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South Africa



A RE-LOOK INTO OURSELVES

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High Court grants her E15 000 bail

Story on Page 3

SUPER SPECIALS

SEPHAKU CEMENT
42.5N
50 KG
E84.⁰⁰

BUILD IT CEMENT
32.5 60 KG
E69.⁹⁹

AFRISAM CEMENT
42.5N
50 KG
E90.⁹⁹

Build it

High Court grants her £15 000 bail



**Story on
Page 3**

SUPER SPECIALS!!

SEPMU CEMENT



42.5N
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E84.⁹⁰

BUILD IT CEMENT



32.5 50 KG

E69.⁹⁰

AFRISAM CEMENT



42.5N
50 KG

E90.⁹⁰

REINFORCE
32 x 6M

E34.⁹⁰

REINFORCE
V20 x 6M

E33.⁹⁰

REINFORCE
V12 x 6M

E69.⁹⁰

REINFORCE
E10 x 6M

E49.⁹⁰

REINFORCE
E12 x 6M

E69.⁹⁰





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PM OPTIMISTIC OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN 2019

Stories By Sabelo Majola

The New Year promises to bring positive change, particularly to the country's ailing economy.

The optimism is derived from remarks made by Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini, who was delivering his first Christmas and New Year messages at the Cabinet offices yesterday.

The country's economic situation is so gloomy that cost cutting measures were introduced in an effort to help turn the situation or halt further decline in the short term.

The PM said the new government has come at a time when the country's economy needed a jolt to address the evident hardships synonymous with a weak economy.

Dlamini said while the challenge appears daunting, they have no better opportunity than now to turn things around through a properly-planned and well co-ordinated strategy and roadmap.

"We have a task to ensure that the year 2019 provides the foundation for a strong, buoyant and sustainable economy with an emphasis on fiscal discipline, revenue growth, job creation and private sector advancement, among others.

"Cabinet is currently putting together a roadmap that will serve as a guide to the direction we will follow to speed up economic recovery. As the New Year begins, we will share this strategy with the nation after it has undergone all the necessary fine-tuning and approval processes," he said.

Highlighted

The PM highlighted that Cabinet has already implemented interim fiscal prudence measures to control expenditure and re-direct resources to meet Government's obligations in a systematic and coordinated manner, putting at the forefront the nation's priorities for robust economic growth.

"These and all other fiscal prudence measures that will be implemented cannot succeed without the full backing and support of the nation. We all have a role to play in the process of getting our economy back on track, thus uplifting the standard of living for all Emaswati," he said. Dlamini thanked all Emaswati for their continued love, commitment and support to the activities that define us as a nation and continue making us a remarkably unique and peaceful nation.

"This I mention being cognisant of the various challenges we are faced with, which emanate mainly from the worrisome economic downturn. Several



PROMISES: Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini addressing members of the media during the delivery of government's X-mas and New Year message to the nation.

efforts have been outlined and announced to the nation towards addressing the situation in the short term. However, more can still be achieved if we work hard as a united force, share ideas and strategies to turn the tide. In unity we can go so much further," he said.

The PM also reiterated government's commitment to uprooting corruption in all its forms across all sectors of public and private enterprises as it has the potential to derail the country's speed of economic renewal. He said that it rests upon all of us to rid Eswatini of this scourge and channel our resources towards services of social and economic upliftment.

Wishes Emaswati happy festive holidays

The prime minister has called upon Emaswati to enjoy the festive holidays responsibly and avoid engaging in any illicit or illegal practices under the guise of merriment.

Dlamini said this was a time to give thanks and pray for blessings of the year and season, an opportunity to look into the future with hope and optimism for a brighter future.

"Let us protect one another and co-operate with our police whose mandate is to ensure our safety and security.

"We are called upon to refrain from engaging in any illegal or illicit practices under the guise of merriment, renounce violence in all its forms, stay away from drunken driving and obey all rules of the road to eliminate road accidents which often lead to fatalities. All families deserve to spend these holidays with their loved ones and not one life should be lost due to irresponsible behavior on our roads, communities and homes," he said.

The PM said Christmas and the start of a new year is always a time of reflection and contemplation, a time to celebrate with

loved ones and share pleasantries and gifts.

He mentioned that it is also a time to share with the less privileged in our communities, the sick and the needy, to lend a helping hand and give hope to humanity in honour of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whose birth is the greatest gift God has shared with the world.

"Most importantly, the New Year presents a golden opportunity for all of us to shed-off bad habits and routines that have held us back over the year in all spheres of life and adopt new strategies towards a brighter and prosperous future.

"As we look back at the year, we can count our blessings and similarly identify and confront the challenges that have emerged and need our undivided attention with haste.

"On behalf of His Majesty's Government, I take this opportunity to wish His Majesty the King and iNgwenyama, Her Majesty iNdlovukazi Mhlekezzi and the entire Eswatini nation a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year," he said.



CAPTURING: Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini joined by Secretary to Cabinet Mbuso Dlamini and senior government officials as he delivers the New Year message to the nation at Cabinet offices yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



US PRESIDENT TRUMP SPELLS OUT AFRICA PLAN

...In developing their strategy, they revisited the foundational principles of the Marshal Plan

By Alec Lushaba
Editor

United States of America President Donald Trump last Thursday revealed his new Africa strategy, which seeks to protect American interests.

Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Ambassador John Bolton, who delivered the plan at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, said in developing their strategy they revisited the foundational principles of the Marshal Plan.

The Marshal Plan furthered American interests, bypassed the United Nations and targeted key sectors of foreign economies rather than dissipating aid across hundreds of programs.

The new Africa strategy, which seems to be a full blown response to China

and Russia's interests in Africa, will be executed immediately after an intensive interagency process.

Ambassador Bolton said they prioritised the plan with the understanding that lasting stability, independence, security and prosperity on the African continent are in the interest of the national security of the United States.

Policy

He said: "Under our new approach, every policy we pursue, every decision we make, every dollar of aid we spend will further US priorities in the region."

Ambassador Bolton said, in particular, the strategy addresses three core United States interests on the continent:

"First, advancing US trade and commercial ties with nations across the region to the benefit of both the United States and Africa. We want our economic partners to thrive, prosper and

control their own destinies. In America's economic dealings, we ask only for reciprocity, never for subservience.

"Second, countering the threat of radical Islamic terrorism and violent conflict. ISIS, Al Qaida and their affiliates all operate and recruit on the continent, plotting attacks against American citizens and targets. Any sound US strategy towards Africa must address this serious threat in a comprehensive way.

Taxpayer

"And third, we will ensure that US taxpayer dollars used for aid are used efficiently and effectively. The United States will no longer provide indiscriminate assistance across the entire continent without focus or prioritisation, and we will no longer support unproductive unsuccessful and unaccountable UN peacekeeping missions.

"We want something more to show



SPELLS: US President Donald Trump.

for Americans' hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

"Under our new African strategy, we will target US funding towards key

countries and particular strategic objectives.

"All US aid on the continent will advance US interests and help African nations move towards self-reliance."

He said their goal is to move recipients states toward self-reliance, and prevent long-term dependency.

Ambassador Bolton said structural reforms will likely be critical, including practicing fiscal responsibility, promoting fair and reciprocal trade, deregulating economies and supporting the private sector.

"We should emphasise bilateral mechanisms to maintain maximum American control over every American dollar spent. Countries that receive US assistance must invest in health and education, encourage accountable and transparent governance, support fiscal transparency and promote the rule of law.

"The administration will not allow hard-earned taxpayer dollars to fund corrupt autocrats, who use the money to fill their coffers at the expense of their people, or commit gross human rights abuses," Ambassador Bolton warned.

WOMAN DELIVERS BABY IN PUBLIC TOILET, ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER

COVER STORY

Stories By Sandile Nkambule

A young woman (25) has been arrested and charged with allegedly attempting to kill her newly-born baby she delivered in a public toilet.

Tonkhe Tigezile Dlamini of Sigcineni area was arrested by the Sidvokodvo Police and charged with the offence of attempted murder as the baby was found lying idle in the public toilet at Tri-Cash Shopping Complex.

Dlamini, who was represented by

Manzini based lawyer Machawe Dlamini of MV Dlamini Attorneys, yesterday appeared at the High Court where she has filed an urgent bail application before Judge Mzwandile Fakudze.

Innocent

In her papers filed before court, she alleged that she is innocent of the attempted murder charge, and that she will plead not guilty at trial. According to the young woman, she did not commit the offence of attempted murder and her version of what unfolded on the day of her arrest, she was on her way to hospital after experiencing labour pains while at home.

She submitted that since she was heavily pregnant, she decided to go to the

nearby toilet at Tri-Cash as she was pressed and when she tried to relieve herself at that moment, she felt that she was not in serious labour.

"I tried shouting for help but to no avail, the baby was born and I went out to get things I could use to wrap my baby, however, when I came to fetch my baby I found people around the baby with some accusing me of having dumped it without listening to my side of the story," she submitted. She informed the court that police were then called and despite trying to explain herself, she alleged she was taken to the police station where she was subsequently charged and locked up for attempted murder.

Fears losing her own life, admitted to E15 000 bail

In her bail application, Tigezile Dlamini submitted that her continued incarceration has serious repercussions to her as she may lose her life since she is under treatment she cannot access at the Correctional facility.

She was granted bail fixed at E15 000 by the High Court, however the court ordered that she pays E2 000 in cash and E13 000 shall be in the form of a surety.

She submitted that she is a sickly person and fears that she may die at the Correctional facility as the living conditions may worsen her current health condition.

"It is my submission that my continued incarceration has serious implications to me because I may lose my only life since I do not have a spare one, my life is at great



risk," she submitted.

She informed the court that due to her current health condition, she needs constant medical attention and special diet and exercise regularly, which cannot be provided at the Correctional facility.

Two options remain for Sipho Shongwe as case postponed again

Stories By Sifiso Nhlabatsi

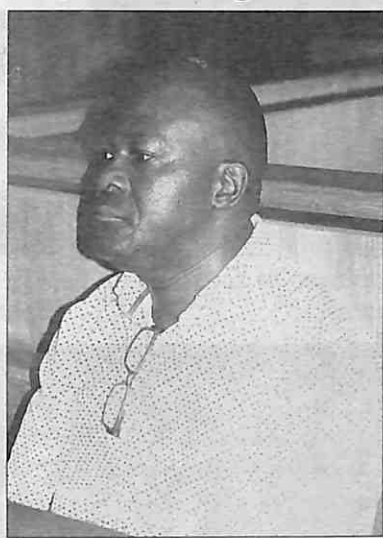
Businessman Sipho Shongwe is now left with two options when it comes to his extradition case.

After failing to convince the Magistrate's Court to drop the extradition case, Shongwe has since been told that it is either the matter continues where it left off last time or he makes an appeal at the High Court on the extradition case following the judgment of Principal Magistrate David Khumalo early this week.

Shongwe had made an appearance at the Manzini Magistrate's Court yesterday. His lawyers asked for a postponement in the extradition matter, stating that they are still to forge a way forward in the case.

The case was expected to continue before the principal magistrate. This came after the magistrate made a decision that he will continue with the matter despite that Shongwe's attorneys have argued that continuing with the matter will be res-judicata as the merits of the matter have already been heard and decided upon at the High Court.

The principal magistrate made it clear in his judgment that the matter that was dealt with at the High Court was an entire-



TWO OPTIONS: Murder suspect businessman Sipho Shongwe.

ly different matter from that which Shongwe was appearing for at the Magistrate's Courts.

He said at the High Court, it was a murder case and at the Magistrate's Court, it is an extradition case.

The principal magistrate also pointed out that despite that Shongwe was granted

ed bail by the High Court, there is no order which was made with regards to the extradition case.

Had the magistrate ruled in favour of Shongwe, he would be a free man by now and would spend Christmas at his home-stand.

Upon making his judgment on Tuesday, the principal magistrate informed Shongwe's attorneys that he is giving them time to convene and decide on the way forward.

The case was ordered back in court yesterday. However, during his court appearance yesterday, the Crown which was ready to proceed with the trial, informed the court that it had since received a message from Shongwe's attorneys, which was to the effect that they could not continue with the case.

Shongwe's lawyer Sipho Mnisi, when addressing the court, said they received the judgment document on Thursday and they had not had the time to go through its contents.

Mnisi said as a result, they had not been able to go through its contents properly and advise their client on the next step to take and explain to him about his rights since he is in custody. Mnisi also pointed out that he had not been able to meet with Attorney Lucky Howe, who is also

Shongwe will now spend Christmas in custody

After fighting for almost the whole year for his liberty, it is now clear that the man accused of orchestrating the murder of businessman Victor Gamedze, Sipho Shongwe will now spend Christmas in jail.

It is further now possible that he may spend even the New Year's in custody.

In an uncustomary Shongwe fashion, yesterday he made his appearance in an empty court when contrasted with his previous appear-

representing Shongwe.

He said they have not been able to convene as attorneys and decide on the next step to take. Mnisi applied that the matter be postponed to a later date. It was agreed that the matter be postponed to next week Thursday. The principal magistrate pointed out that two things will happen now. He said the matter will continue where it ended since the case had started with the bail appli-

cations at the High Court of the same Magistrate's Court where the public gallery would be full to capacity.

The matter did not take long yesterday as Shongwe's attorneys simply applied for a postponement and within a few minutes the court adjourned.

Since Shongwe's case has been postponed to December 27, this means he will not be spending Christmas with his family but will be spending it behind bars.

cation. And the case was stopped while the Crown was still parading its witness from the ministry of home affairs when strengthening its evidence on why it is arguing that Shongwe is a flight risk. The principal magistrate stated that the second option is for the accused to lodge an appeal at the High Court so that it can decide on the matter. The principal magistrate said all this will be heard next week Thursday.

Nothing new for us - Percy

Government Spokesman Percy Simelane has said there is nothing new about the US Africa policy for the Kingdom of Eswatini.

"For Eswatini, there is hardly any newness in what may look an escalated robustness in other spheres of life with this new American Plan for African development.

"American aid in this country has always been specific and directed only to those areas of development or intervention for which funding was approved.

"We are not aware of any USA Government concerns related to funds diverted to what they were not intended for.

"Our success stories in this regard include reducing HIV and AIDS prevalence for which we have been openly praised by the USA leadership, including former president Barack Obama. "His sentiments have been echoed by many world leaders. We will continue to strive to go by the rules pegged to every form of aid we get from the USA and other development partners," Simelane said.

What Petersen said of the new Africa Strategy

This strategy is focused on enabling African countries to move from relying heavily on grant-based foreign assistance or predatory loans to developing sustainable financial independence.

The Africa Strategy prioritises United States foreign assistance to help African states achieve accelerated economic growth, develop security capacity, and become self-reliant. American assistance will support partners who invest in human capital through health and education, are accountable to their people, support fiscal transparency and citizen-responsive governance, and promote the rule of law. Going forward, the US government will critically review



TO DEVELOP: Lisa J. Peterson

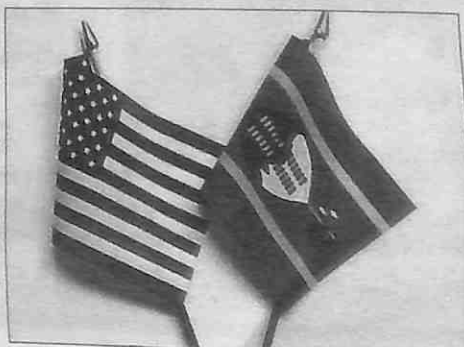
existing foreign assistance programmes to ensure that United States efforts are sufficiently focused and effective. Prioritisation does not mean

the United States will disengage from countries in Africa. The US will continue to work where partnerships are yielding results.

US AMBASSADOR MEETS PM

United States of America Ambassador Lisa Petersen has already met with the Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini and congratulated him on his appointment.

Ambassador Peterson said she look forward to working with Dlamini and his government on a range of key policy issues, including health, the economy, governance, gender issues, including the rights of disadvantaged groups.



LITTLE INCWALA DAY 14



IMBUBE: His Majesty King Mswati III leading the regiments in song and dance as he welcomes Ingaja at Engabezweni Royal Residence yesterday evening. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



AN ARIEL VIEW: A section of the many people who came to dance the Little Incwala.



SINGING: Lacwebetelako dancing to one of the Incwala songs.



DANCING MOOD: Members of the Royal Family among the Lutsango who joined the proceedings of the day.



SESIKHONA: The jovial Ingaja captured in action as they arrived at the Royal Residence.



SECURITY: Senior officers from the different security forces in action.



PRESENT: Ingaja joined by Prince Bandzile among others.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH




Accommodation

Double **E1495.00**
Single **E1150.00**

Bottomless ice cream
Adults: **E350 P/P**
Children: 5-10 years **E175**
Children: 0-4 years **Free**

A photo shoot with Santa Clause

Activities: Jumping castle, swimming, face painting, egg race, sack race, take a picture with Santa clause.

Time: 13:00-16:00 hrs

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AYIBUKELWA: Indvuna of Imbali Nonduduzo Zubuko leading the regiment as they sing and dance to one of the Incwala songs.

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- Eswatini Higher Education Council (ESHEC)
- Ministry of Education & Training

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- Early Childhood Diploma in Education

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FORCES REPRESENTED: Acting National Commissioner William Dlamini and Police Academy Commander Vusi Masuku were also present.

LITTLE INCWALA DAY 13



BAYETHE: Ingwenyama leading emabutto in song and dance.



SIGODLO: Emakhosikati LaMbikiza, LaGija and LaMahlangu doing their part.

LEADING: Emazinyane leading the way as Ingaja leave the Royal Residence.



WARRIORS: Ingaja marching out after they were commissioned by His Majesty.



EMAZINYANE: Minister of ICT Princess Sikhanyiso and Emazinyane witnessing the commissioning of ingaja from Hhohho Region.



LUTSANGO: Former Ministers Hlobisile Ndlovu and Sibongile Simelane among members of Lutsango who came through to dance with the King before the commissioning of Ingaja.



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INVITATION TO BID

TENDER No.49 of 2018/19: SUPPLY OF SERVERS

INVITATION

Tenders are hereby invited from suitable qualified service providers to supply laptops and computers for the Eswatini Electricity Company.

DETAILED TENDER DOCUMENTS

A detailed tender document is available at a non-refundable fee of SZL300.00 and can be collected from the Commercial Services Department, EEC Head Office, Mbabane. If the RFP document has been downloaded from SPPRA – Swaziland website <http://www.sppra.co.sz/>, tenderers must submit proof of payment of the requisite non-refundable fee.

SUBMISSION AND CLOSING DATE

A signed and sealed tender bid clearly marked on an official envelope "CONFIDENTIAL : TENDER No.49 of 2018/19, containing TECHNICAL and FINANCIAL proposals, should be deposited in the tender box situated at the EEC Head Office, Eluvatsini Building, Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane, Eswatini. The technical and financial proposals should be on separate envelopes.

The closing time for receipt of the proposals is 12:00hrs on the 15th January, 2019. Late, faxed, emailed, incomplete or telegraphic tenders will not be considered.

It is the responsibility of all tenderers to ensure registration of their tenders on submission.

ENQUIRIES

All enquiries must be directed to the Commercial Services Manager at the following address: busiwe.masangane@sec.co.sz

"The Company does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender"

PSAs STILL HAVEN'T DECIDED WHEN TO GO TO CMAC AGAIN

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi

Following the new government's 0% offer to civil servants on the Cost of Living Adjustment (CoLA), Public Sector Associations are still yet to decide on whether to approach the Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration Commission (CMAC) for a certificate of unresolved dispute.

It has been gathered that having reached a deadlock with the new government, Public Sector Associations (PSAs) have an option of approaching CMAC for yet another certificate of unresolved dispute, which is something that might result into

another separate strike from that which is expected to take place on January 28 next year. Earlier on this year PSAs were granted the certificate of unresolved dispute after they failed to reach an agreement on the Cost of Living Adjustment with the government, which was under the late former Prime Minister Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini. After resorting to engage in a strike action, the unions were told to give the new government a chance and let the new elected parliamentarians get into office. After getting into office under the new



Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini, the new government still came back to the negotiating table with the same offer of 0.0 per cent. Explaining the process, Swaziland National Association of Teachers Secretary General Sikelela Dlamini said in the first instance after Public Sector Associations reached a deadlock with government on the negotiating table, they went to CMAC where a certificate of unresolved dispute was issued. He said following that they then went to vote on whether they should engage in a strike or not and the vote indi-

cated that there must be a strike action. Dlamini said the vote for strike was supposed to take place before the end of this year. However, the strike was stopped after government made a request that it be given time to let the new parliamentarians get into office.

Postponed

The strike was then postponed to January 28. Meanwhile at the same time PSAs also approached government asking for the negotiating table to reconvene. After reconvening the negotiating table, government still came back with the same offer of 0 per cent. This then meant that the Public Sector Association have to go back again and engage in the process of approaching CMAC and getting a certificate of unresolved dispute and vote on whether they will be engaging in a strike or not. However, SNAT secretary general said it is worth not-

ing that the decision to engage in a strike action come January 28, 2019 still stands. He said the certificate of unresolved dispute does not expire, the secretary general said they will approach CMAC again following the deadlock which was reached the last time they convened at the negotiating table. He said the same process will be followed again and if it calls for a second strike to take place, it will. Dlamini said it is possible for two strikes to take place in 2019, he said a strike can take place in January and another towards the end of the year in 2019. The secretary general said it is important to note that the case of CoLA is a recurring issue, which is something that happens every year. Dlamini said, however, as unions they haven't decided on when they will be going to CMAC for the deadlock they have reached with the new government.

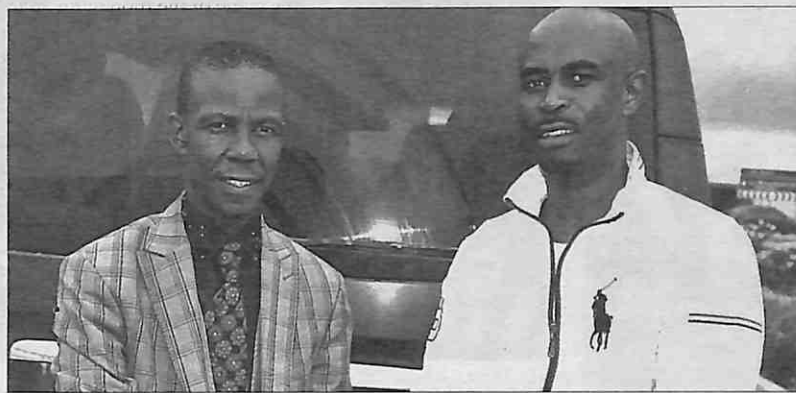
I WILL STOP THE STORM - PROPHET MBORO

By Simon Shabangu

Renowned visiting South African Prophet Mapaseka Motsoeneng, well known as Prophet Mboro, has declared that the storm which is said to hit the country will not happen again.

So sure of his declaration that he has even postponed his departure back to South Africa to today since he wanted to bear witness that the storm does not happen. Prophet Mboro was due to leave the country yesterday afternoon but he decided to postpone the trip to be in the country to ensure that his declaration that the storm will not happen is fulfilled. The Prophet said God told him that there is heavy storm that will hit the country, something which was also confirmed by weather experts in their focus. "I declare that the storm will not happen. I was supposed to leave for South Africa, but I will not go to ensure that the storm does not happen," he said during an interview on national radio.

Meanwhile, in a brief interview on his arrival, he told this publication that he was happy to be in the country, stating that he brings with him blessings of a safe and happy festive season. He said he was in the country to assure the nation that he will be part of the Eswatini Christmas Blestival hosted by Ezomoya Communications happening on Christmas



NO STORMS: Prophet Mboro receiving a warm welcome from Sabelo Mavuso, who is also a Prophet with a church based in Durban. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

Day. This will be an all-night show featuring a number of local artists and gospel giants from South Africa. The Prophet together Apostle Justice Dlamini will be guest speakers on the night.

Assignment

"My first assignment on this visit is to pray for the people of Eswatini and bring God's blessings. I am also here to assure the people of Eswatini that on Tuesday night I will be here for the all-night event in Manzini. God will be doing incredible happenings and will be changing people's lives and blessing people's businesses. We are now encouraging people to pray for businesses, not just to pray for jobs. This is about Christ and change in the

Kingdom of Eswatini. People must get ready to start businesses. Through God's wisdom, they will have new ideas and realise a change in their lives," he said.

The prophet was on Channel Yemaswati on Thursday night, where he had a wide ranging interview with the station's boss Qhawe Mamba and later did another interview with Eswatini Broadcasting Services on the programme Letishisako.

Great artists, including the likes of Hlengiwe Mhlaba, Donny Ngwenyama, Nduduzo Matse, Linda Dlamini, Phathwakahle, Shiba and Travellers, Insali KaJehova, Thabile Myeni and Scara Maziya, among others, will be ministering on the night at Mavuso.

Female identity thief fined E5 000

By Bahle Gama

Thandiwe Sithandwa Magagula (34) of Makholweni under Chief Ndalahlaza has been arrested and charged with identity theft.

She was charged with the offence of contravening Section 16 (1) (d) as read with section 16(2) of the Identification Order 4/1998. She appeared before Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi yesterday afternoon.

She informed the court that she stole the complainant's identity because she wanted to keep her job. Narrating her story, the accused said she and the complainant, Tholakele Mbetse, went to the industrial site in Matsapha to look for jobs. Mbetse was hired, she wasn't.

At the time, Mbetse is said to have had another job and suggested that Magagula should take the newly-found job and get in the position and use her identification. However, this 'deal' backfired when the accused continued using the complainant's name at

the workplace without being questioned by anyone until, one particular day, the company she was working for asked that she produces her birth certificate which she did not have.

She hatched another plan. She visited the Home Affairs ministry and obtained a new birth certificate and continued using Mbetse's name instead of hers and further obtained a national identity card still with the complainant's identity.

Fix

Her arrest came when she went to the office of the Registrar Births, Marriages and Deaths in Mbabane with the intention to fix the documents and she was told such was not possible as she had committed a very serious offence. From there, she was ordered to go to the police station where she was promptly arrested.

"I did all of this because I needed the job your worship. I am very sorry, it was not intentional," she said. She was found guilty as charged and convicted to two years in prison with an option to pay a fine of E5 000.

EX-MANGCONGCO PRINCIPAL FACES TRIAL FOR FRAUD

By Bahle Gama

The trial of former Mangcongco Primary head teacher Amos Mabuyemphini Seyama of Mangcongco area under Chief Mashwayi commenced yesterday at the Mbabane Magistrate's Court.

Seyama is charged with fraud and the trial was before Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi.

Seyama is alleged to have given the Teaching Service Commission false information about his actual year of birth with the intention to defraud government.

He is alleged to have submitted that he was born on February 12, 1964 to the Teaching Service Commission to prolong his years of service, whilst he was actually born on February 12, 1951 and by the means of the said misrepresentation, induced the Teaching Service Commission to its loss and prejudice of the sum of E358 544, 32. He is said

to have committed the aforesaid misrepresentation knowing very well that he was not born on February 12, 1964, thus committing the said crime.

He pleaded not guilty to the crime and representing him at the magistrate's court was lawyer Mzwandile Mntungwa.

Testimony

Appearing before the court to give his testimony was Knowledge Ngwenya, a Guidance Officer at the ministry of education, who was sworn in and narrated the issue before court. He stated that his job is to observe the behaviour of teachers at Schools and be kept on the loop about crimes that occur at schools countrywide.

On February 23, 2013 he stated that he was called in by then principal secretary and handed him an audit report from the auditor general's office where he asked that he investigates the report for there were issues in it.

"I took and analysed the report to see what issues were in it and found that it

was a summary of issues connected to Mangcongco Primary School Head teacher, Amos Seyama and the key issue from the audit report was that he had not retired in 2011 when his time came," he said.

He further told the court that the report stated that the accused had been receiving a salary for two years unlawfully. He then looked for his file from the service commission registry, which was to explain to him the retiring date of the accused and it disclosed that he was to retire on February 12, 2011.

Documents

He also stated that in the registry he looked for Seyama's documents which were to include his birth certificate, identity card and academic certificates.

"I never found copies of his birth certificate and identity number but I found his academic certificates and his TS2," he continued. A TS2 is a form that is filled in by a teacher when being hired. He said he then checked the form and

found that it stated that the accused was born on February 12, 1964. Upon seeing this, he did his own calculations and found that his retirement would have been in 2024, which he said was contradictory to the audit report which stated that his retirement was to happen in 2011.

Contradiction

He said the contradiction triggered his need to investigate the issue in order to find out which birth year was the correct one.

"I decided to check the government records to see which birth year appeared and found that data recorded stated that he was born in 1951, not 1964," he continued.

Ngwenya stated that he even contacted the principal at Ngwane Teacher's College to find out if they had records of a student who had graduated in 1985 and to check which year he had used for application at the time. However, due to the evolution in technology, acquiring the records was not a success.

"I then asked him to come to the office in order to find out what he knew of the issue and in March 2013 he arrived to address the matter," he said.

He stated that the major issue discussed was the birth year and when he confronted him he denied that he was born in 1951 but in 1964. Prior to the meeting, he said he had asked the accused to carry his documents, including his birth certificate and identity card, which he never carried but only had his Form Three and Form Five certificates.

The Form Three certificate was for 1973 whilst the Form Five one was dated 1977 and the university certificate was dated 1995.

"I told him that we calculated his birth in 1964 using the available documents and when we did, we found that he was supposedly nine years when he did his Form Three and 12 years when he completed his Form five, and he never responded," he added.

The matter continues on February 18, 2019.

ELECTRICITY SCHEME BROTHERS ARRESTED FOR STEALING E120 000

Stories By Sandile Nkambule

While the country has been waking up to stories of stokvel members looting thousands of Emalangenis from their co-members' coffers, this time around two brothers from an electricity scheme have been arrested for allegedly stealing about E120 000 from the scheme coffers.

The two Khulekani Mangaliso Maphosa (30) and Dumsani Velezizweni Maphosa (31) yesterday filed an urgent bail application at the High Court as they want to spend Christmas at home.

The High Court granted them bail fixed at E15 000 each and each has been ordered to pay E3 000 in cash and E13 000 shall be in the form of a surety.



APPROACHED: MP Mabulala Maseko.

...Of the two one is a treasurer, the other a chairperson were yesterday admitted to bail fixed at E15 000 each by the High Court

According to the charge sheet, the two are charged with two counts of theft in that on the first count of theft the first accused (Khulekani) is alleged to have while at Maphalaleni the accused person was while at all relevant times being the treasurer of Msengeni Electricity Scheme and instructed with due care and custody of monies belonging to the scheme, stole the sum of E59 300.

Entrusted

On the second count, the second accused (Dumsani) is alleged to have while at all relevant times entrusted

as a chairperson of the same scheme received and stole an amount of E55 000 unlawfully and with intent from the lawful possession of Msengeni Electricity scheme.

Arrest

According to Khulekani in his founding affidavit, he together with the second accused person were arrested by the police while at Maphalaleni Royal Kraal (Umpakatsi) during a meeting pertaining to the matter before court and were subsequently charged with the two separate counts of theft.

They are prepared to pay back the money

In his papers filed before court, the first accused (Khulekani) submitted that they are prepared to pay back the money.

"It is imperative to mention from the onset that I am prepared to pay back the money, a fact which I disclosed to the police and to the community members of Msengeni Electricity Scheme," he submitted.

He submitted that at some point during the year 2017 his brother one Mandla Maphosa introduced him to the one of his friends Themba Ndlovu, who resides in Kempton Park in the Republic of South Africa and the said Ndlovu would visit them and a mutual relationship was established as a result.

He told the court that it came a time that Ndlovu introduced a business proposal of selling mobile phones to him which were to be outsourced from South Africa. Khulekani alleged that some of the money given to his

brother as a chairperson was for onward transmission to him (Khulekani) as treasurer and he kept the money as his parental homestead inside his house where they slept together with Ndlovu. He alleged that while he was away in the mountains, Ndlovu, who was supposed to leave for South Africa, called him stating that he had forgotten to take back with him some of the mobile phones which were discovered not to be functional in Eswatini. "I told him I was not at home but he could go back and get the phones and when I came back home I found that the phones were not there and I called as he confirmed having taken them but when I checked the money where I had left it, I found that it was no longer there." Ndlovu according to Khulekani admitted to having taken the money and that he would discuss the issue upon his return from South Africa.

MP Mabulala advises matter be reported to scheme members

While in that dilemma, the first accused person submitted that he decided to approach the area's Member of Parliament (MP) Mabulala Maseko and seek his advice.

He submitted that the MP advised that given the present situation he (Khulekani) should inform the committee as well as the scheme members of what had befallen him.

He submitted that he was afraid to

report the matter to the police because he anticipated that the said Mandla Ndlovu would return sooner as he had promised but upon realising that he had blocked his (accused) number he became seriously worried.

Found

He submitted further that seeing Ndlovu was nowhere to be found, he (accused) went to report the matter to the Royal Eswatini Police Service

(REPS) in Mbabane, where he allegedly narrated the whole story.

The police according to the accused person advised him to report the matter to the community scheme members and the police would then record a statement from him before opening an enquiry file as regards the matter.

"This was in line with what the MP had told me and proceeded to the community where I reported the matter to

the scheme committee and members and the members demanded an explanation on how this came about, which I outlined and tendered to raise E20 000 which I failed to raise," he submitted.

However after seeing that there was no money forthcoming, the scheme members reported the matter to the police and the two were subsequently arrested and charged for theft.

'Sheriff went overboard by shutting down Antioch Church'

By Sandile Nkambule

The 'holy war' at the New Gilgal Church in Zion which forms part of the Antioch Church seems far from over as the Antioch branch has now filed an urgent application at the High Court seeking an order to have church doors opened by the deputy sheriff.

This, after the deputy sheriff allegedly acting on an order issued in favour of the applicants in the initial matter stopped a Christmas and gift-sharing event for the elderly at the church before literally shutting down the church doors.

According to senior lawyer Ben J Simelane, who is representing the Antioch Church in a fresh application filed before Judge Mzwandile Fakudze yesterday morning, the deputy sheriff closed the church doors much against an interim order that was issued by Justice Ticheme Dlamini as he did not order that the church doors be closed.

"My Lord this is a simple matter, all we are saying is that the deputy sheriff went way overboard the order issued by Justice Dlamini by closing and locking the church doors, we now want an order compelling him to hand over the keys and open the church doors, in fact Justice Dlamini never ordered that the church be shut down," Simelane said.

