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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2018

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UYAYIFUNA NA ACTIVATION TURNS HEADS



UYAYIFUNA NA?: Models from Swaziland Institute, Phiwi Thibo, Bubbles, Nosimilo, Tengcebo, Claudia, Tiffany and Boity clad in SwaziBank branded soccer jerseys during the SwaziBank Cup 2018 activation at Bhunu Mall and Swazi Plaza yesterday. (Pic: Lucky Simelane) MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 41

**YOU CAN
DONATE
OVER E1M
TOWARDS
50/50**

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**JOINT
MEMORIAL
SERVICE
FOR 8 TRUCK
VICTIMS**

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**BUDGET
SPEECH NEXT
TUESDAY
- SPEAKER**

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A CLASSIC CASE OF LICALA KALIBOLI...

HUNTER ARRESTED FOR **RAPE** OF DAUGHTER

...Incident
allegedly
happened
in 2016

26 COPS FOR TV LICENCE RAIDS

STORY
ON PAGE 20



STORY
ON
PAGE 3

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2 NATIONAL NEWS

Will Sipho get bail or not?

By Observer Reporter

TODAY marks 37 days since Victor Gamedze was gunned down at Ezulwini's Galp Filling Station in front of several witnesses comprising soccer fans.

This week brought the number of suspects in custody to three after the arrests of South African Mbuso 'Ncaza' Nkosi as well as Siphwe 'Ntjibe/Tata' Ngubane. They were arrested by South African police in collaboration with their local counterparts who enlisted their assistance following reports that the two had skipped the border following the murder.

Prime suspect Sipho Shongwe was arrested five days after Gamedze's death with the two recently arrested suspects identified from close circuit television footage taken from a shop they visited prior to them allegedly committing the offence.

SIPHO'S BAIL APPLICATION:

WHAT SHONGWE SAYS: Sipho Shongwe says he is a sickly person as he suffers from a peptic ulcer and has issues with his breathing manifested by hay fever. Due to these afflictions, he can only eat a special diet. Due to being managing director of Matsapha United Football Club which has three teams within the senior as well as junior leagues, his responsibilities see him being a board member of Premier League of Swaziland. His responsibilities include overseeing property worth over E14.9 million which include a house in Ezulwini, a farm in Malkems, a warehouse in Matsapha Industrial Site, a lodge in Matsapha, a vacant plot in Manzini as well as a home in Ngculwini. Further, he owns and manages Gree Air Conditioning which need constant performance management appraisal to meet demands of the franchisor. He employs 40 people and provides a living for 100 people who depend on him for sustenance. He disputes ever threatening Gamedze or anybody with violence and did not harbour any resentment against any person to the extent

Ngubane and Nkosi were sought together with local Sicelo 'Dzodzo' Zikalala who was initially suspected to have skipped the country for South Africa with later unconfirmed reports pointing him towards Mozambique.

His escape came about after a police officer allegedly alerted him of the raid on his home by the police which would commence a few hours later.

He has been on the run ever since. When Zikalala's identity and that of his two alleged accomplices was revealed, a reward of E450 000 was offered by the police.

This past week, the police revealed that the suspects are likely to face three charges each.

While the police try to bring the South Africans to Swaziland to face their alleged crimes, Matsapha businessman Sipho Shongwe has been trying to get out of custody through a bail application.

that on hearing alleged rumours that he wanted to kill Gamedze, he took the initiative and approached Deputy Commissioner Richard Mngomezulu to assist him mediate. This resulted in the meeting where his neighbour and friend Thulani Xaba came to be witness whereas Gamedze came with his friend Nqaba Dlamini (now deceased). He states that he has no previous conviction in Swaziland and refutes that he could have had a hand on the murder of Gamedze as he was never in Ezulwini but at Ngculwini during the incident. He says there is no strong case against him and would suffer irreparable harm and prejudice if not granted bail as it was unlikely that his trial will be concluded within the next 24 months by virtue of state of court roll. He believes there is no likelihood that his release would endanger public safety or that of a particular individual. He will abide by the bail conditions and will see to it that he surrenders his passport and requests it for the duration of his business trips to China and South Africa and would not attempt to avoid trial.

WHAT THE POLICE SAY

THE police do not dispute that Sipho Shongwe is a sickly person and hence his wife has been, since his arrest, given leeway to provide him meals for him unhindered.

The police noted that even though Shongwe states he is director of the team, Matsapha United is registered under Sibusiso Shongwe and his son Sifiso Mbusi Shongwe hence the club can continue operating without him. The police concurred that he was erstwhile board member of the Premier League of Swaziland, however, he was replaced. His assertions that he owned Gree Swaziland were not entirely true as he was not the only director as he is registered co-owner with Sibusiso Mduduzi Shongwe who can also take care of the business. The police note that Shongwe does not substantiate the allegations that he pays salary and school fees for the 100 members of staff as he does not show how much his businesses make nor whether he makes statutory contributions. They further believe Sipho Shongwe only started staying at Ngculwini after he arrived in the country in 2008. This was after his alleged escape from custody in 2008 from South Africa. He was convicted in 2001 by the Pretoria High Court for murder, attempted murder as well as theft earning him two life sentences as well as 23-years in custody. Shongwe noted an appeal

against both conviction and sentence at the North Gauteng High Court, the Bloemfontein Supreme Court of Appeal, as well as the Constitutional Court of Appeal, where his appeal was dismissed.

He was not released in March 25, 2008 because the liberation warrant was revealed by the South African Police Service as fraudulent. His fingerprints match those of Sipho 'City' Shongwe. The local police highlight that disciplinary action was taken against the correctional officers involved in his fraudulent release and he would have qualified for parole on February 28, 2021 from the South African prison he was held. South African police made a request to the South African National Director of Public Prosecutions that he be extradited to complete his sentence and further be tried for escaping from lawful custody, perjury, forgery as well as uttering. There is also a request for provisional arrest of Shongwe pending an application for extradition by the Republic of South. Due to having previously escaped from custody, hence the conviction in Amsterdam, South Africa for escaping or attempting to escape from custody, Shongwe is deemed able to manipulate the neighbouring country's justice system which makes it probable that nothing can prevent him from evading the Swazi system.

HOW SIPHO WAS ARRESTED

HE was on his way to South Africa with his wife on January 19.

He had previously left the country a day after Victor Gamedze was murdered on January 15 to return two days later.

By his own admissions, he was arrested while taking his wife out for the weekend. His wife

was released, and services of a lawyer were sought.

On the same day of his arrest, his son was arrested entering the country with E60 000 which was undeclared. Shongwe was charged with murder which he says was based on social media allegations.

YOU CAN DONATE OVER E1 MILLION TOWARDS 50/50

By Mbono Mdluli
Ezulwini

THE 50/50 Resource Mobilisation Committee has intensified the fundraising initiative for the double celebrations.

The double celebrations will be held on April 19 at Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre. The celebrations will mark the 50th birthday of His Majesty King Mswati III and the 50th anniversary of the country's independence from the British.

The 50/50 Resource Mobilisation Committee yesterday held a press conference at Gigi's, Royal Swazi Convention Centre in Ezulwini to announce how funds for the event would be raised.

Chairman of the committee Cleopas Dlamini stated that what they were doing was to allow Swazis to contribute, financially or otherwise, towards the success of the event.

This was in line with Swazi culture dictates.

"It is a cultural norm for Swazis to join hands in support of any occasion of national significance such as this one. In that spirit of unity, the government established a Resource Mobilisation Committee, with membership from the private sector to rally the business community, related institutions and individuals to partner with her in raising resources required for hosting this momentous occasion," Dlamini said.

Dlamini further mentioned that the committee had already issued direct appeals for contributions to various business entities around the country.

He urged the nation to come forward and contribute towards the success of the event.

Contributions could be either financially, donations in kind, and sponsoring a specific event.

For those who want to donate money for the event, a bank account has been opened with Standard Bank.

The account has been opened in Mbabane, but donations could be made from any Standard Bank branch in the

...It is a cultural norm for Swazis to join hands in support of any occasion of national significance such as this one. In that spirit of unity, the government established a Resource Mobilisation Committee, with membership from the private sector to rally the business community, related institutions and individuals to partner with her in raising resources required for hosting this momentous occasion



MONEY MAKER: Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) CEO Cleopas Dlamini announcing how the 50/50 Resource Mobilisation Committee would raise funds for the 50/50 double celebrations in April. This took place yesterday at Gigi's Royal Swazi Spa in Ezulwini. (Pics: Mbono Mdluli)

THE DETAILS OF THE ACCOUNT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ACCOUNT NAME: The 50/50 Double Celebration Account
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 9110002365661
BANK: Standard Bank
BRANCH: Mbabane Branch
BRANCH CODE: 663164
SWIFT: SBICSZMX

country.

Chairman of the 50/50 Resource Mobilisation Committee Cleopas Dlamini said people could still donate anything they had, even if it was not money. Financial contributions have also been categorised according to the financial value of the sponsorship made per the following classes:

Platinum – E1 million and above
Gold – E500 000 to E999 999
Silver – E250 000 to E499 999

Bronze – E100 000 to E249 999

Dlamini said each level of sponsorship would carry with it a deserving recognition complement during the event.

Sponsors would be advised of such in due course. Dlamini also mentioned that they had not yet secured an opportunity for ordinary people to make donations in front of the King.

He said they were going to ask for such an opportunity.



BIG BOYS: Swazi MTN CEO Ambrose Dlamini, Swaziland Sugar Association CEO Phil Mnisi and Standard Bank CE Mvuselelo Fakudze following proceedings during the event.

APOLOGY

IN our story, 'Asians takeover of retail sector brings strange culture', published on Saturday February 17, 2018 (page 19), we published a picture of a complex, Patisma Supermarket in Nsingizini as one of such complexes that are being occupied by Asian businessmen.

We wish to retract this and also clarify that Patisma Supermarket is not being run by Asians. We wish to unreservedly apologise to the owner of the complex for this misleading information, and for publishing the picture of the complex alongside this article.



Budget speech likely to be tabled next Tuesday

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

THE much-anticipated national budget speech is likely to be presented next Tuesday, a day after Parliament's first sitting this year.

This was disclosed by House of Assembly Speaker Themba Msibi when contacted about the matter yesterday.

The speaker mentioned that the House would convene its first sitting next Monday and it is most likely that Finance Minister Martin Dlamini would present the national budget speech.

However, Finance Sessional Committee Chairman Patrick Pha Motsa said he would not confirm nor deny the date hinted by the speaker.

He said his committee and the ministry of finance is yet to meet over the budget before it is approved by Cabinet.

Motsa said after a blessing from Cabinet, it can then be tabled in the House of Assembly.

This is expected to happen starting today until next week Tuesday.

The meeting between the committee and the ministry is usually meant to allow the ministry of finance to brief the committee on how much the other

ministries wanted to implement their plans in the coming fiscal year.

If the committee finds it sensible, it can allow the budget speech to be delivered.

Dvokodweni MP Musa Sitezi Dlamini, who is also a member of the Finance Sessional Committee, said they were expected to start meeting the ministry today.

He said they were going to deliberate on what was in store for this year's budget. He also mentioned that it was important for them to ensure that the needs of the people in constituencies were prioritised.



MONEY TALKS: Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini.

Dlamini said there was a need for units like Micro-Projects and entities like the Regional Development Fund (RDF) to be given priority in

the budget. The MP understood that Micro-Projects and RDF could not be given everything they needed, but had to be given enough money because they helped in improving lives of ordinary people in constituencies.

Last year, Members of Parliament (MPs) rejected the budget because they felt it was not meeting the needs of ordinary Swazis in constituencies.

The motion to reject the budget was moved by the Dvokodweni legislator. However, the MPs had to let the budget pass after they had some closed meetings with the executive.

HUNTER SHONGWE ARRESTED FOR RAPE OF DAUGHTER (15)

COVER STORY

By Sandile Nkambule
and Sibusiso Gamedze
High Court

PROMINENT and controversial Private Investigator Hunter Vusi Shongwe has been arrested for allegedly raping his 15-year-old daughter.

Shongwe, who doubles as a pastor with the Jericho sect, was rounded up by the Mbabane police in the early hours of Monday for the incident which was allegedly committed at Mvutjini at the foot of Malagwane Hill where Shongwe is resident.

The rape incident allegedly happened in 2016. No explanation has been advanced why it has taken the police this long to act on the matter. He is also facing other charges (see below). He first appeared for a routine remand hearing at the Mbabane Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Following his arrest, his lawyer Derrick Jele of Robinson Bertram yesterday moved an urgent bail application on his behalf at the High Court while he was still kept at the Mbabane Police Station.

The matter is before High Court Principal Judge Qinisile Mabuza.

He submitted in his papers that he is currently kept at the Mbabane Police Station and is desirous to be admitted to bail. Shongwe stated that he will plead not guilty to the charge during trial and that the offence he is charged with is not known to him.

His arrest comes after that of allegedly contravening the civil aviation rules after he was charged for illegally flying a drone at Mvutjini in 2015, a matter which is still pending in court.

Its trial was finalised and all that is pending is judgment.

Jele submitted that his client (Shongwe) is entitled to bail, stating that he should not be kept in custody for the fun of it. Jele expressed concern that delay-

...My friends I have been arrested on a charge of rape of my own daughter. They say I did this two years ago and many other charges I know nothing about, but I have this question to ask; if I lost my mind and raped my own child and the police knew about all this, then why did it take the police all this time to arrest me?

HUNTER'S CHARGES

■ On Count One, Shongwe is charged with rape which allegedly occurred in 2016.

■ On Count Two he is charged with contravening Section 15 (4) (5) as read with Section (6) of the Arms and Ammunition Act 24 of 1964, in that upon or about 19 February 2018 at or near Mvutshini in the Hhohho region, the said accused person being a holder of a valid licence to possess a firearm did wrongfully and unlawfully fail to take reasonable precautions to ensure that ammunition of a firearm was kept in safe custody or condition while at Mvutshini and thus committed and contravened the said Act.

■ On Count Three the accused is charged with contravening Section 16 of the Identification Order 4 of 1998, in that upon or about the 26th of January 2017 at or near the BMD offices in Manzini region, the accused person did wrongfully and unlaw-



ARRESTED: PI Hunter Shongwe.

fully made a false statement to the regional civil registrar to issue a birth certificate and thus contravened the said Act.

■ On the last count the accused contravened sections of the Children's Welfare and Protection Act of 2012.

ing his bail would result in the police officers committing him to the Sidvashini Correctional facility while awaiting his remand.

However, in its submission, the Crown, represented by Principal Crown Counsel Macebo Nxumalo, applied that the matter be postponed and filed a notice of intention to oppose the bail application. Nxumalo submitted that his office is still working with the investigating officers as more evidence has been brought up with regards the matter.

He applied that the matter be postponed in order for the crown to file its papers after having made consultations with the investigating officers.

However, Judge Mabuza noted that the offence Shongwe is charged with involves a 15-year-old as opposed to a minor child, noting that there were cases that involved alleged rape of two-year olds. Judge Mabuza ordered that the crown file its papers by 10am tomorrow and the bail application be heard at 2:30pm on the same day to avoid further delays in the urgent bail application.

He applied that the matter be postponed in order for the crown to file its papers after having made consultations with the investigating officers.

would not do such to my children or to anyone. Please find it in your hearts to understand my case while the law takes its course.

"Right now, I am in jail while my lawyers are busy trying to get me a bail, until then I'm in jail and I cannot reply as the phone will be taken away from me until I'm out on bail thanks for your friendship and" he wrote.

...Hunter takes to Facebook after arrest

PRIVATE Investigator Hunter Shongwe took to Facebook to vent his anger after he was arrested for allegedly raping his daughter.

"My friends I have been arrested on a charge of rape of my own daughter. They say I did this two years ago and many other charges I know nothing about, but I have this question to ask; if I lost my mind and raped my own

Winnie is still 100% minister - Percy

Stories by Lungelo
Nkambule
Mbabane

THE Minister of Labour Winnie Magagula is still 100 per cent part of Cabinet, Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane said yesterday.

The minister, who was rudely kicked out of Parliament last Friday because of her widow status, was in Cabinet yesterday deliberating on national issues. Magagula was on Friday asked to excuse parliamentarians who were awaiting the arrival of Their Majesties for the official opening of Parliament.

Nothing wrong with minister asked to leave parliament - Gelane Zwane

"THERE was nothing wrong and abnormal with the minister of labour being asked to leave Parliament last Friday."

Widowed Senate President Gelane Zwane said while she wasn't in attendance at the official opening of the fifth session of the tenth Parliament, from what she had read there was nothing abnormal with what happened to Minister Winnie Magagula on the day. Zwane said people needed to be aware of what culture dictated in order to understand what unfolded on the day.

"You need to understand that it was

She was told to vacate the building because her ex-husband had died late last year and as per Swazi norm, widows do not mingle with Their Majesties for two years after the demise of the husband. Called yesterday, Simelane said Magagula remained a Cabinet minister and she was with other ministers for the Tuesday weekly meeting.

"She is still 100 per cent a minister and she is in the Cabinet meeting as we speak," he said.

He further said cabinet ministers were appointed by His Majesty and they would be fired by him through the prime minister.

not a normal sitting. Their Majesties were in attendance, hence things were different. She couldn't have been in the same vicinity as Their Majesties. She can attend Parliament, just not on special days like that," she said.

Zwane said as far as she was concerned, Magagula was not fired from her job as a minister but was asked to leave on that particular day.

"Kwakunalomunye umuntfu ngalelola tintfo tasetjikile," she said in vernacular. Zwane said unlike in her case, Magagula could continue with her work as a minister and as a senator.

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BIG PRAYER AT SEC TRUCK ACCIDENT SCENE

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

NKHABA community will tomorrow hold a prayer at the scene where an accident involving a Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) truck and a kombi claimed eight lives.

According to the Nkhamba Member of Parliament Menzi Dlamini the community will gather at the scene of the accident to pray before heading to the old *inkhundla* where a service will be held.

"We will on Thursday (tomorrow) have a prayer service near the Clinic

We will tomorrow have a prayer service near the Clinic at the old inkhundla beginning at 12 noon. This service will be preceded by a prayer that will take place at the scene of the accident at 10 am

at the old *inkhundla* beginning at 12 noon. This service will be preceded by a prayer that will take place at the scene of the accident at 10 am," he said.

Dlamini said the service would be attended by the affected families, kombi association, SEC and the Sincephetelo-Motor Vehicle Accident

Fund (MVA).

Dlamini encouraged all residents of the area to be a part of the service.

Affected

"We will be with the eight families, those affected and members of the public who will be a part of the prayer," he said. The accident happened last Friday afternoon where

a truck and a kombi collided. Six people died on the spot, one died upon arrival at the hospital and the eighth died a day after the accident happened.

SEC has given each family of the victims E15 000 as compensation. The funerals are expected to take place this weekend.



SUPPORTIVE: Most of the victims were from places such as kaNcesi and Nkhamba. The delegation completed the visits to all the eight families yesterday.



RECEIVED WELL: The families of the victims gave the heart-broken delegation a warm welcome.



ALSO PRESENT: Swaziland Electricity Company Managing Director Meshack Kunene led the delegation during the visits.



IN MOURNING: The Swaziland Electricity Company executive and Hhohho kombis association members at one of the victim's homestead. The company forked out E120 000 to be shared amongst the families for funeral expenses.

SEC MD, team complete visits of victims' families

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

THE Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) team has now visited all the victim's families who were involved in a fatal accident last Friday.

The purpose of the visits was for SEC to mourn the deaths of the victims who lost their lives during the horrific accident where a company truck collided with a Toyota Quantum that was headed towards Pigg's Peak. SEC gave E15 000 to each family to cater for funeral costs of their loved ones.

Six of them died on the spot and two of them died while undergoing treatment at Mbabane Government Hospital. SEC Marketing and Corporate Affairs Manager Sifiso Dhlamini said they had finished visiting the victims' families. "We completed the visits of families of all eight victims who were involved in the accident.

Five of the families were visited on Monday and the other three were visited yesterday," Dhlamini said. He further stated that most of the families that were affected were situated along the Pigg's Peak-Motshane road. Most of the families were in places such as Nkhamba and KaNcesi. One was found to be situated at KaNdinda under Ntongozi *Inkhundla*. Dhlamini said



OUR LOSS TOO: Some of the delegation members in a discussion with the SEC managing director about the prayer service to be held tomorrow at the scene of the accident in honour of the victims.

they were warmly received by all the families that lost their loved ones during the accident.

The families were convinced that indeed, SEC was a company with a heart.

The families were further humbled by the physical presence of SEC Managing Director (MD) Meshack Kunene. The families felt consoled by the kind gesture displayed by the company. The families also understood that the company had not intended to have such an

unfortunate accident.

"Relatives of the victims mentioned they also felt pity for the company as the accident could not have been avoided as it was God's plan," he said. SEC visited the families with Hhohho and Mbabane Kombi Association.

According to reliable sources close to the matter, a memorial service is supposed to be held on Friday at Nkhamba *Inkhundla*. The service would be preceded by a service to be held at the accident scene tomorrow.



Celebrating
International Mother
Language Day



Usanetfwa yimvula ngendzaba yekuyotsenga i-Airtime?

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7. Khetsa kutsi ufaka i-airtime yamali
8. Chafata 'Confirm' bese ulindza umlayeto we-airtime

FNB App

1. Ngena kuFNB App ufake iPin yakho
2. Facata 'Buy' bese ukhetsa 'Prepaid Airtime'
3. Faka inombolo yamahlalekhikhini lomutsengelako
4. Khetsa 'Purchase'
5. Cinisekisa imininingwane loyifakile
6. Chafata 'Finish' bese ulindza umlayeto we-airtime

Tsenga utfole i-Airtime Ngekushesha. KaMalula.
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6 NATIONAL NEWS

LALUFADLANA MEMBERS THREATEN TO MARCH TO KING

Stories by Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

HAVING delivered a petition to the Municipal Council of Mbabane in September last year, Lalufadlana association members are threatening to march to Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini and His Majesty King Mswati III as the council is not giving them feedback on the issue.

The members of the association, comprising elderly people, crammed the municipality headquarters yesterday demanding answers from Mbabane Mayor Sikhatsi Dlamini on why the council is not giving them feedback regarding their petition.

The petition has a number of complaints from the residents coming from different Zones and areas across Mbabane, including Mahwalala, Mangwaneni, Msunduzi and many others.

The primary wish for the members is to have the council's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gideon Mhlongo step down.



THEY MEET: Lalufadlana association executive members pictured inside the council's chamber.

"The CEO has ruined the town of Mbabane and the staff at the council has adopted his arrogance, which is reflected in the way they treat people. The way he treat us is very painful, especially the unprincipled laws that he put into practice.

He ordered that no one should renovate their houses if they haven't paid five years rates and some of the residents are living under terrible circumstances because of that.

They don't afford the rates," said Ndlavela Dlamini, who is the Communications Officer for Lalufadlana.

Among other things outlined in the petition is that of 4Him Security Services, which the members of the association feel was imposed on them by Mhlongo after getting rid of rangers that were responsible for providing security in Mbabane.

They lamented the death of a Mangwaneni



PROTEST: Elderly people who were part of the delegation that went to the Municipal Council of Mbabane yesterday displaying placards calling for the dismissal of CEO Gideon Mhlongo. (Pics: Zwelethu Dlamini)

resident at the hands of 4Him Security guards in 2016, wondering why no one was arrested for the murder.

"What is so special about Mhlongo that makes him untouchable? He was fired in 2003 owing to investigations on misdeeds but he has since bounced back. He retrenched our relatives and he gets a hefty monthly salary. We have had enough of this man and if our wish is not granted, we will march to the PM and His Majesty the King to pitch our complaints because obviously the council has failed us," continued Dlamini.

Mhlongo is also blamed for imposing the law that gives the council the right to repossess land if the head of the home dies while owing rates, regardless of whether there are children inhabiting the home, which they say is against the Urban Government Act.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPLICATION FOR REZONING

We Shiselweni Timber and Steel (Pty) Ltd owners of the property in question, hereby make a Public notice in terms of Clause 1.5 of the 2012 Nhlango Town Planning Scheme that We wish to apply for Rezoning Plot NU141 from High Density Residential(R-3) to Commercial(C-1).

Anyone having objection to this application may lodge their objection, in writing with the Municipality Council of Nhlango at P. O. Box 888, Nhlango S400, Swaziland and the proprietor at P. O. Box 243, Nhlango.

Doc.15550

MAYOR SIKHATSI PLEADS FOR MORE TIME

RESPONDING to the grievances forwarded by the association's members, Mbabane Municipality Mayor Sikhatsi Dlamini pleaded with them to be patient as the issue is being tackled.

Dlamini said the council ordered Ward 1 Councillor Zephaniah Nkambule to make a report on the petition and pitch it to the council before the end of May and they will take it from there.

Tackle

"I don't have the power to tackle the issue head-on but certain procedures have to be followed in dealing with it. All the grievances in the petition will be looked into but there is no guarantee that all of them will be addressed. We are waiting for the councillor to table



PLACARDS: Elderly people displaying placards that call for the removal of the council CEO.

his report and the council will take it from there, thereafter, I can be

in a position to give feedback in the matter. In the meantime, we urge you to be patient with us," he said.

Dlamini did, however, give assurance to the people that they will look into their grievances as a council once the report from the councillor is tabled.

Control

Unlike in countries like South Africa where the mayor has control in the council, it is a different case with Swaziland as the CEO is at the hierarchy of the council.

On a lighter note, Dlamini highlighted that the exemption of elderly and less privileged on the ratepayers has passed and they are yet to get a blessing from the Minister of Housing and Development Phwayinkhosi Mabuza.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPLICATION FOR REZONING

I/We Mireth Investments PTY (Ltd) owners of the property in question, hereby make a Public notice in terms of Clause 1.5 of the 2012 Nhlango Town Planning Scheme that I/We wish to apply for Rezoning of Farm 285 Nhlango, Portion (11,12 and 13) From Agricultural use(all) to highway Commercial(C-4)

Anyone having objection to this application may lodge their objections, in writing with the Municipality Council of Nhlango at P. O. Box 888, Nhlango S400, Swaziland and the proprietor at P. O. Box 190 Nhlango.

Doc.15550

'Budget should be discussed in constituencies'

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

THE national budget should be people driven in order to directly address the needs of the people in regions and constituencies.

This was a view expressed by Dvokodweni Member of Parliament (MP) Musa Sitezi Dlamini.

The MP was of the view that currently, constituencies were receiving meagre amounts of money from the national budget. Each constituency received E2 million from last year's national budget.

Dlamini said his constituency needed way more than E2 million in the last financial year. The same thing was more likely to repeat itself, according to the legislator

He said his constituency had embarked on a clean water supply project, which needed E14 million. This showed that the needs in constituencies were very big.

In other countries, Dlamini said, budgets were formulated according to the needs of their provinces or regions. The same thing should apply in the country, so that development could take place in other areas. "The problem with our current budgeting system is that it tends to improve infrastructure development within the Mbabane and Manzini corridor.

This is not in line with the decentralisation policy, which calls for equal development in all areas of the country," Dlamini said.

The legislator stated that even the country's authorities had a wish of

seeing this country develop in all areas. This could only be realised by a change in the budgeting system, which would allow people in the constituencies to participate in the formulation of the national budget.

As a member of the House of Assembly Finance Sessional Committee, Dlamini said such a practice could not apply in this year's national budget because the budgeting system of the country did not allow it.

Dlamini's sentiments were shared by Mangcongco MP Patrick Pha Motsa, in a separate interview.

Motsa said it was unfortunate that even in this year, the budget would not be region/constituency-based. He also cited the national budgeting system as the reason why such

could not happen.

"What is happening now is that the budget is formulated by the different government ministries, which send their budget proposals to the ministry of finance," Motsa said.

He further stated that it was unlike the current system to cater for region or constituency needs because ministries only consider their needs when making their own budget proposals.

The region/constituency-based budgeting system, according to Motsa, could only work in the next Parliament. The portfolio committees should visit regions or constituencies and get views from the people on how the national budget should be formulated. This should take place even before the opening of Parliament, according to the MP.



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

...Illegal vendors and your health

THERE are limits though to the type of trade permitted in the city governed by the Public Health (Food Hygiene Regulation) of 1973.

Cooked food cannot be sold on the street, as Council needs to ensure the hygiene and sanitation of where and how the food was cooked, lest the city experience a public health epidemic like the Listeria outbreak in neighbouring South Africa.

The public is reminded that the laws that govern and sometimes limit economic activity are there to protect the public, not to stifle it.

This is why Council has engaged the City Rangers to assist in enforcing national and local laws. Council requests that the public be cautious of where they purchase their food.

To avoid exposing yourself to bacteria we ask that the public washes fruit before consumption and not purchase food prepared on and sold in the streets – this is not for Council, it is for your own health. Let us use the example of Chicken Dust – this is a convenient and cheap lunch but it is a risk.

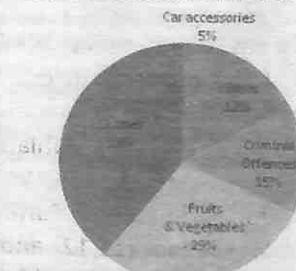
Undercooked chicken can harbour bacteria that cause illness (Salmonella, Campylobacter, E. coli, Listeria etc.) The Environmental Health and Social Welfare section of Council through the Public Health (Food Hygiene Regulation) of 1973 seeks to limit the public's exposure to this risk by monitoring and training food handlers on the proper process of preparing food.

It is for this reason that our rangers are so important. So the next time you see Council rangers confiscating food, know that it is only in a bid to protect the public.

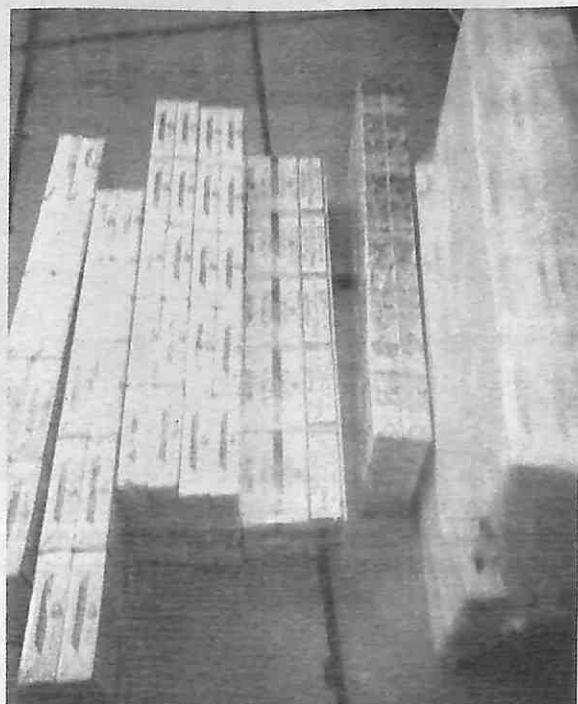
Council Rangers arrest and confiscate products and goods from approximately three hundred (300) illegal vendors a month. Council requests that the public at large and especially the local business owners and transport operators support the Rangers.

It has come to Council's attention that some businesses harbour the illegal vendors when the rangers seek to confiscate their goods.

FREQUENCY OF ILLEGAL TRADE OCCURRENCE



DOING OUR JOB: City rangers and city police after confiscating illegal goods yesterday.



BREAKING THE LAW: Illegal cigarettes.

THE INFORMAL SECTOR AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER

COUNCIL has come a long way in its relationship with street vending.

In past years there were constant clashes between Council and street vendors. Strictly speaking, the law does not recognise informal trading on pavements.

However due to demand and pressure the practice has been accepted and now Council cherishes the good working relationship it has with street vendors.

The aim of the Planning and Community Development Department in Council is to control and manage the sector. If the department did not

exist there would be an influx of vendors on every busy corner of Manzini's streets.

It is the job of the Planning Department to strategically place vendors in designated areas to minimise public disorder, limiting disturbance to flow of traffic and not clash with the products sold in shops in the vicinity of the traders.

Importance

Council recognises the importance of the sector to the City and the nation's economy as the traders, mostly women, are able to meet their economic needs by making a living trading in the city.

Some of our brightest citizens have



CAUGHT: An illegal vendor caught on camera trading illegally.

been educated and raised on the ordinary Swazi an easy, legal route to economic independence.

TO THE VENDORS

ONE of our challenges with Street Vending has been non-compliance by the permit holder.

When the vendors are issued a permit Council sets terms by which the vendor shall operate. As previously stated, this is to control and manage the type of trade in the city.

It therefore is disheartening when the permit holder does not comply with Council's rules.

A common issue faced by

the enforcement agent is trading of goods that are not in the permit holder's agreement – for example a Vendor may have a permit to sell fruit but will be found trading perfumes; and renting out the permit to a second person.

This is strictly against Council rules and Council has a right to revoke the permit where rules are violated. To those that are holding permits Council requests that they adhere to the agreements.

Permits issued to vendors are not for sale

When someone is no longer interested in trading, he/she is expected to surrender it back to Council. Council receives over 50 applications per month for vending, so vendors should not lease out the permits, but consider others looking for the same opportunity that they were legally afforded. Some go to the extent of selling the permits for large amounts. This should be reported to Council immediately, it is a crime.

Unfortunately there is no more trading space

THE Informal Sector administrators report that the sector currently has no space.

It reports that there has been an influx of applications for permits but unfortunately there are no more spaces available.

In particular the section reports a high number of appli-

cations for Mobile Money operators. Recognising that there are no spaces but a need for those that want to trade, Council does provide platforms for trade outside the regular trading spaces.

Once a quarter Council hosts a flea market and the Thursday market at the Satellite Bus Rank can also be an option.

MISSION STATEMENT

• To create an environment, driven by the provision of quality services and good governance, through partnering with our stakeholders to add value to the people of Manzini.

VISION

• "A vibrant African city that consistently provides efficient, relevant and sustainable services to its stakeholders"

VALUES

• Innovation
• Accountability
• Honesty
• People centred
• Professionalism

8 NATIONAL NEWS

SHISELWENI DOWNPOUR A WELCOME NUISANCE

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangano

THE downpour experienced in the Shiselweni region for the better part of Monday up to yesterday caused extensive damage to the road infrastructure, rendering some of the areas inaccessible by foot or transport.

However, some said what was good with the downpour was that there was no thunder or lightning experienced, just simply rain throughout the night and part of the next day.

Some areas, especially those with gravel roads, were not accessible as apart from being slippery, the roads resembled rivers themselves as there was water all over.

Others found themselves failing to reach their destinations and had to either wait for the rain to subside or seek alternative places



where they could spend the night.

The rains started on Monday at around 4pm and only calmed at around 10am yesterday.

In areas near Nyamane and Machobeni, according to public transport operators, the

road was slippery such that they had to drive at slow speed and be extra vigilant. Sifiso Kunene, owner of Sanele Transport, said some of his customers were pupils and textile employees.

He said some were inconvenienced because of the bad state of the road as his drivers could not risk speeding.

"It's better to arrive late than never. My customers never complained because they were aware of the situation.

"They were patient because they know that our roads are bad and get worse when it rains. We use a gravel road which part of it gets muddy during such weather conditions," said Kunene.

Kunene said it was time the road from Nhlangano to Machobeni was tarred because it was busy.

"It's been a concern for a long time that

government should have the road from town (Nhlangano) to areas such as Makhosini upgraded because it is busy. There is a college (Ngwane) there too.

"We will not be experiencing such hardship and subjected to such nightmares if the road had been tarred. Rains are a blessing but when roads are in this state it's a huge setback," said Kunene.

Meanwhile, others who were from work said they ended up having to spend the night at friends' places because there was no transport to take them home due to the rains.

"Bridges were submerged by the water and there was no other option but to sleep over at relatives or friends' places.

"I called them home and alerted them that I was not going to make it due to the rains," said Nombuso Simelane, who is employed as a shop assistant.

Lwazi Shabangu, who is Bucopho under Sandleni Inkhundla, said roads under the constituency were also damaged but motorists navigated through.

"Yes, there are areas where the road was slightly damaged but it's accessible, though one has to be cautious as it's slippery," said Shabangu.

