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VICTOR'S MURDER:

SUSPECT GUNMAN 'NCAZA'

STORY ON
PAGE 3

ARRESTED

...he was cornered at a party in one of the locations
in South Africa over the weekend

INSIDE

**GELANE TOLD
NOT TO SET
FOOT IN
PARLY UNTIL...**

► PAGE 2

**SEC MD
SUSPENDS
TOURS, CALLS
CRISIS MEET**

► PAGE 3

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SWAZIPOST

2 NATIONAL NEWS

Light drizzles in warm to hot week

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

MEMBERS of the public should expect a week with drizzles.

Temperatures will, however, go from warm to hot, especially in the Lowveld throughout the week.

According to information sourced from the Swaziland Meteorology Service, chances of drizzles and thunderstorms continue today in the evening

and will fluctuate throughout the week, with the strongest chance tomorrow and Wednesday.

Temperatures are expected to reach a maximum of 23 Degrees in the Highveld and reach a maximum of 30 Degrees Celsius in the Lowveld.

Today there will be possible drizzle and otherwise cloudy with partly cloudy intervals and cool but warm to hot in the Lowveld, with isolated to scattered afternoon thundershowers.

MBABANE	MANKAYANE	MANZINI	SITEKI	MHLUME	BIG BEND
17/23	18/24	19/26	17/25	18/29	20/30
Tomorrow there will be light rain with fog at places, otherwise cloudy with sunny intervals cool but warm in the Lowveld.					
16/22	17/23	18/25	16/24	17/28	19/29
On Wednesday, there will be morning drizzle with fog at places otherwise cloudy with partly cloudy intervals and cool but warm in the Lowveld. Rain is expected at places at times.					
15/23	16/24	17/26	15/25	16/29	18/30
While on Thursday, there will be morning drizzle with fog at places otherwise cloudy with partly cloudy intervals and cool but warm in the Lowveld.					
16/23	17/24	18/26	16/25	17/29	19/30

IT'S OVER FOR GELANE, TOLD
NOT TO SET FOOT IN PARLY UNTIL...Stories by Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

THE dramatic event that unfolded last Friday where widowed Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula was kicked out of Parliament premises, spells disaster for grieving Senate President Gelane Zwane.

If the explanation advanced by the Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini when justifying kicking out Magagula from Parliament is anything to go by, Zwane's term of office is effectively done and dusted before the King even dissolves Parliament.

Zwane is fresh from cremating her husband Michael 'Mike' Zwane, a sad ceremony that was conducted last week at Dups after a brief memorial service at Mbabane Burial. Effectively, Zwane is a widow and, therefore, can't mingle with the King.

Her political office of being Senate president calls for, among other things, meeting with His Majesty together with the speaker as presiding officers in Parliament to give the King updates on progress taking place in their respective chambers.

Swazi culture as articulated to Minister Magagula on Friday, dictates that a woman should mourn her husband for two years and in that period she must stay away from public office and not mingle with Their Majesties.

According to Indvuna Lusendvo Fakudze, Zwane is not supposed to set foot in Parliament until her two-year mourning period is over because that is what culture dictates. "According to our culture, a woman mourns her husband for two years and in that period she cannot occur

...According to Indvuna Lusendvo Fakudze, Senate President Gelane Zwane is not supposed to set foot in Parliament until her two-year mourning period is over because that is what culture dictates



IT'S OVER: Senate President Gelane Zwane.

py public office appointed into by Their Majesties, hence you cannot set foot in Parliament while still mourning," he explained. Zwane will, therefore, not be returning to Parliament for the duration of the last session of the tenth Parliament that was officially opened by the King last Friday.

Effectively, she may not be appointed or elected for the 11th Parliament following that elections will take place later this year before her two year mourning period elapses. However, there is a chance that all women in mourning will have their period shortened with the 50/50 cel-

CONSTITUTION ON
WOMEN RIGHTS

28 (1) Women have the right to equal treatment with men and that right shall include equal opportunities in political, economic and social activities.

(2) Subject to the availability of resources, the Government shall provide facilities and opportunities necessary to enhance the welfare of women to enable them to realise their full potential and advancement.

(3) A woman shall not be compelled to undergo or uphold any custom to which she is in conscience opposed.

ebrations coming up in order to join in on the festivities. However, this remains the prerogative of Their Majesties as it is not guaranteed. Minister Magagula, who lost her ex-husband last year, was dramatically ordered out of Parliament by the DPM because she was presumed to be in mourning. She had to hurriedly grab her things and vacate Parliament. Former Timphisini MP Jennifer Du Pont suffered the same fate when she attempted to contest for a second parliamentary term. She was de-campaigned by her chief who lobbied residents not to elect a widowed woman into Parliament.

...TUCOSWA slams Minister
Magagula's public humiliation

THE Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) condemned the kicking out of Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula from Parliament last Friday.

Magagula was kicked out because as per Swazi culture a woman still in mourning must not be in the same room as Their Majesties and/or work in public office for at least two years.

The minister's ex-husband died late last year and while she had continued with her duties and even attended Parliament sittings in both houses a month after his death, she was on Friday asked to leave the official opening of the fifth session of the tenth Parliament.

TUCOSWA's Simangele Mtetwa, who is responsible for gender issues within the federation, has come out to condemn this action, stating that it was unacceptable and it painted a gloomy picture for all women in the country. Mtetwa said this action went against all the treaties and conventions that the country had signed as far as gender equality and women rights are concerned. "This is totally unacceptable, and I condemn it in the strongest terms it deserves. This paints a gloomy future for all women in the country.

We know that the country is a signatory to a lot of international conventions and treaties but then this happens," she said.

Mtsetwa said the government of the day was always quick to point out that critics were watering down efforts by speaking ill of the country, yet it was such

incidents that gave a bad impression of the country.

She said if the country's authorities were serious about the development of this country then such practices needed to stop because they were discriminatory in their nature.

Mtsetwa pointed out that the incident will have a negative impact on the upcoming elections if such practices were not addressed and corrected.

"As we speak, women are encouraged to fully participate in the up-coming national elections but with such discriminatory, degrading, dehumanising tendencies, I doubt they will. Our leaders seem to be indicating left but turning right," she said.

Forbidding

Traditionalists have been quoted saying Magagula shouldn't return to Parliament and even her office for two years which is the maximum mourning period in the country.

However, Magagula was separated from her husband since 1994 after the court issued an order forbidding the two from contacting each other.

Also, Magagula did not attend her husband's memorial service and funeral. She returned to work after the funeral and has been doing all her duties since then. When reached for comment, the minister said until she had spoken to her superiors she didn't want to say much on the issue. "I am very upset but I am yet to speak to my boss (the prime minister) on the matter and he will provide guidance," she said.

Pastor takes Swazi boy with albinism to the US

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

A United States of America based pastor has helped get an asylum in the US for an 18-year-old Swazi boy living with albinism.

Reverend Tony Brown of Trinity United Methodist Church in Port Townsend, raised over E40 000 in his pursuit to get the boy to the US with fears that he might be in danger in the country for his albinism.

Brown arrived in the country last year to help renovate an orphanage in Manzini

and that is where he met the boy named Walter.

"People with albinism are rare and coveted in Africa, especially Swaziland. They are often threatened, captured and then killed. Their body parts, particularly their hair and skin, are valuable on the black market and are used to make potions and charms. It's used in rituals and witch doctor kind of stuff that is supposed to bring wealth, power and luck. They are seen almost as the Magic Unicorn," he said. Brown has successfully arranged for an asylum with the

help of a Christian organisation called Under The Same Sun and he said that a couple of days ago all the paperwork was filed and Walter will leave for America in four to six months or sooner. "His mother and the Swaziland government are excited about this opportunity for Walter," he added. "They are not standing in the way. Swaziland is like a big family; there seems to be a sense of caring about the well-being of their people. As a society, they are very close-knit," he said. Brown has agreed to Walter's sponsor and has arranged

for him to live in Bellevue. The decision to have him live there provides more access to employment, education, culture and job opportunities. "He'll probably go to Bellevue Community College to finish high school work. He's currently a senior but has stopped attending school because of safety reasons. He was walking one hour one way to school and just that wasn't safe. Walter probably won't have any problems getting grants and scholarships here. My church in Port Townsend voted to support Walter in any way they can," he

added. According to Brown, a few weeks ago global law firm DLA Piper, LLP agreed to provide pro bono work on Walter's behalf. Another group, IRAP, the International Refugee Assistance Project, based in New York, agreed to provide advocacy.

Senior labour officer Stukie Mtsa, who founded the Stukie Mtsa Foundation that looks into the welfare of people living with albinism in the country, could not be drawn for comment on the move as she is believed to be in Kenya.

The Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini, whose office looks into such matters, said nothing has reached their office on the matter hence he declined to comment.

VICTOR GAMEDZE'S DEATH: 'NCAZA' ARRESTED IN SA

COVER STORY

By Observer Reporter
Mbabane

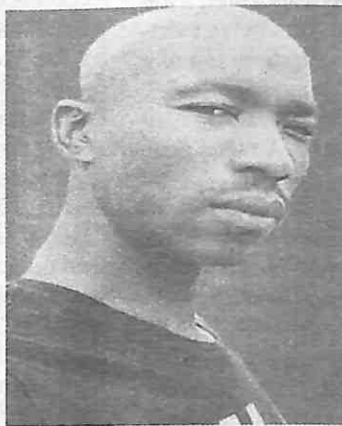
THE suspected gunman who pulled the trigger in the murder of prominent Mbabane businessman and soccer administrator Victor Gamedze, Mbuso 'Ncaza' Nkosi has been arrested.

Information gathered from sources was that the suspected hit man was arrested by the police while attending a party in Soweto over the weekend. This brings the number of suspects arrested for the murder of the highly successful industrialist to two.

Businessman Sipho Shongwe has been in custody and is currently fighting for bail. Gamedze was killed in cold blood at Galp Filling Station on January 14.

Social media was abuzz yesterday over the arrest of the South African national by the South African Police Service (SAPS) who were in the company of their local counterparts.

...Information gathered from sources was that the suspected hit man Mbuso 'Ncaza' Nkosi was arrested by the police while attending a party in Soweto over the weekend. This brings the number of suspects arrested for the murder of the highly successful industrialist to two



ARRESTED: Mbuso 'Ncaza' Nkosi.

One of facebook users explained that 'Ncaza' was rounded up by the police after which he was escorted to his home by about 30 police officers who had supposedly gone there to gather more evidence.

It was however not stated if the suspect was arrested in connection

with the murder of Gamedze as he was also said to have violated his bail conditions for an unknown crime committed in his home country.

The circulating news was welcomed with great joy by local facebook subscribers who agreed that God had answered their prayers.

One of the subscribers stated that they were happy that the long arm of the law had caught up with the suspect and that they would await his appearance for his alleged crimes against Gamedze. "Every dog has its day and we thank you Lord that Ncaza has finally been found," he said. Deputy Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said she could neither confirm nor deny the reports.

Vilakati said a press conference has been arranged for today. The police mouthpiece said certain

information cannot be disclosed for now as it was reserved for security reasons.

Gamedze was laid to rest at his home in KaLanga near Siteki on January 21. On January 22, a group of police officers raided socialite Sicelo 'Dzodzo' Zikalala's home for hours, collecting what appeared to be evidence which could assist the police in solving the case of the slain businessman.

On February 1, police officially announced that 'Dzodzo' was a prime suspect. The police also announced a cash reward of E450 000 for any person who will bring forward any information that could help them arrest Zikalala and the two other suspects that were unidentified. On February 2, the Royal Swaziland Police identified and gave the media pictures of Nkosi, 'Dzodzo' and an unidentified man from South Africa.

SEC truck death toll rises to 8

Stories by Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

THE number of people who died in the horrific accident on Friday along Pigg's Peak public road, has increased to eight.

This comes after another person died while undergoing treatment at Mbabane Government Hospital yesterday.

In total there were nine people in the Quantum that collided with a truck belonging to Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) on Friday. Six died on the spot while the seventh died while undergoing treatment. Another has been reported to have died while getting treatment.

Currently, there is one survivor. This takes the number of lives lost on the roads over the weekend to 12.

In a separate accident, on Friday along the Hhelehele-Siphofaneni public road near Mahalibhoma, a Toyota Vits driven

by a 41-year-old woman of Ngculwini collided head-on with an Opel Corsa sedan driven by a 38-year-old woman of Big Bend.

"The driver of the Toyota Vits sustained serious injuries and was rushed to RFM Hospital where she was certified dead on arrival," confirmed Deputy Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

Meanwhile, Vilakati said the driver of the Opel Corsa employed by Swaziland Building Society and her son aged 13 months were rushed to Manzini Clinic. She was seriously injured on both legs and she succumbed to death while undergoing treatment and the toddler was treated and discharged. Again on Saturday along the Pigg's Peak - Nkamazi public road near Luhlangotsini, a Honda sedan driven by a 29-year-old man of Nazarene (Pigg's Peak) collided head-on with a Mercedes Benz sedan driven by a 44-year-old man of Kudvwaleni.

"The male passenger aged 36 of Mangwaneni who was on board the Honda sedan sustained serious injuries and was rushed to Pigg's Peak Government Hospital where he was certified dead on arrival," said Vilakati.

The two passengers who were on board the Mercedes Benz sedan sustained injuries on the knee and mouth and were also rushed to the same hospital where one was admitted and the other was treated and discharged.

Along Matsapha-Manzini public road near Logoba, a BMW sedan driven by a 31-year-old man of Ngculwini knocked a male pedestrian, aged 36 of Lubulini who was crossing the road. The pedestrian sustained serious injuries and was rushed to RFM Hospital where he was certified dead. Yesterday at around 9am a Madza Demio knocked down a pedestrian after the driver failed to negotiate a corner near Riverstone along Trelawney Park. "The driver of the Demio escaped after the accident and the pedestrian was taken to hospital where she is currently undergoing treatment after she was injured on her arms," added Vilakati.

...MD suspends tours, calls crisis management meet

FOLLOWING the horrific accident involving one of his company's trucks, SEC Managing Director Meshack Kunene has suspended scheduled tours of work stations around the country.

The tours were expected to start today.

It was also gathered that Kunene also called a crisis meeting on Saturday with his

management to discuss the tragedy that involved their vehicle. An SEC truck was involved in an accident along the Pigg's Peak public road on Friday where it collided with a truck killing eight people.

Six died on the spot while the other two died while undergoing treatment in hospital on separate days. Marketing

and Corporate Affairs Manager Sifiso Dhlamini confirmed that the MD has suspended the scheduled tours owing to the tragedy that has left everyone at SEC dejected.

"We send our condolences to the families affected by the tragedy. The MD is distraught and speechless.

He has suspended scheduled tours that were to start

tomorrow (today) in total respect of the families that have lost loved ones. The MD felt priority must be given to the affected families in one way or another.

He had also called an urgent management meeting on Saturday to map a way forward after the tragedy. The MD is really concerned about this tragedy and he is in a very bad state," said a sympathetic Dhlamini.

FACEBOOK COMMENTS

FACEBOOK USER 1

Unconfirmed rumours atsi sobanjiwe lomasaka longu Ncaza boncola maphoyisa alena e Satafrica. Let's pray it's true ngoba naye siyafuna lomasaka atobhekana nalolutaku latifaka kilo nakulokuhlupheka lasibeka kiko silicembu nelive lonkhe

Facebook user 2

Phela ngabe liphume bebovu!!!!

Facebook user 3

Nebovu ,rather

Facebook user 4

Eish ! Those are good news

Facebook user 5

Kungaba kuhle coz angakhokha labangan bakhe lababhacile nabo

Facebook user 6

LELIVE LASOMHLOLO LELI LITAKUHQLOLELA NAWUNGALATI TINYEMBETI TETFU NGEKE TIWELE PHANSI

Facebook 7

Bomasizila ngito jabula ngimbona amfasile ngetinsimbi babe Mgazi achutjwa ngu babe Magagula aya enkantolo lo Ncaza

Facebook user 8

Sestova ngebemtsetfo

Facebook user 8

Will let u know the truth!!

Facebook user 9

Plz Timah boc do sifuna kwati

Facebook user 10

I heard about his arrest when we were in Lesotho more arrests of prominent people will be made in Swaziland next week or so kunemajaha lahamba ayobamba umhlango in SA mayelana nalomsebenzi wabo lokukhanya ngatsi ujikela bona nyalo nabasho afaka ekhatsi loloboshiwe#banemanga batamvusa ngenkhani

Facebook user 11

Four men in big trouble!!! Watch the space!!!

Facebook user 12

Let's pray it turns out to be the truth boo

Facebook user 13

Cala kungasetsembi mine is this true ??? Ibuyaphi lendzaba yebekunene ?? Who can tell us kutsi ibuyaphi ??? Lakhona sijabulela lite nje. etindzabeni batsiteni ?? Eish yeyindzaba mlonyeni Nkoc tsine asithandazeni ngaphandle nababambe umuntfu longasuye

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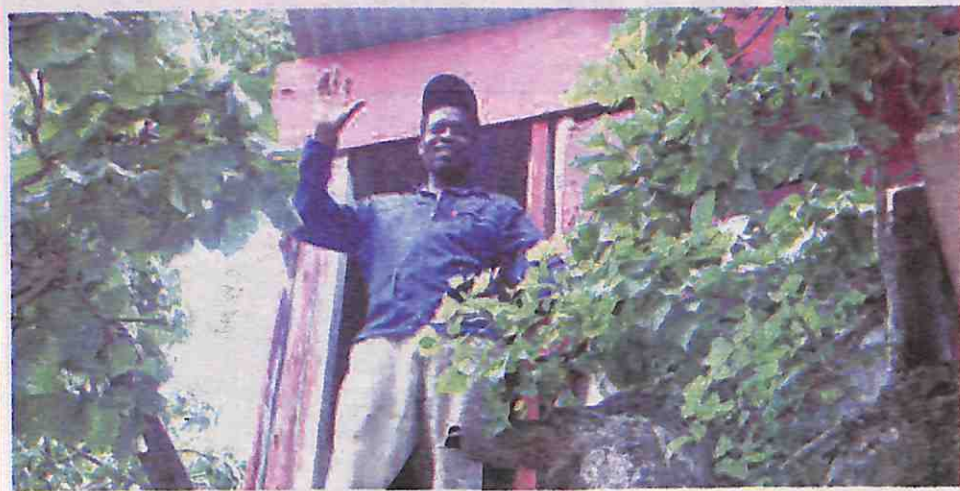
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ZAKEWU: EVICTION ORDER FORCES ZCC MAN



ON TOP OF THINGS: Vusumuzi Zulu captured at the 'balcony' of his tree house where he says he was forced by eviction threats from SNPF. He has been staying in the tree house for over three years and still hoping things will change for the better. He is one of the 50 families who face eviction at Madonsa, outside Manzini. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



THERE IT IS: The tree house from a distance inside the maize fields.

... I arrived at this decision after I was stopped from building a proper house which is about 50 metres away from my shack (he said pointing at an incomplete concrete structure). The whole community was told that homes will be demolished because we are occupying the land illegally. It transpired that the land is a farm owned by the Swaziland National Provident Fund. We were told they now want to use the land, thus we were evicted

By Simon Shabangu
Manzini

JUST like the biblical story of Zacchaeus, the chief tax-collector of Jericho, a man from Madonsa in Manzini who fears being evicted, has decided to build a shack on top of a tree.

This is also known as a tree house.

He has occupied the tree house for over three years now.

Unlike Zacchaeus who wanted to get a vantage point of Jesus Christ since he was vertically disadvantaged, Vusumuzi Buckler Zulu, a member of the Zion Christian Church famously known as ZCC, said his act was a straight forward indication of desperate times calling for desperate measures.

He said desperation led him to building a shack on top of a tree.

The 52-year-old father of four said the situation was bad because his wife is sickly, hence she is even unable to visit him in his tree house as she could not climb up the close to five metres ladder to the top.

"I arrived at this decision after I was stopped from building a proper house which is about 50 metres away from my shack (he said pointing at an incomplete concrete structure). The whole community was told that homes will be demolished because we are occupying the land illegally. It transpired that the land is a farm owned by the Swaziland National Provident Fund (SNPF). We were told they now want to use the land, thus we were evicted. We were told graders will be coming any time to put down the existing homes, thus building of new structures was banned," he said.

He has been staying in his tree house for more than three years now, and was confident that it will not fail him as it had survived many strong winds and storms.

Zulu said he has not given up as he is still hoping that someday the land owners would change their minds and allow them to stay in the land they had known to be theirs for many years.

Asked how he came up with the idea of staying up in a tree like a bird, the ZCC man said it was desperation which got him thinking.

He said he believed that he had committed no crime because they were only forbidden from



SERA Column

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PRACTICAL BUDGET SAVER: LEDS MY BEST CHOICE

A user's testimonial on switching to energy saving bulbs

Please insert picture of customer below...here at the top...

Mr Ernest Mavuso, an employee at MTN Swaziland shares his experience on the domestic usage of LED lights at his homestead at Ludzeludze.

Q: When did you switch to LED bulbs?

A: I switched to LED bulbs in March last year (2017).

Q: What made you to switch to LEDs?

A: I had visited a friend of mine and I noticed that his outside lights were bright and I asked him about them. He told me that they were LED bulbs. I was like "yoh"! So how much watts are they?" To my surprise I found out that they were 20 watts but they were brighter than the normal 100 watts I knew. I asked him where he had bought them and he told me. He then explained that inside his house, he was using 7 watt and 3 watt bulbs. I was amazed! So the next day, I went to the Family Shop in Mahhala and bought the LED bulbs and then changed all my bulbs to LED. These are the changes I made:

- Outside lights - from 100 watts to 14 watts
- Sitting room, kitchen and bedrooms - 60 watts to 7 watts
- Bathroom - 60 watts to 3 watts.

Q: What changes have you seen after the switch?

A: Before I switched to LED bulbs, we used to consume about 6 watts from 10 PM to 6 AM in the morning. From 10 PM, we switched off most of the appliances i.e. TV, decoder, DVD player and with only the fridge and lights remaining. Before I switched to LEDs, if at 10 PM we had about 5 watts of electricity units remaining, at around 3 AM to 4 AM, there would be a total blackout as the units would be exhausted.

But now after the change to LED lights, from 10 PM to 6 AM we are consuming about 1 watt. If at 10 PM we are having 6 watts, in the morning we would be having 5 watts. The saving is very huge. Our daily electricity usage has been reduced from about 15 watts to about 8 watts.

Additionally, these LED bulbs don't emit too much heat. Previously, in summer we had to switch off the lights in the sitting room whilst watching TV because the lights were producing heat. With these LED bulbs we don't have to switch off the lights.

Lastly, I used to replace the lights inside the house (bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom) every 3 months and the outside lights every month. But since my switch in March I have not replaced even a single bulb. They are still working very fine. Their lifespan is very long. The outside lights really withstand bad weather conditions such as rain.

In conclusion, I can encourage everyone to switch to LED

bulbs for better savings and a brighter house. I appreciate LED lights for making my life better and brighter.

Know more about LEDs

- LEDs typically do not "burn out" or fail. Instead they experience 'lumen depreciation', wherein the brightness of the LED dims slowly over time.
- LEDs use heat sinks to absorb the heat produced by the LED and dissipate it into the surrounding environment. This keeps LEDs from overheating and burning out. Thermal management is generally the single most important factor in the successful performance of an LED over time.
- LEDs are "directional" light sources, which means they emit light in a specific direction, unlike incandescent and CFL which emit light and heat in all directions.
- Contrary to common belief, wattage isn't an indication of brightness but a measure of how much energy the bulb draws. Lumen (lm) is the real measurement of brightness provided by a light bulb.
- LEDs are notable for being extremely long-lasting products. Many LEDs have a rated life of up to 50,000 hours. This is approximately 50 times longer than a typical incandescent, 20-25 times longer than a typical halogen, and 8-10 times longer than a typical CFL.

TO BUILD TREE HOUSE



UP THERE: Zulu's tree house is nestled inside a gigantic *Erythrina caffra* (umsinsi) tree.

digging a foundation and putting up a proper structure, something which he has not done.

Asked why he did not consider renting a house to be safe, he said at the time he was not working so he could not afford rental fees.

"I was also not physically fit to be employed and only survived through farming. So I decided to put up my house on the tree," he said.

He is currently doing a piece job in one of the private schools outside Manzini where they are doing construction work.

Zulu said his wish was to be able to get a piece of land next to his current place and put up a proper house for his family.

His wife currently stays at his brother's home where she guards the place.

"I am worried that if my brother returns and wants his home back, something undesirable might happen," he said.

Adding, he said he would need support to get into full scale farming because he is uneducated and does not have a steady job.

"My request for support to engage into massive farming has not been successful, but I still wish to get funding to do more work with the piece of land I have at my disposal," he added.

Looking at the shack protruding from the thick of the *Erythrina caffra* (umsinsi) tree, one would think the person who stays there has an unstable mind. Zulu is far from being that as he convincingly explains his reasons for his house on top of the tree.

He is also a hardworking and dedicated farmer as his yard has all varieties of plants and fruit trees he sells to supplement his finances.

Over 50 residents from the area face eviction. New constructions were suspended by the SNPF in 2012 and still pending. However, SNPF agreed to halt the demolition exercise.



STEPPING OUT: Zulu leaving his tree house after the interview.

76 motorists nabbed for DD

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

THERE were 76 motorists arrested for drink-driving over the weekend.

Deputy Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the figure when called yesterday.

Vilakati said the number showed a decrease from last week's 91 reported cases.

"There were 76 drink-driving cases reported over the weekend while the previous weekend saw 91 motorists nabbed for drink-driving," she said.

Vilakati said the decrease in the numbers may be caused by the fact that people were not paid and were perhaps indoors.

Those arrested have either appeared in court for their troubles or would be having a date with a magistrate this morning. Vilakati urged motorists to

Choose your ride.
Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.



drink responsibly and not get behind the steering wheel after drinking any alcoholic beverage.

Mistake

"Many people make the mistake of drinking and then getting behind the steering wheel. This must come to a stop because police will remain vigilant on the roads," she added.

She said drink-driving is a serious offence in the traffic laws of Swaziland. She lamented the *buganu* season that has

launched itself but stressed that police will not be lenient.

Headache

She emphasised that the *buganu* season was a headache to the police service.

"Common assault cases, grievous bodily harm (GBH), rape, drink-driving (DD) and other cases shoot up during this period," she said, adding that some people have lost their relatives during this season as many behaved in an irresponsible way.

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DAGGA DEALERS FREE TO REPORT DAGGA THEFT CASES - POLICE

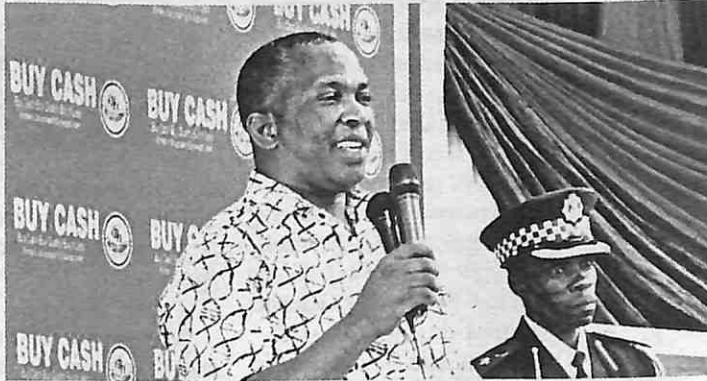
By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

PIGG'S PEAK Station Commander Webster Methula says dagga dealers are free to report any dagga theft to the police.

Methula went on to mention that dagga possession and cultivation was still illegal in Swaziland. He was speaking at the 2018 Pigg's Peak Crime Prevention Zion music competition held at Gobolondlo Hall in Pigg's Peak on Saturday.

Present at the event was Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza, National Crime Prevention Co-ordinator Elvis Shabangu as well as 17 Zionists and two Jericho choirs which were competing for the main prizes.

Methula said theft is theft and dagga dealers are free to report any dagga theft that they might have suffered at the hands of another person.



WORK TOGETHER: Speaking at the competition was the Minister of Commerce Industry and Trade Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza who said that the police should be treated as friends not enemies of the people. (Pics: Sizwe Dlamini)

"As the police we are mandated to serve and protect the Kingdom; with this in mind police have to uphold the law at all costs. This means that if a law is broken for whatever reason we the police have to investigate the matter without fear or favour.

This means that if somebody steals

dagga from you as a Swazi citizen, then it is your right to report that person to the police for the theft of your dagga. As police, we will investigate that incident because a crime was committed, in this case it is theft.

"Let me warn dagga thieves that dagga farmers are often armed with

illegal firearms, sourced from neighbouring countries and are often not trained on how to use a firearm, resulting in the death of many dagga thieves in dagga fields," he said.

He said another area of great concern was littering in Pigg's Peak town, adding that as an officer of the law and a parent it pained him to see the youth littering. He said people do not understand that littering is a criminal offence under the Environmental Act and the consequences of being arrested for littering are detrimental to the future of the perpetrator.

"If you are caught littering then you will be fined E500 in front of a Magistrate, which will also result in your fingerprints being taken and entered into the police fingerprint system. That simple action will forever hinder you as a young person from getting a scholarship or getting employed because your fingerprints will be in the system for a crime," he added.

Also speaking during the com-

Below are the winners and positions:

Choir name	Choir position
Jordan	1
Sandzisekhenani	2
Umthunzwebekizandla	3
Asiya	4
Nation and kuphilakwensindziso	5
Bible life and ithubalemaKrestu	6
Kukhanyeni	7

petition, Minister Mabuza said the police should be treated as friends and not enemies of the people.

"The police are there to serve and protect our communities, therefore it makes no sense for us as people not to support them in all their endeavours.

"It is very important that we as people work together with the police as they have society's best interests at heart," he said. National Crime Prevention Co-ordinator Elvis Shabangu, said from 1907 to 1993 the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP), had adopted a policy of opening up police stations and posts so that people can come and report crimes, but since 1994 the police have been going into the communities and educating people on the importance of reporting crimes to the police. The competition featured three judges, namely, Simangele Mgabhi from Trust-In-Christ Mbabane, Mbongeni Maseko from Izwi Church in Matsapha as well as Xolile Vilakati wife to Bishop Bhekibandla. Master of ceremonies at the event was Pigg's Peak Crime Prevention Officer Constable Thulani Gwebu.



THE BEST: Winners of the choir competition Jordan at the 2018 Crime Prevention Competition on Saturday at the Gobolondlo Hall.



VICTORIOUS: Winners of the Jericho competition Kujula okusha with their trophy in Pigg's Peak.



JOYOUS MOOD: Pigg's Peak police going round and round with members of the various Zionist churches at the Gobolondlo Hall on Saturday.

Drunk suspects refuse to take breathalyser tests

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

POLICE are having a hard time these days when dealing with motorists who are suspected of driving while under the influence of alcohol as a number of suspects refused to take breathalyser tests.

Most suspects who appeared before Manzini Principal Magistrate David Khumalo yesterday were not only charged for driving while under the influence of alcohol but also charged with refusing to take a breathalyser test.

The first suspect, who was charged with

refusing to conduct a breathalyser test, was Sifiso Mavuso. The accused was charged with negligent driving in that he drove his vehicle in a zig-zag manner on the right hand side of the road.

He was further charged with refusing to take a breathalyser test. He pleaded guilty to both counts. Before passing sentence, the Principal Magistrate sent a stern warning to the accused persons who were in court for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

He said the seriousness of the offence of driving under the influence of alcohol and its prevalence in the country has even caused the courts to work on weekends and holidays.

The Principal Magistrate said such offences have serious consequences as they have turned the country's public roads into dangerous accident zones.

Khumalo said other motorists were no longer safe on the roads because of drivers who get behind the wheel while intoxicated. He said there were families who had lost breadwinners because of accidents caused by people who get behind the wheel while intoxicated.

The accused was sentenced to a year imprisonment with a fine option of E3 000 for refusing to take a breathalyser test and for driving negligently, he was sentenced to a year imprisonment with a fine option of E2 000.

Suspect refuses to take test, slapped with four charges

A driver who was suspected to be driving under the influence of alcohol tried to avoid the long arm of the law by speeding away from the police.

