visionary leader, who undoubtedly transformed football in the country attracting lucrative deals and improving the management, and administration of the game with unsurpassed excellence," reads part of the statement. Khumalo expressed condolences to the Gamedze family, the entire football fraternity and the nation at large.

"Green Mamba FC wishes to forward its condolences to the Gamedze family, Mbabane Swallows FC, PLS, NFAS, and the entire nation for the loss of a man who dedicated his life to serving. It is our earnest prayer that the nation and all stakeholders find solace in God at such heart breaking trying times."

## Wanderers' heartfelt message to Victor Gamedze's family

By Sibongiseni Zondi

**SOCCER - MANZINI** Wanderers have mourned the passing away of Mbabane Swallows boss Victor Gamedze who they have described as a "visionary without a peer in local football."

Gamedze was shot dead at Galp Filling Station in Ezulwini on Sunday evening, just moments after his Swallows side had beat Wanderers 1-0 in the quarterfinals of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup at Somhlolo National Stadium. Gamedze was travelling from the stadium when he met his death.

Yesterday, Wanderers released a statement, sending their condolences to the Gamedze family and the whole Swazi nation.

"Manzini Wanderers Football Club would like to offer our deepest condolences to the Gamedze family and all relevant affected stakeholders, on the passing away of Mr Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze. Gamedze who chaired the Premier League of Swaziland's Executive Board; the Mbabane Swallows Football Club; and the board of Swazi Mobile (our sponsors), was a visionary without peer in local football.

He lived the sport in many capacities, and left a telling mark," the statement reads. In their statement, the Weslians paid tribute to Gamedze who, before his death, had conjured up a sponsorship deal for the Manzini giants through his new

mobile company Swazi Mobile. "It is very painful that Gamedze met his untimely death returning from a football match in which his beloved Mbabane Swallows had just played our team for a place in the semi-finals of the Ingwenyama Cup.

He was the main initiator of the Swazi Mobile sponsorship to Manzini Wanderers and three other football clubs currently receiving financial support from Swazi Mobile. For this, Manzini Wanderers Football Club remains grateful and will forever be indebted to this departed soul," the statement continued. The Manzini giants added in the statement that only God would be able to heal the wounds left by Gamedze's

passing while also requesting the nation to give the police the space and time to properly investigate the murder.

passing while also requesting the nation to give the police the space and time to properly investigate the murder.

"Manzini Wanderers shares in the grief suffered by his family and Mbabane Swallows and the entire football community, and fully understands that at this moment, the only person who can heal the pain is God the Creator - to whom we encourage all the suffering to look to for solace.

Noting that his passing away is a sad, painful and highly sensitive matter, we appeal for calm and an end to the wide-spread speculations from the public. Let us kindly offer space and opportunity for the police to investigate the matter to a fruitful conclusion. *Madzuvu bo Madlenya*," the statement, released by Sandile Dlamini on behalf of the club's board of directors, concluded.

## I told Gamedze they were lucky I wasn't playing - 'Taribo'

By Sibongiseni Zondi

**SOCCER - MANZINI** Wanderers striker Mfan'futhi 'Taribo' Bhembe says he last spoke to slain Mbabane Swallows boss Victor Gamedze on Saturday evening.

'Taribo's' best days were with Swallows under Gamedze's leadership where he established himself as one of the club's greatest strikers of all time.

The forward, who now plays for Swallows' rivals Wanderers, says he last spoke to his former boss Gamedze on the eve of the two sides' SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup quarterfinal clash which was played at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

"To be honest, I am lost for words, I'm speechless. I would like to firstly pass my condolences to the family, his children and everyone affected by this loss. I was like a son to him and he was like a father

to me. This is just so unbelievable," Bhembe told this publication at the Gamedze home in Dalriach yesterday.

The dreadlocked striker then narrated the last conversation he had with Gamedze. "I last saw him in person on Friday at the (Ingwenyama Cup) kit presentation. We last spoke on Saturday on the phone.