The rains received, other people said, were needed during the beginning of the ploughing season.

"Rivers and streams are back to life and the vegetation will be green again which is good for livestock," said Phesheya Hlopho of Sigcineni.



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

SWAZILAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT UPGRADING OF NCOBOZA-DOBSON ROAD PHASE II IN MBABANE IBRD 80030-SZ MBABANE/SLGP/WKS/001/2017

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue of 12TH NOVEMBER 2012
2. The SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of SWAZILAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for the UPGRADING OF NCOBOZA-DOBSON ROAD IN MBABANE-MBABANE/SLGP/WKS/001/2017.
3. The Municipal Council of Mbabane now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders registered with the Construction Industry Council under Category C2 or better for THE UPGRADING OF NCOBOZA-DOBSON ROAD PHASE II IN MBABANE. The delivery/construction period is 180 DAYS/ SIX MONTHS
4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Bidding Documents.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Municipal Council of Mbabane, Mr. Muzikayise Masina (muzikayisem@mbacity.org.sz) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Municipal Council of Mbabane, Civic Offices, Mahlokohla Street, Mbabane, from 0800 hrs. to 1500 hrs. local time (Working Days).
6. Qualifications requirements include:
 - (a) Copies of original documents defining the constitution or legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business of the Bidder; written power of attorney of the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder;
 - (b) Total monetary value of construction works performed for each of the last five years;
 - (c) Experience in works of a similar nature and size for each of the last five years, and details of work under way or contractually committed; and clients who may be contacted for further information on those contracts;
 - (d) Major items of construction equipment proposed to carry out the Contract;
 - (e) Qualifications and experience of key site management and technical personnel proposed for the Contract;
 - (f) Reports on the financial standing of the Bidder, such as profit and loss statements and auditor's reports for the past five years;
 - (g) Evidence of adequacy of working capital for this Contract (access to line(s) of credit and availability of other financial resources);
 - (h) Information regarding any litigation, current or during the last five years, in which the Bidder was/is involved, the parties concerned, and the disputed amounts; and awards;
 - (i) Proof of Registration with the Construction Industry Council (CIC), C2 or better
 - (j) Valid Tax Clearance Certificate for tender
 - (k) Valid Trading Licence.
 - (l) Valid Labour Compliance Certificate
 - (m) Form J
 - (n) Proposed programme and detailed traffic accommodation plan
 - (o) Detailed methodology for the construction/ rehabilitation of pavement

A margin of preference for eligible national contractors/joint ventures shall not be applied.

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee E1000. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents should be collected at the Treasurer's Office after payment.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **21st March 2018**. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at the Council Chambers, Municipal Council of Mbabane at 12 Noon Local time on **21st March 2018**.
9. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of **E20,000.00**
10. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Municipal Council Of Mbabane
P. O. Box 1.
Mbabane.
H100

GIDEON MHLONGO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DOC16548

SINCEPHETELO MVA FUND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund is a government parastatal with the mandate to compensate, treat and rehabilitate victims of motor vehicle accidents or injuries. The organization is in the process of developing its new strategic plan and hence intends to develop and review its performance management system so as to equip management and staff to execute the new strategic plan. Proposals to undertake the exercise are invited from suitably qualified locally registered consultants.

Scope

1. Review the existing performance management system and develop a system that has performance based reward or incentive.
2. Train the Board, Management and Staff on the PMS system.

Qualification

Consultants will be locally registered and have experience in doing similar assignments for other parastatals or corporates.

Proposals to be submitted to the following address:

Human Resources Manager
Sincephetelo MVA Fund
MVA Fund Office Park
Mbhilibhi Street
Mbabane
P.O. Box 4239
Mbabane

Email: recruitment@mva.org.sz

Closing date: **1st March 2018**

MBABANE OFFICE PARK
MVA Office Park
Mbhilibhi Street
Mbabane

MANZINI BRANCH
SRIC Building
Opposite Hub Pick 'n Pay
Manzini

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

www.mva.org.sz

call centre: 800 7005

tel: 2408 6800

DOC16548

TWO BIT FOREIGN DIRECTORS IN E9M ILLEGAL TRANSACTION

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

TWO local directors of a local company have taken their South African counterparts who are their co-directors to court over an illegal transaction of E9 million from the company account to their own account in that country.

The two locals; Bhekisisa Thembinkosi Mpanza and Bongisipho Dlamini, who are directors of BIT Swaziland (Pty) Limited, have run to court where they are seeking an order to have the company's local Nedbank account frozen as the two are now making transactions as they please without their knowledge. Their co-directors are Victor Butten Court Medeiros and Juan Jose Carvalho. Mpanza owns 29 per cent shares, Dlamini 20 per cent and both Victor and Jose own 25 per cent each.

According to Mpanza in their urgent application filed before High Court Principal Judge Qinisile Mabuza, in the year 2015, he together with Dlamini registered a company, BIT Swaziland, which is the first respondent in the matter with the above respective shareholding.

For the avoidance of any doubt regarding the company, Mpanza stated that they opened an account for the company as a necessary

...The two locals; Bhekisisa Thembinkosi Mpanza and Bongisipho Dlamini, who are directors of BIT Swaziland (Pty) Limited, have run to court where they are seeking an order to have the company's local Nedbank account frozen as the two are now making transactions as they please without their knowledge

tool in line with the business aspirations and for purposes of transacting on this account. It was agreed that himself and Victor would be signatories and that they would be joint users in respect of internet transactions.

The net effect of what was agreed upon in so far as transacting on this account is concerned according to Mpanza, was that he too has a role to play in whatsoever transactions but unfortunately this is no longer the case as his role only exists on paper and not in real practice.

Transaction

"Regardless of this common cause transaction arrangement or agreement, the second respondent (Victor) managed to manipulate the banking system by doing all transactions via internet all by himself. He actually transacts as he pleases and does not account to anybody and this put the company and its other directors in a very dire, prejudicial situation," Mpanza submitted.

To demonstrate and expatiate on the second respondent's conduct, Mpanza referred the court to a bank statement annexed to the appli-

cation in which it reflected the withdrawal of amounts ranging between E1 million, E500 000 to as meagre amount as E100 000 were made between the period 2016 and February 2018 and all these monies sum up to a total of E8 850 000.

Monies

He stated that as a result of such monies being withdrawn from the local account without their concern, the company is now indebted to the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) to the tune of E128 545.58 in respect of Value Added Tax (VAT) since it is a VAT registered vendor.

Following such development, Mpanza said he, together with Dlamini, took it upon themselves to telephonically contact the two foreign directors and even proposed an urgent directors' meeting to address the issues and further transmitted the letter of demand form SRA to them in South Africa.

However, these attempts, according to Mpanza, have been rendered futile since the foreign directors are procrastinating the issue of the



MY LADY: Judge Qinisile Mabuza.

directors' meeting and only giving them false hope that they will attend which had led to them drawing to the conclusion that the foreign directors' conduct is deliberate and none other than a calculated move to leave the local directors in trouble with the SRA.

He submitted that to avoid a situation where the foreign directors dissipate the money currently in the company's Nedbank account, it only makes sense that the account be frozen through an order of the High Court, hence the present urgent application.

Represented by lawyer Gcina Mhlana, the two yesterday obtained an order of court that the company account at Nedbank be frozen forthwith and that the order operates with interim effect pending finalisation of the present application in court and pending a meeting of the company directors anticipated to resolve whatever challenges and business gymnastics.

Ramaphosa 'determined to atone' for Marikana massacre

CAPE TOWN – President Cyril Ramaphosa is determined to play whatever role he can in the process of healing and atonement in the wake of the Marikana massacre.

"The Marikana tragedy stands out as the darkest moment in the life of our young democracy," Ramaphosa told both houses of Parliament yesterday as he responded to the debate on his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) last Friday.

During Monday's debate, EFF chief whip Floyd Shivambu said Ramaphosa must go to Marikana to build houses and improve the lives of the people there. Ramaphosa was a non-executive director of the mining company Lonmin when police opened fire on striking mineworkers, killing 34 people on August 16, 2012.

Ramaphosa wrote a series of nine emails to other Lonmin executives and then minister of police Nathi Mthethwa and Susan Shabangu, who was then minister of mineral resources, in the days leading to the tragedy, calling for "concomitant action" against the striking mineworkers in one of the emails.

A commission of inquiry, established to investigate the massacre and headed by retired judge Ian Farlam, did not make a finding against Ramaphosa.



"Members will recall that the commission of inquiry headed by retired judge Farlam investigated the direct and root causes of the tragedy," Ramaphosa said.

"Three broad areas were identified for action: compensation to those injured and the families of those who lost their lives, examining the procedures of public order policing and preparing valid cases for prosecution according to applicable laws."

He said the government was making progress in continuous engagement with the legal representatives of the victims, especially on the matter of reparations to families who lost their loved ones, and this would be concluded in the coming months.

"The incident also brought into sharp focus the distress felt by people living in mining communities.

"As we engage with mining companies, unions and communities on the finalisation of the Mining Charter, we need

to ensure that these measures receive priority attention."

"I would like to use this opportunity to address the role that I played in my capacity as a Lonmin director in the events of that tragic week," he said.

"Notwithstanding the findings of the Farlam Commission on my responsibility for the events that unfolded, I am determined to play whatever role I can play in the process of healing and atonement. In this, I am guided by the needs and wishes of the families of the 34 workers who lost their lives."

He said that as with Marikana, the Life Esidimeni tragedy stands out "as an instance of the appalling dereliction by the state of its duty to the people".

"We welcome the arbitration process led by former deputy chief justice Dikgang Moseneke and are determined that we should never allow anything like this to happen again in our country."

News24



UNITED NATIONS
SWAZILAND
"Uniting at One"

Terms of Reference Conference Facilities Advisor

Title:	Conference Facilities Advisor
Country of Assignment:	Swaziland
Type of Contract:	Individual Contract National Consultant
Expected Duration of Assignment:	30 Days

BACKGROUND

The completion of the construction phase of the new UN House is almost complete and the planned move into the UN House scheduled for the first quarter of 2018. Following the support mission of the Task Team on Common Premises' recommendations, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), identified some challenges related to establishing the overall budgetary implications for the Conference and Cafeteria facilities located on the ground floor. These include the type of furniture and equipment needed for a high standard conference facility supported by the cafeteria. There is also need for the facility to attract users of conferencing services in the country so that the facility generates revenue and is self-sustaining. In light of the above, the UNCT decided to secure the services of a highly experienced candidate with the scope of work reflected below.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Conference Facilities Advisor will perform the following tasks:

1. Prepare/Design a layout for all the conference spaces in the UN House;
2. Prepares specifications for the type of furniture to be procured for the conference facility;
3. Prepare specification for the electronic equipment required to support the conference facility;
4. Prepare a marketing strategy to reach out to potential users of conferencing facilities in the country; and
5. Any other tasks related to the functions of conference facilities.

REPORTING

The successful Consultant will work under the overall guidance and supervision of the UNCT through the Chair of Operations Management Team and in close cooperation with the Office of the Resident Coordinator.

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualification
Appropriate/Relevant Educational background with extensive experience in managing Conference Facilities.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Interested candidates are invited to submit detailed CV's and Expression of Interest marked, 'Conference Facilities Advisor to UNDP Offices, 5th Floor Lilunga House, and PO. Box 261, Mbabane, or email application to: registry.sz@undp.org by 1st March 2018.

Additional Considerations

- Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
- Only those candidates that are short-listed for interviews will be notified.

NEWLY OPENED PATMOS TWO PRIMARY HAS ONLY 23 PUPILS

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlengano

PATMOS Two Primary, which started operating when schools opened last month, has an enrolment of only 23 pupils.

The new primary school, whose classes are currently conducted in a church building, has the lowest enrolment so far. It is anticipated that the enrolment would improve once the classrooms have been built, a project which is still underway.

The school is situated at Ondiyaneni area under Hosea Inkhundla.

Travel

The opening of the school was necessitated by the long distance children have to travel to the original primary school known as Patmos One.

Hosea area's Member of Parliament, Thulani Masuku said he was aware the new school was in full swing as expected even though the enrolment was low.

"The last time I checked the number of pupils were not more than 23. However, I don't know the latest development. I



AWARE: Hosea Member of Parliament Thulani Masuku.

am aware though that the building of classrooms is still continuing as per our plans. However, for further information, contact the REO (Regional Education Officer) Thabile Nxumalo," said MP

Masuku.

Parents of the children who have been travelling long distance over mountains, are now relieved with the opening of the school despite that the lessons are so far held in the church building.

Hosea Indvuna Yenkhudla Thulani Shiba also echoed the MP's words, saying he was also aware that the enrolment was still low at the new school.

"For a start, I feel it's going to be a single stream when looking at the population of that area where it is located. It's not a crowded community hence even the number of the first years (Grade One) is this low," said Shiba.

On the other hand, REO Thabile Nxumalo said in as far as she was aware, the Patmos Two Primary matter was handled by the relevant authorities and sounded optimistic that all other challenges would be addressed sooner than later. "What I know is that this is an issue handled by the relevant authorities and the other issues you are asking me about, I can't comment on," said Nxumalo. It is believed that there are still talks in other sections to have the school formally recognised.

IT graduate steals from 'Dobha Phansi' hawker

Stories by Sibusiso Gamedze
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

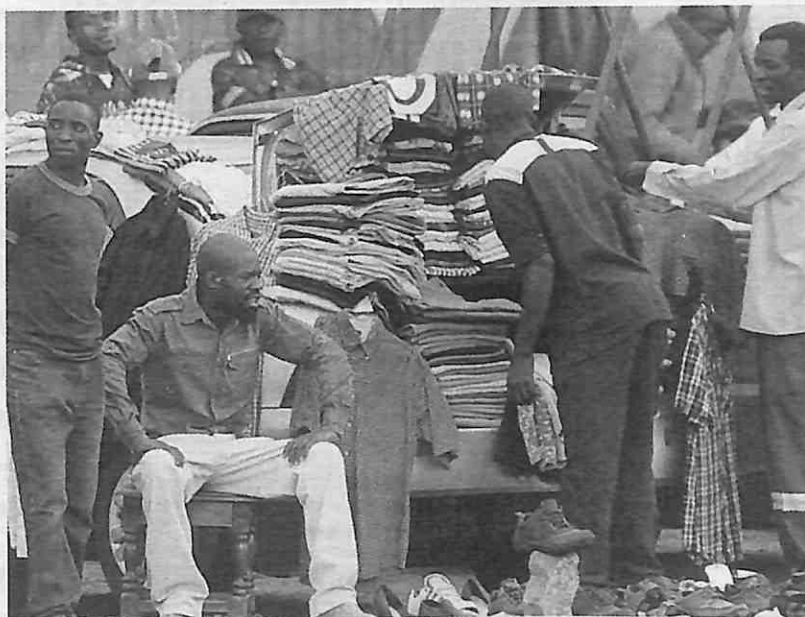
COULD the high rate of unemployment amongst IT graduates be the reason some are resorting to crime?

Magistrate Lenhle Zulu yesterday expressed concern over the rate of theft cases allegedly perpetrated by unemployed graduates.

The magistrate made these remarks when Mpendulo Mamba appeared before her on charges of stealing items which had a combined value of E1 600, which he allegedly stole at the Mbabane Market.

The theft is said to have occurred last Sunday, where the accused stole items such as sports shoes, T-shirts, men's trousers, amongst many others, from a hawker also referred to as 'Dobha Phansi'.

Mamba then revealed during mitigation of sentence that he was currently



unemployed but was in the process of enrolling at an IT College in order to further his studies.

He said he had already graduated with an Information Technology Certificate and needed money to go back to school.

Theft suspect acquitted and discharged

MEANWHILE, in another unrelated matter, Mxolisi Mamba of Hilltop left the Magistrate's Court a happy man after it turned out that he had not committed the offence of theft.

Mamba, who initially pleaded guilty to the charge of theft of a cellphone, a Samsung J3 valued at E3 500, later asked Magistrate Lenhle Zulu if he could explain the circumstances that led to his arrest.

He said last Saturday, while at Hilltop at a certain bus stop, a certain Hillary Nemaramba was approached by one of his friends who asked him for E5.

He said Nemaramba said he did not have and then left the place. A few moments later, Nemaramba returned driving a car and rolled down the left passenger window and took out the cell-

phone and started taking pictures.

He said this did not go down well with him and he approached him to find out why he was taking pictures of the entire group when it was only one person who had asked for the E5.

Explanation

Mamba said he was not happy with Nemaramba's answer and demanded him to delete the pictures he had taken of them because he was suspicious of his act, especially because he had not sought any prior consent from any of them.

He said he then snatched the phone from the complainant and that is when a police vehicle stopped and intervened.

Mamba said he tried to explain to the police he had taken the phone only to delete the pictures that had been taken

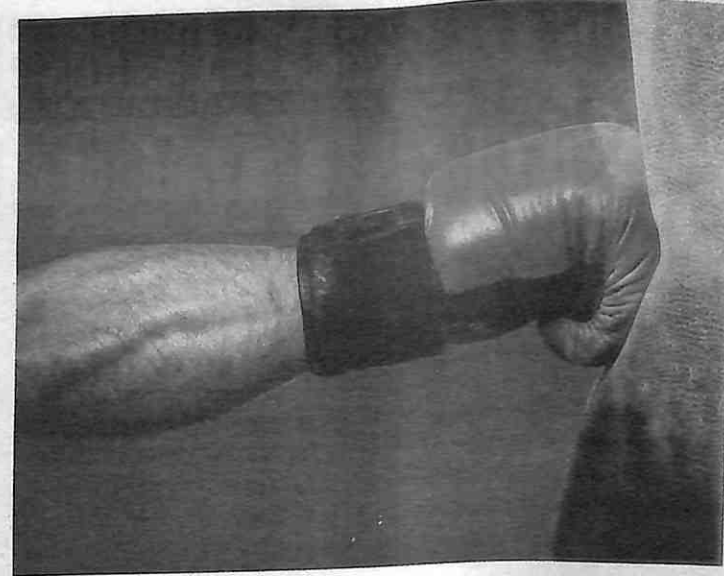
by the complainant.

The police are said to have heard none of what he was saying and instead told him to come to court on February 20 as he seemingly had a case of theft to answer.

He said what was even more confusing to him was the fact that the cellphone was handed back to Nemaramba in his presence and, therefore, he did not understand how then he could be charged with theft.

The magistrate then drew the attention of prosecutor Nomkhosi Dlamini, who also seemed disturbed by the development in her case.

The magistrate then released the accused and told him he was free to go as he had given a satisfactory explanation.



Two men exchange blows over Maphungwane dispute

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

THE long standing Maphungwane chieftaincy dispute showed its ugly head again when two men exchanged fierce blows over a minor misunderstanding.

This was related by the two men when appearing before Swazi National Court President Chief Ndondlo Tsabedze yesterday.

Mvimbi Maziya was facing a charge of assault, in that he allegedly assaulted Mandla Maziya by hitting him with a stick and further threatening to stab him with a spear.

The accused person, who claimed to be a member of the area's inner council, pleaded not guilty to the charge.

He denied ever assaulting the complainant, but instead told the court that his misunderstanding

with him emanated from the chieftaincy dispute.

The accused told the court that the complainant hated him for his loyalty to the *umphakatsi*, hence he fabricated the allegations against him.

However, the complainant also told the court that the matter before court had nothing to do with the chieftaincy disputes.

He stated that the accused person approached him and started hurling insults without being provoked. He said the accused further threatened to stab him with a spear.

He alleged that indeed, the accused person attacked him later on the same day.

When issuing judgement, the court found the accused person guilty of the charge. He was sentenced to five months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E500 fine.

Attempted murder suspect's bail on hold as complainant in ICU

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

AN attempted murder suspect's close walk to freedom was shattered yesterday as his bail application could not proceed after the court was informed the complainant is in a critical condition at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Mbuso Kunene, who is charged with attempted murder, will remain in custody for more days that he had expected as High Court Principal Judge Qinisile Mabuza was informed by the Crown represented by Ncamsile Masuku that the complainant in the matter has been referred to the ICU.

Judge Mabuza nearly granted Kunene bail after considering the fact that the suspect was charged with attempted murder as opposed to murder itself.

However, when his lawyer Martin 'Internash' Dlamini indicated that by consent they are applying for postponement in the matter as there have been new developments, Judge Mabuza wondered as to what were those and it was then that the Crown informed her that the complainant was in ICU.



MY LADY: High Court Principal Judge Qinisile Mabuza.

Judge Mabuza noted the seriousness of the situation owing to the fact that the charge may even escalate to that of murder should the complainant pass on while in ICU.

The matter was postponed to Friday in order to allow the crown to monitor the complainant's position.

She expressed concern on some lawyers who have the interest of their clients at heart when it comes to bail applications than considering the lives of complaints in such situations.

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES STAGE SIT-IN OVER UNIFORM

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

CIVIL servants under the ministry of public works and transport based at Matsapha depot staged a sit-in after their request for new uniforms was ignored by management.

The workers started with a go slow on Friday and some of them have decided to stage a sit-in at their work place.

Yesterday, most of the workers were found loitering around the ministry's premises and not working.

Some of them, who spoke to this publication on condition of anonymity, stated that they had not been working since Friday and were planning to do so until their grievances were met by the management.

The workers continued with their sit-in strike after their grievances were not met by the ministry of public works and transport.

The workers have been complaining that they were made to wear worn out uniform since the last time they received new one was back in 2013.

They tried to approach their superiors regarding the matter but had not received anything formal from them.

A source privy to information said yesterday they were expecting feed-



BE PATIENT: Principal Secretary in the Ministry Public Works and Transport Makhosini Mndawe

back from Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Public Works and Transport Makhosini Mndawe as shop stewards had informed them that they would be meeting with him soon.

However, by close of business yesterday, there was still no feedback.

The employees have been staging a go slow since last Friday but decided to change their tactic and stage a sit-in so as to make a point to man-

agement.

The employees said they were expecting Chief Buildings Engineer in the ministry Mkhululi Mamba or the PS Mndawe to address them on the issue.

When Mndawe was called about the issue, he requested for a questionnaire so that he could respond. By the time of compiling this report yesterday afternoon, the PS had still not responded to the questionnaire.

Man assaults girlfriend for refusing to cohabit, arrested

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

BARELY a week after another man allegedly killed his girlfriend on allegations of cheating; a man of Matseta has been arrested after assaulting his lover for refusing to cohabit with him.

Sipho Dlamini (48) is said to have suspected that his girlfriend of many years, Nonhlanhla Maziya, was having an intimate relationship with another man. He, therefore, demanded to move-in with the woman to ensure that she is not seeing another man.

This transpired during the trial of the matter when Dlamini appeared before the Swazi National Court in Siteki. He was facing a charge of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused person pleaded guilty to the charge.

The complainant was also called in to give evidence on the matter.

She told the court that she had been in a relationship with the accused person for some years now, but were not married.

The complainant stated that she was staying at her own home which she had independently established in the same area while the accused person also resided at his home with

his children.

On the day of the incident, the woman said she was visited by the accused person as he would normally do. The accused is said to have complained that the woman was having another boyfriend who would also visit her.

He is said to have then suggested that he must move-in to stay with the complainant at the home- stead. The woman said she objected to this suggestion, pointing out that she did not want to cohabit with a man before officially getting married to him.

An argument is said to have ensued, resulting to the assault. The accused person was eventually found guilty by the court and was sentenced to seven month in a correctional facility with an option to pay E700.

Meanwhile in a separate matter, Dlamini also faced another charge of assault.

He was said to have assaulted one Themba Masimula who attempted to intervene when he was assaulting his girlfriend. The accused was said to have hit the complainant with various objects on the head and body.

On this charge, he was sentenced to eight months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E800 fine.



UNISWA Kwaluseni Campus students get their cheques

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

THE ministry of labour and social security has finally released cheques for University of Swaziland (UNISWA) Kwaluseni Campus students.

The new developments follow the closure of the university after students engaged in a class boycott demanding their allowances.

Yesterday, UNISWA Student Representative Council Secretary General Sanelisiwe Nxumalo informed students that cheques were with the University of Swaziland and they were free to collect them starting today.

The University of Swaziland decided to close the two campuses, Kwaluseni

and Luyengo after frustrated students failed to heed to Senate's directive that they return to class following a boycott of classes which took place in all three campuses.

Continued

Kwaluseni and Luyengo campuses defied the directive to go back to class while Mbabane Campus continued with classes as per the vice chancellor's advice.

Seeing that the other two campuses were continuing with the boycott, Senate decided to send them packing as the rioting students had started vandalising property.

The University of Swaziland later revealed that it was caught by surprise by the act of students who decided to engage in a class boycott as nothing for-

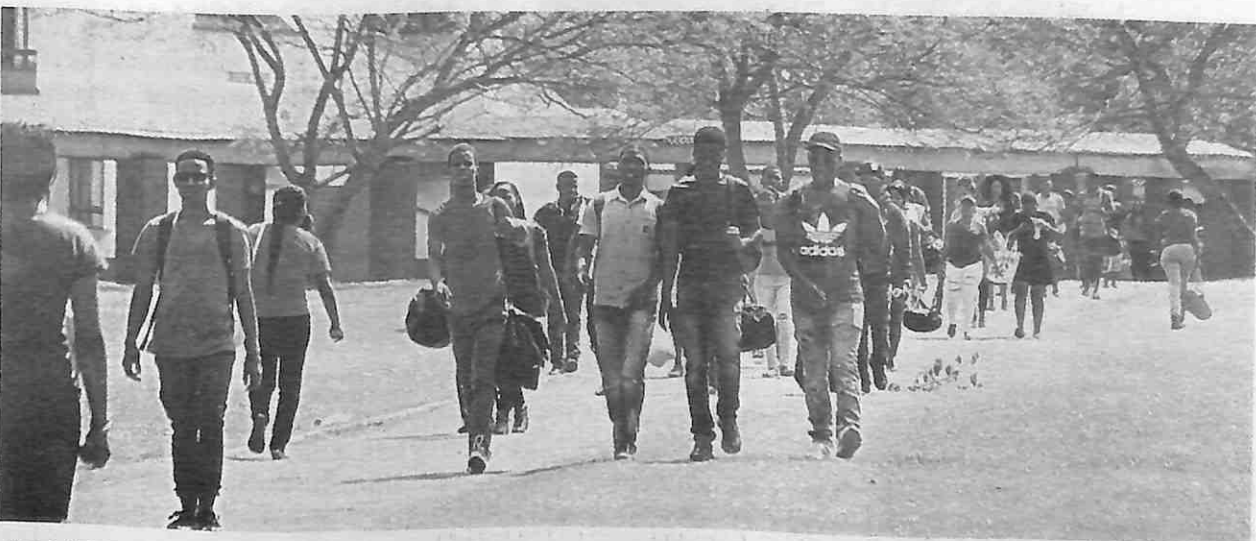
mal was communicated to them.

Worth noting is that after the university chucked students out of campus, there was a faction of learners who wanted to go back to class.

Some of them, especially law students, went to the university gate where they protested and demanded that they be allowed back to class.

The university is not the only higher institution of learning that has been faced by a crisis where by students resorted to boycotting classes.

Institutions such as Swaziland College of Technology, William Pitcher College, Southern African Nazarene University and other institutions have seen students engaging in violent boycotts which forced the institutions to close to avoid damaging of property.



AT LAST: UNISWA students leaving the campus after the institution was closed recently.



SUSPENSE: Zombodze Emuva Member of Parliament Titus Thwala.

MP Titus' fraud case postponed again

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

ZOMBODZE Emuva Member of Parliament Titus Thwala's E110 000 fraud case was yesterday postponed again by the court.

Thwala's case was supposed to continue yesterday before Manzini Principal Magistrate David Khumalo.

During his appearance, in the presence of his attorney, Thwala's attorney apologised to the court as he stated that he cannot continue with the case and requested that they be given another date.

The case was given other dates, which is March 21 and April 3, where it is expected that it will commence without any problems.

The case, which has dragged on for years, has seen Thwala being a constant visitor to the Manzini

Magistrate's Courts, where he is answering to charges of allegedly defrauding Moyeni High money in respect of examination fees while he was still principal at the school.

Earlier last year during the continuation of the case, Thwala informed the court that the exam fees in question were not paid to him directly, but to the school account just like all other school funds.

He said there was never a time where money was deposited into his account.

Thwala said even the last audit which was done at the school in 2012 before he left reflected that there was no single cent missing from the school's funds.

He said the report was just like all the other years while he was still at the school as there was no incident where there were monies reported to be missing.

12 NATIONAL NEWS

DECEASED TAXIMAN ONCE **STABBED** SCHOOLGIRLBy Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

THE taximan, who killed his girlfriend before taking his own life, had a jinxed love-life as he was once arrested for stabbing his girlfriend on suspicions that she was cheating on him.

Senzo Matsenjwa, who stabbed his soldier girlfriend Nqobile Khumalo on the night of the Valentine's Day before taking weevil tablets to end his life, was once arrested for stabbing his girlfriend who was a pupil at Mater Dolorosa High at the time, over three years ago.

Cheated

A member of a Zionist Church, where Matsenjwa used to go, told this publication that the taximan had a jinxed love life as he was cheated on by the then girlfriend whom she



CONFIRMED THE MATTER:
Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba.

stabbed.

"She was paying for her fees at the school but he discovered that he was cheating on him, much to his disappointment and he reacted violently," said the source.

Matsenjwa was an orphan after los-

ing both his parents and he was the fourth in a family of five.

Revealed

The deceased lost his mother when he was still young and his father died in 2014. This was revealed by his elder sister, Gugu Matsenjwa, who

said he will be laid to rest on Sunday at Malanti, where he grew up under the guidance of his aunt.

Matsenjwa offered to take his lover, Nqobile, out for dinner on Valentine's Day in the afternoon and picked her up at her workplace in Matsapha.

Premeditated

Nqobile is alleged to have cheated on him with multiple men and Matsenjwa is believed to have premeditated to kill her and commit suicide, which he successfully did after luring her to their rented flat at Zone 4 on the night of the Valentine's.

Nqobile was found with a stab wound in the neck while Matsenjwa took weevil tablets.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer (PICO) Khulani Mamba confirmed the matter.

"We are aware of the case against the taximan where he stabbed a pregnant schoolgirl," he said.



PRESS STATEMENT - CLARIFICATION

"E2M Bonus for 11 SCCOM Employees?"

Times of Swaziland Sunday 18 February 2018.

It is not SCCOM's tendency to respond to articles written and published in the media about its work, however, due to the irresponsible, insensitive and misleading article carried by the Times of Swaziland Sunday written by Mr Welcome Dlamini, captioned "E 2M bonus for 11 SCCOM Employees?", the Commission feels obliged to clarify the matter for the benefit of the Swazi citizenry and dispel the negative impression created by the article.

The Commission wishes to state that prior to the publication of the story, the author Mr Welcome Dlamini, approached the organisation regarding confirmation of some of the facts. The office of the GMSE, through which the Commission communicates with the Media and the public indicated that it could not provide responses to the enquiry at that point, as the officer responsible was out of the country on SCCOM business and promised to furnish Mr Dlamini with a comprehensive response to the enquiry early in the following week. It is common knowledge that this agreement was not honoured by the reporter, hence the distorted report produced. The Commission wishes to point out that the article is at best in-factual, misleading and self-contradictory, an indication that the author, failed to interpret the Commission's financials, as detailed in the organisations' Annual Report for the financial year 2016/2017. The Commission views this as irresponsible, and not consistent with true journalistic etiquette.

The Commission thus wishes to extend its sincere apologies to the readers and the Government of Swaziland in whose mind the notion has been created that, SCCOM paid out a E2M bonus to its employees without requisite approval from the relevant structures. The Commission prides itself on its professional conduct, and as a complaint organisation, it adheres to the rules and regulations that governs its operations. The Commission is aware that in terms of PEU Circulars bonuses and incentives are payable ONLY upon approval by SCOPE and the Commission would not have paid out bonuses against a clear procedure laid out by PEU.

What is puzzling is that in paragraph 3 of his article, Mr Dlamini clearly states that the quoted figure was a BUDGETARY PROVISION. This was intended not only for the 11 employees, but would have been used to pay out bonuses for the entire SCCOM staff complement of 30 employees, in the event all vacancies had been filled during the course of the year as intended. It is also common knowledge that where a bonus is paid out, it is not paid according to a simple arithmetic where E2m would be divided equally among 11 employees, as if they were all remunerated equally. This is apportioned as a percentage of each individuals' pay rate.

The correct position is that the Commission has not paid out the said bonus or any bonus for that matter as the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of ICT was allegedly quoted, the Commission has made a request for the payment of bonuses in terms of PEU circular and this procedure is followed by all Category A Enterprises alike. Like most other Parastatals the Commission still awaits authorisation on its request from SCOPE.

On the issue of Licence fees, yet again computation of these is public knowledge, and is clearly articulated in the Licencing regulations schedule of 2016, also available on the SCCOM website, as well as the Government Gazette of Friday August 12, 2016. The Commission welcomes requests for clarity on all issues of its operations and is always willing to educate those in need of knowledge and information about its regulatory processes.

DOC1949

REVIEW
BOUNDARIES -
MATSANJENI
NORTH
RESIDENTSBy Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

RESIDENTS of Matsanjeni North are concerned about the size of their constituency as they are of the view that it is too big to function effectively.

They want the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) to review the boundaries of the constituency, and if possible, divide it into two.

This transpired following a meeting whereby the EBC reported back to the residents after making an assessment on the matter.

The meeting was held at the inkhundla on Monday.

The EBC has been visiting to various constituencies following the recent development which saw the formation of five new constituencies while one constituency, Hlane was merged with Mkhivweni and Dvokodweni constituencies.

Matsanjeni North Constituency, whose current MP is Phila Buthelezi, was one of several others which asked the EBC to review its boundaries.

Speaking during an interview yesterday, Constituency Headman Boy Matsenjwa confirmed their meeting with the EBC, adding that it went well as the EBC attended to their concerns.

Contributing

Matsenjwa disclosed that residents of the constituency were of the view that the size of the area was a contributing factor to its development which was currently in a sluggish manner.

The constituency is made of four chiefdoms, namely; Maphungwane, Tikhuba, Lukhetseni and Mambane.

Maphungwane is regarded as the largest chiefdom, with its population almost equal to at least two of the other chiefdoms combined. Matsenjwa disclosed that residents from Maphungwane complained that their area would see less development projects due to its size as funds are normally distributed equally amongst all four chiefdoms.

Following the residents' request, the EBC made an assessment and concluded that for now, there will be no changes in the boundaries of the constituency.

Matsenjwa reported that, however, the EBC hinted that in the near future, the commission may consider adding the number of Bucopho to represent their various communities under the same constituency.

"I must say that the EBC attended to our request and made us understand the factors which may require a readjustment of the constituency boundaries," Matsenjwa said.



REVIEW: Matsanjeni North MP Phila Buthelezi.

E270 000 DAGGA FROM SWAZILAND BUSTED IN SA

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

DAGGA with a street value of around E270 000 was found hidden under the base of a bakkie that was coming from Swaziland last Friday.

The dagga smugglers carefully constructed a hidden compartment that couldn't deceive the noses of the White River K9 Unit near Kaapmuiden.

According to Sergeant Pretty Khoza of Kaapmuiden South African Police Service (SAPS), members of the White River K9 unit received a tip-off that a bakkie coming from Swaziland was transporting dagga and was reportedly heading to Vereeniging.

The unit stopped it on the N4 near the Nkomazi Toll Plaza in the afternoon and found the dagga concealed

underneath the base of the vehicle, which was cut and reconstructed.

Cases of drugs being smuggled from Swaziland to the neighbouring country have been on the rise as Kwa-Zulu Natal Provincial Drug Unit recently busted three suspects transporting dagga with a street value of E400 000 and money in cash amounting to E54 000, information gathered was that they were from the country.

Another Swazi was also arrested at Ngwenya Border Post after he was found in possession of cocaine worth E17 million.