Wonder Terblanche made his court appearance yesterday before Principal Magistrate David Khumalo.

He was charged with failing to stop his motor vehicle, a Mazda sedan, when

ordered to do so by police officers. The accused was also charged with refusing to take a breathalyser test when ordered to do so by police officers.

Accused

On the last count, it is alleged that the accused failed to produce a driver's licence when ordered to do so by the police.

During his court appearance, the accused pleaded not guilty to all the counts, stating that he refused to take the breathalyser test because police officers found him walking and not driving. He was remanded back into police custody and ordered to pay E5 000, bail if he wanted to gain his liberation.

Motorist lands car in a ditch, fined E5 000

A motorist who drove negligently and landed his car in a ditch is said to have refused to take a breathalyser test when asked to do so by police officers after the accident.

Lukhetfo Shongwe appeared before Manzini Principal Magistrate David Khumalo. He was charged with negligent driving in that he drove his vehicle and lost control as it landed into a ditch. The accused was further slapped with a charge of refusing to take a breathalyser test. During his court appearance, the accused pleaded guilty to neg-

ligent driving but pleaded not guilty to refusing to take a test. He informed the court that no one told him to take a test.

The Principal Magistrate however informed the accused that there is no way that the police officers did not ask him to take a test after the accident.

The accused was found guilty on all counts and was sentenced to a year imprisonment with a fine option of E3 000 for negligent driving. For refusing to take a test he was sentenced to a year imprisonment with a fine option of E2 000.

Choose your ride.
Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.



INMATE ESCAPES AT MATSAPHA PRISON, TRIES TO KILL HIMSELF

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

AN inmate is fighting for his life in hospital after he attempted to commit suicide by slicing his throat with a knife after his daring escape was foiled by warders yesterday.

The shocking incident comes barely a week after another inmate was reported to have escaped from the hands of His Majesty's Correctional Services officers while engaged in preparations for the country's 50/50 celebrations at Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre.

In the latest incident, the inmate attempted to escape at Matsapha Correctional.

Apparently, after the inmate had successfully made his escape, warders are said to have spotted him and a chase towards the Matsapha Industrial Site ensued.

Upon seeing that he was being cornered, the inmate opted for what's

...he slits throat open with a knife upon seeing warders cornering him

feared to a 'Plan B', which was to kill himself. He is said to have pulled a knife and slit his throat open, before he was rescued by the warders who took him to hospital.

Information gathered is that the inmate tried to flee on foot after escaping from His Majesty's Correctional Services but was noticed just after he had fled.

It is said the incident, which saw a number of warders littered over streets at Matsapha Industrial Site, happened around 11am.

Convict

It is not clear how the convict got to be in possession of a weapon while

inside which he later used in his attempt to end his life.

Efforts to get comments from His Majesty's Correctional Service Acting Public Relations Officer Mandla Sibiya

proved futile as at first he stated that he was not aware of such an incident.

Sibiya later said he was still to consult with offi-

cers based in Matsapha and promised to get back to the reporter once he gets details of the issue.

However, when called later on the day, Sibiya stated that he still had not been able to get hold of officers at Matsapha. When called again, Sibiya's phone rang unanswered for the bet-

ter part of the day. However, when Police mouthpiece Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer Phindile Vilakati was called about the incident, she confirmed that there was a case of a suicide attempt that was reported to them.

She stated that an inmate was taken to hospital after he stabbed himself with a knife while at Matsapha near the industrial site.

The police information and communications officer said she couldn't dwell much on the issue since it was a matter for the Correctional Services.

Vilakati, however, said what she could confirm was that a case was opened with the police and the suspect was currently in hospital.

The inmate will now face a charge of escaping from lawful custody among other charges that he will be faced with upon recovery. Worth noting is that the suspect escaped from a prison



CONFIRMED: Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer Phindile Vilakati.

which is currently keeping Victor Gamedze's murder suspect Sipho Shongwe, who is also wanted by the South African justice system for escaping from lawful custody.

However, this is not to suggest that Shongwe has anything to do with the inmate who tried to escape yesterday or if he may try a similar stunt.

SRA employees want December tax back

Stories by Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

SWAZILAND Revenue Authority (SRA) employees who went on strike in December last year now want the organisation to refund them the tax deducted from salaries in the same month.

This comes after an agreement to the effect that SRA, which was not compelled to pay the employees, will deduct the money over the next four months.

SRA employees were involved in a four week strike that commenced early December last year and the bone of contention between the workers and their

management was a 6.5 per cent salary increment. SRA failed to give in to the demands of the workers but they astonishingly got their full salary for December. It was gathered that SRA management notified the workers that the money would be deducted in the next four months, something which did not sit well with the workers as the money was taxed.

"If they want their money back then they should give us the sum that was taken for tax no matter how small the amounts were, we want it all back.

We can't have them tax our salaries then demand that we pay the money back, it is a loss to us and a gain to them," said one employee.

The industrial protest saw over 400 workers down tools at different SRA stations in the country, causing some to cease all operations.

SRA Manager Customer Service Riccardo Kruger said the employees should know better that the organisation is not mandated to discuss taxation matters but government is, as they are only a tax collection agency working for government.

"We did enter into agreements with the SRA Workers Union after the strike but what we agreed on does not, in any way, touch on tax and unfortunately, I can't discuss the agreements that we got into with them," he said.

Sikhuphe residents to march to Parliament

AFTER 18 years of relocation to make way for the construction of the King Mswati III International Airport, Sikhuphe residents are still waiting to be compensated and have resorted to deliver a petition to Parliament.

The resolution was taken after the affected people held a meeting with their lawyer Bongani 'Bhanyaza' Mdluli yesterday.

The residents resolved during the meeting that they will this week march to Parliament to deliver a petition to Speaker Themba Msibi. In the petition, they demanded that the ministries of economic planning and development together with works and transport see to it that the people are given what's due to them. Mdluli said his clients also resolved that if the two ministries fail to give in to the demands of

the people, then they will block every development projects at Sikhuphe.

"About 500 people came through to the meeting and they came up with two resolutions, which are delivering a petition to the Speaker in Parliament sometime this week and also to ward off any development project in the area if the situation persists," said Mdluli.

Deliver

The delegation to deliver the petition will be led by Dvokodweni MP Musa Sitezi Dlamini. Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority (SWACAA) acknowledged that the Sikhuphe residents were owed a sum of E73 million. SWACAA held a meeting with Malindza residents last year and it was aimed at introducing Airport City project to the people. The project is aimed at setting up supporting structures near

the KM III International Airport to introduce an industrial sphere that would have economic value, which they will resist if they are not compensated.

In a letter written by the ministry of economic planning and development to Mdluli in November last year, they asserted that they had since engaged the ministries of natural resources and energy and that of agriculture to assist them in carrying out valuations of the loss suffered by the people affected by the construction of the King Mswati III International Airport, with a view of compensating them.

Abided

They also agreed that a consultant be engaged to assess and quantify appropriate compensation, and Gangani Consultancy was roped in.



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES
SWAZILAND

SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY FOR INSTITUTIONAL CONSULTANTS OR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS

Title of Consultancy work	Assessment on Converting SOS Kindergarten Facilities into Social Business in Swaziland
Duration of consultancy	4 - 6 weeks

SOS Children's Villages Swaziland is a Member Association of SOS - Kinderdorf International; a child-focused, social development organization that works to address the needs and rights of children who have lost parental care and those who are at significant risk of losing parental care. Historically, SOS health and education (H&E) services have been provided wherever SOS Children's Villages were constructed. Where there were simply no services available, or those available services were perceived to be either insufficient or not of good quality, the needed facilities were built and run by SOS Children's Villages Swaziland for the benefit of children in SOS target group and those in surrounding communities. Some of these facilities are still being operated today.

Based on an Assessment of Education & Health facilities that was conducted by SOS Children's Villages Swaziland in July 2017 it came as an observation of the assessment that running the SOS kindergarten facilities is increasingly dependent on international subsidies, a situation that is financially draining for the organisation, and thus unsustainable. As a corrective measure and based on the recommendations, the Board of Governors decided that an assessment be carried out to determine how these kindergarten facilities might be converted into social businesses that are sustainable and can make a meaningful contribution to the overall SOS organisation.

Goal and Objectives of the assessment

The overall goal of the assessment is:
To conduct an in-depth business research and make recommendations on viable ways through which SOS kindergartens in Mbabane, Nhlalakahle, Villars Street Manzini can be turned into social businesses and generate sustainable income for the organisation whilst providing quality early childhood education for children.

- **Specific objective 1:** To assess the feasibility of operating SOS kindergartens as profitable social businesses.
- **Specific objective 2:** To recommend viable option plans through which the SOS kindergartens can become sustainable social businesses.
- **Specific objective 3:** To carry out a comprehensive analysis of services and make recommendations towards improving quality of service and quality management of services.
- **Specific objective 4:** To design a best practice curriculum for SOS kindergartens which will ensure

quality early childhood education in compliance with the Ministry of Education's Early Childhood Learning Standards.

The assessment seeks to assess SOS kindergartens in their own environments in three (3) geographic locations namely Mbabane, Nhlalakahle and Siteki.

Expected Deliverables of the consultant:

1. Feasibility study report (including bibliography and list of resources consulted)
2. Three (3) location specific social business plans for the 3 kindergartens
3. Pre-school curriculum that ensures quality of education service in compliance with the Ministry of Education and Training's Swaziland Early Learning and Development Standards.

Required skills and qualifications:

1. A university degree in education (preferably early childhood education) or comparable qualification
2. A minimum of 7 years' experience working in early childhood education
3. A thorough understanding of running a pre-school business;
4. Proven experience in previous similar types of educational or social research
5. Evidence of excellent writing skills
6. Evidence of good Word and Excel computer skills

Application procedures:

Applications in the form of a concept note including a methodology, tentative timeline of implementation, budget and an annex of your CV including references could be sent to the SOS Children's Villages Swaziland Human Resources Manager at wendzile.zwane@sos-swaziland.org or hand delivered to SOS HEAD OFFICE, Nhlalakahle, Villars Street Manzini, Phone: +268 25058471 / 72 / 73 titled "Short-term consultancy opportunity for Kindergarten Institutional Consultants or Individual consultants" not later than 23rd February 2018.

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ACTION FROM MBABANE PARK RUN

This was revealed by Sabelo Mbingo the Manager Law Enforcement and Security. Mbingo said since the start of February 2018, about 10 dogs have been put down and mentioned that an estimated dogs might be put down by the end of the month. Mbingo warned that the figures of the dog population in the city may grow further as stray dogs are breed uncontrollably.

"We do encourage people to report animal nuisance cases to us....."

"The situation is really a challenge in residential areas because the very same dogs pose danger to residents because no one is safe from a pack of stray dogs and often school going children are the targets of these dog attacks. That is why then Council, through the department, has regular patrols in residential areas because we are aware of this growing problem and honestly it's the dog owners that have created the situation by not controlling their dogs and we should be prosecuting dog owners," said Mbingo.

“We do encourage people to report animal nuisance cases to us but more than anything else we implore dogowners to take care of their animals and to make sure that they are not becoming a nuisance and danger to residents. It must be said that dogs are not the only feature for animal nuisance cases as those involving cattle, goats and horses also feature regularly,” Mbingo.



Council's firearm has a silencer gadget. The firearm will be used in operations to put down dogs.



Council has been attending to dog nuisance complaint matters (courtesy picture)

COUNCIL ROADWORKS ON OVER 30 STREETS

Listed below are the over 30 streets that are being covered by this month's schedule.

February 2018 Monthly Schedule

GRADING AND RE-GRAVELLING

1. Laying of culverts at Bayabonga Complex, Sidwashini Industrial-site
2. Re-gravelling of Corporation Road, Licakala Road, Corporation
3. Grading of road passing Mahwalala Red Cross
4. Re-gravelling at Manganganeni road, Mvakwelitje
5. Grading of Mandela Avenue, CBD
6. Grading of Pine Valley Road next to Silver Stone Lodge
7. Grading at Mavukufu Street, Gogo, Mvulindlela Street, Sidwashini south

POTHOLE PATCHING

1. Mshini road - Extension 14.
2. Indingilizi - dalriach west.
3. Lukhosi, Mseni streets- thembelihle-
4. Zwide, Dzweliwe, Mdada, Makhosikhosi, CBD-
5. Mbuya, Mkhonubovu, New Checkers-
6. Soloto, Inhlaba, Westridge Park-

GRASS CUTTING

1. Dzeiliwe, Zwide, Mdada - CBD
2. Bishop Watt and Jubela street, Honey Crescent street.- kent rock
3. Mbuya street,
4. Mkhonobovu, New Checkers—makholokholo road
5. Msunduza Road,
6. Jekwa Road,
6. Siguca Crescent,
8. Mshengu Road,
7. Mbabane industrial site

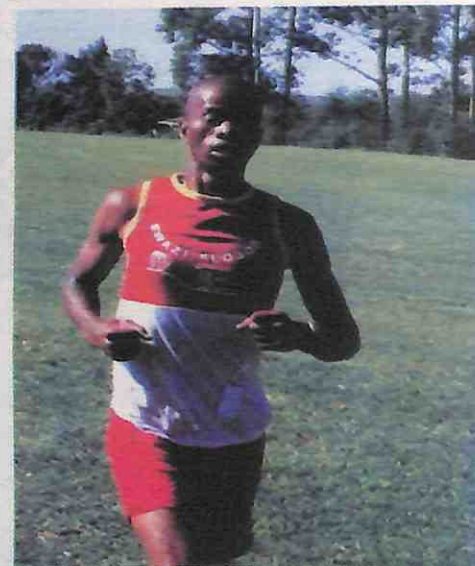
DRAIN CLEANING

1. Stitibeni Township,
2. makholekholo township,
3. Mbovane street
4. Bishop Watt and Jubela street, kentrock
5. Polinjani road, PT
6. Manzana Township

IMPRESSIVE TURNAROUND TIME!

"There are two huge potholes that have developed along a section of this road between the car dealership above SRIC to frontage with the new UN building that are a threat to motorists and will cause accidents soon. These need to be attended to soon ownership of the road notwithstanding. DTS please assist in this regard"

"I would like to acknowledge and applaud the quick action taken on the filling of the potholes raised in yesterday's Email. Though temporary measures have been used it demonstrates commitment to responsive service delivery. I'm sure a permanent solution is on the way"



10 NATIONAL NEWS

JILTED SOLDIER TAKES OUT EX-LOVER'S UNDERWEAR IN COURT

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

A jilted man who was hauled before court for a peace binding hearing left the gallery in stitches when he suddenly withdrew a woman's underwear from his pocket and threw it on the floor after he was accused of stealing it.

Mandlenkhosi Masilela (42), who is said to be employed by the Umtatfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF), appeared before the Siteki Magistrate's Court after he was reported for harassing by his former girlfriend, one Thabsile Matsenjwa.

The woman wanted the court to issue an order barring Masilela from coming anywhere near her as she no longer wanted him in her life.

In her application, the woman stated that she broke up with the respondent early last year, after they started having some differences in their relationship.

She stated that after breaking up with him, the respondent would constantly harass her as he would at times visit her at her house unannounced. This is said to have been causing problems between the applicant and her new boyfriend.

● "Nkhosi yenkantolo ngiyiphetse nalephenti yakhe ngitomnika kuze kutsi angabi solo angilandzela atsi kunelutfo lwakhe kimi"

Moreover, the applicant stated that one of the reasons which saw her ending the relationship with the respondent was that he appeared to have a strong belief in rituals and the use of muti.

She alleged that at one instance, the respondent took away her underwear just after they started having differences in their relationship and threatened to use it for ritual purposes.

Misunderstandings

"The respondent has a strong belief in witchcraft and would more often visit witchdoctors whenever we had misunderstandings," stated Matsenjwa, in her application.

The woman, therefore, wanted the court to issue an order stopping the respondent from visiting and intimidating her in any way.

Ironically, Masilela also told the court that he wanted nothing to do with Matsenjwa.

He alleged that the applicant was the one who would initiate a conversation

with him, something which would eventually result to a fight.

The court accordingly issued the order which was to the effect that the applicant and the respondent must stay away from each other.

Underwear

They were then asked whether they had anything to say before the matter was adjourned. It was during this time that the respondent told the court that he had brought the underwear which belonged to the applicant.

"Nkhosi yenkantolo ngiyiphetse nalephenti yakhe ngitomnika kuze kutsi angabi solo angilandzela atsi kunelutfo lwakhe kimi", translated to, "Your Worship, I have also brought the underwear so that she can also stop following me under the pretext that she wants her property from me," said the respondent.

He then took out a black plastic bag from his pocket and threw it onto the floor while the gallery burst into uncontrollable laughter.

LAW AND ORDER: Mbabane Magistrate's Court.

LAWYER SAVES MAN FROM PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION

Stories by Sibusiso Gamedze
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

LAWYER Wandile Maseko from Waring Attorneys saved Bheki Magongo of Nkwalini from being sent to the Psychiatric Centre for evaluation.

This was after prosecutor Nomkhosi Dlamini made an application before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati that Magongo be sent for evaluation after he was allegedly acting strangely while kept at the Mbabane Police Station.

While at the police station he allegedly banged and damaged the cell doors which almost led to him being charged with malicious damage to property. This incident is said to have occurred last Wednesday after the suspect was taken into a cell.

Magongo was charged with about 11 counts, including assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and common assault together with his co-accused Linda Kunene of Siphocosini under Chief Jabhane.

At the beginning of the trial, his lawyer asked for a short adjournment while he made a call to the police to have his client brought to court, and it was only after the 30-minute adjournment that Magongo arrived.

The magistrate then asked him a few questions in order to ascertain if he was fit and proper to stand trial and also to establish whether the allegations levelled against him by the police were true.

"The police say you banged and damaged the cell doors and you also refused to be taken to His Majesty's Correctional Services at Sidwashini after they took you to hospital," asked Vilakati.

The accused flatly denied all the allegations and explained that the reason he banged the cell door was to alert the police officers that he needed to be taken to the hospital as he was suffering from a throbbing headache after being hit with a spade on his head.

Magongo also said he was finally taken to the hospital in the afternoon at or about 3:30pm and was only discharged at about 4:30pm, which was way past the admission time at Sidwashini.

Documents

Upon return he was told that it was late to take him to Sidwashini and, therefore, he would have to spend the night at the police station. He further alleged that a certain police officer force number 3670 forcefully took his personal documents, including the doctor's prescription.

The magistrate then warned that if it was true that he was not well behaved it would not help him in his bail application as the court would also have to consider those allegations before granting him bail.

His lawyer jumped into the fray and said he had spoken to his client whom he said was fit and proper for the trial as he was of sound mind. He also said there was no proof that his client had damaged the cell door nor did he refuse to be taken to Sidwashini.



ELECT WISELY: Residents casting their votes during the last national elections.

Bring competent candidates for elections - Hlane residents urged

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

AS the country gears up for the national elections which are slated in a few months ahead, residents of Dvokodweni have urged the new population which comes from Hlane to bring competent candidates for the elections exercise.

Hlane and Siweni are the two communities which will be joining Dvokodweni Inkhundla following the recent developments which saw Hlane Inkhundla abolished.

Other communities which formed Hlane Inkhundla such as Khuphuka and Mnjoli are now under Mkhweni Inkhundla in the Manzini region.

Speaking during a meeting at the inkhundla, the residents boasted that they have always elected academically competent candidates into Parliament. They highlighted that their elected candidates would further be elected to high

er positions by authorities of the country.

Amongst these were former MP Mahlaba Mamba, who was also Cabinet minister and former MP Miti Fakudze, who was also a minister and is now Liqoqo member. The current MP, Musa 'Stezi' Dlamini is a former lecturer at the Southern African Nazarene University (SANU).

One Samson Dlamini, therefore, implored residents from Hlane to ensure that they bring competent candidates in order to be relevant during the elections process.

He was also echoed by Khula Mkhabela who stated that the area needed people who will be capable of understanding the constituency's needs.

"Residents of Hlane and Siweni must brace themselves for tough competition during the upcoming elections as

we always go for the highly competent candidates and this is evidenced by the former parliamentarians we have," said Mkhabela.

Meanwhile, residents of Hlane and Siweni are concerned that the new developments may result to them being left out in development projects. They hold the view that they would be dominated by the other communities which have always been under Dvokodweni Inkhundla.

However, the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) emphasised that people must elect candidates according to their visions and understanding of the constituency. Commissioner Ncumbi Maziya highlighted that the constitution allows any eligible person to be elected into Parliament regardless of his or her educational background. The electorate has also been warned against electing people who would bribe them with gifts in return for votes.



...STATE OPPOSES BAIL

THE state then called its witness to assist the court on the reasons why the accused persons should not be admitted to bail.

Sebenzile Nxumalo, from the Mbabane Police Station, Petty Cases Department, said she had six years experience in dealing with matters such as those which the accused was charged with.

Nxumalo said the accused should not be granted bail as they had similar cases pending before the very same court such as that of accused number two,

Linda Kunene who also had a rape charge against him that he allegedly committed last year.

Complaints

She said the community members at Mahwalala had made several complaints about the two accused persons in that they had a reputation of assaulting people with weapons such that they were no longer safe with them roaming the streets of the area.

The matter was then postponed to today after it became apparent that the defence could not make submissions.

EBC TO BUILD 11 CONSTITUENCY CENTRES

Stories by Mbono Mdluli
Sigangeni

THE ministry of tinkhundla administration and development will construct 11 tinkhundla centres, following the recent demarcation process.

This was said by Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) Commissioner Ncumbi Maziya during the tinkhundla report presentation at Sigangeni Inkhundla last Thursday.

Amongst other things, the EBC had gone to inform Motshane residents about the changes affecting Motshane Inkhundla.

Motshane is one of the Tinkhundla that have been split into two, after it was discovered that it was too big, both in terms of size and population.

This gave birth to Siphocosini Inkhundla, which includes four chiefdoms; namely, Siphocosini, Sigangeni, Luhlelweni and Mantabeni. Motshane, Kupheleni and Nduma (Motshane) chiefdoms will remain under Motshane Inkhundla.

Maziya said even though there were only four tinkhundla that were added after the exercise, it appeared that 11 constituency centres needed to be constructed. Some constituencies that were not affected also needed their centres to be relocated.

He made an example of Mhlangatane Inkhundla, saying it was observed that its centre was not situated in areas where there were many people. This affected speedy service delivery, which could hinder economic progress of the inkhundla.

...Motshane is one of the tinkhundla that have been split into two, after it was discovered that it was too big, both in terms of size and population



CONVO: Motshane Member of Parliament Phesheya Hlatshwayo in a conversation with Elections and Boundaries Commission's Commissioner Ncumbi Maziya after the meeting with Motshane residents regarding new developments with tinkhundla centres. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

He mentioned that during the first financial year, five constituency centres would be built if things went according to plan. He did not mention which centres would be built first.

Motshane, according to Maziya, would also have a new inkhundla centre, which could be built next to Motshane High School. However, this could only hap-

pen if chiefs of the three chiefdoms were content with the proposal of the EBC.

Regarding Siphocosini, Maziya mentioned that a new constituency centre would be built in Siphocosini Chiefdom. He said the chiefdom was discovered to have more people than the other chiefdoms under the new Siphocosini Inkhundla. The existing inkhundla centre, which

...Why Siphocosini Inkhundla was formed

POPULATION density under Motshane Inkhundla was the reason why EBC decided to create Siphocosini Inkhundla.

EBC Commissioner Ncumbi Maziya said Motshane was one of the most densely populated tinkhundla, which comes after Kwaluseni and Siphofaneni.

It was found out that chiefdoms like Mpolonjeni and Kupheleni were mostly attached to Motshane, hence they were left under Motshane Inkhundla. Sigangeni, Luhlelweni and Mantabeni Chiefdoms were found to be mostly attached to Siphocosini.

Maziya said 100 per cent of Kupheleni residents were attached to Motshane. They would be voting at Londunduma High School and Ngwenya Village during the elections this year. Other polling stations could be identified if need be.

Mpolonjeni would be voting at

New Life Primary while Ntambande and Nduma residents would vote at Motshane High.

Luhlelweni has been identified as a chiefdom that could be under Siphocosini Inkhundla. About 40 per cent of residents from that chiefdom were attached to Mhlambanyatsi, where they were working.

The rest of the population was attached to Sigangeni, while most of Sigangeni people were attached to Siphocosini.

About 95 per cent of Mantabeni residents were also attached to Siphocosini.

Mantabeni would be using Bhekephi and Hlabazonke Primary as voting stations, while Sigangeni would be using Sigangeni High. Luhlelweni would be using Merryward Primary while Siphocosini would be using All Saints Primary, Siphocosini High and Masibekela High.

is situated at Sigangeni, would be turned into a sub-inkhundla.

The sub-inkhundla is expected to be visited by the Member of Parliament (MP) and the rest of the inkhundla committee once or twice

a week.

This would also apply to all the Tinkhundla across the country. Maziya said it was expected that 21 sub-tinkhundla would be erected across the country.



SUPPORT: Residents pictured after the meeting with EBC.

Chiefs' wishes now answered - Magongo

THE split of Motshane Inkhundla into two was wanted by some chiefs of the same constituency.

This was said by former Motshane MP Robert Magongo.

He said in 2010, the late Chief Siphos Shongwe once visited the Motshane Inkhundla centre, which is situated at Sigangeni.

"The late Chief Siphos Shongwe wondered why this inkhundla was called Motshane yet its centre was situated in Sigangeni," Magongo said.

Magongo further mentioned that Mpolonjeni Chief Petros Dvuba also raised the same complaint, saying the inkhundla centre was far from their chiefdom.

"The chief said it was not convenient for them to go via Mbabane when they wanted to visit the inkhundla centre because they could not get there on time," he said.

Magongo thanked the EBC for finding it convenient to split the inkhundla into two. He hoped that service delivery would improve with the changes that were supposed to take place.



SMILE: EBC Hhohho Elections Officer Buhle Dlamini in chatting to Mpolonjeni Chief Petros Dvuba.



CHIT-CHAT: Some of the residents who came through for the meeting.



MINGLING: Residents in talks after the meeting with EBC officials.

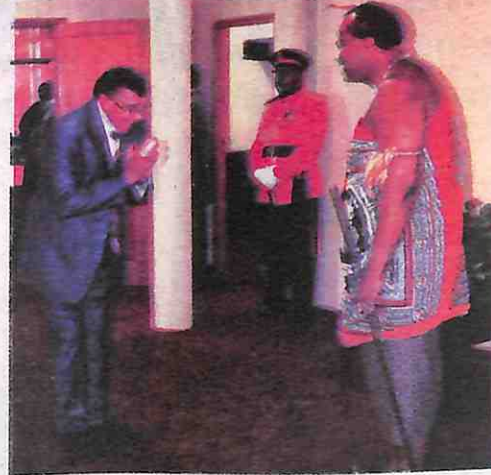
5TH SESSION OF THE 10TH PARLIAMENT OPENING



BAYETHE: Republic of China on Taiwan Ambassador Thomas Chen was among the diplomats who congratulated King Mswati III after the speech from the throne.



YOUR MAJESTY: Seychelles Consul General Nassa Mansoor meeting His Majesty.



BOW: Russian Consul to Swaziland John Carmichael taking a bow before commending the King for the great speech.



HAND SHAKING: European Union Ambassador to Swaziland Hernandez Aragonés was among the diplomats who attended the party opening.



DIPLOMATIC: The opening of Parliament by the King did not only attract Swazis as members of the diplomatic corps were also among the special guests following proceedings from the public gallery. They later got an opportunity to congratulate the King on the speech from the throne. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Korean Embassy Consul General Dr Min could not miss out.



REP: UNICEF Country Representative Dr Alice Akunga also had her turn to meet the King after the ceremony.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SINCEPHETELO MVA FUND

PROVISION OF GYM MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR SINCEPHETELO MVA FUND
RFP NUMBER: 06 of 2017/2018

The Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund (SMVAF or the Fund) invites sealed Proposals for the provision of Gym Management Services for SMVAF. The 'Request for Proposals' document can be obtained at the reception of the Sincephetelo MVA Fund, as from 07th February 2018 for a non-refundable fee of E500.00 per set. The method of payment shall be cash only payable to the SMVAF offices.

The Fund seeks to engage a reputable gym service provider which is registered with the Registrar of Companies in Swaziland to provide gym management services to SMVAF for three (3) financial years.

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to establish a service agreement to cover a period of three (3) years. Detailed information regarding the terms of reference is available in the 'Request for Proposals' document. The Fund shall continuously review the performance of the service provider and, if the performance of the service provider is not satisfactory, SMVAF shall have the right to terminate the service agreement in line with the agreed terms and conditions.

Proposals will be evaluated on a Quality and Cost basis and the resulting contract will be a Unit Price contract (i.e. agreed fee rates for a specified period of time for either nominated personnel or a certain type or grade of personnel or type of service, with reimbursable items being on the basis of actual expenses or agreed unit prices).

The Proposal shall consist of a Technical Proposal and a Financial Proposal, which shall be in separate sealed envelopes marked "Technical Proposal - RFP 06 of 2017/2018" and "Financial Proposal - RFP 06 of 2017/2018", respectively. The two envelopes must be enclosed in a sealed outer envelope, which shall be marked: "Request for Proposal: Provision of Gym Management Services for SMVAF, 06 of 2017/2018 - Do Not Open before 12:00 noon (Swaziland time) on 2nd March 2018" and addressed to "The Secretary to the Tender Board, Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund, Mbabane, P.O. Box 4239 Mbabane". Failure to mark the envelope clearly and accurately may result in rejection of the application.

To be eligible for consideration for this proposal, a tenderer should provide in its proposal the documents specified in "Instructions to Tenderers", including the following:

- Certified copy of a valid Trading Licence,
- Certified copy of a valid Tax Clearance Certificate,
- Company Profile
- Labour Compliance Certificate
- Proof of Competence from Similar Business
- Proof of official purchase and payment of the Tender document

The Proposals must be submitted in the Tender Box situated at the Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund, Mbabane, at the latest by 12:00pm (Swaziland time) on 2nd March 2018. Late tenders, as well as tenders received by telegram, facsimile, email or similar medium will not be considered. Tenders received in time by the latest date and time for submission will be opened at the Fund's Offices at 12:15pm on the 2 March 2018.

A compulsory site inspection will be conducted on Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 10:00 am.

Requests for clarifications, which must be in writing, should be addressed, via email, to procurement@mva.org.sz.

MBABANE OFFICE PARK
MVA Office Park
Mbhilibi Street
Mbabane

MANZINI BRANCH
SRIC Building
Opposite Hub Pick 'n Pay
Manzini

PIGG'S PEAK SERVICE CENTRE
Office # 2B SNPP Building
Evelyn-Baring Street
Pigg's Peak

www.mva.org.sz call centre: 800 7005

tel: 2408 6800



SWAZILAND ELECTRICITY COMPANY (SEC)

Eluvatsini House, Mhlambanyatsi Road,
Mbabane PO Box 258, Mbabane H100,
Tel: 2409 4000, Fax: 2404 2335
www.sec.sz Toll Free: 800 9000

Energy for the Future

PUBLIC NOTICE

SWAZILAND ELECTRICITY COMPANY PENSION FUND (SECPF) PENSIONERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The Swaziland Electricity Company Pension Fund (SECPF) wishes to notify all pensioners receiving their monthly pension from the Company and the Pension Fund, of their Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled to be held on the 2nd March, 2018 at The George Hotel, Manzini starting at 09:00 a.m.

Pensioners are reminded to bring certified copies of their national identity card (IDs) to the meeting and be prepared to complete certificates of existence.

PRINCIPAL OFFICER
S.E.C. PENSION FUND

SIMEMTELO SESIVE NGALABAHOLA IMPENISHILI KA SEC PENSION FUND

Sikhwama semhlahaphansi senkapani yemagezi eSwatini, i-Swaziland Electricity Company Pension Fund itsandza kwatisa bonkhe labapenishe lwalabahola impenisheni yabo enkapaneni nasesikhwameni sempenisheni, ngemhlangano wemalunga lohlelelwe kubamhlaka 2 Indlovulenkulu 2018 e The George Hotel, Ka Manzini ngensimbi yemfica ekuseni 9:00 a.m.