I called him just to tell him that I wasn't in the squad for the match and told him that Swallow was lucky I wasn't playing. We had a good laugh and he said we would talk after the match on Sunday. When I first heard the news on Sunday evening, I thought he would recover. I just hope the people who did this will be found soon," Bhembe said.

Gamedze was killed in cold blood at Galp Filling Station in Ezulwini on Sunday just before 7pm. He suffered two gunshots around the head and neck area and was confirmed dead upon arrival at Medi Sun clinic.

## Somber mood at Sigwaca House as Gamedze's passing sinks in

By Sibongiseni Zondi

**SOCCER - IT** was a somber mood at Sigwaca house on Monday morning as the Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) and National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) came to terms with the tragic passing of slain Mbabane Swallows boss Victor Gamedze.

Sigwaca is the building that houses both the PLS and NFAS in Mbabane.

In both organisations, the late Gamedze occupied top positions. He was the chairman of the PLS while he served as vice president at the NFAS. On Monday morning, the first day of work after Gamedze's death, who had been murdered in cold blood on Sunday evening Sigwaca was incredibly quiet and in a somber mood.

When the Swazi Observer's reporter arrived at the building at around 11.30 in the morning, PLS staffers

in the first floor were found praying.

On the second floor, which houses the FA, football administrators including the likes of Mbabane Swallows General Manager Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane and FA CEO Frederick Mngomezulu were found in conversation by the stairs. A visibly distraught Zwane left the building soon afterwards.

Soon after that, Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala, who was also visibly sad, arrived and was followed by Minister of Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Dumisani Ndlangamandla along with other football administrators and senior government officials. The officials converged in a separate room, presumably preparing for a press conference which had been scheduled for noon that day.

Members of the media started filling the conference room and waited



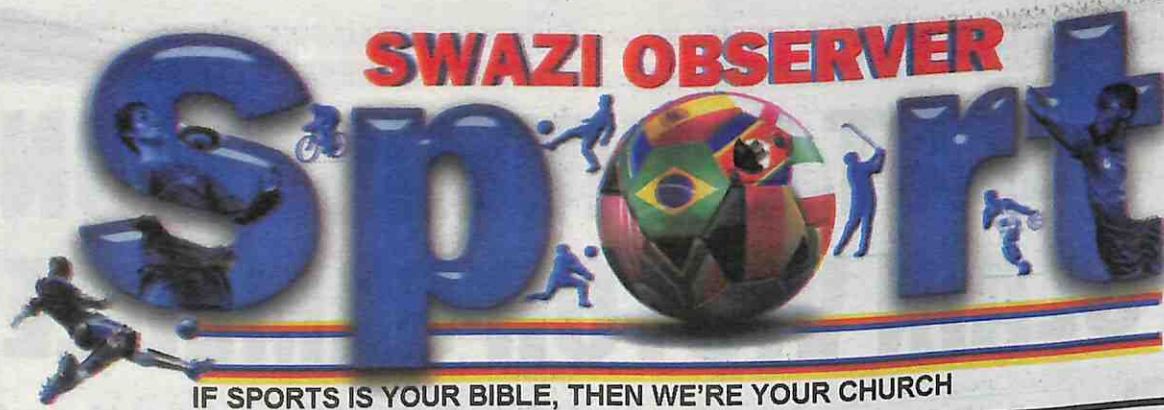
for several minutes. The officials then emerged led by Minister Ngcamphalala. The incredibly tense and sad conference lasted for about 10 minutes. FA President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa opened the conference before Minister Ngcamphalala delivered his short statement to the media in which he passed on his condolences to the Gamedze family.

Soon after the conference, Sihlangu coach Pieter de Jongh was seen arriving at Sigwaca.

He spent about ten minutes inside the building before leaving. Before leaving, the coach spoke to journalists and expressed his shock at the demise of Gamedze who also served as Chairman of the national side Sihlangu's Special Projects team.