In another recent drug bust, a truck ferrying 200kg of heroin with a street value of E200 million was busted at Golela Border Post. The truck had successfully crossed the Swazi side but it was caught in South Africa by the Hawks.



Second wife challenges first wife's legitimacy in soldier's pension battle

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

AN application by a widow whose husband was a member of the Umbutfo Swaziland Defense Force (UDSF) against the Public Service Pension Fund (PSPF), has been vigorously challenged by her rival as a family meeting decided that she be canceled from the beneficiary allocation report.

The other wife (Portia Ndlangamandla) to the deceased, together with her children, are against Sibongile Simelane being part of the beneficiaries as they are challenging her legitimacy as a beneficiary.

Indeed, Simelane has run to court seeking an order compelling the fund to pay her pension in terms of the beneficiary allocation report.

Simelane in the alternative seeks an order that she together with Portia who are spouses to the deceased be paid in equal basis in the allocation of the pension.

Yesterday, the matter was brought before Principal Judge Qinsile Mabuza who ordered that all the beneficiaries in the allocation report and those who dispute that the applicant (Simelane) should be part of the beneficiaries should file their papers.

Simelane has also been ordered to file her supplementary affidavit.

The matter was then postponed to allow all the parties to file their papers. This was after the court was informed that as a family, a meeting was held where Simelane was cancelled as a beneficiary in the pension allocation.

Simelane is one of the two spouses of deceased Robert Ndlangamandla left behind and according to the beneficiary allocation report, she is amongst 11 beneficiaries which include the deceased's children.

According to the allocation report, she was allocated a total sum of E70 137.79 while the first spouse was allocated E189 372.04.

According to Simelane in her founding affidavit, she is the first wife to the deceased having married through Swazi Law and Custom and in October 27, 2017 to her husband who was a soldier.

She submitted that after the demise of her husband, the Pension Fund called a meeting for the deceased's family where she was also in attendance as the first wife stating that after the meeting she was verily advised by the fund to produce proof of marriage.

She stated that she complied and was ordered



ORDER: Principal Judge Qinsile Mabuza.

to open a bank account in order for the fund to deposit her benefit share from the deceased's beneficiary allocation report adding that it is com-

mon cause that she is on the same footing or status with the first beneficiary (second wife) by virtue of the fact that they are both spouses of the late Robert Ndlangamandla hence they are equal beneficiaries.

She argues that the fund has not treated her as an equal with the other spouse but instead has discriminated her as the other spouse Portia Ndlangamandla has been allocated a larger amount totalling E189 372.04.

"February 6, I received a call from a certain Simelane from the fund informing me that my benefit under the beneficiary allocation report has since been cancelled, this means that I won't get any money as a beneficiary," she submitted.

She stated that she verily believes that she is entitled to the benefit from the deceased's estate more in particular the allocation in the beneficiary allocation report since this is a constitutional right in terms of Section 34 of the Kingdom's Constitution.

This section provides that "a surviving spouse is entitled to a reasonable provision out of the

...High Court Principal Judge Qinsile Mabuza orders that all beneficiaries should file their papers

estate of the other spouse whether the other spouse died having made a valid will or not and whether the spouses were married by civil or customary rites."

She submitted that the matter has been filed with a certificate of urgency because the fund has already told her that she will not be getting her share as reflected in the beneficiary allocation report further expressing concern that if payment is made to the other beneficiary without her inclusion, she will not get any money as it would have been distributed.

According to a sworn affidavit on the Swazi law and Custom, annexed to her urgent application, Sibongile Ndlangamandla nee Simelane residing at Mooi Hoek area under jurisdiction of Chief Mbane, Indvuna Sipho Fakudze, she declared under oath that she is the legal wife to the late Robert Ndlangamandla.

She further submitted that the respondent (fund) will not be prejudice if the matter is heard by the court on an urgent basis.

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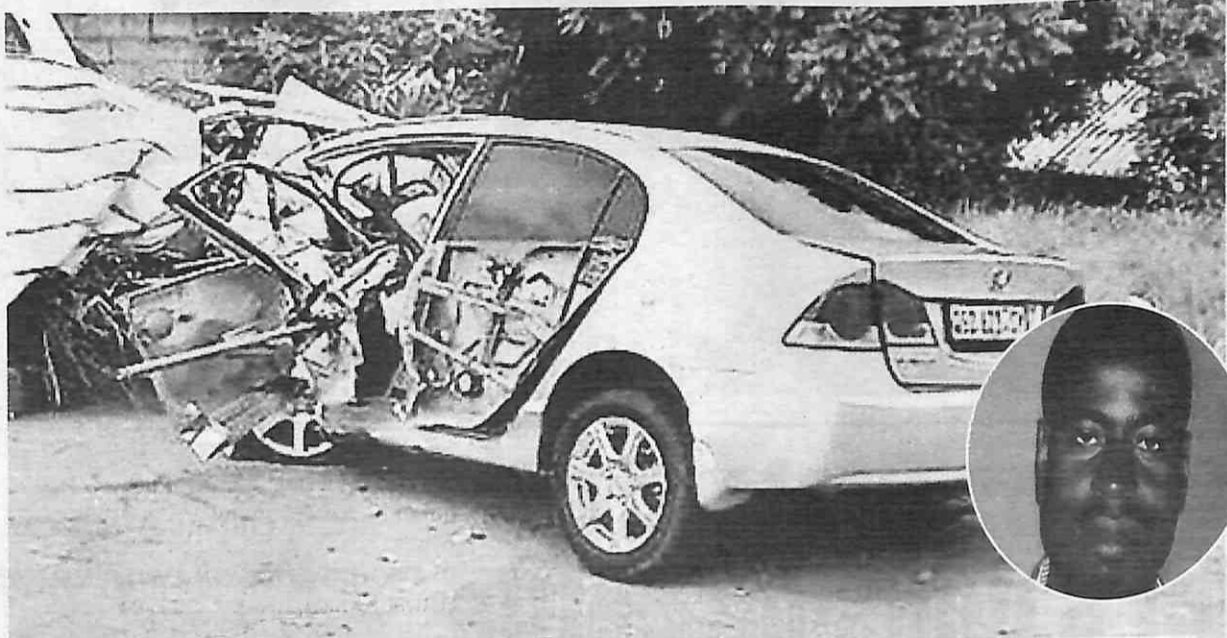
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WRECK: The Honda Accord belonging to councillor Sizwe Themba that was involved in an accident, claiming the life of Mangwaneni councillor Thulani Msimango (inset). (Pics: Sizwe Dlamini)

MANGWANENI COUNCILLOR'S ACCIDENT: BROTHER-IN-LAW DROVE KILLER MERC

IN a bizarre occurrence, it has now come to light that the head-on collision that caused the tragic death of Mangwaneni councillor Thulani Msimango, involved his brother-in-law, who was driving the other car.

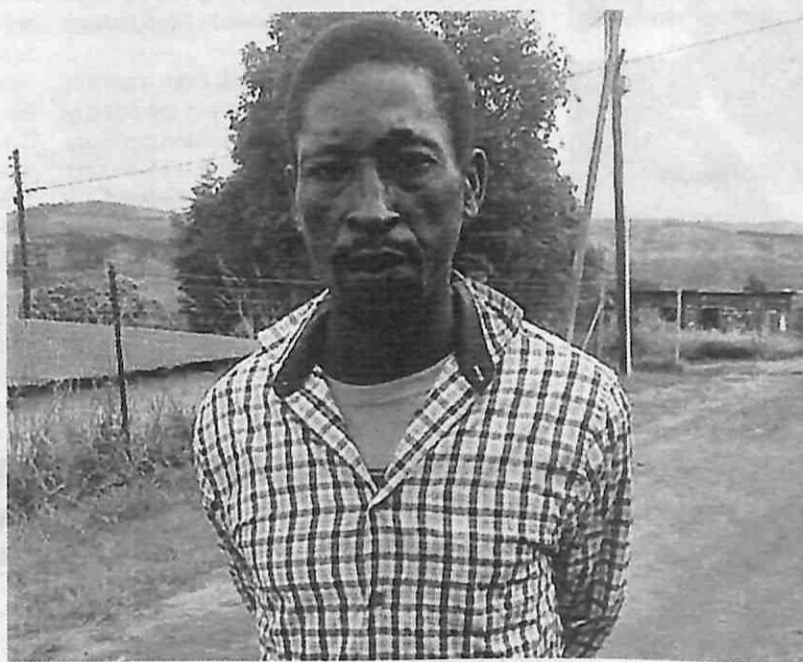
The accident happened on Saturday evening at Luhlangotsini junction along the same public road where just 24 hours prior, eight people died in a kombi accident which was allegedly caused by a truck that belonged to the Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC).

The death of the Mangwaneni councillor has shocked Northern Hhohho, especially residents of Mangwaneni in Pigg's Peak, where the deceased lived with his family.

The name of the brother-in-law is known by this publication but has been withheld pending the results of the ongoing Pigg's Peak police investigation into the cause of the tragic accident.

Speaking to this publication on Sunday, the councillor's elder brother said he was shocked to find that the driver of the car that effectively ended his younger brother's life was a family relative who was identified as a brother-in-law to the Msimango family.

"Unfortunately, it has come to light that the driver of the Mercedes Benz is our brother-in-law. What happened



TRAGIC: Older brother of the deceased, Jabulani Msimango said his brother, Mangwaneni Councillor Thulani, was involved in a tragic head-on collision with his own brother-in-law who was driving the Mercedes Benz that hit a Honda Accord on the side.

was that a few hours before the accident, our family was attending a funeral of another relative from another homestead in Northern Hhohho.

Meeting

After the funeral, fellow Ward 4 councillor Sizwe Themba then offered to

drive his colleague, my brother, to the councillors meeting held at Ezulwini," he said.

"After the councillors' meeting had concluded and while driving back to Pigg's Peak town along the MR1 road, the unfortunate and horrific accident

prone.

"The modern road at Buhleni is a confusing prospect, it is wide and beautiful but it is accident prone regardless of the world class piece of tarmac.

Sense

"It makes no sense that so many accidents involving cars and cattle happen

Pigg's Peak Town Council preparing for funeral

PIGG'S Peak Town Council CEO Mzwandile Ndzinisa said they were preparing for the funeral of the late Mangwaneni councillor Thulani Msimango.

Ndzinisa was speaking to this publication yesterday morning after visiting the Masango family at their homestead at Mangwaneni. Ndzinisa said it was still too early to start discussing by-elections for the Mangwaneni ward.

"In response to your earlier question about the untimely death of councillor Msimango and the void created at Mangwaneni, please note that we, as the Pigg's Peak Town Council, have since reported the tragic death to our parent ministry.

"We will be advised accordingly by the ministry on which is the best way forward for this otherwise dire chain of events. All I can say to you right now is that as

the Pigg's Peak Town Council, we are devastated with the passing of the very hard-working councillor who worked so well for the people of his ward," he said.

"This hardworking attitude prompted the late councillor to be re-elected in the 2017 elections for a second term, effectively meaning that the people had faith in the late councillor and they showed this faith at the ballot boxes.

Msimango was a product of hard work, coupled with very good people skills.

He will be sorely missed by all people of Pigg's Peak and as the Pigg's Peak Town Council we are now focused on funeral preparations for the late.

"We did have a private meeting with his family and the details of the meeting cannot be shared with the media at this moment in time," he added.

involving the Honda Accord and Mercedes Benz.

The deceased was seated on the front seat of the Honda Accord that was being driven by Themba. The driver of the opposing car, being the Mercedes Benz, was being driven by our brother-in-law, so you can see how awkward this has been for our family.

Arrested

However, nobody has been arrested for the accident yet and it doesn't make sense to me because something caused the accident, it did not just happen by itself," he added.

According to Pigg's Peak Mayor Victor Rodriguez, who was one of the first people to arrive at the accident scene on Saturday evening, the deceased died on the spot while the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel managed to save the lives of both Sizwe Themba, who was the driver of the Honda Accord, and the brother-in-law to the deceased, who was the driver of the Mercedes Benz.

Both were rushed to Pigg's Peak Government Hospital where they were discharged after being treated for their injuries.

Meanwhile, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed that the accident in question was being investigated by Pigg's Peak police but findings had not been made public as of yet.

"What normally happens in most road traffic accidents, not just this one, the victims or relatives of those should write a letter to the station commander of the particular police station where the accident occurred.

"The station commander will then reveal his findings in a full police accident report that can be then given to the accident victim's family. That police report takes about seven days to be produced after intense police investigations," he said.

"The police report is very important as it is used for many things like claiming insurance of the traffic accident as well as allowing the family and relatives of the accident victim in question to lodge claims with the Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund (MVA)," he added.

Northern Hhohho holds record for most traffic accidents in SD

BUHLENI police have said barring recent traffic accident events, Buhleni and Hhohho still hold a terrible record of having the most traffic accidents out of the four regions of Swaziland.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba also confirmed the

matter, saying the police suspect that the beautiful modern road at Buhleni somehow encouraged drivers to drive faster.

A police officer, who preferred to remain anonymous, said even though the modern Buhleni road was completed around 2007, it was still acci-

along this road," he said.

"The only explanation I have as a police officer is, that it seems like drivers enjoy speeding, thus causing the accidents.

Spots

"The way the road is designed means that it has no blind spots.

"At night it is understandable that an accident can occur but the accidents in the area usually involve cars and livestock, but that being said, a lot of accidents in the area take place in broad daylight and that to us at Buhleni is very confusing," he added.

MINISTER MASHWAMA THE BEST CABINET MINISTER - HOSEA MP

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlango

"If there is a minister I wish to see retained in the next Cabinet, it is none other than Jabulile Mashwama because she has been the mainstay in as far as development is concerned in my constituency."

This was said by Hosea Member of Parliament Thulani Masuku, who believes the minister of natural resources and energy deserves another term as she proved to be a workaholic.

He said even though Minister Mashwama is among those ministers which the constitution does not allow to be retained, she should be given a special dispensation.

He said given the good work she has done ever since she joined Cabinet, where she also served under the commerce ministry, she had made a huge difference.

"I am not sure whether she is affected by what the constitution entails when it comes to the period one should serve in Cabinet but whatever the case is, if things could go my way, Minister Mashwama should be retained."

...says she deserves to be retained in Cabinet despite being one of the ministers having already served two consecutive terms.



THE BEST: Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini and Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Jabulile Mashwama.



PRAISE SINGER: Hosea Member of Parliament Thulani Masuku.

Yes, the laws stipulates that she cannot be retained for a further term after serving two consecutive terms but I believe such a law should be amended to allow for such people like Jabulile Mashwama

who is hard-working. Her work is there for all to see and she has been the shining light in Cabinet. If I could be allowed to rate her in terms of performance, I think she deserves a 9/10 rating," said MP

Masuku. Masuku said for the country to realise Vision 2022, individuals of Minister Mashwama's calibre should not be left out in the new government to be ushered in later this year. He said out of all

the Cabinet ministers he worked with in the 10th Parliament, Mashwama was among the best. He said his favourite in Cabinet was Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini and what he liked about him was that he stood his ground no matter the circumstances.

He believes it will not be an easy task for the country to find a replacement for the longest serving PM. "The Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini, as the captain of the ship, has done exceptionally well and there is no doubt about that. No matter how others feel, I think he is the best thing to have happened in this country."

It's not surprising that even the authorities of the land have entrusted him to be the head of government more than any other PM.

What I like with him is that he does not give up whenever he has an issue that he feels needs to be tackled and always stands his ground. I have been fortunate to have worked closely with a Cabinet headed by the current PM which produced ministers like Mashwama," said Masuku.

Masuku said he was not saying the rest of the other members of the Cabinet team were a flop as they have also done their part.

"I am not trying to divide the Cabinet but I am only expressing my gratitude in the way Minister Mashwama has been supportive to me, especially with projects under this constituency which have been implemented because of her. Just last week, she was here to launch electricity scheme projects worth over E20 million. It was after several postponements but she eventually arrived and never delegat-ed but personally officiated and this is what I call commitment."

Uyawuhloniphawa Mashwama umbesenti lanikwe baholi belive," said Masuku, meaning the minister respected work given to her by the leaders of the land.

Man convicted, sent for psychiatric evaluation

By Sibusiso Gamedze
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

SENIOR Mbabane Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini has ordered Mxolisi Vusi Mavuso of Sitibeni to be sent to a psychiatric hospital for evaluation pending sentencing slated for March 9.

This was after Mavuso pleaded guilty to two counts, one under the Theft of Motor Vehicles Act and another of theft of items valued at E21 000, which was the property of Dumisani Sithole of Mahwalala.

Senior public prosecutor Mbutfo Mbingo had his work made easy by Mavuso who had elected to conduct his own defence but nonetheless did not bother to cross-examine any witnesses nor did he have any rebuttals but agreed with all that was being alleged in court.

Prompted

This then prompted the senior magistrate to wonder if Mavuso was of sound mind and or fit to stand trial.

The complainant then entered into the fray and said he heard from other residents from the area that something was wrong with the accused.

Sithole said it was during the last week of December 2017, that he was in the process

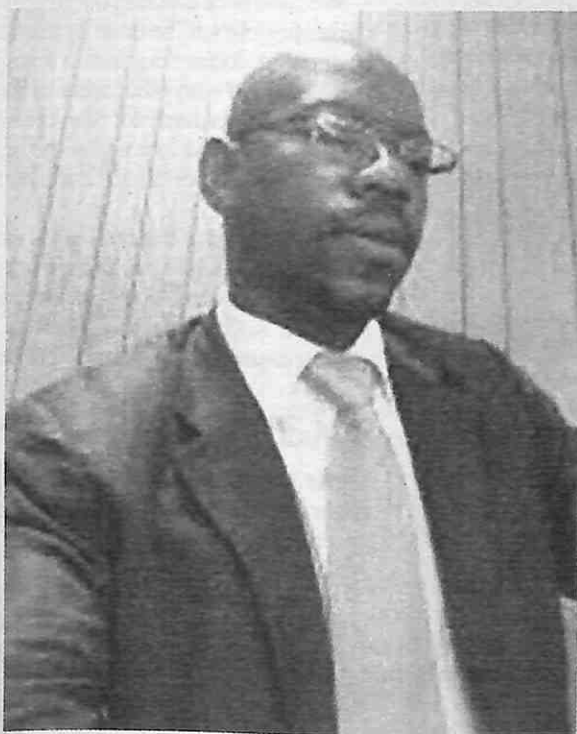
of moving from Sitibeni to Mahwalala that he decided to leave his car, a Toyota Camry, and some other items inside them in order to return at a later day for them.

Passenger

He said sometime during the month of January, he found that the left passenger window to his car that was parked at his former residence had been smashed and items, including three Kia Soul 17 inch rims and a Toyota Camry clutch kit, were missing. Sithole said he reported the crime to the Mbabane police who later called him to the police station to come and identify the missing items that they had since recovered from the accused.

Nokulunga Maseko from AMZ Recycling, one of the witnesses, said a man who was a regular customer of the scrap metal recycling company came with the rims and sold these to them.

She said she became suspicious after noting that the rims had been burnt in an attempt to make them look as if they were old and unused scrap yet on further inspection they looked new. The accused is also alleged to have said his name was Vusi Shabangu and not his real name Mxolisi Mavuso, which then prompted her to call the



EAGLE: Senior public prosecutor Mbutfo Mbingo.

police as per her company's policy.

After investigation, it was discovered that the rims valued at E21 000 were the same ones that belonged to Sithole after he reported the theft of same.

Prosecution

At the close of the prosecution's case, the senior magistrate then asked Mavuso if he wished to cross-examine both witnesses, to which he responded to the contrary.

The judicial officer then asked the accused if he wished to mitigate before sentencing to which he said he had nothing to say once more, something which seemed abnormal.

Even when he was asked why he had committed the offence, he said he had no reason nor did he hope to consume the proceeds of his crime as it was clear that he intended to sell the rims as metal scrap at the scrap yard.



Boko Haram attacks girls school in northeast Nigeria

KANO - Boko Haram jihadists launched an attack on a girls boarding school in northeast Nigeria but the pupils and teachers fled to safety, witnesses said.

A convoy of fighters in pickup trucks descended on Dapchi village in the Bursari area of Yobe state around 6pm (1700 GMT) targeting the school, resident Sheriff Aisami told AFP.

"When they stormed the village they began shooting and setting off explosives," Aisami said.

Attention

"This drew the attention of the girls in the Girls Science Secondary School, so the girls and the teachers were able to escape before the attackers got into the school."

Unable to kidnap the girls, the Boko Haram fighters looted the school before fleeing.

"There was an attack on the girls secondary school in Dapchi by Boko Haram," said a member of a local civilian militia battling the extremists. "Obviously the attack was meant to abduct school girls

but luckily they found none of the girls as they were taken away by teachers before they arrived," said the militia member, who declined to provide his name for safety reasons.

"Military jets were deployed and are in pursuit," he added.

It's unclear whether anyone was killed in the violence.

The attack recalls Boko Haram's audacious kidnapping of more than 200 schoolgirls from the town of Chibok in April, 2014.

The kidnapping drew the world's attention to the jihadist insurgency in northeast Nigeria.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, a former general, came to power in 2015 on a platform promising to stamp out the Islamist movement. But despite retaking swathes of territory from Boko Haram, the group continues to stage attacks targeting both civilians and military targets, and frequently uses young girls as suicide bombers.

AFP

THIKAZI CONFIRMS NEW JOB, THANKS THEIR MAJESTIES

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlango

THAMI Thikazi has since confirmed his appointment as Assistant Court President (Court Assessor).

This comes a week after Thikazi had claimed he was not aware of the appointment, asking to be excused from making comments on something he was not privy of.

The former *indvuna* of Mbilaneni *umphakatsi* was called by this newspaper about a correspondence dated February 19, 2017 appointing him as assistant court president.

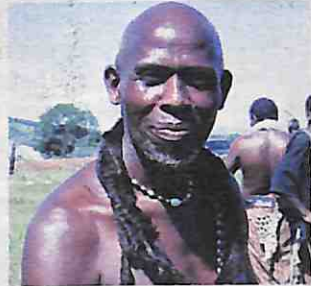
However, when called yesterday if he was still not aware of the letter signed by Vincent Mhlanga from the King's Office, he sung a different tune.

He instead demanded to know how the letter had been leaked to this reporter.

"Read out the document over the phone in order for me to be sure you really have it.

I don't want to confirm something you are not sure of because sometimes you media people like making up stories," he said.

It was after the letter was read



BAYETHE: Thami Thikazi.

to him over the phone that Thikazi started believing that the newspaper indeed had the same copy of his appointment letter.

"I notice it's the same letter I have. I wonder how it reached you people," he said, after having satisfied himself that it was the same letter.

Thikazi then said he didn't have much to say about the appointment save to thank Their Majesties for the appointment by shouting 'Bayethe!'

He said he was elated about the appointment and would make sure he executes his role to the best of his ability and not disappoint the appointing authority.

"What I can say is that I am going to do my work with honesty and respect.

"The Lord Almighty will guide

me and through His grace, I don't see any obstacle. Bayethe! Wena Waphakathi. Wena Ongangezintaba!" screamed Thikazi on the other side of the phone.

Part of the document reads thus; "I am pleased to inform you that His Majesty The King has appointed you to serve in the King's Office as Court Assessor on contract basis."

It also states that Thikazi will be transferred to any station in the Kingdom. His appointment is with effect from February 1, 2018 until January 30, 2022.

"You will be stationed at Manzini Court on first instance. Wishing you all the best," reads part of the document.

Interviewed, some of the people at his community were happy for him, saying since this is a royal appointment, it is clear that the country's authorities have noticed something in Thikazi. Last year, Thikazi was fired as *indvuna* at Mbilaneni by Chief Malambule (Mdluli). He had served as *indvuna* under Chief Malambule for over 10 years.

Thikazi was replaced by Boyzen Shabalala who served as chairperson while Thikazi was still *indvuna*.



KEEN TO ASSIST: Minister of Housing and Urban Development Phwayinkhosi Mabuza.

Residents cry foul over delay to upgrade Hluti into town

By Starsky Mkhonta
Hluti

RESIDENTS of Hluti are disappointed that the current government will soon vacate office without their area being declared a town.

Dissatisfied, the residents said they had high hopes that before the end of the term of the current government their area would have been upgraded to a town but it's now clear that this will not happen anytime soon.

Bahle Sibandze, who is the Chairman of the business community in the area and also one of those who have been vocal on the issue, said they have already ruled out any possibility to have the outgoing government giving the area town status.

He said considering that it was already almost time up for the Cabinet ministers and members of Parliament (MPs), it almost looked impossible this time around.

"We have been crossing our fingers that something tangible will be done by the current government to declare our area a town just like it has happened with other areas in the country.

It's sad that we have not been considered even now and we need to wait for the next government to decide our fate in as far as this matter is concerned.

We are aware of the challenges that have led to the delay but it should have not taken this long to iron some of the issues delaying this process," said Sibandze.

Sibandze said Hluti qualified to be upgraded

into a town as even the services offered in other towns are offered at Hluthi.

He said with the area having government departments offering services to the public, it is worrying that the area has still not been declared a town.

"I have been saying it that as we are a sub region just like Hlatikulu and Mankayane or Lavumisa which are known to be towns, why has Hluthi been left out as we it offers services that qualify it to be a town. There are shops as well as other services including a filling station all which make our area deserving to be a town. It is true that there are many other things that are considered when an area has to be declared a town but let us see action.

The business community has been all this time calling for all relevant authorities to do something. The outgoing government, we had banked our hope on it that it would leave office after the area has been upgraded into a town but now it's clear that this is not going to happen," said Sibandze.

Sibandze, however, said as residents and business community, they were consoled by the visits that Minister of Housing and Urban Development Phwayinkhosi Mabuza undertook over the same issue.

"Mabuza tried as he came here a number of times to find out what needs to be done. If I am not mistaken visited more than three times.

As a business community, we realised that he was keen to assist and see our dream materialising but because he cannot do things on his own, we do not blame him," said Sibandze.

Ramaphosa brings hope - Madonsela

JOHANNESBURG - Cyril Ramaphosa's ascent to the presidency has brought hope to South Africans, former Public Protector Thuli Madonsela said yesterday.

"His election has put the country a whole on the pedestal of hope... but a pedestal of hope is just a pedestal. It gives us higher ground to jump on to the next phase... it is not a summit," said Madonsela, as she launched her eponymous foundation on Constitution Hill in Johannesburg.

"It will take all of us to join hands with the president and political parties to build a South Africa of our dreams... we cannot expect government to do everything."

She said she welcomed former president Jacob Zuma's resignation last week following pressure from the governing African National Congress (ANC) for him to leave office



HOPE: Thuli Madonsela.

just less than four years into his second term.

"I welcome Zuma's resignation and the dignity through which he addressed the nation... as captain of the ship there has to be people following you, whether you are doing good or bad... but when you get to a point where those people are not hopeful or persuaded by you anymore, then you have to step aside."

Madonsela now chairs Stellenbosch University Law School's social justice arm.

She launched the Thuli Madonsela Foundation on United Nations' World Social Justice Day. Her organisation would focus on social justice work with communities.

Madonsela said everyone has a role to help uplift a fellow citizen, especially young people. *African News Agency*

LONLA INVESTMENTS

PROMOTIONS!

COMBO

RIMS FROM E2,800



TYRES

• 195/65 R15 - E350^{ea}
4 @ E1,400

• 195/75 R15 -
PRICE ON REQUEST



NEW STOCK COMING!

Manzini: Opposite Satellite Bus Rank
Below Hub, Cell: 7639 8839 / 2505 8455



FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

1 BILLION RISING REVOLUTION

DOMESTIC and gender based violence have engulfed the whole country and taken over news stories in media for a while now.

Women and children have been identified as the main victims, or survivors of abuse, and men the perpetrators. Which is why men have also been identified as part of the solution in preventing abuse. Other measures identified as solutions are laws. To date, 119 countries have federal laws addressing the issue of violence against women and children. These laws are meant to offer victims greater legal protection from violence. And living in one of the nations with the most prevalent cases of gender based violence, we as an organisation have been fighting to have one of these laws in place, keeping in mind that the importance of these laws must be understood by the general public.

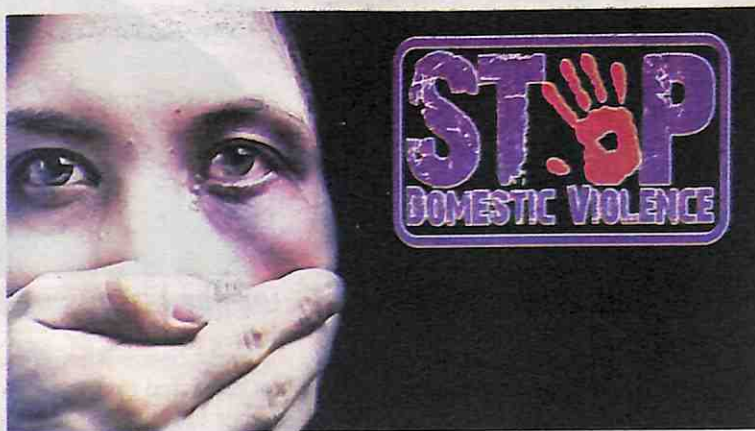
The Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Bill has been the topical issue in many discussions over the past few months. These were

much needed and incredibly educational conversations, in that they were informative and sought solutions to the ever rising problems caused by domestic violence, but they also made those involved realise just how important it is to educate the nation on what the SODV Bill is and its importance.

Well, this Bill is a tool that is meant to protect mainly children and women against abuse, be it physical, sexual, emotional or financial. It is meant to be preventive than reactive. And with respect to human services, prevention typically consists of methods or activities that seek to reduce or deter specific or predictable problems, protect the current state of well-being, or promote desired outcomes or behaviours.

Well, the SODV Bill seeks to do exactly just that.

The impact of child and gender based abuse can be profound. Research shows that child maltreatment is associated with adverse health and mental health outcomes in children and families, and those negative effects can last a lifetime. More emotional effects impact women in ways that cannot be quantified. In addition to



the impact on the survivor of abuse, neglect and violence affect various systems, including physical and mental health, law enforcement, judicial and public social services, and non-profit agencies as they respond to the incident and support the victims.

Violent

Ideally, the SODV Bill outline specific penalties for violent crimes motivated by or due to the gender based violence. These penalties are meant to be stiffer than those already in place, seeing that they are old and do not cover a number of crimes being committed against women and

children currently. For example, the Bill criminalises, and gives new meaning to: incest, flashing, stalking and abduction. Currently, rape is defined as 'the penetration of a woman by a man,' which is why it is difficult to recognise the rape of men.

With this Bill, all that is redefined. Meaning that this new law will protect both men and women from gender based violence. This means - a significant decrease in the number of cases, the emancipation of women from the clauses of abuse which ultimately lead to poverty, discrimination in the work place and commu-

nity, sexual harassment and assault.

It also means less money spent responding to GBV, counselling. And the most important of all it means a significant and most needed decrease in HIV statistics.

Empowerment

However, none of these benefits would be realised if women do not do their part in reporting abuse. It is clear that since women empowerment organisations started operating in the country, more cases of gender based violence have been reported. It is unclear, however, whether this increase represents better data collection and reporting, or an increase in the number of cases. It is this uncertainty, among other equally important reasons, that the nation is desperate for the passing of this Bill into law.

But whether the SODV Bill is passed into law, it will not be effective if women who are subjected to violence are silent or do not report for fear that they will suffer more violence as a result of coming forward. If that is the end result, then a law that intends to protect them from violence is not doing its job.

Don't let the fools get to you, Bra Terror

I was angry and ashamed, and deeply saddened, at the way most members of Parliament acted like a lynch mob and humiliated a dignified man with a proud record of struggle and sacrifice, Mosiuoa Lekota.

I was disgusted at the way so many johnny-come-latelies and people who until a few months ago prayed at the altar of Jacob

Zuma and the Gupatas jeered one of the few honourable people in Parliament who had the guts to ask uncomfortable but important questions on the critical issue of land redistribution.

Mosioua Patrick "Terror" Lekota is a dyed-in-the-wool democrat, a true patriot with cleaner hands than probably all those who had tried to belittle him yesterday.

I have to disclose that Lekota and I both hail from Kroonstad in the Free State and that we have been friends for more than three decades. He was a source of strength when a few colleagues and I started the newspaper Vrye Weekblad in the dangerous late 1980s with the express purpose of exposing the evils of apartheid and letting the voice of the oppressed, jailed and

banned be heard in the Afrikaans language.

I always felt inspired after one of his visits to our run-down offices in the Market Theatre district of Johannesburg. He always had a smile and a joke and lots of encouragement. On occasion he even lobbied for us with foreign embassies when the apartheid state threatened to destroy us.

We have had long conversations about our shared love of the land and about the history of the Free

State and Lesotho, and we both had a special appreciation of the legendary founder-king of the Basotho, Morena Moshoeshe I, about whom I have written much and made a full-length documentary film.

Terror, as I still call him, is three years older than me and grew up in the "lokasie" of our Free State town, while I grew up comfortably in white, middle class, small-town suburbia.

News24

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ON THIS DAY

... FEBRUARY 21

1943 - "Free World Theatre" debuted on the Blue network (now ABC radio).

1945 - "The Lion and the Mouse" was first broadcast on "Brownstone Theatre."

1947 - Edwin Land demonstrated the Polaroid Land Camera to the Optical Society of America in New York City. It was the first camera to take, develop and print a picture on photo paper all in about 60 seconds. The photos were black and white. The camera went on sale the following year.

1950 - The first International Pancake Race was held in Liberal, Kansas.

1965 - Malcolm X was assassinated in New York City at the age of 39 by assassins identified as Black Muslims.

1968 - An agreement between baseball players and club owners increased the minimum salary for major league players to \$10 000 a year.

1973 - Israeli fighter planes shot down a Libyan Airlines jet over the Sinai Desert. More than 100 people were killed.

1975 - Former US Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides HR Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2 1/2 to 8 years in prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up.

1988 - In Baton Rouge, LA, TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggart confessed to his congregation that he was guilty of an unspecified sin. He announced that he was leaving the pulpit temporarily. Swaggart had been linked to an admitted prostitute.

1989 - US President George HW Bush called Ayatollah Khomeini's death warrant against "Satanic Verses" author Salman Rushdie "deeply offensive to the norms of civilized behavior."

1995 - Chicago stockbroker Steve Fossett became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean in a balloon. He landed in Leader, Saskatchewan, Canada.

1999 - India's Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee concluded two days of meeting with Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif.

2000 - David Letterman returned to his Late Night show about five weeks after having an emergency quintuple heart bypass operation.

2003 - David Hasselhoff and his wife Pamela were injured in a motorcycle accident. The accident was caused by a strong gust of wind. Hasselhoff fractured his lower back and broke several ribs. His wife fractured her left ankle and right wrist.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Riyadh Mahrez
(Soccer player) -
February 21, 1991
(27 years)



Ashley Greene
(TV actress) -
February 21, 1987
(31 years old)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, LEGACIES OF THE #JACOB ZUMA PERIOD

MANY will evaluate Jacob Zuma's legacies by considering its impact on the economy, the rule of law, public institutions and similar factors.

This article considers some of these questions but also examines the ways in which Zuma's legacies affect the very notion of being a South African in collective and individual contexts.

Loyalty to the country

The most common reason given for Zuma's removal from office is his involvement in acts of corruption and state capture. It is my view (and one buttressed by the expertise of Professor James Grant, now a practising advocate) that the notion of corruption is insufficient to cover what is entailed in state capture, in which it appears that Zuma has been extensively implicated. State capture is not simply enrichment by fraudulent dealings, at the expense of individuals or the state. It is systemic.

The relationship between Jacob Zuma and Schabir Shaik was one of corruption, where Zuma was paid funds on the expectation that he would deliver favours through his position in government. Likewise, Zuma may have received various gifts or assistance in acquiring some properties or other items that he has not declared and were used in order to win his support for this or that tender or contract. That would also constitute corruption.