Niyacelwa malunga kutsi niphatshe emakhophi lafungelwe abo matise (National ID) kulonamhlangano, nilungele kugcwalisa timphepha letifakazela kuphila.

SIMEMTELO SIKHOKHWA NGU
PRINCIPAL OFFICER WE SEC PENSION FUND

Swaziland Electricity Company | @SECswaziland | TOLL-FREE 800 9000 FOR MOBILE: 2508 3133

Doc.15599

Standard charges apply



SHARING IDEAS: Guest speaker Senator Ndumiso Mdluli with the leadership of St Theresa's School during the thanksgiving luncheon for the teachers at the Happy Valley Hotel. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

GOVT MUST REVISE OVC FUND, FPE GRANTS

Stories by Simon Shabangu
Ezulwini

ST Theresa's High School Principal Albert Sihlongonyane has urged government to revise the money it pays as bursaries for orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs) and Free Primary Education (FPE).

He said the fees have become rather too little to cater for all expenses needed.

Sihlongonyane was speaking at the school's thanksgiving luncheon in recognition of the outstanding academic performance of the school in the year 2017, an event held at the Happy Valley Hotel last Friday.

The principal said the fees contributed by government were not enough as the costs of running a school had escalated over the years.

He said E1 950 was paid towards the education of children in Form One, Two, Three and Five, then a sum of E2 500 for Form Four children.

"With the current money paid by government, we are unable to supply the children with books. We appeal to government to revisit the fees paid and consider increasing the bursaries for us to be able to totally cater for the children so that they learn effectively like the rest of their peers," he said.

Sihlongonyane also urged government to consider an investigation of



MY TWO CENTS: St. Theresa's High School Principal Albert Sihlongonyane making his remarks.

the pupils registered under government bursaries, stating that there are cases where children are registered yet they had parents or guardians who could afford to pay the fees.

Assistance

"We have cases whereby parents pay large sums of up to E5 000 yet still come to request assistance in applying for the government bursary. This needs to be investigated so that government only pays for deserving children. Those who can afford take responsibility for their children must do so and give the deserving kids a chance," he said.

He said as teachers in the mission schools they were grateful to government for employing them and afford-

ing them the decent salaries which the missions could have not afforded. "We often forget to thank government for taking over the responsibility of employing teachers working in mission schools and taking them under its wing" he said.

He thanked the teachers for the effort they put in class stating that the gathering was their way as the leadership and school's committees of appreciating them and further motivating them to do even better.

Meanwhile, Principal at St Theresa's Primary School, Dan Dlamini said as a school they were grateful for the partnership they had with their sister high school. He said the association has been going on for over 10 years and is yielding good results.

He said this year his school will make amends and do their best to produce good results. "We are going to be the best and we will have to work towards achieving that. I do not have any doubt that we will pull it off. I took note of the young and fresh blood that is taking centre stage in the school, it will work together with us to produce good results. This year, we will put the challenges behind so as to attain good results which will take the school to the top spot," he said. He said the gathering was a way of appreciating the teachers for the support they give them as principals stating that without support from the teachers, the schools could



JUBILANT: Teachers in a jubilant mood during the ceremony.

Senator Ndumiso lauds school for culture of excellence

SENATOR Ndumiso Mdluli who is also Chairman of the Education Portfolio Committee in the House of Senate has praised the missionary community for not only bringing the gospel to Swaziland, but also introducing education and establishing schools.

He said education has brought development to the country and brought up responsible citizens and leaders. "When missionaries arrived in this country, they minced no words about their intention to pursue a dual purpose agenda in the execution of their mission. While their core business was evangelism and winning souls for Christ, they also focused squarely on the education of Swazi communities. Their cardinal objective was to emancipate Swazis from the scourge of ignorance, deprivation and want. Mission schools such as St Theresa's have lived-up to this original vision and produced outstanding individuals who have ultimately joined the country's legion of professionals and technocrats who are today driving the economic development agenda of the country," he said.

He applauded the role played by the schools' principals and the entire leadership structures at these schools for their success in creating an enabling environment for learners to excel in their school work.

"It is through your hard work, selfless dedication and outright commitment to your roles and responsibilities that these schools have been transformed into centres of excellence. Successful organisations are often driven by assertive individuals who are gifted with sound leadership qualities. Poor leadership is a recipe for disaster in our schools," he said.

Important

He said it was important to appreciate people when they excel. "It is rare for us to give recognition to people who have excelled in their roles. We notice with admiration that some are beginning to host events that are intended to recognise outstanding achievements by their membership. Such accolades are a valuable source of inspiration that energise the highfliers among us, to strive for even higher goals in their respective fields of excellence," he added.

He thanked government for the decision to make Christian education compulsory in schools. He said faith offered a sound foundation and a solid anchor for the total education of a child. Mdluli noted that Christian based education provided the only viable safety net for cushioning our children against the invasion of a morally degenerate world.

not achieve the good results. He lauded the retiring Deputy Principal Lupupa

for being a good pillar of strength through his leadership of the school.

Trailer worth E150 000 stolen while parked at Matsapha

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Matsapha

CASES of motor vehicle theft in the country are apparently on the rise as not only are private vehicles targeted, but criminals now target even trucks and trailers.

Last Tuesday, police reported that a trailer was stolen while parked at Matsapha. According to information released by Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba the incident took place at around 1830 hours.

Mamba said a 42-year-old man of Herefords discovered that his truck trailer registered SD 316 NG valued at E150 000 was stolen while parked at Matsapha. Mamba requested from members of the public that anyone who has information that may lead to the discovery of the trailer and arrest of the

suspects can contact the Matsapha Desk Officer, Makhanya at 7608 9713 or call Matsapha Police at 2518 7111 or dial 999/9999 for emergency. Just last year around December, the Serious Crimes Unit (LUKHOZI) apprehended a Mozambican man for stealing a truck in South Africa. The Mozambican who was charged with stealing a Nissan Truck in South Africa was nabbed by police officers in the country during a roadblock at Bhunya.

Car jackings

The truck was said to have been hijacked at Potchefstroom on December 11. Reported cases of car jackings and theft have seen a steady increase in the country with most cars stolen while parked and some taken at gun point. Theft of truck trailers is common in South Africa but it would seem that now even in Swaziland such cases are showing their ugly head.

Employee strangles manager over voice messages

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

A manager received the shock of her life when she was strangled by an employee after she found voice messages in a phone used by the employee.

Thulani Dlamini is alleged to have strangled Khethukuthula Mlota while they were in Mafutseni area. The two appeared in court before Magistrate Nelsiwe Hlophe.

Dlamini was the accused person while Mlota appeared as a complainant. Mlota informed the court that she is employed by a company which sells riversand in the Mafutseni area.

She said she knew the accused as they worked together since Dlamini was a TLB driver and she was his manager.

Mlota said she discovered voice messages in a phone that was at her

workstation and when Dlamini learnt about that, he went wild and demanded that he be given the phone so that

he could delete the messages. Mlota said Dlamini started strangulating her and twisting her arm, at that moment she cried for help and a security guard who was in the area came to her rescue.

Mlota then informed the court that after the security rescued her, she went outside the fence and started making calls to her superiors to inform them about what had just happened.

She said while she was on the phone, the accused proceeded to the company's safe where upon taking keys from one of the drawers, he opened the safe

and stole money amounting to E1 050.

After committing the offence, the accused is alleged to have fled the scene

and later called one of the security guards and sent him to pass on a message to the manager that he had since taken money from the safe and was at the CPL Mafutseni Bar where he was drinking beer. Police later caught the accused while still at the bar and he had already spent about E250 as he was found with only E800. The accused was arrested and charged with the offence of theft and common assault. During his appearance,

the Magistrate asked that the accused be remanded out of custody pending evaluation of his mental health by doctors.

Voice Message

Press to start recording



00:00

SHISELWENI NEWS

Nhlangano office

Tobacco Complex, Cnr King George Masengule Streets
Opposite SEDCO PremisesTel: 2207 5159 Cell: 7621 5081
Email: Starsky@realnet.co.sz

...With

Starsky Mkhonta



Pupils from Shiselweni schools get shoes

POWER Fashion Factory has donated school shoes worth over E10 000 to pupils around Nhlangano.

The clothing retailer boasts several branches in the country and beyond the borders.

Power Factory responded to a request made by the Nhlangano Police Station whose officers had noted the plight faced by some of the pupils from surrounding schools.

Police officers usually pay visits to schools where they educate pupils and teachers on preventing crime.

While the focus is usually on crime prevention, the officers are touched when seeing some of the pupils shabbily dressed and walking barefooted.

Thus they worked on a plan to scout for sponsorship to assist needy children.

Power Fashion Factory became the first company this year to consider the request made by the police station and responded with such huge sponsorship meant to benefit school children identified according to their needs.

A total of 100 pupils were identified from 20 different schools as the ones deserving to benefit from the company's generosity.

Each school forwarded five needy pupils. The presentation took place at Nhlangano Vocational Rehabilitation Centre (VRC) where Power Fashion Factory was represented by Thabo Magagula, who is one of the company's senior managers.

The schools were also represented by the teachers who accompanied the pupils. The ministry of education was also represented during the handover of the shoes to the pupils.

Nhlangano Police Station Commander Superintendent Baraba Ginindza,



BENEFICIARIES: Some of the pupils with their teachers in a group photo after being presented with the shoes.

Assistant Superintendent Lucky Msibi and the Crime Prevention Coordinator Assistant Inspector Sakhile Mncina represented the station with Supt. Ginindza standing in for Shiselweni Regional Commissioner Wendy Hleta.

According to Assistant Lucky Msibi, the company's representative Thabo Magagula commended such a partnership where the focus was to assist vulnerable children.

Magagula said his company appreciated being involved in programmes meant to improve lives of the less privileged. He told the gathering that it was part of the company's policy to assist communities, especially those facing challenges. He outlined that the donation was also another way of ploughing back to the community.

Power Factory appreciated the part-

nership with the police as they (police) alone could not win the battle against crime.

"The clothing retailer is pleased to operate in Nhlangano as police conduct patrols day and night to ensure the place is safe to do business in.

"For their businesses to also grow so that they can stretch a helping hand to communities, Magagula mentioned that the environment should be conducive.

He further assured us that the police should not hesitate to approach the company even in future for sponsoring programmes that benefit unfortunate members of society. He invited other companies to come on board and sponsor programmes initiated by police as this kind of partnership is one way of conquering crime," said Msibi.

Station commander wants partnership strengthened

POLICE want to create a strong partnership with the business sector as well as the members of society and others.

Nhlangano Police Station Commander Superintendent Baraba Ginindza said in order to completely eradicate crime, everyone should come on board.

Supt. Ginindza noted that it was through the partnership of the police and the schools that prompted Power Fashion Factory to assist the vulnerable children.

"This partnership should be strength-

ened and it's a relationship which should last forever," said Ginindza.

Ginindza said companies like Power Fashion Factory must be supported by all Swazis as they ploughed back to society.

Appreciate

"The company has presented these children with their Valentine's gifts and we highly appreciate the role it is playing in supporting police initiatives. Let us continue working together and we are inviting other companies to emulate Power Fashion Factory," said Ginindza.



REMARKS: Nhlangano Police Station Commander Supt Baraba Ginindza making few remarks during the ceremony.

Ministry of education thankful to company, police

THE ministry of education is pleased with the transformation of the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) Service.

The department has noted that RSP has become of great service to community projects such as taking care of the needy.

It noted that in the olden days, it was thought that police only focused on effecting arrest, but now they were looking beyond that, but want to know why people were committing crime or how such could be addressed and how perpetrators could change from their evil ways.

During the presentation ceremony of school shoes worth over E10 000 to pupils from schools around Nhlangano, a representative from the ministry of education Hinton Kunene first thanked the sponsor Power Fashion Factory for the support.

He said what the company has done should be emulated by other companies or businesses. The presentation took place at the Nhlangano Vocational Rehabilitation Centre.

He said by sponsoring the children, it was a good investment to the country as children were future leaders. Over 100 pupils from 20 schools benefitted from the sponsorship, with five pupils from each school.

The ministry of education said for a business to partner with police for a good cause was something that should be encouraged.

"It's good investment for parents to send their children to school and same goes to businesses or companies doing exactly what Power Fashion Factory has done. This company should be applauded for the help it has provided to these children. The children will not feel neglected as what the company has done for them, has motivated them and they will be like their peers whose parents afford to buy them anything," said Kunene.

Kunene said it was good to see police creating harmony in communities as well as playing their part in improving lives of those living in areas they police.

Kunene advised the pupils to concentrate in their studies and desist from engaging in crime.

"The winter season is drawing closer, the donation has happened at the right time. It's our hope and wish that other companies will copy what Power Fashion Factory has done. There are still many more children who need help and we are hopeful that other companies will come forward and contribute something," said Kunene.

TEACHERS ALSO THANKFUL TO THE COMPANY, POLICE

TEACHERS are at times forced to turn their primary focus and ascertain the background of their pupils.

Speaking on behalf of teachers and the pupils during the presentation of school shoes, Esau Dlamini, the Principal of Nzongomane High School, said through the donation, Power Fashion Factory has eased off the burden from the teachers.

He said the role of teachers did not start and end on using chalk, but involved many things.

He told the gathering that for a child to perform well in class, there should be no disturbances to him or her.

"Our role is no longer to teach the children, but we now have to cater for social needs of each child. We all know how the sit-

uation is these days out there. There are orphans as well as those who are vulnerable. So, it is always difficult to teach when seeing some of them coming to school not properly dressed and some walking barefooted even during chilly weather while some come to school on an empty stomach.

Commended

Teachers must then manage the situation," said Dlamini.

Dlamini commended the police for visiting schools to educate children on crime prevention.

"Through these campaigns undertaken by police, they discover that some of these children are needy. The police visits to our schools has assisted some of the children as today they got new shoes," said Dlamini.

CASH TRANSFER FOR NEEDY PEOPLE OF MATSANJENI

By Starsky Mkhonta
Matsanjeni South

OVER 5 000 people from different communities under Matsanjeni South Constituency will get E120 per month as part of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) programme of assisting needy communities.

NDMA has tasked World Vision to be the distributor of the money which beneficiaries will cash from mobile money outlets.

The cash transfer, as the programme

is called, is expected to last for the next four months and the first payment is at the end of this month.

Matsanjeni South Indvuna Yenkhundla Mandlakayise Matse said beneficiaries of the exercise had been registered and these were people from six mini-chiefdoms under Lavumisa as well as the main chiefdom, Qomintaba.

He said the list of beneficiaries under this programme has been scrutinised and it was found that all those listed from the different mini-chiefdoms were indeed qualifying to be considered.

"The exact figure of the people to be assisted under this cash transfer pro-

gramme is 5 172. The list has been screened and it was found that they all deserve help.

Programme

The good thing with this programme is that it's not per homestead, but per person. For instance, you find that at a homestead there are two or three people who can't fend for themselves and they will get E120," said Matse.

Matse said in the past, the needy used to be given food parcels such as mealie-meal, but now there is cash transfer programme where all beneficiaries would get their money through mobile money.

"This assistance is not different from the drought mitigation exercise. The people who qualify include those who are still unable to harvest anything from their fields and some being those who have no one to feed them.

The NDMA team first conducted its own survey and it was realised that there were people in the constituency qualifying to benefit from the programme as they struggle to make ends meet," said Matse.

Matse said the figure of the people identified as those deserving to be given a priority is nothing as there were many more who could not be included in the list.

"It's not that the 5 172 people registered are the only ones but these are those whose situation is critical or worse.

Otherwise, in the whole constituency, you may find that over

15 000 people or more also need help," said Matse.

Matsenjeni South Member of Parliament Sikiza Edward Mhlungu echoed Matse's words, saying the situation was terrible when it comes to poverty in the constituency.

"We are thankful to the deputy prime minister's office for NDMA as, there are many more people who need assistance, especially food.

That list is not even a fraction of the needy, but we are thankful to government for showing sympathy and reaching out to the needy people.

We can't blame government for the people's plight. Let's appreciate the little that government is doing for the people of our constituency. The cash transfer will begin at the end of February until May," said MP Mhlungu.

Velebantfu High principal retires

By Starsky Mkhonta
Velebantfu

LONG serving Velebantfu High School Principal Jethro Muzi Shongwe has retired.

In the meantime, Thulani Dlamini, who was deputising, is acting principal at the school.

It has been gathered that Shongwe retired towards the end of last year and his last day at work was November 1.

Shongwe is said to have not only served for a long time as principal, but also as a teacher in the same school.

He climbed the rungs of power from being an ordinary teacher, to senior teacher, deputy and eventually became the principal until he retired last year.

While Shongwe was still principal, the school used to hog newspaper headlines.

At one point, former Minister of Education Wilson Ntshangase led a delegation to assess the situation at the school as it was reportedly troubled.

This is also the same school which not long ago lost a female pupil who was 'butchered' to death while she was in the company of colleagues on their way to study at night.

In the same school, a female pupil also stabbed a man believed to be her lover.

This was said to have occurred after the man had attempted to kill her after a misunderstanding. These two atrocities were incidents that shook not just the community, but the entire country.

Shongwe is said to have been a good principal who was idolised by many.

Others who learned about Shongwe's retirement said they would remember him for quite a number of things.

"There is lot of things he will be remembered for and how he administered the school. He was respected by the teachers, children and even parents," said one member of the community.

The school is a mission school under the Free Evangelical Assemblies (FEA) Church.

When contacted, Shongwe could not be reached as his phone was unavailable.

On the other hand, the school's grantee Elliott Sibiyi confirmed that Shongwe has since retired but he did not elaborate.

"Yes, he has retired and that's all I can say," said Sibiyi, who is also a former Ministry of Education Inspector of Sports and Culture.

William Pitcher College students demand refund for missed days

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

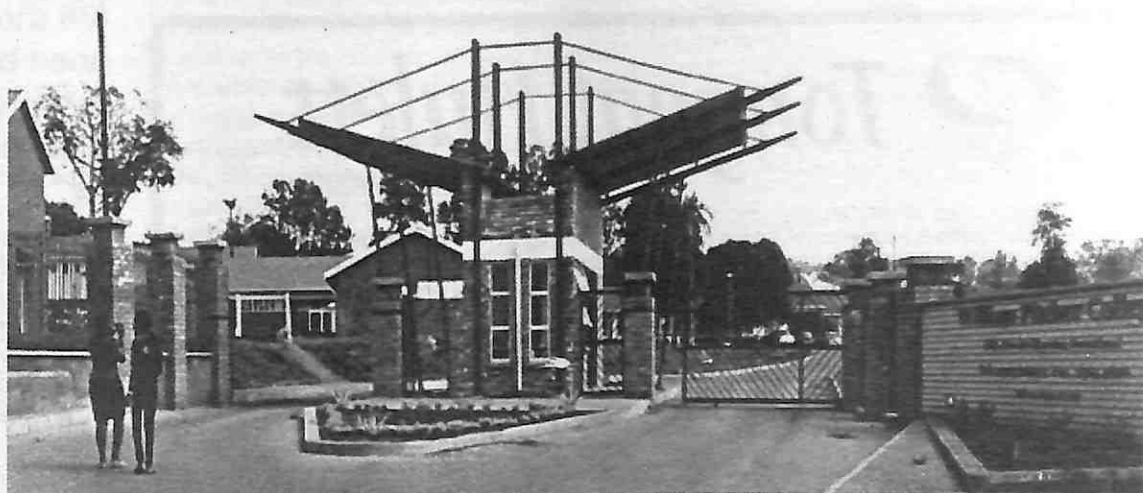
AFTER being sent home for three weeks, students of William Pitcher College are demanding a refund of meal allowances for the days they have been expelled at the institution.

The students were sent home after they went on a boycott of classes demanding allowances, among other things. When they returned last week to try and negotiate with the institution to allow them back to class, they were informed that they are still not needed by the institution.

Student Representative Council Secretary General Simphiwe Dlamini said a question which has been burning in students' mind is what happens to the food they are supposed to be eating.

"Whose purse does the money saved on buying a three-weeks supply of food goes to," Dlamini said. He added that on average, a single student is roughly entitled to E150 of food daily.

Dlamini said since there are about 200 students at the college, when that number is multiplied by the number of days and the money supposedly spent on meal allowances, that is quite a lump sum of money



DEMANDS: William Pitcher College students are demanding the institution refunds them meal allowances for the three weeks they spent away from the college.

saved on food alone when students are home.

Dlamini wondered as to who pockets the money since students were home.

Government

He said this was because the money from government is fixed and the number of days when students are made to stay away from the institution are unaccounted for.

"The students have been home for this long and they continue to be charged for meals they did not get, is that right? Are they going to be refunded that meal money or the

food meter will keep on reading and charging students for food they did not eat?"

The secretary general said their dismissal from the institution has had major implications for them, but when one takes a closer look, the students' absence is benefitting the college financially, because the longer they are away it is the more the college saves when it comes to money.

Dlamini said the college 'profited' with the absence of students and as such, ensured that it gets them to leave for prolonged periods so it

may benefit.

He said it was sad that the college does not even take the opportunity while students are away and try to fix some of the dilapidated hostels so that when they come back they find their residence in a habitable state.

The secretary general said the living conditions for students at the college are worsening each day. Efforts to get comment from the college proved futile as the Dean of Student Affairs Mfanasilili Dlamini's phone rang unanswered for the better part of the day.

News Extra

JOHANNESBURG – The ministry of police, headed by Fikile Mbalula, yesterday discouraged people from offering rewards for the arrest of Ajay Gupta.

Police ministry spokesperson Vuyo Mhaga said: "We are discouraging people to offer rewards."

He said the police did not want independent reward offers to be made as "it might endanger the suspect, the lookalike and general public".

Ajay Gupta, who is considered a fugitive, is wanted for charges relat-

ing to allegations of fraud and corruption over the Estina Farm Community Project in Vrede, in the Free State.

Forensic consultant Paul O'Sullivan's organisation, Forensics for Justice, on Thursday said it was offering a R100 000 reward "for any person that gives information that leads to the arrest of Ajay Gupta within the

next 48 hours", as well as additional rewards for the arrest of Ajay's brothers Atul and Rajesh, also known as Tony, as well as Duduzane Zuma, and a bonus reward for the capture of all four.

Following this, CEO of the Sygnia Group Magda Wierzycka said in a series of tweets that she would match the various rewards offered by

O'Sullivan, taking the total reward up to R1m. She later offered extra rewards.

Over the weekend, Mbalula directed police to ensure that none of those among the wanted managed to smuggle themselves across borders.

"He can run but he cannot hide," Mbalula said *News24*

Police ministry 'discouraging people' from offering rewards for Gupta arrests

SITEKI TOWN COUNCIL TAKES NEGLIGENT PLOT OWNERS TO COURT

Stories by Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

OWNERS of plots that have been neglected and left with overgrown bushes face a possibility of losing them to the Siteki Town Council if they fail to clear them urgently.

The council is currently taking legal action against all property owners who have left their plots undeveloped for years.

This was disclosed by town Clerk Sithembile Simelane during an interview.

Simelane said the council had noted that a number of plots, situated too close to the town centre, had been left undeveloped for many years, thus posing danger to members of the public.

Simelane said some plots were currently overgrown with grass.

The plots are said to have also been used to hideout spots by criminals



who target members of the public and rob them of their belongings.

Incidents

Such incidents would be more common during the winter season as some members of the public pass through the plots while it is still dark.

Simelane said they have already issued letters of notice to the plot owners.

The plot owners have been advised to clear the plots within a specified period or face legal action. "We have

also received complaints from members of the public and some businesses who are threatened by the overgrown plots nearby," she said.

Simelane said this was in line with their mandate to ensure safety for dwellers of the town. The council had recently locked out businesses which were owing rent. It was gathered that most of the businesses were owing rent of up to 12 months. Some of them are still closed after the town council locked them out about two weeks ago.

● "We have also received complaints from members of the public and some businesses who are threatened by the overgrown plots nearby"



ROUTE CHANGE: Siteki town's Jacaranda Street. (Pic: Wonderboy Dlamini)

Council changes public transport routes

THE Siteki Town Council has since announced some changes of routes for public transport within the town centre.

The oldest town of the Lubombo region is currently undertaking major development projects within its centre. These include the construction of new buildings which will house various businesses. Town Clerk Sithembile Simelane said the council has engaged their stakeholders in implementing changes to embrace the development.

Simelane disclosed that one of the changes will include changing of traffic routes within the town centre, effective from April 16. She explained that the changes will affect mainly public transport that will no longer use the same routes when coming in and going out of the town. Currently, pub-

lic transport coming from the Manzini direction use the Parkway road to get to the bus rank and further use the Jacaranda Street to exit.

Congested

Simelane has, however, stated that from April, public transport vehicles will be prohibited from using the Jacaranda Street which is currently congested. They will instead use the Parkway road to exit and further use the Ngwenya road coming into the town. Furthermore, public transport vehicles will be prohibited from picking up passengers from any point other than the bus rank within the town centre. "The town is currently experiencing a drastic increase on the number of motor vehicles and, therefore, the changes are meant to avoid congestion along some of the streets," Simelane said.

Tongaat Hulett

TAMBANKULU ESTATES

Tambankulu Estates is a subsidiary of Tongaat Hulett Limited, based in the North Eastern corner of Swaziland. The Estate has 3 833ha of land under irrigation and produces an estimated 67 000 tons of sucrose annually. The Estate is run along modern business lines, employing high-tech irrigation systems and farming methods. All sugar cane produced is processed at two neighbouring sugar mills.

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Written applications, Curriculum Vitae's and proof of qualifications must be received not later than **Thursday 1st March 2018**, can be mailed to Recruitment.Tambankulu@tongaathulett.com or faxed to +268 2373 7213 or posted to:

Training & Development Officer
Private Bag
Mhlume

If you are not contacted by the **23rd March 2018**, please consider your application unsuccessful. Further details on Tongaat Hulett Limited are available on the website: www.tongaathulett.com



Incorporate in the Kingdom of Swaziland Reg no. 421/1998
ISIN Code: SZE 000331015 Share Code: SEL
Listed on the Swaziland Stock Exchange

DECLARED DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SWAZI EMPOWERMENT LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an interim dividend of E23,865,000 (twenty-three million, eight hundred and sixty-five thousand Emalangeni) comprising 129 (one hundred and twenty nine) cents per share, has been declared to ordinary shareholders registered as such in the Company's share register at the close of business on or before 7 March 2018.

Payment of dividend is expected to be no later than the 14th March 2018. Normal and withholding tax will be deducted from dividends paid to local shareholders and non-resident shareholders respectively where applicable.

By order of the board
06 February 2018

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FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

info@observer.org.sz



"We believe God will use organisations like the GBR- Global Business Roundtable to ensure that His people take over and control the economies of the world."

FACT: One of the challenges facing modern business and private sectors globally is the fact that the current financial and economic systems and organisations, unless inspired by God and led by the Holy Spirit, will not prevail in solving the deepening economic problems of the world.

HISTORY was made when GBR signed a MoU with a municipality, at a gloriously glittering event filled with ululation, creating a relationship envisaged to last a lifetime. Maluti-A-Phofung Municipality in the Free State Province, has become the first municipality to partner with GBR as both institutions forge ahead workable available opportunities

GBR SIGNS MoU WITH MUNICIPALITY

between them, for the beneficiation of both the GBR members and the Maluti-A-Phofung community.

The very active Executive Mayor of Maluti, HE Vusumuzi Tshabalala and a member of GBR together with his councilors, participated in the recently held Prayer Camp and during the Culture Day, hosted GBR members for a tour of the attraction areas of Qwaqwa which included the Sentinental Peak, Basotho Cultural Village (architecture depicting the lifestyle of the South Sotho from the sixteenth century to the dramatically colourful present) to Sefako SA Bakwena baMopeli and the Witsieshoek, to view the Bearded Vulture (a bald headed vulture characterised by long, narrow wings, elongated body shape and a long wedge-shaped tail which is between 43-52cm) among others.

Maluti-A-Phofung Municipality extends over the smallest area in the Thabo Mofutsanyana Municipal district which has the highest population density.

The rural landscape is characterised by mixed farming except in the Phuthaditjhaba surrounding area, which is the formal gateway to rural Qwaqwa.

Maluti, the most fertile agricultural region in

the Free State, covers Kestell (which offers tourism potential with plenty mountains for hiking and cycling/motorcycling as well as an abundance of birdlife functions. It also acts as a service centre to the surrounding agricultural community.

Memorable

All these attraction areas became a lifetime experience for GBR members, who also had an opportunity to do horse riding during the excursion, a memorable affair indeed.

As earlier mentioned, Sefako SA Bakwena Mopeli under the rulership of King Morena Moremoholo Mopeli was also visited, led by the king himself.

Such a gesture showed how traditional leadership, the significance and the role it plays in the area was held in high esteem.

Partnering with Maluti-A-Phofung as GBR has been labelled as a blessing and the partnership will create more opportunities for the young and old, in every area. Wrapping the event was the exchanging of gifts between the two institutions, coupled with a tantalising dinner as the GBR Worship team belted sweet sounds, an affair that reminisced a perfect wedding itself.



MARRIAGE: The memorable day when GBR and Maluti-A-Phofung Municipality signed a MoU.

A new thing on your TV

THE role of GBR TV and GBR Radio is basically to educate, transform, impact and empower God's people Holistically in all sectors of society. Make sure you tune in on any of the following channels to have a glimpse of powerful topical issues from all the mountains of society:

Swazi TV Season 2
(showing Mondays at 9p.m)
1 Gospel Season 1
(showing Tuesdays at 9p.m.)
TBN-Channel 343 Season 2
(showing Thursday/Saturday at 5pm)
RTM Season 2
(showing Mondays at 8pm)
A NEW THING ON RADIO
VOC (Every Tuesday 6:30 p.m.)
SBIS (Every Sunday 4 p.m.)

GBR/GFFJ WEEKLY MEETINGS

- Local GBR sessions take place every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from the different regions of the country. Everyone is free to attend these sessions and become a member, at no cost.
- Every after the session, we network, a powerful session where business deals are clinched and sealed over a meal. Our evening sessions start promptly at 6pm-8pm and the venues and days are as follows:
- In Mbabane- City Court-last Tuesday of the month
- At Ezulwini-Bethel Court-first Tuesday of every month
- At Matsapha-S&B Restaurant-first Thursday of the month
- At Simunye-Simunye Club-second Tuesday of the month
- Manzini- third Tuesday of the month, at The George Hotel
- Mpaka-Malindza Primary School, third Thursday of every month
- At Nhlalanga- Ngwane Teachers Training College- every last Thursday of the month
- Steki-second Thursday of the month, new building next to Baceth Hardware
- Ngculwini-at Mhubhe High School, second Saturday of the month 11:00-1:00p.m.
- For more information log in to the GBR and GFFJ websites:
www.globalbusinessroundtable.com/www.globalforjesus.com or send an SMS to: +268 7811 2986 for questions and clarifications.

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

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ON THIS DAY

... FEBRUARY 19

1953 - The State of Georgia approved the first literature censorship board in the US. Newspapers were excluded from the new legislation.

1959 - Cyprus was granted its independence with the signing of an agreement with Britain, Turkey and Greece.

1963 - The Soviet Union informed US President Kennedy it would withdraw 'several thousand' of its troops in Cuba.

1981 - The US State Department call El Salvador a 'textbook case' of a Communist plot.

1981 - Ford Motor Company announced its loss of US\$1.5 billion.

1985 - Mickey Mouse was welcomed to China as part of the 30th anniversary of Disneyland. The touring mouse played 30 cities in 30 days.

1985 - William Schroeder became the first artificial-heart patient to leave the confines of the hospital.

1985 - Cherry Coke was introduced by the Coca-Cola Company.

1986 - The US Senate approved a treaty outlawing genocide. The pact had been submitted 37 years earlier for ratification.

1986 - The Soviet Union launched the Mir space station.

1987 - A controversial, anti-smoking public service announcement aired for the first time on television. Yul Brynner filmed the ad shortly before dying of lung cancer. Brynner made it clear in the ad that he would have died from cigarette smoking before the ad aired.

1997 - Deng Xiaoping of China died at the age of 92. He was the last of China's major revolutionaries.