However, the new application filed by the Antioch church yesterday has been removed from Judge Fakudze's roll and will be enrolled before Justice Dlamini, who heard the initial matter filed by the New Gilgal Church in Zion.

In the initial application, the New Gilgal Church in Zion was seeking an order interdicting and restraining the Antioch Evangelist Mfanifikile Elmon Fakudze from coming anywhere near the church and conducting services as an evangelist.

Sheriff

Following the interim order that was issued by the High Court last week, the Antioch Evangelist Fakudze in his replying papers had submitted that the church's doors have since been closed by the

Deputy Sheriff.

According to Fakudze in his replying affidavit, the order issued does not only adversely affect his right but the entire church in Antioch, in that since December 7, 2018 its premises were shut down by the deputy sheriff.

"Since December 7, the church premises were closed by the deputy sheriff and the congregants have no place to worship, yet the prayers sought by the applicants were directed and interdicting me from conducting my evangelistic duties in that church," Fakudze submitted.

He informed the court that the previous Sunday, the congregants had to worship under a cloud of rain as their church structure remains closed allegedly without any justification. The evangelist further submitted that the applicants did not make a material disclosure when making presentations to the court in their papers as they allegedly failed to inform the court that he (Fakudze) serves the church at Antioch, where he was allegedly ordained and installed as the evangelist of that house.

He submitted that his ordination took place in New Castle, which is the church's headquarters under the leadership of President Thami Ngubeni.

Interdict

The Nee Gilgal Church in Zion and its leader Luke Mamba obtained an interim order interdicting Fakudze from preaching the word of God following an ex-parte application filed at the High Court last week.

The New Gilgal Church in Zion has been cited as the first applicant in the initial application while Mamba is the second applicant. According to the second applicant (Mamba), the respondent (Fakudze) at one time had a conflict with the local preacher at the church Thandokuhle Tsabedze as he is alleged to have usurped and bulldozed the said preacher in the fulfilment of his duties. It has also been alleged that Fakudze acceded to the position of evangelist without the procedural protocols as he was allegedly ordained by the president in their headquarters in New Castle, South Africa.



PUBLIC NOTICE ON SWITCHING MEDICAL SCHEMES SERVICE PROVIDERS

The FSRA would like to advise members of medical schemes that this is the opportune time to review their medical aid service needs without any prejudice.

Further, it should be noted by members of the public especially medical schemes members, that for **prudential and market conduct issues**, all medical schemes providers and medical schemes are regulated by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority which is a state agency under the Ministry of Finance.

The supply of medicines and medical treatment is under the Ministry of Health.

In terms of the FSRA Act, 2010, it is an undesirable business practice for a medical scheme to offer medical schemes services on condition that the employer undertakes to exclusively utilise the services of that particular medical scheme/ medical schemes provider. Members of the public who have concerns are therefore encouraged to submit their written complaints to the **Financial Services Regulatory Authority** for necessary remedial action.

The following are registered financial services providers who provide medical schemes services:

1. Momentum Insurance (Swaziland) Limited
2. Medscheme Health Insurance Swaziland Limited
3. United Health Insurance Limited
4. Swaziland Medical Aid Fund
5. Swazi HMO - Mpiwenhle

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



GENERAL NOTICE NO. 13/2018

PROPOSED DECISION IN RESPECT OF THE JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SHAREHOLDERS OF SWAZI MTN LIMITED PERTAINING TO CONDUCT PREVENTING COMPETITION IN THE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR BETWEEN THE BUSINESSES OF SWAZI MTN LIMITED AND ESWATINI POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. On the 28th of June 2018 the Eswatini Communications Commission ("ESCCOM" or "the Commission") initiated an investigation under Section 36(1)(c) of the Swaziland Communications Commission Act, 2013 which allows the Commission to investigate and make determination on an apparent contravention of the current legislative framework.

1.2. The investigation centered around the Joint Venture Agreement ("JVA") entered into between the Swaziland Post and Telecommunications Corporation (as it was then, and now referred to as Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation, "EPTC" hereinafter), Swazi MTN Limited ("Swazi MTN"), Mobile Telephone Networks Holdings (Pty) ("MTN Holdings") and Mobile Telephone Networks Africa (Pty) Ltd ("MTN Africa (Pty) Ltd") and Swazi Empowerment Limited ("Swazi Co").

1.3. The investigation is premised on section 36(1)(c) of the SCCOM Act of 2013.

1.4. In arriving at its decision to launch the investigation, the Commission considered:

1.4.1. That it had established a reasonable concern with regards to the licence conditions of EPTC and Swazi MTN respectively, as well as a need to safeguard competition and protect the interests of end users.

1.4.2. That it sought to ensure that services provided by licensees are not limited, except when strictly necessary.

1.4.3. Its mandate to protect the interests of end users in the communications market, including the introduction of different types of products and services in line with licences issued to operators as well as the prevention of and the withdrawal of products and services from the market and the hands of end-users.

1.4.4. The fact that technology-neutral licenses were issued to both EPTC and Swazi MTN respectively. The licences granted the parties the right to roll out any type of infrastructure and provide any product and/or service to end-users allowing the licensees to extend any electronic communication services using any type approved infrastructure to the market without inhibition.

1.5 The Commission received submissions and conducted a public inquiry on 5 October 2018 on the matter in order to establish facts which would enable it to make a decision. The public hearing was conducted on an inquisitorial approach. The parties were called upon to make submissions on, why the Commission should not;

- Determine and issue a directive relating to apparent non-competitive practices of the parties to the Joint Venture Agreement.
- Direct that EPTC be allowed to establish any network to support the provision of electronic communications services as allowed under their operating license issued by the Commission in line with the Electronic Communications Act, 2013 and the Electronic Communications (Licensing) Regulations, 2016.
- Impose an administrative fine, and/or alternatively, withdraw or suspend authorization to operate, which decision will be determined by the Commission, for the contravention, with particular consideration made to the duration and impact of the contravention on the market and on end-users.
- Issue an order to effect the reimbursement of payments received or to make compensation payments to end-users who have suffered losses as a result of the market allocation acts in contravention of the law.

2. LEGAL AND REGULATORY BACKGROUND

A. SECTOR SPECIFIC

2.1. Within the ICT Sector as regulated through the Commission, the National Information, Communications and Infrastructure (NICI) Policy, 2005 envisaged a liberalized, competitive and regulated electronic communications sector. The Swaziland Communications Commission Act was passed in 2013 establishing an independent regulator, being the Commission. Further, the Electronic Communications Act was promulgated to provide a legal framework for the development of electronic communications and services in the country.

2.2. In undertaking the investigation, the Commission considered the legislation governing the communication sector including in the Swaziland Communications Commission Act and in particular, the following sections

2.2.1. Section 6 provides that the Commission is to;

- "promote the development of innovative, secure, modern and competitive communications infrastructure and the delivery of related services"
- "ensure freedom of provision of communication services and further ensure that those services are not limited, except where strictly necessary"
- "ensure a wide range and variety of communication services"
- "administer certain aspects of the Competition Act, 2007 as they relate to the sectors regulated by the Commission"

2.2.2. Section 7 mandates the Commission to "ensure fair competition in all communications services, products, operations, and activities which the Commission regulates".

2.2.3. Section 5 mandates the Commission to carry out the above functions "in an objective, transparent, proportionate and non-discriminatory manner".

2.3. In 2016, the Electronic Communications Regulations were passed, amongst which were the Electronic Communications (Licensing) Regulations, 2016, which provide for the licensing of electronic communications service providers to foster competition and liberalize the sector. The Licensing Regulations introduced a new licensing regime due to the convergence of technology and provide for the Commission to issue technology neutral licences. Technology neutrality is the freedom of licensees to choose the most appropriate technology adequate to their needs and requirements for development in providing telecommunications services.

The Commission then issued converged licences both to Swazi MTN and EPTC in terms of which they were to provide communications services and networks on a technology-neutral basis.

3. ESWATINI POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION SUBMISSIONS

- That the JVA allocated markets and is anti-competitive.
- That EPTC's continued holding of shares in Swazi MTN is not ideal for EPTC as a licensee.
- The JVA prohibits EPTC from introducing new products and services.
- The JVA prevents EPTC from fully discharging its license obligations and to fully exploit its rights vested by the technology neutral license.
- That existing Court Judgments and any other new litigation would be costly for EPTC to pursue in an effort to exit the JVA.
- That EPTC wants to exit the JVA.

4. SWAZI MTN SUBMISSIONS

- That the JVA was meant to protect the shareholders' interests and was totally legal.

- That the JVA has not been set aside by a court of competent jurisdiction. That it being contract is binding upon the parties until set aside by a court.
- That it would be anti-competitive for the Commission to allow EPTC to compete with it whilst remaining a shareholder of Swazi MTN.
- That the Commission could not apply the provisions of Section 30 of the Competition Act, without having conducted an investigation as provided for in that section.
- That MTN was willing and agreeable to exit the JVA.
- That the JVA created a common entity between it and EPTC, therefore fell into the exceptions provided under the Competition Act, rendering the JVA lawful.

5. SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

5.1. The Commission notes that the submissions received and summarized in the Reasons Document dealt mainly with arguments with respect to the impact of the JVA on competitors who are signatories thereto, namely EPTC and Swazi MTN, rather than on competition, consumer interest and compliance with the statutory and licence obligations of licensees. However, the Commission's interest in investigating the JVA is ultimately to ensure the existence of effective competition in the various markets in the Kingdom and execution of the mandate in so far as the regulated aspects of the Licensee's businesses are concerned. As such, in addition to the issues around the limitation of specific licensees' rights and the allocation of markets, the Commission is concerned with the impact of same on consumer choices, delivery of the industry specific mandate and, generally, competition within the sector.

5.2. In addition to limiting the rights of parties to the agreements, the JVA appears to have a broader impact on competition in the mobile market in the Kingdom. The submission made by EPTC and the evidence provided (Annex B) made it clear to the Commission that there are instances wherein third-party competitors that provide mobile licenses and consumers are impacted by the enforcement by the parties of clauses of the JVA - in this particular case in so far as distribution channels and access to competing mobile services are concerned.

5.3. With respect to the common entity concept which is central to Swazi MTN's argument, the Commission believes that a proper enquiry under the Competition Act is indispensable and the Commission is unable, at this time, to take the argument further, save for expressing reservations without making findings. Consequently, whilst it may be possible that the arrangement in terms of the JVA may pass legal scrutiny in so far as the Competition Act may be concerned, such an approach to the examination of the issue does not deal with obligations arising from the regulatory ecosystem.

5.4. Having considered the written and oral submissions of the parties and in particular, the evolution of the JVA, the Commission is of the view that:

5.4.1. The JVA clauses have the effect of restricting the ability of the parties to fully exploit their licences and to offer a diversity of services to consumers; this in turn creating an environment where the licensees are unable to or restricted from fulfilling their regulatory mandate.

5.4.2. In so far as the Commission considered arguments made in terms of section 30 of the Competition Act and specifically relating to the "common entity" argument that MTN put forward in its defense, the Commission has decided not to explore this argument any further. Whilst in terms of the Competition Act, a decision to not compete amongst parties who appear to ordinarily be competitors may perfectly lawful under a set group of facts or circumstances, the Commission is confronted with the additional fact that the parties in this instance are also subject to a regulatory mandate, which is not ordinarily the situation with parties entering into such agreements.

5.4.3. Whilst the existence of an agreement in the nature of the JVA would not ordinarily be a per se prohibition in terms of Section 30 of the Competition Act, the fact of the licensing of both EPTC and MTN requires the analysis of the JVA from a regulatory perspective, over and above an analysis from the Competition Regulation framework. Whilst the arrangement may pass scrutiny in terms of the tests required in the application of Section 30, it does not automatically create an unqualified assessment from the sector-specific regulatory framework.

6. DECISION ON THE JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT

In light of the findings set out above, and detailed in the Reasons Document, the Commission has decided:

6.1. EPTC and Swazi MTN, as licensees, have until 30 June 2019 to ensure the divestiture of EPTC's shareholding in Swazi MTN ("the Implementation Period"), failing which, the Commission shall convene a hearing to consider an appropriate penalty to be imposed for the contravention of the provisions of the Statutes and Licence conditions as set out above.

6.1.1. EPTC and Swazi MTN shall submit interim progress reports to the Commission on 1 March 2019 and 2 May 2019.

6.1.2. The restraint period provided for in clause 18 of the JVA should be waived in the interest of the speedy introduction of competition.

6.2. That until such time that the parties have completed the divestiture, any disputes between the parties arising from the enforcement of the JVA, and specifically clauses 18, 20, 21 and 22, must be notified to the Commission for an investigation and ruling in terms of the legislative and regulatory framework. These investigations shall be conducted and addressed during the Implementation Period.

6.3. With respect to penalties to be imposed for non-compliance with legislation, the licence conditions set out herein, the Commission has decided that in light of its findings, it would be inappropriate to impose a penalty as the current situation is not completely of the wrong-doing of the parties.

6.4. Regarding the compensation of customers, the Commission notes that neither of the submissions addressed the impact of the JVA or the behaviour it encourages on consumers. The Commission has decided that any consumer complaints will be dealt with on a case by case basis in terms of the existing regulations, including during the Implementation Period.

PUBLIC, STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS ON THE DECISION

Following the above analysis and decision on the JVA, and as part of the public consultation process contemplated in Section 32 of the Swaziland Communications Commission Act, 2013, the Commission invites written comments from interested stakeholders and the general public on the proposed decision on the JVA. The Full reasons document is available to the public through the Commission's website www.sccom.org.sz

The deadline for submission of comments is not later than 17h00 on 21st January, 2019. Enquiries and comments (hard copies and electronic) should be addressed to:

The Chief Executive
Eswatini Communications Commission
P.O. Box 7811
Mbabane, H100
Email to: ozzie.thakatha@sccom.org.sz

Mvilawemphi Dlamini
Chief Executive



BAYETHE: His Majesty King Mswati III communicating a message for Ingaja to Indvuna Phanginjobo Matise during the commissioning of Hhohho Ingaja at Buhleni Royal Residence on Thursday evening. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



IN SONG: His Majesty King Mswati III joined by Emabutto as they sing and dance to one of the Incwala songs.

WE ARE HERE: African Alliance Partner and Swazi Observer Board Chairman, Sthofeni Ginindza, umbutfo Nhlonhla yeNkanyeti and umbutfo 29 at Ludzidzini for the Little Incwala.



LACWEBETELAKO: Umbutfo Mabuyendiya, Senator Chief Mphatfwa, Gwazile, Didumbutfo and Ngisilemhlaba as they arrived and got ready for the day.



PRESENT: Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini on arrival for the activities of the day.

The Gables

Christmas Lunch Buffet

E300 adults
E150 kids 3 - 10
N.B. 10% gratuity applies

+268 2416 1190
www.adega.co.za 103 Road Ezulwini Valley, Ezulwini, Hhohho

National Maize Corporation (Pty) Ltd

NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE

The public is notified that the National Maize Corporation (NMC) will close for the holidays on the **24th December, 2018** and will re-open for business on the **27th December, 2018**.

On the 27th December, operating hours will be from **08h00 - 12noon**.

All other public holidays between the 27th to the 1st January will be observed.

We wish you all a safe and merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

By NMC Management.

www.nmc.co.sz (+268) 2518 7432 info@nmc.co.sz

HOW CABINET MINISTERS

By Sifiso Dlamini

In the spirit of Christmas, the Observer on Saturday took the initiative to find out what some of our newly-appointed cabinet ministers will be up on Tuesday, which the birthday of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, a day commonly referred to as Christmas.

Other than Christmas day, we also sought to find out what they really think of the festive season hype and how and where they will spend their Christmas. We were not able to get all 20 of them but the few that we managed to talk to had this to say:

**THEMBA MASUKU –
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

The festive season has become an international culture where people from all over the world come together and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and saviour. For Swazis, this period also coincides with the Incwala ceremony which I am excited about



Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries Madze Bulunga.

and looking forward to participating. I would also like to urge everyone to ensure that while we enjoy ourselves, we do so in a peaceful manner so that our celebrations do lead to catastrophes.

I will be with my family on Christmas Eve and will be at the Incwala ceremony on the 25th. I would also like to wish everyone in the country a merry Christmas and happy holidays.

LIZZY NKOSI – MINISTER OF HEALTH

This is a season to connect with family and friends, to celebrate and spread love and peace as well as thank God for his blessings all year round.

I will spend my holidays dancing Incwala.

**HARRIES MADZE BULUNGA – MINISTER
OF SPORTS, CULTURE AND YOUTH
AFFAIRS**

As much as the festive season is a time to spend with family and friends in celebration of the birth of



Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku.

Jesus Christ, it is also time for Swazis to celebrate our culture and heritage. I will spend the holidays at the Incwala ceremony. As we speak, *ngiseNcwaleni nje nanyalo.*

**MOSES VILAKATI – MINISTER OF TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Christmas is important to me since it symbolises the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is also a time to be thankful for the blessings received all year long. This year, the holidays coincide with the nation's national prayer - Incwala, which presents the opportunity to celebrate our culture. I will spend

Christmas day at the Incwala ceremony.

**DAVID NGCAMPHALALA – MINISTER
OF TINKHUNDLA ADMINISTRATION
AND DEVELOPMENT**

Firstly, I would like to wish Swazis a merry Christmas and may God bless all those who will be in their various churches as well as other places of gatherings.

Since the Christmas holidays coincide with Incwala, I will spend my holidays attending the ceremony.

**CHRISTIAN NTSHANGASE –
MINISTER OF PUBLIC
SERVICE**

Christmas day is a time of reflection, sharing and caring, all of which are virtues that our Lord Jesus



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Thuli Dladla.

Best Christmas Present for a Cancer patient in Nsalitje



KING GESTURE: Miss Eswatini 2018/19 Nosipho Dlamini.

LAVUMISA –: Christmas time touches people's hearts in different ways.

The scripture says "God uses everything for the good of those who love him... Romans 8:28 a" proved to be true yesterday when a Dlamini family had a surprise visit at their homestead.

Miss Eswatini Nondumiso Dlamini took her time with the Hospice at Home team and visited the Dlamini family of Nsalitje in Lavumisa, Shiselweni region. During the visit, she presented the family with Christmas presents and cleaned their home.

The young, calm and collected Miss Eswatini came with her friends to clean for Mkhulu Dlamini who is terminally ill, suffering from cancer and stroke at the same time.

The elderly Dlamini family (84 and +-60 years old) could not believe their eyes when Nondumiso presented them with a hamper comprising of sneakers, mealie meal, cooking oil, tinned food and cosmetics just to name a few.

Situation: Miss Eswatini failed to control her emotions when she saw the fam-

ily's house. She could not believe that, it is a permanent residential place for the 84 year-old who lives with his wife.

She then pleaded to the nation for support to build a suitable house for the family more so because they cannot help themselves since the head of the family is suffering from cancer.

She also hailed Eswatini Hospice at Home (EHAH) for their significant support in palliative care to terminally ill clients. She further invited companies, institutions, donors and individuals to support EHAH with all necessary materials to use when delivering their home based palliative care services to terminally ill clients.

"The situation in the homestead is depressing and hurtful. It is unbelievable that a sickly person lives in such a dangerous and vulnerable place as it may fall at any time. No one deserves to live in such a structure, worse for a terminally ill person and an elderly.

One can only plead with those who can come to the rescue of this family to do so. The resilience of the family in such trying conditions is shocking."

FNB FOUNDATION DONATION



THANK YOU: Minister of Health Lizzy Nkosi thanking the FNB foundation at Mountain Inn yesterday after they handed over over a million to the health sector.

WILL SPEND THEIR X-MAS

Christ demonstrated. This is also a time to think about those less privileged than us. To exemplify this, today (Thursday) I distributed Christmas hampers to 250 elderly people in my five chiefdoms.

I will be spending Christmas day with family and friends and of course, attend the Incwala ceremony.

**CHIEF NDALUHLAZA NDWANDWE -
MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS**

It's a good time where Swazis will be enjoying themselves with friends and relatives.

On Christmas day, I will be at the Incwala ceremony.

**PETER BHEMBE - MINISTER
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENERGY**

I will not be able to celebrate Christmas day the usual way, as I have a wedding just two days after

Christmas day so I am very busy.

**THULI DLADLA - MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Christmas is a time for giving, sharing, forgiving, loving and celebrating the birth of Christ. Basically, families should come together and show affection and love for one another. We should also share with the disadvantaged since it is a thanksgiving season.

On Christmas day, I will be at home with my family and relatives.

**PRINCESS LINDIWE -
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS**

I am entirely absorbed with national duties to ensure all our national ceremonies and events are a resounding success.

It is my joy to serve the nation and Their Majesties.

However, in terms of symbolism, I believe the festive season is a time for national and family reunions, thanksgiving and also reflections on the year past.

I therefore, extend my best wishes to Their Majesties, all Swazis and our visitors this festive

season. Across the globe, Christians also celebrate the joy of salvation associated with the birth of Christ.

This is a great blessing to the entire world. I hope every Swazi can experience the season's blessings. On or before Christmas day, if schedule allows, I hope to find time to visit someone less privileged or at least prepare a meal for a needy family.

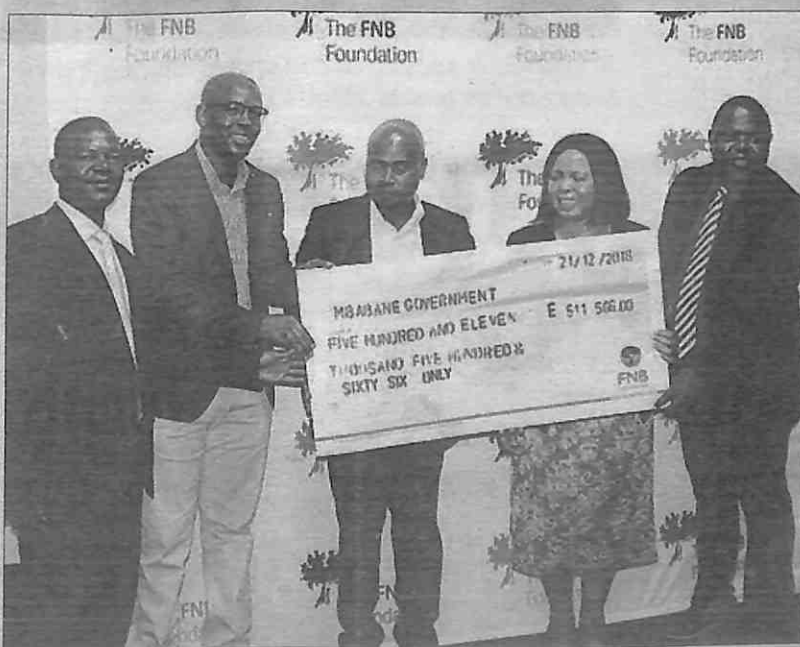


Minister of Public
Service Christian
Ntshangase.

Minister of Tinkhundla
Administration
and Development
David Ngcamphalala.

Minister of Natural
Resources and Energy
Peter Bhembe.

AT MOUNTAIN INN IN PICTURES



BIG ONE: FNB Foundation Chairman and FNB CEO hand over another E511 560 cheque to the minister and Mbaane Government Hospital staff.

Eswatini Hospice at Home touching lives

MATSAPHA - Caring for people with life limiting illnesses demands a high level of compassion.

Eswatini Hospice at Home continued with her mandate of touching lives across the country through her inspiring programme of home based palliative care.

Here is a taste of what the nurses go through as they carry out their work, "Waking up early in the morning at 5am, I found a missed call from a number I was not familiar with.

Knowing that some clients just 'buzz' us as Hospice staff; I called the number and I got what I had not expected. "Angikalali nurse sengifile buhlungu" - I didn't sleep nurse I'm in severe pain, she was crying".

Hospice offers care and support services to the clients with life limiting or threatening illness.

Such illnesses include cancer at an advanced stage. The services are delivered in the client's home. The services are provided by four professional nurses, one for each region and one for the centre who attends to clients as they come during the day.

Activities

Through her programme, EHAH touched so many lives during the course of the year and has a huge impact on terminally ill clients. The organisation through its home based palliative care activities, provide clients with holistic care (quality clinical care, spiritual, psychological, emotional support). The programme is implemented in all the four regions of the country. Due to the high demand of the home based palliative care services, the team observed inadequate coverage in rural areas among clients with other chronic conditions like diabetes and

cardiovascular problems/stroke.

However, Hospice managed to reach 719 clients excluding those who were seen at the clinic in Matsapha during the course of the year as well as those who finally rested in peace. Some were referred but could not be reached due to transport challenges.

Not being able to reach clients makes Hospice plead for support from donors and or partners who can rescue the situation so that all clients are reached and reached on time.

Going through all the stress and pain of attending to the terminally ill; the team needs to recharge; hence EHAH was closed as from yesterday and will be back in office on January 7, 2019. We take this time to thank all those who supported us during 2018 and wish the nation a happy and peaceful festive season and new year.

MLINDO THE VOCALIST AT



UYEHHEE: Mlindo The Vocalist pointing at one of the ladies among the crowd as they scream his name at his 'Emakhaya' album launch held at Solani's Shisanyama on Thursday evening. (Pics: Nokwanda Sibandze)



AMABLESSER: Mlindo The Vocalist singing his lungs out.

Christmas Buffet Lunch

13 & ABOVE	E275.00
6-12 YEARS	E145.00
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(Includes 1 bottle of wine)

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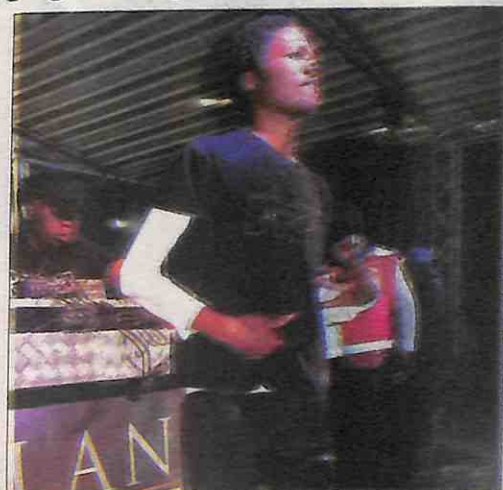
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TWO-IN-ONE: Duo DJs Drum Rhythm doing what they know best on the decks.



ON STAGE: Sithembiso could not help but jump on stage as the DJs were playing.



GQOM: DJ Zulu D on the decks with KB Da DJ.



SINGING: A section of the crowd singing their lungs out to one of Mlindo's songs.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

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E310 (6-10 adults) pp
E300 (11 people up) pp
Kids 6-12yrs pay 50%

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Kids from 6-12yrs pay 50%

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SOLANI'S SHISANYAMA



BARS: Lyrikal Busta performing his song 'Dance for Mi'.



SAFETY FIRST: Some ladies used plastics to cover their heads as it rained non-stop through out the night.



RAINING OR NOT: A section of the crowd braving the rain waiting for Mlindo to perform, while some used umbrellas.



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Office Closure Notice

We would like to inform our valued clients and stakeholders that FINCORP offices will close for the Christmas Holidays on Friday, 21st December 2018 at 1PM. Offices will re-open on the 8th January 2019. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2019.

By Management

Satiso Sekuvalwa Kwelihhovisi

Sitsandza kwatisa emakhasimende etfu lahloniphekile nabobonkhe labatsintsekako kutsi emahhovisi aka FINCORP atawuvalela khisimusi ngensimbi yekucala emini (1PM) ngalesihlanu, mhlaka 21 December 2018. Lihhovisi litowuvula emnyakeni lomusha mhlaka 8 January 2019. Sinifisela khisimusi lomuhle nemnyaka lomusha loyimphumelelo.

Simemetelo sikhishwa
Baphatsi Hhovisi

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"HELPING SWAZI ENTREPRENEURS TO HELP THEMSELVES"

Office Closure

We wish to inform all our clients and the general public that our offices shall close for business at 16h00 on Friday 21st December 2018. Normal business shall resume on Wednesday 02 January 2019 at 08h00.

For any emergencies contact the following:

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We wish you a Glorious Festive Season
& a Prosperous New Year



By Management

momentum

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WHERE IS THE ESWATINI ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL?

Stories by Nonduduzo Kunene

Where is the Swaziland Road Safety Council? This is the question that probably lingers on many people's minds.

This is because, back in the day, this council was very visible in bringing awareness to the people about road safety and tips on how to avoid road traffic accidents.

The council used to be everywhere, on the roads, schools and even on radio, conducting vigorous road safety campaigns.

During festive seasons, the road safety council used to roll up its sleeves and join other stakeholders such as the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) and the Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF) in road safety awareness campaigns.

However, all this has seemingly vanished into thin air. The council has apparently disappeared into oblivion

Additional information on Swaziland Road Safety Council

The Swaziland Road Safety Council was established in 1983 through an Act of Parliament.

The mandate of the organisation is to promote road safety in the country. In pursuit of this function, the council has to:

Plan, develop, monitor and update a national long-term program for the improvement of road safety in

Eswatini and to supervise its implementation by the concerned agencies.

Guide the government and the public on road safety through organising symposia, lectures or such other gatherings as may be conducive to the promotion of road safety. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and strategies of responsible agencies.

and would be forgiven for thinking it was abolished and disbanded a long time ago.

Independent investigations conducted by this publications have unearthed that, actually, the Road Safety Council is still existent. The only challenge is that, like its 'father' government, it is broke.

And this is why even this festive season, it has failed to join other stakeholders in creating road safety aware-

ness campaigns.

There is apparently no bad blood between the road safety stakeholders, mainly Road Safety Council, SMVAF and Traffic Police Department, as suspected by others.

Road Safety Council's Road Planner Mandla Ntshalintshali said that it is not true that his organisation and the traffic police no longer work together. It had been alleged that the reason the Road Safety Council had not been

part of road safety campaigns for a significant amount of time is because they could not find common grounds of operation.

In addition, traffic police no longer communicate with the road safety council regarding road blocks.

"The reason we have not been part of road safety awareness campaigns in the past years is because we had inadequate resources," he said.

Ntshalintshali said there was nothing wrong with what the traffic police are doing as their job is to enforce traffic laws.

Ntshalintshali claimed they were working together and dismissed claims that there was bad blood between the two government entities.

It has also been gathered that there is currently no committee in office at the Road Safety Council. The committee is usually the one that gives direction within the entity and the previous one's term of office ended in November 2018.

"We are currently planning to have council elections so that by next year, the Road Safety Council is visible to the nation. The council is currently strategising and working towards implementing programmes that will resume next year, said Ntshalintshali. He assured the nation that come Easter

holidays next year, the Road Safety Council will be very visible, conducting awareness campaigns, moving in and out of schools teaching about road safety precautions.

Moreover, they are working towards matching worldwide standards of road safety in the country.

He went on to say they are very passionate about creating road safety awareness in schools, mostly at the lower grades since young children are prone to road accidents.

The road safety council is a department under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

The Swaziland Road Safety Council's mission statement is to be the pioneers, promoters and initiators of road safety for the country's road users.

This shall be done through the mobilisation of all road safety stakeholders in playing their educating, enforcement and engineering roles with a common goal of making the country's roads safe and traversable.

Their main objective is to bring down the number of road accidents, especially fatalities by at least 10% annually.

This includes fatal accidents and serious injuries that impact negatively on the productivity of the population.

Three ICT lecturers resign at ECOT

By Sabelo Majola

Things are moving from bad to worse at Eswatini College of Technology (ECOT) as three Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) lecturers have since resigned.

The resignation of the lecturers comes after an unrest at the tertiary institution, which saw part time programme lecturers halting classes two weeks ago over unpaid salaries, dating back to August last year.

However, the matter was resolved after the lecturers met with Ministry of Education and Training Under Secretary (US) Bheki Gama last week.

Things have taken another turn since then as two Emaswati and one foreign lecturer from the ICT department have since left the institution. Sources close to the matter revealed that the three have had enough of being bullied and treated badly by the head of ICT faculty, yet they are highly qualified and can easily be employed in the industry.

A source close to the matter said this would greatly affect the full time and part time classes as all three lecturers were involved in both.

"One of the lecturers who

have resigned is the coordinator of the part time programmes who was recently forced to write a memorandum to the Head of Department (HOD) in the same ICT faculty declaring that part time classes have resumed. This was after the HOD had threatened not to sign recommendation letters for the renewal of contracts of foreign lecturers in the ICT department. With the stance taken by government of not hiring and replacing of civil servants, the functionality of the ICT department will be very difficult. Students will be without lecturers in the second semester and with exams coming in April, the students will be in a dilemma," revealed the source.

ECOT Principal Nomcebo Nhlengethwa was called for comment yesterday morning. She first claimed she was in a noisy area and asked to be called after 20 minutes. When she was called thereafter, she did not answer her mobile phone.

Worth mentioning is that this is not the first time Nhlengethwa has ducked questions from the media concerning operations of ECOT. Each time she is called, she always dishes out excuses for not entertaining questions about ECOT, which is a public entity.

FNB FOUNDATION DOLES OUT OVER E1m TO HEALTH

Stories by Sicelo Maziya

The bank slogan 'how can we help you' came to reality for the ministry of health when the First National Bank (FNB) Foundation donated over a million Emalangeni.

The FNB foundation yesterday, at the Mountain Inn, donated E511 566 towards the much needed renovation of the Mbabane Government Hospital's Incinerator. The government hospital's incinerator recently made headlines with the hazardous waste packed in plastics bags waiting for weeks to be disposed of due to the malfunctioning incinerator.

The FNB foundation further agreed to sponsor the building of a mortuary at Good Shepherd Hospital with E500 000 in response to a need that had been identified as dire.

FNB foundation Board Member Clement Dlamini, during the foundation's sponsorship handover, said the foundation is pleased to lend a helping hand to the country's health sector during such tough economic times. Dlamini re-emphasised the bank's ethos 'we are here to help', saying they are honoured to have been called upon to extend a hand and live up to what is considered their core existence.

"We believe that the health sector is a priority for substance of our nation's people and, therefore, consider it as a key priority to investment in health and social welfare," he said.

He further emphasised that the FNB Foundation's focus on the health sector is not misplaced as it is echoed not just by a myriad of local and global institutions but is also noted as a key component of the globally recognised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aptly



GENEROUS: FNB CEO and Chairperson of the FNB foundation Dennis Mbingo.

point to the need to nurture and ensure good health and well-being of all.

FNB CEO and Chairperson of the FNB Foundation Dennis Mbingo thanked the media for bringing to light social needs.

"We don't always get such issues, but when highlighting desperate social situations, you guys do a brilliant job," added Mbingo.