None of this is on the scale of state capture, that goes beyond defrauding a citizen or the state. It entails the ceding of decision-making powers belonging to the state or information sufficient to decisively influence a decision, to outsiders, in this case the Gupta family and their associates. This has, notably, entailed appointment of ministers and boards of state-owned enterprises based on the interests of the Guptas.

To cede a power of the state to non-state entities or individuals who do not bear state responsibilities is to undermine the functioning of the state and that is surely treason? James Grant (@JamesGrantZA) asked on Twitter on 14 February 2018: "What is the difference between causing or allowing armed mercenaries to storm Parliament to seize power and selling it?" He then provided the legal definition of high treason:

"A person commits high treason if, owing allegiance to the Republic of South Africa, she unlawfully engages in conduct within or outside the Republic, with the intention of

- (a) Overthrowing the government of the Republic;
- (b) Coercing the government by violence into action or inaction.
- (c) Violating, threatening or endangering the existence, independence or security of the Republic; or
- (d) Changing the constitution¹ structure of the Republic."



UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Former president Jacob Zuma.

Clearly, commission of treason is not restricted to acts of violence against the state but includes acts which undermine the existence or sovereignty of a state by other means, as in (c) above, which refers to acts which undermine the existence and independence or security of the state, without necessarily resorting to force.

If or when Zuma faces charges related to state capture, these ought to be more serious than any of those he faces on the long-deferred charges that were dropped by Mokotedi Mpshe in 2009. What Zuma and his cohorts could face in relation to the Guptas is not merely charges of corruption and even the concept "state capture" is insufficient to cover what it entailed. It may also be a charge of treason.

That is unfinished business the state needs to discharge, that it has failed to do during the presidency of Zuma. This is not to wreak vengeance against a leader who has fallen. It is part of restoring legality. In order to strengthen the social fabric from a recurrence of such actions, we need to redefine the word patriotism (said to be the refuge of scoundrels but capable of bearing an emancipatory meaning) and breathe into it a meaning that encourages all South Africans to take seriously their allegiance to the republic.

That also signifies a state that cares for its people by taking their freedoms and wellbeing seriously. I am speaking of the spirit found in the Preamble to our Constitution: "We, the people of South Africa... adopt this Constitution... so as to... Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law; Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and Build a united and democratic South Africa..."

Renewal of South African democracy also means taking stock, not

only of unfinished business directly in relation to Zuma's personal legal responsibility and liability but that we consider, evaluate and address the other social and political legacies of this period. These include:

Violence

The entire Zuma period, even before his rise to state presidency has been marked by violence, either related to him personally or by political or state associates. Zuma's rape trial and various statements that he made then and subsequently marked the imagery with which he sought to surround himself as that of "warrior masculinity".

It was not simply violent masculinity, which it was, but also an attempt to resurrect heroic masculinity associated with precolonial warrior resistance to conquest and the soldiers who fought in MK. Not only Zuma, but many others defiled the heroism associated with some songs of the liberation struggle by using these in a time of peace, in order to serve their own interests. By so doing they endangered the peace, limited the possibility of entrenching the principle of non-violence and also created a climate where resort to violence was normalised, whether in police killings and violence, in Marikana but more generally in the society at large.

All of this made women and LGBTIQ people more vulnerable than they might otherwise have been to violence, and indeed Zuma's utterances and actions reinforced that vulnerability.

The question of culture and social relationships

Although Zuma is not a theorist his period as president entailed a range of ways of understanding and constructing South African social relations that were communicated to the South African public by words or deeds. Partly this was through statements he made, or his own behaviour set up as an example. But also, it was through ways of relating to some sections of the population, notably African men and

women as opposed to others, in signifying what is appropriate for a woman. Not to act in that way meant that one could not be a proper woman. Thus he said: "People today think being single is nice. It's actually not right. That's a distortion. You've got to have children. Children are important to a woman because they give extra training to a woman, to be a mother".

Notion of culture

Zuma saw his presidency as making a stamp on people's conception of cultural questions, especially what he claimed to represent for Africans. Conduct or ways of being that departed from this were, instead, said to be the practice of white people or contrary to African beliefs or cultural systems.

The question of culture needs to be taken seriously, that is, the cultures of all the peoples of South Africa. All cultures are worthy of recognition and respect. That does not mean respect signifies a passive and uncritical relationship. No culture can grow or develop its full potential if it is not in dialogue amongst its adherents but also in relation to those who practise other cultures. That is one of the reasons why Paulin Hountondji prefers the word endogenous referring to local cultures in interaction with other cultures, to indigenous which tends to refer to static, insulated cultures of a people. He sees that word having the tendency to be exoticised. (P. Hountondji, "Introduction" In: P. Hountondji, ed. Endogenous knowledge: research trails. 1997. Dakar: Codesria, 17-19)

In addition, there are some practices that are part of or represented as part of cultures or customs like *ukuthwala* or any version of child marriages, and other purported customs. These are unacceptable because they are abusive or physically violent and/or patriarchal or coercive.

Singularity of meaning?

One of the grounds of battle over culture relates to the presentation of a particular interpretation of culture as representing the only or authoritative meaning of that culture or cultural practice.

Sometimes this is a romanticised version of culture that may or may not find resonance with very many people, sometimes it is in fact the use of culture or pseudo culture to justify patriarchal and abusive actions, as was the case in Zuma's rape trial.

The claims of some to be authoritative custodians of the meanings and scope of cultural practices needs to be opened to questioning instead of allowing some to present themselves as able to make pronouncements for all who practise such cultures.

None of this is intended to suggest that there should not be a critical approach towards inherited colonial and apartheid cultural and knowledge systems.

eNCA

'WE'RE CHOOSING MINISTERS NOW'

CAPE TOWN - At 10:00 on Monday morning Cyril Ramaphosa is seated on the bench reserved for the president in the National Assembly, for only the second time.

Last Friday he had a brief chance to get acquainted with this seat, in the few minutes before he got called to the podium to deliver his first State of the Nation Address (SONA).

READ: Ramaphosa to respond to MPs after SONA debate

This is what is being debated now, with ANC Chief Whip and big Ramaphosa supporter Jackson Mthembu behind the podium.

In front of Ramaphosa is a big Apple iPad and a keyboard, and he types a few points in a small font size while Mthembu sings his praises, sometimes nodding.

"Hayi..." grumbles the red-clad EFF MPs when ANC Chief Whip Jackson Mthembu thanks Ramaphosa's predecessor, Jacob Zuma.

Laughter

In 2017 there was just a gap where the EFF is now sitting, as they were forcibly "helped" to leave the House during that year's SONA.

After Mthembu, it is DA leader Mmusi Maimane's turn, with his wife Natalie looking on from the sparsely populated public gallery.

READ: 'Please go to Marikana,' Shivambu 'sends' Ramaphosa, as it happened.

The ANC MPs laugh when Maimane starts with his usual multilingual greeting of: "Fellow South Africans. Bagaetso. Dumelang."

In 2017, Maimane launched an attack on Zuma under the theme enemy of the people. The previous year he spoke about "Planet Zuma", and the year before that about a "broken man in a broken country".

This year, he takes a different tone. "We can fix South Africa" is the title of his speech.

"President Ramaphosa has promised the people of South Africa a 'new dawn'. I really believe that this is what he wants for South Africa. It is certainly what we want for South Africa," says Maimane.

"And I want to pledge my support, and the support of my party toward the realisation of this goal."

Ramaphosa nods, and his note-taking intensifies, with a serious, but calm expression on his face as Maimane gets into his speech.

The word "broken" is mentioned a few times in Maimane's speech, but he doesn't talk about Planet Zuma.

By the end of his speech, Ramaphosa made several notes.

Shock over Ndoro

After Maimane, Minister of Human Settlements Lindiwe Sisulu

takes to the podium, and Ramaphosa nods when she congratulates him. He smiles when she uses his slogan for his ANC presidential campaign, "Siyavuma".

DA Chief Whip John Steenhuisen blurts out the slogan for Sisulu's aborted campaign: "It's a must!"

"It is a must," retorts Sisulu.

Ramaphosa reacts with shock when Sisulu says SABC news anchor Peter Ndoro lost his job after he mistakenly announced Ramaphosa's death (Ndoro didn't lose his job; he took leave), and bursts out laughing when Sisulu says he must assure Ndoro that he didn't kill him.

Ramaphosa clasps his hands together and smiles with a nod as the EFF leader Julius Malema greets him with a broad smile.

Malema delivers his address with less intensity than when he participated in debates about Zuma's SONAs. He does build-up a head of steam and calls for Public Service and Administration Faith Muthambi's removal from Cabinet - Muthambi laughs.

As the debate continues, Ramaphosa trades in his tablet for a notebook and pen. Pen and paper was also more the note-taking style of his predecessor, who in 2017 used the type of notebook reporters tend to favour. Ramaphosa's is a bit bigger and seems to be bound in leather.

Ramaphosa's notes are rendered in what seems from the press gallery to be a slick cursive hand. Zuma used print and had the habit of repeating the letters of some words several times over each other, creating a bold effect on some words.

Zuma only wrote three lines in his notebook when Maimane spoke in 2017.

'Sing it'

By the time the House breaks for lunch after Minister of Economic Development Ebrahim

Patel finished his speech shortly after 13:00, Ramaphosa has filled several pages of his notebook.

His predecessor filled only two pages during the whole first day of the previous SONA debate, which stretched over two sittings.

After lunch, Ramaphosa had his tablet out again.

He seems to take fewer notes as the debate drags on, but he looks in the direction of the people behind the podium most of the time, often with one of his hands on his chin, sometimes with the tip of one of his spectacles' ears close to his lips, giving him a rather studious air.

He nods and smiles often, and shake the hand of the ANC speakers as they pass him after leaving the podium (The opposition speakers don't pass him, they're literally on the other side of the

House).

When DA MP Natasha Mazzone quotes lyrics from South African rocker Arno Carstens, Ramaphosa says: "Sing it!"

Mazzone obliges, much to Ramaphosa's amusement.

She concludes by saying Ramaphosa should tell Minister of Public Enterprises Lynne Brown: "You are the weakest link, goodbye."

Brown smirks, Ramaphosa smiles.

Land expropriation

During ANC MP Nocawe Mafu's speech, Minister of Home Affairs Ayanda Dlodlo sends

Ramaphosa a note with a parliamentary

messenger. After reading it, Ramaphosa looks in her direction, she says something and he makes a talking gesture with his hand and nods.

COPE leader Mosiuoa Lekota seems pretty fired up. The whole House, Ramaphosa included, laughs when he complains that too much of the allotted time for his speech has passed, and when he refers to Ramaphosa by his previous title of deputy president.

Lekota vehemently opposes expropriation without compensation, and EFF MP Mbuyiseni Ndlozi asks him how much he was paid by the "Fascists of the Nationalist Party". Ramaphosa smiles.

As a steaming Lekota leaves the podium, Ramaphosa turns to Speaker Baleka Mbete in the bench next to him and says something to which she responds with a smile.

Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform Gugile Nkwinti sends a letter to Ramaphosa via Mthembu. Twice while reading it Ramaphosa shows a thumbs up.

Nkwinti's deputy, Mcebisi Skwatsha, delivers an impassioned case for expropriation. Malema gets up and says: "Are you taking notes, honourable President? We're choosing ministers now."

Ramaphosa laughs.

EFF MP Floyd Shivambu came prepared with several policy proposals.

Ramaphosa laughed when Shivambu said with a naughty glint in his eyes that the EFF specialises in giving advice.

'Your Ace is a joker'

However, Ramaphosa shows no reaction when Shivambu says he is uncomfortable with Ramaphosa's close relationship with white monopoly capital.

The second to last speaker is the DA Chief Whip John Steenhuisen, who garnered a reputation for his roasts of Ramaphosa's predecessor and the ANC.

He spared Ramaphosa (Maybe he is still letting him marinade?), but had a go at ANC Secretary General Ace Magashule.

"You have been dealt a bad hand by your own party but you simply cannot have a new deal, when the only Ace in your pack is actually a joker!" Steenhuisen said, eliciting a smile from Ramaphosa.

The debate is closed by Minister of Science and Technology Naledi Pandor, who says listening to the opposition speakers, she has sympathy for Ramaphosa who has to prepare a response to them. He nods knowingly.



IMPRESSED: South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa.



"The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them."
— Ernest Hemingway

"There is a loneliness in this world so great that you can see it in the slow movement of the hands of a clock."

People so tired
mutilated
either by love or no love.

People just are not good to each other one on one.

The rich are not good to the rich
the poor are not good to the poor.

We are afraid.

Our educational system tells us
that we can all be
big-ass winners.

It hasn't told us
about the gutters
or the suicides.

Or the terror of one person
aching in one place
alone

Untouched
unspoken to.

Watering a plant."
— Charles Bukowski, *Love Is a Dog from Hell*

"Life is to be enjoyed, not endured"
— Gordon B. Hinckley

"No thief, however skillful, can rob one of knowledge, and that is why knowledge is the best and safest treasure to acquire."
— L. Frank Baum, *The Lost Princess of Oz*

"Now, you two - this year, you behave yourselves. If I get one more owl telling me you've - you've blown up a toilet or..."

"Blown up a toilet? We've never blown up a toilet."

"Great idea though, thanks, Mum."
— JK Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

"Maybe who we are isn't so much about what we do, but rather what we're capable of when we least expect it."
— Jodi Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*

"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle."
— Francis of Assisi, *The Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi*

"It's like everyone tells a story about themselves inside their own head. Always. All the time. That story makes you what you are. We build ourselves out of that story."
— Patrick Rothfuss, *The Name of the Wind*

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	4.7%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.0%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E12.80 per litre
Replacement	E12.85 per litre
Diesel	E12.00 per litre
Paraffin	E 8.95 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 19 FEB 2018

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	11.6340	11.6840
British Pound/SZL	16.3144	16.3845
Japanese Yen/SZL	9.1176	9.1542
Swiss France/SZL	12.5326	12.5851
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2227	1.2385
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.2130	9.2584
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.2130	9.2584
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	14.4407	14.5028
Gold	1,347.5500	
Oil	63.5400	

For more information contact:
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Standard Bank

TV LICENCE CONSORTIUM ROPES IN 26 COPS, 10 PROSECUTORS

Stories by Majaha Nkonyane

THE TV Licence Consortium is tightening its screws as it has since roped in 26 police officers from different regions and 10 prosecutors from the Directorate of Public Prosecutions office to assist in the collection of TV licences.

This new development was disclosed by TV Licence Project Manager Modicai Donga.

"The task team's role is to enforce the Swaziland Television Authority Act. The consortium, in partnering with the law enforcers, views this as a step of progress in ensuring that television owners and busi-



STERN: TV Licence Project Manager Modicai Donga stressing a point during the TV Licence workshop yesterday.

nesses dealing in television sets adhere to the Act," he said.

Donga also mentioned that the consortium will continue to conduct inspections of both residential and business premises to verify whether a person in possession of a television set has a valid television licence.

Urged

"The nation is urged to take this opportunity and pay for their television licences before law enforcement agents arrest and arraign individuals and businesses to court," he said, citing Section 22 of the Act which states that "no person shall be in possession of a television receiver or video cassette recorder capable of receiving or recording television broadcasts unless he/she

is in possession of a current television viewers' certificate or licence issued in accordance with the Act".

Adding, Donga said: "We are convinced at this juncture that everyone knows that they have an obligation to pay for their television licence considering also that this Act dates back to 1983. We would like to thank those who have come forward to pay for their television licences.

"We announce today that those who have failed, ignored and/or refused to pay for their television licence are clearly flagrantly disregarding the law. The consortium is now entering into a phase of enforcing the law," he said.

TV Licence inspections begin Monday

THE TV Licence Consortium's first stop will be in Manzini as businesses in the country's hub will be the first to be inspected.

This was disclosed by lead consultant Sidumo Mdladla, who was speaking at a workshop hosted at the Swaziland Water Services Corporation (SWSC) in Ezulwini yesterday.

"We are pleading with the nation to comply with the law and pay their TV licences. We are at a different stage of the collection process and would like to urge the nation to work with us.

"The inspection process is set to begin in Manzini where we will

start with the business section," he said.

Mdladla reminded the nation that TV licences are supposed to be paid by all those who own a TV set and not for content from Swazi TV as many have assumed. The task team that will be dealing with the inspection comprises police, the consortium officers and prosecutors.

The inspection process is set to begin next week Monday. According to Mdladla, they have ample time as they are given a five-year period to work on the collection of TV licences. It was also mentioned that when the task team got into

office, the figures were alarming as only seven out of 10 000 people countrywide were paying for their licences but now they are standing at 42 000 people.

Commendable

Swaziland Television Authority (STVA) Board Chairperson Nozizwe Mulela also mentioned that a number of people have come forward to make payments.

"The good news is that we have seen many people and institutions come through to pay their TV licences and this is commendable. I must, therefore, thank the consortium for their effort thus far and hasten to say that there is still much

collection work to be done," she said.

In addition, Mulela said they also partnered with various organisations and institutions on the initiative and their support had greatly assisted the campaign to move faster.

"The law is quite clear on the payment of TV licences and law enforcers have come out to say they too are ready to work with the consortium. We would like to take this opportunity to further encourage the public and say that the time to pay your TV licence is now. As STVA, we also plead with the public to work with us as we strive to provide an excellent service and it can only begin with the payment of your TV licence," she said.

'Quality staff required for ICT regulators' efficiency'

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

FORMER Director General of the Zambian Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) Margaret Mudenda strongly believes that skills are important for any ICT regulator to effectively deliver on its mandate.

Speaking at the Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce (FSE&CC) ICT stakeholders workshop facilitated by Global Systems Mobile Association (GSMA) at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre, Mudenda explained that regulators should be more knowledgeable than industry players and government as a policy maker.

She, therefore, advised the Swaziland Communications Commission to recruit people with actual experi-

ence and insight of the ICT industry.

Adding, she said recruiting qualified personnel is also not enough as international exposure trainings are quite essential for the regulator's staff to remain upbeat on industry issues at all times. "We learn through emulation and comparing notes.

Realised

When I worked for ZICTA, we had successfully sustained the title of employer of choice as we realised that you cannot regulate if you don't have the right people.

This means that quality staff is very important for any regulator," she advised. Sharing experiences, Mudenda said while she was still the ZICTA director general, the regulator developed realistic yearly Key Performance Indicators, objectives as well as five-year strategic plans.

"With us, we ensured that no abstracts but strictly measurable targets like

how the ICT sector would grow the country's GDP each year," she said, adding that ZICTA dared to poach employees from the industry so as to ensure that people with the know-how of the ICT industry are on board.

Adding she said: "It is important for the regulator to know what they are doing, which is why having technical people who have worked in the ICT industry becomes important. Without such people, the regulator runs the risk of actually taking decisions that can harm the industry," emphasising on the importance of capacity.

In another matter, FSE&CC Chief Executive Officer Bonsiwe Ntando in a question and answer session wanted to know whether quality standards in the ICT industry are developed by only the regulator or such is done in collaboration with industry players.

In response, Mudenda said: "Quality

standards are done by regulators, players can't do possibly do that. Best practices can be picked from other countries but standards are not necessarily a one-size fits all thing," she said, adding that operators cannot possibly develop standards.

In the same question and answer session, Lavumisa Dlamini wanted to know how regulatory authorities should deal with enforcement and compliance issues with regard to quality equipment as well as measures taken to safeguard against technology dumping.

In her response, Mudenda said: "You can be a friend, but you have to be tough on compliance. Operators should know very well that they will be shut down and their equipment confiscated if they fail to adhere to set standard," adding that in Zambia, it had taken about two years for operators to understand that ZICTA meant business.

Smartphones flourish in SD while rest of Africa records feature phones comeback

Stories by Hlengiwe Ndlovu

WHILE feature phones have reportedly made a strong comeback in many African countries, that appears not to be the case in the Swazi context as cellphone users, especially urban dwellers, the middle and upper classes, have gone the smartphone route, indicators show.

Samsung, Huawei and others are some of the most popular smartphone brands in Swaziland while the Nokia 3310 became an instant hit when cellphones were initially introduced to the local market.

Smartphones are mobile phones similar to a mini-computer and offer a variety of features that allow advanced computing capability and connectivity while feature phones are those with minimal features.

Quartz Africa reported that the market share of feature phones in Africa rose to 61 per cent in 2017 from 55.4 per cent in 2016, while the market share for smartphones fell to 39 per cent from 44.6 per cent, according to data provided by IDC.

Despite many African countries reporting an increase in the feature phones market share, the Swazi context appears quite different as well-known cellphone repairs shop Sdeez Director Banele Zwane argues that more people in this country own smartphones as compared to feature phones.

He bases his argument on general observation and the types of phones that his shop deals often with as his views are not necessarily based on empirical data.

"My observation is that many people in Swaziland prefer smartphones and actually own them as compared to feature phones, regardless of age. I have seen that older people also prefer smartphones even though they do not fully exploit all available applications as compared to the younger generation," he said.

Zwane's sentiments were shared by Swazi MTN Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lufundvo who said: "In the local context, one can safely say that smartphones are gaining ground, and getting much more popular," also predicting that smartphones would continue being popular in future.



"It takes a lot of energy to imagine the sale and use of feature phones overtaking smartphones in the future, particularly because smartphones are getting more affordable than when they initially hit the market, slightly over a decade ago," he said.

Meanwhile, according to Zwane, the market share of feature phones in the Swazi landscape was long outcompeted by smartphones.

"At Sdeez, we do not deal with feature phones anymore as most of our customers bring smartphones," he said. Sdeez is a popular cellphone repair shop with branches in the capital city Mbabane and central Manzini.

Repairs

Established around eight years ago, Sdeez became one of a few locally owned cellphone repairs shops in the country as this market is mainly dominated by people of Asian origin.

Sdeez attracts a wide range of people with hardware and software challenges in their phones. Another observed variable with cellphone users in Swaziland, as observed by an expert in the ICT industry, who preferred to comment anonymously, is that the elderly population living in rural areas prefer feature phones because of their simplicity and affordability.

"Imagine an old woman living with her grandchildren who may want to fiddle with her phone, all the time. Obviously, a feature phone, even though it may have a few games will be less enticing to those children as compared to a smartphone with its assortment of games and applications," he said, adding that feature phones are relatively easy to operate for old people

whose only interest may be in calling others and receiving calls and SMSes.

The same expert indicated that one of the reasons why feature phones could be enjoying a good market share is that people nowadays have more than one cellphone. He made an example that smartphones with their assorted applications, background data and other features that run even when the phone is not in use could result in a lower battery life as compared to feature phones whose batteries last longer.

Meanwhile, Swazi MTN Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lufundvo's reaction was that whilst his company had not yet intentionally, and specifically conducted research to compare which phones are currently getting the cash tills humming between feature and smart phones, anecdotal pointers show smartphones as being hugely popular.

In his view, the reasons why feature phones are still in the market, include but are not limited to; the growth in the production and sale of dual SIM feature phones which give customers choice of using two networks simultaneously as well as customers who prefer to use their mobile phones only to call, SMS and receive calls.

He also pointed out the cost or economic factor as being one of the reasons that some people still do not afford smart phones.

Quartz reported that the recovery of feature phone growth in Africa was largely dominated by Transsion, the Shenzhen, and China-based handset maker of the Ite and Tecno brands which started off its operations in some of Africa's largest markets.

Feature phones appeal to critical mass with limited financial muscle - Macford

SWAZI Mobile Corporate Communications Manager Macford Sibandze argues that economic inequalities in the African landscape are the major reason why so many people have feature phones as compared to smartphones.

"We cannot deny the fact that feature phones appeal to the critical mass of people with limited financial means as the continent still has a large number of people who cannot afford a smartphone," he said, also observing that there is still a significant proportion of people whose main interest in a cellphone lies solely in calls, SMSes and using the phone to check time compared to the intricate applications featured in smartphones.

Sibandze made an example of the Swazi Mobile feature phone which only cost E100 and was sold in the company's initial days.

"The E100 phones flew off the shelves and were sold out in a short while after introduction. We currently have a phone that costs E300



MAJOR REASON: Swazi Mobile Corporate Communications Manager Macford Sibandze.

and it is also selling well as it enables people to buy it without necessarily having to come up with a comprehensive budget," he said.

The Swaziland Household Income and Expenditure Survey Report of 2010 indicates that 63 per cent of the country's population lives in poverty while 85 per cent of the rural population is poor.

Swazi MTN encourages more people to use smart phones

IN another matter, Swazi MTN Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lufundvo is of the view that smartphones are increasingly the gadgets of choice for both the young and old.

He also states that the MTN 4G network also works well on 4G-compatible smartphones. "Yes, we would like to see more subscribers explore the use of smartphones for improved network experience," he said.

Lufundvo also went on to highlight the reasons why smartphones are so popular.

"The popularity of smartphones is related to its portability and programmability, because they have sensors which makes them a device with almost limitless. Applications (Apps), which tend to amplify what one can do through

a smartphone," he said, adding that sometimes it feels like a smartphone can seamlessly run one's life.

"For instance, it can wake you up without fail, guide you on how to dress (through weather forecast), remind you of key appointments, tell you who of your friends are within five to 10 kilometre radius, remind you of your friends' important dates, like birthdays, to mention but a few, while health and fitness apps track the miles you've run".

Lufundvo was also mindful of the fact that smartphones make video calling and video conferencing possible, thus creating lots of conveniences. "The major strength of smartphones is that they allow you multiple ways of communicating."

PSPF affirms commitment to investing in country's development

AFRICAN pension funds may have largely been accused of failing to make meaningful investment in infrastructure development, but the Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) has reaffirmed its commitment to investing in the Swaziland economy.

PSPF Communications Manager Elkan Makhanya said his organisation had invested in, among other projects, a hydro project, dairy project as well as the government infrastructure bonds to display commitment towards infrastructure development in the country.

"PSPF is committed to funding infrastructure projects for the Swaziland economy upon positive assessment of the projects/investment, and has already invested in such projects," he said.

The World Pensions Council and African Investor earlier this year

announced a joint intention to mobilise one per cent of the \$3 trillion owned by pension investors worldwide to contribute towards infrastructure development in Africa, a decision taken ahead of the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland.

The World Pension Council is an international organisation bringing together a wide range of pension executives and board members from Europe, Asia and America while the African Investor is an institutional investment platform for sovereign wealth in the continent and pension fund institutions.

PSPF, however, is not a member of the World Pension Council but a subscribed member of the International Social Security Association (ISSA), Makhanya said. ISSA is an international organisation bringing together



national social security administrations and agencies.

It has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Meanwhile, the World Pensions Council and African Investor had said that their decision to invest in African infrastructure was

driven by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) five per cent agenda, a collaborative partnership between African asset owners and African countries to mobilise US\$30 billion of African domestic capital through a derisking framework named Institutional Investment Partnerships.

ISSA launches office in Swaziland today

THE Swaziland National Provident Fund (SNPF) has been nominated to host the International Social Security Association (ISSA) regional office for six years.

The office will be launched in Manzini today in an event which will be attended by the Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula, ISSA Secretary General Hans-Horst Konkolewsky and other captains of industry, SNPF said in a statement.

ISSA is an international organisation bringing together national social security administrations and agencies. Founded in 1927, ISSA has more than 330 member organisations in 158 countries.

FOCUS ON SA'S BUDGET SPEECH

'NOBODY ELSE BUT MALUSI GIGABA WILL PRESENT BUDGET'

CAPE TOWN – Only the president will be able to say if Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba will keep his job, said Deputy Finance Minister Sifiso Buthelezi.

He was responding to questions from journalists about whether Gigaba will deliver the 2018 Budget Speech today. Gigaba had handed over the microphone to Buthelezi to answer questions following a briefing for the launch of the portal Vulekamali, which aims to make the budget more accessible to South Africans.

"That is why we are here. There is a budget that is going to be presented tomorrow and it is going to be presented by nobody else but Malusi Gigaba," said Buthelezi.

"That is the information we all have. That is what we have been preparing for," he said.

President Cyril Ramaphosa will

have to hold his own media briefing about the future of ministers, Buthelezi explained.

"We all know that is the prerogative of the president. On a serious note, it's definitely an unfair question to ask a deployee 'are you going to be here tomorrow, are you going to be here next week?'"

Ahead of the State of the Nation Address last Friday, Gigaba told journalists that he serves at the pleasure of the president.

"The president can appoint ministers, he can remove others. It is not the end of the world, we remain members of Parliament."

"Nobody joined the struggle in order to become a minister and so we will continue to serve the ANC and the people of South Africa in whatever capacity assigned to us," Gigaba said.

FIN24



MEDIA BRIEFING: SA President Cyril Ramaphosa with Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba.

COSATU warns against VAT hikes

CAPE TOWN – Ahead of the budget, trade union federation COSATU has argued against raising the VAT rate and increasing income tax rates for working and middle class South Africans.

The first budget under a Ramaphosa presidency is set to be delivered in Parliament this afternoon.

Economists have been raising the prospect that the finance minister will hike VAT rates to make up for a tax revenue shortfall and increased spending for free education for some tertiary students.

"COSATU expects government not to throw the working and middle classes under the bus with VAT and income tax hikes," the trade union federation said on Monday in its pre-budget statement.

"COSATU will not support any attempt by government to balance budget shortfalls and deficits upon the backs of struggling workers. Workers are not the ones who have looted Eskom, SAA and the state."

The government should first eliminate billions in wasteful expenditure, and the National Prosecuting Authority recover "stolen" assets, it said.

"Any increase in taxes on the poor will further condemn them to hunger and stifle economic growth. Government must remember workers are voters and they are tired."

The federation also said the state should increase taxes on imported and luxury goods, and "the many millionaires who find sophisticated ways to avoid paying taxes".

"Lifestyle audits must be conducted of the leadership of the private sector, parastatals and government to make sure they are paying their taxes in full. We cannot expect workers to be happy to pay taxes whilst politicians simply ignore SARS." FIN24

FISCAL CONSOLIDATION CRUCIAL TO AVOID MOODY'S DOWNGRADE

JOHANNESBURG – The abandonment of fiscal consolidation as a key policy anchor in the October 2017 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) led to the downgrade to sub investment grade by S&P and the credit watch by Moody's, Old Mutual Investment Group said in a statement on Monday.

"Since then, however, the accelerated speed at which events have moved – mostly in a positive direction – has been encouraging, despite being unexpected. Considering that newly sworn in President Ramaphosa has strong business experience and was heavily involved in the creation of the acclaimed National Development Plan (NDP), it is more likely now that the ANC will return to their more pragmatic policies," Old Mutual Investment Group said in a statement.

It is against this backdrop that Old Mutual Investment Group's Head of Economic Research, Johann Els, believes the upcoming budget will need to be a lot tougher than what South Africa has seen in the recent past.

Els said, "While we do expect a some-

what better economic environment during 2018, which should marginally improve the fiscal numbers, a clear return to fiscal consolidation is needed. This should include both revenue and expenditure measures to speed up narrowing of the budget deficit in a more sustainable manner in order to stabilise the debt ratio."

Els also warned that this will not be easy and will likely be painful to most taxpayers.

Balanced

"Minister Gigaba has mentioned in Parliament, following the MTBPS fiasco, that an extra R30bn in taxes would need to be raised in this budget. While a tighter fiscal stance is clearly needed, it would also need to be balanced with the need to not hurt economic growth too much – a key requirement by Moody's."

"Thus, significant tax hikes are needed and would likely be concentrated at the top end of the income spectrum," Els further added.

He outlines a number of options by which this could be done.

"Fiscal drag, i.e. not making allowance

for inflation pushing taxpayers into higher tax brackets, could raise R10bn, and an additional top marginal tax rate could result in a further R4-R5bn. R16bn could be raised by reducing tax expenditures via levying VAT on petrol (or alternatively a hefty fuel levy hike), while eliminating medical tax credits could raise R18bn (or R4-5bn if only for higher income groups). Since a wealth tax will probably not yet be introduced, capital gains tax and dividends tax rates could be raised again, along with normal excise and sin tax hikes, as well as the sugar tax."

Probability

The big positive, however, would be a possible hike to the VAT rate, says Els. "While government has always said they will keep a VAT hike for when National Health Insurance is introduced, circumstances dictate that it might be necessary to consider this now. I do think that the probability of a VAT hike is higher now than over the past few years."

"A one per cent hike in the VAT rate from 14 to 15 per cent will raise around R20bn. Thus, a two per cent hike could

raise additional revenue of R40bn. Even if some of this is 'given back' as additional increases in social grants or additional zero rated goods, significant amounts could be raised which could make a serious impact on the budget. The probability of a tiered VAT rate structure has also become somewhat more probable. This, for example, could come in the form of a higher rate for luxury goods (20 per cent?) and a still higher rate (30 per cent?) for ultra-luxury goods."

Within such an environment – coupled with likely sustained improvement in business and consumer confidence – Els predicts better economic growth for 2018.

Business Report Online



CALL FOR GREATER FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY

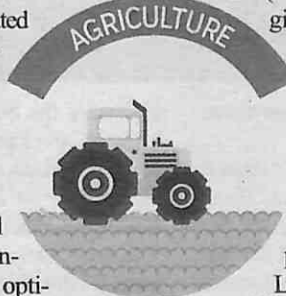
CAPE TOWN – More attention should be paid to the agricultural sector in Budget 2018, to ensure food security and to optimise the output of the sector to drive economic growth, said an economist.

In a report ahead of the budget, to be presented today, Senior Agricultural Economist at ABSA, Wessel Lemmer, highlighted the different budgetary needs of agricultural industries.

He stressed that food security would be at risk in the case of a credit downgrade, and financial provision would be needed. Additionally, the agricul-

tural sector is a driver of economic growth – it grew 44.2 per cent in the third quarter of 2017 and contributed significantly to GDP.

"Agriculture contributed significantly to the latest positive GDP figures and has been pivotal in rescuing the country from the throes of a recession," said Lemmer. "It is vital therefore that we continue to find ways to optimise the output of the agricul-



tural sector."

Specifically, in the poultry industry which suffered an outbreak of avian flu (H5N8), the budget should give guidelines for compensation for the affected commercial producers.

"Without compensation, South Africa cannot eradicate the disease as the cases are not reported in fear of losses without compensation," said Lemmer.

Last week, the South African Poultry Association's acting CEO

Dr Charlotte Nkuna updated the Parliamentary oversight committee of agriculture, forestry and fisheries on the impact of bird flu. It has resulted in losses for the industry of R954m.

Lemmer explained that if the disease is not dealt with, the national food security status will be negatively impacted, and would lead to more job losses. Poultry products are becoming unaffordable for consumers. The price for eggs has increased R3 per dozen, mainly due to higher production costs and additional biosecurity measures.

Fin24

WHAT TO EXPECT

South Africans will know on Wednesday whether they'll have to fork out more for tax. The country is short of cash.

To meet its targeted responsibilities, government needs R50-billion more than it's expecting in taxes.

A percentage point increase in the 14 per cent VAT you pay, could bring in about R22-billion to the fiscus.

The R4.78 you pay in levies for a litre of petrol could rise. Duties on alcohol and tobacco are also set to be hiked. Government will also gain from those earners shifting into higher income brackets. eNCA

STATE SECURITY MINISTER DENIES R147K HOTEL BILL

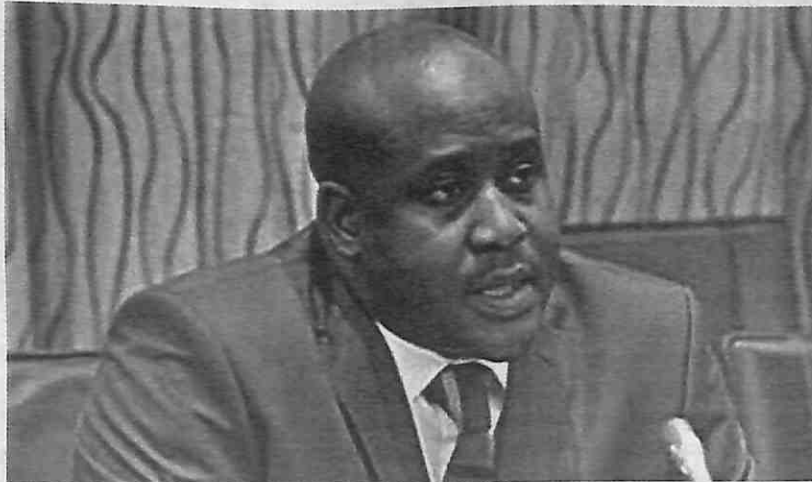
CAPE TOWN - South Africa's State Security Minister Bongani Bongo has vehemently denied reports that he raked up a bill of R147 000 for a three week stay at a five-star hotel in Cape Town instead of occupying his official state residence.