1999 - Dennis Franz received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

2001 - The museum at the Oklahoma City National Memorial Centre was dedicated.

2002 - NASA's Mars Odyssey spacecraft began using its thermal emission imaging system to map Mars.

2004 - Former Enron Corp. chief executive Jeffrey Skilling was charged with fraud, insider trading and other crimes in connection with the energy trader's collapse. Skilling was later convicted and sentenced to more than 24 years in prison.

2005 - The USS Jimmy Carter was commissioned at Groton, CT. It was the last of the Seawolf class of attack submarines.

2008 - Fidel Castro resigned the Cuban presidency. His brother Raul was later named as his successor.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Seal
(Rapper) -
February 19, 1963
(55 years old)



Haylie Duff
(TV Actress) -
February 19, 1985
(33 years old)

BATTLE FOR MDC TOP JOB

THE family of Zimbabwe's late opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, has been caught up in the party's succession battle.

Family members this week reportedly were divided in their support for Tsvangirai's three deputies as he lay on his deathbed in a South African hospital. Tsvangirai (65) succumbed to colon cancer on Wednesday. The fights within the MDC and the family continued as mourners waited for his body to be returned from South Africa.

Tsvangirai was a longtime foe of former Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe. He became prime minister after Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF and the MDC cobbled together a unity government in 2013, following disputed elections. According to President Emmerson Mnangagwa, he will be honoured with a state-assisted funeral and be buried in his rural Buhera home, Manicaland province, next week. Tsvangirai's body was expected in Zimbabwe by yesterday.

According to insiders, Tsvangirai's brother, Collins, sided with Elias Mudzuri, one of Tsvangirai's vice-presidents. On the other hand, Tsvangirai's wife, Elizabeth, sided with Nelson Chamisa, who was confirmed as the MDC's interim leader on Thursday. "Essentially, it was a case of the rival factions in the party seeking to advance their interests through family members," said a member of the MDC standing committee.

Elizabeth was not available for comment on Friday. She was apparently denied access to her husband in the Johannesburg hospital where he was being treated, days before he died. Ironically, Chamisa was also barred from seeing Tsvangirai earlier this month.

In a video clip that circulated in Zimbabwe this week, Collins said from South Africa that Chamisa and Elizabeth were barred from visiting Tsvangirai in hospital. He said the family did not understand Mrs Tsvangirai's movements.

"She was seen in Harare after skipping a visit to the hospital on the pretext of being sick and we had no knowledge of it. This is the time that triggered the fallout and Morgan said he cannot continue like this and said she could not come to see him in hospital. Morgan told the doctor that he doesn't want to see Elizabeth," Collins says. The video was made shortly before Tsvangirai died.

City Press understands that Tsvangirai family members suspected Elizabeth of siding with Chamisa's faction in a bid to wrest control of the party from the other two MDC deputies.



LATE: Morgan Tsvangirai, the veteran Zimbabwean opposition leader who fought Robert Mugabe's regime for many years, died last Wednesday, after battling against cancer.

Collins was equally accused of dabbling in factional politics inside the MDC. Some party officials and family members said Collins aligned himself with Mudzuri, who claims he is still a bona fide acting president of the MDC. This is despite the fact that some members of the MDC's standing committee appointed Chamisa interim leader until the party's congress next year.

Rejected

Mudzuri and fellow MDC Vice-President Thokozani Khuphe have rejected the appointment as a coup d'état and described it as shameful. Other members of the powerful standing committee boycotted the meeting.

On Friday afternoon, Khuphe distanced herself from the succession infighting. She was speaking from Johannesburg where she was making arrangements for the repatriation of Tsvangirai's remains to Zimbabwe.

She said the events unfolding in the MDC were "un-African, uncultured and barbaric" and that those behind them were trying to draw attention away from Tsvangirai's death. "I state on good authority that the family, and indeed the major-

ity of the party leadership, stands distanced from any and all of the disturbing, cheap politics we have witnessed since the passing on of MDC president Tsvangirai," she said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, some executive members in the standing committee said they resolved to appoint Chamisa, in the absence of Mudzuri and Khuphe, out of fear of being sidelined.

Mudzuri was not reachable for comment. However, MDC executive members fighting in his corner said he would challenge the standing committee's decision to elect Chamisa interim leader.

"For now, he is lying low until the process to mourn our leader is over. He will certainly challenge the committee members who acted outside the mandate of the party and the grassroots to advance the interests of a faction leader," said one of his backers in the MDC.

Hint

MDC spokesperson Obert Gutu on Friday criticised those party members who he said were appointing themselves to positions of power. He said the party's members would elect an interim leader. This was likely a hint at an extraordinary congress that the party's constitution states must be held to choose a new leader in the event of the death or resignation of its president.

Claris Madhuku, a political analyst in Harare, said the continued infighting between Tsvangirai's deputies was bad for the party and the opposition movement. He said Khuphe was the legitimate deputy to take over, according to the MDC's constitution.

"She can go to court. She is the only elected deputy, while the other two were appointed by Tsvangirai to help him, but not to administer the party. With a competent lawyer she can win this in court."

However, MDC Deputy Chairman Morgan Komichi said on Thursday that 190 of the 250 standing committee members met and agreed that Vice-President Chamisa would replace Tsvangirai. Kurauone Chihwayi, spokesperson for the splinter MDC group led by Welshman Ncube, said the alliance had to come together and chose a candidate.

Chamisa, however, appeared to be digging in his heels over his appointment as interim leader. He said on Thursday: "I will tell Mudzuri and Khuphe to join forces. I know there are frailties ahead. It's no longer about party positions. We cannot all lead the party at one point. Tsvangirai's shoes are too big." AP

South Africa: A new beginning...

"I see only hope for our country, and that is when white men and black men, desiring neither power nor money, but desiring only the good for their country, come together to work for it".

Reflecting on these words of Reverend Theophilus Msimangu in Alan Paton's 'Cry, the Beloved Country', I write this piece for the love that I have for our beloved country.

Our nation has experienced the most tragic decade since the fall of apartheid. How did we, the beloved rainbow nation, full of potential and the promise of a bright future sink into the abyss of immorality through greed, corruption and the inhumanity of a few individuals?

For almost the entire past decade, we have lived our lives am-

national tragedy. How is it possible that our beloved rainbow nation could have disappeared into an abyss of sadness, greed, corruption and inhumanity?

I do not have the answers to the questions. But each of us, as South Africans, have to use our rights as enshrined in our Constitution, to take more control of our destiny. We have to do this as a nation united, and we have to do it now. We owe it to the young people of our country and future generations.

Our new democracy was built on the Freedom Charter and is guided by the Constitution. These documents codified the principles that were to guide our democratic order. Unfortunately, the principles of these sacred documents have largely been put in the back burner by many,

including some of those who helped create them. So quickly they forget. These documents should continue to guide us as a nation, now and forever.

I write this from Pyeongchang in South Korea. It is fascinating to observe from a distance the transformation now taking place in South Africa as Jacob Zuma resigned and our nation enters a new phase of recovery and, once again, of hope. I commend President Cyril Ramaphosa, and all those involved, including opposition parties, in peacefully navigating this process, and again we hope, we all hope, that this time events will ultimately result in an outcome beneficial to all the people of our country.

Simultaneously, while observing what was going on in South Africa,

in Seoul this week, several high-profile individuals in important positions in the South Korean government and from major corporations were being convicted for their involvement in corruption, including matters involving the state.

The former head of state, Park Geun-hye, was impeached and subsequently incarcerated. Just this week, her co-conspirators Choi Soon-sil and Shin Dong-bin were convicted and served with sentences of 20 years and two and a half years, respectively. These convictions came about because of "people power," because once again the people spoke in a loud and unified voice and rebelled against gross social injustice.

I believe this process, whereby the people make their voices heard, should commence once again in South Africa, because when we join together and clearly articulate our

NO 'CARTE BLANCHE' FOR RAMAPHOSA

"ZUMA is gone. I am coming for them now, they should know I will never retreat."

These were the words of Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema just two hours before the National Assembly elected Cyril Ramaphosa as the fifth head of government since 1994.

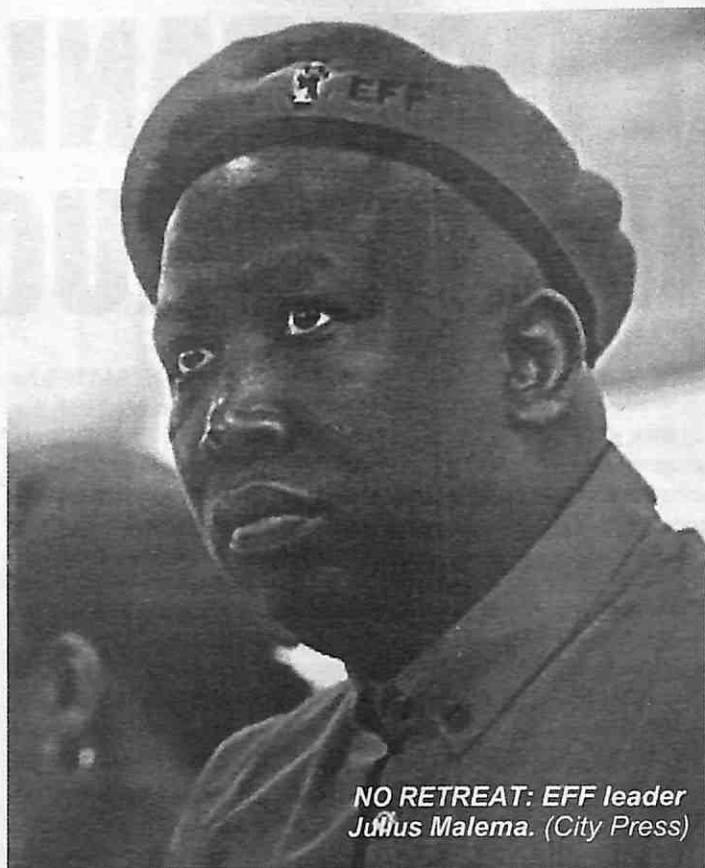
Malema addressed parliamentary journalists on Thursday, following Jacob Zuma's resignation the previous night. He made it clear that while his one-time hero turned foe had departed, his battle against and acrimonious relationship with the ANC would continue.

Journalists had asked Malema whether the EFF would change tactics in Parliament, given that most of their campaigning had been on an anti-Zuma ticket.

One journalist dared ask him if he would return to the ANC, which expelled him. A visibly angry Malema spoke about how ANC leaders, including Ramaphosa, kicked him out of the party in 2012.

"Why do you want to tell me I will go back to the ANC because Zuma is gone? They humiliated me and took my property hoping that I will go and sell loose cigarettes in Masakaneng. Little did they know they were planting a seed. I am sitting with them here in Parliament. Zuma is gone. I am coming for them now; they should know I will never retreat."

When the National Assembly sat that afternoon to elect Ramaphosa, the EFF spent 13 minutes in the House calling for its dissolution and objecting to the election of a president. When they couldn't get



NO RETREAT: EFF leader Julius Malema. (City Press)

their way, Malema and his "fighters" stormed out of the venue. Whether the EFF will persist in its antagonistic approach to Parliament, and its relations with Ramaphosa will be as frosty as with Zuma, remains to be seen.

KEEPING HIM ON HIS TOES

Other opposition parties appeared to be more amenable to Ramaphosa as the head of the state. He was elected unopposed with the exception of the Congress of the People's

objection, which Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng did not entertain.

DA leader Mmusi Maimane, who once described Zuma as "a broken man," took a reconciliatory approach to Ramaphosa. He crossed the National Assembly floor at the end of the proceedings on Thursday and gave the newly sworn-in leader a congratulatory embrace.

In his speech, Maimane said they would cooperate with Ramaphosa, as long as he acted in the interests of the South African people.

"I do want to remind you that

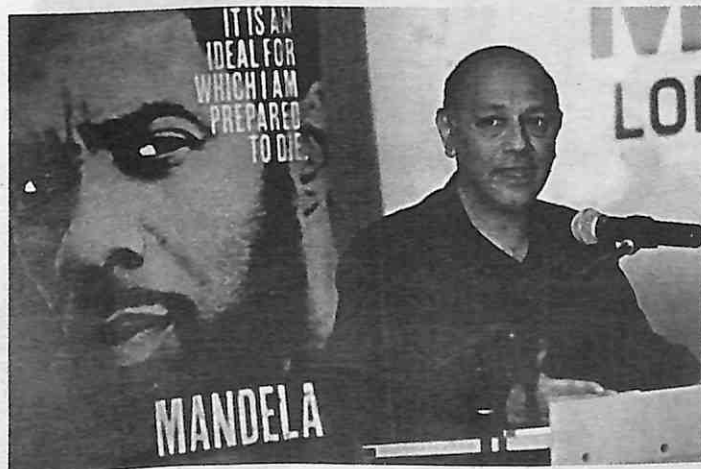
many people have asked the question: What has been the challenge of South Africa in the last nine years? It would be erroneous of me to say the problem has been Jacob Zuma. You, sitting on this side, couldn't even tell him what he had done wrong. We don't have a Jacob Zuma problem, we have an ANC problem."

The battle would continue, despite the change of leadership at the top of the ANC, he said.

Inkatha Freedom Party Chief Whip Narend Singh made it clear his party was not giving Ramaphosa carte blanche. While they would give him the benefit of the doubt, they intended keeping him on his toes. United Democratic Movement President Bantu Holomisa had a warm relationship with Zuma during the latter's first term of office between 2009 and 2014. Holomisa is known to have a good relationship with Ramaphosa from their days in the ANC.

The two joked about sitting together and having meat, a reference to the traditional celebrations where an animal is slaughtered and meat is shared. In his speech, Freedom Front Plus leader Pieter Groenewald challenged Ramaphosa to do more to promote unity among different races and not alienate whites. "Your predecessor was known for the fact that he blamed white people for everything that went wrong in this country," he said.

Ramaphosa said his priorities as president would include meeting opposition party leaders to discuss improving relations, especially in Parliament. **AP**



LONG WALK: Producer Anant Singh delivers a speech on September 17, 2013 at the launch of the trailer of the film 'Mandela - Long Walk To Freedom' at the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory in Johannesburg. Singh has expressed optimism in South Africa's future. (AFP)

rejection of corruption in high places, then justice, freedom and good will prevail.

South Africa is a beautiful land with incredible people who need to be given the opportunity to succeed.

We could learn a great deal, in fact, from the exceptional success of the Korean people in developing and building their nation into one of the most formidable and powerful democratic economies in the New World.

Developing

South Korea is a country that limped out of a devastating war with hundreds of thousands of its citizens killed. With very little resources, the South Korean people picked themselves up and began the journey towards developing their nation, overcoming adversity and autocrats in order to emerge as the modern nation we all admire today. The foundation for this achievement was education, national pride and hard work.

I see the thousands of volunteers working here at the Winter Olympic Games and marvel at how committed and passionate they are, even when though they are earning no salary. They are learning from the

experience, which is making them stronger, and out of this experience new and better leaders will emerge in the future. Our focus, too, needs to be directed toward our youth and to develop their talents in all ways possible.

Our hard work toward building a revitalised New South Africa begins today.

We can only be optimistic for our future with our new president in charge. In the year we celebrate Madiba's 100th birthday, all South Africans should follow his example and embark upon a selfless journey to improve the lives of the less fortunate, by making a meaningful contribution, no matter how small, by committing ourselves and partnering with government and its programmes to make our land beautiful and beloved again.

LET FREEDOM REIGN!
eNCA

With and Wisdom

"Behind every beautiful thing, there's some kind of pain."
— **Bob Dylan**

"Evil is always possible. And goodness is eternally difficult."
— **Anne Rice, Interview with the Vampire**

"If someone were to harm my family or a friend or somebody I love, I would eat them. I might end up in jail for 500 years, but I would eat them."
— **Johnny Depp**

"She feels in italics and thinks in CAPITALS."
— **Henry James**

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
— **Martin Luther King Jr.**

"I am glad you are here with me. Here at the end of all things, Sam."
— **JRR Tolkien, The Return of the King**

"I was dead until you found me, though I breathed. I was sightless, though I could see. And then you came...and I was awakened."
— **JR Ward, Lover Awakened**

"Sometimes I wonder if there's something wrong with me. Perhaps I've spent too long in the company of my literary romantic heroes, and consequently my ideals and expectations are far too high."
— **EL James, Fifty Shades of Grey**

"The brick walls are there for a reason. The brick walls are not there to keep us out. The brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something. Because the brick walls are there to stop the people who don't want it badly enough. They're there to stop the other people."
— **Randy Pausch, The Last Lecture**

"The trouble is not that I am single and likely to stay single, but that I am lonely and likely to stay lonely."
— **Charlotte Brontë**

"I hope you're pleased with yourselves. We could all have been killed - or worse, expelled. Now if you don't mind, I'm going to bed."
— **JK Rowling, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**

"They say I'm old-fashioned, and live in the past, but sometimes I think progress progresses too fast!"
— **Dr Seuss**

"I cannot teach anybody anything. I can only make them think."
— **Socrates**

"Where you used to be, there is a hole in the world, which I find myself constantly walking around in the daytime, and falling in at night. I miss you like hell."
— **Edna St Vincent Millay**

"You will lose what you value most, so treasure it while you can."
— **Richelle Mead, Shadow Kiss**

"From childhood's hour I have not been. As others were, I have not seen. As others saw, I could not awaken. My heart to joy at the same tone. And all I loved, I loved alone."
— **Edgar Allan Poe**

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	4.6%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swazi Island Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.0%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E12.80 per litre
Replacement	E12.85 per litre
Diesel	E12.00 per litre
Paraffin	E 8.95 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 16 FEB 2018

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	11.5606	11.6106
British Pound/SZL	16.3438	16.4145
Japanese Yen/SZL	9.1072	9.1440
Swiss France/SZL	12.5768	12.6285
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2220	1.2377
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.2196	9.2653
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.2774	9.3146
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	14.5028	14.5655
Gold	1,358.1100	
Oil	62.1000	

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Standard Bank

'LAW MUST COMPEL MOBILE COMPANIES TO SHARE INFRASTRUCTURE'

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

MOBILE communication companies should be compelled, by law, to share their backbone infrastructure with new players in the industry.

This as an intervention to remove barriers to entry to this market Financial, ICT Legal and Regulatory Consultant Margaret Mudenda said in an ICT workshop on Friday hosted by the Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce.

Mudenda is also a legislative draftsman and she also worked as Zambia's Head of the ICT sector for seven years.

Translates

She said sharing of backbone infrastructure enables new players to enter and function in the communications space without being stifled, something that normally translates to reduced costs on data, calling rates and related tariffs for the consumers as new players provide much needed competition. Swaziland has three main players in the communications space which are Swazi MTN, Swazi Mobile and the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC). In past years, Swaziland made strides in the ICT space with the establishment of the Swaziland Communications Commission (SCCOM), the industry's regulating body.

Mudenda explained that the communication industry grows by the mere act of allowing new players to enter the market as they provide competition to existing entities across many fronts.

Sharing Zambia's journey towards liberalisation of the communication industry, she explained that like most African countries, the sole service provider was ZAMTEL up to the early 1990s.

Anticipated

"ZAMTEL provided fixed lines but in the 1990s, they dared to introduce mobile phones. However, their mobile aspect did not grow as fast as anticipated because mobile communication at that time was a luxury solution so most people still remained on fixed phones. This led to ZAMTEL being quite laid back as they honestly had all the confidence that no new players would enter the market," she said, explaining that an unprecedented

twist that changed ZAMTEL's monopoly status occurred with the ushering into power of a new government.

The new government came with reforms which resulted in the liberalisation of the ICT sector as Telecel was introduced as that country's second player in the communications industry.

She explained that one of Telecel's licence conditions was to reserve 10 per cent of their shares for the public, something that led to the public's confidence to this company.

"Telecel's introduction made the telecommunications sector worthwhile because before that, our minister of finance had never thought of this sector as raking in revenue for government through taxes. As Zambia, we thought copper was making

ing good money for us, but Telecel brought real change as government began to view the ICT differently," Mudenda said, adding that Telecel had changed the Zambian communication industry and revolutionised the sector's contribution to GDP.

Mudenda emphasised on the importance of having diverse players in the communication industry because some of them come with international experiences which they share to make a difference in the local context.

She added: "Last month we issued a tender for a fourth mobile company after doing a market survey to see whether the market could handle more than the three players we had". She explained that the thinking behind having a fourth player is to promote a healthy market and also ensure that the big players do not collude on prices.



INFLATION RATE AT 4.6 PER CENT

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

THE country's headline inflation rate, which is the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index, stands at 4.6 per cent as at January when compared to the same period last year.

Central Statistics Office Price Statistician Bongumenzi Zwane said this annual rate

of inflation is 0.1 index points lower than the corresponding annual rate of 4.7 per cent observed in December 2017.

The month-on-month inflation rate, which is the percentage change in the CPI, in January 2018, stood at 0.0 per cent.

Zwane explained that the lower headline inflation was due to decreasing annual rates of change reflected in

January in the price indices for: recreation and culture which decreased from 6.2 per cent in December 2017 to 4.9 per cent last month.

Index

Other recreational items, such as equipment for sport, camping and open air recreation; garden, plants and flowers; as well as pets and related products contributed also largely to the lower index, he said.

Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance, decreased from 2.4 per cent in December 2017 to 1.6 per cent in January 2018.

Repair

Household appliances, such as small electric household appliances, repair of household appliances and major household appliances contributed to the lower index.

The price statistician further explained that clothing and footwear, which decreased

from -1.0 per cent in December 2017 to -1.7 per cent in January this year, led to the lower index.

CPI is a measure of the average change in prices of a fixed market basket of goods and services, for a given time history.

Headline inflation rate is a measure of the annual percentage change in CPI for a given time while month-on-month inflation rate is a measure of the monthly percentage change in CPI from the previous month.

NDS WITHOUT IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (NDS) has been noted to be missing an implementation framework, which makes its execution hazardous.

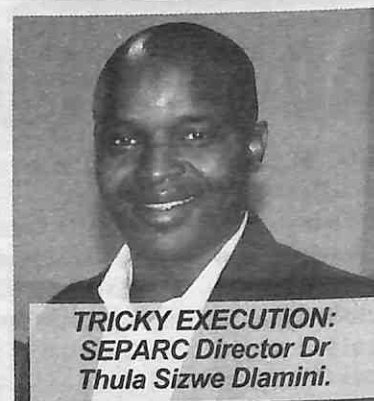
This is according to The Executive

Director at SEPARC, Dr Thula Sizwe Dlamini who was speaking during a consultative agenda setting workshop on economic policy research in Swaziland hosted by the Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC) last Tuesday, at Sibane Hotel.

"Planning and budgeting of development programmes is not necessarily

always guided by the Strategy, and hence the allocation of resources does not reflect priority strategic areas as laid out in the NDS," he said.

Dr Dlamini said the consultative agenda setting workshop therefore sought to solicit research topics that will help develop a better understanding of the challenges faced by the economy and use



TRICKY EXECUTION:
SEPARC Director Dr Thula Sizwe Dlamini.

this understanding to develop responsive and targeted policy and programming initiatives to fast-track the implementation of the NDS.

"In order to inform future planning and programming, monitoring and evaluation is critical. It entails monitoring output and evaluating the impact made by the implementation of the strategies in the development landscape of the country. It also involves conducting reviews of the progress made at every

stage of implementation in order to ensure that national objectives are met. Monitoring and evaluation of facilitates including timely intervention and adjustment of plans where necessary," he added.

The discussion had different teams, who deliberated on different topics in order to come up with research topics, these included Science Technology and Innovation; Education; Employment Creation, Manufacturing, and Disaster Risk Management; Energy Policy; Entrepreneurship; Agriculture, Agribusiness, and Rural Development.

The three priority research topics that were identified are; (i) How much do tourism and the creative arts contribute towards job creation and GDP in SD, (ii) What are the priority industries that can move the country forward, with a focus on the most rewarding businesses that can improve SD's economy, (iii) What opportunities in terms of increasing access to education would the introduction of e-learning in the education sector bring to the economy of SD?

SWESI hosts 'kingdom minded investors economic empowerment forum'

Stories by Njabulo Dlamini

SICHWAGA Wealth Solutions Investments (SWESI), a company that is 100 per cent owned by the Swaziland Conference of Churches, will on February 26 and 27 host an economic empowerment forum for business people and church leaders.

SWESI Managing Director Reverend Winston Shongwe said the event was aimed at equipping not only just Swaziland Conference of Churches members but the entire body of Christ in the country as well as business people towards implementing the gigantic vision which has been haunting them for the last few years; establishing a Christian bank in Swaziland.

The economic empowerment forum will be spread over two days; with a dinner on February 26 to be staged tentatively at Royal Swazi Spa Hotel whilst the breakfast event slated for the next day (February 27) has been confirmed for Sibane Hotel.

Registration on February 26 starts at 5pm with the event set for 6pm while the next morning proceedings start at 9am, with registration expected to commence an hour earlier (8am).

"Tickets to the dinner cost E375 per head but if one is interested in joining our syndicate lending investment they will pay an extra E1 000, which we reiterate, is not meant to secure the



FOR THE EMPOWERMENT FORUM: International speakers in Christian Times founder Reverend Dennis and Dr Zienzile Dillon.

venue or other logistical matters but is strictly an investment to the syndicated lending that was started last year.

"May we mention that if one pays the E1 000 towards the syndicated lending before February 26, they will part with E350 for the ticket to the event," he said.

A table that accommodates 10 people is going for E3 500 each and corporate entities, churches and other organisations were encouraged to support by purchasing it.

The E1 000 investment mentioned earlier will generate a minimum of 7.5 per cent per annum for the investor.

On the other hand, attending the Sibane Hotel event on February 27 costs E150 per head.

Invited to this session are church leaders or influential persons in their various places at all levels besides the pastors, bishops, etc.

"All profits to be generated from both events will be ploughed back into the syndicated investment lending of SWESI as we are not moving forward in full force now. Procrastination is the thief of time so we don't want to be postpone syndicated lending any further but from next month loans will be issued out," Reverend Shongwe said.

their vision was attainable.

SWESI received the micro finance provider licence from Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) on March 17 last year.

"It is worth noting that some individuals invested E1 000 with the MFP (micro finance provider) whilst others invested E2 000. In our analysis, this is enough to get us going, we believe. Any additional funds will find us already working," Shongwe

said.

Adding, he said God blesses the work of the believer's hands so there was no looking back regarding this project now.

Reverend Shongwe said their wish as SWESI is for the church in Swaziland to speak in one voice when it comes to shaping and influencing the economic development of the country.

"Only a unified and strong church can achieve this rather than work-

...Renowned speakers coming

INTERNATIONAL speakers in Christian Times founder Reverend Dennis and his wife Dr Zienzile Dillon are coming for the empowerment forum hosted by SWESI.

Dr Zienzile is the President of Marketplace Calling International (MCI) and also the founder of the Global Young Marketplace leaders. She also previously worked as Bank Executive for Barclays Bank Africa.

According to Shongwe, the Dillions paid for their own flight tickets to Swaziland while the accommodation costs for them will be borne by his family.

Christian Times is headquartered in New York but has recently opened a branch in South Africa.

The Dillions are well-known for establishing Christian banks as evidenced by their work in Uganda at the Centenary Bank which is owned by the Catholic Church and whose vision is to provide microfinance to all people in Uganda, particularly those from rural areas.

Reverend Shongwe met the Dillions in Zimbabwe last year in November where they had gone for a similar mission of establishing a Christian bank. This work is also underway in neighbouring South Africa.

"We are saying as SWESI that our vision is much bigger than merely the micro finance

...The reason they invited Dr Dillon is because of her experience as a banker who understands bank systems

provider as we are intent on setting up the first ever Christian bank in Swaziland," the SWESI managing director said.

The reason they invited Dr Dillon is because of her experience as a banker who understands the systems of banks.

"She will also encourage the nation, we expect, on how the Christian business community can take advantage of the opportunities availed by SWESI. She understands why the church in Swaziland and Africa in general must own was so they contribute to economic development of the country.

"Reverend Dillon, meanwhile, is an activist who understands the power of the media in any economy. His insight will prove invaluable to attendees of the forum and one can only urge the nation to come out in great numbers for this event as we have two dynamic speakers lined up," he said.

'Using what you have to get what you don't have'

ASKED how far they had gone in raising the E160 million projected last year for establishing the Christian bank, SWESI Managing Director Reverend Shongwe said optimism was their driving force.

"We presently have E25 000 in cash sitting in the bank raised for the syndicated lending. Rather than wait until we raise the E160 million, we are saying let's use what we have at the moment to get what we don't

have.

"It is true that raising the E160 million projected for establishing the Christian bank may seem far-fetched but we believe it is attainable. Why not start with the little we have and keep moving until we get to the projected figures?" he said.

Reverend Shongwe used the example of Jesus in the Bible multiplying five loaves and two fish to feed 5 000 people when emphasising that

ing in silos. We want one economic activity to unite the church in Swaziland, therefore, the Christian bank to us is the much needed remedy we've been itching for".

In part, the Dillions are expected to launch the syndicated lending project with the first loan to be issued from next month.

SWESI is looking at giving out minimum E1 000 loans to individuals paying over three months but logistics will be divulged in due course.



GIGABA'S 'TOUGH BUDGET'

PRETORIA - Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba will deliver a "tough and unpopular budget" on Wednesday that will include hikes in value added tax (VAT) and personal income tax.

A senior bureaucrat at the National Treasury told City Press on Friday that "tough decisions" have been made to fill the close to R51 billion revenue shortfall, which Gigaba announced during the medium-term budget policy statement in October.

Taxes

Treasury said the official would attempt to raise half of the R51 billion by trimming expenditure, and the other half from revenue management.

"It is hard news to swallow, but VAT and personal income taxes are set to climb. It will be hard now, but South Africans will reap the rewards in five years. You

simply cannot avoid taxes this time around."

Nedbank economists said in a note: "There is an outside chance that the VAT rate will be increased from its current 14 per cent, with more essential goods added to the list of zero-rated goods to protect the poor."

"There is also a possibility the VAT rate on luxury goods could be raised... The VAT rate has been left unchanged since 1993, but an increase ahead of next year's general election still seems unlikely... A hike to 16 per cent from 14 per cent would currently raise nearly R50 billion before targeted relief."

Balance

"Well above-inflation increases are expected in the general fuel levies. The zero VAT rating on fuel may also be removed."

Any hike in the rate of VAT certainly won't be popular, and Gigaba could face opposition from COSATU and the SA Communist Party, which supported President Cyril Ramaphosa in his ANC presidential bid.

While taxes will increase, the official said Gigaba would undertake a fine balancing act to make sure the poor and economic growth were not affected adversely. Other critical elements in the budget included the management of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and the government's salary bill.

Treasury's first prize would be to freeze public servants' salaries.

"The truth is that we could have plugged the shortfall just by managing a public wage freeze. But there are political sensitivities, and Cyril is the right man to talk to COSATU and other unions as he is their candidate," said the official.

Investment

"Since that may not be possible at all, we could settle at increases that are linked to inflation and nothing more."

On government companies, the official said Gigaba would announce sweeping changes.

"There will be a strong stance on new boards and executive management on SOEs such as SAA, Eskom, Denel and others."

Treasury, he said, was pleased with the improvement in business sentiment.

"It means people will start spending money and companies will invest, which will improve the performance of the economy. The budget will focus on renewal, styled along Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address."

Gigaba's budget speech could mark a change in the direction of the country's finances following the swearing-in of Ramaphosa as South Africa's new leader on Thursday.

Fin24

Molewa fights green groups

LIMPOPO - Green organisations accuse Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa of using outdated information about the country's energy needs to grant authorisation for a new coal power station.

One of the reasons Molewa gave for granting the authorisation for the establishment of the 1 200 megawatt Thabametsi power station in Lephalale, Limpopo, was that the integrated resource plan (IRP) for electricity included a mix of generation technologies in addition to existing and committed power plants.

"Having carefully balanced all relevant factors [including the threat of climate change], the final IRP 2010 to 2030 does not prohibit the establishment of new, coal-fired power stations."

"Rather, it permits that 6.3 gigawatts of new generation capacity may be derived from coal," Molewa said

in the record of decision released to City Press this week and dated January 30.