He assured the minister of health that the FNB Foundation and the bank will continue to support the government in fighting for social exclusion and helping to meet basic needs of society. Mbingo in his brief remarks at the occasion, wished the honourable minister and his team, the Good Shepherd and Mbabane Government Hospitals safe passage into the coming year. On behalf of the two entities, Dr Khosie Mthetwa received the sponsorship whilst Dr Thandolwethu Tembe received on behalf of the Mbabane Government Hospital. The Minister of Health Lizzy Nkosi thanked the bank for the kind donation to the health sector. Nkosi said the donation will assist with

the renovations of the two important structures that are crucial for the delivery of quality health services to the nation.

Nkosi said the donation to fund the rehabilitation of the incinerator at the Mbabane Government Hospital has happened in a timely manner.

"The facility has been struggling to dispose and treat their medical waste due to the breakdown of the one and only incinerator. This has necessitated transporting of the waste to other health facilities for incineration, as a contingency measure," she said. The minister also said the senior medical officer of Mbabane Government Hospital highlighted the importance of the incinerator in the daily functions of the hospital. Nkosi shared that the incinerator fits well into the quality management systems that the hospital is still establishing in every department. She said incorporating quality management systems will ensure that the lifespan of the incinerator is extended longer than what could have been if this is not done.

The minister also thanked the FNB foundation for the financial assistance given to the Good Shepherd Hospital. The minister said the funding will be used to reconstruct the hospital's mortuary, which had become old and debilitated. "A well-functioning mortuary is important as it ensures that the bodies of our loved ones are kept well in a dignified manner before their burial," she said. The minister further pleaded with health workers in the country to religiously adhere to the waste management principles because they are based on international standards of the health care delivery system. She said proper waste management is an essential component of infections to themselves, their clients and to the population at large.

Take care of equipment - Minister

Minister of Health Lizzy Nkosi has pleaded with health workers in the kingdom to take care of all equipment deployed in every health facilities.

The minister said the government of Eswatini is spending millions of Emalangeni every year to buy equipment that is deployed to health facilities.

"It is disheartening to find such expen-

sive equipment broken due to the misuse or lack of proper servicing protocols," she lamented. Nkosi reminded health workers to ensure that every piece of hospital equipment is well taken care of because medical equipment is expensive to buy and to repair when damaged.



EXODUS: Three lecturers have left this college.

GOVT STOPS E3.9m SUBVENTION, TRAINING CENTRES SHUT DOWN

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi

Over 500 trainees from the Manzini Industrial Training Centre (MITC), Siteki Industrial Training Centre (SITC) and Nhlanguano Agricultural Skills Training Centre (NASTC), under the Swaziland Skills Centres (SCC) body, have lost all hope in ever getting their qualifications.

It has since emerged that this is due to the subvention that government is refusing to pay to the now defunct SSC is E3.9 million.

Government's refusal to pay the subvention has led to the students spending a year at home as the SCC ran out of money to run the institutions. Students are still uncertain if they will ever be allowed back into class.

The three SCCs were shut down by the ministry of education and training after suspicions that there was misuse of the subventions which were given out by government on a yearly basis. Government ceased giving out subventions to the institution which resulted to the institution failing to sustain itself after its coffers ran dry.

Seeing the situation, government then

issued the board with a letter informing it that the institution must be closed. The letter, according to the Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Education and Training Dr Sibongile Mtshali during an interview, was issued after the ministry failed to reach an agreement with the board of SSC.

The matter is now with government's legal advisors. The PS maintained her stance that it was hard for government to meddle into the affairs of a private company, while at the same time being expected to fork out subventions.

She had earlier on indicated that what they wanted to know as government was who would be accountable for the money they give to the skills centres.

Refusal

After government's refusal to pay the subventions, the board made a move to liquidate SCC.

However, that move was unsuccessful.

In an interview with one member of the board of directors from Swaziland Skills Centres through SSC Director Brian Magongo, it was revealed that despite their differences with government, as a board they were willing to strike a deal with government. Magongo

said if government wanted to take control of the institution, they were ready to let go.

He said however, they were prepared to do so only if government comes to the table and offers to pay severance packages to the staff at the institution.

He said the board has already prepared an amount they expected to get from government. Magongo said the money wouldn't be a lump sum because as much as employees of SCC are employed on a permanent basis, they have an arrangement which allows them to sign a two year contract that is renewable.

Pay

He said this was done so that SCC can avoid having to pay people huge sums of money once they retire.

Magongo also said this was also done so that should it happen that the company runs out of funds, it would not be hard to give their employees exit packages. When asked on how much they were hoping to get from government in order to yield to government's demands, Magongo said the amount is sensitive information which cannot be shared with the public.

However, he revealed that money they received from government in subventions was E3.9 million yearly.

He said this money was received on a quarterly basis and did not come as a lump sum.

Magongo said it is sad that government is now playing hide and seek with the board and refuses to engage them.

This has led to a situation which has seen students being left in the dark as they are not receiving any directive either from government or the management of the institution. In an earlier interview, Magongo, when asked about the future of the students, had said despite that a lot of time had been lost, as an institution, they were willing to work with the students on how they could cover some ground.

He said if the issue could be resolved, they are even willing to forfeit holidays and continue with lessons.

Closed

However, that seems to be something that will not happen anytime soon since the institution is still closed and there has been a directive for the board to dissolve.

Meanwhile, students who were

enrolled at SSC before it was shut down by government have revealed that they have no clue of what is happening.

The students have since formed a WhatsApp group meant to share updates should anything happen.

They have expressed their disappointment that up to today, there has been no communication on whether they will ever return to school.

They said the last time they met was when they stormed the institution's premises, demanding answers on when they were going to be allowed back to class. Some students have since resorted to getting employment while awaiting the re-opening of the institution.

Just recently, it was reported that one of the students is earning a living as a grass cutter.

However, new allegations are now to the effect that there are students who are being lured to register at the institution as there are hopes that it will operate again. Information gathered is that this is because government has made means to get the original owners of the whole project and are currently working with them on how they could revive the institution. Magongo did not deny the allegations.

He said even though he could neither deny nor confirm, he had also learnt that there were staff members who were still at the premises of SSC attending to those who want to register.

Magongo said he would not know anything happening there anymore since government is doing operations behind the SSC board members' backs. Acting Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Training Bheki Gama, when probed about the matter, said government is still working on it.

He said that they are hoping that by the end of next week, they will have an answer.

AS THE RIGMAROLE RAGES ON...

MATSAPHA MUNICIPALITY WANTS PROCUREMENT OFFICER

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi

As the Matsapha Town Council saga involving allegations of bribery attempts, shady procurement of tenders and all kinds of misdemeanours continues, the municipality has reached a decision to hire a procurement officer.

The advertisement for the recruitment of a procurement officer was first posted at the municipality's website on Wednesday.

This comes at a time when the municipality is embroiled in serious scandals which have seen at least two councillors served with letters by the Mayor Sandlane Zwane asking them to show cause why Council should not take disciplinary action against them. It is alleged that these councillors wrote letters apologising for their actions. According to one of the letters which was served to one of the councillors implicated in the bribery allegations, it is stated that on or about May 2018, the councillor attempted to coerce one Tshidi Sihlongonyane to remit some of her proceeds from a sale of track-suits she supplied to Matsapha Town Council. The councillor was asked to show cause in writing why he should not be disciplined for his misconduct.

He was further given seven days to respond. In the second incident, it is alleged that another councillor in the

month of September, was invited to a meeting with the mayor where a consultant identified as Lead Consultant, Theo Mason advised the councillor that the SAMRA system was non-functional. The councillor is said to have gone and participated in a meeting with the supplier on the day knowing that the non-performance of their system was a sensitive issue to council as audited statements were in disarray and needed stem attention, which was to be resolved through litigation.

The councillor's action was viewed as gross misconduct by Council. This and other malpractices have rocked the Matsapha Town Council for the past several months. Following these cases, the Council is now seeking the services of a procurement officer.

Position

Worth noting is that this is a new position at the municipality as it was previously non-existent, even at the time of former CEO Gciniwe Fakudze. It is said that this position reports to the town treasurer and its key function will be to provide support in relation to developing, maintaining and reviewing Council's procurement corporate practices, procedures and policies and assisting relevant Council staff with sustainable procurement initiatives.

It is said the key responsibilities include, but not limited to; devising



and using fruitful sourcing strategies, comparing and evaluating offers from suppliers, negotiating contract terms of agreement and pricing.

The officer, among other things, is also expected to prepare annual procurement plans and also review quality of purchased products.

Other tasks, according to the advertisement, include performing risk management for supply contracts and agreements, preparing reports on purchases, as well as cost analyses.

The officer is also expected to monitor stock levels and place orders as needed.

The procurement officer also has to assist in the preparation of tender documents to ensure the production of realistic and commercial tenders and

lastly analysing of information and providing recommendations to the town treasurer, departmental senior managers regarding the awarding of tenders and contracts.

The suitable candidate is expected to possess a Bachelor of Commerce in Public Procurement Management or equivalent. The position is a five year performance based contract. Information gathered is that in a meeting held earlier at the Matsapha Town Council, the issue of the two vacant positions, which is project manager and procurement officer, was raised.

It was said the positions were budgeted for. It was also said that their recruitment could only be completed in September 2018, which was three months ago.

Matsapha Town Council PRO Babhekile Dlamini confirmed that the advertised position of procurement officer is new to Council.

Worth noting is that such a post has been advertised at a time when the Council is hogging headlines for all the wrong reasons as the mayor and town clerk are involved in a row which has even been taken to the High Court.

Mayor Zwane, who says he is out to root out corruption within the municipality, is seemingly making himself more enemies in his crusade as he is now at loggerheads with some councillors, including the chief executive officer.

This has allegedly made the working environment very unfriendly at the Matsapha Town Council.



PROUD MOTHER: Ebuhleni House Mother Nomphumelelo Dlamini with her children.



(L) POSE: Nomphumelelo Dlamini the Ebuhleni house mother, SOS Mbabane Programme Director Thokozani Maphalala and EEC Corporate Communications Officer Buhlebethu Nyamane.

EEC STAFF DINES WITH SOS CHILDREN

By Nonduduzo Kunene

Christmas is a time for giving! The Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) seems to understand this adage better as it hosted a family fun day at Ebuhleni House No. 13 at SOS Children's Village in Mbabane on Thursday.

Present at the family fun day were EEC staff members, SOS Director of Programme Thokozani Maphalala, the house mother Nomphumelelo Dlamini and children living in the house.

EEC brought a lot of goodies to celebrate with the 13 children who reside in the house.

EEC gifted the children with E500 vouchers each, where they will buy items of their choice at EDCON stores. EEC staffers played with the children for the better of the day as they engaged in various games. EEC Corporate Communications Officer Buhlebethu Nyamane said Ebuhleni House Number 13 is their responsibility

as EEC and the children housed there. Nyamane said it is not the first time they hosted the family fun day, as it was the second time the company hosted such an event.

"It is not the first time EEC hosts a family fun day. Last year, we were here during the festive season. We have taken it upon ourselves to have this family fun day every year as a way of bonding with our children as EEC," she said.

Thanks

She went on to thank EEC staff members for taking some time out of their busy schedule to come and spend some time with Ebuhleni House number 13 at SOS Children's Village in Mbabane.

Meanwhile, SOS Mbabane Programme Director Thokozani Maphalala expressed gratitude to EEC for the wonderful gesture towards SOS.

He applauded EEC for the support as well as maintaining the relationship they have with SOS, Ebuhleni house Number

13. Maphalala said when SOS started there was an initiative of assigning every company with a home at SOS. The main purpose was not money but building relationships; of which EEC did not disappoint.

"When we started this initiative of building relationships with companies, it was not about the money but about the relationships that come with it. Coming here and spreading the love to the children tops everything that money can buy. Thank you EEC for supporting and maintaining the love," he said.

Furthermore, the number of EEC staff who attended the family fun day this year was higher than last year. Maphalala said this shows that the company is very serious with the initiative. Maphalala said it was worth mentioning that some of the children who are housed at SOS have been successful in life as some are in universities and colleges in and out of the country.



PRESENTATION: EEC's Buhlebethu Nyamane presenting E500 EDCON vouchers to each of SOS children. (Pics Nonduduzo Kunene)

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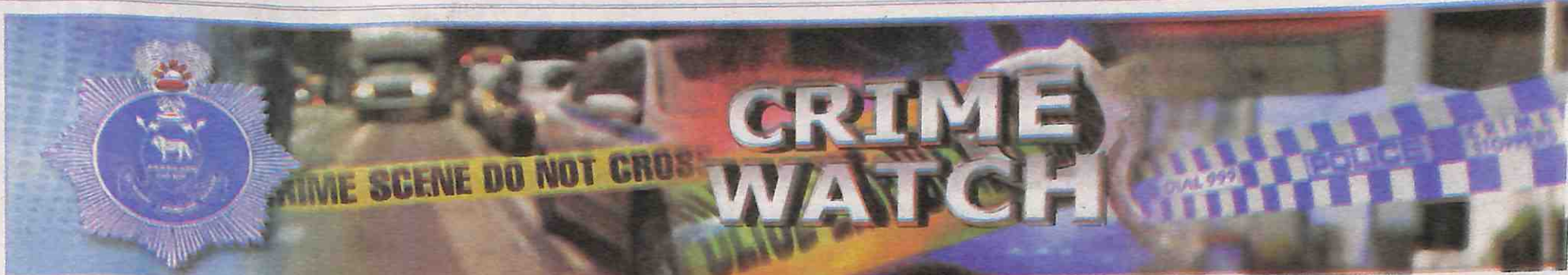
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REMARKS: Senior Deputy National Commissioner Lydia Dlamini represented the acting national commissioner of police during the event.



TAKEN: Senior Deputy National Commissioner – Lydia Dlamini, Acting Regional Commissioner – Tibonisile Mdziniso and Chief PICO – Phindile Vilakati in song.



ALSO THERE: Senior Superintendent Nicholas Jele and Regional Staff Officer Khulani Mamba were also present.

SAFETY SHOULD BE THE DRIVING FORCE THIS FESTIVE SEASON

The Police Service has implored members of the public to ensure that a safe festive season prevails. This can be achieved by being vigilant and cautious in order to reduce the occurrence of crime and road accidents.

Speaking during the Hhohho Christian Police Association festive season revivals held at Mahwalala last Friday, Senior Deputy National Commissioner – Lydia Dlamini urged the public to be mindful of all safety precautions aimed at improving safety at their residential areas as well as on roads. She stated that the security of residential areas should be prioritised to avoid house burglaries and hence, the formation of neighbourhood watch systems.

Representing

Dlamini who was representing the acting national commissioner of police during the revivals which were preceded by a march from Hilltop to Mahwalala, advised owners of businesses to avoid accumulating too much money within their premises as they may be targeted by armed robbers. She recommended regular banking and to seek security coverage from the police when transporting substantial amounts of money to ensure cash security.

The senior deputy national commissioner urged members of savings groups or stokvels who may have money to distribute, to contact local police stations for safety and security arrangements. She further warned members of the public against leaving huge

amounts of money in their motor vehicles as this attracts *bolandela*. For safety on the roads, Dlamini implored the public to refrain from irresponsible driving behaviour such as driving while under the influence of liquor, over-speeding, overloading and reckless driving.

Dlamini stated that the purpose of the revivals was to seek the Lord's intervention to the litany of crimes that are committed in Mahwalala as well as to pray that God's steadfast hand guides and protects the police during the festive season.

Revealed

She revealed that the chosen theme for the revivals was "Overcoming Odds of Criminality through Moral Regeneration of Society". This was in consonance with the scripture found in the Book of Jeremiah. She mentioned that such services are part of the broader crime prevention outreach programmes aimed to educate and create awareness on various issues of safety and security concerns.

Dlamini appealed to the nation and brethren to work with the police in intensifying the fight against crime phenomena that stubbornly manifests in society in the forms of gender based violence, drug dealing and trafficking. She also noted that another

social problem which is proving to be a menace is suicide which has seen one hundred and fifteen (115) people end their lives between November 2017 and November 2018. She stated that there is need to intercede to the Lord God Almighty for the improvement of the situation.

Local Member of Parliament – Musa Zwane applauded the police for conducting the revivals and urged the people of the area to make use of such an opportunity and become one with the Lord. He expressed belief that because of the festive revivals, the crime situation within the Mahwalala Zone will drastically improve.

Mbabane City Mayor – Zephaniah Nkambule commended the police for facilitating the revivals stating that any strategies that may be in place to fight crime are useless without the involvement of the Lord. He noted that seeking the Lord's intervention should not only be sought for the crime situation at Mahwalala, but the country as a whole.

COMMENDED
Mbabane City
Mayor – Zephaniah
Nkambule was
present.

MY POINT: Mbabane West
Member of Parliament
Musa Zwane during the
revivals.



MARCH: The march preceding the revivals.

Green city for Ezulwini

The Kingdom of Eswatini seeks to ensure that Ezulwini, as a municipality, together with other municipalities, engage in partnerships to ensure green cities. CEO Vusumutiwendvodza Matsebula said such an initiative is going to have solutions for green energy, waste recycling and efficient transport systems.

Matsebula said the Ezulwini Town is planning and strategising around an intervention regarding the existing and planned street lighting infrastructure. He further confided with the Observer on Saturday that currently, discussions with council, other major stakeholders (ie EEC, MNRE) and potential investors are at an extremely early stage for innovative projects, of which his office is not at liberty to divulge information at the stage of the discussions. Matsebula further said Ezulwini, as it is, is preparing its long term strategy because the council is cognizant of the National Vision of 2022. Matsebula explained that the mission of the municipality is: "To improve the quality of life of the Ezulwini community through the provision of efficient services and infrastructure that is responsive to their needs".

He said the municipality seeks to be diligent in involving all stakeholders of the Ezulwini community in her planning efforts in order to direct the short-term, medium-term, and long-term growth of the town, along the paths envisioned by the majority of residents, businesses, and frequent visitors to the town. Matsebula assured that implementation of these plans will definitely be done as far as it is practically possible.

...Ezulwini's road to development

In an effort to know the value of the town in terms of the investment development that is currently taking place, this publication wanted to have figures for the current development as we conclude the year 2018.

The CEO Vusi Matsebula shared some bit of information.

"When adding the road infrastructure and the buildings for both the residential and commercial and the land value in Ezulwini currently, we can estimate the total value of the town to be E3.1 billion.

The estimated value of Ezulwini as at today is E3,070,390,980 (Three billion & seventy million, three hundred & ninety thousand, nine hundred & eighty emalangeni".

THE BREAKDOWN IS AS FOLLOWS

Years	Amount
Latest valuation done in 2014	E2,371,546,000.00
2015 Developments	E274,259,030.00
2016 Developments	E93,752,390.00
2017 Developments	E33,670,850.00
2018 Developments	E297,162,710.00
Total	E3,070,390,980.00



EZULWINI NOW WORTH E3.1BN, AND

Stories by Sicelo Maziya

To say the Ezulwini town is developing would be an understatement of the year. The town, which was very small and almost unrecognisable a few years ago, has suddenly ballooned into one of the fastest growing towns in recent history in the country.

Today, the estimated value of Ezulwini is at over E3 billion. The town has attracted massive infrastructure development that started in 2015. The town, which is the hub of the tourism industry in the country, continues to grow and will soon be declared a city with the fastest development that continues to shape the town in size and in development. The town is cognizant of the fact that for it to be a city, it needs to consider the issue of extending its boundaries to have more urban area under the municipality's control.

According to Town Clerk Vusumutiwendvodza Matsebula, in 2012, the town was upgraded from being a Town Board to a Town Council. The town had the Town Board status since 1995 when it was established.

Strategy

Matsebula further disclosed that the town is currently aiming to craft a long term strategy that will enable the council to crystallise the future they want to achieve.

"This is the future of the municipality that will be decided upon by all the stakeholders involved," adds Matsebula.

He also said since they are currently in the process, the council will hear from the stakeholders if together they aspire to be a city or not. Matsebula further disclosed that they have a 30 year Integrated Development Plan as Ezulwini Town Council and part of their long term plan is that council and stakeholders will interrogate when they would like to achieve the status of a city.

"The stakeholders' process will check which year in our 30 year Integrated Plan we would like to achieve that. However, we are very cautious not to lose our identity in the process. For instance, it is a fact that if we want to be a city, we will need to consider the issue of extending our boundaries to have more urban area under the municipality's control," adds Matsebula.

The growth of the town has seen the massive growth under the current CEO. When this publication asked him what has been their secret to success, he was quick to point out that a town is a community and in order for it to grow, it needs people with a focused vision and it cannot be a one man effort. He said the main focus is to attract huge investments.

...Today, the estimated value of Ezulwini is over E3 billion. The town has attracted massive infrastructure development that started in 2015. The town, which is the hub of the tourism industry in the country, continues to grow and will soon be declared a city with the fastest development that continues to shape the town in size and in development.



VIEW: A side view of the ICC in Ezulwini. (Pics: Sicelo Maziya)

"When I first joined the municipality, we had an operating budget of E6.5 million and a staff complement of five employees. Over the years, we have grown to have an operating budget of +/- E25 million and a staff complement of 44 employees. I cannot say the achievement has been my individual achievement, however, I can say we owe the municipality's success to the councillors who shared the vision of the management and assisted in giving the political buy-in to support the vision," he said.

Matsebula was also full of praise for the parent ministry of towns in the country, stating that they owe their achievement to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for the support they have been giving the town over the years.

He also praised the construction industry that is currently bringing all the opportunities needed for the unemployed in the area.

He confided that the municipality has been consistent and vigilant in encouraging all contractors involved in public municipal projects such as road construction, as well as the private projects like the International Convention Centre and Five Star Hotel (ICCFISH) within the municipal vicinity to hire unemployed youth from

within the town's urban and peri-urban area during the construction and even after the construction for developmental projects.

"Apart from the benefits of employment, an upgraded road means that residents of Ezulwini will have easier access to and from their places of business and also when taking their products to the market," he said.

He further shared mandatory developments of Ezulwini when it comes to road construction that street lighting is a must for all Ezulwini roads to improve safety and security in the residential areas.

The young executive also stated that private businesses developing in the town also attract other businesses which together, provide the convenience of essential services being closer to residents. Matsebula further summed it up: "A lot, if not everything, is at the tip of their fingers. Development of a town affects a great deal of infrastructure that includes the telecommunication network, power grid as well as the sewage and water systems. There is need to focus on future demands."

The Observer on Saturday wanted to know the budgetary implications to the council in dealing with such infrastructure expansions and if they have the mandate to work as a town board



DEVELOPMENTS: Shopping complexes are now being built in every corner of the town. 2. ACCFISH development at the municipality.

STILL DEVELOPING



The hotel construction at the tourism hub is now near completion at the ACCFISH.



NEW SHOPS: A new shopping complex has been completed near the Corner Plaza.

on such projects.

"The primary responsibility for the water system and the sewer system lies with the Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC) as mandated or gazetted by the national government. Eswatini still does not use the model of service provision like the Metropolitan Municipalities (for example eThekweni or Ekurhuleni in South Africa), the supporting service provision, such as highway troopers, general police force, water and sewer services, fire department, local electricity services, these functions are not directly owned or controlled by the municipality," said Matsebula.

He further clarified that those municipalities, Tinkhundla, and service providers all operate as separate entities across the country in Eswatini. Ezulwini municipality has, however, been consistent in efforts to have open lines of communication and partnerships, where possible, with all parastatals that provide efficient

and effective essential services to the residents of Ezulwini.

On the water and sewage system, Matsebula also shared that as a municipality, they do face a few challenges with the water and sewer systems. However, he said this is not as a result of the new developments.

"New developments allow for changes or new connections to be made in conjunction with the new construction, which is usually a smooth transition. Challenges have mainly only arisen where EWSC has attempted to modernise the systems with already existing homes and plots where planning and construction was done some 30 to 60 years ago, long before the area was considered a town," he said.

The CEO said they are working with the service provider to address these emerging issues of the water and sewage system with the new development taking place in the town.



ROADS NOT LEFT OUT: Roads infrastructure development at the construction site has continued to improve for easy access to the market

Father, son nabbed for poaching

By Samkelisiwe Khoza

Like father like son! This old adage holds true for a 50-year-old man and his 20 year old son who were nabbed for poaching at Mlawula Game Reserve.

Jeremiah Mahlalela and his son, Sifiso, of Hlane were arrested by the Royal Eswatini Police Services (REPS) on Wednesday after they were caught with five killed warthogs. Each warthog is estimated at E500.

The father and son are said to have had about 21 hunting hooks planted in different locations within the reserve.

Information gathered is to the effect that the pair hoped to score some cash for the upcoming Christmas day. They are alleged to have already had a buyer in tow when they embarked on their poaching expedition. The buyer had allegedly promised to double the price of what the warthogs usually cost. They were promised E5 000 cash upon delivery.

Rangers

Mlawula Game Reserve game rangers caught a glimpse of the suspects carrying one warthog by its hind legs. They are said to have contacted the police instantly, while they quietly trailed behind the pair. The rangers were undergoing their daily routine check-ups around the reserve when they sighted the suspects.

"They quickly tailed the suspect and fired a warning shot in the air when they were close enough and ordered them to surrender," said a source.

The father and son are said to have immediately dropped the warthog and



HERE: Part of the Mlawula Game Reserve.

surrendered to the rangers. Police responded swiftly to the call.

When questioned about the criminal offence, the father and son supposedly told the police and the rangers that they were trying to gather some cash for Christmas.

The father said he used to work at the Maphiveni Foot and Mouth but lost his job two years ago. "I know that poaching is illegal but it was the only option available to make some quick cash before December 25," the father told the Simunye Magistrate court on Thursday. They were both jailed for four years with an option of a fine of E6 000 each.

Poaching Effects

Poaching can lead to extinction of species and the extinction of a species can have a negative economic effect

on a local community's tourism industry.

A community that relies on its wildlife to attract tourists is at great risk for economic hardship if the prevalence of poaching is high.

The extinction of wildlife can have a detrimental effect on a community's economy since restaurants, hotels, rentals, and other attractions would suffer. Extinction is the greatest threat to animals that are victims of wildlife poaching.

Poaching is also dangerous to the environment. Our ecosystems are sensitive and must be preserved. The economic challenges of a community can lead to poaching, which in turn can lead to endangerment (and in the worst cases, extinction) of different species.

NB: Additional information sourced from the internet

Accidentally shot son released from hospital

By Samkelisiwe Khoza

The accidentally shot Limkokwing University of Technology graduate has since been released from the hospital.

The 20 year old graduate was accidentally shot by his father in the stomach during a hunting expedition at Shewula.

The incident occurred last Thursday at one of the community's forests where the father, son and the father's brother were hunting late at night. The 20-year-old is said to have been mistaken for a rabbit when the father opened fire and shot him and the brother.

Information gathered by this publication is to the effect that the graduate was released from the Siteki Good Shepherd

Hospital where he was being treated on Thursday.

It was reported that the trio caught a rest after hours of catching nothing during their night-hunt. The son is said to have excused himself and attended to the call of nature a distance away.

Couple of minutes later, the father is said to have been heard shouting *juba ngalapho ngulogwaja* before he opened fire towards his son and the brother. The son was

shot in the stomach and arm, while his uncle was injured on the mouth and knee. The graduate and brother were ferried to the Siteki Good Shepherd Hospital using a family member's car.

The father was using a hunting rifle which, according to the internet, one shot can cause damage also on the surroundings of the aimed target.

When interviewed yesterday, the injured family brother, Shandu Mavimbela still stammered when talking due to the mouth injury. He confirmed that his niece had been released from the hospital and his condition had since improved.

"He is recovering well but he also has difficulties getting on and off the bed," he said.

Mavimbela said the accident has hit his brother hard and said it is difficult for him to look at his son who is so much in pain. He said the pain of accidentally hurting his own flesh and blood to that extent is unbearable for any parent.

Meanwhile, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said the matter is still under investigation and arrests will be made thereafter.



INVESTIGATION: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

HIS MAJESTY'S
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COMGEN HOSTS JOYFUL PLATFORM FOR OFFENDER'S X-MAS

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Awaiting Trial (remands)

(Dec 21 - Jan 2)
09:30am - 3:30pm
09:30am - 3:30pm

Christmas is that time of the year where families and friends unite in commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25, as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people globally.

In actual fact, the exact meaning of Christmas is the celebration of love, which is demonstrated in the story of Jesus Christ as the Bible says in **John 3:16** 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

The Commissioner General Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase, is cognisant of the importance of Christmas, affording offenders and their families the right platform to share, unite and celebrate Christmas together.

Since the celebration of Christmas is gratitude for what the Son of Man did for us, we remember his birth, by giving each other gifts, worshipping Him, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate, the commissioner general enables the over 3 500 offenders to meet their relatives daily over a period stretching from the 21st of December to the 2nd of January 2019. Apart from this, offenders will this festive season, partake in a num-

ber of spiritual and entertaining activities.

Ntshangase also stated that this year's spiritual service is aimed at expressing thanks to God for the gift of life and for protecting the whole correctional community in the discharge of its duties throughout the year.

It is also aimed at thanking the Almighty for guidance and protecting officers in the mandate of transforming the lives of offenders to law abiding citizens.

Ntshangase is of the idea that Christmas can sometimes be complicated, especially when you have a loved one behind bars.

Therefore, he is optimistic that such visits will help strengthen family ties and lift spirits on both sides of the bars.

In honour of this great time, commissioner general has put on break all Correctional Services labour parties since yesterday until the January 2, 2019. This is aimed at giving offenders the opportunity to relish the festive season and celebrate with their loved ones.

As part of the celebrations, the fellowship services will also be spiced up by marvelous performances of local gospel artists comprising; Linda Dlamini, Thabile Myeni, Ndawonye Gospel Worshippers amongst others. His Majesty's Correctional Services' Afro

Jazz band and Instrumental music by offenders from Matsapha Correctional Centre will tour a number of correctional centres where they will perform for officers and offenders this festive season. In addition, the department has also organised other cultural and sporting activities including, soccer, chess tournaments, poetrys, netball games, tug-of-war, egg and sack race and a variety of other indoor and outdoor games.

The co-mmissioner gen-



ACTIVITIES TO TAKE PLACE AT VARIOUS CENTRES

MBABANE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

- ✓ Sermon by Pastor Doctor Hlogwane from Assemblies of God.
- ✓ Other pastors comprise of International Tabernacle Church leader in Dickson Makunda and Dombo Jenvram and Luhleko Evangelical Church's Pastor Andreas Msibi.
- ✓ Music by Mshikishi, ACASWA group and Zion Church Choir.
- ✓ Sporting activities include soccer, egg race, tug-of-war, playing cards and chess amongst others.

BIG BEND CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

- ✓ Revivals conducted by Pastor Prince Mhlanga from AEC and Metropolitan Church leader, Grace Ngcamphalala.
- ✓ Entertainment by Correctional Services Brass Band and instrumental Music by offenders from Matsapha Correctional Centre.
- ✓ Sporting activities including board games; cards, chess, mlabalaba, tug-of-war and dance competition by inmates.

NHLANGANO CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

- ✓ Mountain of Shiloh Revival Church leader Sihle Masuku will be ministering the word of God throughout the festive season.
- ✓ Inmates will stretch their muscles during

soccer tournaments, athletics egg and sack racing including a variety of indoor games comprising of cards and draft.

- ✓ Inmates' dance competition.

MATSAPHA CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

- ✓ Recently crowned Swaziland Arts and Music Association (SWAMA) Awards -Male artist of the year Linda Dlamini will be rendering music.
- ✓ Prophet BK Dlamini from Gethsemane Redeemed International Church and Tom Makhanya from Well of Reahoboth Household church in Malkerns.
- ✓ Members from Evangelic Church in Matsapha with others from the Seventh Day Adventists will also be part of the service.
- ✓ The Voice of the Church Director Zachariah Mthethwa and pastors Sandile Malaza and Mdumiseni Dlamini also form part of ministers delivering the good news on the importance of the birth of Christ.
- ✓ Entertainment by local poets; Mphindwane and Gedlembane Shongwe and Young people of Excellency members Anito and Tristo.
- ✓ MYPC
- ✓ Music Thabile Myeni while Pastor Buddy Msibi will be preaching the word of God.
- ✓ Motivational speakers comprise of Young

Climbers' Wandile 'Warawara' Hlatwako, Thembele Mamba amongst others.

- ✓ Entertainment by Home Boys, White Msindo, Comedians; Mr Seth and Ndosh.

PIGG'S PEAK CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

- ✓ Word of God and motivational speeches by Nhlanhla Dlamini under FEA leader Pastor Shodi Msibi.
- ✓ HMCS Jazz Band and Instrumental music by offenders from Matsapha Correctional Centre.
- ✓ Sporting activities comprising; indoor and outdoor games.

BHALEKANE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

- ✓ Sermon by Alamathiya Church in Zion leader, Archbishop Mavovo Mkhontfo and Pastor Stephen Maphanga from Revival Miracle Centre.
- ✓ Motivational speeches by Pastor Sibusiso Shongwe from Prophetic Voice of All Nations.
- ✓ Entertainment includes umbholoho, tug-of-war, poetry, drama amongst others.
- ✓ The main day will be graced by Madlangempisi Member of Parliament Sibusiso 'Scorpion' Nxumalo who will on the day award prizes to the champions of the soccer tournament.

MAWELAWELA CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

- ✓ Sermon by Pastor Andrew Msibi from Evangelical church.
- ✓ Motivational speakers comprise; Autism Organisation's Mrs Mvubu, SWANEPPA's Sibongile Dlamini, SWAGGA's Slindelo Nxumalo and Xolani Dlamini from Baylor Clinic to name a few.
- ✓ Entertainment by Thabile Myeni and Ndawonye Christ Worshippers.
- ✓ HMCS Afro Jazz Band will be part of the entertainment.
- ✓ Sports activities comprise of netball, soccer, volleyball and athletics and more.

MANKAYANE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

- ✓ Entertainment includes sibhaca, umbholoho, kwaito dance, comedy and various indoor games.
- ✓ Music by HMCS Afro Jazz Band and instrumental music by offenders from Matsapha Correctional Centre.

MANZINI REMAND CENTRE

- ✓ Sermon by Bishop D Mabuza from Preach the Word Ministries and Apostle M Zulu from Great Movement Ministries.
- ✓ HMCS Afro Jazz Band and instrumental music by offenders from Matsapha Correctional.



ESWATINI INCORPORATED: 2022 & BEYOND

#ISSUE No.62

'MOVING FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION'

...are we still
doing the right
thing?