The Sunday Times newspaper reported that Bongo had checked into the R7 000-a-night Taj hotel at taxpayers expense in a bid to avoid water restrictions and enjoy the luxury of prolonged showers in the drought-ridden city.

The paper also said that Bongo had been holding meetings with several African National Congress (ANC) members of Parliament (MPs) and deputy ministers at the hotel.

In a statement on Monday, Bongo did not deny booking himself into the hotel, but said he did not stay there for three weeks precisely "because of the realisation of our current fiscal constraints and our responsibility as government to lead from the front".

He said his stay was instead limited to a period of three days.



IN DENIAL: South Africa's State Security Minister Bongani Bongo.

"For the record, I wish to indicate that the process of allocation of my official residence in Cape Town is yet to be finalised by the relevant department," Bongo said.

"In the meantime, I have been using in the main my old accommodation at the Parliamentary Village. Given the nature of the work we do, I have also made use

of other accommodation as well as the hotel referred to in the reports."

Meanwhile, the ministry said it has approached the Sunday Times to raise its concerns and to seek for a retraction and an apology "for the clearly inaccurate information presented as facts in the story".

African News Agency

Amplats to pay first dividend

HARARE - Anglo American Platinum (Amplats), the world's biggest platinum producer, yesterday announced that it would pay shareholders a dividend for the first time in six years after drastically reducing debt and a doubling of earnings in the year to December 2017.

Amplats, which is an 80 per cent subsidiary of Anglo American, said it adopted the payout ratio driven dividend policy that would pay shareholders 30 per cent of headline earnings.

The company said shareholders would get R900 million or R3.49 per share final cash dividend next month. It said it had cut its debt to R1.8bn from R7.3bn in 2016 on the combination of R2.4bn of free cash flow from operations, proceeds from asset sales and the last tranche of a customer prepayment.

Headline earnings surged 108 per cent to R3.9bn in 2017 from R1.9bn in 2016. The higher earnings were on the back of operating and overhead cost improvements and a higher dollar basket price, offset by a stronger exchange rate compared to 2016 and measurement of ore stockpiles. Rene Hochreiter, a mining analyst at Noah Capital Markets said that Amplats had reported a "good" set of results.

"Amplats has beaten consensus by more than doubling headline earnings. The company had managed to improve productivity significantly", Hochreiter said, adding that they restated their stockpile valuations which helped headline earnings.

The Mogalakwena mine in Limpopo posted record production after improving output by 12 per cent and cutting unit costs by 15 per cent, Hochreiter said. *Business Report*



Cutting data costs a government priority - Patel

CAPE TOWN - Government will prioritise bringing down data costs as part of developing an economy in line with the fourth industrial revolution, says Minister of Economic Development Ebrahim Patel.

Patel spoke on efforts made to develop the economy to be more inclusive during the debate in Parliament on Monday, following the State of the Nation Address.

One area of global development includes the dig-

ital revolution and South Africa should not fall behind in building an economy for the 20th century while competitors are focused on the economy of the future, he explained.

"Technology is changing economies and society in a deep and fundamental way," Patel said. "The digital economy is a key driver of the fourth industrial revolution. Thus bringing down data costs is a priority for the year ahead," said Patel. Government will focus on bringing down data

Signs that bleak business conditions are at a turning point

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa's improving business sentiment saw the Experian Business Debt Index (BDI) for the fourth quarter of last year register its first positive upturn since the third quarter of 2015.

The index recorded a sharp turnaround to 0.443 in the fourth quarter of last year from 0.059 in the previous quarter. This was also the BDI's best reading since 2014.

Experian said the latest reading of improved business debt stress levels was encouraging and indicated that the bleak business conditions experienced since 2014 are reaching a turning point.

Eight out of the nine sectors recorded a positive BDI with mining and agriculture recording the most positive for business debt conditions.

Experian also noted a marked improvement in the construction industry.

The BDI for community services was also just in positive territory following the government's cutbacks in spending as a precaution against further credit rating downgrades.

Simon Russell, the Managing Director of Experian SA, said the low levels of business confidence in 2017 contributed towards businesses holding off large-scale capital investments and rather building up solid cash flows instead.

"In the short term, it is worth noting that the recent changes to political leadership, which may influence the economic policy's direction, have resulted in a significant improvement to business sentiment," Russell said.

The ratio of loans outstanding for 30 to 60 days relative to that of less than 30 days decreased from 17.7 per cent in the third quarter to 15.8 per cent in the quarter under review. Aside from the fourth quarter of 2016, this was the lowest such ratio in a decade.

Earlier this month, the South African chamber of commerce and industry said that business confidence in January improved 3.3 index points to 99.7 points - moving closer to levels last seen before former finance minister Nhlanhla Nene was unceremoniously sacked in December 2015.

The business confidence index leaped from 96.4 points in December, reaching its highest level in two-and-a-half years.

Johann Els, the Head of Economic Research at Old Mutual Investment Group, said the sustained improvement in business and consumer confidence would lead to better economic growth for 2018.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) last month slashed South Africa's growth forecast for the next two years. *Business Report*

ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI'S FULL YEAR PRODUCTION RISES BY 4%

JOHANNESBURG - AngloGold Ashanti said yesterday its production rose four per cent year-on-year in the year to December 2017, above the top end of guidance.

The company said it had also delivered a strong exploration result, with most of the year's production replaced given success across a broad front.

The company, the world's third largest producer of gold, said it had advanced the restructuring of its South African portfolio, executed key self-funded brownfield projects to sustainably improve mine lives and margins and achieved its annual cost, production and capital guidance for the fifth consecutive year.

"Production for the year of 3.755 Moz (million ounces) exceeded the top end of guidance and was four per cent higher than the previous year's production of 3.628 Moz despite the orderly closure of TauTona and Savuka," it said.

"Stronger year-on-year operating performance across the international operations helped to more than off-

set the lower output from South Africa."

The company said it had also delivered a strong exploration result, with most of the year's production replaced given success across a broad front. The group ore reserve at the end of 2017 was 49.5 Moz, from 50.1 Moz in December 2016.

During the year, additions from Gramalote in Colombia, where a maiden reserve was declared, AGA Mineração in Brazil, Tropicana in Australia, Obuasi in Ghana and Cerro Vanguardia in Argentina, mostly offset the total depletion of 4.3 Moz.

Projects

AngloGold Ashanti said a slate of low capital, high-return brownfields projects - all with attractive payback periods - were expected to deliver further improvements to cash flows over time. "We delivered a strong production and cost performance, which ultimately allowed us to self-fund our reinvestment and restructuring programme," CEO Srinivasan Venkatakrishnan said.

African News Agency



TAX US MORE: Founder of the Microsoft Corporation Bill Gates.

Rich people should pay higher taxes - Bill Gates

CAPE TOWN - Founder of the Microsoft Corporation and billionaire businessman, Bill Gates, said in an interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria that rich people like himself should pay "significantly" higher taxes.

The billionaire said that although he has paid more than R117 billion in taxes, government should still command people in his position to pay higher taxes.

The second richest person in the world, according to Bloomberg's billionaires index reportedly holds a net worth of R1.78 trillion.

Gates' announcement comes after he criticised the Republican tax overhaul that US President Donald Trump had signed.

The new bill reportedly boosts the value of stock portfolios for the wealthy.

Gates said the new bill will benefit the rich, telling CNN that it was a regressive tax bill. Meanwhile, analysts are predicting that a hike in value added tax (VAT) in South Africa will be announced in the Budget this week.

The Budget Speech, expected to take place today, may also address the R50 billion deficit that the country is facing. Allan Gray Bond Fund executive, Sandy McGregor said increasing VAT is the only viable way for National Treasury to raise more money. *Business Report Online*

Focus on SA scene

RAMAPHOSA HAS TOUGH JOB OF PICKING DEPUTY PRESIDENT



TOUGH JOB: SA President Cyril Ramaphosa.

JOHANNESBURG – President Cyril Ramaphosa has the tough job of choosing the country's next deputy president.

The position became vacant after he was sworn in as President last week following Jacob Zuma's resignation.

Ramaphosa has to navigate through ANC factions, women representation and pleasing those who supported his presidential bid.

The president has to exercise his presidential prerogative of appointing the Cabinet and his deputy.

Political analyst Karima Brown said: "There has been a lot of talk, it happens immediately, that's its Lindiwe Sisulu or Naledi Pandor but I don't think we must take out of the equation Mr David Mabuza, he is the Deputy President of

the ANC, he has every right to expect to be in the mix and I don't think we must write him out just yet."

Sisulu was the president's running mate for the ANC leadership race and he had also once endorsed Naledi Pandor as his deputy. ANC national spokesperson Pule Mabe said the party can't decide who the president appoints.

"As it comes to the appointment of members of the national executive, as it relates to Cabinet. It's really the prerogative of the president and am also talking about the ways of doing things.

Of course there are engagements by the top leadership to make sure what is being done brings everybody together but I don't think we should be wanting to enter a space that is really not reserved for the NEC." *eNCA*

Mabuza will be deputy president - sources

JOHANNESBURG - Sources within the ANC NEC say Mabuza will be sworn in along with other members after a Cabinet reshuffle, probably at the weekend.

ANC Deputy President and outgoing Mpumalanga premier David Mabuza is set to become the deputy president of the country. The Citizen has been reliably informed.

Mabuza is to fill the vacancy left by Cyril Ramaphosa who has become the country's fifth democratic president.

Sources within the ANC NEC said Mabuza would make his farewell state of the province address in Mbombela, Mpumalanga, on Friday.

He would be sworn in along with other members to be named by Ramaphosa after an imminent Cabinet reshuffle, prob-

ably at the weekend.

"It's a done deal. DD is going to make his last Sopa on Friday. We know that he would like a female to replace him as premier," the source said.

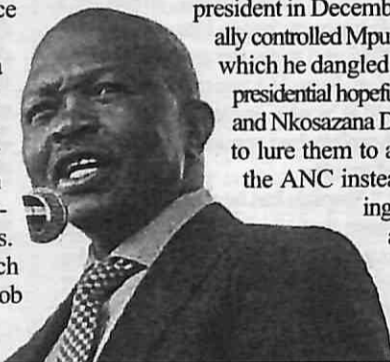
It is understood that Mabuza would like to see either Cooperative Governance MEC Refilwe Mtsweni or Education MEC Reginald Mhaule replace him as premier until the 2019 elections.

Mabuza, a previous staunch follower of then president Jacob Zuma, was regarded as a 'kingmaker' at the ANC national conference in Nasrec last December

because of his massive following and influence within the ANC structures in the Mpumalanga province.

Before he was elected as ANC deputy president in December, he personally controlled Mpumalanga votes, which he dangled in front of the presidential hopefuls, Ramaphosa and Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, to lure them to adopt unity in the ANC instead of contesting each other on a factional basis.

Citizen



NEW POST: ANC Deputy President David Mabuza.

Mbalula welcomes Lamoer's conviction

JOHANNESBURG - Police Minister Fikile Mbalula has welcomed the conviction of former Western Cape police chief, Arno Lamoer.

He was found guilty of corruption on Monday but was cleared of money laundering and racketeering charges.

Admits

Lamoer admits to writing letters of good standing for businessman Salim Dawjee while serving as provincial commissioner from 2011 to 2013.

In exchange, Lamoer received money from Dawjee to cover personal expenses, like clothing accounts and petrol.

These payments were either for favours, or loans.

Mbalula says the conviction sends a strong message that no one is above the law.

eNCA

Opposition parties warm up to Ramaphosa but for how long

JOHANNESBURG – President Cyril Ramaphosa seems to have buy-in from most sectors of South African society as he prepares to chart a new way forward for the country.

Today's budget speech will have to not only balance the books, but also give expression to the president's idea of a collaborative effort to move the country forward.

MPs debated Ramaphosa's maiden State of the Nation Address (SONA) in Parliament on Monday.

Ramaphosa made bold promises in his SONA speech, which the opposition challenged.

"We are willing to give him a chance as president of the Republic, as head of state and government," said EFF leader Julius Malema. Opposition

parties seem to want to give Ramaphosa the benefit of the doubt - for now.

"The charting of a more co-operative contestation. That yes we will disagree on many things and argue robustly and sometimes fight. But those fights and arguments must be productive fights and be building us and not destructive ones that we have seen in the past few years," said political analyst, Sthembile Mbete.

There are competing interests that have been brought forward by opposition parties regarding the focus of South Africa's financial state. DA leader Mmusi Maimane said: "The greatest applause during his speech on Friday night was when he promised to end cadre deployment on the boards of SOEs and committed to employing competent people." *eNCA*



STICKING AROUND: Former SA President Jacob Zuma.

Zuma to join ANC 'on the ground' during 2019 election campaigns

EMPANGENI – Former president Jacob Zuma will join the ANC "on the ground" during 2019 election campaigns, the ANC KwaZulu-Natal's Musa Dladla region said on Monday.

The region's Chairperson Nonhle Mkhulisi was speaking at a press briefing in Empangeni, northern KZN, following the region's consultative meeting on Sunday.

Musa Dladla is the party's second-largest region in the province, after the eThekweni region. It is also Zuma's home region.

"We know president Zuma as a cadre of the movement. He will join us on the ground when we mobilise ordinary South Africans to vote for the ANC. Zuma still has a contribution to make as an ex-officio member of the ANC NEC (national executive committee)," she said, adding that they still needed Zuma's strength and experience.

Zuma resigned last Wednesday, following his recall by the ANC NEC a day before.

Mkhulisi said they welcomed the NEC's decision to recall him.

"We also welcome his voluntary resignation in the highest office of the country. His resignation epitomises high discipline on his part and adherence to the decisions of the NEC," she said.

Mkhulisi dismissed media reports that KZN would not support Zuma's successor, President Cyril Ramaphosa, when he campaigns for the 2019 elections in the province.

"We are aware that, once the campaign starts to pick up, he will come to this province. The national leadership will decide in terms of his programme as to which regions he will campaign at. We are ready for him. The leader is President Ramaphosa and it ends there. We will campaign for a decisive victory of the ANC for the 2019 general elections," she said.

The region's Deputy Chairperson Mdu Mhlomo also rubbished claims that the ANC in KZN was tribalist. *The Mercury*

Event planned for Jacob Zuma's Nkandla homecoming

DURBAN - Supporters of former president Jacob Zuma are planning to hold celebrations at Nkandla to welcome him home after his resignation as head of state.

Zuma's supporters, who are still hurt over his unceremonious departure from the presidency last week, said they were proud that he had placed Nkandla and KwaZulu-Natal on the world map.

Zuma was first recalled by the ANC's national executive committee (NEC), before he was forced to resign, following the ANC's parliamentary caucus decision to endorse a motion of no confidence which forced his hand.

The ANC's KwaZulu-Natal task team co-ordinator, Sihle Zikalala, said the provincial leadership would organise the event.

But the local ANC leaders said they, together with the community leaders of Nxamalala Village, had already planned a separate

event, and were waiting for the date of Zuma's return.

"As soon as he arrives with his luggage we will throw him a welcoming celebration," said the former ANC ward councillor in Zuma's branch, Sbhongiseni Bhengu.

Zikalala said in a statement that ANC structures in the province were looking forward to welcoming Zuma.

"As the province of KwaZulu-Natal, we will be hosting welcome home celebrations for president Zuma to thank him for his 60 years of revolutionary service to the people of the country.

"We call upon all the people from all sectors of society to join us as we thank this son of the soil. As the ANC, we will be even richer with his wisdom and experience, and we'll always seek his guidance.

"We are happy with the solid legacy and foundation he has laid," said Zikalala. *The Mercury*

WOMAN, 79, HAS A BUCKET-SIZED TUMOUR GROWING FROM HER CHEEK

PHILIPPINES - Teresita Briones, 79, noticed a small lump under the skin of her right cheek around five or six years ago but thought nothing of it.

An old lady has a tumour the size of a bucket growing from her cheek - but she is too afraid to have an operation.

Teresita Briones, 79, noticed a small lump under the skin of her right cheek around five or six years ago but thought nothing of it. But the growth - which she thought at first was a mole - swelled and developed rapidly. Within a year it was the size of a small tennis ball. Now some five years later it has grown to more than twice the size of her head - and leaves her barely able to sleep at night because of its unwieldy shape. Teresita now ambles around the streets near her shanty home in Iligan City, Philippines, where passers-by help her out with small change.

"I am afraid to have an operation" She said: "When I first noticed this I

- Teresita Briones, 79, noticed the small lump around five or six years ago
- The growth, which she thought was a mole, swelled and developed rapidly
- Five years later it is twice the size of her head and prevents her from sleeping
- Teresita, who lives in the Philippines, depends on small change from strangers

'I am afraid to have an operation'

I am afraid that I will not be able to wake up again after the surgery.

"There are people who are worse than me, who have had hard lives from when they were born. I was very beautiful when I was younger"

"I am old now and I don't think I could recover from it. I have had this so long that I don't think that there's anything

I can do."

Mother-of-one Teresita said that doctors in her home town told her there was nothing they could do - then advised her instead to visit capital city Manila where the 'technology is better'. She never visited due to the high price of travelling there, accommodation and doctors' bills.

thought it was nothing. I ignored it. I thought it would go away.

"If I had gone to the doctor then, maybe life would be easier now. They could have

fixed this without any trouble.

"Now the tumour is so big it makes life hard. It is not easy sleeping because of the size of it and it just keeps growing.



BENIGN TUMOURS

THE exact cause of a benign tumour is often unknown.

It develops when cells in the body divide and grow at an excessive rate.

Typically, the body is able to balance cell growth and division. When old or damaged cells die, they are automatically replaced with new, healthy cells.

In the case of tumours, dead cells remain and form a growth known as a tumour.

Cancer cells grow in the same manner. However, unlike the cells in benign tumours, cancerous cells can invade nearby tissue and spread to other parts of the body.

Whether benign tumours need treatment depends on how bothersome they are.

'I feel sorry for her'

Local resident Henry Santos, 24, said: "She's old but I don't think it's too late for her. Our elders deserve to have a good life when they are retired.

"She could live until she's 90. I feel sorry for her to have to walk around with this. It looks hard for her and she has a hunched back because of the weight."

Kunz Paz, who spoke with the woman, said: "She has no money and I gave her a little bit to help her. I'm not sure if her tumour could be operated on, but she said she would not want to anyway. She is afraid she might never wake up.

"If there is a chance that anybody can help her, I am praying it is so. I hope we can make it a better Christmas this year for her."

A British Skin Foundation spokesperson said it may be per-

fectedly safe for Teresita to have surgery if medics assessing her say she's strong enough.

"Providing anaesthetists consider this removal to be carried out safe under general anaesthetics the risks are not very big," explained Dr Anton Alexandroff, who is a consultant dermatologist.

"The patient would need to have a graft to cover surgical defect and there is a risk that graft may not take. There are also risks of infection and bleeding.

"She is likely to have a significant scar as the result. There is also risk of recurrence.

"The key matter here is whether anaesthetists are satisfied that this procedure would be safe to undertake."

"I'm grateful for what people give me"

Teresita received some attention from well-wishers and good samaritans last year and had an x-ray which revealed the tumour was benign.

But since then she has not returned to the doctors for any more treatment. She now relies on her daughter's income of around 200 Philippine Piso (£2.72, \$3.8) a day while occasionally begging for food and money when they are short.

She added: "I don't have a lot to get by and I'm grateful for what people give me. I don't know what will happen if I cannot get treatment. Sometimes the tumour bleeds.

"There are people who are worse than me, who have had hard lives from when they were born. I was very beautiful when I was younger."

Daily Mail

AFRAID: Teresita Briones has a tumour growing on her right cheek but is afraid of having it removed.

IRELAND - The Irish Navy is set to get its hand on a boat that is impossible to capsize.

Dubbed the 'Thunder Child', incredible footage shows the search and rescue vessel - with passengers inside - being pushed over in the water by a crane.

The crane pulls the boat 180 degrees before allowing the 54 knots (62 mph/100 km/h) vessel to bounce back into an upright position.

The 'Thunder Child' is the creation of Safehaven Marine in County Cork, Ireland.

Required

Frank Kowalksi, Managing Director of Safehaven Marine, told MailOnline that keeping the boat upright required several tweaks to its design.

"It is a combination of three factors: A very low centre of gravity, the buoyancy of the cabin and the cabin must also be completely water tight," he said.

"The area of the cabin must contain enough air to keep the vessel afloat and it is important no water gets into the cabin."

He added that the air inlets close

The boat that is impossible to capsize



BREAKING BOUNDARIES: Managing Director, Frank Kowalksi (right), inside the boat as it is pulled over before it rolls back to the correct orientation.

automatically to stop water being let in. Much like in racing cars, the lower the centre of gravity, the more stable a boat becomes.

Whilst this makes it much harder for the Thunder Child to flip over initially, it also helps return the vessel the right way up.

When underwater, the low centre of gravity shifts to the very top of the boat, making it unstable and capable of flipping back upright.

Mr Kowalksi said: "We have made about 130 boats in the last 20 years and they are used in 26 countries and territories.

"They are used by coastguards, lifeguards and Port Authorities as high speed rescue vehicles across the world."

To test the self-righting ability of the boat, the developers used a crane to pull the boat over to 180 degrees while on water.

How do boats float?

BOATS can weigh several tons, and in the case of the 'Symphony of the seas' (the biggest cruise liner in history) even weigh over 200 000 tons.

Keeping them on top of the water surface and stopping them from sinking to the sea floor is 'buoyancy'.

Buoyancy is the word that refers to a floating object and how it works.

When an object is placed in water, it displaces a certain amount of the liquid.

The general rule of thumb is that if an object weighs less than the weight of the water it displaces, it will float.

The surface area of a boat's hull is therefore the key to staying afloat, not the weight itself.

Once upside down, the video shows the boat automatically rolling back to the correct, upright position.

In the first run, the boat was empty and on the second run, a small team, including Mr Kowalksi, were filmed inside.

Daily Mail

BRIEFS

Somalia appoints new cop, intelligence chiefs

MOGADISHU - The Somali government announced on Monday it has appointed new police and intelligence chiefs, nearly four months after their predecessors were sacked following the deadliest ever terror attack in the war-torn nation. Former deputy health minister Hussein Osman Hussein has been named head of Somalia's intelligence service, while deputy head of police Bashir Abdi Mohamed has been promoted to police chief, in a country that faces frequent attacks by Al-Qaeda-affiliated Shabaab militants. Their predecessors were sacked on October 29, a day after an attack that left 27 people dead, and just two weeks after 512 people were murdered in a truck bombing in Mogadishu on October 4. **AFP**

Free political; detainees Sudan urged

KHARTOUM - European embassies in Sudan on Monday jointly urged Khartoum to release all remaining political detainees held since protests against rising food prices erupted last month. Their heads of mission also appealed to Khartoum to lift the state of emergency declared in two states in December. On Sunday, the authorities released dozens of opposition activists and protesters held in a crackdown by security agents to prevent widespread anti-government protests after prices of food items, notably bread, surged in early January. European embassies welcomed their release and called on Khartoum "to promptly release the remaining political detainees." **AFP**

First step in abolishing death penalty

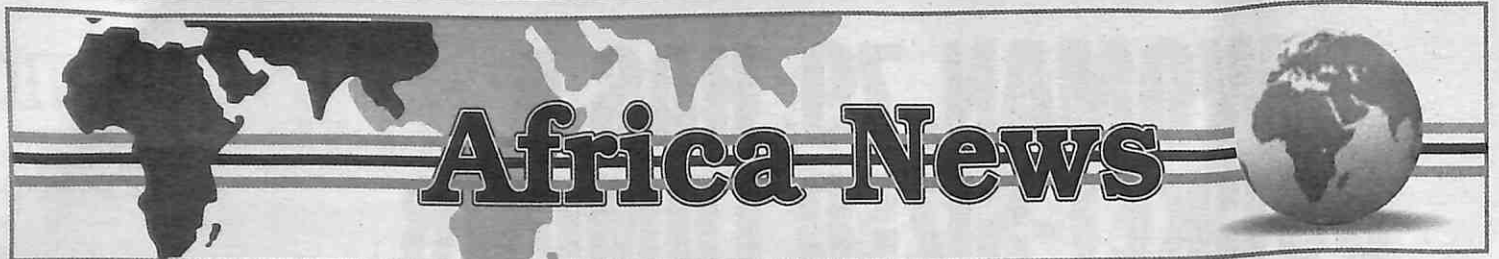
JOHANNESBURG - Gambian President Adama Barrow has announced a moratorium on the death penalty as the West African country rebuilds its international standing following the removal last year of its long-time authoritarian ruler Yahya Jammeh, Reuters reported. According to Amnesty International, there are less death penalty cases being implemented on the continent, with 22 people executed in 2016 compared to 43 in 2015. "I will use this opportunity to declare a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in The Gambia, as a first step towards abolition," Barrow said in a speech on Sunday to mark the 53rd anniversary of the country's independence from Great Britain. **African News Agency**

Policeman killed in election protests

CONAKRY - A policeman died from a head wound on Monday sustained as people protested over delayed local election results in Guinea and teachers went on strike over pay, a police spokesman said. Thousands of young people have been demonstrating in the Guinean capital, Conakry, over the failure to announce results to the February 4 election, while a teachers' strike has also entered its second week. "A policeman died in the disorder around Koloma (a Conakry suburb). A projectile hit him in the head," police spokesperson Mamadou Alpha Barry said. **AFP**

Two aid workers killed in eastern DRC

KINSHASA - Two Congolese aid workers were killed and a third abducted by an unidentified armed group in the troubled North Kivu province of Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Nations said. "We lost two fellow aid workers killed in the line of duty by unidentified armed people," the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a statement. The three men were employed by the Congolese NGO Hydraulique Sans Frontières (HYFRO), which specialises in water purification projects, when attacked on Saturday near the village of Mushikiri. **AFP**



17 KILLED AFTER GARBAGE DUMP COLLAPSES IN MOZAMBIQUE

JOHANNESBURG - Heavy rains triggered the partial collapse of a huge mound of garbage in Mozambique's capital on Monday, killing as many as 17 people who were buried by debris.

Authorities believe more bodies could be buried at the Hulene garbage dump on the outskirts of Maputo, and a search was underway.

The garbage in the poor, densely populated area where the disaster happened rose to the height of a three-storey building, according to the Portuguese news agency Lusa. 12 people died, Lusa reported. Radio Mocambique put the death toll at 17. Half a dozen homes were destroyed and some residents in the area fled for fear of another collapse.

"The mountains of garbage collapsed on the houses and many families were still inside these residences," Fatima Belchoir, a national disaster official, told Lusa. Authorities are trying to help people who lost their



DUMPED: Rescuers search for survivors at the collapse of a garbage mound in Maputo, Mozambique. (Associated Press)

homes, she said.

The Hulene garbage dump is the largest such facility in Maputo. People often comb through the garbage,

searching for food and items to sell. Health workers have long raised concerns about the impact of the fumes, flies and other hazards of the dump

on the surrounding community. Municipal officials have previously discussed the closure of the dump. **Associated Press**

How Zim ex-first lady Grace got her fake PhD

HARARE - The head of the University of Zimbabwe, Levi Nyagura, reportedly took lecturers from the institution of higher learning to former first lady Grace Mugabe's Mazowe orphanage in order for her to take oral examinations for her disputed Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.

This was revealed after Nyagura was arrested on Friday over the controversial awarding of the PhD to Grace. Investigators at the Zimbabwe anti-Corruption Commission said they had arrested Nyagura over the suspected fraudulent awarding of a doctorate to the former first lady.

Grace, whose husband resigned in November under pressure from the military, received the doctorate in 2014 amid allegations she did not study for it. She was awarded the degree after just months of study. Former president Robert Mugabe was university chancellor at the time.



FAKE: Grace Mugabe.

Doctorates typically require several years of full-time research and writing.

According to the privately-owned Standard newspaper, during Nyagura's appearance in

court over the weekend, it emerged that he "single-handedly accepted Grace's application to study for the PhD without the knowledge of the UZ's sociology department".

Prosecutor Oscar Madhume said that Nyagura accepted Ntombizodwa G Marufu (Grace's maiden name) application "without the knowledge and recommendations of the departmental board and faculty of higher degrees committee in violation of UZ quality assurance guidelines and benchmark".

Appointed

The court heard that Nyagura appointed Professor Claude Marariki and Professor Chaneta to supervise Grace.

Nyagura pleaded not guilty to the charges and was remanded to March 5 on \$200 bail. As part of his bail conditions, Nyagura was ordered not to interfere with State witnesses who included lecturers, the report said. **News24**

France urges UN top court to dump E Guinea case

THE HAGUE - France accused Equatorial Guinea on Monday of wanting to "paralyse" French criminal procedure in a top-level corruption probe, as it urged judges to throw out a case against it before the UN's top court.

Malabo has dragged Paris before the International Court of Justice in a bitter diplomatic row, accusing it of violating the diplomatic immunity of its Vice President Teodorin Obiang.

Son of Teodoro Obiang, long-time leader of the oil-rich central African country, Teodorin Obiang has been prosecuted by a French court on charges of embezzling \$180m of public funds to finance his jet-set lifestyle.

France's representatives, however, hit back as a hearing opened before the Hague-based ICJ, with delegation member Alain Pellet saying Equatorial Guinea attempted to "slow down, or even paralyse the criminal procedure launched in France." Malabo's decision to take the matter to the ICJ is an attempt "to give their case more prominence" argued Pellet, who said Paris challenged the ICJ's jurisdiction. **AFP**

'People's General' Tsvangirai laid to rest

BUHERA - Zimbabwean opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai was buried in his rural hometown of Buhera yesterday.

President Emerson Mnangagwa said a state funeral will be held for the former trade unionist.

Tsvangirai is considered to be the father of democracy in Zimbabwe

due to his longstanding battle with former president Robert Mugabe.

Mugabe was forced to step down last year after nearly four decades in power. Tsvangirai's last wish was for his country to experience free and fair elections. The 65-year-old succumbed to colon cancer last week.

Party faithful converged on a square

in downtown Harare on Monday to bid farewell to Tsvangirai.

"This is the People's General, who led the poor, the workers and the youth since 1988. We grieve with hope that the army that the general built will finish the work that he started," former MDC legislator Munyaradzi Gwisai told the crowd. **eNCA**



BURIED: Zimbabwean opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

World News

UK parents arrested for abuse after newborn found with 11 fractures

LONDON - Cradling her newborn boy in hospital, Jody Simpson looks like any other doting mother.

At just 41 days old, he was found to have 11 fractures, which had caused blood poisoning. His legs were so badly damaged they had to be amputated.

But in an emotional trial, jurors, court staff and even the judge were reduced to tears when they were shown photos of Tony Smith, now three, thriving in the care of a new family. The court then broke into spontaneous applause after seeing the pictures of him smiling and giving a thumbs up.

Simpson, 24, and the boy's 46-year-old father, also called Tony Smith, were on Monday jailed for ten years. The vile abuse came to light in November 2014 when the baby was taken to a GP near his parents' squalid one-bedroom flat in Maidstone, Kent. The parents claimed they had delayed taking their son to the doctor for nine hours as they were waiting for a plumber. In fact, the injuries were days old. And when they finally sought help, their baby was grey, frothing at the mouth and suffering from a 'shockingly swollen body' and multiple organ failure.

He was found to have 11 fractures, with eight in his legs, including to both thigh-bones, lower legs and his right ankle. *Daily Mail*

77 die as Syria enclave pounded ahead of expected ground assault

HAMMURIYEH - Heavy Syrian bombardment killed at least 77 civilians in rebel-held Eastern Ghouta on Monday, a war monitor said, as regime forces appeared to prepare for an imminent ground assault.

The escalation came as pro-government forces were also expected to enter the northern Kurdish-controlled enclave of Afrin, to take a stand against a month-old Turkish assault there.

Held by rebels since 2012, Eastern Ghouta is the last opposition pocket around Damascus and President Bashar al-Assad has dispatched reinforcements there in an apparent concerted effort to retake it.

A barrage of air strikes, rocket fire and artillery slammed into several towns across Eastern Ghouta on Monday.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 20 children were among 77 civilians killed in the assault, while around 300 other people were wounded.

"The regime is bombing Eastern Ghouta to pave the way for a ground offensive," said Observatory Head Rami Abdel Rahman.

The main opposition National Coalition, which is based in Turkey, denounced the "war of extermination" in Eastern Ghouta as well as the "international silence".

In a statement, it also accused regime ally Russia of seeking to "bury the political process" for a solution to the conflict. *AFP*

TRUMP PREPARES TO UNLEASH HELL ON NORTH KOREA

NEW YORK - US President Donald Trump could deploy attack drones into North Korea in a fresh bid to take out psycho leader Kim Jong-un.

The timing of the potential deployment would happen shortly after the end of the Winter Olympics in South Korea on February 25.

Each of the deadly drones are capable of delivering precision strikes as they fly at top speeds of up to 174 miles per hour.

The aircrafts can also gather intelligence within a 248-mile radius at an impressive altitude of 4.7 miles. South Korea would welcome the chance to use the deadly planes as despot leader Kim Jong-un is a mere 121 miles away.

Trump has also committed to staging a huge military drill with key ally South Korea, as both nations push to contain nuclear mad Kim.

The South Korean and US mil-



FIRE AND FURY: Trump may decide to destroy North Korea after the Winter Olympics.

itarys usually hold military exercises called Key Resolve and Foal Eagle in March and April, which can involve as many as 17 000 US troops and more than 300 000 South Koreans.

North Korea denounces the drills as preparations to invade it, and it has at times conducted missile tests or taken other aggressive action in response.

Daily Mail

Trump to attend politicians - journalists dinner

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump will attend this year's Gridiron Club Dinner, an annual gathering of politicians and journalists that will mark the first such appearance by the American leader known for his frequent outbursts against the media.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders, who confirmed Trump's plans, however said "no decision has been made regarding

the WHCA (White House Correspondents Association) dinner," another high-profile meeting usually attended by the American president which Trump skipped last year. Instead of attending that dinner last year, which occurred on the same day that thousands of protesters surrounded the White House during a climate march, Trump instead rallied supporters in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Claiming unfair coverage in the media,

Trump said he was delighted to travel away from the "Washington swamp."

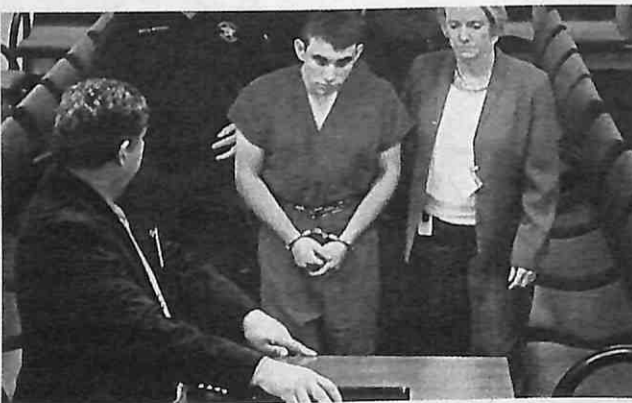
"If the media's job is to be honest and to tell the truth, the media deserves a very, very big fat failing grade." The president, who has regularly lambasted the media - save Fox News and other media considered conservative - has taken particular aim at CNN, posting a cartoon attacking the television network over the weekend. *AFP*

FLORIDA SHOOTER APPEARS IN COURT

MIAMI - The former pupil accused of killing 17 people at a Florida high school appeared in court on Monday for a procedural hearing, his first public appearance since he was held without bond on charges of premeditated murder.