"Concerns about the threat of climate change and the need for greater reliance on renewable energy were raised in the public participation process. These considerations were taken into account by decision-makers during the development of the IRP... Ultimately, the decision makers concluded the harm that would result from the establishment of new coal-fired facilities to generate an additional 6.3GW was outweighed by the benefit to the country of having old-energy generation capacity," she said.

Last year a coalition of environmental organisations, Life after Coal, took Molewa to the Pretoria High Court for granting the environmental authorisation to Thabametsi without a climate change assessment having been conducted.

Fin24

Rehab tourism is big business

JOHANNESBURG - When it comes to South African tourism, our beaches, safari parks, Table Mountain and the Garden Route undoubtedly garner the most attention.

There are, however, more reasons tourists come to our country.

South Africa has become increasingly popular among foreign English language students and addiction rehabilitation patients.

South Africa's tourism industry is growing.

The latest Tourism and Migration Survey by Stats SA

shows that 2.6 million foreigners passed through our ports of entry in November last year - a 3.9 per cent increase from November 2016.

Most of them (96.3 per cent) came here on holiday, 0.4 per cent visited South Africa for study purposes and the rest were here on business.

While small, South Africa's English language travel sector is becoming a powerful contributor to the economy.

Last year, the 20 English

schools belonging to Education SA (EduSA) language travel association attracted 10 042 students, 15 per cent more than in 2016 and 43 per cent more than in 2015.

"Each of them spends R6 146 for every week of their six-week stay," said Johannes

Kraus, founder of the Kurus English school in Cape Town and EduSA Chairperson.

"Collectively, our students spent 61 268 weeks in South Africa in 2017."

Based on these figures, EduSA's students spent R377 million in South Africa in 2017, or

R37 497 each. Their per capita contributions exceed the expenditures of conventional tourists.

The total contributions of South Africa's entire language travel sector were much higher, as the above data only applied to EduSA's 20 members.

South Africa had between 35 and 40 serious language schools.

While South Africa's language travel sector was thriving, things could have been better had it not been for the visa debacle of 2014. *Fin24*



Welcome

Liberty reinstates 90 funds worth R82m

JOHANNESBURG - The financial services group responsible for most of a controversial mass cancellation of "orphan" pension and provident funds, Liberty Group, is asking for 90 of them to be reinstated.

These 90 funds have total assets of R82 million, Liberty told City Press this week.

A first tranche of 25 funds with R35 million in assets will be reinstated when a first application goes to court in March.

Liberty said in emailed answers to questions that it cancelled 4 500 funds between 2007 and 2013, implying that the 90 that are to be reinstated represent a small proportion.

At the same time, the almost five-year long battle between the Financial Services Board (FSB) and its former deputy reg-

istrar for pension funds Rosemary Hunter reached the Constitutional Court this week. Hunter has asked for a court-supervised investigation into the cancellation of thousands of "orphan" pension funds between 2007 and 2013.

She had accused the FSB of a "systemically" flawed cancellations project that outsourced the culling of funds to the fund administrators.

The argument is that they had conflicting interests: it was never in their interest to find beneficiaries when they could instead deregister funds and transfer whatever assets there might be to an unclaimed benefits fund to which they could indefinitely charge fees.

Sometimes funds were also cancelled without their asset being transferred, leaving people's benefits in limbo.

There has been a heated dispute about the extent of these cases.

The orphan fund problem was largely caused by the shift from the 1990s onwards from small single-employer funds to large umbrella funds.

As larger funds prevailed, the legal wreckage of the old funds simply drifted around on the FSB's register of funds as "dead wood".

The FSB's cancellation project was meant to deregister only funds that no longer have assets or members. Up to 4 600 funds were deregistered.

At the very least 160 funds are now known to have been deregistered erroneously as they still had assets. The FSB itself has in the past reinstated 70; Liberty is applying to reinstate 90.

Fin24

Bank of Baroda rids itself of the Guptas

JOHANNESBURG - The Bank of Baroda seems to have found a way to distance itself from the Gupta family, despite two separate court orders forcing it to keep Gupta-linked accounts open.

The SA Reserve Bank this week confirmed reports that the bank was closing up shop in the country. The Reserve Bank promised that depositors would be protected as far as possible, but otherwise shed little light on how this withdrawal would work.

By law, the Bank of Baroda will have to transfer all deposits to another bank before it is allowed to close down. At the same time, no other bank in the country is willing to take on the Guptas' business.

The Bank of Baroda reportedly aims to be out of the country by the end of next month, despite the court orders forcing it to maintain accounts.

One interim order stems from the Guptas' companies' application against the bank closing their accounts in

July.

The other stems from a case brought later by the Organisation for Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA) to freeze the two coal mine rehabilitation funds the Guptas were forced to deposit at the Bank of Baroda in 2016.

The organisation is consulting lawyers to find out what happens if the bank leaves the country, said Chief Operating Officer Ben Theron.

As things stand, OUTA was meant to let the Guptas and the Bank of



Bank of Baroda

Baroda in court in May about getting new trustees appointed to the rehabilitation funds.

With several Gupta companies facing claims from the Asset Forfeiture

Unit, the state might solve the Bank of Baroda's problem by taking over the deposits it still has in the name of the country's most infamous family. *Fin24*

World News

13 KILLED IN MEXICAN QUAKE ZONE HELICOPTER CRASH

WRAP MEXICO - 13 people were killed in southern Mexico when a minister's helicopter crash-landed on its way to the epicentre of a powerful earthquake that rattled the region, officials said on Saturday.

The 7.2 magnitude quake caused only material damage when it struck on Friday, but it triggered a tragedy in the town of Santiago Jamiltepec in Oaxaca state, where the chopper landed on its side, crushing a van.

Five women, four men, and three children were killed on the spot, while another person died in hospital, the Oaxaca prosecutor's office said.

On board the UH-60 Black Hawk military helicopter were Interior Minister Alfonso Navarrete and Oaxaca state Governor Alejandro Murat, who were unharmed.

Dozens of people turned out on Saturday to pay their respects to the dead, carrying candles and white flowers, as trumpets and saxophones played in tribute.

Maria Margarita Sanchez lost her son, Lorenzo Zarate, in the accident.

"I can't describe my sadness," the 63-year-old told AFP, covering her



TRAGEDY: 13 people were killed in southern Mexico when a minister's helicopter crash-landed. (AFP)

face with a scarf.

Navarrete told the Televisa TV network that the helicopter pilot lost control of the aircraft just as it was coming in to land.

A local resident who declined to give his name said many locals had been planning to spend the night outside - at the site where the chopper crashed - for fear of being trapped in their homes in case of aftershocks.

The officials had been heading to survey damage near the epicentre

of the quake, located 37 kilometres (22 miles) from the southwestern town of Pinotepa de Don Luis, according to the US Geological Survey. The earthquake damaged about 50 homes in Santiago Jamiltepec, as well as the town hall and church, but no one was killed, the interior ministry said.

Oaxaca state authorities opened shelters for those affected, and nearly 6 000 soldiers and federal police were deployed to help with the emer-

gency response.

The earthquake came less than six months after two quakes killed hundreds of people in the country.

On September 7, an 8.2-magnitude earthquake shook the nation and killed 96 people, mostly in the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas.

Then on September 19 - the 32nd anniversary of a 1985 quake that killed 10 000 - a 7.1-magnitude quake hit the country, leaving 369 people dead. **AFP**

Vatican revives pope's sexual abuse panel

VATICAN CITY - The Vatican said on Saturday it has renewed its anti-paedophile panel as Pope Francis acts to quell the global scandal over the sexual abuse of children by priests.

Nine new members were added to the panel, which had come under fire from two high-profile members, former sex abuse victims who quit at what they saw as a lack of reforms and obstruction at the highest level of the Catholic Church.

US Cardinal Sean O'Malley was confirmed as the head of the child protection panel along with seven other incumbent members.

"The newly-appointed members will add to the commission's global perspective on the protection of minors and vulnerable adults," O'Malley said in a statement.

"The Holy Father has ensured continuity in the work of our commission, which is to assist local churches throughout the world in their efforts to safeguard all children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm."

AFP

FBI warned about Florida school shooter but failed to act

PARKLAND - The head of the FBI faced calls to resign on Friday after the agency admitted it had received a chilling warning from a tipster that Florida school shooter Nikolas Cruz could be planning such a massacre but failed to follow up.

The stunning admission by the top US law enforcement agency came two days after Cruz, a 19-year-old with a long history of troubling behaviour, killed 17 people

at his former high school in Parkland, Florida. The FBI acknowledgment came amid growing anger among parents and pupils in the south Florida city over America's seemingly unwillingness to toughen gun control laws.

Florida Governor Rick Scott called for Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Christopher Wray to step down, saying the failure to take action was "unacceptable."

"Seventeen innocent people are

dead and acknowledging a mistake isn't going to cut it," Scott said.

The FBI said a "person close to Nikolas Cruz" made a call to the agency's public tipline on January 5 to "report concerns about him."

"The caller provided information about Cruz's gun ownership, desire to kill people, erratic behaviour, and disturbing social media posts, as well as the potential of him conducting a school shooting," the FBI said in a statement. **AFP**

Moscow calls US vote meddling claims 'blabber', 'fantasies'

GERMANY - Moscow on Saturday dismissed as "blabber" and "fantasies" allegations that it interfered in the election that brought President Donald Trump to power, denials that drew immediate scorn from US officials.

The traded barbs, made at the Munich Security Conference, came a day after the United States indicted 13 Russians for running a secret campaign to sway the 2016 vote.

"I am amazed that... the Russians come, send someone every year to basically refute the facts," US Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said. **AFP**



POWERFUL LEADERS: US President Donald Trump chats with Russia's President Vladimir Putin as they attend the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. (AFP)

BRIEFS

'Shame on you,' pupils tells Trump

FORT LAUDERDAL - Student survivors of the Parkland school shooting called out US President Donald Trump on Saturday over his ties to the National Rifle Association, at an emotional anti-gun rally in Florida. "To every politician taking donations from the NRA, shame on you!" said Emma Gonzalez, assailing Trump over the multi-million-dollar support his campaign received from the powerful gun lobby -- prompting the crowd to chant in turn: "Shame on You! Shame on You!"

AFP

Turkey jails 3 journalists

ISTANBUL - A Turkish court on Friday jailed three prominent journalists for life on charges of links to the group blamed for the 2016 failed coup, state media said. Veteran journalists and writers Nazli Ilıcak and the brothers Mehmet and Ahmet Altan were handed the life sentences at a trial in Istanbul over links to the outlawed group of US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, the Anadolu news agency said. A similar punishment was handed to three other suspects.

AFP

Israel strikes Gaza

GAZA CITY - Israeli jets struck the Gaza Strip on Saturday after four soldiers were wounded when an improvised explosive device blew up along the border with the Palestinian enclave. The explosion earlier on Saturday, which left two of the Israeli soldiers severely injured, was one of the most serious incidents on the border of the Hamas-ruled enclave since the Islamist movement and Israel fought a war in 2014.

In response, Israel's army said it attacked "18 terror targets belonging to the Hamas



terror organisation" in two waves of air strikes. **AFP**

Serial killer sentenced

LAHORE - A Pakistani anti-terrorism court on Saturday sentenced a suspected serial killer to death for the rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl, a prosecutor said.

The girl's murder ignited nationwide protests over allegations of government inaction, and a media campaign led to his arrest after years of him being on the loose. Police found Zainab Ansari's body in a garbage dumpster in Kasur district near the eastern city of Lahore in mid-January, four days after she was reported missing. Residents of the area have said the murder was the 12th such incident in a year. Police investigators said later that they had matched DNA from eight girls' bodies, including Zainab's, with the convicted killer, Imran Ali, 24.

Reuters

Man gets 15 years for knife attack

MINNEAPOLIS - A 20-year-old Minneapolis man who said he was inspired by the Islamic State group has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for attacking two brothers at the Mall of America. Mahad Abdirahman was sentenced on Friday after pleading guilty earlier to two counts of first-degree assault for the November knife attack at the Bloomington mall. The Star Tribune reports Abdirahman declined to speak when the judge gave him the opportunity.

AP

Focus on SA scene

CYRIL SPARKS CABINET PANIC

PRETORIA - President Cyril Ramaphosa will have to show his mettle in the face of a tug-of-war over who will get the call-up and who will be benched as he compiles his first Cabinet.

Ramaphosa put current Cabinet ministers on notice during his state of the nation address (SONA) on Friday night, saying: "Growth, development and transformation

depend on a strong and capable state. "It is critical that the structure and size of the state is optimally suited to meet the needs of the people and ensure

the most efficient allocation of public resources. We will, therefore, initiate a process to review the configuration, number and size of national government departments." Even if the number of departments is not reduced immediately, it is still expected that Ramaphosa will effect a small-scale reshuffle to refresh and boot out non-performers.

This follows a tumultuous political week

which saw the resignation of Jacob Zuma as president, in a trademark close-to-midnight address to the nation on Wednesday.

Within hours of Zuma's resignation, Ramaphosa was voted in – unopposed – and sworn in by Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng.

On Friday, a beaming Ramaphosa hit all the right notes in his SONA. He vowed to rebuild South Africa by strengthening its institutions, cleaning house in government and calling on law enforcement to act without fear or favour. He warned that he will reduce the bloated executive, which has more than 70 ministers and deputies.

This has been the first SONA to go ahead without interruption in three years, with even the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) remaining in the House for the duration of the speech. *News24*

RINGING CHANGES: President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Who will deliver the budget?

PRETORIA - City Press understands that Cyril Ramaphosa is caught between those who want him to announce his new Cabinet ahead of the all-important budget speech and those who would prefer for him to wait it out.

An MP and ANC national executive committee (NEC) member told City Press that he faces a tough choice.

"Some of us believe that the new finance minister must deliver the budget, because he will have to implement it. Others think that we have had a fast-paced few days and so Malusi (Gigaba) must be allowed to deliver the budget.

"In all fairness, it is not his budget. It was compiled by a team and part of that argument is that the new Cabinet will be a complete overhaul, so such a change should wait till after budget."

Another view is that opposition parties, the EFF in particular, could disrupt a budget delivered by Gigaba.

News24

Balancing the factions

PRETORIA - Having campaigned on a ticket of mass appeal ahead of the ANC's elective conference at Nasrec, Ramaphosa must appease not only the alliance, but also his party, business and his historical support base in the trade union movement and the United Democratic Front. All of them will come knocking to collect.

Names touted from the ANC – people who were instrumental in his campaign – include former KwaZulu-Natal ANC chairperson Senzo Mchunu and NEC members Zizi Kodwa and Enoch Godongwana.

However, the problem is that the party currently has no vacancies in Parliament to fit in new MPs.

In a gesture of goodwill, it is expected that former African Union chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma – who challenged him for the ANC presidency – will be included. She previously served in the Cabinets of Thabo Mbeki and Zuma. It is speculated that she could head the ministry of social

development.

Speculation has been rife around who will replace Gigaba in the crucial ministry of finance. Names which have been thrown around include former finance minister Nhlanhla Nene and former ANC treasurer Zweli Mkhize. However, it is unlikely that Nene will return to government, as he is less than two years into his various private sector commitments.

Mkhize's name has been thrown into the mix because there are feelings that, having missed out on a top six position, KwaZulu-Natal should be given one of the most senior and high-profile ministerial portfolios.

It is understood that former finance minister Pravin Gordhan will steer the ship as minister of public enterprises in the new Cabinet.

Another major announcement will be that of Ramaphosa's deputy president. It is understood that Human Settlements Minister Lindiwe Sisulu could be given the green light.

News24

'Gupta ministers must go'

PRETORIA - None of Zuma's Cabinet members has followed suit and tendered their resignations.

Alliance partners who Ramaphosa is intent on mending fences with have already made it clear that certain ministers must get the boot. They include: Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane, Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini, Mineral Resources Minister Mosebenzi Zwane and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Des van Rooyen. Given that many embattled

ministers were staunch Zuma loyalists, Ramaphosa could try to avoid what might look like a purge. SA Communist Party first Deputy General Secretary Solly Mapaila said Ramaphosa should not hesitate in axing "Gupta-linked" ministers. "For us, the real issue is that the ministers who were involved in corporate capture of the state shouldn't return to this Cabinet, otherwise they will contaminate it. "Those mentioned in the Gupta emails, which have proven the network of cooperation between senior government officials and state

officials with corporate capturers of the state, it will be sad if they are returned. It is important that in this area there is clear decisiveness," Mapaila said. Labour federation COSATU's Second Deputy President Zingiswa Losi warned that the alliance must be included in Ramaphosa's decision making. This was a veiled reference to Zuma's late night reshuffles, that took place without consultation. "While we appreciate that it is the prerogative of the president, we hope that he will do it in consultation with the governing party and with the alliance components," Losi said.

News24



Only a matter of time before Duduzane's declared a fugitive

JOHANNESBURG - As the Hawks continue their hunt for Ajay Gupta, they are also intensifying their search for President Jacob Zuma's son, Duduzane, who has been on the run since Wednesday.

And they believe it is only a matter of time before Duduzane is also declared a fugitive, according to highly placed sources in the security cluster. Duduzane and Ajay, the patriarch of the Gupta family in South Africa who are at the centre of state capture, have been evading arrest since Wednesday after the Hawks raided their mansions in Saxonwold. They are being sought for their alleged role in the fraud scandal at the Estina dairy farm in Vrede in the Free State, which saw

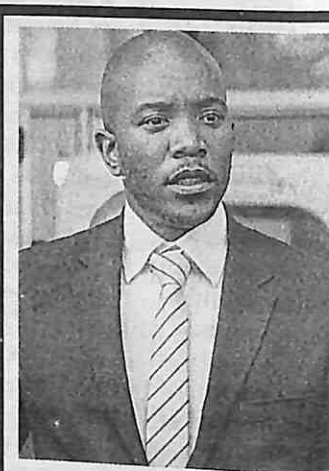
politicians and businesspeople pocketing millions from the project earmarked for emerging black farmers. Ajay's brothers, Atul and Rajesh, also known as Tony, are also being sought for their alleged role in the fraud. An unnamed Chinese businessman and his wife are also believed to have fled South Africa.

Now, the Hawks are losing their patience with Duduzane after he failed to hand himself over. "Duduzane does have a lawyer but he is evading arrest. The Hawks have been to his house; he knows they are looking for him but it seems he has decided to ignore them. There's a warrant of arrest for him as well, so we will get him," said a source familiar with the investigations. *News24*

SONA was 'same old, same old' - Maimane

CAPE TOWN - Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane has described President Cyril Ramaphosa's first state of the nation address as a mere continuation of the era of his predecessor, Jacob Zuma.

"Beyond the fine words of renewal and new-found unity, he unfortunately did not fulfil the expectations of the public with a clean break from the Zuma era and a total change from the current tried, tested and failed ANC policies that have brought our nation to this point," said Maimane on Friday evening after Ramaphosa had spoken in Parliament. The opposition leader said Ramaphosa had promised no major policy reform, instead only tinkering with current policies that had not brought change to the lives of South Africans.



SAME OLD: Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane.

"There were too many conferences and summits announced, and not enough clear plans for fixing the problems," he said. Maimane agreed that land reform had to be addressed "with urgency", but would not support Ramaphosa's comments that it would happen without compensation. "We agree with the president on the empowerment of black women via land reform. This must not be just for the few, and we cannot in good conscience support the regressive policy of redistribution without compensation," he said. United Democratic Movement

leader Bantu Holomisa welcomed Ramaphosa's address. However, like Maimane, he said it had a ring of familiarity. "We must caution: we have heard these promises before." *News24*

WATER WARS: CAPE TOWN FACES 'DAY ZERO' WHEN THE TAPS WILL BE TURNED OFF

- Cape Town is suffering from an unprecedented water crisis after severe drought
- Rigid water restrictions on businesses and farms have helped prevent disaster
- But the moment called 'Day Zero' is approaching - when the taps are turned off
- If the winter doesn't replenish resources Day Zero could be just 100 nights away

CAPE TOWN - The vista could hardly be more barren or forbidding - a parched sandy landscape, baking beneath the afternoon sun, broken only by scarred trunks of long-dead trees and a few dried-up fish. Ruined houses, scraps of road and a rail track are the only signs of humanity, haunting remnants of long-disappeared lives.

In normal circumstances, these relics would be hidden from view. For this desert-scape where I am walking does not lie in some arid wasteland. It sits in the middle of what was, until recently, a massive reservoir that held the precious life blood of a major modern city.

Those trees and houses and rail tracks should lie submerged beneath almost 50ft of glistening water. But the waters have receded, exposing the valley floor.

"Every day you see something new emerge from the water," says Jacques Dreyer, a local sports club Manager, pointing out white lines still visible on a road that was under water for four decades until last week.

Dreyer used to enjoy life at the water's edge, taking a daily dip just 20 yards from

his door. Now he must travel a mile and a half for a swim while his boats are banked, his campsites largely empty and his business struggling.

But this is not just one man's tragedy, it is a national emergency - and one with chilling implications for the whole planet.

This vast dammed reservoir, surrounded by stunning mountains, supplies almost two-thirds of

the water for Cape Town, a city of four million people at the fertile centre of South African agriculture. Produce from surrounding fields and orchards helps fill British supermarket shelves with fruit and vegetables all year round.

Yet it is only at 11.7 per cent capacity after the region's worst drought in more than a century. Some time soon, perhaps this week, the water will drop below the level it needs to be to flow into the supply pipes that take it into the city.

Africa's tenth biggest city is facing an unprecedented crisis. Rigid water restrictions

on businesses, farms and households have helped keep disaster at bay - but it may not be enough.

For the moment called 'Day Zero' is approaching. This is when most taps will be turned off and residents will have to queue at 200 standpipes installed in streets for diminishing water supplies. If insufficient rain falls when their winter arrives to replenish key water supplies, Cape Town has just over 100 days left before that fateful day arrives.

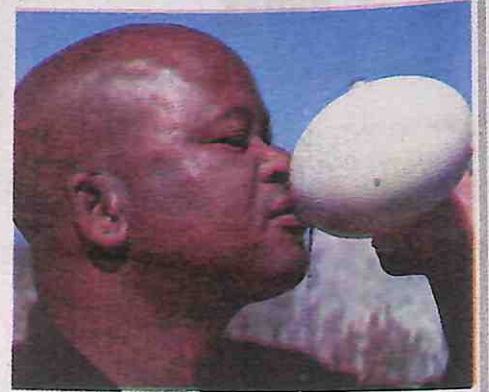
The authorities in a conurbation scarred by extreme inequality are scrambling to prepare disaster plans for disease epidemics and urban unrest. Businesses are drawing up survival plans, with jobs already disappearing in their thousands.

There are even predictions of an exodus of families used to living in a fully-functioning city - and claims that this disaster is the first urban equivalent of droughts that before now only blighted rural parts of this continent.

No one knows what would happen if a major urban area ran out of water, but one expert talked to me about 'Mad Max' scenarios with roaming gangs on the streets.

"This situation is far more serious than people realise," said Benoit Le Roy, a water analyst. "Even in a war zone you can usually get water. If there is not enough water, unemployment will increase and the army will need to keep the peace."

On one level, this crisis symbolises the cor-



CRISIS: There are even predictions of an exodus of families used to living in a fully-functioning city (bushman Karson Pafre Jackson drinks water stored in an ostrich egg).

ruption and incompetence that festered under Jacob Zuma, who finally resigned as South Africa's President last week after nine years of sleazy misrule that so tarnished the legacy of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC). Yet Cape Town also sends a warning to the world: that water is a limited resource, that climate change can have a cataclysmic impact and that even wealthy areas are not immune to its devastating effects.

This is not the first city to experience water shock, but it is the most serious. Sao Paulo in Brazil saw supplies run so low three years ago the pipes sucked up mud and the flow of water to homes was cut to twice a week. Competition for water has been cited as a factor behind Middle East conflict, while some fear the situation will only worsen as urban populations swell in global hotspots, placing unsustainable pressure on dwindling supplies. Military strategists even talk of water, not oil, as the potential trigger for 21st Century conflicts, while the United Nations has warned water scarcity could displace 700 million people by 2030.

Daily Mail



RATIONED: Africa's tenth biggest city is facing an unprecedented crisis. Rigid water restrictions on businesses, farms and households have helped disaster at bay - but it may not be enough. For the moment called 'Day Zero' is approaching. (Daily Mail)



ON BENDED KNEES: Most taps will be turned off and residents will have to queue at 200 standpipes installed in streets for diminishing water supplies if insufficient rain falls when winter arrives, Cape Town has just over 100 days left before that fateful day arrives (local resident prays for rain amid the dust).

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BRIEFS

Inquest opens on death of baby

NAIROBI - An inquest has started in Kenya's western town of Kisumu into the death of a six-month-old baby who was allegedly hit on the head by police during opposition protests last year against President Uhuru Kenyatta's re-election. The death of Samantha Pendo (Swahili for love) shocked this country although it has become used to acts of police violence, including killings of suspects captured on video with no repercussions on the officers. At least 92 people, the majority of them opposition supporters, have died in clashes with police in protests against Kenyatta's victories in elections in August and October. **AP**

TB Joshua fails to meet Mnangagwa

HARARE - Popular Nigerian preacher Temitope Balogun Joshua (TB Joshua) left Harare on Friday night after failing to meet President Emmerson Mnangagwa under unclear circumstances. The government said the Nigerian had no scheduled meeting with Mnangagwa amid reports that the organisers bungled. Vice-President Kembo Mohadi and Scholarships Minister Christopher Mushohwe met TB Joshua, who was said to be eager to meet Mnangagwa. Acting Information Minister Simon Khaya Moyo said government was not aware of TB Joshua's invitation and reports that Mnangagwa snubbed him were misleading. The president is not a snubber. **AllAfrica**

Africa's epic DNA story

DURBAN - KZN Stone Age child reveals modern humans 'emerged earlier than previously thought' South Africa has a new UN heritage site. While Africa holds the most diverse gene pool in the world, scientists have not figured out the order of the DNA sequence of African populations. The SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC), in partnership with Chinese scientists, is at the helm of ground-breaking genome research on the continent's populations. Medical scientists in Cape Town are calling it "the dawn of a new medical revolution", which is set to change the face of African medical innovation. **News24**

Hundreds welcome Tsvangirai body

HARARE - Hundreds thronged Zimbabwe's main airport as the body of opposition icon Morgan Tsvangirai, who died of cancer in neighbouring South Africa, arrived home for burial. Tsvangirai, a fearless opponent to the ruling Zanu-PF party, died last Wednesday at the age of 65 after a lengthy battle with colon cancer. Supporters and officials from his Movement for Democratic Change party, gathered at Robert Mugabe International Airport, broke into Christian hymns and party songs as the plane bearing his remains landed. **AFP**

Raila to strengthen political ambition

KENYA - Raila Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) will this week hold two crucial meetings, which could give the clearest signs of the opposition leader's immediate political options and in the 2022 succession. The two meetings, starting with the National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting on Thursday, followed by the National Governing Council (NGC) the following day, will be used ostensibly to revamp the party, fill vacant offices and give Mr Odinga the go-ahead to chart his political future after his controversial "swearing-in" on January 30 that triggered a government crack down. **AFP**



ETHIOPIA STATE OF EMERGENCY TO LAST SIX MONTHS

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia said on Saturday that a state of emergency would remain in place for six months, as the authorities move to quell "chaos and unruliness".

The council of ministers declared the second emergency decree in two years on Friday evening.

It capped a tumultuous week in which Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn resign, a strike in the country's largest region and a massive prisoner amnesty. "The state of emergency will be for six months and will be approved by Parliament," state-run Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) wrote on Facebook, quoting Defence Minister Siraj Fegessa. The government had cited "ethnic-based clashes" and "chaos and unruliness" as the reasons for the declaration.

"To be able to protect the constitutional system, declaring a state of



PROTEST: The state of emergency was declared amid increasing political tension and protests. (Reuters)

emergency has become necessary", EBC said, quoting a government communique.

While the decree is already in effect, Parliamentary approval for the requested six-month period appears likely as the ruling Ethiopian

People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and its allies control all the seats in the House of Peoples' Representatives.

Ethiopia last declared a state of emergency in October 2016 after months of protests in Oromia - home

to the country's largest ethnicity, the Oromos - and neighbouring Amhara region.

The 10-month decree succeeded in quelling the unrest, which killed hundreds and resulted in tens of thousands of arrests, despite criticism from rights groups.

But anti-government sentiment remained in the two regions and the analysts believe Hailemariam's response to the protests eventually led to his surprise resignation, a first in modern Ethiopia.

The prime minister said he was leaving to give the EPRDF space as it pursued political reforms.

"I myself want to become part of the solution," he said in announcing his resignation last Thursday.

Last month, Hailemariam announced Ethiopia would release some jailed "politicians" in order to "improve the national consensus and widen the democratic platform". **AP**

Tunisia coastguard rescues 48 migrants from sinking boat

TUNIS - Tunisia's coastguard has rescued 48 Tunisian migrants whose boat began sinking as they tried to reach Italy by sea, the interior ministry said Saturday.

A patrol spotted the vessel on Friday night off Jebeniana, 210 kilometres (130 miles) south of Tunis.

The nine metre craft "was sinking after taking on water", the ministry said in a statement. The passengers were all Tunisians aged 16 to 40, from the governorates of Medenine

and Sfax, it added.

Tunisians regularly try to cross the Mediterranean to seek a better future in Europe, but departures peaked last September. According to NGOs, the uptick reflected frustration among young people hard hit by unemployment.

In October, a collision between a migrant boat and a Tunisian military ship left at least 44 dead, in what Prime Minister Youssef Chahed called a "national disaster". **News24**

Grace Mugabe's PhD: UZ must provide 'paper trail'

HARARE - The vice chancellor of Zimbabwe's oldest university has been arrested over the controversial awarding of a doctorate to former first lady Grace Mugabe.

Anti-Corruption Commission spokesperson Phyllis Chikundura says Levi Nyagura of the University of Zimbabwe was arrested Friday. He appeared in court on Saturday on abuse of office charges.

Mugabe, whose husband resigned in November under pressure from the military, received a doctorate in 2014 amid allegations she did not study for it. **AP**

Al-Qaeda urges Egyptians to topple government

CAIRO - Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri has urged Egyptians to topple their government in the second message from Islamist militants this week calling for violence in Egypt where presidential elections are due in March.

Egypt has stepped up its battle with Islamist militants ahead of the vote on March 26-28. Cairo launched the latest military offensive against an Islamic State branch in Sinai which has killed hundreds of police and soldiers and some civilians since it launched an insurgency in 2014. Islamic State, an enemy of al-Qaeda, released a video yesterday in which it warned Egyptians against taking part in the vote and urged Islamists to attack security forces and leaders.

In an undated audio recording, the Egyptian-born Zawahiri did not issue any specific threat, and did not mention any election. "I call on everyone to work to uproot this apostate, criminal and corrupt regime, and to Jihad with weapons, money, word and actions, raids and ambushes, strikes and protests," Zawahiri said in the recording. **Reuters**



IT'S NOT TRUE: A Turkish official has denied the claims by a monitoring group and Syrian state media that Turkey's military used chemical weapons on civilians in its operation against the Kurdish YPG fighters in north-western Syria. (Al Jazeera)



SIMPHIWE DLAMINI CROWNED MISS SCOT CULTURAL HERITAGE

By Ayanda Dlamini

SIMPHIWE Dlamini proved to be the fairest of them all in the cultural segment as she was crowned Miss SCOT Cultural Heritage last Thursday at the college's premises.

Dlamini was battling for the crown with 10 other contestants. Worth noting is that Dlamini was also the most favoured contestant as she also received the most voted for award by the students. The newly crowned culture queen is currently doing her first year in Civil Engineering.

Speaking to this publication after her crowning, the cultural queen said she knew she was going to win as she had prepared herself for this day. "I was ready for this as I had prepared myself. I would like to thank the SCOT Cultural Society (SCS) for hosting this pageant which basically reminds us who we are and our culture as Swazis," said the newly crowned queen.

Scooped

Dlamini's princesses were Sihle Tsela who scooped the first princess title and Phumla Dlamini was crowned second princess.