A LOOK INTO OURSELVES



Swazis in numbers during the recent Sibaya.

Just before the momentous year 2018 comes to a close, let me invite you to take a deep look into the country and tell me what you see.

I make this invitation at a time when we are in high spirits and going through a process of our annual sacred *Incwala*, a period in which we reflect on the year gone by and renew our energy for the New Year as a nation.

This was a momentous year because as a nation we celebrated 50 years of independence. His Majesty the King and *Ingwenyama* also celebrated his 50th birthday. It was a double celebration, but other than the milestone we did not have the kind of celebrations we deserve at 50 years.

One of the reasons we had subdued celebrations is because economically we were unable to deliver a strong economic position or outlook that professes to our growth.

Somewhere in our growth we missed certain things and our focus got blurred. A country at 50 should have been more brazen about its achievements and gone all out to showcase to the world what 50 years meant to it.

Somehow we are at 50 but it appears we deferred our moment of glory for some time in the future. I hope this would be Eswatini at 60.

The past 10 years have not been kind to our economy and we seem to have failed to come up with strategies of a matured State to deal with them.

Instead our government was quick to offer excuses and pointed at global factors as contributing to our case. That excuse did not win some of us, because we know as the new Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini and his team would prove that there was a lot available to us to turn the situation around. We just lacked the appetite to face the situation head on and deal with our demons.

His Majesty the King and *Ingwenyama* was made for the past 10 years to sound idealistic. He challenged the country and his government to work towards achieving the First World status by the year 2022.

He never ceased to point towards that direction, but those in government continued to work against his aspirations. They placed their interests much higher than national interests. For 10

years we were doomed, hence Eswatini at 50 was not the kind of jubilee we wanted.

There was one person (His Majesty the King) who was clear where this country should be, but the foot soldiers were confused and cared more about their benefits than advancing the country.

We failed to understand how we got here and what we needed in order to keep on challenging ourselves to achieve even more.

When we needed to think outside the South African Customs Union (SACU) kitty for our survival we failed. That's why we were solely focused on SACU revenues than looking internally for solutions, something His Majesty the King challenged the new government to do now - to think outside the box to grow the economy.

Elections

So when time for elections came, Emaswati voted with their feet and almost changed the entire previous government.

It was a statement that drew the line, breaking with the past and ushered in new people. They did so driven by hope that even what appears to be a hopeless situation can still turn around with the right people in right positions.

His Majesty the King responded in similar fashion when making his appointments, by giving

the country new faces.

That's the hope we have. However, reports of bribery and corruption remain a cancer that we need to rid ourselves off.

The Anti Corruption Commissioner Daniel Dlamini is right to say no one institution can claim to be a champion to fight corruption - he calls for the entire country to reject it.

Utsi indzaba yetfu sonke. He is right!

Corruption has played a huge role for the country to be where it is today. One way of reversing this scourge is through the setting up



In Siswati we say – *live liyengcayelwa*. This talk to respecting the people and the position you hold. You don't just do things as you please. It would appear at 50 some of us have forgotten that and stated to look at the resources at our disposal as an extension of our wealth.

of critical oversight bodies (*emabandla*).

We can no longer trust ourselves of acting in the best interest of the country hence we need oversight bodies to scrutinise our actions.

It needs to start with the chiefs (*bobabe tin-khulu* and *bantfwabankhosi*). We need a council of chiefs to monitor how each chief or *umnt-fwanenkhozi* is doing. They must learn to be accountable. We have now totally forgotten to be accountable, yet we all claim to be performing our duties in the name of the King. If His Majesty the King is accountable to the people he leads, how come then we fail to be accountable for the decisions we make on his behalf?

The King reigns through *emabandla* hence it is important that we re-establish them for purposes of exercising and keeping those in power in check.

Take for instance the promotions within the security forces which have left a lot to be desired - taxing to the person paying tax. Not only are their promotions a concern but the frequency at which they happen when considering that other cadres within government have remained unattended.

In order to ensure that deserving people get promotions, we need to have a promotions boards or councils to evaluate the decisions. The council should have powers to object or approve the recommendations. I know that in some of these institutions we have bodies by name, but no longer functions as it should be.

Today we have within our security forces, a contingent of young officers who have not even made the years in service competing for ranks if not surpassed the most senior and experienced officers.

A university degree should not mean automatic promotion to a senior rank. The leaders of these forces must find a way to remunerate those with degrees or certificates, without compromising the discipline of the force. If they want to reward their educational qualifications (with more money) they should do so without promotions. A promotion must be earned.

This is just one area that needs to be scrutinised accordingly otherwise if it goes attended it will cause disunity within our security forces.

If this government stands a slim chance of success, it will depend on how much we are willing to meet them halfway. They alone cannot undo many of things that have gone wrong. Let's all agree that a country that has celebrated 50 years of independence should be in a much stronger position than we are.

In Siswati we say – *live liyengcayelwa*. This talk to respecting the people and the position you hold. You don't just do things as you please. It would appear at 50 some of us have forgotten that and stated to look at the resources at our disposal as an extension of our wealth.

If we don't call to order this bad mentality of entitlement we will soon be doomed.

Inhlonipho, kutifoba nekwesaba kungatsi kuyasibalekela!

Khutekani bekunene!

Swazi Observer

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Dealing with Diabetes

WITH: Nomalungelo Ginindza

Diabetes
Swaziland PR

“

According to American Diabetes Association, most alcoholics develop pancreatitis and about one third of those with this condition will go on to develop diabetes.

Last Saturday we were talking about diabetic diet, this Saturday we are looking at the linkage between diabetes and Alcohol, a very sensitive topic to most people since it's the festive season.

Diabetes and substance abuse are two conditions that can seriously impact health. It is not only in their potential to cause damage that relates these two together. There can also be a more direct relationship between them. Some people may develop diabetes because of excessive alcohol intake. Alcohol lowers the blood sugar levels in the body and that causes diabetes (Hypoglycemia). It is also likely that any form of substance abuse will make life worse for the diabetic. Alcohol in particular can be dangerous for anyone trying to manage their diabetes. According to American Diabetes Association, most alcoholics develop pancreatitis and about one third of those with this condition will go on to develop diabetes. Alcohol abuse may also lead to glucose intolerance and obesity, which are both connected to type2 diabetes.

Let's look at how alcohol is made;

To make alcohol, you need to put grains, fruits or vegetables through a process called fermentation (when yeast or bacteria react with the sugars in food- the by products are ethanol and carbon dioxide).

What is fermentation?

Wine and cider are made by fermenting fruit, while fermented cereals such as barley and rye form the basis of beer and spirits.

A drink's alcohol content is affected by how long it's left to ferment. Spirits also go through a process called distillation -where a proportion of the water is removed, leaving a stronger concentration of alcohol and flavour (www.drinkaware.co.uk).

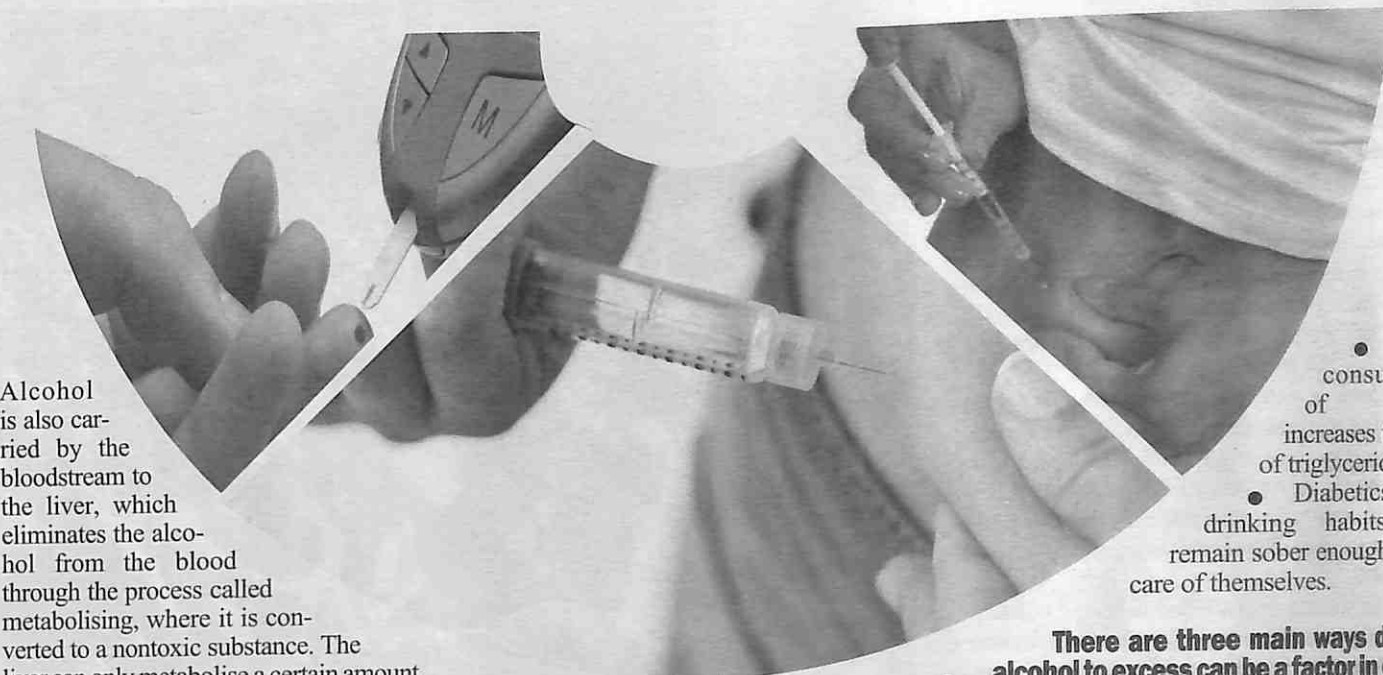
Understanding how alcohol affects the body

Alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream via small blood vessels in the walls of the stomach and small intestines. Within minutes of drinking alcohol it travels from the stomach to the brain, where it quickly produces its affects, slowing the action of nerve cells.

Alcohol is also carried by the bloodstream to the liver, which eliminates the alcohol from the blood through the process called metabolising, where it is converted to a nontoxic substance. The liver can only metabolise a certain amount at a time, leaving the excess circulating throughout the body. Thus the intensity of the effect on the body is directly related to the amount consumed.

When the amount of alcohol in the blood exceeds a certain level the respiratory (breathing) system slows down markedly and can cause a coma or death because oxygen no longer reaches the brain (www.drugfree-world.org). Anyone who has been diagnosed with diabetes will need to be cautious around alcohol. Some diabetics will be advised against drinking at all, especially those who have nerve damage, hypertension, or eye disease. The dangers of excessive alcohol use for diabetics include:

- Drinking alcohol can lead to high blood glucose levels. Drinks like beer and wine contain particularly high amounts of sugar.
- A lot alcohol can cause dangerously low blood glucose levels. This is because of interference with the liver's ability to release stored glucose.
- Alcohol abuse can worsen the nerve damage caused by diabetes.



- Excess consumption of alcohol increases the level of triglycerides.
- Diabetics with drinking habits must remain sober enough to take care of themselves.

There are three main ways drinking alcohol to excess can be a factor in causing diabetes:

1. Heavy drinking can reduce the body's sensitivity to insulin, which can trigger type 2 diabetes.
2. Diabetes is a common side effect of chronic pancreatitis, which is overwhelmingly caused by heavy drinking.
3. Alcohol contains a huge amount of calories - one pint of lager can be equivalent to a slice of pizza. So drinking can also increase your chance of becoming overweight and your risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Hypoglycemia can be particularly dangerous when you're drinking because people can mistakenly think that you're drunk and may not realise you need urgent medical help. Drinking heavily can also increase the chances of developing hypoglycemia because it prevents the liver from making glucose when you drink on an empty stomach.

The symptoms of too much alcohol and hypoglycemia can be similar - sleepiness, dizziness, and disorientation. You do not want anyone to confuse hypoglycemia for drunkenness, because they might not give you the proper assistance and treatment.

● Excess alcohol can actually decrease your blood sugar level - sometimes causing it to drop into dangerous levels.

● Beer and sweet wine contain carbohydrates and may raise blood sugar.

● Alcohol stimulates your appetite, which can cause you to overeat and may affect your blood sugar control.

● Alcohol may also affect your judgment or willpower, causing you to make poor food choices.

● Alcohol can interfere with the positive effects of oral diabetes medicines or insulin.

● may increase triglyceride levels.

● Alcohol may increase blood pressure.

● Alcohol can cause flushing, nausea, increased heart rate, and slurred speech.

Alcohol can interfere with some diabetic medications so that they are not as effective.

● Alcohol makes some people hungry. This causes them to eat more than they should leading to hyperglycemia.

● Heavy drinking can worsen any eye disease caused by diabetes.

● Diabetics should never drink on an empty stomach or when their blood sugar levels are low. Drinking alcohol in an empty stomach can lead to diabetes; the alcohol lowers the blood sugar levels.

● Alcohol normally damages nerve cells, even light drinking. For those diabetic patients with nerve damage there will be an increase in pain, numbness and burning or tingling sensations.

● For those with symptoms of eye disease, drinking can worsen the condition, leading to blindness.

● Levels of triglycerides (human fats) and blood pressure increase with the consumption of drinks, in whatever quantities. Diabetic patients with a high level of triglycerides should not drink at all.

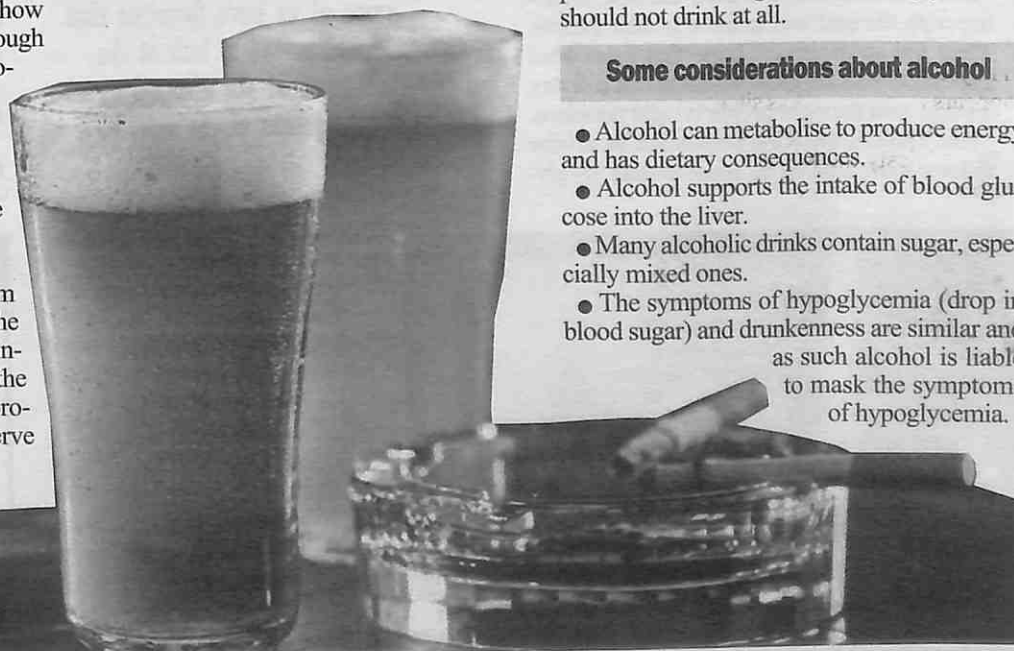
Some considerations about alcohol

● Alcohol can metabolise to produce energy and has dietary consequences.

● Alcohol supports the intake of blood glucose into the liver.

● Many alcoholic drinks contain sugar, especially mixed ones.

● The symptoms of hypoglycemia (drop in blood sugar) and drunkenness are similar and as such alcohol is liable to mask the symptoms of hypoglycemia.



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Issue # 218

Lifestyle

& Entertainment

**FESTIVE
SEASON IS
HERE**





WRITER'S NOTE

WITH NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

The year is coming to an end, festivities are in the air and there is an all round buzz. Christmas is said to be one of the most joyful times of the year and this week we look into just that.

We talk to a number of people to get their plans for the festive season, they share with us also what they hope 2019 will be bringing.

A number of people did say they will be spending their time with family and friends, which is probably the whole point of the festive season.

Read through pages 4-5 and find out what some of Eswatini artists and personalities had to say about the festive season. We also talked to people on the streets to find out their plans for the festive.

This week we take a look at Shongwe & Khuphuka Saved Group and their 22nd album titled 'Jehovah Uzokulwela'. We delve into how they have come to be by looking at their past albums and their achievements.

After 21 years producing gospel music, there is seemingly no intent to slow down or tire among the group members, who hail from the rural hamlet of the Lubombo region styled as Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group.

Now the group under the directorship of Reverend Elias Shongwe has released their 22nd album to date titled Jehovah Uzokulwela.

With Christmas being less than a week away, everyone has plans on how they will spend their holidays. We speak to local entertainers about their holiday's plans and not just them.

On Page 6, read about Sciatica and Physiotherapy and 5 Things You Need To Know that Google May Not Tell You.

For example, if you are experiencing leg pain and turn to Google for sciatica exercises, you may end up with movements for the wrong diagnosis, which could worsen the problem. This blog post will discuss five things you need to know regarding sciatica physiotherapy, including the distinctly different causes of sciatica-like pain patterns, and how the exercises differ with each one.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas

Till next week

Enjoy!



NO STOPPING

SHONGWE AND KHUPHUKA'S GROOVE

What a perfect way to usher gospel music fanatics into Christmas, and particularly, fans of the famed Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group!

After 21 years producing gospel music, there is seemingly no intent to slow down or tire among the group members, who hail from the rural hamlet of the Lubombo region styled as Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group.

Now the group under the directorship of Reverend Elias Shongwe has released their 22nd album to date titled Jehovah Uzokulwela.

Comprising 11 tracks of a unique delivery but nonetheless familiar sounds and membership, the new offering would certainly catapult Shongwe and Khuphuka to another dimension in the gospel music sphere.

That he has roped in the vastly gifted Sibusiso 'Mandela' Mamba, Tony Dlamini with the backing of his son Thandwa, Shongwe and his group are certainly on another level this time around.

Remember that 'Mandela' is not your average keyboard player and sound engineer as he's been in this industry for close to two decades now having begun his career with Lavundlamanti Gospel Group in 1999.

They are assisted by an equally capable Shadrack Ndlovu who's worked with several South African artists as well as some local ones in refining and polishing their craft as they worked a sweat in the studio.

Just like any dream, it started off the size of a pinhead as Shongwe could attest; in 1996 to be precise after he had quit his job as a miner in 1993 and became a fulltime minister of the Word. The first studio recording by Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved was in 1997 with the debut album titled 'My Sins' (Izono Zami).

Kicking off the soulful rendition is *Jehova Akanaphutha*, a song communicating the vital message that in everything, one should not blame it to God but be grateful for the life lived instead.

Title track *Jehova Uzokulwela* is up next. This one urges the redeemed soul not to be deterred or distracted in their faith as the Supreme Being

shall fight all battles one encounters as they tread along the way.

At the back of their mind knowing that they are now an international brand that has performed in big stages such as the United Kingdom, Shongwe and Khuphuka took a different route by including 'This is the day' as track three. No doubt this speaks to their legions of fans across the racial divide. It must be mentioned though

that this song also has a bonus of a worship medley of the same title as track 11.

Ngiza Kuwe is up next with its message on drawing nearer to the one that sustains any being irrespective of challenges and circumstances of life.

Perhaps, one that could provide a much talking point and heralded to follow in the popular tracks that catapulted Shongwe and Khuphuka



Umfana weBhejisa' story

'SKILLS ARE CHEAP, PASSION IS PRICELESS'

The past we can't change but the future is in our hands. Thabiso Dlamini, well-known as Umfana Webhejisa, is proving the rags to riches story which is still unfolding.

Growing up with just his father, who later passed on and his grandmother, Mfana Webhejisa found music as his escape place from the world he lived in. At a young age, the boy from Sihlutse knew he had talent so he started writing and singing. He would perform at weddings and parties around his area for a certain amount of money.

His life drastically changed though one day, as while he was performing, he was spotted by Banele Sithole, the owner and manager to the Immortal 7.

"I had gone to do my usual performance as usual. That fateful day though, after my performance, I was called by my now manager and he told me how talented he thought I was, and how he would like to work with me to grow and groom my talent. That day was probably one of my best days as it was the start of a journey I had never anticipated," he stated.

From that day on, Dlamini said his life took a turn for the better. In a period of six months, he was able to release singles and he was also voted as the best new comer at the SWAMAs. "2018 for me was life changing. I had never thought I would one day be awarded for my



music. The love I get from people overwhelms me as I wasn't expecting it".

With support from his grandmother, chef Bhejisa, his manager and his fans, Dlamini

said this was just only the beginning of his career. He said he believed that the future is bright and that with hard work he would go places. (By Setsabile Nkambule)

Shongwe and Khuphuka's albums to date:

1997	My Sins (Izono Zami)
1998	Yek Inhlanihla
1999	Inkanzimulo
2000	Lungiselela Umoya
2001	Hlala Nathi Baba
2002	Bantu Banamuhla
2003	Umhlaba
2004	Khetha
2005	Asimbambe
2006	Wenzi Emhlabeni
2007	Best of Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Volume 1
2008	Uzawukhona Na?
2009	Kuyasiza Ukuzikhuza
2010	Kuhle Kukholwa
2011	Nelethu Lihlatjiwe (solo album by Rev Shongwe)
2012	Best of Shongwe and Khuphuka (Live CD/DVD recording)
2013	Qiniselani Maghawe
2014	Thula Amazulu Akubhekile
2015	Kungumusa kaJesu
2016	UJehova Uvumile
2017	Ungagivaphi (Do not give up)
2018	Siyabonga Jesu
2019	Jehova Uzokulwela

Album Sales

Some of the group's albums have reached double-platinum sales such as *Inkanzimulo*, *Lungiselela*

Umoya, *Umhlaba*, *Khetha*, *Asimbambe* and *Wenzi Emhlabeni*; platinum (*Amazulu Akubhekile*,

Kungumusa kaJesu, *Bantu Banamuhla*), while others achieved gold statuses such as *Jehova (Amazulu) Avumile*.

Awards

The group has won several awards such as Swazi Telecom Song of the Year (Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture Awards), Best Gospel Traditional Song (Glory Awards), Song of the Year (Swaziland Gospel Music

Awards), Appreciation and Commendation for Supporting (Harvest FM Lesotho), Best Gospel Traditional Song 1999.

In 2016's Swaziland Gospel Awards, Shongwe and Khuphuka scooped the Album of the Year award for

Ungagivaphi ('Do not give up').

Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group was nominated for the SABC Gospel Crown Awards (Best African Gospel) and South African Music Awards (Best Traditional Gospel).

to stardom status is track five *Ematje Azomemeza* in this new album.

This track speaks to the naysayers who enjoy making a laughing stock of other characters. Just



Now the group under the directorship of Reverend Elias Shongwe has released their 22nd album to date titled *Jehovah Uzokulwela*.



like in Jesus' case in Luke 19:39-40 where he informed the Pharisees that if they rebuked the people who were shouting 'Hosanna' as the

what track eight *Baningi Bonkulunkulu* communicates, as it talks about the prevalent gods misleading many these days. Brethren should

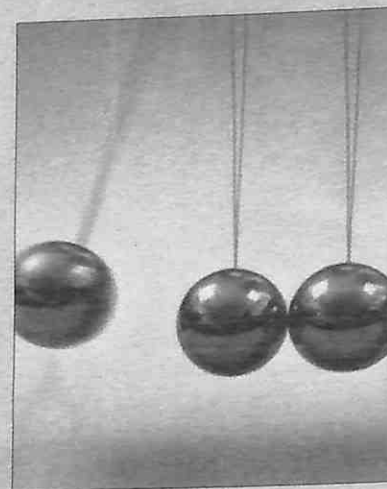
Master of all entered Jerusalem in triumph, the very stones would cry out to God.

There is also *Kuya nge-moya weNkosi* on track six that speaks to no mortal or ordinary being surviving on their own minus the power of the Lord.

Next up is *Siyabonga Jesu*, a self-explanatory track giving thanks to the Supreme Being of all for the wonders and mysteries that cannot be fathomed or comprehended by the human race.

A warning to brethren is what track eight *Baningi Bonkulunkulu* communicates, as it talks about the prevalent gods misleading many these days. Brethren should

Inspirational Corner



Get going

We must make situations work-out when the going gets tough, get the rate up when the going rests up, get going because that's the only way you'll be winning the race the only time you'll win is when there is wind to the face, when the going gets tough, the tough gets going and that in fact is a fact when, the going gets tough the tough stays intact, in tough situations the tough keeps a straight face while the weak say that it's a all a fake act, if you get going your success will be assured and insured like a pact, when the going gets tough simply take off like a jet, when the going gets tough, get going like someone forgetting regrets, when the going gets tough don't get stuck like someone who is guilty of getting regrets, don't ever let challenges stop you from reaching your goals, when facing challenges become equally challenging and don't ever fold, make sure you write your chapter and don't let the story of your life ever close, don't let challenges pin down your life but let your left or your right put a pen down to write the legend of how when the going got tough and the tarmac got rough you decided you were not going to fall back but you would make a decision that you had had enough and that was when you got up and feelings of renewal were brought up.

By Mlindeni Gumede

be wary against being mislead by these evil spirits and people.

One of a resolute, obstinate and unyielding character who would not be of any other is what track nine *Ngeke ngijike la* conveys. Shongwe and Khuphuka reiterate that after so many years in the ministry of conveying the gospel in music, they are not about to give up.

Perhaps, the synonym of track 10 'Just around the corner' motivates those about to throw in the towel not to do so under any circumstances, as breakthrough is nigh for them. Destiny or their Canaan is nigh so why should they give up is the resounding message.

All in all, Shongwe and Khuphuka have once again demonstrated their maturity in this game of wowing the masses with this new release, which is already available in music outlets countrywide. Grab a copy for yourself and you would attest it is a master piece with the hallmarks of the compelling and convicting message.

(By Njabulo Dlamini)

It's the

FESTIVE

SEASON

This is what people will be doing

It's the festive season and everyone has plans for the festive season. Celebrating with family or with friends all we know is that everyone will be on the celebratory mood. We talked to a number of personalities and just random people in the streets to ask how they will spend their festive season. We also asked them what they expect in 2019 and this is what they had to say;



DJ BLOSS

“Well, I'd say festive is a time where we get to be with family and friends. Relax after working hard the entire year. It's all about taking a break from everything and have fun.

Not forgetting to thank God for the gift of life.

For Christmas, I'll be at home, Mpolonjeni with the family. Then later on at Solani's Shisanyama

for the Christmas show. For crossover I'm at Solani's making sure our patrons enjoy good music.

Like every other year it had its ups and downs. Overall, it was awesome. Taking the music outside the country has been awesome. Representing the kingdom always feels good.

I can't really say what they should expect. But there's more to come from me to them.”

Ballerina - Velile Dube

“Festive season, as cliché as this may sound, is a time where one gets to spend valuable time with friends and family. We are so busy during the year, we never get to relax and spend time with loved ones, so festive gives us that opportunity.

Christmas, I'll be travelling to SA to visit

my sister, I have not made plans for New Year's yet. It's always better to be spontaneous, but I will probably be in church; I have actually started most new years in church.

2018 has been absolutely amazing! I love how



my business has grown. I

enjoy teaching the children so every time spent with them has been so worthwhile. I am also looking forward to 2019, welcoming other children because it gives me such fulfilment.”



Nondumiso Nhleko

Holiday season for me means time for family and rest. I'll be home with my husband and get to spend time with my grandmom, parents, in-laws and two baby girls.

2018 was a good year, yes I did complain a few bad times, but overall, I'll always celebrate 2018. This was my year. I got a new title - Mrs Nhlengethwa And 2019 I have a good surprise for everyone.”



Nicole Dlodlu

“I'll be home with my family and for cross-over I'll be with my grandmother, who makes the crossover to a new year a memorable one no matter what

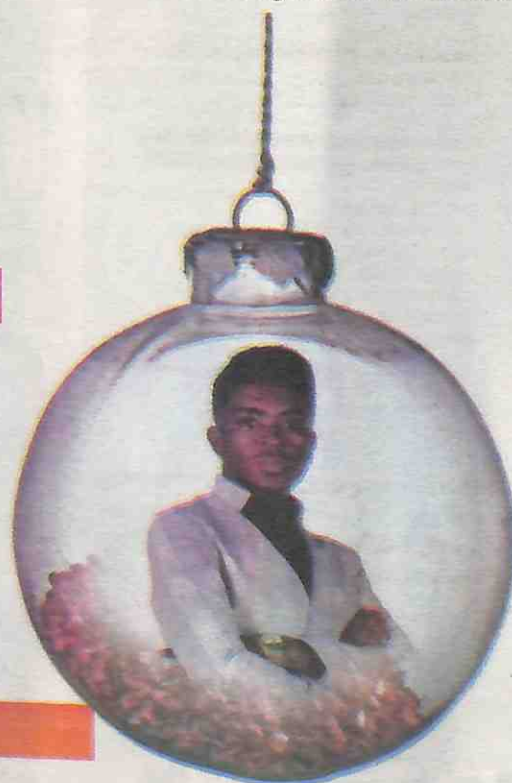
It was amazing, I learnt a lot and well I spent most of it with my princess which makes it more amazing.

Nothing but fire, more shows coming for the new year and more activities that will be focusing on albinism, the girl child and the youth at large.



Rapper - Charles Hugo

“2018 has been a spirit breaking, thought provoking, and opportunistic year, but through all the turmoil and good times, am just happy am still standing and back in the music game. All my careers are flourishing (Soccer, Music, Education) some people were hit hard by 2018 but through God's grace, I can't say the same about me.”



Emmanuel Kom

“Festive season: is a season of celebration of what you have achieved since the beginning of the year until the end, it's a moment whereby you look back at the struggles you have overcome and rejoice over your victories. It's also a time of planning for the upcoming New Year. I will be spending my Christmas at home with my parents and siblings. We will surely be praying and having our meals. On New Year's Eve I will be church, I will be thanking God

for taking me through the year 2018, for all the struggles and all the wins.” There is a lot people should expect from me in 2019. First of all I will be starting with the 'help a graduate get a job' programme which commences on February 22, 2019. Then it will be followed by fashion forward 2nd edition which will take place on June 28 2019. Last but not least there will also be 'unleashed talent show' which will also be a show programme; it will start on August 4, 2019”



WHAT THE PUBLIC HAD TO SAY



Winile 'Marwinnie' Mavuso

"For me the festive season is about family, food and tradition. The things we do with my family are what keep the tradition alive.

For Christmas this year, I will treat myself and my family to a lunch at Royal Villas. We will enjoy a five course meal there. 2018 was good and bad. I wouldn't say that it was my year, but I have so many things I'm grateful for, like graduating with an associate degree in Events Management at Limkokwing University. I also started an online boutique called @scarlet_sage97. It's doing very well, so I'm humbled. I also celebrated my 21st birthday party plus graduation party at Sibane hotel. So there were a lot of good than bad.

In March 2019, I'll be launching my online boutique @scarlet-sage97 just to name a few. My fans have also asked that I bring back Miss Teen Manzini so I'm still deciding. But I always listening to my fans, so will see. I will end there because I don't want to reveal too much."

want to reveal too much."



Londiwe Nxumalo

"The time around Christmas where we should be with our families celebrating the birth of King Jesus Christ. More than holidays it's a reminder of the Lord being born into flesh to save us. I'll be with my family in Johannesburg as this is our vacation time. 2018 was a year of grace for me. The Lord has remembered me. The focus is on the Joyous DVD coming out with the song *Njengendluzela*."



Faith Mahlalela

"I will be spending Christmas with my friends, we usually just chill in the house evr year and this year is not going to be any different. We do not go out often because it is usually not safe during the festive season so we prefer staying indoors."



Keketso Nxumalo

"I will be spending my entire festive season with my family and friends, which is nothing out of the ordinary because I do that every year. I really hope 2019 is coming with good things only."

Senzo Zwane and Thembinkosi Dlamini

"We are always in church on Christmas Day, so this year we are going to spend our day with congregants and family. We hope 2019 brings nothing but prosperity and success in everything that we do,"



Sakhile Simelane

"Time with family is all what I am for this festive season, I want to make sure I spend time with my family and friends throughout the season. In 2019 I want to get married and hopefully get a better job."



Makhosi Simelane

"I usually spend Christmas with my family, we go to church and enjoy but as I am a nurse, I will probably be working but I will attend church after work. In 2019 I really hope I get married and I do want a big wedding, *hehe*"



Tendaness

"It's a time to reflect and celebrate the successes of the year, whether

big or small. I'll definitely be with my family for Christmas. I have family coming in from outside Eswatini so it should be fun. I think we'll go out for Christmas. It was definitely a year of growth. I feel that

I was able to connect more with my fans and supporters this year, which I am very happy about. We dropped some great music and created some amazing platforms. Definitely more music and much more content, album is coming next year, so I'm very excited about that. Thank you to everyone who supports Tendaness, listens to the music and comes to the shows. I am extremely grateful for the love. 2019 will be very exciting for #TeamTendaness"

Song of the Week

Black Coffee & David Guetta
- Drive

[Verse 1: Delilah Montagu]

I can't go fast enough
To break free from the bond of your love

And I ain't been strong enough

To let go and let gone

I can't see clear enough

To look past the dust you left behind

And I can't get high enough

To forget why I cry (I cry, I cry)

[Chorus: Delilah Montagu]

So I'll drive

Ten thousand miles into the dead of night

Till I run out of love for you, baby

Till I've got no more love for you,

baby

Oh, I'll drive

Ten thousand miles into the endless sky

Till I run out of love for you, baby

Till I've got no more love for you,

baby

[Post-Chorus: Delilah Montagu]

I will drive all night

I will drive all night

Leave it all behind

I will drive all night

[Verse 2: Delilah Montagu]

I paint a silhouette (I paint a silhouette)

In the shadow of every headlight

I turn up my radio (I turn up my radio)

But I can't turn off my mind

Somehow you get to me (somehow you get to me)

It don't matter the distance I go

Our love is dead to me (dead to me)

But I believe in ghosts

[Chorus: Delilah Montagu]

So I'll drive

Ten thousand miles into the dead of night

Till I run out of love for you, baby

Till I've got no more love for you,

baby

Oh I'll drive

Ten thousand miles into the endless sky

Till I run out of love for you, baby

Till I've got no more love for you,

baby

[Post-Chorus: Delilah Montagu]

I will drive all night, I will drive all night

Leave it all behind, I will drive all night

I will drive all night, I will drive all night

Leave it all behind, I will drive all night

I will drive all night



With Zolile Shabangu

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Your local physiotherapist

⊕ Let's talk about health

SCIATICA AND PHYSIOTHERAPY:

Five things you need to know that Google may not tell you

As a physiotherapist, it is a common occurrence for someone to walk into My office claiming they have sciatica. somehow 'sciatica', the medical term for leg pain generated by the sciatic nerve, has become the umbrella term for all pain that is generated in the back or the hips and travels down the leg.