Nikolas Cruz, dressed in orange prison garb, sat with his head bowed during the brief hearing before Judge Elizabeth Scherer in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The hearing dealt with whether to unseal a defence motion related to access to their client, a minor point in what is certain to be a lengthy prosecution and trial.

AFP



IN COURT: Public Defender Hector Romero and his assistant Melisa McNeill, seen in court with suspect Nikolas Cruz.

BRIEFS

US election meddling baseless - Kremlin

MOSCOW - The Kremlin on Monday insisted there was no indication of Russian government involvement in meddling in United States (US) elections after Washington indicted 13 Russians for alleged covert efforts to sway voters. "There are no indications that the Russian government could be involved in this," President Vladimir Putin's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told journalists in the Kremlin's first comment since the indictments were filed last Friday. He said that the indictments "only concern Russian citizens" while Moscow has "heard accusations from Washington about the involvement of the Russian state, the Kremlin and the government." *AFP*

PM moots co-presidency with Kosovo

PRISTINA - Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama said on Sunday his country and Kosovo could one day have a single president as a "symbol of national unity" between Tirana and Pristina. In a remark certain to anger Belgrade, Rama noted that the two neighbours, both predominantly ethnic Albanian, already share diplomatic missions around the world, adding: "Why not a single president, as a symbol of national unity?" Rama was addressing Kosovo's Parliament to mark the 10th anniversary of the country's unilateral declaration of independence from Serbia, a move recognised by more than 110 countries, though not by Belgrade or Moscow. *AFP*

'Worker paid for sex, others bullied witness'

LONDON - British aid charity Oxfam on Monday released its internal report into a scandal in Haiti that has shattered its reputation, revealing that a former top official admitted to paying for sex and three staff physically threatened a witness. The 2011 report into aid workers deployed to Haiti following the devastating earthquake the previous year, revealed that seven staff were accused of using prostitutes at an Oxfam-funded residence. Country Director Roland van Hauwermeiren admitted paying for sex and was offered a "phased and dignified exit" of resignation if he cooperated with the inquiry. *AFP*



German court to ban diesel cars?

FRANKFURT - One of Germany's top courts will decide on Thursday whether some diesel vehicles can be banned from parts of cities like Stuttgart and Duesseldorf to reduce air pollution, a possible landmark judgement for the "car nation". Eyes have turned to the Federal Administrative Court in Leipzig after years of failure by federal, state and local governments to slash harmful emissions. Fine particle pollution and nitrogen oxides (NOx) contribute to as many as 400 000 premature deaths from respiratory and cardiovascular disease per year in the European Union. *AFP*

I'm not a bigot - US council member

TEXAS - A council member in northern Texas is rejecting calls for his resignation over a series of anti-Muslim and anti-black Facebook posts, including one saying that President Donald Trump should ban Islam in US schools. Tom Harrison, a city council member in Plano, Texas, is accused of sharing a post from a Facebook page titled "Joined Hands Across America For Trump." The meme, which showed a young girl wearing a hijab, read: "Share if you think Trump should ban Islam in American schools." The post sparked a public outcry, with Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiere calling for Harrison's removal from the council and the council voting Sunday to publicly admonish Harrison. *The Washington Post*



NEWS
REVIEWS
STAR SIGNS
CELEBRITY WATCH
CARTOONS

SWAZI MOBILE UNVEILS NACAs NOMINATING LINE

By Lusito Tsela

SWAZI Mobile has officially unveiled the number 7900 5050 as the voting line for the 5050 NACAs.

The Free line was unveiled by Swazi Mobile Chief Customer Executive Gciniwe Fakudze, Corporate Communications Manager Macford Sibandze and Chief Technical Officer Wandile Mtshali in the presence of the Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture NACAs team.

The team included Phindile Mabuza, Mhlonishwa Motsa, and Thembekile Dlamini.

The lines were opened yesterday and the public can now start nominating for their favourite artists by sending 5050 to 7900 5050 after which they follow the guidelines as provided by the correspondent SMS. After the nominees are unveiled on March 16, the race to the actual ceremony slated for April 28 will then be on. Nomination lines will be closed in March. Speaking on behalf of Swazi Mobile was Corporate Communications Manager Macford Sibandze, who said: "As Swazi Mobile, we are very happy to associate our-

...Nominations on until March 9
...Nominees unveiling on March 16
...Awards slated for April 28



TEAM: The NACAs team posing with Swazi Mobile representatives during the unveiling of the nominating line yesterday at the Swazi Mobile Experience Centre. There are; Mhlonishwa Motsa, Phindile Mabuza, Thembekile Dlamini, Wandile Mtshali, Nqobile Simelane and Gciniwe Fakudze. (Pic: Lusito Tsela)

selves with the arts and culture industry." He continued saying the company is in the quest of creating self-

reliance to the members of the public which is why they invest so much money in the arts and culture indus-

try. "This is not the first time we are working with SNCAC as we have done on previous occasions during the Miss Cultural Heritage, the Swaziland International Trade Fair and Swazi Mobile Umlilo Cross Over held at the Mavuso Trade Centre, to name a few," he said.

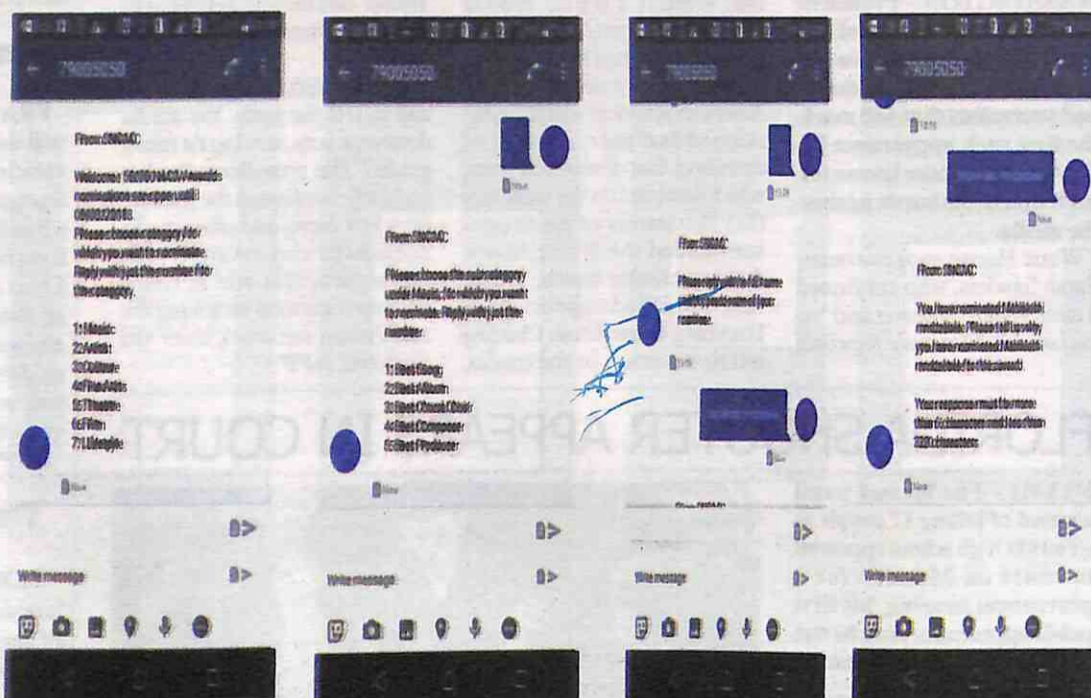
Sibandze also revealed that for Swazi Mobile customers, the first stage of nominations will be free. On the other hand, Mhlonishwa Motsa passed his gratitude to Swazi Mobile.

He said the nominating process will shape the performance of the night as some of the nominated artists will be given the platform to perform at the awards. Motsa encouraged the public to buy the Swazi Mobile sim cards which will enable them to nominate their best artists for free.

He added that the NACAs Facebook page also has nomination options and each day a nomination is unveiled. "Nominations on the 50/50 NACAs Facebook page can be done through the comments section. On the page, the public can also vote for a category/name a category that they want SNCAC to add to make a total of 50 categories," he said.

...How to nominate

Below is the detailed process of how to nominate after sending 5050 to 7900 50 50;



...REASON FOR NOMINATION REQUIRED

INTERESTING enough about this year's NACAs is that fans are expected to state a reason why they nominated that personality of choice.

This reason is the last requirement after the process of nominating that desired personality and the reason is expected to be more than six characters and less than 320 characters. Explaining the requirement of the reason for nomination, Mhlonishwa Motsa said this would aid the judges when executing their tasks.

"During the nominating process, there is a question that needs clarity why a certain artist is nominated. The public must answer it as it will give the judges the right reason why a certain nominee was nominated."

ONLINE NOMINATION ALREADY GAINING MOMENTUM

By Ayanda Dlamini

THE nomination of the 5050 NACAs has already gained momentum on social media.

The public has been nominating their

favourite artists in each category.

The Best Producer category has been receiving a resounding response as more music fanatics are nominating their favourite producers.

Worth noting is that most people are vying for Mandla 'Cheeks' Nxumalo,

meaning is the most nominated candidate on this category.

Nxumalo is the executive producer of Nothando Hlophe's album; **Impihlo Yami**, Banele Dlamini's debut album and Swazi Praise, a group made up of eight artists. Nxumalo is currently lead-

ing with eight nominations, ahead of Subjams and DJ Njebza.

Also, Best Young Artist category has been highly anticipated as Jayden Z is leading with 10 nominations, ahead of kwatio artist Nobuhle and Nonhle Mthethwa.

However, more categories are yet to be released. According to SNCAC CEO

Global Asset sponsors pupils into 'The change' play

By Nomfundo Sifundza

LOCAL company Global Asset has sponsored a total of 35 pupils to watch 'The Change' play taking place at the Swaziland Theatre Club from tomorrow until Saturday.

This was revealed by the writer of the play Maswati Dladu who said "Global Asset is doing this because their Director John Pires attended the one day event at the Swaziland Theatre Club on June 17, 2017 where he was amazed by the talent displayed on the day, and he realised that such needs to be developed and nurtured accordingly so that this upcoming generation can make use of their talent to fight economic challenges faced by the youth in Swaziland."

Dladu added that Global Asset has noted that 'The Change' is a starting point to inspire children to take theatre as a career path which usually is looked down upon, yet it has a great potential not only to create employment opportunities, but also to heal the society, which there is no doubt that challenges it faces are multifaceted and very complicated.

'The Change' is a story based on gender based violence (GBV), and was written by Maswati Dladu and directed by Theminkosi 'Tee Kay' Mthethwa, both well known in the theatre circles, and have international exposure in the industry.

The main cast in the play is Samkelo Dlamini, Lokuhle Dlamini, Debbie Simelane, Sabatha Masuku and Lwazi Kunene, who are ready to give their best on the set dates.

Dladu continued "by supporting this initiative, Global Asset is aware of the challenges faced by the Swazi society in our communities and to a certain extent the play is meant to address them, hence children and the upcoming generation should not be left behind to see the role theatre can play in the development of our society."

The collaborating partners responsible for producing the show, namely, the Association of Swaziland Theatre Groups (ASTG), the Swaziland Theatre Club and Arterial Network Swaziland are requesting other companies, NGO sector, UN agencies, civil society and the entire general populace to support the project, which is envisaged to tour different parts of the country once opened at the Swaziland Theatre Club and it is a show not to be missed.



Director of the play TeeKay.

Stanley Dlamini, who is also the President of the 50/50 NACAs, arts and culture personalities categories will be segmented according to their decades.

"It will not be fair to have only one category for arts and culture as we have many personalities in each and every decade as we are celebrating 50 years in the arts industry," said Dlamini.

MDURA GETS A SEAT ON THE 'BIG BOYS' TABLE'

By Lusito Tsela

SELF-proclaimed international comedian Mdura's hard work has not gone unnoticed by the comedy industry.

Following his recent comedy exploits in South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Botswana, to name a few, Mdura has been invited to perform at the 'Comedy Picnic' to be held at the Botanic Gardens in Durban, South Africa, on Sunday.

This was revealed by his Manager Larry Mhlanga.

Mhlanga said; "Mdura will be performing at the Simphiwe Shembe Comedy Picnic this coming Sunday."

He continued saying; "We are happy about the way he continues to dominate

in his quest to conquer Africa."

"I love his consistency in the comedy field, he is a natural and has got a great team of 10 people behind him," he said.

Mhlanga added that Mdura is no stranger to the South African industry as he has performed at the Goliath Comedy Club, Kitcheners and Shakers alongside top South African comedians Stopnonsonso, Kedibone, Goliath Brothers and Prins, to name a few.

The picnic hosted by

Shembe will see the comedian share the stage with not only South African top comedians but big guns in the entertainment industry in the likes of DJ Tira, Nay Maps, Sifiso Nene and Felix Hlophe, to name a few.

Mdura ascended to fame during the LOL Comedy show, before conducting a one man competition titled 'Hellafunny'.

The comedian has continued to take the industry by storm, featuring in the '3 Kings of Funny' show, and becoming the brand ambassador of Swazi MTN.



COMEDIAN: Mduduzi 'Mdura' Dlamini.

Rapper MP to drop second album

By Nomfundo Sifundza

WITH a voice so deep, demanding to be heard, rapper MP is set to release his second album.

The six year gap between his first album titled 'Election Day' and the upcoming offer 'Press Release; (Day at the office)' is no regret as the rapper clarified that he needed to be content with his final product.

Even though MP, real name

Mphumuzi

Mathonsi, could not

confirm the actual date when his second album would be released, he did state how many tracks it would contain.

"My second album 'Press Release': (Day

ELECTION DAY: Mphumuzi ty. 'MP' Mathonsi.

in the Office) will consist of 15 tracks and I will be featuring a number of local upcoming musicians and producers," he said.

As he did in 2011 with his first album, he will be going for the unrecognised acts in the growing industry so they also grow along with it. "I feel there are terrific musicians and producers out there who should be heard so that is why I will be working with them in this album."

He mentioned the likes of producer Arzi, who has made waves in TV and music production but has not been properly recognised by many as he is still a growing brand.

Asked why his album titles are somewhat centred around media, the rapper explained "my stage name is MP which in the political world means Member of Parliament, so an MP is elected into their position, hence the first album was titled 'Election Day'.

After being elected into that position one has to start working and that includes addressing the media hence the title 'Press Release; Day in the Office," he chuckled, as he explained his creativi-



DJ Lady Cream for Riverstone Shisanyama celebration

By Nomfundo Sifundza

DJ Lady Cream is set to shut it down at the Riverstone Shisanyama celebration on Saturday.

The lady spinner has been booked for the Shisanyama's first year in business celebration alongside other spinners; Troy KB Da DJ and Mistosoul.

During the celebration expected to start at 3pm, patrons will buy food and beverages at a special price, but the first 10 ladies to arrive will get free cocktails.

Organiser of the event, Monwabiso Matsebula reckoned it would be a show-stopper and invited all patrons to be there to enjoy themselves. "It is a way of thanking our faithful cus-

tomers who have been with us since we opened and we invite new customers to enjoy the warmth that we bring to them."

Matsebula further mentioned that their patrons would have the advantage of getting promotions offered by Swazi Mobile since the

Shisanyama has struck a deal with the giant mobile company.

"We will be working with Swazi Mobile. This is a very big event for us as a

Shisanyama and patrons should look forward to lucrative benefits from Swazi Mobile," Matsebula said. The dress code is smart casual.



Lovers month party at Siteki Hotel

By Nomfundo Sifundza

STILL in the spirit of the month of love with Siteki Hotel, in partnership with Kool Swazi Entertainment, will be hosting the 'Lovers Month Party' on Saturday.

Kool Swazi Director

DJ Mfundo said

"since it is a

lover's

month, we

decided to

have this

show for those

who love each

other and host

female DJs."

The lady

spinners of

note that will be playing at the show are DJs Lady Cream and Lolo. The lady spinners will be joined by Kool Swazi DJ Njebza, who is currently making waves with South African collaborations. The DJ's latest hot single 'Sdom sdom' features Durban's Afrotainment boss DJ Tira. Also, the talented duo of Deepmotion

vs Freestyle will take to the turntables for this month of love party.

Entry to the show will be E30 for ladies and E50 for gentlemen.

MAKE THEM DANCE: DJ Njebza.



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 Afri-Berry 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
Swazi in real time

International
Celebrity News

Blac Chyna's lawyer speaks out

LOS ANGELES - A sex tape featuring what appears to be Blac Chyna was leaked online on Monday.

The alleged one-minute and 23-second video shows Chyna performing a sex act on the mystery man, whose face is never shown. The video was tweeted by an anonymous Twitter account on Monday morning.

Following the video leak, Chyna's lawyer Lisa Bloom spoke to E! News, slamming the act.

"Revenge porn posting explicit images without the consent of everyone in those images is a crime, a civil wrong, and a form of domestic



SPEAKS OUT: Lisa Bloom and Blac Chyna.

abuse. It's also a cruel attempt to slut shame women for being sexual," said the lawyer, who previously represented actress Mischa Barton in a 'revenge porn' trial against her ex-boyfriend.

TMZ

Toni Braxton confirms engagement to Birdman

LOS ANGELES - Toni Braxton and Birdman just took their relationship to another level. They're engaged!

Rumours have been swirling around the 50-year-old singer and the 49-year-old rapper for a few weeks, as Toni has been spotted wearing a ring on that finger in recent photos and videos. Well, she just confirmed the news in a teaser for the upcoming season of her WE TV show, Braxton Family Values. "I have an announcement to make," she teased her family before yelling, "I'm engaged!"

She showed off a massive diamond, while her family smiled and laughed in response, seemingly approving of Toni's soon-to-be marriage to Birdman. In fact, Toni's mother, Evelyn, has praised the Cash Money Records co-founder in the past. *Eonline*



ENGAGED: Toni Braxton and Birdman.

Kim K getting richer doing nothing

LOS ANGELES - Kim Kardashian's Christmas gift from Kanye West isn't going to stop the chorus from grousing she keeps getting richer for doing nothing, because in this case ... it's absolutely true.

As reported, Ye hooked up his wife for Xmas with US\$100k of stock from four blue-chip companies; Amazon, Apple, Disney and Adidas, along with some more traditional stocking stuffers.

Since Kim scored the gifts, two of the four stocks, Amazon and Adidas, have continued to surge, and are up about US\$24k and US\$11k respec-



RICHER: Kim Kardashian.

tively. Kim's Disney stock is down almost US\$2k, and Apple dipped a bit as well.

All in all, Kim's US\$400k portfolio is currently valued at US\$431 800 as of last Friday's close.

Not bad at all for doing nothing and just watching the stocks grow. *MTO*

Cheryl refuses Liam's marriage proposal

HOLLYWOOD - Cheryl and Liam Payne's reported relationship troubles began after she rebuffed numerous marriage proposals, new reports claim.

The pair, who are at the centre of split rumours, reportedly hit the rocks after Liam felt 'snubbed' by her rejection.

This comes amid rumours that the One Direction singer, 24, and the former Girls Aloud star, 34, who share 11-month-old son Bear, could part ways 'within weeks'.

According to reports Liam, who is worth £54million, has sought legal advice over what a split could mean for his finances.

And in a case of misjudged timing, Liam opened up about his disagreements with Cheryl on Monday, despite rumours his 'oversharing' was at the centre of their arguments.

Daily Mail



PAIN: Liam Payne and Cheryl.

SA Celebrity News

Zodwa Wabantu scores drama series and film roles

DURBAN - Watch out, acting world! Dancer Zodwa Wabantu is set to take over TV and cinema screens with new acting roles in the next few months.

Zodwa, who cut her acting teeth with a cameo role on 'Uzalo' recently, said she is relocating to Joburg to start filming on a new TV series set for release in the next few months.

Zodwa will play the role of a young daughter who tries to help her sister on the show, which will air on



BIG SCREEN: Zodwa Wabantu.

SABC 1.

She said the show's producers approached her to play the role after seeing the impact she was making on the entertainment industry.

"Most people think that I am just a dancer who holds a Savanna in her hand but they saw something more.

They told me they loved the way I was true to myself and I wasn't trying to be anyone else. They had been looking at my brand and they wanted to make it bigger and better." *TimesLive*

Distraction Boyz cost up to R100k

DURBAN - Distraction Boyz are currently one of the most popular acts in Mzansi and can charge as much as R100 000 for a set, the group's Thobani 'Que' Mgothozi has revealed.

The 'Omnye' hitmakers told DJ Sabby during a recent interview that they started off charging a couple of coins, but have worked their way up to a R100k. "We started off making R2k, R5k and we were happy with that but when we started making R10k, I started to realise (it was serious). It was nice and then it grew, R50k, until R100k."

The group doesn't charge R100k



DESTRUCTORS: The Distraction Boys

across the board and said the price was dependent on a number of factors. "It depends on the type of event, the capacity, the venue, the distance from home, things like that. You can't just charge R100 000".

He said the amount charged for their gigs overseas were "somewhere around" the same figure.

TshisaLive

Beauty giant 'bullies' Connie Ferguson

JOHANNESBURG - Actress and businesswoman Connie Ferguson's beauty products empire has come under threat after one of her competitors took her to court over allegations that she stole the trademarks of international brand Nivea. Nivea owners Beiersdorf AG are suing Ferguson's company Koni Multinational Brands for 'passing off' some of its products as if they were Nivea's and want a court order to clear retail shops of all Connie men's products.



According to court papers filed by Beiersdorf's lawyers Adams and Adams at the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria in December, Ferguson and her business associates at Koni have been riding on the back of Nivea's success and reputation to sell their Connie beauty and body care products.

Sowetan

SUED: Connie Ferguson.

Mtukudzi tackles social ills head-on

JOHANNESBURG - There are reasons to consider the 2018 release of Hany'ga (Concern) as an important one for legendary musician Oliver Mtukudzi.

It is his 67th album at the age of 65, and it was released just a week after losing his close friend Hugh Masekela.

Mtukudzi speaks to Time Out just two days after Masekela's death. Since the two were working on a collaborative album, it was a big blow for the Zimbabwean. His emotions



and hurt are etched in his face. Tuku, as he is affectionately known has been in the music industry for more than 43 years and still shows unbridled enthusiasm towards his craft as if he began yesterday.

As he chums out hit after hit, Mtukudzi continues to tell his music story while educating at the same time. He defines his music as a mixture of different music styles from Zimbabwe. The international star's latest album is inspired by people who compete with each other.

Sowetan

TACKLES SOCIAL ILLS: Oliver Mtukudzi.

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY



DISTRUST: The Zungus.

The Zungus and Ngwenyas struggle through their mutual distrust to face their revenge-filled adversary. Iris is offered a deal that could change her life forever.

ISIDINGO

TODAY



SENDS HIJACKERS: Nina

Nina sends her goons to hijack the SG gold. Sechaba is concerned that Lerato's dreams have taken over their lives. Gabriel tries to convince Wendy that he is a changed man.

Muvhango

TODAY



REFUSES REBOUND: Gugu.

Azwindini rejects Susan's suspicion that Konanani inflicted her own wound. Azwindini has some good news for Livhuwani. Gugu refuses to be Rashaka's rebound.

RHYTHM CITY

TODAY



MAKES A DISCOVERY: Jamaica

Lerumo makes a deal with Suffo. Bash and Bong connect. Lerato comes to an important decision about Lungile. Fats and Jamaica make a terrible discovery.

PICTURE OF THE DAY

#TweetLikeABibleCharacter

God: you must not eat the fruit from that tree.

Eve:



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Your schedule may be altered for the nicest of reasons. Someone could show up unexpectedly. It's even possible that you could be offered a job - or a chance to improve your financial situation. Membership of a group or association could be discussed. Whilst tasting something very hot or spicy, you could remember something useful: prompting you to call someone you haven't seen for months.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

As you probably know, you are good at asking questions. Today, your forensic analysis of a situation could get you noticed, possibly leading to your name being put forward as a leader of a team.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

You may have cleared out 'stuff' but still need to de-clutter your mind. This might not be easy given that so many people want you to remember facts for them. A colleague might need you to explain a system. Involvement in establishing a new training scheme is possible. A close friend might suggest you study together - or make plans to visit a place of learning.



ARIES MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

It might seem that your phone is glued to your ear: yet there may be so many things to arrange before the weekend that calls have to be made. Slight physical discomfort could remind you of the need to think more carefully about the way you sit - and what you eat. It's possible too that you've been fed information that's 'toxic' and need to check facts for yourself.



TAURUS APRIL 20 - MAY 20

It might seem to you that someone isn't clear enough about what you want to achieve. Like the director of a play, you may need to give instructions for the umpteenth time. It could be that a new messaging system has created a problem - or that someone's left a key word out from a text or email.



GEMINI MAY 21 - JUNE 21

You could drive everyone crazy with questions. But if it's your job to ensure that things run smoothly, then you could show today exactly why you have the job you do. Involvement in the quest to find the perfect fashion accessory or even a specific colour for a design is likely. Contact with a health professional is possible and could result in you thinking differently about your daily routine. On the basis of 'you are what you eat', you might want to make changes.



CANCER JUNE 22 - JULY 22

A very good friend might welcome the opportunity to discuss career change they have in mind. You, however, might be thinking about pending changes to your routine. A shopping list could be growing. It

may be that you are compelled to invest more (time and money) in a hobby if you're to become the best you can be.



LEO JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

A drama-queen sub-personality could emerge when news isn't what you wanted to hear. You could use your lion's roar and demand that someone come back with better answers to a question. And they might just do that - much to your amusement.



VIRGO AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22
The constant struggle between balancing your gift for multi-tasking with the need to complete one task to satisfaction might spill over into leisure time. Someone who's really interested in you might not be at all impressed. This could turn into a battle of wits - which might amuse your brain cells but be a real turn off to someone who only wants to think romance.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 23
True, you're born under one of the Air signs. But this doesn't mean you have a perfect way with words. Negotiations are likely to be protracted simply because you're avoiding using terms that you think might come back to haunt you. You might need someone to speak on your behalf. Another possibility is that you are attracting people who talk a lot but manage to avoid big issues.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 21

With words still ringing in your ears and the knowledge that someone's doing the best they can on your behalf, you may be impatient to know more. Constant questioning could make for difficulties, however. An insurance or savings-related matter could act as a distraction: another could be news from a Libra friend of sudden progress in a partnership.



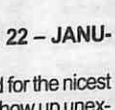
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

It's probable that you've been left with a clearing-up exercise after weekend activities. Follow-up calls and emails are likely too. You may have fallen into the role of referee between two warring factions. Though less than pleased that your efforts have come in for so much criticism, you might also be pleased that you have 'on-side' someone whose skills in a technical area are just what's needed.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Your schedule may be altered for the nicest of reasons. Someone could show up unexpectedly. It's even possible that you could be offered a job - or a chance to improve your financial situation. Membership of a group or association could be discussed. Whilst tasting something very hot or spicy, you could remember something useful: prompting you to call someone you haven't seen for months.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES

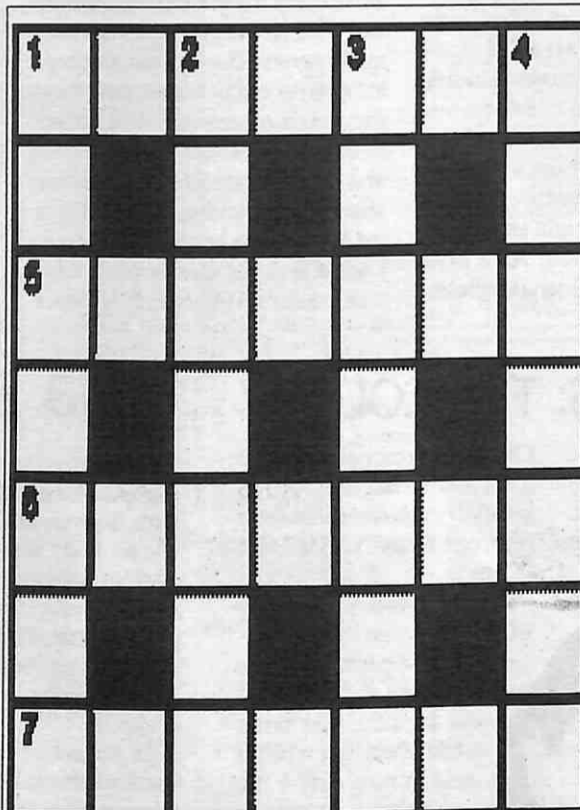


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PUZZLE CHOICE

MINI CROSSWORD MENU



DOWN

1. Scam
2. Foreword
3. Adjure
4. Quisling

ACROSS

1. Perspicacious
5. Inactivity
6. Idiom
7. Voter

YOU ARE THE PIG

A man walks into his house with a duck under his arm.

He walks up to his wife with it and says, "This is the pig I've been sleep-

LOL
Laughing Out Loud

ing with"
His wife says, "That's a duck."
He quickly replies, "I wasn't talking to you."

USELESS FACTS

1. Rhode Island is the smallest state with the longest name. The official name, used on all state documents, is Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.
2. The state of Maryland has no natural lakes.
3. Seattle, Washington, like

- Rome, was built on seven hills.
4. Of all 50 states, the most crowded is New Jersey, which has the most people per square mile.
5. The Dutch town of Abcoude is the only reasonably sized town/city in the world whose name begins with ABC.

BRAINTEASERS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

YESTERDAY'S BRAIN-TEASERS

1. My name is Ruger, I live on a farm. There are four other dogs on the farm with me. Their names are Snowy, Flash, Speedy and Brownie. What do you think the fifth dog's name is?

Answer: Ruger.

2. I am an odd number. Take

away one letter and I become even. What number am I?

Answer: Seven (take away the 's' and it becomes 'even').

TODAY'S BRAINTEASERS

1. What word looks the same backwards and upside down?
2. A boy fell off a 30 metre ladder but did not get hurt. Why not?



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NEWS



AS WE WRAP UP FEBRUARY ON

TLC
entertainment



● Wednesday 21 February

**HOMELAND S7 AT 21:00
CAT ON M-NET**

Emmy-winner Claire Danes returns for another season of Golden Globe-winning espionage in this acclaimed thriller exploring contemporary themes of American politics.

**WHO KILLED TUPAC?
AT 20:15 CAT ON HISTORY**

Just before she died, Tupac Shakur's mother Afeni reached out to her family friend, noted civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump, with a desperate plea: find out, once and for all, who killed her son. In this six-episode investigative series, Crump treats the Tupac case exactly as he has treated other high-profile murder cases: he interviews witnesses (some who have never talked before), reviews the evidence and examines the many theories before arriving at most informed and definitive conclusion as to what happened and why. In each episode,



Crump and journalist Stephanie Frederic (who has covered Tupac's case since his murder), examine one of the key theories.

● Tomorrow

**LITTLE WOMEN: TERRA'S BIG HOUSE
PREMIERES AT 20:00 CAT ON
LIFETIME**

This series follows Terra and Joe from Little Women: LA as they embark on a new journey as parents. We'll catch up with them during the final prep for their baby's arrival and cover their hospital birth. Watch as they deal with the many firsts of parenthood when they get home with their bundle of joy.

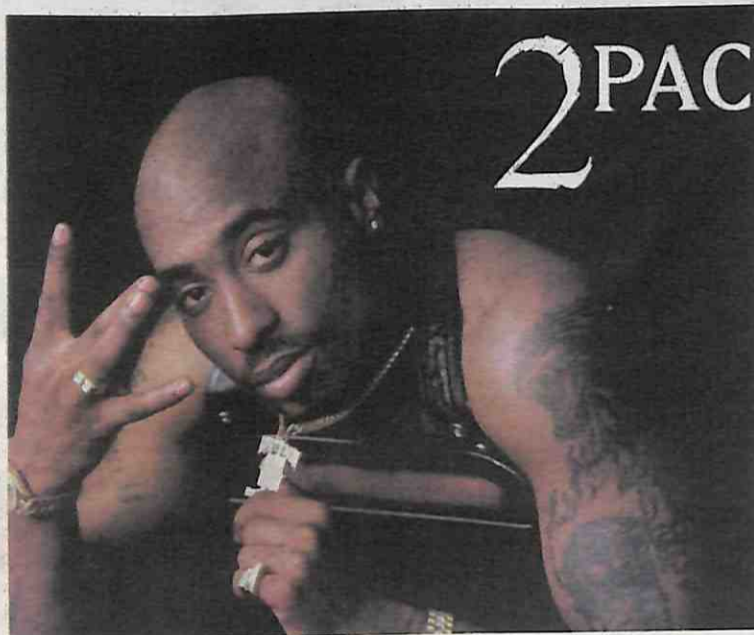
● 23 February

**QUESTION OF LOVE PREMIERES AT
20:00 CAT ON LIFETIME**

This bold new relationship format examines what happens to three different couples when they decide to take a major step in their relationship: moving in together for the first time.

**THE 685-LB TEEN
PREMIERES AT
20:00 CAT ON TLC
ENTERTAINMENT**

This powerful documentary special follows one extraordinary teenager chasing an enormous dream, while fighting for his life. Justin Williamson is the most overweight teenager in America. As a high school senior, obesity



has transformed everyday tasks - such as walking down the hallway to class, or fitting into an average family car - into an overwhelming challenge. Justin has two goals for his future - to get healthy and to share his brilliant gift with the world, his incredible singing voice. This is the amazing story of his journey.

● 24 February

**THANDO BARES ALL PREMIERES AT
20:55 CAT ON TLC ENTERTAINMENT**

Thando Thabethe and Carissa Cupido host this entertaining talk show, focusing on a range of issues faced by just about everyone in their lives. Thando's sassy, straight talking style and charismatic personality encourages people to 'open up' and be honest about things they might otherwise be embarrassed to talk about. From body-positivity and health, to attraction and relationships, and beyond, nothing is off-limits! Meanwhile, outside of the studio, Carissa finds out what the public thinks about these very personal and impor-

tant topics.

● 25 February

**ROUGH NIGHT AT 20:30
CAT ON M-NET**

An ensemble cast of starlets embark on quite a weekend away in this wild comedy. Things go terribly wrong for a bachelorette party of girlfriends who hire a male stripper.

● 28 February

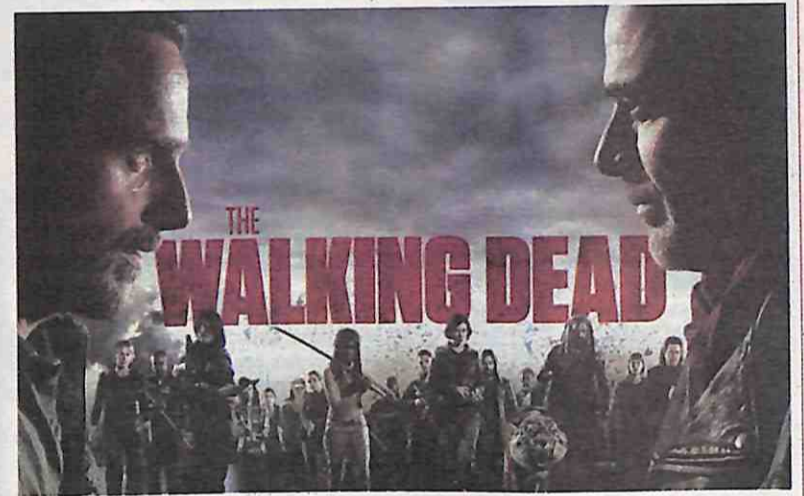
**JAMIE AND JIMMY'S FOOD FIGHT
CLUB AT 22:00 CAT ON BBC
LIFESTYLE**

Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty are back for the new eight-part series cooking up feasts for the weekend, helped by some very special guests who'll be getting a cookery lesson of a lifetime. Guests who will be joining the boys in Southend, include Salma Hayek, Lindsay Lohan, Alesha Dixon, Michael McIntyre, Martin Clunes and Tom Daley.

● 26 February

**THE WALKING DEAD (S8B): AT 21:00
CAT ON FOX**

Last year, Rick Grimes and his group of survivors were confronted with their deadliest challenge yet. With the comfort of Alexandria, they let their guard down, only to be reminded how brutal the world they live in can be. This year, Rick brings "All Out War" to Negan and his forces. The battle lines are drawn as they launch into a kinetic, action-packed offensive.