All top five contestants were asked the same question and they all gave

good answers. The question was, 'If given an opportunity to represent Swaziland internationally, what would you promote?'

Dlamini was crowned by the outgoing queen Ngcebo Dlamini who was also in the top 12 of Miss Cultural Heritage Swaziland 2017/18.

Before crowning her successor, she mentioned that her journey was really amazing as she received all kinds of support from the SCS and the school.

The Judging panel included Temangisi Dlamini, Nomphele Dlamini, Brian Simelane, and Sibongile Mamba who was the head of the panel and Miss Cultural Heritage second Princess



QUEEN: Miss SCOT Cultural Heritage 2018/19 Simphiwe Dlamini flanked by her princesses Sihle Tsela and Phumla Dlamini during the cultural pageant crowning last Thursday at SCOT. (Pic: Ayanda Dlamini)

Phendulile Mlipha.

Directing the proceedings of the night was former Miss Cultural Heritage Sindiswa Dlamini. Gracing the pageant was reigning Miss Cultural Heritage Nelisiwe Shongwe and students from the college.

Marula brew (*buganu*) was the order

of the night as students were drinking and having fun by the gate of the school and a few by the entrance of the hall upon arrival of this reporter.

The event was well attended by students who would dance when the spinner on the turntables would render a song mostly *gqom* music.



BEHIND THE DECKS: Supa CDQ behind the decks. The DJ got revellers dancing the night away as he mixed both hip hop and *gqom* music during Sibebe Friday Night Live at the House on Fire on Friday Night. (Pics: Lusito Tsela)



COME CLOSE: Cols Lane and Chark Kent having some fun during the show.



SONGSTRESS: Mandisa Mamba rendering one of her songs titled 'Taking my power'.

ARTISTS RENDER EPIC FIRST EPISODE OF SFNL

By Lusito Tsela

THE first batch of SFNL artists rendered performances worth the ultimate goal, the Bushfire Stage at the House on Fire on Friday evening.

These artists were Mandisa Mamba, DJ Supa CDQ and the vocally gifted Mr Music.

All the artists who performed brought their A game which proved they were well prepared, giving revellers the best music along with splendid dance moves showing that they were not in the competition by mistake.

Mr Music was first to grace the stage, rendering his songs 'Dali', 'Ningang'isatsi Kabi', 'Sibebe' and

'Ngsayophanda' to mention a few.

The youngster got all revellers dancing to his music including people of different skin colour regardless that he sang in SiSwati.

Mandisa Mamba was next on stage, with her beautiful voice and thrilling performance that got everyone wishing for more.

The songbird went on stage wearing a bikini like outfit and her dance moves proved ready for the show.

Stage

Last on stage was Supa CDQ, mixing hip hop and *Gqom* music, getting everyone on the dance floor moving till the show ended.

Supa CDQ gave a performance worth shutting the show down, and

without a doubt, the first episode of Sibebe Friday Night Live lived up to the expectations.

The show saw notable faces in the music industry in the likes of DJ Master P, King Terry and Mcebo from the Shepherd brothers to mention a few.

Speaking after the show was House on Fire Communications officer Nonqondo Dlamini.

An excited Dlamini said she was impressed by the performances.

"I am very excited for the artists. They were chosen because they are talented and what we are giving revellers today is the best local music, which comes from different genres and sang by uniquely different artists," she said.



RENDERING: Mr Music rendering one of his songs titled 'Sibebe'.

CLARIFICATION



Last week Friday we published this picture and captioned it as Thokozane Zwane, it has since been brought to our attention that she is Mrs T. Dlamini.



SINGLETONS: Single ladies paying attention to the speaker of the night Pastor Bakhe Dlamini.

Love yourself first, Bakhe Dlamini tells singletons

By Ayanda Dlamini

"IN order for one to find the right partner, they need to love themselves first."

These were the words spoken by Motivational Speaker Pastor Bakhe Dlamini during the Non- Valentine's Day Celebration held at Happy Valley Hotel, Ezulwini last Friday evening.

Dlamini spoke about finding a right partner, he said one needs to love her/himself first in order to get the right partner.

"Love yourself first. You will not get the right partner if you do not get yourself first. Focus on being the right partner first, find you. I have discovered that ladies do not love themselves but rush to find a right partner," said Dlamini.

Dlamini who was the headliner of the black and white themed affair urged singletons to not rush into a relationship with someone they

have not researched about properly.

"Research about the person, ask him/her what he does, his friends, family, do proper research before everything. Avoid dating sites because you do not know the person.

"Do not rush, take your time. You cannot love someone in three months. Don't be fooled by looks, presentation. People can fake those. Time tells, so take your time in knowing the person before loving them," Dlamini shared on stage.

Furthermore, Dlamini also advised singletons to not date someone for the sake of friends and relatives. "Go for what you want not what friends, relatives or the church wants. Get someone who excites you, supports you, and makes sacrifices for you, just as you do.

"Ensure you are whole, if broken, you'll scare away the right person. Also, have a vision and a life in order to attract the right kind. Look for compatibility- Oil and water don't mix. And also fear not to walk away if you are unhappy," said the motivational speaker and pastor.

He also mentioned that for singletons to find their right partner they need to be humble, to attract.

The classy singletons affair was attended by number of single women who came dressed for the night in heels and a few got the memo

as they came in black and white. No love birds were allowed at the affair. Comedian Mdura serenaded the singletons with his jokes as he was the master of ceremony.

SPEAKING OUT- Motivational Speaker Pastor Bakhe Dlamini advising singletons on finding the right partner during the Non- Valentine's Day Celebration held at Happy Valley Hotel, Ezulwini on Friday evening. (Pic: Ayanda Dlamini)

MISS SCOT



CULTURE QUEEN: Newly crowned Miss SCOT Cultural Heritage Simphiwe Dlamini with her princesses Sihle Tsela and Phumla Dlamini pose with Miss Cultural Heritage Nelisiwe Shongwe and her second princess Phendulile Mlipha at the crowning event last Thursday at SCOT. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



QUEENING: Miss Cultural Heritage Nelisiwe Shongwe could not miss the crowning at SCOT.



DANCE: Students entertaining the attendees at the cultural pegeant.



JUDGING: The judging panel Temangisi Dlamini, Nomphele Dlamini, Brian Simelane, Sibongile Mamba and Miss Cultural Heritage second princess Phendulile Mlipha doing their job.



ATTENDEES: A section of students who attended the cultural pegeant.



MOMENT OF GLORY: Students were given a moment to shine on stage and they did the most.



RUNWAY: Miss SCOT Cultural Heritage contestants on stage.

CULTURAL HERITAGE



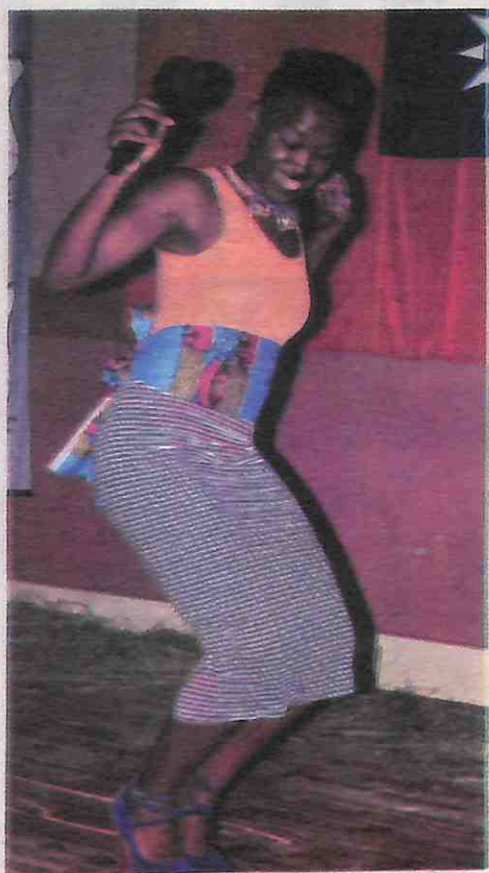
LITJITJI PHACA: Simphiwe Dlamini being crowned by outgoing queen Ngcebo Dlamini.



QUESTION: Brian Simelane interacting with one of the contestants.



YOUNGEST: The youngest dancer on stage doing the most.



YASS: Former Miss Cultural Heritage Sindiswa Dlamini showing them how it's done as she was the MC of the event.



THANK YOU: Outgoing queen Ngcebo Dlamini making her last speech as Miss SCOT Cultural Heritage.



WELL DESERVED: The head judge Sibongile Mamba making her remarks before crowning Simphiwe Dlamini.



CONCENTRATING: Second princess Sihle Tsela during the question and answer session.

HAPPY VALENTINES

AFRI-BERRY "LOVE YOUR HAIR, LOVE YOUR SKIN" VALENTINE'S COMPETITION PURCHASE ANY AFRI-BERRY PRODUCTS AND SMS "FUN BARCODE" COMPETITION TO 6464



- 1st Prize - E 2000 Afri-Berry Hamper
- 2nd Prize - E 1000 Afri-Berry Hamper
- 3rd Prize - E 750 Afri-Berry Hamper

"LOVE YOUR SKIN, LOVE YOUR HAIR"

N.B. One should buy any AfriBerry product in order to be eligible. Then Sms "FUN" together with the product BARCODE

Products available at : LINKMED PHARMACY (Nationwide) EDGARS RED SQUARE, INDIGO SALON (The Mall) , Spice World (Corporate Place) Phumelela Herbal Pharmacy(Manzini) Well Pharmacy (Piggs Peak) Piggs Pharmacy Siphofaneni Pharmacy.

Terms & Conditions

- The competition is open to all members of the public except employees of AfriBerry and the Swazi Observer.
- Participants should note that there should be a space between **FUN** and the product Barcode
- The more SMS's you send the better the chances of winning
- The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into
- Each SMS costs E1.71

CLOSING DATE: 28 FEBRUARY

Fun
Switched on
real time

International
Celebrity News

Nicole Scherzinger gets 'blackened'

HOLLYWOOD - Nicole Scherzinger enjoyed some 'black love' this past Valentine's Day. The former 'Pussycat Doll' was dating Bulgarian tennis star, Grigor Dimitrov, but not anymore. In VD, she was spotted out with someone new.

Oh, dear! The star was spotted outside of Craig's in West Hollywood dressed in a white crop top, silky white pants and blinged out heels and matching purse. Her 'male friend' was dressed in full black, including black denim ripped at the knee



GETS BLACK LOVE:
Nicole Scherzinger.

with black and white sneakers. Earlier that day she attended the 2018 Global Spin Awards at the Novo By Microsoft. **MTO**

Jamie Foxx cuts off ESPN interview

LOS ANGELES - Jamie Foxx was not having it when he was asked about Katie Holmes on ESPN and straight-up walked away from the camera during the live interview.

Foxx was on 'SportsCentre' talking with Michael Smith and everything was cool when they were talking about the All-Star Celebrity Game during NBA All-Star weekend in LA.

But when Smith asked if Foxx prepared for the game by hoopin' around with Katie Holmes, Foxx took off his headset and walked away refusing to even acknowledge the question. **TMZ**



WALKS AWAY: Jamie Foxx and Katie Holmes.

Foxx and Holmes have been VERY private about their relationship, refusing to 'go public' despite the fact everyone seems to know they're together. Smith tried to play the whole thing off, but it was awkward. **TMZ**

Jennifer Aniston's split from Justin Theroux unexpected

HOLLYWOOD - This isn't how it was supposed to go.

Jennifer Aniston had been with Justin Theroux for seven years and married to him for two and a half. It had been almost 13 years since her first marriage to that other guy ended in divorce.

Her life was settled, in a good way. This was it.

But now it's not it, anymore. Aniston and Theroux announced yesterday that they separated at the end of last year. They're still friends. They still have love for each other. They wanted to get

ahead of the gossip. And their marriage is over.

They seem to be handling it quite well. Yet how much of a shame is this news?



UNEXPECTED: Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux.

"In an effort to reduce any further speculation, we have decided to announce our separation," they said. "This decision was mutual and lovingly made at the end of last year. We are two best friends who have decided to part ways as a couple, but look forward to continuing our cherished friendship." **Online**

Omar Epps sued by 'Shooter' actress

HOLLYWOOD - Omar Epps improvised an action scene with a much older actress, and ended up sending her to the hospital ... according to a new suit filed by the actress.

Donzaleigh Abernathy claims she was filming a scene with Epps in May 2016 for the USA show 'Shooter' where his character was supposed to murder her character, when he "completely deviated from the script" and "threw his left forearm with full force at her right arm," and broke it.

Abernathy says she was 59 at the

time, and claims a much younger and stronger Epps was negligent and reckless in his handling of her during the scene. According to the



SUED: Omar Epps.

docs, along with breaking her arm, he also dropped her hard on the floor and injured her back. She claims production was stopped and she was rushed to the hospital.

Abernathy is suing Epps, along with Paramount Pictures, for negligence and assault and battery. She's asking for damages for her pain and suffering and wants her medical costs, present and future, covered. **TMZ**

SA Celebrity News

Nasty C signs with Universal Music

JOHANNESBURG - Rapper Nasty C has found a new home at Universal Music after signing a massive recording deal with the company this week, but record label Mabala Noise claim the star has not left their stable.

After days of swirling speculation over Nasty C's future, the rapper took to social media on Thursday to confirm that he had joined Universal.

"By the way I'm Universal Music now," he declared, in a picture of him posing alongside TV screens carrying his image and the com-



UNIVERSAL: Nasty C.

pany's logo. The star had earlier in the week been spotted in a boardroom meeting with representatives of the label. **TimesLive**

HHP and Jub Jub team up to dominate the music charts

JOHANNESBURG - In a dream collaboration that will have many South African music fans drooling: HHP has teamed up with Jub Jub for a track on the rehabilitated rapper's upcoming album.

It has been over a year since Jub Jub was released on parole and released his first single since being behind bars. And ever since he was released he has been working on new music.

The musician has been taking his time, working with a number of artists for his upcoming album.

Speaking to Tshisa Live,



NEW PROJECT: HHP and Jub Jub.

an excited HHP confirmed that Jub Jub was one of the artists featured on the upcoming album.

"Jub Jub asked me to come over and sprinkle some fairy dust on his album. I went over and it was great." **TshisaLive**

My life was almost over - Fifi Cooper on EFF help

JOHANNESBURG - Rapper Fifi Cooper has praised the EFF for helping her fight her battles with her former record company, claiming the political party saved her life.

Fifi made headlines late last year when a court ruling in favour of Ambitious Entertainment prevented her from performing any music that was recorded under the label. She left the company in February along with other artists A-Reece and BenchmarQ.

The decision threatened to ruin her career and the EFF soon announced they would help her fight the decision in court.

"I don't know much about politics. I don't follow it an awful lot, but

I am grateful to the party for helping me when I needed it the most. I am blessed. My life was over and they lifted me up. I have been able to get out of that dark space I was in by working hard and praying even harder." **CityPress**



PRAISES EFF: Fifi Cooper.

Zandie makes grand entrance with debut album

JOHANNESBURG - Zandie Khumalo has entered the ring. The younger sister of Afropop super vocalist Kelly Khumalo stakes her claim with the release of her debut album 'Izikhali ZamaNungwa'.

She's had a spectacular debut topping the iTunes charts with the album. "I'm excited. I've seen my album sit on number one on iTunes since its release. I'm happy that people recognise me and my talent and they fall in love with my music," says Zandie.

It's a culmination of years of coaxing and nudging

from Kelly and Zandie's husband Mhlo Gumedede who pushed her to the studio and yielded some surprise Afrosoul tunes such as 'Themba', 'Soze' and 'Bittersweet'.

Off her new album comes the single 'Nangu Makoti', a pleasant wedding song that lends itself to becoming a sing-along.

The video for the song is a beautiful celebration of South African heritage and traditional wear that sees the Ndebele aesthetic featuring prominently. **Sowetan**

MAKES GRAND ENTRANCE: Zandie Khumalo.



WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY



MAKES A CHOICE: Jabu.

Iris makes a desperate attempt to help Jabu. Lillian makes peace with Judas. Meanwhile, Jabu makes a choice to help a former enemy.

ISIDINGO

TODAY

FAME RUNS AWAY WITH HER: Lerato.



Ben becomes suspicious when he sees Nina and Niki together. Lerato's fame begins to run away with her. Anja thinks Hendrik wants to set Wendy up with a man.

Muvhango

TODAY



Sparks fly between Rashaka and Gugu. Tenda's behaviour during the #ChiefsMustFall campaign has repercussions for Livhuwani. Susan is starting to think that Konanani is not just conniving, she's crazy!

SPARKS FLY: Rashaka.



TODAY



GETS A VISIT: Suffocate.

An emergency in Lerato's pregnancy causes a realignment of loyalty around her. Lerumo comes out of prison and pays Suffo a visit.

PICTURE OF THE DAY

ZOOM IN



ZUM-OUT

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

A business or love partner could bring opportunities for advancement your way today, Capricorn. You may decide to draft or execute legal papers that could be very important to your future. Travel might somehow be involved. Romance looks promising today.

**Aquarius January 20 – February 18**

The hard work and good business sense that you've put into your job may finally be paying off, Aquarius. Expect some positive changes to take place at the workplace this week. Today you're likely to be feeling especially energetic and decide to give your house a thorough cleaning. Don't try to do this on your own, however.

**Pisces February 19 – March 20**

Insights that may come welling up from the past could be put to work for you in a positive way, Pisces. You could use them as inspiration for a creative project of some kind, or you could just make them work for you in your day-to-day dealings with others. You should be feeling especially romantic and sexy today, and you might want to go shopping for clothes made of soft, touchable fabrics. Relations with lovers should be close and passionate.

**Aries March 21 – April 19**

Your home might need some work today, Aries. You and other members of your household could decide to join forces and get everything done. This might simply involve a thorough cleaning, or it could mean major repairs of some sort, perhaps plumbing or electrical.

**Taurus April 20 – May 20**

Expect a lot of letters and phone calls from lovers, close friends, or children today, Taurus. You might also want to make a few yourself. Some positive and interesting information may have come your way that you'll want to share with those close to you. You could also want to try your hand at writing. You'll want to make sure that you remember whatever it is you learn today, Taurus, as it could prove valuable in the future.

**Gemini May 21 – June 21**

Studying some paperwork involving your finances could bring a pleasant surprise. You're better off than you thought, Gemini! Dividends or benefits of some kind might be forthcoming. You could decide to treat yourself, buy some gifts for your family, or perhaps do some work on your home. Do take care to avoid impulse buying, and don't go crazy spending.

**Cancer June 22 – July 22**

Today some information might come your way that inspires you to come up with some valuable new ideas, Cancer. Your own intuitive faculties are operating at a very high level, and therefore your insights could prove valuable. Make sure you cover every possible contingency.

**Leo July 23 – August 22**

Your intuition, physical and intellectual energy, and insight are at an all-time high today, Leo. You'll probably want to spend much of the day alone, reflecting on your ideas and deciding how you want to put them to work for you. At some point, you may want to put your thoughts in writing. You could also tune in more strongly than usual to the thoughts and feelings of others.

**Virgo August 23 – September 22**

You could well be bubbling over with physical energy today, Virgo. You might want to spend your day visiting with friends. You could pick up some interesting information from them, which you might be able to put to work for you.

**Libra September 23 – October 23**

Visitors in your home, perhaps invited by others in your household, could put a crimp in your desire to be alone and hash out your thoughts today, Libra. Your mind is sharp and ideas should come thick and fast. Don't get so irritated with the situation at home that you sabotage your plans. You might want to go off somewhere by yourself, possibly to simply sequester yourself in your own room.

**Scorpio October 24 – November 21**

You're very intuitive by nature, Scorpio, and today you should be feeling especially so. Don't be surprised if you spontaneously tune in to the ideas and emotions of those around you, or even if you and someone else come up with the same words at the same time. Use your insights to increase your understanding of others. You might also find that they bring artistic inspiration and even advance your worldly ambitions.

**Sagittarius November 22 – December 21**

This should be one of those days when you feel as if you could conquer the world. You feel strong and determined, Sagittarius, and willing to do whatever it takes to get where you want to be. A goal could be attained at this time, ambitions realised, or perhaps a lucky break could come your way. This is an excellent day to seek a new job, ask for a raise, or make a favourite project a success.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES

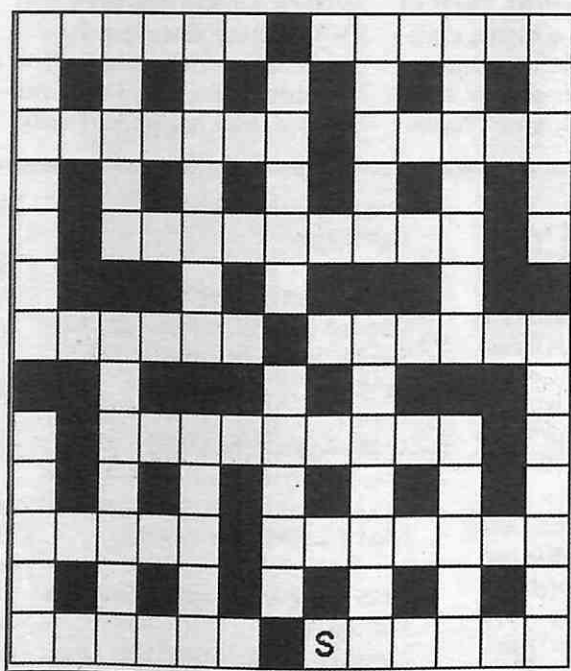


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PUZZLE CHOICE

The first letter of each answer is written next to its clue in alphabetical order. One letter has already been entered. Can you find the words then fit them correctly into the grid?



PUZZLE CHOICE

O. Taxing (7)
P. Monetary (9)
R. Parts of a ladder (5)
S. Hallowed (6)
S. Time of year (6)
S. Creep (5)
T. Mock (5)
T. Betrayal (7)
T. Shudder (6)
T. Branch of a river (9)
U. Common (5)
V. Planet (5)
Y. Units of time (5)

A. Creatures (7)
A. Irritated (7)
A. Main artery (5)
A. Greed (7)
B. Armed robber (6)
B. Candid (5)
C. Seizure (7)
C. Stringed instrument (5)
D. Measures of medicine (5)
E. Train (7)
H. Source of danger (6)
I. Envisage (7)
O. Acquire (6)

LOL
Laughing Out Loud

Smart kid

Teacher asks student: What is the half of 8?
Student: Miss horizontally or vertically?

Teacher: What do mean?
Student: Horizontally it is 0 and vertically it is 3.

USELESS FACTS

1. The coast line around Lake Sakawea in North Dakota is longer than the California coastline along the Pacific Ocean

Oklahoma.

2. Brooklyn is the Dutch name for "broken valley"

3. There are four states where the first letter of the capital city is the same letter as the first letter of the state: Dover, Delaware; Honolulu, Hawaii; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Oklahoma City,

4. Lake Nicaragua boasts the only fresh-water sharks in the entire world.

5. The flag of the Philippines is the only national flag that is flown differently during times of peace or war. A portion of the flag is blue, while the other is red. The blue portion is flown on top in time of peace and the red portion is flown in wartime.

BRAINTEASERS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Friday's brainteasers

1. If an electric train is going east at 60 miles an hour and there is a strong westerly wind, which way does the smoke from the train drift?

Answer: There is no smoke coming from electric trains.

2. Say Racecar back-

wards.

Answer: 'Racecar backwards'

Today's brainteasers'

1. What do the numbers 11, 69, and 88 all have in common?

2. How can you throw a ball as hard as you can, to only have it come back to you, even if it doesn't bounce off anything?



DStv
Feel every moment

NEWS



THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL ON EVA

THE wildly popular soap opera that shows no signs of slowing down after 30 years on air, has explored the entangled lives, passionate loves, high-stakes battles, loyalties, tragedies and inspiring triumphs of the Forrester, Logan, Spectra and Spencer families.

Set in Los Angeles, California, The Bold and the Beautiful is the most watched daytime drama series in the world, seen daily by millions of people in over 100 countries. Now, the series will air in Africa on telenovela

destination EVA, joining the channel's schedule from episode 6751 onwards.

With romance, sensuality, complex characters and intricate and compelling storylines, The Bold and the Beautiful is, at its core, a gripping tale of high fashion glamour, honour and most importantly, family, that will captivate the EVA audi-

EVA+

ence. The Bold and the Beautiful is shown on EVA at 12:00 every weekday, with repeat opportunities at 18:00 and 00:00, and at 06:00 the following day. Weekend omnibuses are also be shown on Saturdays from 06:00 and 23:30, and from 16:00 on Sundays. The series joins EVA's existing slate of popular programming, which includes The Neighbour, Taxi, Fooled Into Love, Betrayed Heart, and We Are Family.

NKULULEKO ON MZANSI MAGIC

NKULULEKO is a coming-of-age story set in the windswept streets of one of South Africa's most infamous township, Khayelitsha.

Nkululeko, who is a talented math-

ematician, makes an impulsive decision in a moment of blossoming love and suddenly finds himself in deep trouble. Everything he has worked so hard for falls apart - leaving his future in jeopardy.

NKULULEKO

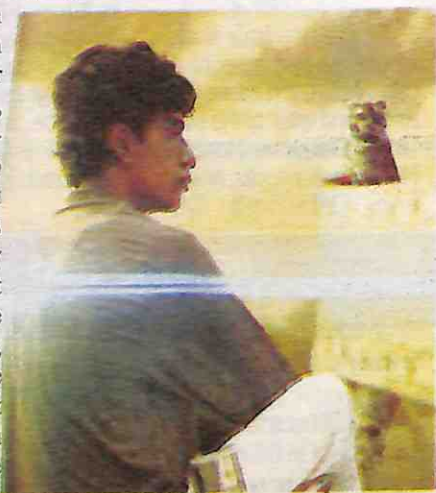


A MEET-UP WITH THE FAMILY!

CELEBRATE Family Day on April 2nd all snuggled up with your favourite people on the sofa!

Settle in with popcorn in hand - or better yet, treat yourselves to some of that delicious Easter candy - and get ready to have a good time, because we have a treat on the menu for everyone in the family!

Our Family Day programming offers some fun and beloved sci-fi comedies such as Short Circuit (from The Saturday Night Live director John Badham) and Cocoon (Ron Howard asks: who wouldn't want a rejuvenating alien bath?),



heroic adventures like Romancing the Stone (Michel Douglas in lianas) and Robin Hood (Kevin Costner in tights), family fun with Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (a perfect combo for family and Easter!) and Nicolas Cage in The Family Man (did you know his son is named Kal-El after Superman's birth name?).

To top the evening off, we have two award winning films coming up for the more refined tastes: The Blind Side, with an Oscar-winning performance by Sandra Bullock, and the visually stunning Life of Pi, recipient of four Academy Awards in 2013.

Snuggle up and enjoy!
2nd of April:

08:25 - Short Circuit (1986)

Directed by John Badham with Ally Sheedy, Steve Guttenberg and Fisher Stevens

10:05 - Robin Hood (1991)

Directed by Kevin Reynolds with Kevin Costner, Morgan Freeman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio

12:25 - Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971)

Directed by Mel Stuart with Gene Wilder, Jack Albertson and Peter Ostrum

14:05 - Cocoon (1985)

Directed by Ron Howard with Don Ameche, Wilford Brimley and Hume Cronyn

16:00 - Romancing The Stone (1984)

Directed by Robert Zemeckis with Michael Douglas, Kathleen Turner and Danny DeVito

17:45 - The Blind Side (2009)

Directed by John Lee Hancock with Sandra Bullock, Quinton Aaron and

Tim McGraw

20:00 - Life of Pi (2012)

Directed by Ang Lee with Suraj Sharma, Irrfan Khan and Adil Hussain

22:05 - The Family Man (2000)

Directed by Brett Ratner with Nicholas Cage, Téa Leoni and Don Cheadle

ELECTRIC BOOGALOO

Friday 20th along the day. Rerun on Wednesday 25th April

We are excited to announce that documentaries are coming to TCM! First up is Electric Boogaloo: The Wild, Untold Story of Cannon Films - and it's about just that! Cannon films were a legendary production company led by Menahem Golan and Yoram Globus, two executives whose love for cinema and action films had a huge impact on how movies were made and marketed in Hollywood in the 80's. The documentary is filled with interviews and clips from iconic titles like Superman IV: The Quest For Peace, Death Wish II and Sylvester Stallone's iconic Cobra. Electric Boogaloo: The Wild,

Untold Story of Cannon Films will be on TCM on Friday, April 20th and Wednesday, April 25th.

20th April:

15:30 - Superman IV: The Quest for peace (1987)

Directed by Sidney J. Furie with actors Christopher Reeve, Gene Hackman and Margot Kidder

16:40 - Cobra (1986)

Directed by George P. Cosmatos with Sylvester Stallone, Brigitte Nielsen and Reni Santoni

18:05 - Wisdom (1987)

Directed by Emilio Estevez with him acting as well alongside Demi Moore and Tom Skerritt

20:00 - Electric Boogaloo: The Wild, Untold Story of Cannon Films (2014)

Directed by Mark Hartley

21:45 - Death Wish II (1982)

Directed by Michael Winner with actors Charles Bronson, Jill Ireland and Vincent Gardenia

THE SWAZI OBSERVER Classified

2404 8699 or 2505 2320

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13. CATERING

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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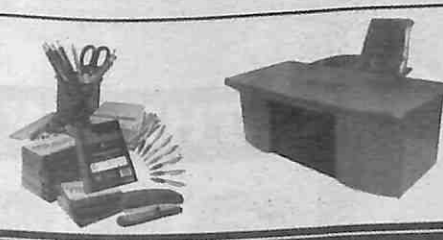
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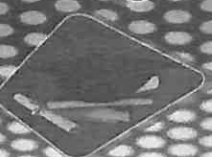


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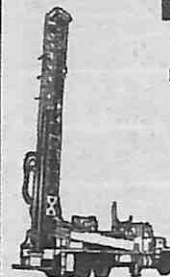
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NEYMAR WAS BETTER THAN RONALDO - XAVI

MADRID - Barcelona legend Xavi has launched a scathing attack on Real Madrid and Cristiano Ronaldo - describing their 3-1 win over Paris Saint Germain as an 'injustice'.

And he claims Neymar was man of the match - despite the Portuguese superstar scoring a brace in the Bernabeu win.

In fact he said the Brazilians' brilliant raids actually set up the Madrid win - with Zinedine Zidane's men happy to hit the French side on the counter attack.

"They said that Cristiano was still better than Neymar," Xavi said in Marca. "No, no, it's unfair. What did Ronaldo do in the game, scored a penalty and a knee goal."

"But what about the dangerous situations created by Neymar? And the counter attacks that he launched, the fear that he sowed in Madrid?"

The words are sure to infuriate Los Blancos fans as he claimed Zidane's side were happy to just to counter-attack and "find a way to win".

And the 38-year-old even went as far to say that the Real Madrid win was 'inexplicable' with the Spanish "not



ATTACK: Cristiano Ronaldo and Barcelona legend Xavi.

playing, but still winning".

After the match, Neymar's dad has labelled his son's critics as "vultures" following PSG's Champions League defeat by Real Madrid.

Ineffectual

The Brazilian set up Adrien Rabiot's opener at the Bernabeu but was largely ineffectual from there on as he was outshone by Ronaldo.

It led to criticism of the world's most-expensive player as the French giants

now face an uphill battle to reach the last eight.

But the former Barcelona star's father has taken to Instagram to defend his son in an extraordinary post.

"In a war there are those who feed off victories and those who, like vultures, feed off the carcasses of the defeated," he posted. "My son has been battling since he was a child, always fighting fair, always avoiding the vultures, always rising again stronger. *Mirror*

Brazil boss Tite names 15 of his 23-man World Cup squad

RIO - Two-thirds of the Selecao's squad have already been confirmed by the boss, according to reports in Brazil.

Brazil boss Tite has already named 15 of the 23 man party he'll be taking to the World Cup in the summer, according to reports in South America. The five-time world champions will be one of the favourites for success in Russia, and Tite's selection so far includes four Premier League stars according to Brazilian news outlet UoL Esporte. Liverpool forward Roberto Firmino makes the cut after a stellar season which has seen him score 20 goals for the Reds in all competitions.