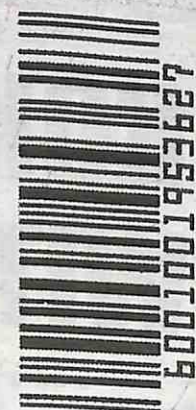


FIXTURES		
PLAYING TONIGHT		
ASA PREMIERSHIP		
19:30	Maritzburg United	vs SuperSport United
COPA DEL REY		
20:00	Atlético Madrid	vs Sevilla Estadio
20:00	Valencia	vs Deportivo Alavés
22:00	Espanyol	vs Barcelona
FA CUP		
21:45	Chelsea	vs Norwich City
21:45	Swansea City	vs Wolverhampton
21:45	Wigan Athletic	vs AFC Bournemouth



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17, 2018



## Continue to conquer — Gamedze family tells Swallows

By Sibusiso Masilela

**SOCCER —** THE late Premier League of Swaziland Chairman Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze's family has urged Mbabane Swallows to continue winning and dominating locally and internationally in honour of the late football 'guru'.

This was said by the member of the Gamedze family Joyce Dlamini when making remarks on behalf of the family during the team's visit to Gamedze's homestead at Dalriach in Mbabane yesterday.

Dlamini told the team to remain united and work hard, something she said would make the late seasoned administrator happy.

"We are humbled and grateful for the support you have shown to the family during this dark hour and we will feel some warmth and comfort from your visit. There is nothing much I can say to you about the incident that took his life but we would like to send our condolences to Mbabane Swallows for losing a father whom they had spent years living with.

"We all know how much Gamedze loved this team and we are appealing to you to remain united and continue to win both locally and internationally. This would make the late Gamedze happy as he always wanted to see the team doing well. We don't want to hear about infightings and division in the team because that would hurt us," she said.

Making his remarks on behalf of the team was board member Hezekiel Mabuza, who said Gamedze's death would not only affect football but the country at large as well.

"We are saddened by the demise of Gamedze, who did not work only for football but the rest of country. He used football as a way of creating employment opportunities through sponsorships he introduced to the sport.

"Our condolences go to the entire Swallows family, football fraternity, government and the nation at large. We will forever cherish his love and contribution to the team and the sport at large," he said.

Meanwhile, FA President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa said as the football fraternity they were shocked by the incident that cost Gamedze his life. "We are still saddened by the death of Gamedze and this is a huge blow for the sport. In football, we would create friendship to embrace each other despite coming from different walks of life. We would like to send our condolences to the Gamedze family during this dark hour," Mthethwa said.

The late Gamedze has guided Swallows to numerous domestic titles such as the MTN Premier League, SwaziBank Cup, Ingwenyama Cup and the now defunct Castle Premier Challenge.

Gamedze also orchestrated the team's remarkable run in the 2017 CAF Confederation Cup where the capital city giants reached the group stages of the continent's second premier club competition.

# NYANGA'S LAST MOMENTS WITH VICTOR GAMEDZE

By Sibusiso Dlamini

**SOCCER —** MANZINI Wanderers head coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe, who is also a former Mbabane Swallows coach was the last person to converse with murdered PLS boss Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze at Somhlolo National Stadium before he met his untimely death at the Ezulwini Galp Filling Station minutes later.

Recalling the moment, the emotional 'Crooks' said he was still shattered and shocked with Gamedze's demise, especially the fact that it happened moments after their conversation.

Gamedze was seen rushing to 'Crooks' after a brief conversation with Swazi Observer Sports Editor Mphikeleli Msibi when making his way outside the Royal Box after the final whistle where his beloved Swallows had grinded a hard fought narrow 1 - 0 against the 'Crooks' led Manzini Wanderers.

"I heard his voice from afar and immediately looked back because he was yelling the name 'bayakwazi', which we invented together

back in 1990 when Sihlangu beat Zambia at Somhlolo National Stadium.

"Gamedze came to me with a huge smile on his face. He started heaping praises and marveling at the development I had done with the team. He further stated that he had never seen such a solid Wanderers side in years, stating that he was confident the team would be deserving of silverware in the coming seasons."