However, this is not always the case. Various body structures or tissues can cause pain to refer down the leg, and they all require different treatment. That's why it is critical to identify the appropriate term for your leg pain before assuming it is sciatica.

For example, if you are experiencing leg pain and turn to Google for sciatica exercises, you may end up with movements for the wrong diagnosis, which could worsen the problem. This blog post will discuss five things you need to know regarding sciatica physiotherapy, including the distinctly different causes of sciatica-like pain patterns, and how the exercises differ with each one.

Sciatic Nerve

Sciatica is the medical term for pain travelling down the line of the sciatic nerve that originates in your buttocks and runs down the back of the leg.

With real sciatica, pain is very intense, and can include: numbness, tingling, pins and needles, weakness, loss of sensation, or any combination of these symptoms.

Treatment for sciatica depends on what is causing the nerve irritation. Typically, nerves get compressed and irritated secondary to such conditions as: joint injury or degeneration, inflammation, muscle tension, or disc herniations.

Treatment for these pathologies differ, and will be further altered with associated nerve irritation. If you have nerve irritation of any kind, it is best to consult a knowledgeable physiotherapist to get the best combination of manual therapy and exercise to resolve the issue.

Here is one common exercise for nerve irritation called nerve flossing:

Lie on your back and bring the knee of your affected side to 90 degrees.

Hold your foot flexed while you bend and straighten your knee as much as possible without causing pain or other symptoms.

Do 15 reps slowly and smoothly with no holds. Repeat 2-5 times per day.

Note: This exercise is meant to be done pain free. If it causes the pain or numbness in your leg to be or exaggerated, stop the exercise and discuss it with your physiotherapist.

Facet joints

Facet joints are small joints where two vertebrae meet. In your lower back, these are called lumbar facet joints. These joints can become injured in a number of ways, often from forced compression or too much load, which jams the joint surfaces together. When lumbar

“

All skeletal muscles in the body can experience pain caused by trigger points. Trigger points are hyper-irritable muscle fibers that have a problem with their neuromuscular system (the neuromuscular system is basically the connections between your brain, nerves, and muscles to create movement).

facet joints get irritated they can refer pain into the buttocks, hips, and occasionally down the legs.

These injuries usually have a directional preference for exercises and relieving positions. In this case, it is flexion-based or 'joint-opening' exercises. You can find relief by using flexion-based positions or movements to take the pressure off the irritated joint surfaces.

Here is one example of a gentle flexion based exercise:

Lie on your back and bring both knees to your chest.

Hold 30 to 60 seconds. Repeat 2 -5 times per day.

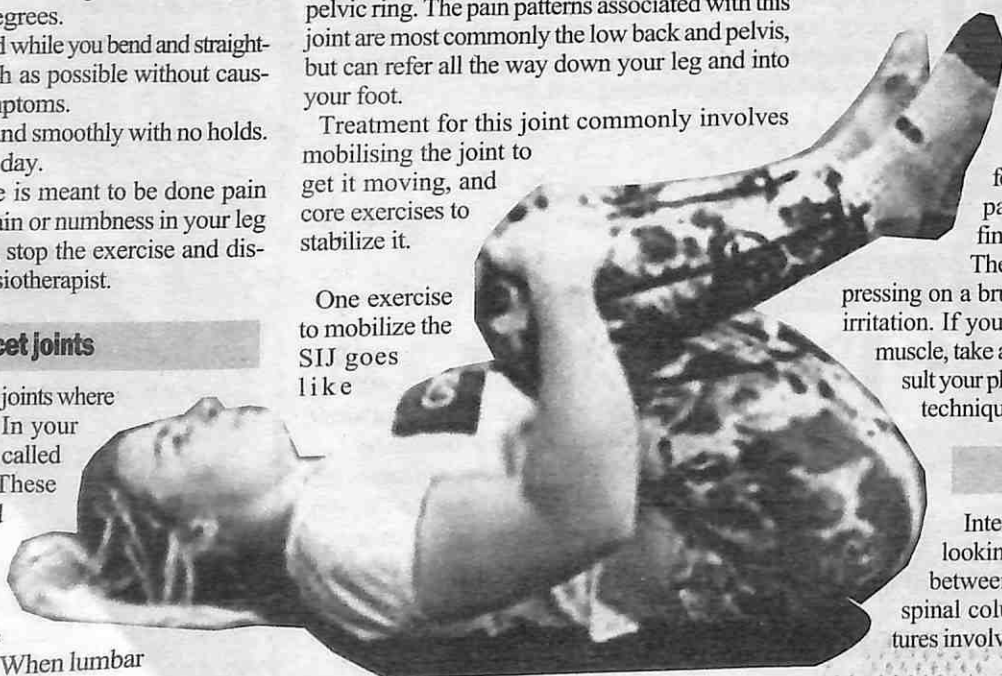
Note: This exercise should always relieve symptoms, never exacerbate them. If you find this exercise is making your pain or symptoms worse you may have a wrong or incomplete diagnosis. Stop the exercise and consult your physiotherapist.

Sacroiliac Joints (SIJ)

The SIJ are a pair of joints that are part of your pelvic ring. The pain patterns associated with this joint are most commonly the low back and pelvis, but can refer all the way down your leg and into your foot.

Treatment for this joint commonly involves mobilising the joint to get it moving, and core exercises to stabilize it.

One exercise to mobilize the SIJ goes like



this:

Place the foot of your affected side on a chair. Rock your hips forward and back into a lunge while keeping your body upright.

Repeat this 15-20 times as a slow, rhythmical movement.

Note: This exercise should be done every hour or two to keep the joint moving. Do not perform this exercise through pain. It should be relieving or neutral, but not irritate your symptoms.

If the SIJ is inflamed it can be very tricky to find the right combination of treatments to settle it down. Once again it is best to consult a physiotherapist.

Muscles

All skeletal muscles in the body can experience pain caused by trigger points. Trigger points are hyper-irritable muscle fibers that have a problem with their neuromuscular system (the neuromuscular system is basically the connections between your brain, nerves, and muscles to create movement).

Trigger points commonly have referral patterns associated with them. As you might have already guessed, the muscles of the low back and hips commonly refer pain into your bum, down the back or side of your leg, and potentially all the way to the foot.

It often surprises people to learn that their leg pain is caused by muscle irritation because they don't realize a muscle injury can be so debilitating. If you have muscle trigger point pain, you will benefit from rolling, Myofascial release and/or trigger point therapy.

Here is how to roll your glute muscles:

Sit on the floor with your knees bent and your affected side on a small sports ball (tennis ball or lacrosse ball will do).

Find a sore spot and stay stationary on it for 15-20 seconds. Move only slightly and repeat.

Do this for 1-5 minutes every day or every second day.

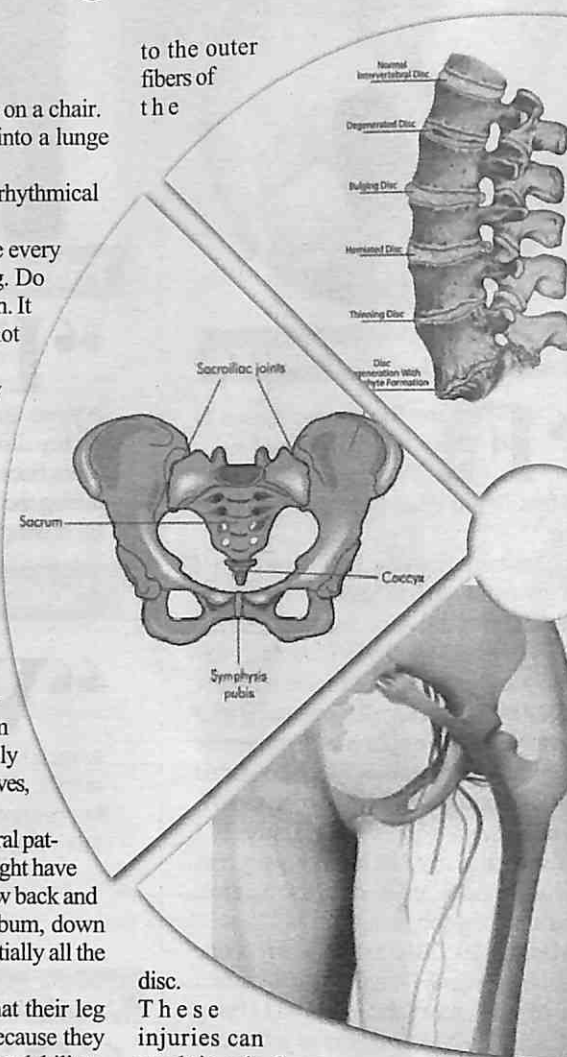
Note: Make sure not to over-roll a trigger point. There is a difference between rolling a trigger point and rolling an inflamed muscle. The former feels more like an intense "good" pain that provides relief when finished.

The latter feels more like you are pressing on a bruise, which can cause further irritation. If you feel you have over-rolled a muscle, take a few days off rolling and consult your physiotherapist to review rolling technique and revisit your diagnosis.

Discs

Intervertebral discs are the donut looking structures that are squished between vertebrae to make up your spinal column. Injuries to these structures involve tearing, bulging or ruptures

to the outer fibers of the



disc.

These injuries can result in pain down one or both legs. Disc injuries also tend to have a directional preference, but in this case the direction is extension.

You can use this preference to treat the disc and alleviate symptoms.

Lie on your stomach, keeping your back relaxed and do a mini push-up with just your arms.

Hold for 1-2 seconds, and repeat 10 times every few hours.

Note: Do not push through pain. This exercise should always be relieving. If you are experiencing pain while doing this exercise, stop and consult your physiotherapist before continuing.

You can't rely on Google for fixing Sciatica pain

It takes quite a bit of knowledge and clinical experience to differentiate between causes of leg pain, and prescribe the correct treatment. The exercises given for one person with leg pain referral might be the exact opposite for another, despite there being a similar pain pattern. Choosing the wrong treatment for leg pain can not only worsen your pain, but prolong the agony. So don't rely on Google to tell you how to resolve your sciatica pain. Consult your local physiotherapist to help you decide which course of treatment is right for you.

NB: Article adapted from Amy Fahlan for Canadian Academy of Manipulative Physiotherapy, 2018.

POETRY CORNER



WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU

The sparkle in your eye,	Makes everything feel fine.
The warmth of your skin,	The compassion in your touch,
Your breath on my neck	The power in your face,
That shakes me within.	The beating of your heart,
The touch of your hand,	That we may never end our
The smell of your hair,	embrace.
The naughtiness in your smile,	The beauty of your kiss,
That strength in your stare.	And that magic in your touch.
Your kiss on my lips,	It is for all these reasons and
Your body near mine,	more
The stroke of your touch,	Why I love you so much...

Cartoon Corner

Baby Blues



Blondie



Hagar the Horrible



SOAPIE WATCH | SOAPIE WATCH | SOAPIE WATCH | SOAPIE WATCH



Monday 31 December

After Jabu and Iris share a heated moment, neither of them are in the mood for the New Year's celebrations.

Tuesday 1 January

Ntwenhle helps charm Dabula's VIP guests on New Year's day – much to Ngwebedla's distress. The Ngwenya family's New Year's Day is spoiled by Jerry's problems with the UTA Squad.

Wednesday 2 January

Dabula and Ntwenhle's charm appears to have paid off, but Ngwebedla is feeling side-lined. Judas works out a way to use Jerry's dispute with the UTA as leverage.

Thursday 3 January

Unsure what happened to Jerry, Judas makes his move against Sibongile and Shadrack.

Friday 4 January

The Zungus arrive in style at the Mkhizes. Cebisile can't help but notice Fezile. Mpiyakhe faces Sibongile's drunk aunt. Qaphela gives the squad guys a taste of their own medicine.

ISIDINGO

Monday 31 December

A stranger at the New Year's eve party seems more dangerous than she looks. Sibisi is taught a painful lesson about flaunting money and Wendy and Hendrik do something forbidden.

Tuesday 1 January

Will Wendy and Hendrik be able to face each other moving forward? Kgothalo and Lefa continue having their fun but will it last, will one of them catch feelings. Sibisi discovers that his money is gone from his account.

Wednesday 2 January

Sechaba's life is turned upside down by a newspaper headline. Lefa proves to be a lot more than Kgothalo can handle.

Thursday 3 January

Phindile gets a call from Gabriel who keeps pushing to oust Sechaba by giving him all the rope he needs to hang himself. Hendrik and Wendy find it extremely difficult being around one another and the unsuspecting Lalage.

Friday 4 January

Sechaba is shocked when his lies catch up with him on national television. Lalage's world crumbles when she learns the truth about her sister and husband.



Monday 31 December

Azwindini learns that his arch enemy is housing his child. Moliehi does a grand gesture of peace for Gugu. Lucky and Thobile say their goodbyes.

Tuesday 1 January

Azwindini makes a shocking announcement. Vhutshilo has harsh words for Susan. Moliehi has turned the tables on Gugu.

Wednesday 2 January

Teboho and Mulalo finally make up. Moliehi badmouths the Zikalalas to Gugu. Mpho shocks the Vhakweho women.

Thursday 3 January

Azwindini is not happy to see Vhutshilo. Gugu declares war against Moliehi. Shaz moves into the Royal house.

Friday 4 January

Susan breaks a fight between Vhutshilo and Mulondo. Sundani takes her interest in Tenda up a notch. Shaz unwittingly causes a stir at the Royal house.



Monday 31 December

Mzi's worst fears turn to reality when the man he hit reappears. Sabelo invites Gadifele to stay - and it's all part of his plan. Jafta and Mkhushulwa finally meet.

Tuesday 1 January

Mzi feels the noose tightening around his neck. Sabelo tries to get Kop to stick to the plan. Jafta realises that his suspicions about his brother were right.

Wednesday 2 January

David is relishing playing Mzi against Suffo. Kop is outraged when he sees Jamaica giving Gadifele money. The plot thickens with Mkhushulwa.

Thursday 3 January

David buys time for Mzi, but Mzi turns to Suffo for help. Kop tries to get Mapula to break the law. Mkhushulwa tries to reconnect with his family.

Friday 4 January

Mzi wonders whether to follow Suffo or David's advice. Fats has to find new staff. Mapula gets her Matric results.

SCANDAL!

Monday 31 December

Boniswa hears something she was not supposed to hear. Stokkies gets his hopes up when he and his new love interest make a pact. Gloria sets the stage to show off to her ex.

Tuesday 1 January

Boniswa's desire for the truth pushes her to cross moral lines. Stokkies maps out his romantic plan. Gloria announces Kgosi's plans for the future to his chagrin.

Wednesday 2 January

A desperate mother forces another woman to become her ally in the quest to prove her daughter is being betrayed. A love struck man assumes that the object of his love feels the same as he does. Gontse wants the truth about all that her family has been up to in her absence.

Thursday 3 January

Boniswa's determination to get to the truth raises questions about her state of mind. Stokkies' big romantic gesture is not received in quite the way he had hoped. The Legae household is on the verge of falling apart with the imminent departure of two members.

Friday 4 January

A mother throws caution to the wind and makes a crushing revelation in spite of two very pointed warnings. Phindile's best intentions are foiled by a young man's biggest gesture yet.

LECHWELIGHT HIGH SCHOOL PROM

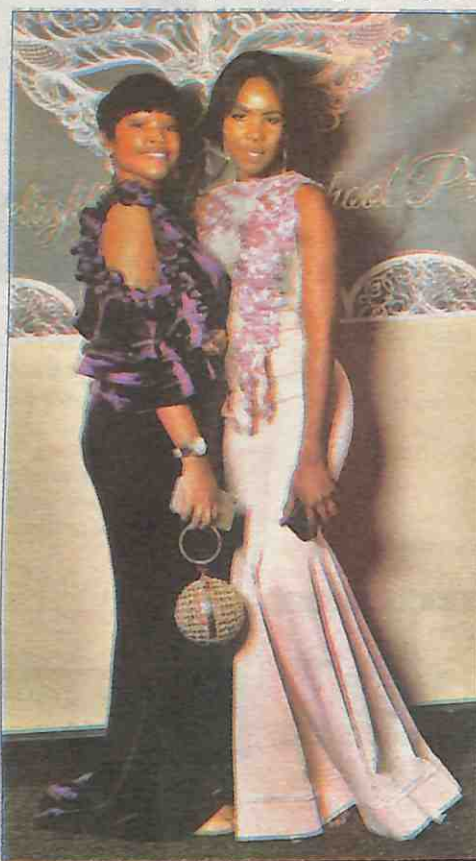
Lechwelight High School pupils ended their high school on a high with a classy prom night held at Happy Valley Hotel.



STUNNING: This couple looked stunning in their outfits. (Courtesy pics)



Some of the pupils posing for a picture during the night.



GIRLS: These two beautiful ladies went for long body-hugging dresses.



BEAUTIFUL: These pupils went for orange and pink dresses.



COOL: This couple looked spectacular on the night.



QUEENS: Looking beautiful in their outfits, these girls went for an orange and orange dress.

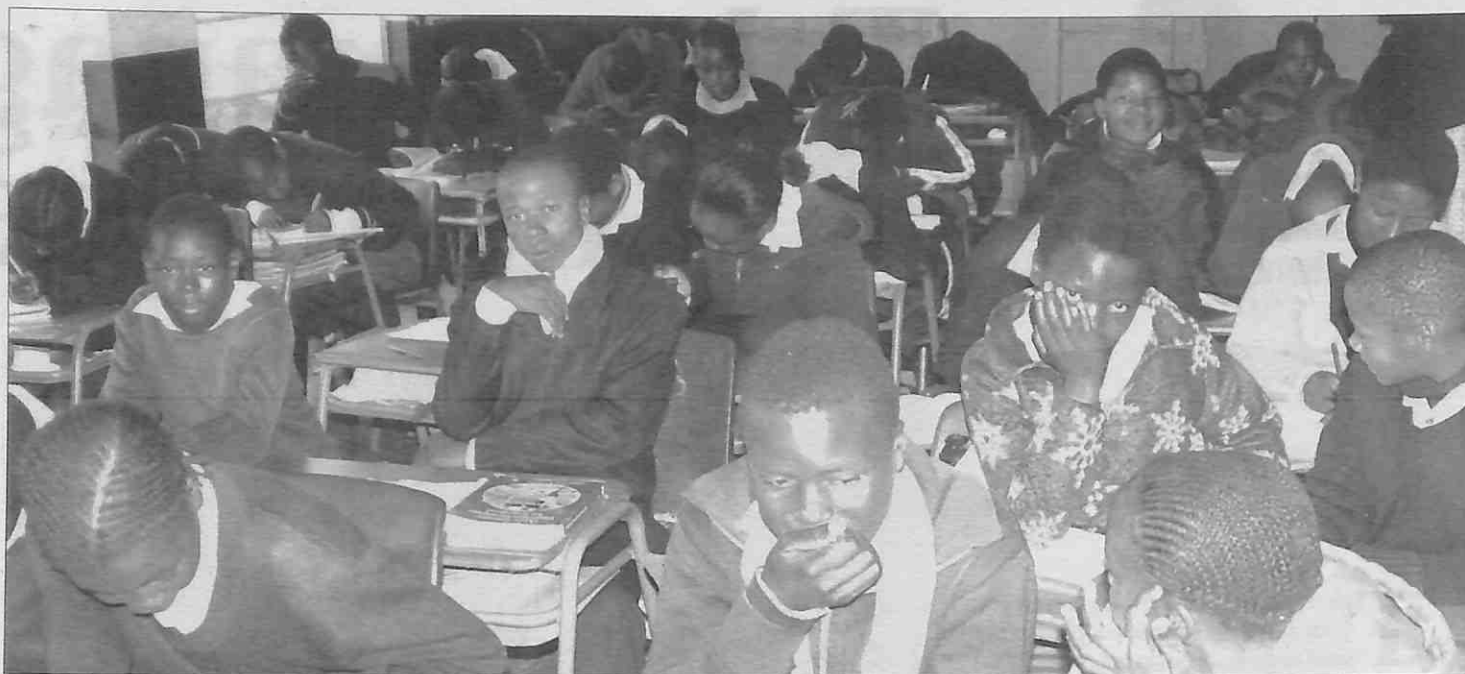


LADIES MAN: This young man poses with the ladies at the prom.

SWANCEFA

With: Thulani Lushaba

Given the growing amount of work that needs to be done in the area of CWD, Zwane has registered a non-governmental organisation that focuses on helping families identify any form of disabilities on children at an early stage and assist with providing care with the hope of correcting it.



Early identification and intervention stories

...Thanks to the training, I responded to my calling

After attending a training on Children With Disabilities (CWD) on invitation by a friend two years ago, Deliswa Zwane decided to dedicate her life to helping CWD.

Previously a pre-school teacher, Zwane joined participants at a workshop, which the Swaziland Network Campaign for Education for All (SWANCEFA) facilitated when she decided to respond to her calling.

"The training motivated me to follow my passion of helping children with disabilities," she said.

SWANCEFA facilitated workshops where stakeholders discussed Early Identification and Intervention (EII) among CWD in the process of producing a strategy.

The organisation is promoting Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations - Access to Education for All. The 2005 Constitution of Eswatini guarantees all citizens equal rights and opportunities. As a result, in 2009 the government introduced the Free Primary Education Programme, which allowed many whose parents could not afford fees to attend school. However, CWD continues to face challenges at school because of a lack of adequate facilities, tools and trained staff to help them get an education.

From the training, Zwane learnt about activities that could help identify children with disabilities and different ways of teaching that caters to special needs.

As a result, she started teaching three CWD and applied the knowledge from the training where she learnt that education is not only about the curriculum but there are special skills and tools that one can use.

"It could mean exposure," she said. "Remember, these children are often hidden, they hardly leave home and they are not exposed to different experiences."

She hires a taxi and takes them for excursions to the park, malls and library. She said they enjoy spending time at the library because the children love books. In the process, Zwane also educates other people on how to interact and treat CWD in all the public spaces where she takes the children.

"At the library, they know that, if I come with the children, there's going to be noise and it's something the staff understands because I did talk to them about the condition of the chil-

dren," she explained. She has collaborated with a musician to teach the children music.

Among the children, she is working with a seven-year-old girl who had crossed eyes and was drooling. She also did not speak.

"Now her eyes have been corrected, she talks, plays with other children and has a sense of reasoning," Zwane proudly disclosed. "The training helped me realise what we mean by early identification and intervention. It means there is a big chance that the disability could be corrected if it is identified early in the child's development."

The girl is ready to start her first grade next year but Zwane is not sure if the school environment would be conducive to cater for her special needs so that she does not fall through the cracks and relapses.

She is also helping a 32-year-old with a mental capacity of a four-year-old to learn to feed herself and use the bathroom on her own.

"I'm facing a challenge with the older one because she is now used to certain habits but I'm trying my best," she said.

She also takes care of a five-year-old CWD with deformed limbs who was living in a shebeen with his grandmother. After studying the situation, Zwane decided to take the child to her place where he spends five days a week.

"I bake scones and sell to get money to buy disposable nappies and other essentials for the child," she said.

Given the growing amount of work that needs to be done in the area of CWD, Zwane has registered a non-governmental organisation that focuses on helping families identify any form of disabilities on children at an early stage and assist with providing care with the hope of correcting it. This NGO, called Sanakwa Inclusion Care Centre, is based at Fairview in Manzini and it will provide alternative education for the children.

"I do believe in the mainstreaming of the children with disabilities just like the seven-year-old I was helping at the pre-school who is going to school next year. However, I believe she needs to follow a certain programme to help her learn better because her needs are differ-

ent from those of the other children," she said.

Zwane added that integration is very important because it helps to educate other children about CWD and that they can associate with them without any problem.

She is already getting support for her work from a caregiver, Nelisiwe Langa, who volunteered to assist her by looking after the five-year-old who is living with his grandmother.

"We also have bedridden children who also need to be assisted. I have come across some children whose mothers are selling fruits and vegetables at the Manzini Bus Rank, they also asked me to assist them."

Through Sanakwa, Zwane is determined to collect data on how many CWD the country has and the kind of needs they have. With this data, she hopes to help organisations like SWANCEFA and the National Disability Unit at the Deputy Prime Minister's Office to come up with interventions informed by the data. The centre will also provide education and caregiving to the children.





ECONOMICS TODAY

WITH: George Choongwa

Talent management in business

Talent can mean everything to you and your business. Some people do not need to go to school in order to be good business owners, but their God given talents have seen them become multi-millionaires just over night.

Nevertheless, before getting further on this subject, let's define what talent is for us to be on the same page. The Webster dictionary defines talent as a "special ability for doing something".

A talent is something that you can easily do well without any challenge. Hence it becomes a special ability since you can do it with minimum effort.

Business and talent

Hence, coming to business with talent, we can say, the two can go hand in hand. One can't be a good business person without talent and vice versa. The main point I am driving to is that most successful business people are those who applied their best in it. Think of the famous chicken franchise KFC, the original owner, that old man who is also the image of the company was a gifted cook and he loved cooking chicken. That's all he knew best in his life. Today, 'Mr. KFC' and his company are winners in the industry.

The perfection aspect

However, it must start within you by defining what exactly the kind of person you are. What abilities do you have that can be transformed in making money through business?

Once these key questions were addressed, then it would become easy for one to achieve the highest level of competitiveness in business.

One of the biggest mistakes people make in business is that they go in with a sole purpose of making money and that's all and as soon as they realised how challenging is, they fall off the beacon of hope.

Talent and passion

There is a difference between having passion for doing business and having the actual talent. The difference is that mostly people who do business out of passion

soon wish to change and try other things because passion was an emotion that would come and go depending on the prevailing situations.

On the other hand, those who have inner abilities operate the business with maximum simplicity.

In this manner, it is important to do any of the two things if you want your business to survive: one either brings in other skilled and talented people to run the business, or if you are talented, then you would just bring in people with passion as to give you the direction about how the business should be operated.

Hiring talented people

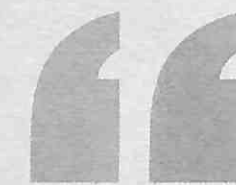
One big mistake most small business owners have made is the issue of selfishness and poor skills for talent

management.

This is because most business people wish to do everything by themselves.

Instead of bringing the right people with the right skills to do the job for the business to become competitive, most business owners prefer 'empty heads' who will be controlled like robots.

These kinds of workers were not necessary



One of the biggest mistakes people make in business is that they go in with a sole purpose of making money and that's all and as soon as they realised how challenging is, they fall off the beacon of hope.

assets of the business, but liabilities because in your absence, such kinds of workforce will not be able to make soundly decisions that will benefit the firm in any way but wait for you to make decisions for them.

However, if you hire talented people, they would easily do the jobs even without thinking from the owner, but will simply execute their respective duties and the business booms.

The costs of hiring less talented workers are that they soon become expensive to the business both in the short and long term basis.

The understanding is that mostly less talented employees do not aim at perfection; they

soon become logical in doing things according to routine and eventually get bored. They usually don't become competitive as compared to the talented ones.

Hence the entire value of the business's creativity would have suffered at a high level. Remember that without creativity and innovation, it will become a challenge due to high industrial or sectorial competitiveness.

Owning talented people

Remember that without people, nothing can move fast in this world. Therefore, in as much as you can hire the right people for the right job, it is also important thinking of owning them completely, they become part of the business family.

Always remember that the sooner one knows whether one is an asset or not, it is relevant to make them so. One thing that you know about being the owner of the business is that you are simply a founder and then; as a manager, will work to the level of delegation and eventually ownership of a grown and well successful firms, but this starts and ends with having the right people in the right positions of your business.

Give them shares so that they can own the affairs of the business by putting in their best. In this context, both the business benefits by having the best team and the individuals benefit by having a source of income and an investment.

You need to know that some people are highly talented but do not have the means of starting a business and vice versa, others are well positioned with financial resources and connections, but flop because they lacked the right skill for doing the job right.

Sadly, I have seen many people holding on to business all by themselves without letting others to board to make the entire venture a more sustainable and successful enterprise that can even stand the test of time over ages and generations. However, due to selfishness, the dreams of successful people mainly die soon after the hit of the first wave of business challenge.

Talent management

Having considered the relevance of talent in a business, it is imperative to stay competitive by managing it in such a way that would bring about what can be termed as organisational competitiveness. Through talent management, the right decisions can be passed at the right time by the right people in the right positions to avoid further damage on the business' productivity.

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Southern African Research Foundation for
Economic Development - SARFED
Nurturing sustainable growth



LIVE SMART, BE ACTIVE, EAT WISELY

Ministry of Agriculture Home Economics Section

For generations, Christmas time is a time when family and friends gather to celebrate the occasion through good and healthy food.

For most families it's a time for feasting without even considering the food choices.

Meal planning is one of the easiest things you can do to set you up for healthy eating. It is important to make all your eating decisions at once, in a calm, focused manner.

Meal planning is one aspect to always consider when planning your Christmas menu because it can help change the way you eat and change your food buying habits. When planning your meal, it is always important to incorporate the food preferences of your guests considering their medical conditions as well. It is important to select foods and beverages with less saturated fat, sodium and added sugars. The saturated fat, sodium and added sugars found in foods and beverages are important for you to think about as you build your healthy eating style this festive season.

Planning the menu

It is wise to plan a nutritious menu which will have foods from the different food groups such as: cereals, roots and tubers, meat, legumes, leafy vegetables, non-leafy vegetables and fruit.

Include fruit such as paw-paw or pineapple which assist in the digestion of protein. Fats and sugars should be used sparingly even on Christmas.

Be realistic when planning your menu bearing in mind your budget, cooking skills (or lack of them), the size of your kitchen and oven. Whatever way you organize yourself to cook a meal, whether its breakfast, lunch and dinner, that is still considered as meal planning.

Before shopping, it is

important to plan your meals properly to avoid unnecessary stress that could have been avoided. For example you may consider purchasing ready-made food e.g a Christmas cake if you do not have an oven to bake your own.

Consider the time you will have for preparation beforehand and how much help you can count on. There is nothing as frustrating as not being able to finish cooking all the dishes you had planned on your menu. Avoid gourmet recipes with expensive ingredients, stick to simple recipes with readily available ingredients.

Involve your family members as well in planning your meals. Advise all family members that this year will be a family affair, everyone will be given a task to perform. This will enable you to relax at the end of the day and enjoy Christmas.

Traditionally, menus can consist of quite a number of different courses. Today, most families settle for a three-course menu which would have a starter, main course and dessert.

Meals that sparkle

Add a sparkle to your meal by designing a menu that will have a variety of colour, flavours, textures and temperature. Choose dishes whose colours will complement each other, avoid choosing foods of the same colour. Plain colored foods can be garnished with fresh herbs, cherry tomatoes, peppers or carrots.

Vary the sizes and shapes of the foods you serve. Leave some foods whole and serve others sliced, cubed, mashed or cut in strips.

Provide a combination of mild and not so mild flavors. Delicious side dishes are the key to a delicious meal. The right side dishes take a boring meal and make it extraordinary.

Use creative table décor and presentation to make basic food look more stylish. Find inspiration for all things festive.

Shopping tips

Once you have decided on your menu, you can make your shopping list and a simple guide to making the list is to categorise the ingredients e.g: dry ingredients, liquid ingredient, fruit and vegetables, butchery, dairy and frozen, bakery and serving and

cleaning material. Under each category, list the foods you intend buying. The categorised list will guide you as you move along the supermarket aisles and you won't miss anything. Keeping a list of family favorites that are budget friendly makes meal planning so much easier.

Take advantage of specials advertised in the radio and newspaper, you get to save a lot through such specials. Shop now, as you see specials of basic ingredients you will definitely need.

Beat the long till queues by shopping early, it will also save you the trouble of finding empty shelves which often happens in most supermarkets a few days before Christmas.

Use a calculator to add up your totals as you shop to avoid unnecessary delays at the till when you exceed your budget and have to return groceries. Maintaining a grocery budget isn't as hard as some people make it out to be.

Where applicable, take your budget in cash so you don't overspend. There is a growing tendency to overspend when swiping your card, its like you "always have credit" in your account.

Stick to your shopping list to avoid purchasing unnecessary items.

Carefully read the food labels to avoid purchasing expired food and also to make an informed choice on the nutritional content of certain foods.

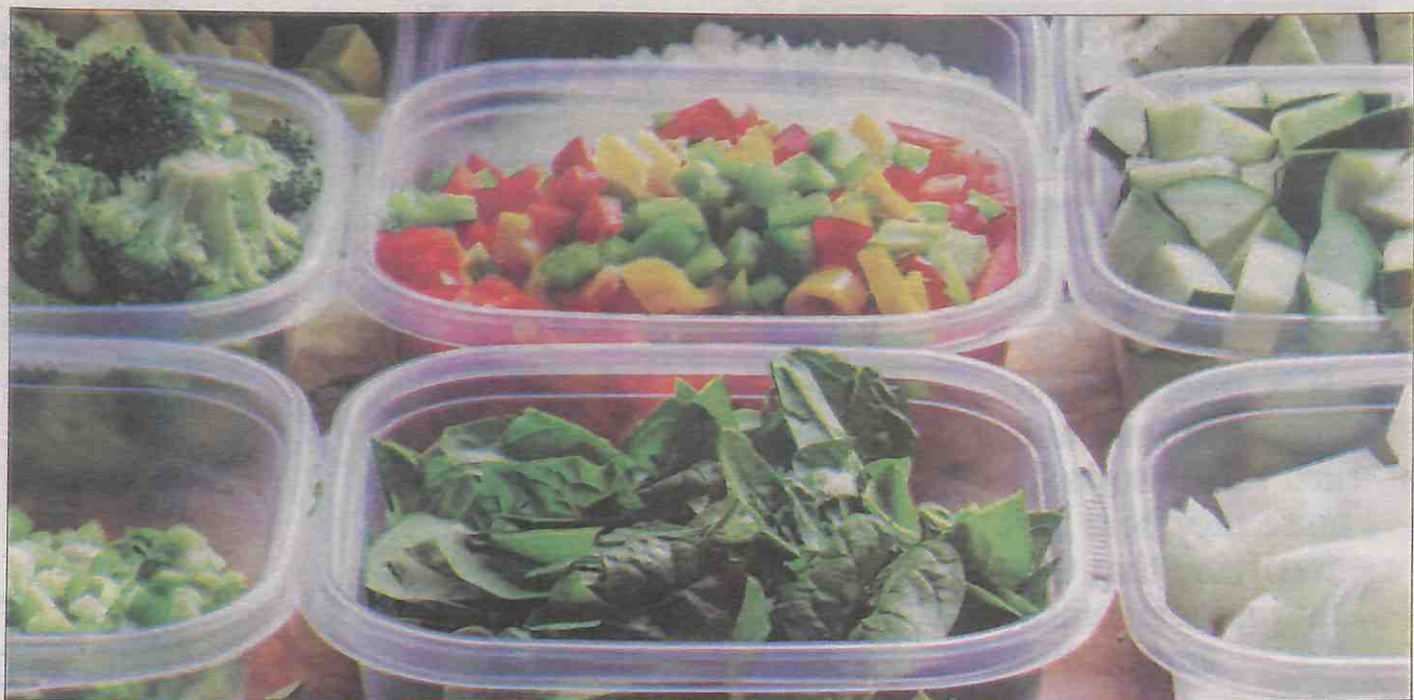
Purchase seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables to get the most of their nutritive value or if you have a backyard garden, enjoy home-grown vegetables.