He's joined by the Manchester City pair of Fernandinho and Gabriel Jesus, as well as the Chelsea winger Willian.

The 15 men who will "definitely" be in Brazil's World Cup squad;

- Alisson (Roma)
- Dani Alves (PSG)
- Thiago Silva (PSG)
- Marquinhos (PSG)
- Miranda (Inter)
- Marcelo (Real Madrid)

- Casemiro (Real Madrid)
- Fernandinho (Manchester City)
- Renato Augusto (Beijing Guoan)

- Paulinho (Barcelona)
- Willian (Chelsea)
- Philippe Coutinho (Barcelona)
- Gabriel Jesus (Manchester City)
- Roberto Firmino (Liverpool)
- Neymar (PSG)

The remaining 11 players are the Paris Saint-Germain quartet of Neymar, Dani Alves, Marquinhos and Thiago Silva,

Barcelona duo Philippe Coutinho and Paulinho, Real Madrid pair Marcelo and Casemiro, Roma goalkeeper Alisson, Inter Milan defender Miranda and Beijing Guoan midfielder Renato Augusto. Tite has also hinted that he could include the

Brazil-based duo of Jadson (Corinthians) and Edilson (Cruzeiro) in his squad. The Manchester City pair of Ederson and Danilo and Chelsea's David Luiz were not named in Tite's initial 15, although there's no indication that they won't make the final cut. *Mirror*



FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018

ZIDANE ADMITS COACHING REAL MADRID 'EXTREMELY TIRING'

MADRID - Zinedine Zidane admits being Real Madrid coach is exhausting as he faced further questions about his future with the Spanish giants.

Zidane has won eight trophies in two years since taking the Madrid reins, including back-to-back Champions League and La Liga titles, but has found himself under increasing pressure following a poor run of results.

Wednesday's 3-1 European comeback win over much-fancied Paris St Germain earned the Frenchman a bit of breathing space, but he was quizzed once more about his long-term plans ahead of yesterday's trip to Real Betis.

Asked if he had decided what he will do at the end of the season, Zidane said in quotes reported by the Spanish media: "For me the most important thing is what I'm doing now, the day to day. I'm not looking further than that. "I want to get to the end of the season. I'm only bothered about what's at stake and I don't want to talk about anything else."

Zidane did concede, though, that managing the 12-time European champions takes its toll.

He said: "It's extremely tiring, for sure, and all the more so at Real Madrid. Of course the time could come when a change is needed, but that's the case for every-

one, the players too.

"This profession can wear you out but here more than in other places."

With Madrid lying 17 points adrift of Barca in LaLiga and out of the Copa del Rey, the Champions League looks like their only realistic chance for silverware this season.

Zidane insists they will not take their eyes off their league challenge though, starting with yesterday's trip to Betis.

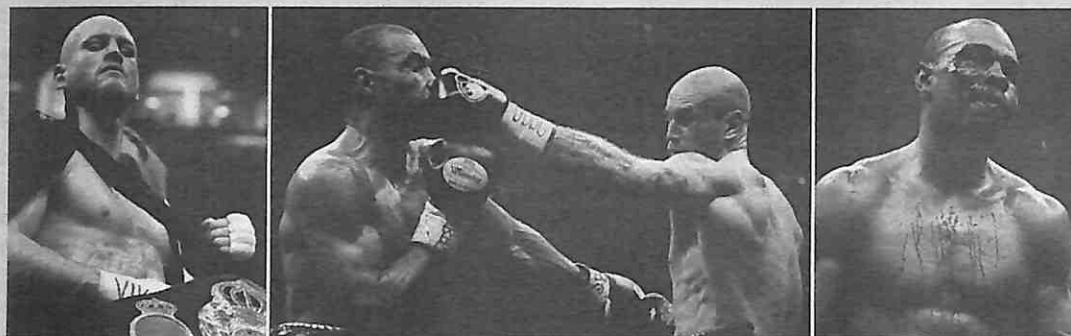
The 45-year-old, who is set to be without Toni Kroos for a fortnight due to a knee injury, said: "We performed very well the other night and now we've got to focus on our bread and butter, which is La Liga.

"We haven't had many days to rest but that's just the way it goes. We're now just thinking about doing a good job tomorrow.

"Betis are a very good side and are very strong on their own patch. We know how tough it's going to be but we've got our own weapons."

Daily mail

TOUGH JOB: Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane.



BATTLE: Chris Eubank Jnr and George Groves during their duel.

GROVES WINS BLOODY BATTLE OF BRITAIN

MANCHESTER - Chris Eubank Jnr fought with all the heroism which distinguished his father and made a helluva fight of it at the end but only in mythology does David slay Goliath.

George Groves was not only the bigger but the truth which Junior and Senior will find harder to swallow than the blood running down the son's face is that he was also the better. Size counts most heav-

ily of all in the prize-ring and exciting as the warrior spirit of Eubank made it at the finale he was not only out-punched but at times manhandled like rag doll in the grip of a gorilla.

Afterthought

The Saint goes on to the summer final of the new World Super Series tournament, carrying with him his major WBA belt and the IBO title of which he relieved Eubank,

almost as an afterthought.

There Groves is likely to face another fast-rising young Englishman. Callum Smith is the favourite to beat Jurgen Braehmer in next Saturday's second semi-final in Germany. He goes there with the satisfaction of having treated Eubank to a master-class in the first half of the fight - and then outlasted him in the trenches in the final third.

Daily Mail

TOP JOCKEY REVEALS HER TRANSGENDER JOURNEY

LONDON - Victoria Smith spent over 50 years hiding her secret as Vince Smith - terrified of revealing who she really was in the macho world of racing.

Victoria Smith spent her whole career suppressing a big secret - terrified that she would become an outcast in the male-dominated world of racing. As Vince Smith, she hid her wish to be female, passing herself off as one of the lads and was even known as a bit of a hellraiser. Looking back over 50 years on her previous life as a man, she said: "I had a rep-

utation for chasing women with the rowdy lads. "I was very fortunate, I went out with some stunning girls. I was in love with them but also envious of how they looked."

Solidarity

But pals had no idea of the real reason she was so keen on "eyeing up the girls". Victoria added: "I'd find myself looking at women not because I fancied them but to examine their clothes and make-up." But, since living as a woman, Victoria has received moving messages of solidarity from friends in racing, including three-

time champion jockey Richard Dunwoody and Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Graham Bradley.

She added: "Everyone in racing was completely shocked. But the support has been absolutely unbelievable and overwhelming, the total opposite of what I expected.

"During the 80s and 90s racing was a very masculine sport so the idea of anyone finding out terrified me. It was such a relief when I finally confided in a friend because I had lived with this secret inside since the age of five. *Mirror*



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



Big guns kept apart in FA Cup quarter - final draw

LONDON - Four of the top Premier League's top five were kept apart in Saturday's draw for the FA Cup quarter-finals as Manchester United host Brighton, whilst Chelsea visit Leicester.

Tottenham Hotspur face a trip to Sheffield Wednesday or Swansea, who need a replay after Saturday's 0-0 draw at Hillsborough, should Mauricio Pochettino's men overcome third-tier Rochdale.

Historic

Manchester City continue their quest for a historic quadruple of Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup and League Cup with a fifth round trip to Wigan today. Should Pep Guardiola's men avoid a repeat of the Latics' shock 2013 FA Cup final victory, City will be at home to Southampton in the last eight.

The ties will be played between March 16 and 19. *AFP*

DRAW IN FULL:

Sheffield Wed or Swansea City	vs	Rochdale or Hotspur
Manchester United	vs	Brighton
Leicester City	vs	Chelsea
Wigan or Manchester City	vs	Southampton

HAPPY DAVE

EXCLUSIVE

De Gea hints he's not leaving

MANCHESTER - David De Gea has hinted he may be willing to commit his future to Manchester United, declaring: 'I am really happy here.'

The Spanish keeper, who has 14 months left on his current Old Trafford deal, is once again interesting Real Madrid.

The Spanish giants failed to land De Gea two years ago - but are planning another big-money swoop for his services this summer.

However, the ex-Atletico

Madrid ace, 27, who cost United £18.3m in 2011, appears more than content - and settled - with his life in Manchester.

De Gea said: "Time flies by so quickly. I've been here seven years and I am happy."

"A lot has happened to me - some very good, some not so good, - but to be honest I am just really happy."

"I feel like an important player in the dressing room. I am one of the oldest in the team."

"It makes me happy to see

the younger players coming through - and trying to make United big."

As for the persistent talk linking him with an £85m exit to Real Madrid in June, the Manchester United star has dismissed it irrelevant.

He added: "I don't think it's ever good to discuss the future or what may happen."

"Only the present, feeling well, playing well and helping United is important."

Daily Star

Mourinho sold both of them for just £34m

LONDON - You can only wonder whether, when alone with his thoughts at the Lowry Hotel in Manchester, Jose Mourinho thinks about his greatest mistakes in football.

Among them might be that, on his watch as Chelsea boss, Kevin De Bruyne was allowed to leave for Wolfsburg in 2014 and Mohamed Salah for Roma in 2015.

Chelsea got a combined £34million for those sales (£18m for De Bruyne and £16m for Salah) as both were deemed outcasts. Now, they are in a shoot-out to be named Player of the Year.

De Bruyne has been the conductor of the Manchester City orchestra that is blowing everyone away, both in England and in Europe following their 4-0 win in Basle.

Salah's Liverpool won 5-0 away at Porto in the Champions League with the Egyptian scoring the goal of the evening, as he juggled the ball over a helpless Jose Sa.

Both have been worthy of celebrating but only one can take the trophy for the season's best player home. *Daily Mail*



NEW HOMES: Salah and De Bruyne.

BRIEFS

Liverpool to make world-record bid

LIVERPOOL - Jurgen Klopp is set to end his goalkeeping conundrum at Anfield by bringing in Roma's Alisson for a world-record £62million. Loris Karius has the backing of Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp as first choice at Anfield, getting the nod over Simon Mignolet, but that may not be the case next season. According to Sky Sports, the Anfield outfit are ready to splash £62m, what would be a new world record for a goalkeeper, to bring in the Brazil international this summer. Roma have been trying to tie the 25-year-old down to a new contract at the Stadio Olimpico, with the club set to be inundated with offers when the transfer window opens. *Daily Mail*

'My goal rush is far from over'

LIVERPOOL - Mohamed Salah predicts there will be no let-up in his goalscoring after netting his 30th for Liverpool in a prolific season. The 25-year-old took 36 games in all competitions to become just the 13th Liverpool player to notch up the landmark in a single season and the first to do so since Uruguay striker Luis Suarez four years ago. "It is a great feeling to have scored 30 goals in a first season at a club like Liverpool," he told the club's website while attending Liverpool's training camp in Spain. "It's something huge, so I am very happy about it - but I have to carry on and keep looking forward to score many more goals." *Reuters*

Batshuayi takes swipe at Conte

BERLIN - Borussia Dortmund striker and Chelsea loanee Michy Batshuayi has issued thinly veiled criticism to Blues boss Antonio Conte after his bright start to life in the Bundesliga with BVB.

The 24-year-old has hit five goals in his opening three games in all competitions for the Peter Stoger-coached outfit, including a fine brace against Serie A side Atalanta in last Thursday's Europa League clash at Signal Iduna Park. The Belgium international played second fiddle to Alvaro Morata at Stamford Bridge despite the Spain international going through something of a slump towards the end of Batshuayi's time in London. *Sport24*

'I've always felt lucky to still be here'

LONDON - Ryan Mason feels 'lucky to be here' and admits the knowledge that playing football again could risk his life has helped him accept the early end to his career.

Mason announced his retirement from playing earlier this week, just under 13 months on from suffering a fractured skull in a sickening clash of heads with Chelsea defender Cary Cahill. The 26-year-old former Hull and Tottenham midfielder, who won one England cap, told BBC Radio Five Live on Friday: "It's been quite sad and emotional but at the same time I've had so many good luck messages and positive feedback from my career that it has been nice at the same time." *Daily Mail*



Central Bank Of Swaziland

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BRIEFS

Manzini itching to make a return

JOHANNESBURG - Chippa United striker Lerato Manzini can't wait to return to the pitch having been out of action for two months. The former Bloemfontein Celtic and Chippa United striker made just seven appearances in all competitions in the first half of the season before dislocating his shoulder towards the end of November. He had not found the back of the net before sustaining the injury, so he can't wait to make his return to the pitch. The striker is hoping Chippa can reach the Nedbank Cup final, so that he ends what has been a difficult season on the sidelines on a high. *Kick Off*

Rusike still has Europe in his sights

PRETORIA - Before making a move to SuperSport United last month, Zimbabwean striker Evans Rusike thought that his next destination would be Europe. He had previously been linked with a move to Soweto giants Orlando Pirates, who made contact with Rusike's former side Maritzburg United last season, but a deal did not materialise. So when the current season got underway, Rusike had his mind on Europe and knew that he needs to work hard to make that move a possibility. "It's been good [at SuperSport], but it came as a shock. I was expecting a move to happen at the end of the season for me, but I am happy with the move." *Kick Off*



Sink or swim in ABSA Premiership final

JOHANNESBURG - Log leaders Mamelodi Sundowns' title challenge faces a stern test in their next two games. What's important to them right now is the well-being of their most prized asset, Percy Tau. The Sundowns top scorer - seven goals so far - is still mourning the death of his brother, Mogau Tshehla of Polokwane City, who died in a car accident last week. The team and its management rallied behind the striker and visited his family in Witbank, and coach Pitso Mosimane will be hoping Tau is in a good frame of mind when they take on Free State Stars on Wednesday at 19:30. The Brazilians face a potential banana skin by Stars, who have nothing to lose going into the game. The Free State side can have a say in the destination of the league title because a victory could make the race wide open. *City Press*

'Chiefs outplayed City'

JOHANNESBURG - Cape Town City head coach Benni McCarthy admits his players were not up to the challenge on Saturday when they suffered a 1-0 defeat against Kaizer Chiefs.

Ryan Moon produced the winning strike for the Amakhosi two minutes into the second half and McCarthy lamented City's inability to deal with the pressure.

"This is a game if you want to win the league, you got to beat the best teams and you can't afford to have off days. Today, we were nowhere near the best of our capabilities and we looked nervous."

"We were very nervous. We were second best to everything. Chiefs deserved

the points. We had our moments here and there, but we made too many mistakes and we allowed them in where our defence was caught in two minds allowing Ryan Moon in and the form he is in, he is going to score those chances," McCarthy told SuperSport.

City had a

chance to move up to second in the Premiership standings with a win, but instead it was Chiefs who climbed up to the runners-up spot, four points adrift of Mamelodi Sundowns.

McCarthy added: "I have to give credit to Steve Komphela and his charges. From the start of the game, they pressed us very high because obviously they noticed that Robyn wasn't in the side and obviously he is the one that gets us going from playing out at the back. "So we had to change our tactics and try and go on the longer route which didn't suit us because we had smaller guys on the wings. Too many players didn't turn up today."

Teamtalk

ADMITS: Cape Town City head coach Benni McCarthy.



Jele wants to end his career with Pirates

JOHANNESBURG - Happy Jele does not know what the future holds, but says it would be great to end his career with Orlando Pirates.

The 31-year-old defender arrived at Pirates as a 19-year-old back in 2006 and has enjoyed great success, including being a key member of the 'double treble' winning side.

Now heading towards the end of his career, Jele knows that going forward he may not feature in the starting line-up as much as he used to. This season, due mostly to injury, Jele has made just eight appearances in all competitions for the Soweto giants.

Pirates have relied on Gladwin Shitolo and Ntsikelelo Nyauza in central defence this season and they have done a good job. Coach Micho Sredojevic, however, has recently found space for Jele at the back in the last three matches, and the defender



HOPES TO RETIRE AT PIRATES: Happy Jele.

wants to make sure he grabs his chance to show that he still has a lot to offer.

"Firstly I started playing for Pirates at a young age," the Mpumalanga-born defender tells *KickOff.com*.

Career

"They have been my family and if it happens that I finish my career with Orlando Pirates, then it would be great."

"But it's for the team to decide, but I am loving it and I enjoy playing for Orlando Pirates. So we will see what

happens." Pirates, meanwhile, will be back in action when they take on Chippa United at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in the ABSA Premiership next Sunday. The Buccaneers are five points behind league leaders Mamelodi Sundowns, and know that they cannot afford to drop points if they want to get their hands on the coveted title. Jele will be hoping to get another run in the starting line-up against the Chilli Boys. *Kick Off*



CHIEFS WON'T GET CARRIED AWAY

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs head coach Steve Komphela has urged his players to retain their focus after beating Cape Town City 1-0 to move into second position in the ABSA Premiership.

The Amakhosi only needed Ryan Moon's 47th-minute strike to claim all three points against City at the FNB Stadium on Saturday night.

The victory put Chiefs only four points behind league leaders Mamelodi Sundowns, who have a game in hand, but

Komphela insists it's too early to be talking about the title and only wants his squad to focus on one game at a time.



Gracious

"It won't be easy. We said it at the dressing room, matches of this calibre could be won on small margins. Even though I thought we had more chances to score two or three goals more, but one has to be gracious and say he's happy with the result and the three points" Komphela told SuperSport.

"Benni's team is not easy to play against. We are delighted with the victory."

"What we are trying to do is affect the game more positively. We told them in the dressing room that if you don't finish chances like this, they will finish us so you need to be clinical."

When asked about Chiefs' title chase, Komphela added: "Focus, focus, focus - take it one game at a time. The essence of stress is the anticipation of time that is not available. We live for now. We live for this match, kill this one, whatever happens tomorrow will happen. *Teamtalk*

Arrows sink Bucs to Clinch second MDC title

JOHANNESBURG - Golden Arrows secured their second MultiChoice Diski Challenge title after defeating Orlando Pirates 2-0 yesterday afternoon.

The first goal arrived after 73 minutes when Nduduzo Sibiyi scored from the penalty spot. Sibiyi secured the win and top spot when Sibiyi curled home a free-kick.

Arrows are the first team to secure a second MDC title after they won it for the first time 2016.

Mamelodi Sundowns showed Free State Stars no mercy as they romped to a 5-2 win yesterday morning.

Vuyo Mantijie and Keabetswe Mokwena put Sundowns 2-0 inside the opening 35 minutes before Stars pulled one back shortly after through Dylan Peterson.

Cassius Mafu extended Sundowns' advantage, while Mokwena and another goal from Mafu rounded off an emphatic win.

Jason Abrahams netted Stars' second goal late on.

Soccer Laduma

BEWARE, JOMO COSMOS ARE COMING

JOHANNESBURG - Club boss Jomo Sono believes his side can still win the National First Division (NFD) title and gain automatic promotion to the ABSA Premiership.

Jomo Cosmos are 11 points behind log leaders Highlands Park, but Sono says football is unpredictable.

He hopes his side will narrow the gap to eight points when the teams meet at Vosloorus Stadium.

"We will only stop believing

when the season ends. As of now, anything is possible. This is football," said Sono ahead of their clash.

He said that, with 10 games to go, this game was not a must-win for his side, but conceded that a defeat would make their lives difficult.

"They must be worried about who is coming behind them. They must always look over their shoulders, and this is not easy for any side."

City Press



MBAPPE TO COMPLETE £166M SWITCH FROM MONACO

PARIS - Kylian Mbappe will officially make his switch from Monaco to Paris Saint-Germain permanent in the summer after a strange clause in his contract was activated.

PSG are now obliged to pay the huge £166million price-tag for the striker after becoming mathematically safe

from relegation following their 5-2 victory over Strasbourg on Saturday afternoon. The 19-year-old is currently on a season-long loan and could only make the switch permanent once Unai Emery's side had beaten the drop.

This was confirmed as PSG maintained their perfect home record at the weekend.

The emphatic win also restored their 12-point advantage at the top of Ligue 1 table and are now

42 points above the relegation places with only 12 games left to play.

Mbappe will sign a four-year deal in June to keep him at the club until 2022.

The striker has scored 15 goals in 32 appearances in all competitions this season while he has set up his team-mates 14 times. The Frenchman's high-profile move will come a year after the club paid £198million to sign Neymar from Barcelona.

Daily Mail

FIFA'S RULES CAN BE CONFUSING, COMPLICATED

JOHANNESBURG - The FIFA Laws of the Game are designed to ensure that a football match proceeds within certain boundaries, and that it flows as smoothly as possible.

Ever since the game was created in the late 19th century, it has grown in leaps and bounds, culminating in the formation of FIFA in 1904. It is now regarded as the greatest game on the planet and was nicknamed 'the beautiful game' by one of the most prolific scorers in history - Pelé from Brazil.

Now and again, so-called experts are brought in to tweak the laws of the world's governing body of soccer, but sometimes these tweaks are puzzling. I have been dealing with some of them in the past couple of weeks, but I discover more every time I delve into the book. Some are altogether very confusing. I think I'll start with Law 1: The Field of Play and move forward.

There isn't much here. Teams are now allowed to put logos/emblems on the corner flags during playing time. The other great advance is the introduction of goal-line technology, which indicates to the referee whether the ball has crossed over the line between the posts and under the crossbar.

Occasion

Remember the occasion in the 1966 World Cup final when the ball hit the crossbar, then bounced down and out?

There was confusion at the time about whether it had crossed the line or not. The Russian assistant (they used to be called linesmen) was adamant that it did and the goal was allowed.

The question of return substitutions has been discussed for some time. It is now allowed "subject to the agreement of the national football association, confederation or FIFA".

City Press

KROENKE IS PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER WENGER

LONDON - Arsenal's 'catalyst of change', which is intended to prepare for life after Arsene Wenger, has received fresh impetus with Josh Kroenke, son of owner Stan, moving to London to conduct an in-depth review of all the club activities.

Kroenke, 37, has taken a flat in London for three months and is visiting every section of the club in an attempt to gain a better understanding of how they are run.

It represents a significant change in the Kroenke ownership model, which has previously been criticised for being too remote.

The club insist Kroenke's visit is not in anticipation of a managerial change this summer, though it is acknowledged that they need

to prepare for a future without Wenger.

Club sources say that Kroenke will not be intervening in the running of Arsenal, but wants to gain a deeper understanding of all aspects of the club.

He is also said to be bringing his expertise in the development of an e-sports strategy, comprising the rise of professional gamers and YouTubers, who can now attract 1.5million viewers to their clashes.

Chief Executive Ivan Gazidis promised discontented fans last year that there would be 'catalyst of change' at Arsenal and he is now assembling a management team to provide an infrastructure once Wenger leaves. *Daily Mail*

ROBBEN WON'T RETIRE IF BAYERN DON'T EXTEND STAY

BERLIN - Veteran winger Arjen Robben says he plans to extend his career by moving to a new club should Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich fail to offer him a contract extension.

Robben, who turned 34 in January, is out of contract at Bayern at the end of the season, along with fellow winger Franck Ribery, but has no immediate plans to retire.

Robben, who played in the 2010 World Cup final for the Netherlands, has been at Bayern since 2009 and has won the Bundesliga on six occasions.

He has made 279 appearances and scored 136 goals for the Bavarian giants, including the winner in the 2013 Champions League final.

Bayern Chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge says no decision about Robben or Ribery, both 34, will be made before the end of March, but the Dutchman wants to play on.



EXTENSION PLANS: Arjen Robben.

"At the moment, I feel very fit, really good and I believe that I can still play at the top level for one or two more years - that's my goal," Robben told website sportbuzzer.de.

"I have such an open and honest communication with all those responsible here (at Bayern) that I am not worried

at all.

"The club will have a plan. And then the club and I will have to decide if and how things progress."

Robben says he could imagine playing overseas in the United States, China or the Middle East should Bayern fail to make him an offer. *AFP*

D-DAY FOR AJAX CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN - Ajax Cape Town and their striker Tendai Ndoro will know their fate on Wednesday, which is when the SA Football Association arbitration process is expected to determine Ndoro's eligibility to feature for the Cape side.

Ajax have fielded Ndoro six times - five in league matches and once in the Nedbank Cup - despite the Zimbabwean having played for three clubs this season, which is in contravention of FIFA rules.

PSL legal adviser Michael Murphy told City Press the matter was likely to be decided next week.

"We were given three names to choose (an arbitrator) from and two of them were available on the 21st. Because of the urgency of this matter, we chose one of them. We are not yet sure which one will preside over the case," he said.

Orlando Pirates and Polokwane

City recently played their league matches under protest against Ajax.

In its sitting this week to hear the legal arguments from the three parties (Pirates, City and Ajax) on a preliminary point of law, the PSL disciplinary committee "directed the parties to file short heads of argument dealing primarily with the jurisdiction of the DC (disciplinary committee) to entertain the protests within seven days".

Protest

The two clubs had lodged a formal protest against the inclusion by Ajax of Ndoro in their line-up during their ABSA Premiership fixtures. This was after the league's dispute resolution chambers cleared him to play.

Ndoro played a game for Pirates in August, then transferred and played for Al Faisaly in Saudi Arabia before signing for Ajax in December.

According to the FIFA regulations,



D DAY: Ajax Cape Town's Tendai Ndoro.

rule 5.3 states that a player is allowed to register with three clubs in one season, but only play official matches for two of those clubs.

Ajax face the risk of being docked points if they are found guilty of contravening the FIFA rules. Wednesday could well be the day as the arbitrator's decision is final.

Sport24

Anderson into New York Open final

NEW YORK - South Africa's Kevin Anderson ended Kei Nishikori's hopes of a comeback victory on Saturday at the New York Open, beating the Japanese fifth seed in three sets in Long Island.

Top seed Anderson downed Nishikori 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (7/4) in a gruelling 2hr 11min semi-final and played against America's Sam Querrey in yesterday's final.

Nishikori had been chasing a first ATP Tour victory after returning from a five-month injury layoff.

However the 28-year-old was slow to start, with Anderson racing through the first set to go 1-0 up before Nishikori found his range in the second.

Anderson's reliable service game - he won 79 per cent of his first serve points compared to Nishikori's 60 per cent - was to prove decisive in the third set tie-break.

Nishikori dropped three service

points in the tie-break, which 31-year-old world number 11 Anderson duly punished to wrap up the win.

Earlier, Querrey ended his long wait for a first victory over France's Adrian Mannarino to book his place in the final.

Lost

Second seed Querrey, who had lost all three of his previous meetings with the fourth-seeded Mannarino, came from behind to win 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 6-3 to the delight of the home fans. World number 12 Querrey, who has not reached an ATP Tour final since the Mexican Open last year, was delighted to have finally notched a win over Mannarino.

"It feels like I beat Rafa (Nadal) out there," the 30-year-old Las Vegas resident said. "That guy's always been so tricky. It's my first time beating him and it feels good."

"I'm so happy to get through that and be in the final. I'm really excited." *AFP*

ROCHDALE FORCE FA CUP FIFTH ROUND REPLAY AGAINST SPURS

LONDON - Rochdale managed to secure FA Cup fifth round replay after forcing a 2-2 draw with the high-flying Tottenham Hotspur.

Spurs looked for an early opener after Lucas Moura tried to play in Fernando Llorente, but the defence marshalled by Harrison McGahey cancelled the purported attempt.

Belgian Toby Alderweireld headed directly at Josh Lillis from a free kick on the right side. In the meantime, the hosts won possession in the middle by Andy Cannon who set up Ian Henderson, only to shoot straight at Michel Vorm.

Former Juventus and Swansea striker Llorente missed a golden opportunity to put the visitors in front after being set-up by Moussa Sissoko.

He dilly-dallied twice before even-



ON TARGET: Harry Kane strikes the penalty in the 88th minute to put Tottenham into the lead before Rochdale hit back in injury time. (Daily Mail)

tually firing wide with an inviting goal at his mercy on the 25th minute mark.

Despite seeing more of the possession, the Londoners struggled to break down the lowly-rated side, and Moura became the latest to mis-

fire when he blasted over the top from the left side.

Opportunity

Henderson slashed another inviting opportunity which went wide of Vorm's goal after a delicate through ball by Callum Camps on

the half and hour mark.

The struggling League 1 side sent their home fans into raptures after good pressing set up Cannon who played in Henderson to tuck away neatly on the stroke of half time.

The Lily Whites wasted no time after the restart to try and get back in the game, and Harry Winks who was partly responsible for them conceding, took a hopeful shot from range which Lillis saved easily.

Brazilians Moura levelled the playing field after a patient build-up with Sissoko who set him through to the goal for his first since arriving from Paris Saint Germain last month.

Mauricio Pochettino made the first change of the day, taking out a lukewarm Winks for playmaker Erik Lamela in the 62nd minute.

Daily Mail

LOGS

Premier League									
Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Gd	Pts	
Man City	27	23	3	1	79	20	59	72	
Man United	27	17	5	5	51	19	32	56	
Liverpool	27	15	9	3	61	31	30	54	
Chelsea	27	16	5	6	49	23	26	53	
Tottenham	27	15	7	5	52	24	28	52	
Arsenal	27	13	6	8	51	36	15	45	
Burnley	27	9	9	9	21	24	-3	36	
Leicester City	27	9	8	10	39	40	-1	35	
Everton	27	9	7	11	32	46	-14	34	
Bournemouth	27	8	7	12	31	41	-10	31	
Watford	27	8	6	13	37	47	-10	30	
West Ham	27	7	9	11	34	46	-12	30	
Newcastle	27	7	7	13	25	36	-11	28	
Brighton	27	6	10	11	22	36	-14	28	
Crystal Palace	27	6	9	12	25	42	-17	27	
Swansea City	27	7	6	14	20	37	-17	27	
Huddersfield	27	7	6	14	23	47	-24	27	
Southampton	27	5	11	11	28	40	-12	26	
Stoke City	27	6	7	14	27	53	-26	25	
West Brom	27	3	11	13	21	40	-19	20	

ABSA Premiership									
Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Gd	Pts	
Sundowns	20	12	2	6	32	17	15	38	
Kaizer Chiefs	21	8	10	3	19	12	7	34	
Orlando Pirates	21	8	9	4	22	18	4	33	
Free State Stars	20	9	5	6	21	20	1	32	
Maritzburg	21	8	7	6	25	13	12	31	
Cape Town City	21	9	4	8	20	19	1	31	
Chippa United	21	5	12	4	18	15	3	27	
Baroka FC	21	6	9	6	25	28	-3	27	
Amazulu FC	21	6	8	7	20	24	-4	26	
Bidvest Wits	21	6	7	8	18	22	-4	25	
Bloem Celtic	20	6	7	7	18	24	-6	25	
SuperSport	20	6	6	8	19	23	-4	24	
Golden Arrows	21	4	11	6	23	24	-1	23	
Polokwane City	20	4	10	6	21	24	-3	22	
Ajax Cape Town	21	5	6	10	19	23	-4	21	
Platinum Stars	20	3	7	10	13	27	-14	16	

Italian Serie A									
Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Gd	Pts	
Napoli	25	21	3	1	55	15	40	66	
Juventus	25	21	2	2	62	15	47	65	
Roma	25	15	5	5	40	19	21	50	
Internazionale	25	13	9	3	40	21	19	48	
Lazio	24	14	4	6	59	33	26	46	
Sampdoria	24	12	5	7	44	32	12	41	
Milan	24	11	5	8	34	30	4	38	
Atalanta	24	10	7	7	36	28	8	37	
Torino	25	8	12	5	35	30	5	36	
Udinese	25	10	3	12	36	36	0	33	
Fiorentina	24	8	7	9	33	31	2	31	
Genoa	25	8	6	11	21	25	-4	30	
Bologna	25	9	3	13	31	38	-7	30	
Cagliari	25	7	4	14	23	36	-13	25	
Chievo	25	6	7	12	23	42	-19	25	
Sassuolo	25	6	5	14	15	43	-28	23	
Crotone	25	5	6	14	21	44	-23	21	
Spal	25	3	8	14	23	47	-24	17	
Hellas Verona	24	4	4	16	22	48	-26	16	
Benevento	25	3	1	21	18	58	-40	10	

Spanish La Liga									
Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Gd	Pts	
Barcelona	24	19	5	0	62	11	51	62	
Atletico Madrid	24	16	7	1	36	9	27	55	
Valencia	24	14	4	6	47	28	19	46	
Real Madrid	22	12	6	4	50	23	27	42	
Sevilla	24	12	3	9	31	35	-4	39	
Villarreal	23	11	4	8	34	28	6	37	
Eibar	24	10	5	9	32	36	-4	35	
Girona	24	9	7	8	34	30	4	34	
Real Betis	23	10	3	10	38	45	-7	33	
Celta De Vigo	23	9	5	9	41	34	7	32	
Getafe	23	7	9	7	26	21	5	30	
Real Sociedad	24	8	5	11	46	45	1	29	
Leganes	23	8	5	10	20	25	-5	29	
Athletic Club	23	6	10	7	24	25	-1	28	
Deportivo	24	9	1	14	22	33	-11	28	
Espanyol	23	6	8	9	21	31	-10	26	
Levante	24	3	11	10	21	38	-17	20	
Las Palmas	24	5	3	16	18	52	-34	18	
Deportivo	24	4	5	15	24	53	-29	17	
Málaga	24	3	4	17	15	38	-23	13	

Bundesliga									
Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Gd	Pts	
Bayern	22	18	2	2	53	17	36	56	
Leverkusen	23	10	8	5	43	30	13	38	
Rb Leipzig	22	11	5	6	35	29	6	38	
Dortmund	22	10	7	5	47	29	18	37	
Schalke 04	23	10	7	6	36	30	6	37	
Frankfurt	22	10	6	6	30	25	5	36	
Hannover 96	23	8	8	7	32	33	-1	32	
Augsburg	23	8	7	8	32	29	3	31	
Hoffenheim	23	8	7	8	37	37	0	31	
M'gladbach	22	9	4	9	30	34	-4	31	
Hertha Bsc	23	7	9	7	30	30	0	30	
Freiburg	23	6	10	7	24	37	-13	28	
Stuttgart	23	8	3	12	19	27	-8	27	
Wolfsburg	23	4	12	7	26	30	-4	24	
Werder Bremen	23	5	8	10	21	28	-7	23	
Mainz 05	23	6	5	12	28	41	-13	23	
Hamburger Sv	23	4	5	14	18	34	-16	17	
Köln	23	3	5	15	20	42	-22	14	

'I don't care about Chelsea'

BARCELONA - Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde was glad his side stayed focused on beating Eibar to get their La Liga campaign back on track rather than let minds drift towards next week's showdown with Chelsea.