CALLING all the sci-fi and drama fans, we have some exciting news: **The Colony** will be premiering 5 March at 20:00 on Universal Channel and streaming on DStv Now. Mark your calendars!

A brand new exclusive to Universal Channel, **The Colony** sees a couple Katie and Will live in a dystopian-era of Los Angeles with

NEW SERIES: THE COLONY

two of their three children. The area is run under a regime of military occupation by an organisation known as the

Colony Transitional Authority. They form a larger part of an invading extra-terrestrial force referred to as "Hosts" and "Raps".

The series follows the lives of those who have either chosen to co-operate with the authorities and draw benefit from the new order while others have rebelled and in turn suffer the consequences due to their choices, in all of this we see Katie and Will try to fight to keep their family together while not knowing what will happen next.



Lalla set for Oscar's red carpet

M-Net Movies and Lalla Hirayama will rub shoulders with Hollywood's elite on the Oscars Red Carpet in March.

M-Net Movies has landed a monumental spot on the red carpet at the landmark 90th Academy Awards taking place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood on Sunday 4 March.

The Academy of Motion Pictures and Science invited M-Net Movies to cover the furore and excitement of the event and popular M-Net Movies face Lalla Hirayama will be the one making sure that movie fans throughout Africa experience all the glitz and glam first-hand.

"This is quite a feat," says M-Net Channels Head of Publicity,



Lani Lombard. "You can imagine how broadcasters around the world are trying their luck each year to be part of this prestigious event. It's a dream come true for

M-Net Movies and Lalla and the team will be pulling out all the stops to represent our viewers and stand out from the crowd".

Lalla is guaranteed to look stunning, wearing a one-of-a-kind dress by famed fashion designer David Tlale. Viewers will also have the chance to submit their Oscar questions, which may just be answered by Lalla on the night, on social media using the hashtag #AskLalla prior to her departure.

The M-Net Movies Oscars: Red Carpet Special, featuring Lalla will come your way on M-Net Movies Premiere at 20:30 leading into the 90th Academy Awards airing at 21:00 on M-Net 101.



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• **MXOLISI JUNIOR SITHOLE**, of Shiselweni Region wish to assume surname **KIWANUKA**. Reason being that **KIWANUKA** is my natural surname. Any objections should be sent to P.O. Box C954 Hub Manzini or Shiselweni Regional Secretary.

7 FEB, 14 FEB, 21 FEB, 28 FEB

• **LUNGILE DLAMINI**, of Manzini Region wish to assume surname **GULUDJA**. Reason being that **GULUDJA** is my natural surname. Any objections should be sent to P.O. Box 109 Kwaluseni or Manzini Regional Secretary.

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DEATH

Mphithiza Abishai Buthelezi

Funeral: 24/02/2018
Place: Ladysmith eMnambithi

Friends and relatives of Mphithiza Abishai Buthelezi, former principal at Bethlehem Mission School has passed on. The funeral will be in Ladysmith (eMnambithi) on the 24/02/2018 starting at 0900hrs at New Life Ministries, number 50 convent road. For more details contact 7 6 0 7 6 5 7 4 or +27721865773.

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JOBS

DROGBA BEAMS WITH PRIDE AS SON ISAAC JOINS GUINGAMP

PARIS - Didier Drogba's teenage son Isaac has followed in his legendary father's footsteps by agreeing a deal to sign for Ligue 1 outfit Guingamp.

The 17-year-old, who has also spent time in the Chelsea academy, was unveiled by the French club on Monday, all of 16 years after they signed his father in an £80 000 deal from Le Mans.

And a beaming Drogba, who plays for MLS side Phoenix Rising at the tender age of 39 years old, could not hide his delight as he posted a photo of his son with his new shirt on Instagram.

"Couldn't be more proud of you," he wrote.

Former Chelsea team-mates Frank Lampard was quick to add his congratulations, commenting: "Congratulations! I remember Isaac as the small polite boy! Now a man!"

John Terry added: "Can't believe how big he is mate, congratulations."

Drogba Jr still has a long way to go to match his father's achievements, and will have to find a way into the first-



LIKE FATHER LIKE SON: Isaac Drogba was presented to the press by his new club Guingamp on Monday afternoon. (Daily Mail)

team by impressing after linking up with the Under-19 academy side.

It was during a solitary season with the Guingamp that Drogba Snr really burst onto the scene in France, earning a move to Marseille the very next summer where he would catch the eye of Europe by leading them to the 2004 UEFA Cup final.

Chelsea paid £24 million to sign him that summer and the rest is history as far as the Stamford Bridge faithful are concerned.

Four Premier League titles, four FA Cups and one Champions League followed in the ensuing nine seasons across two spells.

Daily Mail

VAR system to make African debut in CAF Super Cup

CASABLANCA - The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system will be used for the first time in an African competitive game during the CAF Super Cup clash between Wydad Athletic Club (Morocco) and TP Mazembe (DR Congo) on Saturday at the Complexe Mohamed V in Casablanca.

The green light has been given by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and FIFA for the competitive trial in the one-off match featuring the winner of the CAF Champions League 2017 against the holder of the CAF Confederation Cup 2017.

This follows impressive results from a series of mock-up and offline sessions during the recent African Nations

Championship Morocco 2018 under the supervision of FIFA experts. It was deployed in matches in Casablanca, Marrakech and Tangiers.

Practice

"It is a historic moment for African football. I'm proud that Africa has taken the initiative to embrace the latest technology towards the development of football and I'm positive the impact will be felt at all levels of the game," said CAF General Secretary Amr Fahmy.

During CHAN, the selected match officials underwent vigorous training sessions, theoretical and practical, to acquaint themselves with the technology that has been described as a game-changer for decision-making in foot-

ball.

"Our motto for the VAR is to minimise interference and maximise benefits. Following the successes during the offline sessions at CHAN, I'm optimistic that we are ready to use VAR in major CAF competitions.

"Africa cannot always be left out on the usage of technology in football and I'm impressed by the support from the various stakeholders to make it happen.

"The good news is that African referees, who are familiar with the VAR following their participation at FIFA tournaments, will be in charge during the Super Cup," CAF Refereeing Manager Eddy Maillet added.

African News Agency

Salah credits Klopp for goal rush

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool's top scorer Mohamed Salah has credited Manager Jurgen Klopp's tactics for his prolific form, saying a change in his playing position has helped him score more goals.

Salah has netted 30 goals in 36 matches across all competitions in his debut season at Liverpool, and is the league's second highest goalscorer with 22 goals to his name, one fewer than Tottenham Hotspur forward Harry Kane.

"With the boss here, I play a little bit closer to the goal, more so than at any other club or more than any of my other coaches have asked me to," Salah told Liverpool's official matchday programme.

"So I am always in front of the goal to give me the opportunity to score. The manager is always telling me to stay close to the goal in training.

"I don't want to say too much because we still have a long way to go in the season and I don't want to give too much away. But yes, it's something we

have worked on in the training sessions."

The 25-year-old's exploits have led Liverpool to third in the league standings and almost guaranteed of a spot in the Champions League quarterfinals after a 5-0 victory over Porto in the first leg of their last-16 tie.

The Egyptian has also taken the second highest number of shots in the league with 103 and is eager to be more clinical.

"You cannot score 10 goals from 10 balls - that's impossible and I know that I have missed many chances too this season. But I am trying to improve," Salah added. "I am always trying to see my weaknesses and then work on them and I am always trying to score in different ways.

"The coaches help me so much to do that and I also work hard alone after the training sessions."

Liverpool host West Ham United in the league on Saturday.

Reuters



Diego Costa thinks all referees 'hate' him

MADRID - Former Chelsea striker Diego Costa claims officials in Spain "hate" him and deliberately want to penalise him.

The Atletico Madrid star returned to action last month after rejoining his former club from the Stamford Bridge club.

But despite scoring four goals in eight games, the Spain international was also sent off in his second game and was booked for dissent in Sunday's 2-0 win over Athletic Bilbao.

He was also denied a penalty following a Unai Nunez tackle.

Costa told Diario AS: "The officials hate me and there's nothing I can do to change that."

"Some of

them book me for the smallest issue and it did not matter what it was but (against Athletic Bilbao) the referee was going to book me no matter what.

"You can look back at the replay and analyse it, but I did not overstep the mark and did not deserve it, but there is nothing I can do about it now.

"The penalty appeal? I think it is yes, I was knocked off balance by contact from the defender when I

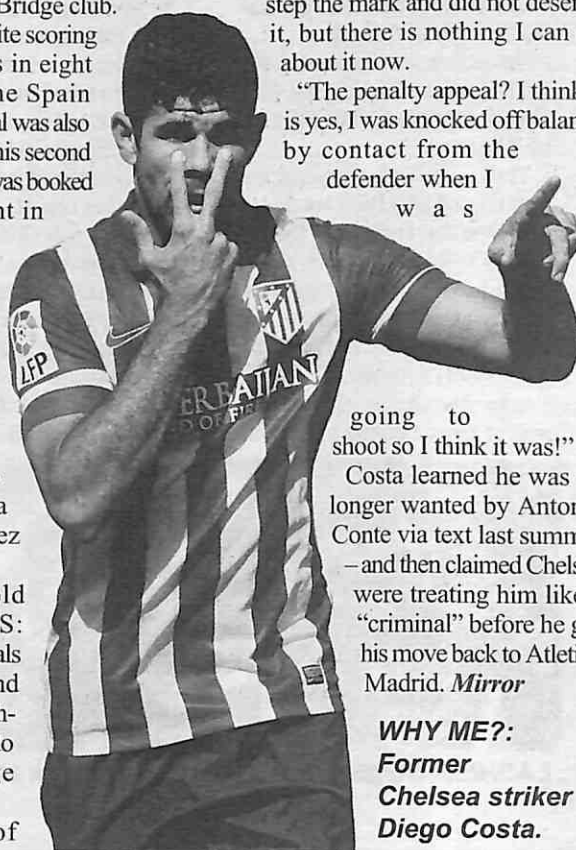
was

going to shoot so I think it was!"

Costa learned he was no longer wanted by Antonio Conte via text last summer - and then claimed Chelsea were treating him like a "criminal" before he got his move back to Atletico Madrid. *Mirror*

WHY ME?:

Former Chelsea striker Diego Costa.



World Cup trophy visits Palestinian territories

RAMALLAH - Thousands of Palestinian football fans took photographs with the World Cup trophy on Monday as it tours the globe ahead of this summer's tournament in Russia.

More than 10 000 people queued to see the trophy during three days it was displayed near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, organisers said.

It is the second time the World Cup has been displayed in the Palestinian territories and comes as part of a wider tour of the trophy ahead of the World Cup.

The cup left on Monday afternoon for Jordan before it goes to Dubai later in the week. It visited Israel last week.

Hamza Samara brought his sons for a photo with the cup shortly before it left.

"I have seen the World Cup on television but to see it in real life and take a picture with it is something else," he said.

"It is something beautiful that changes the atmosphere and takes my sons away from the circumstances we live under."

As elsewhere in the Arab world, football is hugely popular among Palestinians.

The Palestinian football association has fought a long battle at FIFA over football played in Israeli settlements, which it argues is illegal under international law.

AFP



IT'S ABOUT TIME: A Palestinian man poses for a picture with the FIFA World Cup trophy during the first stop of the FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour in the West Bank city of Ramallah. (Daily Mail)



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



'Why Sergio Aguero lashed out at Wigan pitch invader'

MANCHESTER - Sergio Aguero's furious clash with a pitch invader was sparked when the Manchester City star was spat at, it has been claimed

The striker was furious at the final whistle as Manchester City were dumped out of the FA Cup by Wigan.

There were ugly scenes at the final whistle after Pep Guardiola's side were dumped out of the FA Cup by Wigan on Monday night. Hundreds of home fans flooded the pitch and surrounded some of the City players as they were trudging off in defeat.

Argentine striker Aguero was among those taunted by several

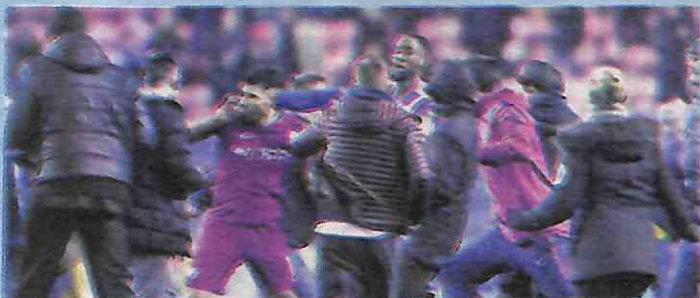
fans and footage shown by the BBC captured him appearing to hit out at a man in a green jacket.

City staff then desperately held Aguero back as he went for the man again. New footage posted online by a City fan captured the clash in full and the incident will surely be examined by the FA.

There were reports Aguero claims to have been spat at.

Journalist Jose Alvarez Haya told ChiriquitoTV: "A fan spat at Aguero and Kun feared he might have an object to cause him harm."

The encounter came to life on the stroke of half-time after Fabian Delph was dismissed for a reckless challenge. *Daily Mail*



LASHED: Sergio Aguero tries to get back at the fan.

MANCHESTER - Will Grigg was on fire to leave Pep Guardiola boiling mad.

The Northern Ireland striker scored a sensational second-half winner to stun 10-man Manchester City as League One Wigan shocked the Blues yet again in the FA Cup and ended their quadruple hopes.

And it all came after both managers almost blew their tops at half-time after Fabian Delph was sent off for the Premier League side. Latics boss Paul Cook had to be separated from Guardiola and City's players at the break.

But his anger turned to joy when Grigg scored a 79th-minute winner while Guardiola was left to simmer over another embarrassing Cup defeat to the League One side.

But the FA will take a hard look at the scenes at the end as Wigan and City fans seemed to trade blows with City's Sergio Aguero caught up in the melee.

Defeat also ended City's chances of winning all four major trophies this season as they prepare to face Arsenal in the Carabao Cup final on Sunday.

Wigan have history against City, including their greatest ever day.

That was back in 2013 when Ben Watson's header won the FA Cup for the Latics the FA Cup and upset the big favourites on the grand stage of Wembley.

Days later they were relegated from the Premier League only to meet City



PEP LOSES IT

Grigg stuns City after Guardiola bust-up

again in the same competition at the quarter-final stage as a Championship club.

And they shocked City again with a 2-1 win at the Etihad Stadium.

This time they were looking to do it as a League One club and against Pep Guardiola's City, who are by far the best team in the top tier.

And the City boss didn't even rest all of his main stars with the likes of Sergio Aguero, David Silva and Leroy Sane all starting.

City will use the excuse of Delph's sending off but it was an even first half before the red card with City actually better with 10 men after the break.

Aguero headed wide early on for City before Ilkay Gundogan then forced Latics keeper Christian Walton into a good save from the edge of the area.

Wigan had lost their last two games to Southend and Blackpool, conceding five in the process and losing top spot in League One.

Grigg ran at a labouring John Stones before lashing into the side-netting as the crowd of over 20 000 started to believe another shock could be on the cards.

They did need a good save from Walton to deny Aguero after the Argentina ace had waltzed through the home defence.

Daily Star



SERA Column

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PRACTICAL BUDGET SAVER: LEDS MY BEST CHOICE

A user's testimonial on switching to energy saving bulbs



Figure 1 ERNEST Mavuso who realised huge electricity savings by moving from using incandescent lamps to LED lamps

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.

Types of light bulbs



Figure 2 We encourage the use of either the CFLs or LED light bulbs for energy savings for your lighting.

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.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

'SPURS CAN FULFIL CL DREAM'

LONDON - Tottenham Hotspur have the right mix to win their first ever Champions League title this campaign, the Premier League club's winger Lucas Moura has said.

The north London outfit are unbeaten in Europe this season, finishing top of their group, and earned a hard-fought 2-2 draw with Italian champions Juventus in the first leg of their last-16 tie in Turin last week. Brazilian midfielder Moura, who joined Spurs from Paris St Germain last month, urged his teammates to maintain their momentum.

"I am 25 years old but I think I gained a lot of experience with PSG and I think I can help Tottenham. I think we have a lot of quality and a great structure," Moura said.

"The Champions League is the most difficult cup but I think we have the capacity to win it if we always think in positives and always work hard.

"We did a big game against Juventus away. It was a good result in Italy and I am sure we can do a good game with our fans and continue. It's always important to win. Every player wants to win trophies... and I think we can dream with the Champions League."

Reuters



PEACE WITH POGBA NEEDED

MANCHESTER - Manchester United's Champions League trip to Sevilla tonight is the type of occasion for which the English giants swallowed their pride to pay £89 million (US\$125 million) for Paul Pogba, four years after he left Old Trafford for Juventus as a free agent.

Yet, it remains to be seen whether the French midfielder even starts at the Sanchez Pizjuan for the first leg of the last-16 tie as much due to his form as his fitness.

Pogba hasn't completed 90 minutes in a month as he has been hauled off by Jose Mourinho in defeats at Tottenham and Newcastle, and dropped by the Portuguese for victory over Huddersfield at Old Trafford in between.

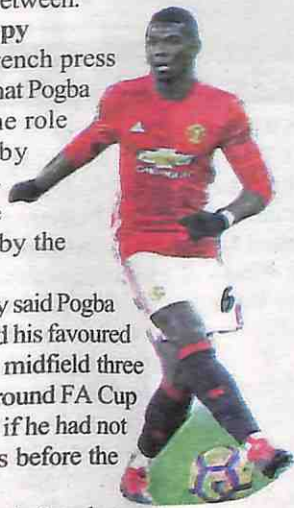
Unhappy

Reports in the French press emerged last week that Pogba is unhappy with the role given to him by Mourinho, in particular the defensive demands imposed by the Portuguese.

Mourinho pointedly said Pogba would have occupied his favoured role on the left of a midfield three for Saturday's fifth-round FA Cup win at Huddersfield if he had not been ruled out hours before the game due to illness.

The arrival of Alexis Sanchez on the left side of the United attack in January has exacerbated those differences as Pogba and the Chilean are yet to complete 90 minutes together.

AFP



'UNITED BELIEVE THEY CAN LIFT UCL'

MANCHESTER - Winning the Champions League this season is not beyond Manchester United but the Premier League club must take it one game at a time, wing-back Ashley Young has said.

United have progressed to the Champions League knockout stages for the first time since the 2013-14 campaign but Manchester City, Spain's Barcelona and Real Madrid along with Paris St Germain are considered favourites for the title.

United, who won the Europa League last season, make a trip to Sevilla in the first leg of their last-16 tie tonight and England international Young

believes they can prove their doubters wrong.

"Of course (we can win the Champions League)," Young told the British media. "You don't enter a competition not to win it. That's what we will be looking to do and take each game as it comes.

"The next one is against Sevilla.

That's a tough away game like Huddersfield, like Newcastle away. That's what the stadium is like. We just have to concentrate on ourselves."

After a shock league defeat to Newcastle United this month,

Jose Mourinho's side received a confidence boost with a 2-0 win over Huddersfield Town in the FA Cup on Saturday.

Striker Romelu Lukaku scored both goals for United



with Juan Mata and Alexis Sanchez bagging an assist each.

"When you have a striker scoring goals, it's always important. His (Lukaku) hold-up play, his all-round game was fantastic at Huddersfield, and he's done that all throughout the season," Young said.

"He's getting goals. When you've got someone who can hold up the ball like he can and get in the box it's fantastic."

Reuters

WE CAN: Man United Manager Jose Mourinho talks to Ashley Young.

SHAKHTAR BRUSH OFF UPHEAVAL AS THEY FACE ROMA

ROME - War refugees Shakhtar Donetsk head into tonight's Champions League clash with Italian side AS Roma in high spirits despite a lack of signings and sparse match practice.

The war in eastern Ukraine between government forces and Russian-backed separatists has forced Shakhtar to play their home games far from their state-of-the-art Donbass Arena stadium for the past four years.

In 2014, the club moved to Lviv, close to Ukraine's western border with Poland, but the local crowd - that favours their own top-flight side, Karpaty - was often openly hostile

to the Donetsk team or ignored their games all together.

Last year Shakhtar's owners decided to switch their 'home' venue to the eastern city of Kharkiv, 250 kilometres (155 miles) northwest of their native Donetsk.

Shakhtar, the only club from the eastern Europe in the Champions League knockout stage, will host Roma at the 40 000-seat Metalist Kharkiv stadium.

The Ukraine conflict has caused Shakhtar's billionaire owner Rinat Akhmetov to lose control of dozens of his coal mining and metallurgical enterprises located in the eastern

rebel-held territories.

That has seriously lightened the tycoon's wallet, hampering the signing of new players and forcing the club's bosses to focus on retaining their existing foreign players and fusing them with young homegrown talent. Shakhtar's Portuguese Manager Paulo Fonseca, who replaced Romanian Mircea Lucescu at the helm in 2016, said he was pleased to avoid "such great clubs as Barcelona and PSG" in the last 16.

Fonseca warned, however, that the back-in-form Serie A side would be a tough proposition.

"We are aware that the opponents

are worthy and it won't be easy," he told the club's website. "This is a perfectly organised team that copes wonderfully with the tasks it is set."

The club's only new signing in the winter transfer window was 19-year-old Brazilian right back Dodo, who helped to fill the gap after former skipper Darijo Srna was suspended last year after failing a doping test.

Shakhtar regained the Ukrainian title last year after a two-year hiatus have won 14 times this season to hold the lead in the Ukrainian league, three points ahead of bitter rivals Dynamo Kiev.

AFP

MONTELLA MAKING MARK AT SEVILLA

MADRID - It is difficult to think of a clearer indicator of the ruthless nature of modern football than Sevilla's apparently callous decision to sack Eduardo 'Toto' Berizzo in December.

The 48-year-old Argentine, appointed in the last close season, was dismissed just before Spain's winter break, only a month after it was announced that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Berizzo stepped away from the job to undergo surgery, but no sooner had he returned than the Andalusian club opted to relieve him of his duties after a 3-1 defeat at Real Sociedad.

Sevilla President Jose Castro called it a "difficult and painful" decision to make. They were fifth in La Liga at the time, having qualified for the Champions League last 16 after a group stage best remembered for their incredible comeback from 3-0 down to draw with Liverpool.

Tonight, when Manchester United will be the latest English visitors to the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan, Vincenzo Montella will be in the home dugout with the jury still out on the former Italy striker.

Sevilla faced huge criticism for firing Berizzo when they did, but they insist it was a necessary measure.

"It was a very hard decision but we understood that we had to do it because we believed there was a risk that we could fall apart," claimed

Sporting Director Oscar Arias.

Speaking to club media, Arias said Berizzo's last game against Real Sociedad "triggered everything. That was when we realised that we could not continue the way we were".

Arias also insisted that Montella had been his No.1 choice all along, and the 43-year-old had not long become available after being sacked by AC Milan.

Nonsense

"There has been a lot of nonsense said about this. Montella was always my priority. He was the person who fitted what we were looking for," he said.

The new coach did not get off to the best of starts, though, with his first league game seeing Sevilla lose 5-3 at home to Betis, the first time they had conceded five goals to their city rivals and their first derby league defeat since 2012.

There has also been a crushing 5-1 loss at Eibar, and Sevilla are still fifth in La Liga, their chances of a top-four place and Champions League qualification for next season not looking good.

However, they warmed up for the clash with United by claim-

ing back-to-back league wins, and they are through to the Copa del Rey final.

Having beaten Atletico Madrid, among others on the way, a club who have enjoyed enormous success in cup competitions at home and abroad in the last decade will face Barcelona in April's final.

Objective

"Since we arrived there have been ups and downs and the objective is that there are only ups," said Enzo Maresca, the Italian ex-Sevilla

player now back as an assistant to Montella.

The new coach has made some key moves, including confirming Spanish international Sergio Rico as his first-choice goalkeeper and restoring Steven N'Zonzi to the team - the France midfielder had lost his place under Berizzo and looked set to leave in January.

Struggling

New faces have arrived too, with Roque Mesa and Sandro Ramirez coming back to Spain on loan after struggling in England with Swansea City and Everton, respectively.

However, the most used January signing so far has been the Mexican full-back Miguel Layun, and he is ineligible for the United tie having already played in this season's Champions League for Porto.

Sevilla have so far lost on all three previous appearances in the Champions League last 16, including against Leicester City last year.

But with Montella gradually making his mark in the Andalusian capital,

the hope is that they can shock Jose Mourinho's men and reach a first European Cup quarterfinal in 60 years.

AFP



HONE DUGOUT: Vincenzo Montella.

BRIEFS

Injury delays Mulenga's Pirates debut

JOHANNESBURG - Zambian international Augustine Mulenga has suffered an injury set back less than a month into his Orlando Pirates stay. Mulenga sustained a knee injury during a training session, according to the club's website and could be out of action for two weeks. The 27-year old will therefore miss Pirates' clash against Chippa United this coming weekend. "Mulenga strained his knee after attempting to shoot whilst in an awkward position. The Zambian international is since seen a specialist who has allayed fears of any extensive damage and has recommended that the player rest and treat his strain," read a statement on the club's website.

Citizen

Mourinho keen on Madrid midfield star

MANCHESTER - Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho looks set to bolster his midfield options with Real Madrid's Toni Kroos set as his top transfer target in the off-season. Mourinho has been vocal in recent weeks about his desire to find balance in his midfield, as club-record signing Paul Pogba has been the brunt of severe criticism during a testing period for the Red Devils. However, The Independent reports that Kroos has been short-listed to potentially partner the France international, not to replace him, in a new-look midfield with Nemanja Matic. Los Blancos are said to be open to negotiations as they seek to raise funds for a world-record transfer for Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar and stay within the Financial Fair Play regulations.

Kickoff

Multiple arrests in match-fixing probe

MADRID - At least 24 people were arrested in Spain in an operation into alleged match-fixing in the country's lower leagues, police sources said. Arrests were made across the country, including in Barcelona, the sources said. The operation into alleged fraud and corruption is being led by a court in Zafra in the west of Spain. The ring is accused of using players to force situations such as corners or penalties in games in the Second Division B and Third Division, the third and fourth tiers of Spanish football, which are regionalised.

AFP

SA starlet completes overseas loan

JOHANNESBURG - The talented South African midfielder, Sibongakonke Mbatha, will have a new challenge for the next few months after securing a loan move to ATK. The 20-year-old joined Platinum Stars at the start of the season but has only been given one start in 2018 so far and in an attempt to find regular game-time elsewhere has sought a new pasture on loan. ATK, former Atletico de Kolkata, are believed to have been monitoring the South African international closely ever since his impressive performances at the FIFA U17 World Cup in 2015. *Soccerladuma*

Cape Town Open becomes a 'water-less' event

CAPE TOWN - The water crisis currently affecting Cape Town demands that we all take extra measures to ensure that Day Zero never comes.

The Sunshine Tour has committed itself, during this, the week of the Cape Town Open, to use less water in an effort to assist the City of Cape Town and the citizens in their endeavours to save the scarce resource.

The first measure was to move the tournament from its usual home, the Royal Cape Golf

Club which has a dire shortage of water, to the King David Mowbray Golf Club where the golf course is treated with effluent water.

The other important measure taken by the Tour in this regard was to encourage golfers to use showers yesterday only, on Friday for those who miss the cut and who are travelling, and on Sunday after the tournament.

Because of the testing nature of the sport, efforts to reduce

the consumption of bottled water throughout the tournament week have been made, which include trucking in 700 cases of bottled water from Gauteng for player hydration and operational areas and thus effecting no further stress on local resources.

This is because the Tour cannot get enough stock due to the chronic shortage in the Western Cape. *Sport24*

PIRATES STRIKER SET TO JOIN SUPERSPORT

JOHANNESBURG - Thamsanqa Gabuza could be reunited with Eric Tinkler at SuperSport United if what Phakaaathi sources have been whispering is anything to go by.

A source close to the player has revealed that Gabuza has spoken to Tinkler on a few occasions and the two seem keen on working with each other again.

"Gabuza knows he has never been a fan favourite at Pirates and with Augustine Mulenga already tipped to be the team's first choice while there are the likes of Ayanda Nkosi still waiting for a chance, Gabuza knows game time will be scarce for him. That is why he is keen on getting a move away so he can re-establish himself. And they had an understanding with Tinkler," said the source.

Meanwhile, a source in the Pirates camp has revealed to Phakaaathi that head coach Micho Sredojevic is impressed



TO MAKE A COME BACK: Thamsanqa Gabuza.

with the club's development structures and will be looking to introduce more young players into the senior team next season.

According to the source, players in the MDC team and SAB League Bucs teams are attracting clubs in the PSL and the NFD and the coach doesn't want to lose any of the club's development talent.

"There are quite a number of

players who might not be with the club soon because teams out there are looking at them and are interested in signing them. So these youngsters will end up being lost to other teams. That is why the coach wants to act quickly by making sure he promotes some of them. He is very impressed with the players and always keeps tabs on their progress," said the source.

Citizen

Sundowns without Mosimane for Free State Stars game

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns will be without coach Pitso Mosimane for their crunch ABSA Premiership clash with Free State Stars this evening.

'Jingles' will serve the last of his two-match suspension after being dismissed by controversial referee Victor Gomes during their visit to Cape Town City earlier this month.

Despite reports of Sundowns wishing to appeal the suspension, the PSL have confirmed Mosimane will have to sit out when they host Ea Lla Koto at Loftus Versfeld Stadium (19h30).

The former Bafana Bafana boss also missed their Nedbank Cup Last 32 meeting with Cape Town All Stars last weekend,

which the Brazilians won 1-0.

Downs are top of the log, with 38 points from 20 games, but have seen their lead reduced to just four points by their nearest rivals Kaizer Chiefs.

Depending on the outcome against Stars tomorrow night, they could see their advantage restored to seven points or cut to just three points, with the Free State-based outfit moving to second spot.

Kickoff

'Victor Gomes right to send me off'

JOHANNESBURG - Golden Arrows loanee Jabulani Shongwe admitted the referee made the correct decision to send him off in the 2-1 loss to Bidvest Wits on Saturday.

Shongwe was dismissed against his parent club for attempting to drag Gabadinho Mhango off the field along with Matome Mathiane, as the Arrows pair believed the Malawian was faking injury.

Mathiane escaped without punishment, but James Keene was also red-carded for shoving Shongwe, who is on a season-long loan at Abafana Bes'thende.

Speaking to KickOff after the game, he explained: "Eish, we wanted to equalise and these people... I ended up trying to take Mhango off the field.

"What I did was

wrong, though, but I did speak to him about it afterwards and everything is fine now between us, it's not personal. He understands it's football.

"He was busy lying on the ground pretending to be injured. When I confronted him he told me he was tired. He told me that while he was still lying down there... and we wanted a goal by then."

However, Shongwe confessed: "For me the red card was fair, I accept it because what I did was wrong. But as people we don't see things the same way. "Obviously what I did wasn't right because

it wasn't for me to decide if he should leave the field. *Sport24*

'Boozing' players return to Baroka training

JOHANNESBURG - Two out of the four players that were rumoured to have been suspended by the club for allegedly drinking on the team bus have resumed training with the rest of the team.

Club's CEO Morgan Mammila confirmed to Phakaaathi that the two players have returned from the 'special programme' to training with the team. The players were suspended along with head coach Kgoloko Thobejane for the incident that occurred after a game in the team bus. "Two have returned

to train with the team. It is Sipho Moeti and Lewis Macha who are back training with the rest of the team. The other players are still on special programme and have not returned to train with the rest of the team," Mammila told Phakaaathi.