Nyanga said after their chat, Gamedze then gave him a 'big' hug before walking away.

"Little did I know it was the last time I would see or hear from him again because a few minutes later before I even left the stadium, 'Koki' came rushing to tell me that Gamedze had been shot. I did not believe him but it turned out it was true.

"Now that all this has happened, it feels like he knew this was going to be our last moment together because even those around me were shocked as to why he was congratulating me so much yet we had just lost to his team."

Regardless

Hlophe described Gamedze as a son to him, and someone who would always give a n

ear, regardless of one's social standing.

"Gamedze was like a son to me because as a person who once trained him, I became more of a father figure and our relationship continued over the years. When he was my boss at Swallows, he appreciated my honesty and that kept us close.

Cruelty

"I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the Gamedze family and the football fraternity as a whole. This is a major loss to us because Gamedze was still very young and was still to do a lot of things for the development of the sport in the country.

"Lastly, let me mention that there is no life that deserves to be taken away, less of all with such cruelty. We hope the long arm of the law will catch up and punish the monsters, who committed this despicable crime."

Gamedze will be laid to rest on Sunday at his parental homestead in Siteki, Ka-Langa after a night vigil. His memorial service will be held at the Prince of Wales Sports Ground in Mbabane on Saturday, starting at 11am.



## Birds players recount last moments with boss Gamedze

By Sibongiseni Zondi

**SOCCER —** MBABANE Swallows players have recounted the last moments they spent with their slain boss Victor Gamedze.

Gamedze was murdered in cold blood on Sunday evening at Galp Filling Station in Ezulwini, just moments after watching his side beat Manzini Wanderers in the quarterfinals of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Yesterday, the players, led by the club's senior officials including General Manger Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane and coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati, went to the Gamedze family home in Fonteyn, Mbabane to extend their condolences to the family of their murdered boss.

Speaking to this publication, Swallows senior player Wonder

'Samba Jive' Nhleko said the death of their boss had come as a huge shock.

"Eish, this is too sad for us. This took us all by surprise, we are still shocked. We last spoke with him on Sunday during halftime of our match. He came into the dressing room as usual and gave us a few tips as he usually did.

"We last saw him then and after that we heard reports that he had been shot. It was like a dream to us. I am only starting to believe now," he said.

Nhleko went on to add how Gamedze's demise would negatively impact their lives. "His death will affect us a lot. We won't forget his love and affection. He had this warmth in the way he treated us," a sombre looking Nhleko added.

Meanwhile, star attacking midfielder Felix Badenhorst, who was visibly distraught and close to tears

during the interview, described Gamedze as a father figure to all the players.

"It is very difficult. I don't know what to say. I just don't know what to say. He was like a father to us. He changed how we think and used to make us feel like we were the best in Africa. At halftime during our match against Wanderers he came in the dressing room as usual and motivated us. I last saw him in the tunnel as I was walking out to do an interview. That was the last time I saw him," a teary-eyed Badenhorst said.

Captain Tony Tsabedze said he was failing to console his teammates as they come to terms with the death of their boss. "I can't talk honestly; I just don't know what to say. This is like a dream. I don't know what to tell my teammates, sometimes we call each other and we just stay silent on the phone.

There is nothing to say," Tsabedze said.

The Swallows captain added that Gamedze had been to their training sessions at the Prince of Wales ground last week as they prepared for the Wanderers match. "He came to training as usual and we spoke. Then on Sunday he also came into the dressing room at halftime. It was all normal; he was just his normal self, motivating us. Now that he is gone, we have to play for him," Tsabedze concluded.

Some of the other players present were young starlet Sizolwethu 'Nunu' Shabalala, midfielder Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze, left back Sanele Mkhweli as well as goalkeepers Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza and Sandanezwe Mathabela. Other officials present were trainers Siyabonga Bhembe and Etienne Massoye as well as Manager Lwazi 'Zidane' Maziya.