Valverde resisted the temptation to rest key men ahead of the Champions League last-16 first leg at Stamford Bridge tomorrow night.

Captain Andres Iniesta started in midfield, with Brazilian Philippe Coutinho, ineligible for the European tie, on the bench.

Barcelona's industry was rewarded with a 2-0 win at Ipurua, where Luis Suarez scored a well-crafted early goal before Jordi Alba added a late second after both Eibar winger Fabian Orellana and Manager Jose Luis Mendilibar had been sent off.

Following this result Barcelona are, temporarily at least, 10 points clear at the top of La Liga ahead of their closest challengers Atletico Madrid, who were in action against Athletic Bilbao yesterday.

"This match was very important for us after two draws in the league," Valverde said afterwards, quoted in the Spanish media.

"I don't care much about Chelsea, our objective was to win again. In Ipurua everybody suffers, nobody wins easy, but Tuesday is another story."

Barcelona's win saw them equal a club record of 31 matches unbeaten in La Liga, which had been set under Pep Guardiola during the 2010/11 campaign.

Valverde said: "Eibar pushed us very hard and were at a very high level, and I attribute our suffering to that."

"They were on an incredible streak of their own so the win has double merit."

"We are delighted with how things are going and that means we are doing something right, now we must continue."

Daily Mail

PSG come from behind to beat Strasbourg

PARIS - Edinson Cavani struck twice as Paris Saint-Germain beat Strasbourg 5-2 on Saturday to relieve some of the pressure on the runaway Ligue 1 leaders following their Champions League defeat at Real Madrid.

Strasbourg struck early through Jean Eudes Aholou, but PSG hit back courtesy of a Julian Draxler effort before two goals in as many minutes from Neymar and Angel Di Maria put

the home side in control.

Stephane Bahoken pulled one back midway through the second half as Strasbourg threatened an unlikely comeback, but Cavani's league-best 22nd and 23rd goals of the season ensured victory for Unai Emery's team.

Criticism

Captain Thiago Silva and Di Maria were recalled after Emery faced criticism for dropping them for the 3-1 loss in Madrid, and the coach was whistled by a section of home supporters unhappy with the Spaniard's

decisions in midweek.

Neymar was largely overshadowed by Cristiano Ronaldo in Spain on Wednesday, but the Brazilian could have struck within 90 seconds at the Parc des Princes when he was denied by the legs of Strasbourg goalkeeper Alexandre Oukidja.

The visitors, who inflicted PSG's first defeat of the season in early December, sprang another surprise by grabbing the lead on six minutes following a clinical counter-attack.

AFP

Higuain may miss CL tie with Tottenham

TORIN - Gonzalo Higuain could be a doubt for Juventus' Champions League last 16 second leg fixture against Tottenham after the Argentine striker limped off in his side's victory over Torino.

Higuain scored both of his side's goals in the 2-2 first leg draw last Tuesday but he now may be unable to play at Wembley in the return fixture next month after hobbling off yesterday.

The striker failed to make it past the 20 minute mark in the Derby della Mole as he took a blow to his ankle in a challenge with Torino goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu.

Higuain received treatment on the pitch and tried to continue playing but eventually called it a day and was replaced by Federico Bernardeschi. Television images cut to Higuain looking in a state of despair on the bench and his side will now have an anxious wait to see the extent of the damage.

One positive for Juve was the return of Paulo Dybala. The 24-year-old forward had not played for the Italian giants since January 6 but made a 30-minute cameo and looked sharp.

Daily Mail

'We speak less, maybe because of the game'

LONDON - 'I speak to some of them nearly every day,' Cesc Fabregas says of his friends back at Barcelona, the club he grew up at and spent nine years with, across two spells.

Now though, it's a little different: "Probably now, we speak less — maybe because of the game."

Chelsea believe they are back in their winning, no-fear, against-the-odds mindset ahead of tomorrow's Champions League last-16 first leg tie, and nothing comes in the way of that.

Manager Antonio Conte has been

drilling his players on Barcelona for a month. Perhaps that distraction hindered them in embarrassing defeats by Bournemouth and Watford but having beaten West Brom and Hull City Chelsea are confident again.

Conte says Barcelona have weaknesses to exploit. Fabregas, too, sees space to 'hurt' his former club.

This tie is special for the midfielder, who sandwiched his time at Arsenal with his two Nou Camp spells. He is still very close with Lionel Messi — they holiday together — and is in regular contact with the likes of Andres Iniesta and Gerard Pique.

AFP

2018 AFRICAN CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

TOUGH FINISH FOR TEAM SD IN RWANDA

Stories by Sibusiso Masilela
(In Kigali, Rwanda,
courtesy of OK Foods)



CYCLING - TEAM Swaziland have had it tough in the African Cycling Championships that came to an end yesterday in Kigali, Rwanda.

All three local stars Muzi Shabangu, Gcina Banda and Mduduzi Zwane couldn't finish the 156km of the Africa showpiece attended by over 10-member states.

National champion Shabangu completed nine laps out of the final 14 before he was disqualified.

The pair of Zwane and Banda also encountered unforeseen circumstances as they were both disqualified during the fourth lap after they were disturbed by an accident involving a Moroccan cyclist.

Speaking during separate interviews after the race, all the three cyclists said they gained the much needed experi-

THE TOP THREE RESULTS:

1. Ammonuel Grizgabhor (Eritrea) - 3.56.29
2. Metkal Eyob (Eritrea) - 3.58.22
3. Lagab Azzendine (Algeria) - 3.58.22

ence from taking part in the tournament.

Muzi stated that he was not tactically equipped for the tournament.

"It was a tough completion and the good thing is that I gained lot of experience where I will improve several aspects in my cycling career.

Acceleration

"These include acceleration and endurance which is something I hope to improve during the upcoming international competitions," he said.

Meanwhile, his teammate Zwane said he was happy to be part of such a big race.

"I have learnt a lot from the tournament and that is to improve on consistency and stamina. I am hoping to do better in the next competitions. I believe more training can help us improve," he said.

Zwane said he would be a better cyclist after this tournament.

Banda shared the same sentiments of gaining the much needed inter-



CHAMPION: 2018 African Cycling Championships winner Ammonuel Gbrizgabher from Eritrea crossing the finishing line of the 156km road race held yesterday in Kigali Rwanda. (Pics: Sibusiso Masilela)

national experience from taking part in the annual international competition.

"You can never buy experience and taking part in this race will develop

me as a cyclist. To me this was a learning curve and I am happy to have been part of this great tournament."

Meanwhile, Eritrean star Ammanuel Grizgabhar emerged victorious on the

day after clocking 3.56.29. He was followed by his countrymen Metkal Eyob, who clocked 3.58.22.

Coming third was Algerian cyclist Lagab Azzendine, who clocked 3.58.22.



LEFT - REPRESENTING : The Swazi national cycling team posing before the start of the race.



SHOWCASING: National star Muzi Shabangu showcasing his skills.



RACING: Mduduzi Zwane during the course of the race.

RIGHT - STARTING LINE: Team Swaziland members at the starting point of the race.



FOLLOWING: Cycling Association of Swaziland Sihlangu Nhlabatsi following proceedings while flanked by other delegates.

...WE NEED TO IMPROVE TRAINING METHODS - CAS

CYCLING - THE Cycling Association of Swaziland (CAS) believes the introduction of new training methods can help the country improve on the international cycling arena.

This was said by the association's President Sihlangu Nhlabatsi during the closing ceremony of the 2018 African cycling championships held in Kigali yesterday.

"We need to change our training methods as a country as you have seen the standard was high here.

"We need to have more inter-

national games for the national team. This will help the squad gain the needed international exposure."

He said the sooner they improved their training methods the better for the cyclists.

Upcoming

Nhlabatsi also stated that they would continue drilling the national team in preparations for upcoming competitions.

"We will not rest but go back to the drawing board to see how we can improve going forward. It is good that two of national team coaches in William Kelly and Mbusi Motsa attended inter-

national tournaments and this will help us a lot as country going forward."

He then thanked the government and sponsors for the continued support.

"We would like to thank the government and sponsors for their continuous support of the national team. We also promise to improve the standard of the sport in the country. This is the kind of exposure our cyclists need to also improve in their game," he also said.

The national team is expected back home this afternoon by road from Johannesburg.



MATSAPHA UNITED 3 -2 TAMBUTI



CAN'T PASS: Tambuti FC's Roy Mamba blocking Matsapha United's Sphamandla Dlamini during the MTN Premier League match at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday. United won 3-2. (Pics: Lucky Simelnae)



TUSSLE: United's Vusimuzi Zungu and Tambuti's Thobani Dlamini in a tussle for the ball.



JOB WELL DONE: Ziyai Verenga being congratulated by Sphamandla Dlamini after scoring an important goal.

MATSAPHA UNITED'S MOMENT



IT'S INSIDE: Matsapha United's first goal.



ANOTHER GOAL: Well beaten Tambuti goalkeeper



WINNING GOAL: United's Ziyai Verenga (23) scoring the team's third and winning goal.



HAPPY PEOPLE: Matsapha United supporters celebrating their team's performance.



SUPPORT: FA President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa (in spectacles) among the spectators.



PUSHING: Kwenzokuhle Khumalo and Thobani Dlamini fighting for the ball.



IN CELEBRATION: Sphamandla Dlamini joined by Banele Ndzabandzaba and Sifiso Maseko in celebrating their second goal.



THROUGH: Ziyai Verenga celebrating his winning goal.



Real Madrid are willing to offer 28-year-old Wales winger Gareth Bale plus £100m for Chelsea forward Eden Hazard, 27. (*Sunday Express*)

Chelsea would ask for Argentina striker Sergio Aguero, 29, if Manchester City made an approach for Belgium international Hazard. (*Star on Sunday*)

Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho had a dressing-room row with France midfielder Paul Pogba and 25-year-old England defender Phil Jones after his side's defeat by Newcastle last week. (*Sun on Sunday*)

Mourinho held an hour-long meeting to clear the air with Pogba last week. The 24-year-old missed Manchester United's FA Cup win over Huddersfield because of illness. (*Mail on Sunday*)

Manchester United and Spain goalkeeper David de Gea, 27, says he is 'really happy' at the club amid reports of a move to Real Madrid. (*Star on Sunday*)

Real boss Zinedine Zidane - who has been under pressure at the Bernabeu - says managing the Spanish giants is 'extremely tiring' and 'this profession can wear you out but here more than in other places'. (*Sunday Times*)

Borussia Dortmund's desire to make 24-year-old Belgium striker Michy Batshuayi's move permanent in the summer could give Chelsea the chance to bring USA forward Christian Pulisic, 19, in the opposite direction. (*Mail on Sunday*)

Manchester City are interested in signing Dortmund midfielder Julian Weigl, 22, but the German club want £40m for the Germany international. (*Sunday Mirror*)

Tottenham Manager Mauricio Pochettino is looking at signing 20-year-old Brazilian forward Richarlison and French midfielder Abdoulaye Doucoure, 25, from Watford in a £50m deal. (*Sun on Sunday*)

Liverpool winger Sadio Mane, 25, could be given an improved contract at Anfield. The Senegal international has three years remaining on his £80 000-a-week deal. (*Sunday Mirror*)

Bayern Munich's former Netherlands winger Arjen Robben, 34, says he has no plans to retire and is considering a move to either the United States, China or Qatar. (*Sportbuzzer - in Dutch*)

Besiktas Vice-President Ahmet Nur Cebi says the 'door is always open' for Everton striker Cenk Tosun to return to the club. The 26-year-old Turkey international has struggled to make an impact at Goodison Park since a £27m move in January. (*Haberturk, via Liverpool Echo*)

DON'T LET GO OF DOMINIC, 'BUFFS' LEADERSHIP URGED

Stories by Qondile Ntiwane

SOCCER - MINISTER of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcampalala has urged army Young Buffaloes not to let go the team's head coach Dominic Kunene.

The minister made the plea during the team's farewell function held at the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) Technical Centre in Lobamba on Saturday.

The team will take on SA Cape Town City in the second leg of the CAF Confederation Cup at the Athlone Stadium.

"Kunene has really done a great job here at Buffaloes as he has made the team a force to reckon with inside the field of play.

"If it were up to me, the team's

...Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcampalala made the plea during the team's farewell function held at the National Football Association of Swaziland Technical Centre in Lobamba on Saturday

leaders would let him continue with the great job he is doing.

"In football, we have seen that continuity is key to teams performing well both locally and internationally.

My advice to the coach would just to encourage him to continue working hard in ensuring the team scores the much needed goals," he said.

The minister then urged the coach to respect and work well with the team's management.

"Respect is key and as coach you need to lead by example and respect your bosses. By doing that, the players will also learn that this is the way to go," he said.

The army side left the country yes-



KEEP HIM CLOSE: Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcampalala.

terday morning to honour the second leg of their CAF Confederation Cup preliminary clash against Cape Town City.



MAKE US PROUD: Young Buffaloes. The team will take on SA side Cape Town City in the second leg of the CAF Confederation Cup at the Athlone Stadium.

Anything is possible in football - 'Nyandoro'

SOCCER - YOUNG Buffaloes Captain Mphile 'Nyandoro' Tsabedze has assured the nation will be all smiles when they return from Cape Town, South Africa.

Interviewed on Saturday, the captain said their main objective was winning the game against Cape Town City.

"Yes, we lost the first leg but

not by a big margin.

The spirit in the camp is very high and the squad is injury-free.

Win

"We are determined to win this game and it is very possible for us to win in South Africa. What I can say is that the nation will be happy with us," he said.

Meanwhile, the team's coach

Dominic Kunene said the team was ready for the game.

"We will be travelling with 18 players and I must say that everything is looking fine. We have worked on our finishing, which is one of the challenges we faced in the first leg. We created chances then but this time we will make use of them," he said

Applauds 'Bhiya' for sterling performance in first leg against CT City

SOCCER - YOUNG Buffaloes player Sifiso 'Bhiya' Mazibuko received accolades from Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcampalala for his sterling performance against Cape Town City.

The army side hosted the South African team in the first leg of the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary round at the Somhlolo National Stadium last Saturday.

Addressing the gathering during the team's farewell function held at the NFAS Technical Centre on Saturday, the minister said he was impressed by the player, as he gave the opposition a run for their money.

"I watched the game and believe that Buffaloes played very well. They matched the visiting side pound for pound inside the game but it was just unfortunate that you lost by that solitary goal. I was however impressed with player's performance during the game and urge you to keep up the good work."

"As a team you should take advantage of the fact that some players within the squad scare even the opposition," he added.

SA boxers for Swaziland bonanza

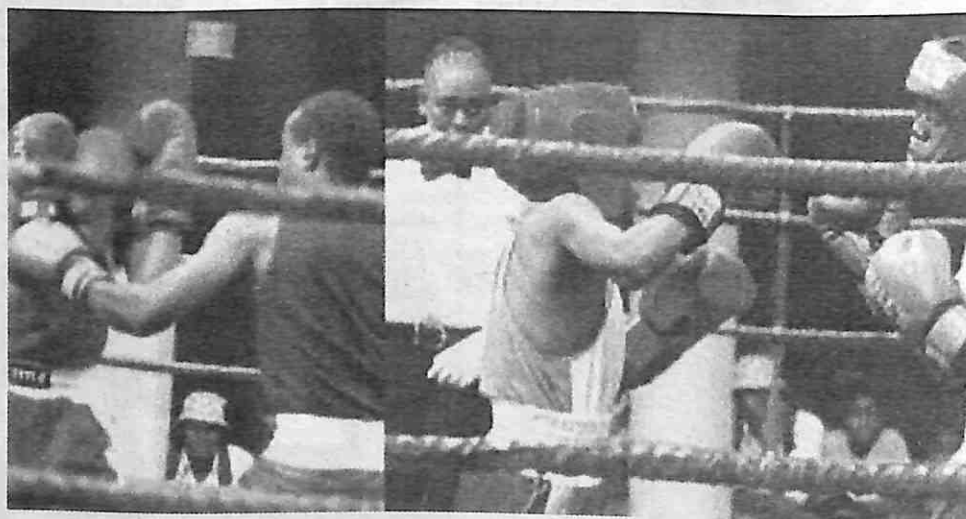
BOXING - SOUTH African pugilists Rofhiwa Maemu and Ayanda Nkosi will feature on the six-bout Africa Boxing Bill slated for the Royal Swazi Sun this Friday evening.

Information sourced from News24 is that Maemu will trade leather with Tanzanian Haidari Mchanjo for the WBA Pan African featherweight diadem over 12 rounds, and Nkosi will fight for his WBA Pan African lightweight belt against Kenyan contender Michael Odhiambo over the same number of rounds.

The bill is dominated by Mzansi fighters, with seven - Maemu, Nkosi, Hloni Maboko, Anthony Moloisane, Sikho Nqothole, Lemohang Mapitsi and Vusumuzi Nyawuza - of the 12 gladiators.

Other boxers featured on the bill are Mchanjo, Odhiambo, Kulwano Ogaketse (Botswana), Steven Bagwasi (Botswana) and Tshepang Babui (Botswana).

This will be the fifth edition of Fox Sports' Africa Boxing series and will be hosted by the Royal Swazi Spa.



It will be broadcast across 22 African countries and distributed to more than two million Fox Sports subscribers across the continent. Fox Sports is available in South Africa on

Starsat and Cell C Black. Besides being beamed live on Fox Sports 2 in the continent, the tournament will be available on Fox Sports Africa's Facebook page.



E200 000 PER MONTH TO RUN WANDERERS

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCKER - IT takes about E200 000 every month to run Manzini Wanderers, according to the club's CEO Pat Mahlalela.

Mahlalela revealed this during the club's supporters meeting held at the Manzini Library yesterday afternoon.

The CEO was responding to questions from the supporters, who wanted to know how the club's management used gate takings.

"Running Manzini Wanderers is expensive. In one month alone, we spend about E200 000 to run

the club. That covers things like wages and bookings for stadiums," Mahlalela said.

The CEO added that the monthly grant of E80 000 they received from sponsors Swazi Mobile as well as the gate takings was not enough to cover the club's expenses.

The E80 000 we receive from Swazi Mobile leaves us with a deficit of about E120 000.

We don't really make much from gate takings because of the various fines we have accumulated. Therefore, in every home game the PLS (Premier League of Swaziland) takes 30 per cent from our share. On average, 13 home games

bring us about E10 000 as a take home total from the gates which is a drop in the ocean really. Therefore our supporters should take note of the fact that the people running the club are contributing a lot financially as well," he said.

Mahlalela then told the supporters that the club had cut the number of players in its first team squad in order to cut expenses.

"We had 29 players in the first half of the season. That affected our wage bill. Therefore we agreed that we needed 23 players for our squad to be manageable. "Based on the technical team's recommendations, we then drew up a list of players who were sent out on loan. We now have 23 players as per the wishes of the directors and technical team," Mahlalela said.

We should have easily won the match - Saul

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCKER - MATSAPHA United head coach Saul Chamunika believes his side should have easily claimed the victory during yesterday's MTN Premier League match clash against Tambuti.

The mentor made this remarks during a post match interview after his side came from two goals down to win 3 - 2 against Tambuti.

Saul said they made it hard for themselves.

"I don't understand why we had to dig so deep to win this match. This game was one of the easiest and it should have been a stroll in the park as we did every-

thing accordingly inside the field of play. I just don't know how we allowed the opposition to frustrate us. We were the better team and should have wrapped up the match early."

When quizzed on his thoughts on a top four finish, the Zimbabwean native said he was optimistic his side would finish in the top-four bracket.

"We are left with five matches before the end of the league and I think we have a big chances of making it to the top four.

It will not be easy but it's possible. We just have to stay focused and take it one game at a time," he said.

Saul said he was happy with the win despite the fact that they had to dig deep. "We have got the three points and we should now focus on the next match. It is crunch time now

and we can't afford to drop points if we are to finish the league on a high."

He said they would continue working hard until the end of the season.

Meanwhile, his Tambuti counterpart Texan Phiri was also a pleases man despite the loss.

Honesty

"In all honesty, the players did everything inside the field of play but it was just not to be. Our only mistake was allowing them to score before the break because that goal was the one that exposed us. All in all, I am pleased with the performance my boys. They executed the game plan very well."

Coming to complacency woes, the coach said they had to be more careful in the remaining league games.

"We have to treat every match like a cup final now. It is true we are not in a good position and winning games is the only thing we have to do in the remaining games." He said they would fight until the bitter end.

PLEASED WITH WIN: Matsapha United head coach Saul Chamunika.

We miss 'Order', Junior - Pirates coach Ernest

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCKER - MONENI Pirates coach Ernest Mavuso says his side feels the gap left behind by midfielders Fanelo 'Order' Mamba and Junior Magagula.

The coach said this after his side was beaten 2-0 by Manzini Wanderers in an entertaining MTN Premier League match at the Mavuso Sports Centre on Saturday.

The two midfielders left the club in the recent January transfer window with Mamba joining Young Buffaloes while Magagula joined Royal Leopard.

Speaking to the media after the match, Mavuso said they were missing the two players.

"We miss them very much. We miss both our players because they were assets to us but we will work around developing other players who will fill the gap. Hopefully before long we will get back to playing well," Mavuso said.

Meanwhile,

...while Nyanga left incensed with showboating

Manzini Wanderers coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe expressed his unhappiness at his players after their showboating towards the end of the match.

Wingers Mike Dombo and Siculo 'Junior' Simelane were the two main entertainers and even though this delighted the Wanderers supporters, coach Hlophe was less than impressed.

"We didn't perform well. Showboating is not my thing.

I'm grateful for the three points but I don't want showboating. The three points are important but here we are developing players for the nation and showboating is not the right thing to do," Hlophe said.

FEELING THE GAP: Moneni Pirates coach Ernest Mavuso.



'Ace' gracious in defeat

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCKER - NEW Manzini Sundowns coach Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini

says he needs to make a few tweaks before his side is ready to compete and win football matches.

Dlamini said this after watching his side lose 0-2 to Royal Leopard in an MTN Premier League match at the Mavuso Sports Centre on Saturday.

The match was Dlamini's first in charge of Sundowns and the experienced coach was full of praise for his players in his post match comments.

"We played good football and we missed chances. There are a few things I will address and it will be alright I promise you. It was my first day watching these players in competition and they are quite a good side. They play good football. There a few inter-

nal cases I need to solve which cost us today (Saturday), just slight ones. They are a good side. I am more than impressed," Dlamini said.

Meanwhile, Leopard coach Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane praised his players for being clinical. "The team that took its chances won.

They created chances, we created many chances and fortunately we scored two and kept a clean sheet.

We are still blending in our new players but they played very well, I am happy," Ntibane said.

MAKING FEW TWEAKS: Manzini Sundowns coach Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini.



WEEKEND RESULTS

ABSA Premiership		
Kaizer Chiefs	1-0	Cape Town City FC
Golden Arrows	1-2	Blodvest Wits
Baroka FC	0-0	Chippa United

Bundesliga		
Augsburg	0-1	Stuttgart
Schalke 04	2-1	Hoffenheim
Freiburg	1-0	Werder Bremen
Hamburger SV	1-2	Bayer Leverkusen
Wolfsburg	1-2	Bayern München
Köln	1-1	Hannover 96

Spanish La Liga		
Atlético Madrid	2-0	Athletic Club
Real Sociedad	3-0	Levante
Málaga	1-2	Valencia
Deportivo Alavés	1-0	Deportivo La Coruña
Eibar	0-2	Barcelona
Las Palmas	1-2	Sevilla

Italian Serie A		
Napoli	1-0	SPAL
Benevento	3-2	Crotone
Bologna	2-1	Sassuolo
Torino	0-1	Juventus
Genoa	2-0	Internazionale
Chievo	2-1	Cagliari
Udinese	0-2	Roma

FA Cup		
Rochdale	2-2	Tottenham Hotspur
Huddersfield Town	0-2	Manchester United
Brighton & Hove Albion	3-1	Coventry City
West Bromwich Albion	1-2	Southampton
Sheffield Wednesday	0-0	Swansea City

E40 for 'Birds', Bantu CAF clash

By Qondile Ntiwane

SOCCER – SUPPORTERS will pay E40 to witness local giants Mbabane Swallows take on Lesotho outfit Bantu FC.

The 'Beautiful Birds' will host the visitors in the return leg of the CAF Champions League preliminary round clash at the Somhlolo National Stadium on Wednesday afternoon, starting at 4pm. Mbabane Swallows General Manager Sandile 'Beyond' Zwane said they decided to charge an affordable fee to show their appreciation to their supporters, who have continued to rally behind them even in the toughest of times.

He said they were touched by the number of fans, who came through to support the team in the first leg encounter played at the Setsoto Stadium in Maseru, Lesotho last Sunday.

"We usually charge E40 for domestic games but we decided it would be good to charge the same even for this game because we understand that our supporters paid a lot of money to travel to Lesotho. We also took into consideration the fact that it is both mid-week and mid-month and that money is scarce around these times," he said.

Zwane then invited their supporters and Swazi nation to come in great numbers for the game.

"The presence of our supporters motivates the players and we urge them to try and attend without fail. Not only are we appealing to the Swallows supporters but the Swazi nation," he said.

He added that their preparations for the game were at advanced stage and that they were looking forward to the game.

"This is an important game for the team and we don't want to go into it with big-heads after winning the first leg. If we can score four goals so can the opposition and that is why we need to stay focused," he said.

The Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati-led charges go into this game with an advantage after recording a 4-2 victory against Bantu FC.



Resilient Matsapha edge Tambuti

By Sibusiso Dlamini

Matsapha United..... (1)3
Tambuti..... (2)2

SOCCER – A resilient Matsapha United showed character as they came from two goals behind to eventually beat Tambuti 3-2.

This was during an MTN Premier League match played at the Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday. The Texan Phiriled Tambuti started the match like a house on fire as diminutive midfielder Simanga Dlamini manoeuvred in the middle of the park, causing all sorts of trouble for the opposition.

They drew first blood in the 13th minute from the spotkick after Sikelela Dlamini handled the ball inside the 18 area box whilst attempting a clearance.

Trusted Tambuti servant Ugochukwu Qhakwa, who just returned from a frustrating stint with Red Lions, stepped up to take it and sent Khanyakwezwe

Gamedze's death, rumours started circulating that incensed Wanderers supporters had murdered the PLS chairman.

Wanderers supporters, speaking at their meeting at the Manzini Library yesterday afternoon, called upon the PLS to clear their name of any wrongdoing.

Accused

"We want it to be known that we didn't kill Mr Victor Gamedze. It was extremely hurting to be accused of such. We were really insulted. The PLS hasn't gone to the media to clear our name. The 1-0 loss wasn't the first time we lost to Swallows.

Before that they had beaten us 6-

0 and we accepted it and moved on. Our war with Swallows won't end anytime soon unless the PLS intervenes swiftly and clears our name," one supporter said.

Another supporter said he had even been called by police who questioned him on Gamedze's death.

Suspects

"These accusations have really hurt us. Personally, I was even called by the police who asked me of my whereabouts because I own a red car, similar to the one which was used by the suspects as a getaway car from the scene of the murder. We would like to task our management to go to the PLS and request them to clear our name," the sup-

porter said.

During the first Premier League matches played after Gamedze's death on January 28, Wanderers supporters blew vuvuzelas and chanted during a moment of silence held in honour of Gamedze.

At the meeting attended by over 70 people yesterday, one supporter also bemoaned the behaviour of the club's fans on that day.

"We embarrassed ourselves. And no, the people who did this were not supporters of other clubs.

They are Wanderers supporters, I saw them.

We failed to follow laid down football principles," the supporter said.



THRILLER: A Matsapha United player celebrates after scoring one of their goals. Matsapha United edged Tambuti in a five goal thriller played at Mavuso Sports Centre. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

Shabalala the opposite direction to put Tambuti on the lead.

Connected

10 minutes later, the Lubombo based side doubled the lead through a header from Machawe Khumalo, who connected a beautiful cross from the left flank.

After the goal, Matsapha United started having a sense of urgency and showed intention in their attack. Vusumuzi Zungu and Banele Ndzabandzaba tried to string passes to make the team play.

The likes of Siphamandla Dlamini

and Zivai Yerenga failed to get behind the Tambuti defence.

Defenders

The 'Deep Blue Ocean' eventually reduced the deficit right at the stroke of half time through Zivai Yerenga, who finished off with an easy tap-in after Siphamandla Dlamini had done all the work, eliminating all Tambuti defenders on the right flank. The match went to break with Tambuti leading 2-1.

After the break, Matsapha came back a much better side as they went in search for the elusive equaliser.

MTN Premier League log

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Mbabane Swallows	21	15	6	0	37	11	26	51
Young Buffaloes	21	14	5	2	35	11	24	47
Green Mamba	21	12	4	5	36	18	18	40
Matsapha United	21	8	9	4	21	17	4	33
Manzini Wanderers	21	10	4	7	24	23	1	33
Royal Leopard	21	8	8	5	23	16	7	32
Malanti Chiefs	21	8	5	8	27	32	-5	29
Mbabane Highlanders	21	7	7	7	21	19	5	28
Manzini Sundowns	21	6	9	6	24	20	4	27
Moneni Pirates	21	5	10	6	20	24	-4	25
Vovovo	21	7	2	12	18	29	-11	23
Tambuti	21	5	4	12	20	32	-12	19
Red Lions	21	3	3	15	16	36	-20	12
Midas City	21	0	2	19	10	47	-36	2

Saul Chamunikwa introduced seasoned midfielder Dennis 'Yuki' Masina for Sikelela Dlamini.

Their efforts came to fruition in the 55th minute as Sifiso Maseko headed in a Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze cross to make it 2-2.

Matsapha pushed numbers forward and it was only a matter of time before they rattled the net and again it was Zimbabwean striker Zivai, who trapped the ball with his right foot from a Siphamandla pass before releasing a thunderous bolt from an awkward angle to beat the Tambuti goalkeeper hands down. The hosts tried to come back but Matsapha held on until the final whistle to take six points against Tambuti this season.