Eat before you shop, to prevent the impulse of buying un-healthy snacks.

When you get home, store all your food stuffs appropriately.

Frozen and cold food should be stored in the freezer or fridge, dry ingredients in the cupboard or pantry. Use airtight containers to store food, to extend its shelf life.

Proper meal planning can help save you a lot of time and money this festive season, plan wisely.



Meal planning for the festive season



PET OBSERVER

HILLARY HAGUE
SWAZILAND ANIMAL WELFARE
SOCIETY (SAWS)
FOR VACCINATED AND STERILISED
PETS PHONE

MBABANE 2404 3446
MANZINI 2505 6231

It is cruel to expose animals to loud noises such as fireworks. The noise they hear is so terrifying that they may go temporarily crazy.

In 2010 the US Consumer Product Safety Commission reported three fireworks-related deaths and 8 600 injuries treated in hospital emergency departments, of which 40 per cent were children.

Fireworks caused a reported 15 500 fires. Every year people die and are injured and houses burn down just from fireworks.

But that is not the only damage they cause. Dog and cat ears are more sensitive to higher amplitudes of sound. Humans can hear sound frequencies up to 20 000 Hz, dogs to about 45 000 Hz and cats to 64 000 Hz. Cats can hear sounds at about 1.6 octaves above the range of a human and one octave above dogs. You

are most sensitive to sounds of around 3 000 Hz (most human voices are near that pitch), while your cat is most sensitive to sounds of around 8 000 Hertz.

This means cats and dogs hear sounds that we can't hear. *What you hear is not what they hear.*

Dogs hear about four times the distance of a human with normal hearing. Cats' ears are uniquely designed to draw sound into the ear canal, which enables them to hear sounds like a mouse rustling in the brush 30 feet away. Their reaction to loud music and excessive noise is an instinctive act of self-protection.

Fireworks are dangerous



Imagine wearing a hearing aid on full volume in front of a heavy metal band.

It is cruel to expose animals to loud noises such as fireworks. The noise they hear is so terrifying that they may go temporarily crazy. They are often so badly affected that they run to escape the torture and become hopelessly lost. More dogs and cats go missing during fireworks displays than at any other time.

Fireworks are not suitable for residential areas for fire risk, personal injury and for the sake of pets. In any event massed fireworks are much more effective, so take your fireworks to the park and make a big display with

everyone else. Leave pets safe at home in a quiet residential area. They do not want to watch fireworks. All that they are aware of is a terrifying, insanely high-pitched noise which their brains are not able to cope with.

Here are a few pointers to make the fireworks season if not a happy time for your pet, then at least less terrifying -

Secure all fences, gates and doors. Keep your dog on a leash if you have to take it out of the yard.

If the dog or cat is a very bad case, ask your vet for calming medication and follow the prescription precisely.

Don't get cross with your dog or cat for being scared, it will only make him more frightened.

Ignore the noises yourself and don't try to soothe your frightened dog. He may get the impression that there is something to fear and it may even reward him for being scared. He may also think you are the only person who can soothe the fears and then he may panic if you are not around the next time he hears fireworks. When he relaxes, pet him and give him a treat such as a small dog biscuit.

If your pet is so frightened that he cannot relax, put him in a quiet, familiar room, curtains and door closed, with his own bed or at least his blanket to burrow in. If he is to be in the room for more than an hour, give him water and make sure he has a toilet break immediately before and immediately after. Don't forget, he is terrified and may make a mess. It's not his fault.

Merry Christmas to all and please look after your pets.



Eswatini Standards Authority

Importance of HACCP in the food industry



The Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) is the management system in which food safety is addressed through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material production, procurement and handling, to manufacturing, distribution and consumption of the finished product.

HACCP is designed for use in all segments of the food industry from growing, harvesting, processing, manufacturing, distributing, and merchandising to preparing food for consumption. Prerequisite programmes (PRPs) such as current Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) are an essential foundation for the development and implementation of successful HACCP plans.

Food safety systems based on the HACCP principles have been successfully applied in food processing plants, retail food stores, and food service operations.

HACCP has been universally accepted by government agencies, trade associations and the food industry around the world.

HACCP is important because it prioritises and controls potential hazards in food production. By controlling major food risks, such as microbiological, chemical and physical contaminants, the industry can better assure consumers that its products are as safe as good science and technology allows.

For successful implementation of a HACCP plan, management must be strongly committed

to the HACCP concept. A firm commitment to HACCP by top management provides employees with a sense of its importance in the production of safe food.

The format of HACCP plans varies throughout the world. In many cases the plans will be product and process specific. However, some plans may use a unit operations approach. Generic HACCP plans can serve as useful guides in the development of process and product HACCP plans. However, it is essential that the unique conditions within each facility be considered during the development of all components of the HACCP plan.

To develop a HACCP plan, five preliminary tasks need to be accomplished before the application of the HACCP principles to a specific product and process. The five preliminary tasks

are given below.

Developing a HACCP plan

- Assemble HACCP team
- Describe the food and its distribution
- Describe the intended use and consumers of the food
- Develop flow diagram which describes the process
- Verify the flow chart

These guidelines will facilitate the development and implementation of an effective HACCP plan. While the specific application of HACCP to manufacturing facilities is emphasised here, these guidelines should be applied as appropriate to each segment of the food industry under consideration.

Upon completion of these five preliminary tasks, the seven principles of HACCP are then applied.

HACCP is a systematic approach to the identification, evaluation, and control of food safety hazards based on the following principles;

- Principle 1: Conduct a hazard analysis
- Principle 2: Determine the critical control Points (CCPs).
- Principle 3: Establish critical limits
- Principle 4: Establish monitoring procedures.
- Principle 5: Establish corrective actions.
- Principle 6: Establish verification procedures.
- Principle 7: Establish record-keeping and documentation procedures.

The next step is to establish a plan that describes the individuals responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining the HACCP system. The team is then responsible for developing the plan and co-ordinating its implementation. An important aspect in developing these teams is to assure that they have appropriate training. Upon completion of the HACCP plan, operator procedures, forms and procedures for monitoring and corrective action are developed. Implementation of the HACCP system involves the continual application of the monitoring, record-keeping, corrective action procedures and other activities as described in the HACCP plan.

Maintaining an effective HACCP system depends largely on regularly scheduled verification activities.

The HACCP plan should be updated and revised as needed. SWASA has adopted HACCP Management System Standard as a Swaziland National Standard which can be used for consultation.

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Untipping The Societal Scales

WITH: Dumisa Dlamini

Rumour has it in the romantic circles that a girlfriend, fiancé, or wife *bukudvuba inyanga yonkhe* in the event you have forgotten their birthday or did nothing about it. *Uyatibuta nje kutsi watalwa nguweyini lomuntfu* who wants you to be so cognisant of the day she was born.

There is something about girls and their birthdays that apparently appears to trouble the world of boys.

Societal Scales is in doubt if girls do tell other girls about the days they were born, at least in the same measure they sing it to boys.

Rumour has it in the romantic circles that a girlfriend, fiancé, or wife *bukudvuba inyanga yonkhe* in the event you have forgotten their birthday or did nothing about it. *Uyatibuta nje kutsi watalwa nguweyini lomuntfu* who wants you to be so cognisant of the day she was born.

In a Scales of balance everyone breathing has a birthday and such times ought to be remembered in every calendar day, *kute lusuku lakungatalwa bantfu* the globe around.

It kills all understanding then why women birthdays, girlfriends in particular should rock every man's world about the day they came to the world.

It would seem that the girl you meet on the street and talk to in terms of a love relationship will also sing her birthday to you and further bind you do something about it, *ningakavumelani ngalutfo*.

This is quite interesting and all the boys out there are worried about their wallets each time a girlfriend's birthday draws near. You can imagine what the gentleman with two or three girlfriends have to deal with.

These birthdays come with demands which are first disguised as just "letting you know", to later requests and then demands. She will tell you the things she wishes for on the day and later call you to find out how much ground you have covered.

She will want new clothes of course, very expensive, she may demand amongst many things to be taken out to an expensive rendezvous *nebangani bakhe*. All in the expense of the man she is dating *nalamanye amadoda amthandayo*. When all has been listed, presented and demanded, she wants a special cake from the same boyfriend and other suitors for a birthday party.

You are lucky if she gives you a choice on where to order or buy the cake. In their best elements women will direct you where to buy one and the price will very unfriendly to your shallow pockets and since it is your girlfriend's birthday you need to shy away from

worries concerning costs and pay like *ungunina wentfombi yakho*.

I doubt parents undergo such a punishment of paying so exorbitantly for birthdays for people they laboured to bring to the world.

The truth of the matter is that you may not have been the only guy buying this decorated piece of flour. Some of her suitors *netingani takhe letinye*, have bought cakes too. She gets a world of them on the day which she disguises as coming from friends and family.

Boys and men have birthdays too. They may not be singing, announcing and pinning them on the billboards as their wives and girlfriends do.

Celebrate

One would expect a woman who is much particular about such a special day to take a lead and show her man what a birthday treat looks like. They don't. Instead they become very artistic with their cellphones when they remember it is your birthday.

They will Google every nice message they can lay their eyes on that does not necessarily come from their hearts and send same to you.

Your phone will be flooded with artistic and beautiful pictures of cakes, roses, hearts and blown kisses. She will not even avail herself to celebrate the day with you. You will be very naïve to think and hope real cakes, kisses and roses are coming your way; at least not from your girl-

“

Any man who proposes and ultimately dates a woman is looking forward to have her cake someday. *Onke amadoda anjalo*, the deal is not real until the woman subjects herself under him and offers her "Cake" and holding nothing back from him.

friend. They will always give you imaginary cakes, pictured roses and pictorial hearts when they demand the real stuff in celebration of their birthdays.

Demanding

The woman who is married to you is no different from her younger sisters. The teacher husband whose wife LaKhumalo was clamouring for a fortieth birthday and demanding all her friends foes and relatives be invited suffered amnesia when her husband turned Forty-Five. Instead she brew a storm in a form of a quarrel *watsi ufuna kubona kutsi bobani*, in his cell phone *labamfisele* a "happy birthday."

Of course the chap refused and she went smug until the husband's birthday frenzy went cold and normal life was resumed in the house. Even if your wife spends a little on your birthday, be sure she will recover the money somehow from your coffers.

Or *kukhona lagangengako*, she wants to blind you from her mischievous ways. In a proper Scale of

Balance, women will always demand real cakes for their birthdays from the men they love and give imaginary pictures of cake in the event the man's birthday hits the calendar.

Any man who proposes and ultimately dates a woman is looking forward to have her cake someday. *Onke amadoda anjalo*, the deal is not real until the woman subjects herself under him and offers her "Cake" and holding nothing back from him.

He will do anything and everything to woo the woman until she succumbs and surrenders the cake. *Wona lama birthday lankha*, your boyfriend will throw you *indumezulu* to soften you to give him the cake. Or it could be that he is happy with the cake and definitely desiring more of it.

He becomes very thoughtful with gifts and raising money at every moment so the girlfriend's birthday party becomes a success. Societal Scales can bet you a dime, some men sponsor and host birthday parties voluntarily.

They are happy with the real "Cake" getting from the woman or they are binding the woman to commit to giving it out to them. Women are aware of this and they play along so as to inflate the man's ego.

Here is a woman, Lonkhulumo, who had already indicated to the gentleman that she wanted out of the relationship. Her birthday was around the corner. The man prepared the best party he could and spent a fortune thereof.

His ploy was to win her back. She profusely apologised that she was sick and would not dare out of the house *unemkhuhlane*. The "Cake" and his money eluded his ego. It depends who gets the cake after the birthday party, you may be sponsor and not the preferred candidate.

Or when your woman really wants your money for her birthday and realises you are hard to string along, she will send you a cake.

First it will be her pictures in the nude followed by messages of how much she misses you. Whilst the man ponders about the fortune of being "missed" in the middle of the night by this woman who along was indifferent to his advances, a more explicit picture will fill the screen of his big cell phone, Her London Cake" taken by her in the nude.

There shall be a promise that after the birthday party, the chap shall have a party of the imaginary cake just sent to his cell phone. He will be mesmerised and certainly relent to buy a real birthday cake for her girlfriend and many more things.

He may have seen the first and the last of the "London Cake" in his cell phone, yet never to be afforded a chance to see, let alone touch and feel it ever again!



Catch Scales, if you can at
Dumisumlangeni@gmail.com



Be safe this festive season...

This is an exciting time of the year with lots of celebration and fun. However, this is a time for a lot of risky behavior as well. Be sure to practice safer sex during this festive and prevent yourself or your partner from getting infected with HIV.

If you are HIV negative, here are 4 Ways to prevent yourself from getting HIV.



1. Correct and consistent condom use

Finally, correct and consistent condom use is important for anyone engaging in sexual activity with someone whose status is unknown or who may have been at risk of HIV infection, or when one partner is HIV positive. Using condoms consistently and correctly will help further protect you from the risks of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancies.



2. Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC)

Research shows that male circumcision can reduce the sexual transmission of HIV from females to males by 60 percent. This is a medical procedure performed by a trained doctor and nurse. Globally, VMMC is recommended as a key component of HIV prevention for countries. If you are not circumcised, visit Litsembe Lethu Men's Clinic in Mustapha or call us at 1212 to get information on a site that performs VMMC around you. Contact us via our Facebook page Litsembe Letfu.



3. Pre-Exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

PrEP is a way for people who do not have HIV but who are at substantial risk of getting it to prevent HIV infection by taking a pill every day. When you have a partner who is HIV positive and you are negative, you need to consider PrEP as it can work for you to keep the virus from establishing a permanent infection. When taken consistently, PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by up to 92%. PrEP is much less effective if it is not taken consistently.



4. Post-Exposure prophylaxis (PEP)

Post-exposure prophylaxis is a medication taken after one high-risk event to prevent HIV infection. PEP should be used only in emergency situations and must be started within 72 hours after a recent possible exposure to HIV. If you think you've recently been exposed to HIV, talk to your health care provider about PEP right away.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year !!!

We would like to hear from you. Contact us for your feedback or question. Call our toll free number 1212 and follow us on social media as shown:



SPECIAL FEATURE

The disparity continues in almost every single area you can imagine, from electricity access (100 per cent for the Nordics, 20 per cent for Rwanda) to life expectancy (as high as 83 in Sweden compared to 65 in Rwanda).

What do Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Rwanda have in common? Not a lot, at least at first glance. For starters, all four Nordic countries are what the World Bank classes as high income, while Rwanda features on the UN list of 48 least developed nations.

The disparity continues in almost every single area you can imagine, from electricity access (100 per cent for the Nordics, 20 per cent for Rwanda) to life expectancy (as high as 83 in Sweden compared to 65 in Rwanda).

But in spite of all these differences, there's one character trait they all share: they're the five global leaders when it comes to gender equality.

How did Rwanda - one of the poorest countries in the world end up in this position

Even poor nations are closing the gender gap



First, a word on methodology. The Forum's *Global Gender Gap Report* is not a list of the best places in the world to be a woman. Just because Rwanda comes in at five does not mean that women there have it better than their counterparts living in France (17), the UK (20) or the US (45), for example.

What the report instead tries to measure is how far countries have (or have not) gone in closing the gap between men and women across a range of different measures. How much harder is it to be born a girl than a boy in any one of the 144 countries included in the ranking? The advantage of this approach is it sets a level playing field for all countries, regardless of their current development status, and allows us to see how even some of the poorest places in the world are managing to make progress towards gender equality.

What Rwanda gets right

The *Global Gender Gap Report* looks at four areas in particular: health, education, economy and politics. In two of these, Rwanda is head and shoulders above many other more developed

countries.

Let's start with the economy. At 86 per cent, Rwanda has one of the highest rates of female labour force participation in the world. In the US, for example, that figure stands at 56 per cent, and has even been declining since the turn of the millennium. Not only are participation rates high, but the wage gap is narrower – in Rwanda, women earn 88 cents for every dollar men do; in the US, it's just 74 cents.

This high rate of female workforce participation is in part out of necessity, and has its roots in the country's devastating genocide. Over two decades ago, around 800 000 Rwandans were slaughtered in the space of just three months. In the wake of these horrific events, women made up between 60 per cent and 70 per cent of the surviving population. They had little choice but to fill the roles once occupied by men.

A similar trend played out in the US during World War II – as men went off to war, demand for female workers grew significantly, as did wages. But once the war was over, things quickly returned to business as usual. So what did Rwanda do differently? It put in place policies to

help keep women in work.

Unlike in the US, for example, women in Rwanda now benefit from three months of paid maternity leave, making it much easier for them to stay in the labour market once they've started a family. The US is the only developed nation in the world not to mandate paid maternity leave.

These pro-women laws might have something to do with the second area in which Rwanda leads: female political participation. Every year for over a decade, Rwanda has topped the global list of countries with the most female political parliamentarians. That's in large part thanks to quotas, put in place following the genocide, stipulating that women must make up 30 per cent of parliamentarians. Compare this to the US, where it's been predicted it will take 500 years for women to reach fair representation in politics.

Why does all this matter? Because, as we've pointed out in the past, when women work in politics, research suggests they put important but otherwise neglected issues on the table. That can have a significant trickle-down effect, benefiting women from all walks of life.

Still a long way to go

Rwanda is one of only five countries to have closed at least 80 per cent of its gender gap. But that doesn't mean it can rest on its laurels. For one thing, while 80 per cent is quite an achievement, the real celebrations can start when the gap is completely closed – something no country has yet achieved. More importantly, though, the *Global Gender Gap Report* inevitably doesn't capture all the issues that really matter to women and influence their lives. In Rwanda, for example, Human Rights Watch has lamented the slow pace at which genocide-era rapists have been brought to justice. Violence against women is also shockingly high. According to data released by the country's Gender Desk, in 2011, 93 per cent of victims of physical and psychological abuse were women.

Unfortunately, even in the most gender equal countries in the world, there's still much progress to be made.

Focus on SA Scene

ANC GIVES #FIKILEMBALULA TIME OFF TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE

JOHANNESBURG - Former sports minister and ANCHead of Elections Fikile Mbalula has been given time off to seek legal advice against a damning Public Protector report on his controversial R680 000 family trip to Dubai.

This was confirmed by ANC acting Spokesperson Dakota Legoete in a radio interview on Thursday following media questions about Mbalula's lack of prompt reaction to the findings against him. Mbalula has since Wednesday, not been contactable. Legoete said the ANC's elections boss has been given some time to seek legal advice as the facts in Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane's report "are not the way he knows them".

The ANC also said it would only discuss the findings on Mbalula during its national executive committee meeting on January 6 in KwaZulu-Natal before its annual

January 8 birthday celebrations.

While Mbalula has gone silent, Treasury boss Dondo Mogajane has admitted that he was convicted for a speeding offence seven years ago but did not disclose it to the government when he applied for the senior post.

On Thursday, the National Treasury said Mogajane - its director-general - has noted the findings of the public Protector relating to the disclosure of his criminal

record. Treasury said the criminal record arose from a payment of an admission of guilt fine in 2011 after he was caught speeding. Mogajane has vowed not to comment any further until he reads Mkhwebane's findings. In her report, Mkhwebane revealed that Mogajane initially failed to make such a disclosure when he applied for the position of deputy director-general in 2015.

She said he also acted dishonestly in his Z83 application form for the position by failing to disclose that he had a criminal record.

Mkhwebane also said former finance minister Malusi Gigaba acted improperly when he appointed Mogajane to the position of DG despite being aware that Mogajane failed to declare his criminal record. The public protector has asked President Cyril Ramaphosa to take disciplinary action against Mogajane within 30 days of her finding. **IOL**



MUST SORT HIMSELF OUT: Former sports minister and ANC Head of Elections Fikile Mbalula.

'Stand-off in Crime Intelligence - factionalism, racism'

PRETORIA - The Head of the Police's Crime Intelligence division, Lieutenant General Peter Jacobs, is facing a stand-off within his unit, which is resulting in the freezing of operations as informer rewards are not being paid, rent payments for safe houses are being withheld and funds for operations are not being released.

A six-page grievance against Jacobs has been submitted to police management, authored by the suspended chief financial officer of Crime Intelligence, Brigadier Tiyani Hlungwani. At the centre of the standoff is the criminal case involving Hlungwani, former Crime Intelligence head Major General Pat Mokushane and head of technical support, Brigadier Leonora Bamuza-Phetlhe.

In June this year, the three appeared in the Specialised Commercial Crimes Court in Pretoria on charges of corruption, fraud and money laundering. They were each released on bail of R5 000 and are due back in court next year.

It is alleged that Bamuza-Phetlhe was paid R50 000 from the secret service account for catering at a meeting which was approved by Mokushane. This was done after Hlungwani allegedly approached a colonel in the secret service to make payment into Bamuza-Phetlhe's personal bank account. However, it's alleged that the actual payment made to a company for catering services was R5 000 and that the accused wanted the money for their own benefit.

Recently, while out on bail on the criminal charges, Phetlhe and Hlungwani were cleared in an internal disciplinary hearing. **News 24**

Mayor vows 'to deal decisively' with those calling her corrupt

DURBAN - eThekweni Mayor Zandile Gumede has ramped up her attempts to stop "defamatory" statements being made about her alleged involvement in corruption.

In a press statement on Thursday, Gumede said she took "serious exception to ongoing campaigns mounted in various media houses" aimed at creating an impression that she was a "corrupt leader" and was influencing the awarding of tenders.

"To this end, the mayor has vowed to pursue every legal means to deal decisively with those who are peddling lies that border on defaming her character," said the statement.

Gumede is also the Chairperson of the African National Congress (ANC) eThekweni region, the biggest in the country.

In her statement, Gumede said she had been successful

in interdicting multi-millionaire Durban businessman Calvin Mathibeli.

The interdict was granted at the Durban High Court on 26 November, although Gumede did not mention the date in her statement.

In a story carried in the Sunday Tribune in July, Mathibeli alleged that he had to pay Gumede R100,000 to keep his share of a multi-million rand contract that he was jointly awarded in 2015. Mathibeli alleged that when he would not make another donation, his contract was cancelled.

"The Durban High Court Judge [Jerome] Mnguni granted an interdict, ordering and restraining Calvin Mathibeli from, in any manner, making any defamatory statements related to Mayor Zandile Gumede either personally or through the agency of any third party," said the statement.

Gumede said she had no direct involvement in "advertising, adjudication, awarding and cancellation of tenders".

"I have noticed that some newspapers are prejudging issues even before they are given factual responses. I understand that it is not the duty of journalists to be my praise singers. Therefore, I accept constructive criticism that is backed up by facts," said Gumede.

"However, I will never hesitate to take legal action against information peddlers who seem to be on a campaign aimed at tarnishing my good name." **-IOL**



VOWS: Durban Mayor Zandile Gumede.

ANC Western Cape list conference nullified

CAPE TOWN - Plagued by allegations of corruption, the ANC Western Cape's list conference to nominate MPs has been nullified by the party's top brass and a rerun of the conference ordered by ANC Secretary General Ace Magashule.

ANC Provincial Chairperson Khaya Magaxa said the rerun conference would be held on December 27.

"What happened was that some candidates were advantaged over others, while other candidates did not see their names on the lists," Magaxa said.

He blamed the elections agency contracted to do the work for the ANC. "This agency has never worked for the ANC and from the beginning, there were problems. I am not saying that there were no problems on the ANC's side, but most of our problems on the day were of a technical nature.

"Of course there were factions and groups that wanted certain people to be elected, but I don't think that equates to corruption," Magaxa said. There are problems too at a national level, with the ANC's national list conference, due last weekend, postponed to January. In several provinces there have been reports of infighting, voter manipulation, and intolerance.

SA National Civic Organisation provincial Chairperson Thando

Dedezane said in a letter to the ANC provincial executive committee, that the provincial list committee (PLC) members had been shown only a draft design of the ballot paper.

"We never had an opportunity to see the final ballot paper and before voting no list containing the names of candidates who were supposed to appear on the ballot was presented to the conference.

"There were many complications and challenges experienced after the adoption of credentials, which led to a more than four-hour delay.

Printing of ballot papers only started after the adoption of credentials and they were done at the ANC provincial office," said Dedezane.

"The PLC Chairperson Noluthando Makasi then con-

sulted someone over the phone and came with the decision that was very weird and controversial in terms of ANC values, that both factions must be given observer status during counting." The observer status was then given on the bases of factions. The elections agency then took over and counting started." Later it was discovered that one of the PEC members, who had left before voting, was shown as a person who had voted, Dedezane said. **IOL**

Union wants paramedics to be armed

DURBAN - A union representing emergency medical service providers has stirred controversy by calling for paramedics to carry firearms on duty.

South African Emergency Personnel Union (SAEPU) president Mpho Mpogeng said the union made the decision for emergency care practitioners to carry firearms when on duty during the festive season because their members have often been attacked and robbed while responding to emergencies.

"We decided to do something about it. We've tried all the stakeholders, and they are not interested," Mpogeng said. He said discussions had been taking place for three years after they said they would no longer go out to emergencies at night.

"Enough is enough. If the behaviour in the community does not change, then the carrying of firearms must continue after the festive sea-

son," he said.

Sharaj Ambulance and Rescue Services chief executive Rajesh Mahabeer said paramedics had become soft targets. On November 14, members of their staff were robbed of their cellphones, wallets and money in Ladysmith.

"We would like to carry guns, especially when we are going into the rural areas at 3am. We want to use them as a defence mechanism," Mahabeer said. He said many people died this year because paramedics did not want to go to certain incidents without the police in attendance. He said they had stopped going out to cases involving violence. "Criminals know we don't carry weapons and there are not enough police escorts, so sometimes, we have to wait at least two hours for the police to arrive," he said. KwaZulu Private Ambulance spokesperson Colin Watson said the carrying of firearms by paramedics was a controversial topic. **IOL**



Journalist arrested, 'violently beaten' in DR Congo

KINSHASA - A journalist was arrested and 'violently beaten' in Democratic Republic of Congo on Thursday for covering a meeting of opposition presidential hopeful Martin Fayulu, a media rights group said.

Rodrigue Ndakazieka, described as a 'journalist-technician' with a Kwilu province radio station, in the west of the country, was picked up by police as he left his editorial office on Wednesday, according to the Journalist in Danger (JED) group.

Ndakazieka was 'forced into a vehicle' and driven to the home of a local deputy from the majority party 'where he was tied up and tortured for many hours before being transferred to Kinshasa in the evening,' said the JED, which is a partner of the Reporters Without Borders group. A Kinshasa police spokesman, contacted by AFP, declined to comment but said a response would be given yesterday.

DR Congo's troubled journey to elect a successor to President Joseph Kabila hit a fresh snag Thursday, three days before voting was due, as electoral supervisors ordered a week-long postponement after a fire destroyed polling equipment. The delay marks the latest twist in a two-year-old saga that has plunged the central African country into a political crisis and sparked deadly clashes. *Times live*



PARTIAL RESULTS

RAJOELINA LEADS IN MADAGASCAR ELECTION

ANTANANARIVO - Former president Andry Rajoelina yesterday took an early lead in Madagascar's election count with a clear advantage over his rival Marc Ravalomanana, according to partial official results.

With about one-third of polling stations counted, Rajoelina had 54.85% of the vote and Ravalomanana had 45.15% after the head-to-head election on Wednesday.

Both camps have claimed victory and alleged fraud, raising fears of a disputed result and the risk of a new political crisis in the Indian Ocean island which has a history of coups and unrest. Rajoelina and Ravalomanana, both former presidents and long-time rivals, are locked in a duel for power after they came a close first and second in the preliminary election in November.

With a turnout about 47%, Rajoelina's early lead was still seen as inconclusive.

"I have noticed massive fraud. There are electoral cards that are fake,"



ON TOP SO FAR: Former president Andry Rajoelina.

Ravalomanana told AFP on Thursday at his campaign headquarters in the capital Antananarivo.

"If the results follow the rules and take into account our complaints then yes, I agree (with the results), but if they don't follow the democratic process, no."

Rajoelina's upbeat campaign staff responded with their own accusations, saying they had detected 'fraud' and 'manipulation'.

"We took a big step towards victory, the ballot boxes spoke once and for all," former minister Hajo Andrianainarivelo told AFP. "If they say they have found fraud, I urge them to use the remedies provided by law."

The two candidates were both banned from running in the 2013 election as part of an agreement to end recurring crises that have rocked Madagascar since independence from France in 1960.

Ravalomanana, 69, was first elected president in 2002 but was forced to resign seven years later by violent demonstrations supported by Rajoelina, the then mayor of the capital Antananarivo.

Rajoelina, now 44, was installed by the army and ruled until 2014.

Complete results are due by January 9.

News24

Gunmen storm wedding, kill 14

SOUTHERN KADUNA - Authorities have urged the public to provide security agencies with any information they have on the killings.

Nigerian troops have been deployed after 14 people were shot dead and another 21 seriously injured when gunmen stormed a wedding in Southern Kaduna state and opened fire, reported the Guardian on Tuesday.

Authorities said the troops would secure the area and allow investigators to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators after last Sunday's carnage, which has been described as a criminal act. The public has also been urged to provide security agencies with any information they have on the killings.

This is just the latest incident in the country as continued political, inter-communal, and militant violence continues to beset Nigeria. Fighting between pastoral farmers and nomadic tribesman has left thousands dead over the years. Security forces are also battling Boko Haram extremists in the north-east Borno State as the militants continue to carry out deadly attacks on civilians and the police and military.

The bloody Islamist uprising, which began in 2009 and has spread to neighbouring Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, has killed at least 27 000 people and left millions dependent on aid for survival. But as the country struggles with battles on numerous fronts, it has been accused by Amnesty International of gross human rights abuses. Abuja has lashed out in response, with President Muhammadu Buhari expressing concern over the international rights group's activities. *The Citizen*

Ebola vaccine stockpile needs to grow

BRAZZAVILLE - Doubts are growing about whether the world's emergency stockpile of 300 000 Ebola vaccine doses is enough to control future epidemics as the deadly disease moves out of rural forest areas and into urban mega-cities.

Outbreak response experts at the World Health Organisation (WHO) and at the vaccines alliance GAVI are already talking to the leading Ebola vaccine manufacturer, Merck, to reassess just how much larger global stocks need to be.

"We're actively engaged with the World Health Organisation and with groups like GAVI, the US government and others to try to understand what will be an appropriate sized stockpile in the future," Merck's head of vaccines clinical

research, Beth-Ann Collier, said in a telephone interview.

Spreading

Supply of the Merck shot, which is currently being used to fight a large and spreading outbreak of Ebola in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, is not a problem right now, according to the WHO's deputy director-general of emergency preparedness and response, Peter Salama.

But the nature of Ebola outbreaks is changing, he told Reuters. As the virus finds its way out of rural villages into populous urban settings, plans for how to contain it in future must change too.

News24

Eight killed in Sudan bread price protests

KHARTOUM - Eight demonstrators were killed in eastern Sudan on Thursday, officials said, during clashes with riot police on the second day of protests over the rising price of bread.

A government decision to raise the price of bread this week from one Sudanese pound to three (from about two to six US\$ cents) sparked protests across the country on Wednesday.

The protests spread on Thursday to the Sudanese capital Khartoum, where riot police fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators near the presidential palace, witnesses said.

"Six were killed and a number of people were wounded" in the eastern city of Al-Qadaf, Al-Tayeb al-Amine Tah told local broadcaster Sudania 24, without providing further details.

The toll included a university student whose death



A bonfire is lit along the street during protests against price increases in Atbara, Nile River state in north-eastern Sudan on Thursday.

during demonstrations in Al-Qadaf had been reported earlier in the day. *News24*

BRIEFS

Travellers urged to be cautious

JOHANNESBURG - The National Institute for Communicable Diseases is urging travellers to take proper precautions, to avoid contracting cholera. Ongoing cholera outbreaks have been reported in Zimbabwe, Angola, Tanzania, Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Since the Zimbabwe outbreak, there have been four laboratory-confirmed cases of cholera in South Africa.

ENCA

Police kill 8 Islamists

CAIRO - Egyptian police have killed eight suspected Islamist militants in shootouts in and around Cairo, the interior ministry said on Thursday. It said those killed belonged to the Hasm group, believed to be a breakaway faction of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, and added that four others were arrested in a raid on hideout in the capital. The operations in Cairo and the capital's Giza district were based on intelligence of planned attacks during celebrations for Coptic Christmas. *News24*

DRC delays presidential vote

KINSHASA - Democratic Republic of Congo's electoral commission on Thursday delayed the country's long-awaited presidential election until December 30, citing a recent fire that destroyed 80% of the voting machines in the capital. The vote had been scheduled for tomorrow. This is the latest of several delays in the election originally scheduled for late 2016, amid opposition concerns that President Joseph Kabila had been looking for ways to stay in power. *AFP*

'Mnangagwa's govt not genuine

HARARE - Zimbabwe's transition to a democratic and economic recovery is shadowy due to a lack of political will to fight corruption, a local political think tank has said. In its December 2018 report, titled 'Zimbabwe Transition in a Prisoner's Dilemma: Perceptions on Corruption Reduction and Service Delivery in the Mnangagwa Dispensation', the Zimbabwe Democracy Institute (ZDI) said political corruption remained a stumbling block in government's quest to fight graft. *IOI*

Girl dies after secret society ceremony

SIERRA LEONE - A 10-year-old girl in Sierra Leone has died after undergoing female genital mutilation (FGM) leading to outrage and calls for the practice to be banned in the west African country.