Mammila also revealed to Phakaaathi that the club has reached an agreement with Motor Spares Distributors to reward the club's player of the month with R5 000. "Yes, we have agreed with them [Motor Spares Distributors] to give a player R5 000 each month. They have only agreed to sponsor that for now, and they could sponsor the end of season awards for the club." *Citizen*



NATIONAL LEAGUE LOGS

STANDINGS

Compiled by Sibusiso Dlamini

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 Leopards	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

Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Imbumba	15	12	4	1	29	9	20	40
2	PMT	15	9	6	0	34	9	25	33
3	Sibovini	15	8	3	4	28	21	7	27
4	Billy Ocean	15	7	2	6	20	20	0	23
5	Burning Spear	14	6	4	4	20	13	7	22
6	Wizards	15	7	1	7	26	25	1	22
7	Emajukujuku	15	4	6	5	14	18	-4	18
8	Swazi Sun	15	3	6	6	22	23	-1	15
9	Kupheleni	14	4	3	7	19	20	-1	15
10	Umbelebele	13	4	2	7	15	21	-6	14
11	Sibuyeni	15	3	3	9	11	23	-12	12
12	Vusweni Killers	15	2	2	11	11	46	-35	8

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Khanjama Rovers	14	9	2	3	29	21	8	29
2	Vultures	14	8	4	2	27	8	19	28
3	Black Swallows	14	8	2	4	21	13	8	26
4	Horo	14	7	4	3	23	11	12	25
5	Manchester	13	6	5	2	19	11	8	23
6	Kappa Kappa	15	6	4	5	27	25	2	22
7	N. Swallows	15	4	6	5	9	12	-3	18
8	Ms. Arsenal	15	3	8	4	15	15	0	17
9	Ndeva Galaxy	15	5	2	8	18	24	-6	17
10	Pachanga	13	3	3	7	18	28	-10	12
11	Mvuma	13	2	4	7	10	23	-13	10
12	19 Celtics	15	0	4	11	10	35	-25	4

Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League 55 000

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Interstars	18	13	2	3	41	24	17	41
2	Amawele	18	12	4	2	36	16	20	40
3	Sidwashini	18	11	6	1	39	18	21	39
4	Corporation	18	10	5	3	30	19	11	35
5	Pot O Gold	18	9	5	4	26	18	8	32
6	Real Tec	17	6	4	7	28	26	2	22
7	Sandla	18	5	7	6	23	25	-2	22
8	Mbabane Celtics	18	4	10	4	17	19	-2	22
9	Pine valley	18	6	3	9	24	25	-1	21
10	Double Action	18	4	8	6	31	35	-4	20
11	Supersport	17	4	6	7	24	31	-7	18
12	Veni Cosmos	18	5	3	10	24	36	-12	18
13	White City	18	3	6	9	19	25	-6	15
14	Mbabane Arsenal	18	3	6	9	12	24	-12	15
15	FC Vaal Stars	17	2	7	8	20	33	-13	13
16	Gordon stars	17	1	6	10	21	41	-20	9

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Thembelihle	17	12	4	1	42	17	25	40
2	Classic	17	12	2	3	61	27	34	38
3	Freestyle	17	10	4	3	39	16	23	34
4	Royal Dynamos	17	10	2	5	51	34	17	32
5	Mpolonjeni	17	8	7	2	39	22	17	31
6	National Rangers	17	8	3	6	40	37	3	27
7	Mphalali	17	7	2	8	43	39	4	23
8	Mangwaneni	17	4	9	4	39	33	6	21
9	The Walkers	17	5	4	8	22	36	-14	19
10	Lusoli	16	4	6	6	23	33	-10	18
11	Movers	17	3	6	8	32	56	-24	15
12	Mbabane United	17	2	7	8	34	37	-3	13
13	Junction stars	17	2	3	12	27	65	-38	9
14	Mantsholo United	16	1	2	13	19	57	-38	5

Futis Nkhaba Regional League

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Shooting Stars	17	16	0	1	69	7	62	48
2	Majotini	17	13	1	3	50	20	30	40
3	Ngwenya United	17	9	5	3	48	27	21	32
4	Barcelona F.C.	17	9	4	4	34	24	10	31
5	Super Stars	17	8	2	7	23	22	1	26
6	Nkoyoyo	17	7	5	5	24	24	0	26
7	Mhlosheni	17	8	2	7	24	33	-9	26
8	Bafana	17	7	3	7	25	25	0	24
9	Dribbling Stars	16	7	1	8	24	28	-4	22
10	Brothers United	17	5	3	9	30	50	-20	18
11	Atletico	17	4	5	8	32	33	-1	17
12	Crocodiles	15	4	2	9	20	33	-13	14
13	Manyisa United	17	4	1	12	23	45	-22	13
14	Marisburg	15	3	1	11	19	41	-22	10
15	Motshane Real Rovers	16	2	1	13	22	59	-37	7

Pots Construction Sigangeni League

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Community	19	14	2	3	54	15	39	44
2	Real Touch	19	13	3	3	41	19	22	42
3	Nsetse	19	13	2	4	41	15	26	41
4	Young Heroes	19	12	4	3	40	22	18	40
5	Total Xi	19	9	3	7	30	30	0	30
6	Young Fighters	19	8	5	6	24	25	-1	29
7	Real United	19	7	7	5	31	20	11	28
8	Mighty Chiefs	19	6	5	8	25	23	2	23
9	U. Eagles	19	6	5	8	24	27	-3	23
10	Man Unlimited	16	7	2	7	17	21	-4	23
11	M. Celtics	18	6	3	9	20	30	-10	21
12	Villa Sport	19	6	3	11	20	36	-16	21
13	Nationals	19	4	7	8	20	32	-12	19
14	Kangaroo	19	5	3	11	27	36	-9	18

15 Sigangeni	18	4	6	8	24	36	-12	18
16 Golden Stars	16	3	0	13	18	50	-32	9
17 Cannibals	16	1	3	8	14	42	-28	6

Bakhanyisele & Menzi Dlamini Maphaleni League

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Xi Experience	20	15	2	3	48	13	35	47
2	Manchester	20	15	1	4	45	16	29	46
3	Hotspurs	20	14	3	3	39	19	20	45
4	Young Lovers	20	12	6	2	60	10	50	42
5	Blue Birds	20	10	5	5	35	31	4	35
6	Professionals	20	11	1	8	40	21	19	34
7	Rangers	20	9	4	6	35	21	14	31
8	Junior Stars	20	8	5	7	43	22	21	29
9	Thuluzubona	20	8	4	8	25	26	-1	28
10	Umkhokha	20	8	3	9	46	43	3	27
11	Young Stars	20	6	4	10	29	31	-2	22
12	Khulungwane	20	6	4	10	23	44	-21	22
13	Luvunjelo	20	3	4	13	24	48	-24	13
14	Liselesele	20	2	6	12	19	54	-35	12
15	Killers	20	3	3	14	16	58	-42	12
16	Barcelona F.C.	20	3	1	16	20	78	-58	10

Western Stream

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Early Sunset	17	12	5	0	45	15	30	41
2	Lunkanka	17	11	5	1	38	16	22	38
3	Hill Stars	17	10	5	2	20	5	15	35
4	Love & Peace	17	10	4	3	28	9	19	34
5	Happy Fighters	17	10	3	4	36	17	19	33
6	Mighty Birds	17	8	5	4	31	26	5	29
7	Jubukweni United	17	5	7	5	26	17	9	22
8	Top Classic	17	6	2	9	21	29	-8	20
9	Siphambanweni	17	4	5	8	22	26	-4	17
10	Rollers	17	3	6	8	26	29	-3	15
11	Happy Tigers	17	2	8	7	18	26	-8	14
12	Sunrise	17	2	7	8	22	34	-12	13
13	Academy	17	2	2	13	10	29	-19	8
14	Ibuyane Pirates	17	1	0	16	9	67	-58	3

South Star Mdzimba Regional League

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Cosmos	17	10	3	4	28	17	11	33
2	Green Sea	17	10	2	5	33	18	15	32
3	Arsenal	16	7	6	3	21	17	4	27
4	Sundowns	17	7	5	5	19	18	1	26
5	Rangers	17	6	7	4	20	18	2	25
6	Timbungulu	17	5	9	3	25	23	2	24
7	Rhumba	17	5	7	5	21	21	0	22
8	Monaco	17	6	4	7	18	19	-1	22
9	Rebels	17	5	7	5	25	27	-2	22
10	Rhinos	17	5	5	7	17	19	-2	20
11	Top Centre	17	5	5	7	20	26	-6	20
12	Kasiko	17	4	7	6	27	26	1	19
13	Swallows	17	5	4	8	25	25	0	19
14	Barcelona	17	4	7	6	19	26	-7	19
15	Bush Bucks	17	4	5	8	21	28	-7	17
16	Chiefs	16	4	3	9	11	22	-11	15

B. Division

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1	Black Mashuba	7	4	2	1	14	10	4	14
2	Drikoppies	5	4	0	1	8	5	3	12
3	All Stars	4	2	1	1	7	4	3	7
4	Amacabane	5	1	1	3	9	8	1	4
5	Highlanders	5	0	0	5	5	16	-11	0



THAT WAS OUR SWEET FIRST WIN IN 2018

GREETINGS Mhlab'uhlangene, welcome to another subscription, hope you are all well!

Finally, that first win in 2018 came through and when it came through it had to be sweet and probably the biggest fight back of the season with that 3-2 win over Tambuti FC at Mavuso Sports Centre last Sunday.

Forget about the goose bumps and chilling stomach cramps caused by that scare in the first 23 minutes, it doesn't matter much now but is all but a football lesson but what matters most now is that we turned set-back around and won the game.

Zivai Verenga grabbed a memorable brace that rallied Matsapha United to probably the MTN Premier League of Swaziland 2017/18 season's greatest fight back.

Coach

For many, even the neutrals, among them the National Football Association of Swaziland President, Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa, one would forgive them if ever it crossed their minds to write off Mhlab'uhlangene after the lacklustre opening stage in which Matsapha United found themselves chasing a two goal deficit after just 22 minutes.

And probably coach, Saul Chaminuka, being the Christian that he is, will find it in his heart to forgive the visibly irate fan who hurled

a handful of verbal ballistics, most of it unprintable on such a platform, alas the show was only beginning and not ending as the import from Zimbabwe, Verenga, was yet to pay dividends to the faith banked in him.

The visitors had found themselves ahead, courtesy of an Ohakwe Ugochukwu hard hit penalty after Sikelela Jemba Dlamini swung visibly enough to handle the ball in the box in a futile bid to clear his line, resulting in the spot kick.

In the 22nd

...For many, even the neutrals, among them the National Football Association of Swaziland President, Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa, one would forgive them if ever it crossed their minds to write off Mhlab'uhlangene after the lacklustre opening stage in which Matsapha United found themselves chasing a two goal deficit after just 22 minutes.

minute, a beautiful exchange between Ugochukwu and Samkeliso Lushaba easily weaved itself past the flat-

footed Matsapha United backline like a hot knife on margarine for the latter to easily beat badly exposed Khanyakwezwe Shabalala for the second.

It all seemed the script had been complete but alas Verenga had other ideas and as promised two weeks ago, it had to rain goals from him and the first shaved off seconds to beat the half time after a beautiful exchange between him and Sphamandla Dhlamini dogged trouble to the visiting defence line with the Zimbabwe squeezing the ball between Mbongeni Motsa and the upright for the goal.

Visitors

Sensing need for experience, Chaminuka pulled out a rabbit out of the bag with a game changing substitution, throwing on legend Dennis 'Yuki' Masina for rookie Kwenzokuhle Ndoye Khumalo and this stole the proceedings away from the visitors for the home side.

Seven minutes from the breather, Sifiso 'Tjovitjo' Maseko ventured forward with 'Mhlab'uhlangene' wave or tide, finding himself lurking on the edge of the box with a strike past bemused Motsa and cluster

of defenders for the equaliser.

Matsapha United were not done yet nor were they there yet as someone just had to drown in the 'Deep Blue Ocean' and just after the hour mark, the visitors were given a wrestling surplex into submission before Verenga curled his effort from the left flank by-line shaving the beauty that sliced itself past the upright for the winner.

Love

It was a beauty that, that if captured on the high definition cameras, would easily pass for entry for the FIFA Puskas Award Goal of the year, and thus Tambuti FC had been drowned, completing Matsapha United's second league double after the Vovovo one in December.

On the 'Mhlab'uhlangene' premiership statistics table, this became the first time they chased a game to victory after conceding first and after all there is still a pocket of life in this modest outfit, love them or hate them they deserved a win.

Team: Matsapha United – Khanyakwezwe Shabalala, Sibonelo Dlamini, Sikelela Dlamini, Menzi Mamba, Sabelo Gamedze, Kwenzokuhle Khumalo (Dennis Masina 46'), Sphamandla Dlamini, Vusumuzi Zungu, Banele Ndzabandzaba (Collin Zimba 65'), Zivai Verenga and Sifiso Maseko.



UYAYIFUNA NA! SWAZIBANK CUP BEGINS

THE SwaziBank Cup 2017 losing finalists, Matsapha United, have drawn MTN National First Division outfit Tinyosi FC in the 2018 edition which kicks off on Friday night.

The 34-team bumper draw was conducted on Thursday morning at the edition's launch held at Esibayeni Lodge with a tab line

'Uyayifuna Na.' The SwaziBank Cup Uyayifuna Na? kicked off yesterday with a preliminary fixture and the grand opening is on Sunday. SwaziBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele announced that the sponsorship package for this year is E2.6 million. The fairy tale run in the last edition saw Matsapha United dis-

miss Mbabane Citizens on penalties in the opening round before the biggest scalp with a 2-1 win over Mbabane Swallows. Mhlab'uhlangene then added Manzini Sundowns and Manzini Wanderers 1-0 and 2-0, respectively. The 'Deep Blue Ocean' then lost 0-2 to Young Buffaloes in the final and winning the cov-

eted trophy will be the only improvement the team will be targeting.

As we target improving our run in this tournament, our first ball against Tinyosi FC will be kicked on Saturday at 4pm in a match set for Somhlolo National Stadium and we urge our fans to come in their numbers to rally behind the boys.



Our parting shot!

Siblama ekasi, siphethe i-vibe ene strategy, sizobashiya be-dizzy #VeldFire. Until next week, Mhlabuhlangene – The Deep Blue Ocean wishes you a Fair Play filled weekend.

SWAZIBANK CUP 2018 ACTIVATION AT BHUNU MALL



UYAYIFUNA NA?: Models from Swaziland Institute, Phiwi Thibo, Bubbles, Nosimilo, Tengebo, Claudia, Tiffany and Boity clad in SwaziBank branded soccer jerseys during the SwaziBank Cup 2018 activation at at Bhunu Mall yesterday. The grand opening of the tournament will be held Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



YOU ARE THE WINNER: SwaziBank Public Relations Officer Phesheya Vilakati presenting a gift to Sebenele Dlamini.



ONE: Mbabane Swallows supporter Thulisile Hoffman with Moses Matsebula.



COME JOIN US: Programme director Moses Matsebula appealing to members of the public to support the tournament.



MY TURN: Tengebo controls the ball while her colleagues watch.



AND THE ANSWER IS?: Gabriel Nkambule answering a question posed by Moses Matsebula.



ME: Some of the people who attended the activation at Bhunu Mall.



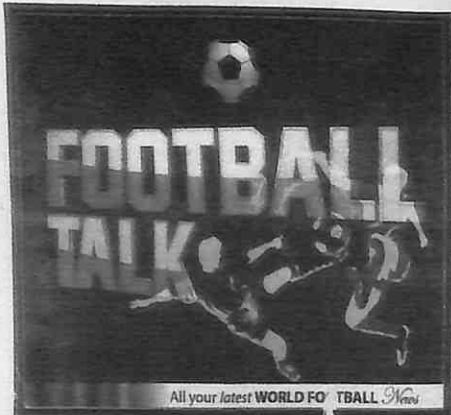
ACTIVATED: Mlandvo Khumalo also won something during the promotion.



POSE: Tiffany holding the ball.



YOURS: Nancy Hlanze receiving a SwaziBank branded cup from Sakhile Simelane.



● Real Madrid and Germany midfielder Toni Kroos, 28, is Manchester United's main target to replace former England midfielder Michael Carrick, 36, who is retiring in the summer. (Independent)

● Alan Pardew is fighting for his future at West Brom and a heavy defeat against Huddersfield on Saturday could end his reign at the Hawthorns after just 12 weeks. (Telegraph)

● Real Madrid's Wales forward Gareth Bale, 28, knows the club will look to sell him in the summer, while the Spanish club will also try to offload France striker Karim Benzema, 30. (Mundo Deportivo via Sun)



● Tottenham are looking to make a fresh move for Crystal Palace winger Wilfried Zaha, 25. Mauricio Pochettino's side failed with two bids for the Ivory Coast forward in the summer. (Mirror)

● Paris St-Germain are not interested in signing Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo, 27, despite being linked with a £30m move for the Argentina centre-back. (ESPN)

● Former England striker Ian Wright has assessed the relationship between Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho and midfielder Paul Pogba, 24, by saying 'he is hearing they aren't as close as a few months ago, and that's something United can't afford'. (Sun)

● Real Madrid forward Marco Asensio, 22, says he has had offers from five clubs including Liverpool, Chelsea, Arsenal, Bayern Munich and Juventus, but club President Florentino Perez does not want to sell the Spain player. (Diario Gol - in Spanish)



● Netherlands defender Stefan de Vrij, 26, looks likely to leave in June after his contract renewal was withdrawn, according to the Italian club's sporting director. (Mediaset Premium via Sky Sports)

● Chelsea striker Olivier Giroud, 31, says 'for a year and a half, it went from bad to worse' at former club Arsenal, which is why he had to leave in January. (Express)

● Championship strugglers Sunderland have been put up for sale for £50m. The north-east side are in danger of suffering back-to-back relegations. (Mirror)

● Kylian Mbappe will officially complete his £166m switch from Monaco after a contract clause was triggered that meant Paris St-Germain bought the 19-year-old France striker if they avoided relegation. (Mail)



● Everton could be without on-loan Manchester City defender Eliaquim Mangala for the rest of the season after the France defender, 27, injured his knee in the win against Crystal Palace. (ESPN)

TOTAL CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PREVIEW...



'BIRDS' LOOKING TO FINISH OFF BANTU FC



By Sibusiso Dlamini

Mbabane Swallows vs Bantu
Somhlolo National Stadium, 4pm

SOCCER – GLAMOUR capital city side Mbabane Swallows come to this year's tournament after leaving a mark in last year's showing in the CAF Confederation Cup where they brushed off big names in the continent.

The capital city side started well in the tournament as they claimed a victory away from home to Lesotho side Bantu, who they beat 4-2 in their own backyard, something that surely did not settle well with the Basotho and something they will definitely be looking at avenging today.

The Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati-led side has made the country's Mecca, Somhlolo National Stadium, their slaughterhouse. The team will be aided by the E40 000 worth free tickets given away by the country's newest mobile network provider Swazi Mobile, a brainchild of the team's late boss Victor 'Maradona'



Gamedze. The visitors have made their intentions clear with the fact that they will be looking to exploit the 'shaky' Swallows defence because they know very well that stopping the 'Umkhonto KaShaka' attack is difficult and will require them to be at their very best.

Skill

This then calls for the likes of Sifiso Mabila, who had a torrid match in the first leg due to the skill and tricks of diminutive Bantu winger Peter Moloisane and his back-four partners in Stanley, Siphamandla and Palma, to be on their toes and up their game.

The likes of captain fantastic Tony 'TT'

Tsabedze, Wonder 'Samba 'Jive' Nhleko, Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze and Felix Badenhorst will all be closely watched this afternoon as Bantu noted their strengths on the ball during the first leg.

This will be Swallows' first continental match at home since the demise of their chairman, and I am sure the players will want to fight and grind results. They know what this match means and will be all out to win. Winning this match would mean Swallows are through to the next stage of the tournament where they might play against a team from Zambia.

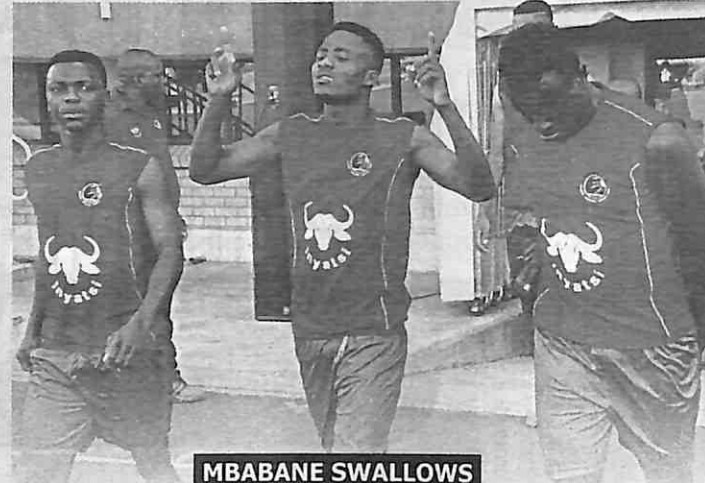
When speaking during the presentation of the sponsorship, Swazi Mobile Chief Technical Officer Wandile Mtshali said the company was already looking forward to helping Swallows when they go to Zambia.

It's no longer about Swallows as the whole nation will be looking for the very best performance today.

'Muyekeleni aphumule' will be the song the supporters will be singing and dancing to on the stands, and that's when the players will also have to give a befitting performance on the field of play. Kick-off is 4pm.



BANTU FC



MBABANE SWALLOWS

Way Inn on top of MRPA table

By Sibusiso Masilela

POOL – MALKERNS based giants Way Inn are currently leading the chasing pack in the Manzini Regional Pool Association log standings.

The team has so far recorded a 100 per cent winning record after five wins in the current campaign.

Occupying the second spot is Mankayane with 13 points after recording four wins and one loss.

They are four points behind the log leaders.

Ludzeludze complete the top three bracket with 12 points after three wins and two losses.

The going seems to be tough for newcomers Correctional, who are languishing at the bottom of the table with six points after five outings.

MRPA Secretary Mbongeni Gamedze said they were happy with the progress of the league.

MRPA LOG STANDINGS 2017/18

	P	W	L	FF	FA	FD	PTS
1. Way Inn	5	5	0	83	42	41	17
2. Mankayane	5	4	1	60	60	0	13
3. Figaredo	5	3	2	69	56	13	12
4. Nicks	5	3	2	66	59	7	11
5. Bhunya 1	6	3	3	73	77	4	11
6. Garrison	5	2	3	64	61	3	10
7. Figaredo Five	5	2	3	62	63	-1	10
8. Anka Eagles	5	2	3	59	66	-7	8
9. Macembe	6	1	5	70	80	-10	8
10. Uni-K	3	2	1	32	43	-11	6
11. Correctional	6	1	5	57	93	-36	6



"The league is proceeding smoothly so far and we commend the good behaviour and sportsmanship displayed by the teams since the beginning of the season," he said.

SNVA national team selection on Saturday

By Sibusiso Masilela

VOLLEYBALL – THE Swazi National Volleyball Association will on Saturday continue with their preparations for the 2018 Region 5 Youth Games slated for Botswana in December.

The association will enter phase two of the national Under-20 team selections to represent the country in the regional youth festival during the one-day long clinic to place at the Zakhele Courts.

SNVA Vice-Secretary Eric Zwane said the activity would start at 9am. He said this was an important exercise as they wanted to select the best squad.

"We are inviting young vol-

leyball players in the country to convene at the Zakhele Hall where will be selecting players to form the national Under-20 squads. Players should be at the venue on time so that we can finish the proceedings early. We are looking at getting 12 players for both males and females categories," he said.

Zwane also stated that they were still working on the other logistics of the junior national teams.

"There is a lot that needs to be done but we are now focusing on getting good players. We will also work on the training programme. This will include international friendly matches to help the team gain international exposure ahead of the competition," he said.

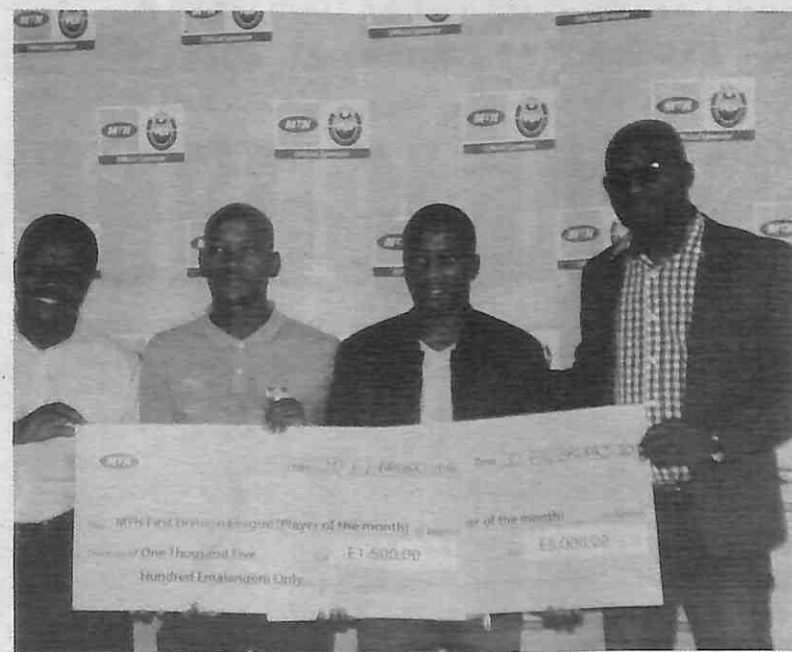
NJABULO TFWALA, SIKHULILE ARE JANUARY'S BEST

Stories by Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – GREEN Mamba winger Njabulo Tfwala and Mbabane Citizens midfielder Sikhulile Sekgotho have been named as the MTN Premier League and National First Division best players for the month of January, respectively.

The duo was announced as the winners of the leagues' monthly individual awards by the sponsor's Brand Communications and Sponsorship Manager Meshack Maseko during a presentation at Sigwaca House yesterday.

The two players walked away with E5 000 and E1 500, respectively following their sterling performances in their respective clubs in the last month. Tfwala, who has been vital in the Correctional Services side's recent league good run, dedicated his award to the entire Green Mamba family. "I would like to thank my teammates for the support they have given me and I am happy with the unity prevailing in the team. Things have changed since the arrival of our new coach (Caleb Ngwenya), who has reminded us the mandate of the team which is to win matches and compete for honours," he said. Meanwhile, Citizens playmaker Sekgotho thanked both MTN and PLS for introducing such an important award. "I am very grateful to win such a motivating award and I would like to thank everyone in my team for their support since



WINNERS: MTN Premier League and National First Division January Player of the Month winners Njabulo Tfwala of Green Mamba and Mbabane Citizens Sikhulile Sekgotho displaying their cheques together with MTN Brand, Communications and Sponsorship Manager Meshack Maseko and PLS COO Pat Vilakati. This was during a presentation held at the Sigwaca House yesterday. (Pic: Sibusiso Masilela).

the beginning of the season. I will continue working hard in order to help my team gain promotion to the Premier League at the end of the campaign," he said.

The sponsor's representative Maseko said they were happy with the standard of the two leagues.

"We are quite impressed with the level of competitiveness in the league especially during the recent 'Yello Sunday' where we witnessed top shelf football. We congratulate the two players for their achievements. As a company we are committed to improving these awards together with the Premier League of Swaziland.

"The improvement of the league has been noticed in the commit-

Learn to invest money – PLS urges players

SOCCER – THE Premier League of Swaziland has called upon local football stars to start investments with their individual prize monies.

This was said by the PLS Chief Operations Officer Pat Vilakati during the January MTN Player of the Month awards presentation held at the Sigwaca House yesterday.

"We would like to thank the ment shown by our CAF representatives in Mbabane Swallows

sponsor for coming up with this great initiative which is meant to motivate players to work hard for their respective clubs. We appeal to players to use this money wisely so that they may have a bright future even after their football careers. "It is important for players to have life after the sport and this can be done by putting to good use such individual prizes," he said.

and Young Buffaloes and we are proud of our two clubs," he said.

'Bomber', Frederick in Lagos

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER – THE Swaziland National Football Association (NFAS) President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa and the Chief Executive Officer Frederick Mthethwa have left for country for Lagos, Nigeria to attend the FIFA Executive Summit.

This is according to a press statement released by the association yesterday.

The summit started yesterday and is held at the Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, Nigeria.

This is the venue and their hotel accommodation for the big event.

Representatives from around 20-member associations are in attendance and the workshop will run for two and a half days, where they are expected to offer a constructive dialogue regarding the football mother's body's current state.

Notably, all expenses of the project, which includes accommodation, food, transportation and all other logistics having to do with the programme are bankrolled by FIFA. According to the statement NFAS Vice President (VC) Peter 'Samora' Simelane is holding fort as President whilst Finance and Administration Manager Nkosinamandla Mavuso is the acting CEO.



READY FOR WAR: The boxing team before their departure for the Zone 4 games in Maputo. (Pic: Sibusiso Dlamini)

Boxing team off to Moz for Zone 4 games

By Sibusiso Dlamini

BOXING – THE Swaziland National Boxing Association (SWABA) yesterday bid farewell to a team of six boxers to participate in the 2017 African Boxing Confederation (AFBC) Zone 4 games to be played in Maputo.

The regional tournament scheduled to start tomorrow and run until Sunday in Maputo will feature 12 Southern African countries including Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana Namibia,

South Africa, Mauritius, Seychelles, Swaziland Angola and the hosts Mozambique.

Temas

When speaking on behalf of the team before their departure at the Swaziland Olympic Games and Commonwealth Association (SOGCA) offices, the association's Secretary Thabsile Mngomezulu said the team was hopeful of coming back home with medals from the tournament as they would be using it to prepare for the Commonwealth Games.

He said they would be looking at get-

ting gold medals from this tournament.

"We have two of our boxers Thabiso Dlamini and Zweli Dlamini, who will be participating in the Commonwealth Games in April and there's no better way to prepare than this continental showpiece.

This will help us see how far our preparations have gone.

This will also give an opportunity and platform to the athletes to showcase their talent and at the same time share their experiences with boxers from outside the country," she said.

...women urged to join boxing

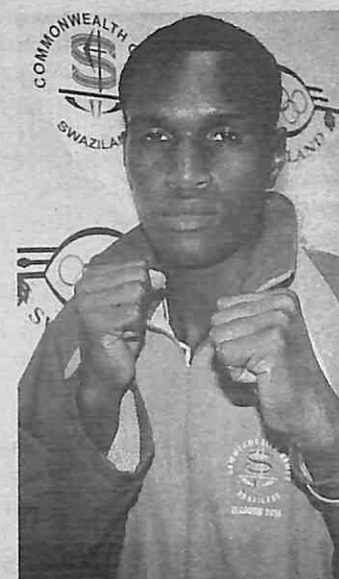
BOXING – SEASONED boxer Thabiso Dlamini has urged women in the country to come forth and join the boxing sporting code.

The boxer said this when making his remarks during the team's farewell function yesterday.

They will be taking part in the 2017 African Boxing Confederation (AFBC) Zone 4 games to be played this week in Mozambique.

"Our situation in the country is very disappointing. We get asked all these questions by other athletes, who come with their female teams. They always want to know why we do not have female boxers and we always find it difficult to provide answers. It is on that note that I would like to call upon young girls in the country and women in general to join the sport because we are living in an era of gender equality." He said they needed more women to join the sport and close this gap so that they could be at par with the other countries.

The boxer's plea comes only a day after his President in Pearl Dlamini, who is also SOGCA Vice President made a plea to all women in the country to join more sporting codes and to also get recogni-



IT'S NOT A MAN'S GAME: boxer Thabiso Dlamini.

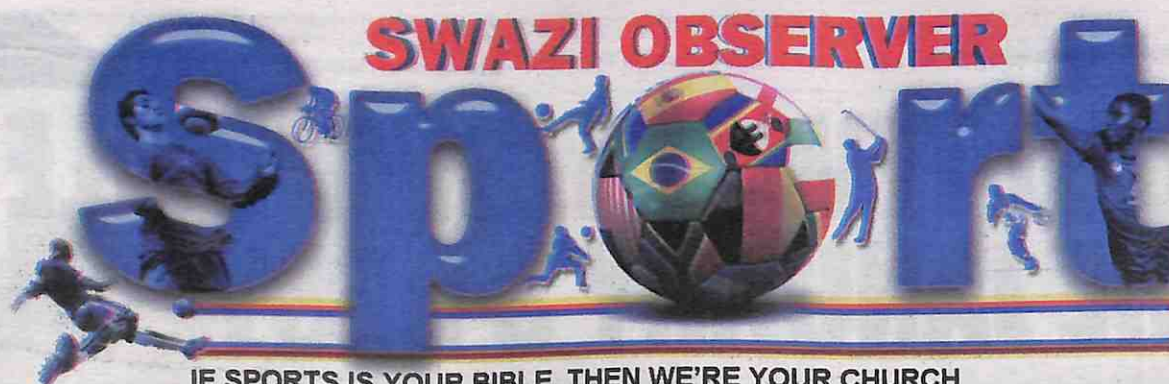
tion when the country participates in international games.

The full squad:

Lwando Shongwe	49kg
Phumlani Tshabalala	52kg
Zweli Dlamini	56kg
Andiswa Sibandze	60kg
Thabiso Dlamini	69kg
Sifisio 'Omo' Ngwenya	75kg

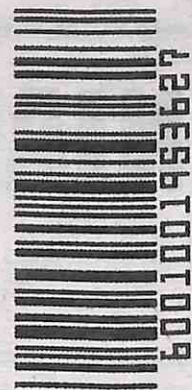
RESULTS/FIXTURES

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE			
Bayern München	5-0	Beşiktaş	
Chelsea	1-1	Barcelona	
PLAYING TONIGHT			
Sevilla	vs	Man United	9:45pm
Shakhtar Donetsk	vs	Roma	9:45pm
SWAZIBANK CUP PRELIMINARY ROUND:			
Sea Birds	0-3	Hub Sundowns	
M. Hotspurs	3-1	Rangers	
ABSA PREMIERSHIP			
Platinum Stars	0-0	SuperSport United	
PLAYING TONIGHT			
Mamelodi Sundowns	vs	Free State Stars	7:30pm



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2018



Hotspurs, Hub Sundowns through to last 32 round

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – HUB Sundowns and Milling Hotspurs are through to the next stage of the SwaziBank Cup 'UYAYIFUNA NA' after taking part in the inaugural preliminary round.

This was during double header games played at Mavuso Sports Centre last night where Hub Sundowns beat Sea Birds 3-0 while Milling Hotspurs got the better of Rangers, beating them 3-1.

Hub Sundowns refused to lose twice as they went on to play this match soon after losing the court case where they were contesting playing in the preliminary stage of the Swazibank Cup.

These four teams were battling for a spot in the last 32 of the knockout tournament.

This is because the new format has been brought about by the increment of Premier League teams to 14.

Worth noting is that all the elite teams were seeded based on the first round log for the 14-team Premier League log and two from the National First Division.

Yesterday's results mean Mbabane Swallows have a date with Milling Hotspurs in the first round of the tournament slated for next weekend. Hotspurs made a name for themselves in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup where they earned themselves the 'giants killer' tag after booting out Matsapha United and Mbabane Highlanders out of the tournament.

Meanwhile, defending champions of the tournament Young Buffaloes will take on another first division outfit in Hlathikhulu Tycoons.

PRELIMINARY ROUND GAMES:

Sea Birds	0-3	Hub Sundowns
Milling Hotspurs	3-0	Rangers

LAST 32 DRAW

Mbabane Swallows	vs	Milling Hotspurs
Young Buffaloes	vs	Hlathikhulu Tycoons
Manzini Wanderers	vs	Bad Boys
Matsapha United	vs	Tinyosi
Green Mamba	vs	Hub Sundowns
Malanti Chiefs	vs	Mahlalini
Royal Leopard	vs	Amalanda
Mbabane Highlanders	vs	Moyeni
Manzini Sundowns	vs	Young Movers
Moneni Pirates	vs	Imbumba
Tambuti	vs	CK Survival
Vovovo	vs	Ubombo Flyers
Red Lions	vs	Zibonele Vultures
Midas City	vs	Ludzeludze Killers
Citizens	vs	Tambankulu Callies
Madlenya	vs	Sikhalo Se Africa

BUFFS CAF JOURNEY ENDS

By Sibongiseni Zondi
(In Cape Town, courtesy of SwaziBank)



Cape Town City.....(0)1
Young Buffaloes.....(0)0

SOCCER – CAPE Town City beat Young Buffaloes 1-0 last night to prematurely end the army side's participation in the 2018 CAF Confederation Cup.

City's victory in the second leg of the preliminary round match between the two sides at Athlone Stadium in Cape Town took the aggregate score to 2-0 in favour of the Citizens.

Buffaloes came into the match having lost the first leg at Somhlolo National Stadium 1-0 and needed to get on the front foot early on but City proved a hard nut to crack.

The first real chance of the match came in the 12th minute as City midfielder Shane Roberts' goal bound header was deflected off for a corner kick. Roberts was proving a menace with the midfielder unleashing a fierce shot which was palmed away by Buffaloes goalkeeper Nhlanhla Gwebu in the 19th minute.

Buffaloes were threading on thin ice as City continued probing. It was Roberts in the middle of the action again seven minutes later as the midfielder found space inside the box and drilled the ball across but none of his teammates met it.

Buffaloes first real threat came in the 33rd



TEAMS:

CAPE TOWN CITY: Walters, Kobola, Seedat, Fielies, Gumede, Roberts, Johannes, Kewuti, Ralani (Nodada), Masina (Martin), Judas (Nana)

BUFFALOES: Gwebu, Mkhonta, Maseko, Ngwenya, Mkhwanazi, Tsabedze, Gamedze, Mazibuko, Mtsetfwa (Mkhabela), Dlamini (Mhlanga)

minute as striker Phiwayinkhosi Dlamini unleashed a powerful shot from a distance which was however saved by City keeper Shu-Aib Walters. Without any further goal mouth action from both sides, the halftime score was goalless.

City quickly changed that and the standing of the tie for the second stanza got underway. In the 56th minute, winger Amethyst Ralani

was gifted space and time in the box and the youngster made no mistake, firing an unstoppable shot past Gwebu to give City the lead.

City controlled the match from there on and almost doubled their advantage in the 73rd minute only for a huge miss by substitute striker Nana Akosah-Bempah. The forward, who scored the only goal of the first leg, was put through on goal with a lovely chip ball but the striker blasted his effort over the crossbar with only goalkeeper Gwebu to beat.

Buffaloes, who were self-destructing throughout the match, wasted a huge chance to equalise nine minutes from time as striker Dlamini took too long on the ball after breaking out on a counter attack.

In the end City held on to their advantage to win 1-0 on the day and 2-0 on aggregate and advance to the first round of the Confederation Cup while Buffaloes' journey came to a halt.

HUB SUNDOWNS LOSE 'UYAYIFUNA NA' CASE

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – MTN National First Division side Sundowns' plea of not taking part in the newly introduced preliminary round of the 2018 SwaziBank Cup has been thrown out of the window by Judge Mumcy Dlamini.

The Judge ruled against the NFD side and ordered the National Football Association of Swaziland to pay the legal costs incurred during the case heard yesterday afternoon at the High Court.

The 2005 champions filled an urgent application, challenging the National Football Association of Swaziland, following the management committee's decision to feature them in early stages of the tournament featuring 34 local teams, which kicked off last night.

The Manzini based side, through their lawyer Siphos Simelane from SC Simelane & Associates, further argued that by virtue of being a National First Division team, they stand to compete in the round of 32 of the competition instead of the newly introduced preliminary games format.

The team also challenged the existence of the Management Committee, a body which they alleged to be illegitimate and formed outside the auspices of the first respondent (Football Association).

It was in that spirit that they pleaded with the court to nullify the existing rules and regulations of the tournament.

Governs

However, the first respondent (FA), through lawyer Zweli Jele from Robinson & Betrams, argued that the rules were being drawn by the Football Association, an organisation that governs all local football activities in the country. When ma-

king his submissions, Jele said the applicant's plea would cause unnecessary costs and further affect the supporters, who are the main stakeholders of the competition.

Jele argued that postponement of the tournament would be costly for the supporters, who usually travel from various areas around the country to watch the games.

Jele also stated that the existence of the management committee was as per the auspices of the custodians of the sport, the Football Association.

By virtue of being the second respondent, The Premier League of Swaziland was represented by their prosecutor Desmond Manda on the matter.