The girl was cut during an initiation at a secret women's society in northern Sierra Leone, Ghana Web reported. Another 66 girls were also reported to have been circumcised during the same ceremony. *IOI*

World News

Elon Musk unveils new underground tunnel to beat traffic

CALIFORNIA - Tesla founder Elon Musk has given the world a sneak peak of a new underground tunnel designed to beat traffic congestion.

He launched a prototype of the mile-long (1.8km) tunnel that will allow cars to move at up to 241km an hour. Using the Tesla Model X car to test out the tunnel, the vehicle is lowered into the tunnel with an elevator.

The tunnel - built in Hawthorne, California, by Musk's Boring Company - works only with modified autonomous cars such as the Tesla Model X.

The tunnel has green and red lights that indicate whether the car should slow down or move faster. The cars have extra alignment wheels that allow it to move swiftly through the narrow tunnel. According to the Washington Post, the project cost US\$40m (about R573m). Musk plans to charge commuters about a dollar for a shared ride and US\$4 for a private car.

After the tunnel ride, the car is elevated about 12m back to the ground.

Times live

Drone intrusion brings London's Gatwick Airport to standstill

LONDON - British police were on Thursday frantically hunting for the operators of drones flown over London's Gatwick airport, which forced the suspension of all flights, causing misery for tens of thousands of passengers just days before Christmas.

The airport's authorities said its sole runway would stay shut until at least 4:00 pm due to 'drone sightings' that began on Wednesday evening.

"We have had within the last hour another drone sighting," Gatwick's Chief Operating Officer Chris Woodroffe said midday Thursday.

"It was on the airport, seen by the police, corroborated, and so having seen that drone that close to the runway it was unsafe to reopen," he told BBC News.

Woodroffe earlier said it would be dangerous to shoot at the drone due to the danger of stray bullets.

Flights into Gatwick, around 30 miles (50 kilometres) south of the British capital, were diverted to other airports while passengers waiting to take off faced gruelling delays as airlines cancelled flights.

Some 10 000 passengers were affected on Wednesday night, and a further 110 000 were due to either take off or land at the airport on 760 flights on Thursday. *AP*

US DEFENCE SECRETARY JIM MATTIS RESIGNS

WASHINGTON - US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis resigned on Thursday after clashing with President

Donald Trump over the abrupt withdrawal of US troops from Syria and after two years of deep disagreements over America's role in the world.

Mattis, perhaps the most respected foreign policy official in Trump's administration, will leave by the end of February after two tumultuous years struggling to soften and moderate the president's hardline and sometimes sharply changing policies. He told Trump in a letter that he was leaving because "you have a right to have a Secretary of Defence whose views are better aligned with yours."

Mattis went to the White House with his resignation letter in hand to meet with the president and spoke to Trump for about 45 minutes, according to

a senior US official familiar with the incident but speaking on conditions of anonymity to discuss a private meeting.

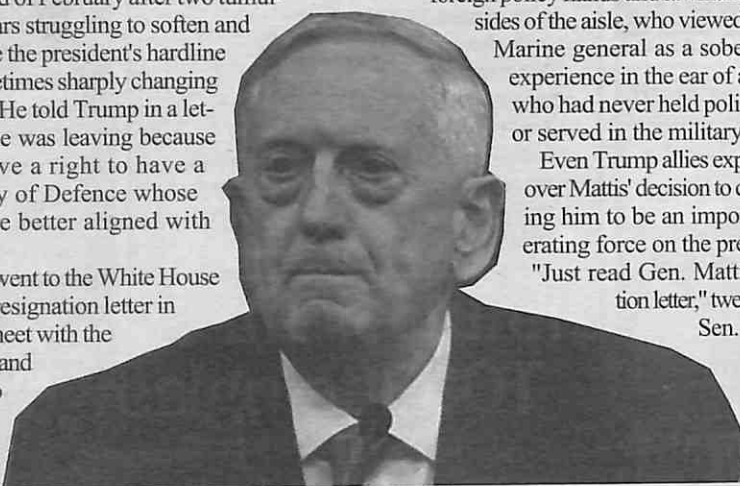
There was no confrontation between the two men, the official said, and there was no one issue that caused the resignation. However, the official said, Syria likely was the last straw for Mattis.

His departure was immediately lamented by foreign policy hands and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, who viewed the retired

Marine general as a sober voice of experience in the ear of a president who had never held political office or served in the military.

Even Trump allies expressed fear over Mattis' decision to quit, believing him to be an important moderating force on the president.

"Just read Gen. Mattis resignation letter," tweeted Florida Sen. *AP*



RESIGNS: US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis.

Decision made for troop withdrawal from Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump has decided to pull a significant number of troops from Afghanistan, a US official told AFP on Thursday, with some reports suggesting as many as 50 percent could leave the war-torn country.

The surprise move stunned and dismayed foreign diplomats and officials in Kabul, who are involved in an intensifying push to end the 17-year conflict.

"If you're the Taliban, Christmas has come early," a senior foreign official in the Afghan capital told AFP on the condition of anonymity.

"Would you be thinking of a ceasefire if your main opponent has just withdrawn half their troops?" It is not clear if US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad or the Afghan government had been aware of Trump's plans. A spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani said "if there is any reaction by the Afghan government, we will share it later".

The decision apparently came after Khalilzad met with the Taliban in Abu Dhabi this week, part of a flurry of diplomatic efforts to bring the



DECIDED: US President Donald Trump.

Taliban to the negotiating table with the Afghan government.

They are believed to have discussed issues including the group's longstanding demand for a pullout of foreign troops and a ceasefire.

"That decision has been made. There will be a significant withdrawal," the American official told AFP on condition of anonymity. *AP*



FLUTTERING: Flags of Hezbollah, Lebanon and Palestine are seen fluttering near the border with Israel in the village of Khiam, Lebanon on December 4.

Israel begins destroying Hezbollah tunnels - army

KHIAM - The Israeli army on Thursday night began destroying cross-border tunnels dug by Hezbollah, it said, more than two weeks after announcing their discovery on the frontier with Lebanon.

Since launching an operation to cut off the tunnels on December 4, the military says it has located four underground passageways infiltrating Israeli territory.

"The neutralisation and destruction phase of the cross-border attack tunnels... has begun," the Israeli army said in a statement.

The army also issued a warning to Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shiite militant group with which Israel fought a devastating war in 2006.

"The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) continues to operate... with reinforced troops, and is prepared with a wide variety of enhanced capabilities for any developments, should they occur," the army said. It later tweeted that the "explosions" Israeli families were hearing in the north of the country were the sound of its "soldiers destroying Hezbollah attack tunnels". Israel alleges Hezbollah had planned to use the tunnels to kidnap or kill its civilians or soldiers, and to seize a slice of Israeli territory in the event of any hostilities. The army said it would "continue to operate to neutralise Hezbollah's military infrastructure and to thwart" any threats from the Lebanese group against Israel and its civilians. *-Times live*

'Mitigating measures' allow Gatwick to reopen even

LONDON - Police and the army have put in place "mitigating measures" to allow Gatwick Airport to reopen and prevent drones from interfering with operations, its chief operating officer said yesterday.

Chris Woodroffe said police had not found those responsible yet and refused to say whether the new measures included a plan to shoot any drones out of the sky. He added that just under 700 departures were planned for Friday. Britain on Thursday called in the military and police snipers to hunt down the operators of drones that repeatedly flew near to Britain's second-largest airport, causing 36 hours of travel chaos after all flights were grounded. "We have been working overnight with the police, with a number of government agencies and with the military to put in place additional mitigating measures. *AP*

BRIEFS

Sydney pummelled by hail storms

SYDNEY - Australia's largest city was picking up the pieces yesterday after a series of lightning and hailstorms pummelled cars with ice blocks the size of tennis balls.

The authorities issued a severe storm warning, but that was not enough to prevent damage that is already running into the tens of millions of dollars.

IOL

Don't fall in love on Facebook

AMRITSAR - An Indian man released this week after being jailed for six years in Pakistan issued advice yesterday not to follow his example and fall in love on Facebook. Hamid Nehal Ansari illegally entered Pakistan from Afghanistan in 2012 to meet a woman he had fallen for on the social media network. But Pakistani police were waiting for him at the woman's house and arrested him on the spot. *Times Live*

Bishops face pressure amid

CHICAGO - US bishops preparing for a meeting to address the sexual abuse scandal roiling the Catholic Church suddenly find themselves in a high-stakes credibility test following a damning report accusing them of underplaying the crisis. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan on Wednesday issued an explosive report accusing the states Catholic dioceses *News24*

Reporter admits fabricating coverage

BERLIN - When one of Germany's most trusted publications, Der Spiegel, pushed out a news alert on Wednesday, the subject was its own failing: The magazine revealed that one of its star reporters, Claas Relotius, likely embellished his coverage and allegedly fabricated entire events for years before resigning. He is a winner of countless international journalism awards, including CNN's 'Journalist of the Year.' *IOL*

Death toll in explosion increases to 13

KARVINA - The death toll in a methane explosion that hit a coal mine in northeast Czech Republic increased to 13, a mining company said on Friday. OKD mining company spokesman Ivo Celechovsky said that 11 of the dead were Polish nationals while two were Czechs. Another 10 miners were injured in the explosion on Thursday afternoon at the CSA mine near the town of Karvina. *News24*

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15. DEATHS

Gogo Jane Dzelwe Dlamini



Funeral: 22/12/2018
Vigil: 21/12/2018
Place: eLukhatseni

Kwatiswa tihlobo, bangani benhlango yaka ST Annes kutsi Gogo Jane Dzelwe Dlamini uLaMavimbela akasekho emhlabeni. Kunenkonzono yekumkhumbula eSontfweni Ignetias eSphofaneni Friday 21 December nga2:30pm. Ufihlwa ngeMgcibelo ekuseni nga5:00am emvakwemlindzelo ekhaya kakhe eLukhatseni. Simemetelo sikhishwa nguRose Ngcebase egameni lemndeni.

Daisy Sakhenjani Tsabedze



Funeral: 23/12/2018
Vigil: 22/12/2018
Place: eMafutseni

Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni ta Daisy Sakhenjani Tsabedze gogo Mlota kutsi akasekho emhlabeni, kwatiswa be khakhakhe ka Tsabedze ne baka Mlota eMdumezulu nebe khabonina kaNkhosi eGundwini, kwatiswa libandla lase Thandweni litochuba umsebenzi, utofihlwa 23/12/2018 ekhakhakhe eNgogola eMafutseni emvakwemlindzelo neMgcibelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa nguMndeni.

Mauren Sibongile Sihlongonyane



Funeral: 23/12/2018
Vigil: 22/12/2018
Place: kuNgwabi

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani baMauren Sibongile Sihlongonyane lobekendze kaSacolo kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa baka Kubo bakaSihlongonyane eSphocosini, bekhbonina eMagubheleni nebekhakhakhe eNhlango, kuNgwabi kutsi utawubekwa endlini yakhe yekugcina kuNgwabi - eNhlango ngeLisontfo mhlaka 23 Ingongoni 2018. Umlindzelo ungeMgcibelo khona ekhakhakhe eNhlango. Simemetelo sikhishwa nguMyeni wakhe Mduduzi Sacolo.

Linah Bekwaphi Dlamini nee Mabuza



Funeral: 23/12/2018
Vigil: 22/12/2018
Place: Ngwane Park

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani baLinah Bekwaphi Dlamini nee Mabuza kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ekhaya kakhe eMankayane kaVelezizweni 23/12/2018. Emvakwemlindzelo ngeMgcibelo 22/12/2018. Kwatiswa bekhaya kubo baka Mabuza eNkangala nebakankhosi ekhbonina. Simemetelo sikhishwa batfwabakhe egameni lemndeni.

Gaspar Americo



Funeral: 22/12/2018
Short Service: 22/12/2018
Place: Ngwane Park

Relatives and friends of Gaspar Americo are notified of his demise. He will be laid to rest on 22/12/2018 at Ngwane Park Cemetery. The will be a short service at Dups Chapel at 9:00am on Saturday 22/12/2018. Announcement by family

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JOB 13:15

Though He slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.

The LORD is close to the broken-hearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

it's almost unbearable when so much hope turns in deep sorrow wishing you much strength



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TIGER STILL THE MAN TO BEAT

ATLANTA – The most memorable scene in golf in 2018 was not the conclusion to a major championship, but rather the sight of a frenzied gallery swarming over the final fairway as a familiar figure stood on the brink of a win some doubted would ever come.

Tiger Woods had gone more than five years without a victory when he rolled into Atlanta for the Tour Championship, the September season-end on the PGA Tour that often ranks as one of the most boring events on the schedule.

Not this time, though, thanks to the game's transcendent figure. As the saying goes, Tiger doesn't just move the needle, he is the needle.

It had already been a successful year for 14-times major winner Woods, simply by being able to compete without pain again after a successful April 2017 spinal fusion that rectified a potentially career-ending back injury.

Woods had already threatened to win



STILL THE MAN: Tiger Woods.

several times, including at the final two majors, dispensing any doubts as to whether he could be competitive again after being stricken with back pain from 2014 to 2017.

It seemed every fan at East Lake was willing him to victory, and when he hit his approach to the final green it was all

but a done deal.

As thousands of fans flooded the fairway in a scene reminiscent of Open Championships of yesteryear, Woods almost disappeared into the sea of humanity, only a half dozen security officers keeping him from being mobbed.

IOL

Tokyo 2020 unveils new budget, spending unchanged at US\$12bn

TOKYO – Tokyo 2020 organisers unveiled the latest version of the Games budget on Friday, keeping their estimate unchanged as they face intense pressure to keep costs down.

The latest budget for the Games stands at 1.35 trillion yen (US\$12.1 billion), unchanged in Yen terms from the version announced this time last year.

Organisers have pledged the bill will not increase amid concerns that ballooning costs are putting off potential Olympic host cities.

"As many aspects of the Games have become more detailed, Tokyo 2020 has seen increases in some areas but has successfully reduced expenditures in other areas," Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshio Muto said in a statement.

"There is still a lot of work to be done to control expenditures, but with the cooperation of the IOC, Tokyo 2020 will continue to make best efforts to maximise revenues, contain costs and keep its budget within 600 billion Yen" for the organisers, he said.

The city government will provide a further 600 billion yen and the national government 150 billion Yen, both unchanged from the previous version.

Muto has previously said that measures to tackle the expected hot weather during the Tokyo summer – such as water sprinklers and special heat-absorbing paint on roads – could push up the bill.

Estimate

Friday's latest estimate came after a dispute over what exactly counts as Olympic spending.

A report from government auditors made headlines in October when it revealed that a budget-busting 800 billion Yen had been allocated by government ministries and agencies.

According to the report, the central government has allocated funds for 286 projects – ranging from the operation of weather satellites to subsidies for hydrogen stations for fuel-cell vehicles. The government has pledged to stick to its goal of hosting a "compact" Olympics.

IOL

Proteas have not asked for spicy pitches for the Pakistan Tests

PRETORIA – Another team from the subcontinent is in town.

Does that mean another tap on ground staff's shoulders from South Africa's dressing room, asking for pitches that make the most of the home side's strengths and exploit the visitors' weaknesses?

It seems not, last season's lesson would appear to have been learnt.

Asked on Thursday if the South Africans have been in touch to request a bespoke pitch, Gauteng Cricket Board chief executive Greg Fredericks said: "We've heard nothing from them at all."

The third Test against Pakistan is set to start at the Wanderers on January 11, almost a year on from the drama that unfolded when the surface in Johannesburg became the villain of the third Test against India.

It was a pitch made to order to take opponents who had grown up on slow, turning surfaces as far out of their comfort zones as possible.



READY: The Proteas head coach Ottis Gibson goes about his business as the pitch is being prepared.

But the joke was on the South Africans late on the third day, when no less modest a purveyor of pace than Jasprit Bumrah managed to hit no less canny an operator than Dean Elgar on the grille of his helmet.

Enter the medics to administer treatment for the ninth time in the match.

Seven of their previous interventions had been to remedy raps on the gloves and once they came on to soothe the impact of a rib tickler.

All were caused by deliveries that had no business rising as sharply as they did.

Times Live

Ellis' Banyana have full schedule ahead of debut World Cup

JOHANNESBURG – In preparation for Banyana Banyana's first-ever participation at a World Cup, the team will play no fewer than seven matches against international opposition.

The 2019 Women's World Cup takes place in France from June 7 to July 7.

First up in the new year will be Sweden in a practice match (January 17), which will be played behind closed doors.

This will be followed by an international friendly clash against the Netherlands two days later (January 19) in the inaugural Winnie-Madikizela

Mandela Challenge at the Cape Town Stadium. Sweden will then return for a full international on January 22.

After a short break, Banyana head to Europe to take part in the annual Cyprus Women's Cup, scheduled to be played from February 25 to March 7.

Drawn

In the 12-nation tournament, the SA women's side has been drawn in Group A, alongside Czech Republic, Finland and Korea DPR.

After that, the next assignment for coach Desiree Ellis and her Banyana team will be an away friendly against reigning world champions, the USA.

The fixture is set for May 12 in Santa Clara, California, and this will be followed by the World Cup tournament, where Banyana have been drawn to face Spain, China PR and Germany.

"Everyone says we are in a tough group at the World Cup, which is true, but then again, no one said it can't be done," said Ellis.

"The players, as well as the technical team, will gain invaluable experience with the matches lined-up for our preparation. I can only thank SAFA and our proud sponsor Sasol for all the support they have given this team." **IOL**



EYEING THE WORLD CUP: Steve Smith.

SMITH HAS EYE ON WORLD CUP, EXPECTS ENGLISH BACKLASH

SYDNEY – Former Australia captain Steve Smith said on Friday he hopes to return to international cricket in time for the 2019 Cricket World Cup and is braced for a 'hostile' reception from English fans once his ball-tampering suspension finishes.

Smith was facing Australian media for the first time since his tearful apology at a news conference at Sydney airport on March 29, when he pledged to "do anything" to make up for his mistake in Cape Town.

The 29-year-old told reporters it had been tough at times watching Australia play from the sidelines and said he was determined to break back into the side for the May 30-July 14 World Cup and the Ashes beyond that.

"I'm just moving forward day to day, doing what I need to do to prepare to hopefully get another opportunity to play for Australia

and if that's the World Cup and Ashes, so be it," Smith told reporters at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

"No doubt the English crowd will be incredibly hostile. I'm ready for that if that happens.

"I'll keep working hard and if I get that opportunity again, that'd be great."

Smith has been keeping a low media profile, despite playing at Twenty20 tournaments in Canada and the Caribbean and turning out for his Sydney club side Sutherland.

However, in recent weeks he has made gradual moves to rehabilitate his public image and joined his former Australia team mates at training sessions.

He has also tested the waters of his brand power with a tie-up with the local arm of Britain's Vodafone Group, shooting an advertisement which played on his shame and hopes of redemption.

Times Live



EMERY NOT CONVINCED OZIL HAS ARSENAL FUTURE



DOUBT: Mesut Ozil and Unai Emery.

LONDON- Mesut Ozil is losing his battle to convince Unai Emery he has an Arsenal future as the club consider sending the German out on loan.

The midfielder's future at the Emirates Stadium was thrown into further doubt on Wednesday night after he was left out of the squad to face north London rivals Tottenham.

Emery refused to disguise the German's omission — openly admitting his decision was 'tactical'.

Arsenal

sources claim the Spaniard knows he has a hugely talented player in Ozil, but he has wanted to see a positive reaction from his No 10 during what has been a tumultuous few weeks.

He has dropped or substituted his No 10 frequently this season, treatment which would have been unthinkable under Arsene Wenger.

It is understood part of Emery's thinking is to spark a change in attitude from his attacker, but he is quickly running out of patience.

That said, Ozil could be given an opportunity to play in Arsenal's busy festive period, but he needs to impress his manager sooner rather than later if he is to have a future

at the Emirates Stadium.

The former Real Madrid player is happy in London, but his lack of action will be of growing concern to the World Cup winner.

It will also concern the Arsenal hierarchy, who are facing a difficult financial balancing act if he fails to win his coach over.

Arsenal know his £350 000-per-week wages will prove a huge stumbling block in trying to shift Ozil in the next two transfer windows. They will not want to pay a percentage of his wages, but it is highly unlikely any club in Europe — Inter Milan are interested — would take on Ozil's wages in full as well as paying a hefty transfer fee. *Daily Mail*

Chelsea want Gonzalo Higuain

LONDON- Chelsea have revived their interest in Gonzalo Higuain ahead of the January window. The Argentine was a target for Maurizio Sarri last summer and Chelsea held initial talks with his then club Juventus.

However, negotiations failed to develop and the striker moved to AC Milan on a £16 million season loan with an option to buy as part of a swap deal involving Leonardo Bonucci.

Higuain started off the season well

with seven goals in 10 games but has become increasingly frustrated with his side's indifferent form which has seen them fall 19 points behind leaders Juventus.

Sarri wants to strengthen his attacking options and worked well with 31-year-old Higuain while at Napoli.

Milan are continuing to wrestle with Financial Fair Play restrictions and could be open to allowing Chelsea to take over their option with Juventus.

Daily Mail

Shaqiri received messages about Mourinho's sacking

LIVERPOOL- Liverpool star Xherdan Shaqiri has revealed he received messages about Jose Mourinho's sacking following his brace against Manchester United at Anfield last weekend.

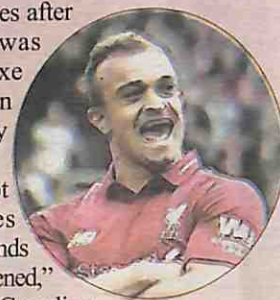
The 27-year-old came off the bench with the score level at 1-1 and scored two goals in seven second-half minutes to secure all three points for Jurgen Klopp's side.

Shaqiri, who joined the Reds for £13 million from Stoke in the summer, said he was sent messages after Mourinho was given the axe by United on Tuesday morning.

"I had a lot of messages from my friends when it happened," he told *The Guardian*.

"There were a lot of good messages about the United game at first and then, when the news came out about Mourinho, I had messages saying: 'That's your fault!' But this is football sometimes. 'I don't think it was just because we won that game that United wanted to change their manager. There were other reasons but it means the game goes down in history. It will always be in my history too.'" Shaqiri's double against Liverpool's rivals took his tally to five goals for the campaign. The Switzerland winger has made 17 appearances for the Reds, including nine starts, in which he has provided three assists. League leaders Liverpool faced Wolves in the Premier League last night, looking to extend their lead over Manchester City.

Daily Mail



Solskjaer outlines desire to become permanent boss

MANCHESTER- Ole Gunnar Solskjaer admits he wants to land the Manchester United job on a permanent basis after his sixth-month stint as caretaker at Old Trafford.

The United legend is on loan from his Norwegian club Molde until the end of the season after he was appointed to replace the sacked Jose Mourinho.

United's long-term target is believed to be Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino next summer, but Solskjaer admits he wants to stay with the club where he was revered as a player.

"When you get a job like this and they ask you to sign for six months you say yes," admitted the 45-year-old.

"I'm happy to help out and my job now for the next six months is to do as well as I can and move the club forward as well as I can.

"I understand there are so many managers who would love to be manager of Manchester United and I am one of them. But it is not something we've talked about, they'll do a process now for the next six months.

"I didn't think twice when they called me to sign me as a player and this is more of an honour and privilege to be helping the club for a few months.

"It's until the summer now, five or six months to just help out in the meantime



EAGER: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

while the club does the process to get the next manager."

Solskjaer confirmed that he will have a say in United's summer transfer policy even though it is likely the club will be buying players for another manager.

"I will have an input but the job is to get to know the players and observe them," he added. "I've seen more or less every game from Norway. The club have got their targets but I've not sat down and talked about that."

Solskjaer's main task will be to close

the 11-point gap between United and the top-four as he tries to secure Champions League qualification in the second half of the season.

"This club has made up many, many points before but I'm not going to set that target now," he said.

"I think the first thing is the first game; think about getting my principles into the boys, get the players to understand how I want them to play, and let's take the results later and see how many points we can gather."

Daily Mail

Everton investigating fans song about Mina

LIVERPOOL- The words of the song have been posted on the Twitter account of supporters' group Falcon Blues. "Everton Football Club is aware of the video posted on social media by an unaffiliated supporters' club," said an Everton statement.

"We are in contact with Kick It Out and are working with them to investigate the matter further.

"Everton has a zero-tolerance stance towards any form of racism."

Kick It Out have condemned the chant and warned fans heard singing it that they face stadium bans.

A statement read: "Kick It Out is aware of footage of alleged racist chanting by supporters of Everton that emerged online.

"Racist stereotypes are never acceptable, irrespective of any intention to show support for a player.

"We have contacted Everton regarding the issue and will be working closely with them to ensure a clear

message is sent that the chant is not acceptable.

"If we receive any reports relating to the chant being sung within a stadium, those who will be passed on to the FA and the perpetrators can expect to face punishment."

Mina has made only seven appearances after a slow start at Goodison Park, making his debut only last month.

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Daily Mail



South African SOCCER

Larsen on the look out for a striker

LAMONTVILLE- Golden Arrows coach Clinton Larsen reckons every PSL club is constantly on the lookout for a striker given the death of proven goalscorers in the South African topflight.

Hitting double figures is a rarity for most PSL forwards, with a modest 11 goals proving enough for Percy Tau and Rodney Ramagalela to share the Golden Boot last term.

Asked if he plans to shop around in the January transfer window, Larsen says only if a decent marksman becomes available. "I think every team is always on the look out for a striker," Larsen tells KickOff.com. "Of course if one becomes available we will look at it you know. But other than that, I don't think in January we are going to sign any players. Like I have said before, at Golden Arrows we go to our Diski team you know. There are some talented boys waiting for the opportunity there, and maybe we'll give them an opportunity." Larsen is satisfied with his team's progress for the most part this season.



A b a f a n a
Bes'thende, in 10th spot on the log with 16 points from 14 games, will end 2018 with a derby against AmaZulu at King Zwelithini Stadium today (15h30).

"From our side I think there's been a steady improvement this year," Larsen says.

"In our last eight games we've only lost one game to Baroka. So we've beaten Kaizer Chiefs, we've beaten Black Leopards, we got good points away to Cape Town City, to Free State Stars, to Pirates. But we could have turned some of those draws to wins you know, especially Free State Stars. Injury-time we conceded an equaliser, but like I said, slowly the team is improving. "We had a few established players out you know. [Velemseni] Ndwandwe, we missed him for the whole first round. [Zolani] Nkombela we missed him for the whole first round. [Mzwandile] Buthelezi we've missed him, [Sandile] Zuke's been injured, he comes back in January as well."

Kick-Off

SREDOJEVIC BOASTS FULL SQUAD FOR CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

JOHANNESBURG- Orlando Pirates coach Milutin Sredojevic faces a selection poser ahead of their final clash of the year in Windhoek this weekend.

The Buccaneers' medical staff will go into the short Christmas break chuffed that all personnel are fully fit and raring to go for this weekend's CAF Champions League test.

More pleased will be Sredojevic and his technical team, who have the headache of selecting a side to do the business in their high-stakes encounter at the Sam Nujoma Stadium today.

Pirates were set to jet out to Namibia yesterday before facing African Stars in their second leg group stage play-off encounter at 16h00 tomorrow.

Word from the Bucs camp is that everyone is available for the trip, with only reserve goalkeepers Wayne Sandilands and Brilliant Khuzwayo having nursed slight niggles this



BOSSES:
Orlando Pirates coach Milutin Sredojevic and his technical team.

week, but nothing that would rule them out of contention.

In their goalless draw in the first leg at home last weekend, the likes of club top goal scorer Theminkosi Lorch and striker Augustine Mulenga started on the bench as Paseka Mako and Meshack Maphangule were afforded game-time.

However, with their progression in the competition at stake in the away tie, the Serbian tactician will be tempted to field his strongest side to ensure they get the job done and qualify for the round robin stage.

In central midfield, where Mpho Makola and Linda Mntambo have

featured in their last two matches, 'Micho' will be pondering whether to retain the duo who helped them to an impressive 3-1 victory over Free State Stars last Tuesday or return to regulars Musa Nyatama and Xola Mlambo, who featured in the Telkom Knockout final.

Kick-Off

Madubanya enjoying working with Nyirenda

JOHANNESBURG - Baroka FC's experienced midfielder Letladi Madubanya says it's been a pleasure working with someone as "consistent" as head coach Wedson Nyirenda.

Nyirenda took over the reins at Bakgaga before the start of the campaign and it's taken him less than half a season to deliver a trophy, following their Telkom Knockout success recently.

The challenge, though, has been in the Absa Premiership, where Baroka FC are rooted to the bottom of the table after 14 matches, with just two victories on board.

Despite the difficulties in the league, Madubanya is confident that, in Nyirenda, they have a coach that will get them out of trouble.

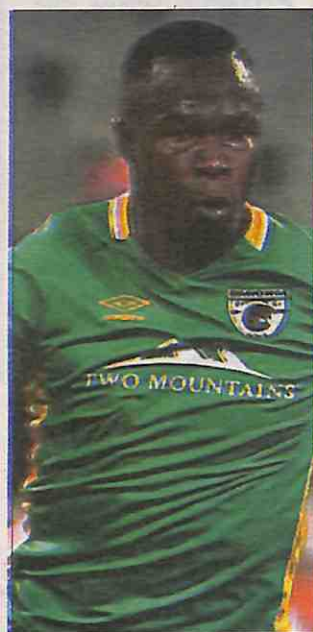
"I think Wedson is quite consistent, in his training, in his philosophy and in his being as a man. He is very assertive, he wants things done in a particular way," the former SupeSport United and Bidvest Wits player says.

"He is a man that you respect. He does not demand it, it's there. It's a pleasure working for such a guy."

After losing at home to Wits on Sunday, Bakgaga travel to KwaZulu-Natal to face fellow strugglers Maritzburg United at Harry Gwala Stadium today. A big performance will be required on the road to end the year on a positive note.

Nyirenda has shown what he can do in the TKO, but now it's time to get the results in the league.

Kick-Off



ENJOYING: Baroka Captain Letladi Madubanya.

Bobby lauds Middendorp's passion for development

Johannesburg- Kaizer Chiefs Manager Bobby Motaung says one of the reasons Ernst Middendorp was brought in is to help with their development structures.

During Steve Komphela's reign as Amakhosi coach, players such as Wiseman Meyiwa, Siyabonga Ngezana, Ryan Moon and Siphosakhe Ntitya-Ntitya got an opportunity to feature quite often, but this was not always the case with Giovanni Solinas, who parted ways with Amakhosi recently.

While he did not go deep into the matter, Motaung suggested the lack of young players featuring regularly in Solinas's side was one of the challenges they had with the Italian.

"That's one of the things, he follows development. The coach and the assistant [Shaun Bartlett] need to work with the structures and I think that's one of the reasons we brought Ernst back," Motaung said. Soccer Laduma

Middendorp banking on SA football knowledge

JOHANNESBURG- Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp feels he is in a better situation to get positive results this time round compared to his first stint with the club.

The German arrived in 2005 to replace the late Ted Dumitru at Naturena and, despite winning the Absa Cup and SAA Supa8 during his time at the club, he was unable to inspire them to league success.

A lot more will be expected from the coach, but he feels the information he has gathered about South African football in the last 10 years or so will help him in his second stint with the Soweto giants.

"I think coming into a country, like it happened in 2005/2006, not really knowing the environment and the players. Taking over a team of this size and brand, obviously you discover something new everyday. I believe with the movement in the last years, more than a decade, I have this background information," said Middendorp, who has won his first two matches at the helm.



CONFIDENT: Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp.

"I don't have to look around and try to find out. Every time when I was here I was going to the stadium, does not matter which stadium and which team [is playing]. It's another background and the background is definitely very important. I have my confidence and I know what I am doing."

Sport24

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FIXTURES

SA PSL

Today

15:30 AmaZulu FC	vs	Golden Arrows
18:00 Cape Town City FC	vs	Bloem Celtic
20:15 Maritzburg United	vs	Baroka FC
Sun, 23 Dec 2018		
15:30 Highlands Park	vs	SuperSport United

English Premier League Fixtures

Today

12:30 Arsenal	vs	Burnley Burnley
15:00 Bournemouth	vs	Brighton and Hove Albion
15:00 Chelsea	vs	Leicester City
15:00 Huddersfield Town	vs	Southampton
15:00 Manchester City	vs	Crystal Palace
15:00 Newcastle United	vs	Fulham Fulham
15:00 West Ham United	vs	Watford Watford
17:30 Cardiff City	vs	Manchester United

Sunday 23 December

16:00 Everton	vs	Tottenham Hotspur
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Ligue 1 Fixtures

Today

20:00 Angers	vs	Marseille
20:00 Lille	vs	Toulouse
20:00 Monaco	vs	Guingamp
20:00 Montpellier	vs	Lyon
20:00 PSG	vs	Nantes
20:00 Reims	vs	Caen
20:00 Rennes	vs	Nimes
20:00 St Etienne	vs	Dijon
20:00 Strasbourg	vs	Nice

Tomorrow

16:00 Bordeaux	vs	Amiens
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Serie A Fixtures

Today

11:30 Lazio	vs	Cagliari
14:00 Empoli	vs	Sampdoria
14:00 Genoa	vs	Atalanta
14:00 Milan	vs	Fiorentina
14:00 Napoli	vs	SPAL
14:00 Sassuolo	vs	Torino
14:00 Udinese	vs	Frosinone
17:00 Chievo	vs	Internazionale
17:00 Parma	vs	Bologna
19:30 Juventus	vs	Roma

La Liga Fixtures

Today

12:00 Real Betis	vs	Eibar
15:15 Atlético de Madrid	vs	Espanyol
17:30 Barcelona	vs	Celta de Vigo Celta
19:45 Athletic Club	vs	Real Valladolid

Tomorrow

11:00 Valencia CF	vs	Huesca
15:15 Leganes	vs	Sevilla
17:30 Rayo Vallecano	vs	Levante

Bundesliga Fixtures

Today

14:30 1. FC Nürnberg	vs	Sport-Club Freiburg
14:30 Bayer 04 Leverkusen	vs	Hertha BSC
14:30 Hannover 96	vs	Fortuna Düsseldorf
14:30 RB Leipzig	vs	SV Werder Bremen
14:30 VfB Stuttgart	vs	FC Schalke 04
17:30 Eintracht Frankfurt	vs	FC Bayern München

Tomorrow

14:30 FC Augsburg	vs	VfL Wolfsburg
17:00 TSG 1899 Hoffenheim	vs	1. FSV Mainz 05

BAYERN MUNICH PROMISE NAIL-BITING YEAR-ENDER

LONDON - Only a few weeks ago Borussia Dortmund looked unbeatable in the Bundesliga, with champions Bayern Munich languishing in sixth place and seemingly out of title contention. But with the final matchday of the year ahead of the winter break looming this weekend, rejuvenated Bayern could now move to within three points of the leaders, with a win at Eintracht Frankfurt today.

The Bavarians, who edged past RB Leipzig 1-0 on Wednesday, have now won their last four league matches, and are level on 33 points with second-placed Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Dortmund, who on Tuesday suffered their first league loss of the season, are top on 39.

"We used Dortmund's assist to close in," Bayern coach Niko Kovac told reporters.



OUT: Bayern Munich is languishing in sixth place and seemingly out of title contention.

"We showed a will to win against Leipzig. Now we must again use all our power on Saturday and get the three points in (Eintracht) Frankfurt," he said of the first league

meeting against his former club.

Right

Kovac has every right to be brimming with confidence given he was teetering on the brink of departure

earlier this season when Bayern were suffering from a dip in form.

With Dortmund facing in-form Gladbach on Friday, Bayern can hope to make up further lost ground.

"It is important to use such chances (from Dortmund's defeat)," said Bayern CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. "Six points are still a lot but what will be important is the points we may get in Frankfurt."

Kovac has some concerns with wingers Kingsley Coman and Serge Gnabry picking up injuries on Wednesday and injured defender Jerome Boateng still doubtful for today's encounter.

Gnabry had to be taken off with a muscle injury after 28 minutes.

"We will have to see with Serge what the tests show. Hopefully there is nothing damaged in terms of muscle."

Eyewitness

Gabigol set for January Premier League transfer

SANTOS, SAU PAULO - Brazil international striker Gabriel Barbosa, who was previously earmarked as the nation's next superstar, could be on his way to the Premier League in January.

Gabigol is on loan at Santos, having failed to win a starting place at Serie A outfit Inter and the Italian club's sporting director, Piero Ausilio, said this week that there was no place for the player in the Nerazzurri squad at the moment.

"Gabigol will finish the loan with Santos in January and then return to Inter," he said, as per The Guardian.

"For the next six months, we will have no space for him. We are happy with what he has done and we will find the best solution with him."

Inter are keen to sell Gabigol



TRANSFER: Gabriel Barbosa.

in January but may be open to a loan, particularly if it includes an option to buy in the summer.

And West Ham have now emerged as the early front-runners for his signature with manager Manuel Pellegrini ready to sign the Campeonato Brasileiro Série A top-scorer of 2018.

The Italian giants are hoping to get £25m if they sell. He has two and a half years on his contract and is earning around £50,000 a week.

The 22-year-old has scored 18 goals in 35 appearances for Santos in his second spell there and has four caps for The Selecao.

-Kickoff

FIFA reveals staggering stats from 2018 World Cup

ZURICH - A combined global audience of 1.12 billion watched the Soccer World Cup final between France and Croatia in July, FIFA, the governing body of world football, said yesterday.

In total, FIFA said, a 'combined 3.572 billion viewers - more than half of the global population aged four and over - tuned in to world football's ultimate competition' for at least a minute, over the course of the World Cup's from June 14 to July 15. A survey it had commissioned by FIFA found that 3.04 billion viewers caught at least three minutes, a 10.9 percent increase on Brazil 2014, and 2.49 billion watched at least 30 minutes, or one third of one match, up on 2014's 1.95 billion. FIFA calculated that the average live audience for each of the 64 matches was 191 million.

The survey estimated that 9.5 per cent of that audience, or 309.7 million people, watched no coverage at home but 'caught the action on digital platforms, in public viewing areas or in bars and restaurants.'

That proportion was higher for the final between France and Croatia. FIFA said 884.37 million viewers tuning in to traditional TV coverage and a further 231.82 million watching outside the home or digitally.

Sport24

SAFA's bid to stage CAF's Nation Cup a two-edged sword

CAPE TOWN - A stimulating, timely boost for South African soccer on the one hand, but fraught with tricky problems and huge financial implications on the other.

This is the stark, contradictory situation that suggests SAFA's late bid to replace Cameroon as the hosts of next year's Africa Nations Cup has all the trappings of a two-edged sword.

What stands out immediately is that when CAF make their decision on the hosting issue at an executive meeting in Senegal on January 9, the successful country - and at this point a changing scenario has either Egypt or South Africa as the firm frontrunners - there will be less than five months to make the maze of arrangements, both financial and otherwise, that realistically and rationally should require a year or two to implement.

Sport24

Barcelona signed Murillo on a six-month loan deal

BARCELONA - Barca were in desperate need for another central defender following the long-term injuries sustained by Samuel Umtiti and Thomas Vermaelen.

The Catalan outfit have now brought in the 26-year-old Colombia international on loan deal for the remainder of the 2018/2019 season.

A statement on the club's website read: "FC Barcelona and Valencia CF have reached an agreement for the transfer of Jeison Murillo for the remainder of the 2018/19 season."

"The agreement includes a purchase option worth €25m."

The presentation ceremony is scheduled for next Thursday,

December 27. *-Kickoff*



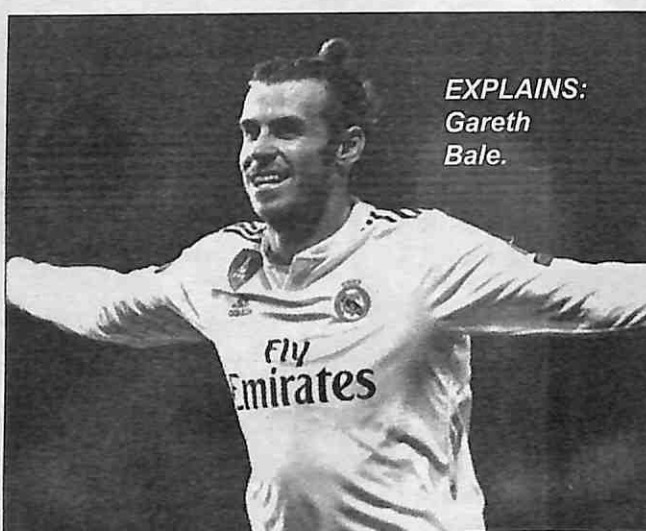
Bale explains how Ronaldo exit helped

Real Madrid forward Gareth Bale has explained how the departure of club-record goalscorer Cristiano Ronaldo has helped him after netting a scintillating hat-trick in the FIFA Club World Cup.

Bale, 29, has predominantly been used on the right during the years he shared with Ronaldo at the Bernabeu.

But the exit of the five-time Ballon d'Or winner to Juventus has allowed the former Tottenham star to play in a 'comfortable position.'

Bale was afforded a start on the left of an attacking midfield in the European champions' Club World Cup semi-final against Kashima Antlers, where he scored a blistering hat-trick in 11 minutes in the 3-1 win. The Welsh wizard established



EXPLAINS: Gareth Bale.

an effective partnership with Brazil left-back Marcelo as Real booked their place in the final against Al Ain.

"Throughout my (early) career, I played from the left wing," Bale said when asked about

occupying Ronaldo's previous position, as per The Independent.

"I'm comfortable playing in that position but I can play on the right, on the left or in the centre. I will play wherever the coach needs me to. *Kickoff*

MTN PREMIER LEAGUES MASTER FIXTURE

Game 14	Sundowns vs Swallows	Matsapha vs Tambuti	Matsapha vs Sea Birds	Malanti Chiefs vs Green Mamba
Wanderers vs Y. Buffaloes	Pirates vs R. Leopard	Pirates vs Wanderers	Tambuti vs Vovovo	
Matsapha vs G. Mamba	Vovovo vs Sea Birds	Leopard vs Sundowns	Highlanders vs Citizens	
Highlanders vs Tambuti		Green Mamba vs Y. Buffaloes		
M. Chiefs vs Citizens		Sea Birds vs Swallows		
Game 15	Malanti Chiefs vs Swallows	Game 18	Game 21	Game 24
Y. Buffaloes vs Matsapha United	Buffaloes vs Highlanders	Vovovo vs Swallows	Matsapha vs Vovovo	Tambuti vs Sea Birds
Vovovo vs Leopard	Leopard vs Citizens	Malanti Chiefs vs Sundowns	Malanti Chiefs vs Sundowns	Citizens vs Green Mamba
Pirates vs Highlanders	Pirates vs Tambuti	Green Mamba vs Wanderers	Green Mamba vs Wanderers	Sundowns vs Highlanders
Sundowns vs Tambuti	Wanderers vs Sea Birds	Pirates vs Sea Birds	Pirates vs Sea Birds	Wanderers vs Vovovo
Green Mamba vs Sea Birds	Sundowns vs Green Mamba	Leopard vs Tambuti	Leopard vs Tambuti	Pirates vs Matsapha
	Matsapha vs Malanti Chiefs	Buffaloes vs Citizens	Buffaloes vs Citizens	Malanti Chiefs vs Y. Buffaloes
		Highlanders vs Swallows	Highlanders vs Swallows	Leopard vs Swallows
Game 16	Citizens vs Tambuti	Game 19	Game 22	Game 25
Highlanders vs Sea Birds	Sea Birds vs Leopard	Swallows vs Citizens	Highlanders vs Vovovo	Y. Buffaloes vs Swallows
Green Mamba vs Vovovo	Green Mamba vs Pirates	Tambuti vs Buffaloes	Matsapha vs Citizens	Leopard vs Matsapha
Sundowns vs Matsapha	Wanderers vs Sundowns	Sea Birds vs Leopard	Malanti Chiefs vs Wanderers	Vovovo vs Pirates
Malanti Chiefs vs R. Leopard	Matsapha vs Highlanders	Leopard vs Green Mamba	Pirates vs Sundowns	Wanderers vs Highlanders
Pirates vs Buffaloes	Malanti Chiefs vs Vovovo	Sea Birds vs Y. Buffaloes	Leopard vs Green Mamba	Sundowns vs Citizens
Swallows vs Wanderers		Tambuti vs Swallows	Sea Birds vs Y. Buffaloes	Tambuti vs Green Mamba
				Malanti Chiefs vs Sea Birds
Game 17	Highlanders vs Malanti Chiefs	Game 20	Game 23	Game 26
Citizens vs Vovovo	Swallows vs Green Mamba	Swallows vs Green Mamba	Matsapha vs Swallows	Tambuti vs Malanti Chiefs
	Sundowns vs Buffaloes	Sundowns vs Buffaloes	Vovovo vs Y. Buffaloes	Sea Birds vs Citizens
	Wanderers vs Leopard	Wanderers vs Leopard	Highlanders vs R. Leopard	Highlanders vs Green Mamba
	Pirates vs Malanti Chiefs	Pirates vs Malanti Chiefs	Citizens vs Pirates	Sundowns vs Vovovo
			Tambuti vs Wanderers	Wanderers vs Matsapha
			Sea Birds vs Sundowns	Leopard vs Buufaloes
				Swallows vs Pirates

MTN National First Division 2018/19 Second Round Fixtures:

Week 12	Seven Dreams vs Mbabane City	Black Swallows vs Tycoons	Rangers vs Tycoons	Milling vs Hub Sundowns
Madlenya vs Tinyosi			City Warriors vs Madlenya	Rangers vs Callies
Tycoons vs City Warriors			Tinyosi vs Seven Dreams	Black Swallows vs City Warriors
Rangers vs Black Swallows				Tycoons vs Tinyosi
Milling vs Callies				Madlenya vs Seven Dreams
Hub Sundowns vs Red Lions				
Week 13	Mbabane City vs Milling	Week 15	Week 18	Week 21
Red Lions vs Rangers		Mbabane City vs City Warriors	Mbabane City vs Black Swallows	Mbabane City vs Tycoons
Hub Sundowns vs City Warriors		Tinyosi vs Rangers	Callies vs Tycoons	Black Swallows vs Madlenya
Tinyosi vs Callies		Seven Dreams vs Milling	Madlenya vs Hub Sundowns	Seven Dreams vs Callies
Seven Dreams vs Black Swallows		Madlenya vs Red Lions	Red Lions vs Seven Dreams	Tinyosi vs Hub Sundowns
Tycoons vs Madlenya		Hub Sundowns vs Tycoons	Milling vs Tinyosi	City Warriors vs Red Lions
		Callies vs Black Swallows	Rangers vs City Warriors	Rangers vs Milling
Week 14	Rangers vs Mbabane City	Week 16	Week 19	Week 22
City Warriors vs Milling		Tinyosi vs Mbabane City	Callies vs Mbabane City	Mbabane City vs Madlenya
Red Lions vs Tinyosi		City Warriors vs Seven Dreams	Hub Sundowns vs Black Swallows	Tycoons vs Seven Dreams
Seven Dreams vs Hub Sundowns		Rangers vs Madlenya	Tycoons vs Red Lions	Black Swallows vs Tinyosi
Callies vs Madlenya		Milling vs Tycoons	Milling vs Madlenya	Callies vs City Warriors
		Black Swallows vs Red Lions	Seven Dreams vs Rangers	Hub Sundowns vs Rangers
		Hub Sundowns vs Callies	City Warriors vs Tinyosi	Red Lions vs Milling
			Week 20	
			Mbabane City vs Red Lions	

World Cup winners France unexciting - Xavi

MADRID - Former Spain and Barcelona midfielder Xavi has said France's World Cup triumph this year left him feeling "unenthusiastic" due to their style of play.

Didier Deschamps' side, containing the likes of Kylian Mbappe, Antoine Griezmann and Paul Pogba, beat Croatia 4-2 in an action-packed final in Moscow after beating Argentina 4-3 in the tournament's stand-out game in the last 16.

They also saw off Uruguay and Belgium on their way to the final.

Yet their performances left Xavi, one of the heroes of Spain's 2010 World Cup win and a four-time Champions League winner with Barca, unimpressed.

"All France says to me is that they are the champions," Xavi said in an interview with Spanish newspaper Marca published yesterday.

"They are an organised team, not very exciting, but they have a lot of qualities. They work hard, they counterattack like rockets, you have Griezmann and Mbappe running back to defend. That's fine, but it doesn't make me feel enthusiastic."

Xavi, who is seeing out his career in



Xavi.

Qatar with Al Sadd and has said repeatedly he intends to become a coach when he retires from playing, also criticised the short-term attitudes of coaches at World Cups.

"In a World Cup, coaches are more practical because they are scared of being knocked out. You make one error, and 'ciao'," he added.

"I'm of a different school of thought, believing you should always try to have the ball and take risks but 70-80 percent of teams in a World Cup don't take risks and they wait for a chance to score. It's a shame. The result is what justifies the means and convinces fans, but it doesn't convince me."

AFP

Guardiola dismisses Klopp claim of Man City having 'no weaknesses'

MANCHESTER - Pep Guardiola has rejected Jurgen Klopp's observation that his Manchester City side are showing "no sign of weakness" in the Premier League title race.

Klopp's Liverpool remained unbeaten in England's top flight this season and lead City by a point at the summit ahead of yesterday's trip to face Wolves at Molineux.

It meant City could be facing a deficit of four points by the time they kick-off against Crystal Palace today.

The top two will conclude their festive schedule with a blockbuster clash at the Etihad Stadium on the third of January and Guardiola, whose team have now gone seven games without a clean sheet in all competitions, feels he has plenty to be working on before a potentially defining game.

"Any team has strong points and weak points," he told a pre-match news conference.

"Of course, we have weaknesses and we are working on them. Of

course we do. But that's normal"

"These kind of comments I put in the perspective that there must be [weaknesses]." City will again be without experienced duo David Silva and Vincent Kompany against Palace, although they are progressing well in their recoveries from hamstring strains.

"[Silva] started to train. He had the first steps but still he is not ready for tomorrow," Guardiola said.

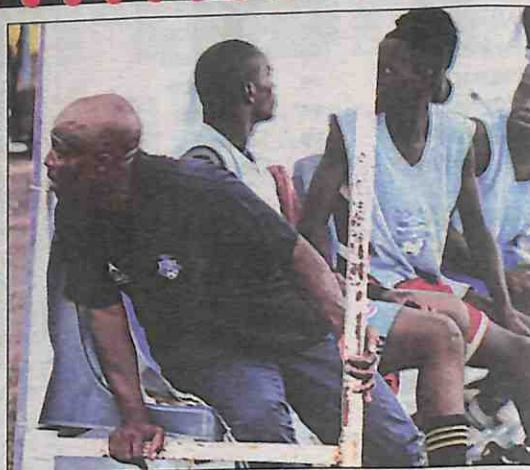
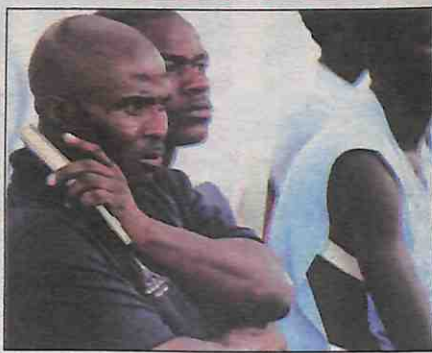
"I don't know if he will be ready for the Christmas period."

"Vincent is better but for tomorrow, he is not able." City had an 18-match winning run in the Premier League ended by a 0-0 draw at Palace on New Year's Eve last season.

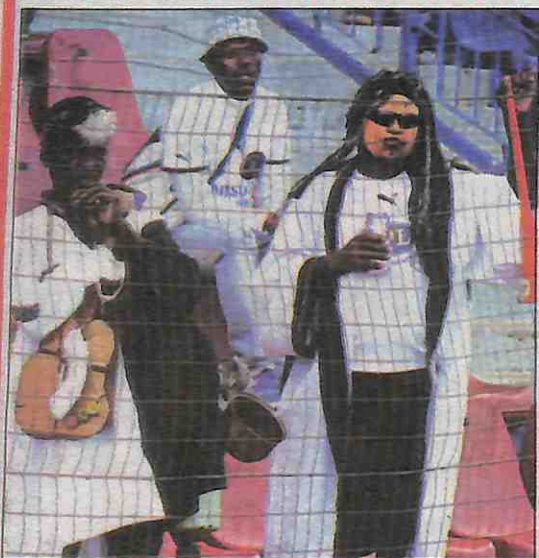
Even though that streak featured an earlier 5-0 win over the Eagles, Guardiola was wary when considering Roy Hodgson's latest visit to Manchester. "When you see [Wilfried] Zaha, [Andros] Townsend, [Max] Meyer, [James] McArthur, [Luka] Milivojevic, all the players have quality," he added. **Goal**



INGWENYAMA CUP 2018/19



HELLO: A Young Movers official picking up and a communication gadget during their Ingwenyama Cup match against Mbabane Swallows played on Sunday at the Somhlolo National Stadium. Gadgets or cellphones are not allowed to be used by officials at the technical bench during football matches. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



GWAZA NKUNZI: Highlanders fans Mgcibelo Maseko and Elijah Mkhathshwa in full concentration.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS



TOP-UP THE BIRDS: Mbabane Swallows officials celebrating their victory against Young Movers.



LEFT- CAMOUFLAGE: Police officers were there to maintain peace and order.



MAHHALA HHA! Manzini Wanderers supporters on cloud nine after their side qualified for the last 16 in the tournament.



HAIR PIECE: Manzini Wanderers' fan Sidumo Ngwenya and Mbabane Swallows' John Nkambule having fun.



IS PAPIĆ THE RIGHT MAN FOR SIHLANGU?

LOCAL FOOTBALL ANALYSIS



COMPILED BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

PUBLIC REACTION

To have a coach of Papić's calibre is perhaps one of the most promising things in local football, especially because he comes at a time when the country's football needs to go back to the drawing board and re-group. Papić is known for his belief in youngsters as he set up a youth academy in Randburg, South Africa with the aim of identifying and developing local talent.

The gaffer, who is nicknamed 'Bill Clinton' due to his striking resemblance to the former American President, has a lot of talent in his hands that he can utilise. It is time for new blood to come in hard and take their rightful place in local football.

All football circles in the country have expressed delight on his appointment—from local coaches to the fans who have all validated his appointment. For quite some time, the EFA has been taking the opposite decisions to sanity, but this time their move with Papić is a fairly positive one, and even the players who are looking to represent their nation are looking at the future with keen interest and positivity. He comes with loads of experience, having worked with several clubs in South Africa, including Kaizer Chiefs, Chippa United, Black Leopards, Orlando Pirates as well as stints in Tanzania among others. A national team is, however, a new challenge for him.

PHILOSOPHY, POTENTIAL AND FORMATION

The success of the National Under-17 side in the AUSC Region 5 games, which were held in Botswana, are all fruit of late Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Chairman Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze's vision when he set up the development leagues. A couple of years later, the youngsters have now flooded the elite league and their talent has emerged as the hottest in their teams respectively. Papić is renowned for his exciting philosophy, which saw him become prominent in South Africa in the mid-2000's whilst at Orlando Pirates. Here is a breakdown of youngsters who the coach could start building his team on.

FORMATION - 4-3-3

This is a system that will allow for the exciting football philosophy. Eswatini players are by their nature not much gifted when it comes to height and their major strength is on the foot-work. All the players from the midfield are good on the ball and can score, so this is a formation that could work best for the kingdom.

THE ONE-YEAR CONTRACT

His first assignment will be an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Tunisia in February next year and albeit the fact that chances of qualifying for next year's

SOCCER – On Tuesday, long serving Eswatini Football Association (EFA) President

Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa announced 58-year-old Serbian native Kostadin Papić as the new Sihlangu seMnikati

Coach. The overdue appointment of the seasoned mentor is perhaps the only visible decision that the EFA has

done in the year 2018, and the Observer on Saturday Sports Desk took some time to analyse the appointment.

THE PAPIĆ PHILOSOPHY: COULD THIS BE THE TEAM TO CONSIDER IN FUTURE



LEFT FORWARD

11. Fanelo Tsabedze (Royal Leopard): He has also stepped up his game this season after struggling during his early days with the police side. He now looks much more matured and we cannot hide the fact that the Tsabedze boys have an amazing talent.

CENTRE FORWARD

9. Lungelo Tsabedze (Royal Leopard): He is one player who started this season like a house on fire scoring goals like he did when he was at Highlanders. This season, both him and his brother Fanelo, have revived the 'terrible-twins' tag which was a headache for so many teams in the league, as he can pass well and his football artistry is also undoubted.

RIGHT FORWARD

7. Sizolwethu 'Nunu' Shabalala (Mbabane Swallows): Mbabane Swallows have groomed 'Nunu' so perfectly. This season, he is out of his shell and he has definitely learnt a lot from Tony 'TT' Tsabedze and Wonder 'Samba' Jive Nhleko, who all rave about him Mbabane Swallows' heroics in Africa have obviously built him as a better player. He is also a well groomed young man, who seems to be the opposite of his close friend and teammate Richard McCreesh.

LEFT WINGER

10. Justice Figareido (Maritzburg): Explosive pace! This youngster has everything you need in a modern day forward, the thunderous pace, the finishing and the creativity. We can only hope that despite the lack of game time, he is learning a lot from being in the South African league when it comes to attacking.

MIDFIELDER

6. Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze (Mbabane Highlanders): 'Sawa's' thunderous strike from about halfway through the pitch against Egypt proved his talent. He is still fairly young and can grow in this position. He is very versatile and his talents fit into the shoes of this position, where he can do both the dirty work and move forward. He needs to commit himself in this position and work hard on his transition.

RIGHT WINGER

8. Sandile Gamedze (Young Buffaloes): The dynamic army side playmaker is the magician in the Dominic Kunene-led side. He can read the game well, pass well and is also good at finishing with both his head and feet. A complete creative player who can fit well to Papić's exciting football style.

LEFT BACK

3. Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Msibi (Royal Leopard): The police side left-back has a gifted left foot and does a lot of overlapping, but makes sure to come back and recover on time. He has also risen well through the ranks as he has played for the National team sides from the Under-17's, and is currently in the Under-23's set-up. He has claimed a starting berth in the Police side straight from being a familiar figure at Vovovo as well as he made an impact in the capital-city based outfit. He is young, fast, and has good marking and passing skills.

CENTRE BACK

4. Vusi Vilakati (Mbabane Highlanders): Yet another youngster who has risen through the development ranks. He has come in the team and claimed his place in the 'Black Bull' and has impressed each and every one of the hard-to-please 'Landers' fans.

CENTRE BACK

5. Sihle Mkhonta (Manzini Wanderers): He has lots of heart. It is unfortunate that he is at Wanderers at a time where there isn't stability at the club hence he is not fully getting the experience of being under Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe's mentorship and get a sense of hard work. If he can fully commit himself to working hard, both in training and work on his attitude on the pitch, which sometimes gets him booked unnecessarily, he can be one of the best centre-backs of this generation.

RIGHT BACK

2. Sebenele Masuku (Tambuti): The 22-year old has risen to prominence ever since he broke through into the first-11 of the Lubombo base side and his ball distribution skills are second to none in the league. He single-handedly took Manzini Wanderers down with two killer assists.

GOALKEEPER

1. Lwethu Simelane (Manzini Sundowns): With 'Nkomishi' out, there is a talent that is promising much better than the error-prone Sandanezwe Mathabela and the ageing Phephisani Msibi and Nhlahlhla Gwebu. Yes, the aforementioned might have more experience than the youngster, but it's high time we introduce new blood and no one can doubt the talent of the Limkokwing student. They could help groom him. He has come through the development of Manzini Sundowns under the close mentorship of Njabuliso Simelane, this youngster is definitely destined for the stars if he continues challenging himself. The boy has everything you need in a goalie – the game awareness, he is acrobatic, he has good hands, he is quick and I'm also seeing his ball distribution improving this season.

Tunisia would go a long way in motivating the team going forward and in the re-building and re-positioning of the team.

Leading

He will also be leading the team in the COSAFA and CHAN tour-

naments, but it still stands to be seen whether he will start grinding and getting all the desired results on the 12-months because he still needs to familiarise himself with local football, identify his players and then drum his philosophy.

We welcome Mr Papić, and we hope he will lead us to the Promised Land, and save us from the embarrassment that our team had sunk to where visiting fans were always way more than the locals in matches we were hosting.

SA TRIALS FOR ATAKORAH

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – Despite seeing less game time in the country, Manzini Wanderers striker Daniel Atakorah has attracted international attention.

The Ghanaian striker is on the radar of South African first Division side TS Galaxy where he is expected to attend a two week assessment early

next year. The player's agent, Alan Kibangula confirmed the news when contacted yesterday. "He is currently in Ghana, where he is sorting out some family issues."

Return

He will, upon his return, attend trials at TS Galaxy in South Africa. We will wait and see how he fares there and then announce the next move," he said. Atakorah joined the Weslians in the deadline of the previous trans-

fer window from capital city giants Mbabane Swallows, where he was part of the squad that reached the group stages of the 2017 Total CAF Champions League. Atakorah could become the third foreign player to quit the Weslians this season after Mike Dombo (DR Congo) and Romanus Igidimba (Nigeria), who are on the verge of joining Zambian sides Mafulira Wanderers and NAPSA Stars respectively.

ESA happy with FINA Championships team

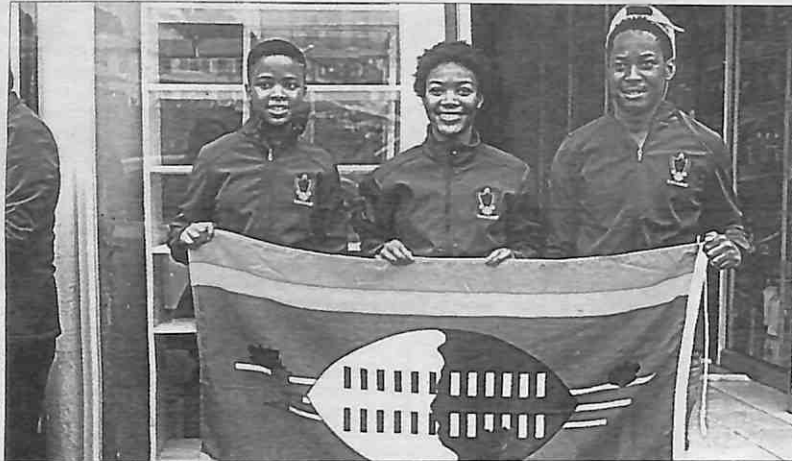
By Sibusiso Dlamini

SWIMMING – The Eswatini Swimming Association (ESA) has expressed joy with the performances of the three youngsters who participated in the 14th FINA World Swimming Championships held in Hangzhou, China over a week ago.

The swimmers led by Chris Parsley were Senamile Dlamini (15), Lungelo Nxumalo (18) and Simanga Dlamini (21). They are back home and they all improved in their times. The tournament ran from December 11 to December 16.

Simanga Dlamini swam in the 50m butterfly, and clocked 28.54 minutes and also in the 100m where he recorded a 1:02:74 hours.

Senamile Dlamini swam in the 50m and 100m freestyle, and clocked 30:88 and 1:08:54, respectively. Both times were significant improvements on entry



ACHIEVEMENT: Senamile Dlamini, Lungelo Nxumalo and Simanga Dlamini.

times. Lungelo swam 50m and 100m breaststroke, which was also an improvement on her entry time.

The association's secretary Lee-Ann Young said they are happy with the youngsters' performances and what they meant for their careers moving forward.

"We are very happy with their displays and these youngsters will grow from this. They all did their best times and you can see that they improve each and every time they compete and they gain so much from competing with other world class athletes," she said.

MEET THE ATHLETES



NAME: Simanga Dlamini
AGE: 21

TEAM: SwimLab

WHEN DID YOU START SWIMMING: I started swimming in Big-Bend when I was around six. My father was the one that taught me and I fell in love with it ever since.



NAME: Lungelo Nxumalo
AGE: 18

TEAM: Sharks

WHEN DID YOU START SWIMMING: I've always been athletic, but I started swimming when I was eight at Sifundzani Primary.



NAME: Senamile Dlamini
AGE: 15

TEAM: Sharks

WHEN DID YOU START SWIMMING: I started swimming back in primary (Sifundzani). I think I was eight if I'm not mistaken. Ever since, I've competed in local tournaments and as I've worked hard, I've come to the realisation that I'm actually good at it.

Badara believes youthful players will fill in Ugo void

By Jongile Kuba

SOCCER – Tambuti Coach Alou Badara has placed his faith in the squad's youthful players as the right replacement for burly forward Ohakwe 'Ugo' Ugochukwu. The Nigerian players, who returned

to Tambuti at the beginning of the season, have since found a new home with hub giants Manzini Wanderers.

The coach said during an interview, it was unfortunate to lose the player but stated that there were a number of talented players in the team to fill the void.

"We are a team and have enough

players around the squad to play his position. We managed to score goals before he came and will do so even after his departure," he said.

Asked on the potential replacements, the coach identified Neliso Myeni as the perfect candidate to fill Ugo's boots.

"Our leading goal scorer last sea-

son, Myeni is still part of the team and fit to play. He is more than ready for the challenge," he said.

He, however, acknowledged the need to add more experience to his frontline.

"We will look at players once the transfer window opens in January, but we are not in a rush. I do realise the need to bulk up the strike force to

make sure we stay competitive," he added.

The Nigerian front man is believed to have penned a two-year deal with the hub giants after spending the first round of the on-going MTN Premier League with the Lubombo based side. He does so after a stint at recently relegated MTN National First Division side Red Lions where he spent a season before coming back to Tambuti.

Calisile, Phayo are 2018's best

By Sibusiso Masilela

GOLF – Youngsters Calisile Gina and Phayo Dhlamini have been named the best junior golfers in 2018.

The duo finished on top of the standings during the champ of champs' junior golf competition held at the Royal Swazi Sun on Thursday afternoon.

Gina emerged victorious in the girls A Division with 82 points, making it three years in a row, while Phayo walked away with the boy's premier category with 61 points. Dhlamini was a point ahead, he second placed Mfundo Nxumalo who got 60 points.

Other winners of the day included Sinaye Mhlana and Naye

Mkhaliphi who won the B and C Division respectively.

Development coach Meshack Zwane congratulated all the winners of the day, saying he was happy with their performance.

"We would like to congratulate all the winners of the tournament and we further commend the golfers for braving the chilly weather to compete in the last junior competition. We also appreciate the support from the parents who came out in numbers to support the youngsters."

"We would like to thank all our sponsors and Swaziland Golf Union (SGU) for their commitment and contribution towards the development of golf in the country," he said.

FULL RESULTS

2018 male - Boy A Division
Phayo Dhlamini

2018 female - Girls A Division
Calisile Gina

Lowest stroke: Calisile Gina and Blake Williams

Division category boys

1. Phayo Dhlamini (61 points)
2. Mfundo Nxumalo (60 points)
3. Blake Williams (55 points)
4. Qinisio Mkhonta (28 points)
5. Sibusiso Maphalala (28 points)
6. Lindzwe Gamedze (27 points)
7. Sinabo Maphalala (25 points)
8. Mekizwe Mkhize (16 points)

Girls Division

1. Calisile Gina (82 points)
2. Vikekwa Magagula (49 points)
3. Chanelle Groening (40 points)
4. Simangaye Tfwala (39 points)
5. Siviwe Mdluli (19 points)

B Division boys

1. Sinethemba Mhlana (36 points)
2. Mayendzwe Hlophe (35 points)
3. Siphesihle Mhlana (25 points)
4. Thando Masilela (21 points)

C Division

1. Naye Mkhaliphi (31)
2. Lwandise Shongwe (28)
3. Mongi Masuku (27)
4. Sisekelo Masuku (25)

Bigginners category (9 hole comp)

1. Mongezi Ntombeni (34 points)
2. Jordan Horton (25 points)
3. Panashe Bukutu (23 points)
4. Tinaye Bukutu (21 points)
5. Kaylah Zwane (16 points)
6. Nikiwe Ntombi (10 points)

Tournament results winners

1. Brett Cutting 41 points
2. Nosinilo Kgomo
3. Lwandise Matimba

ETF BEGINS WORLD CHAMPS PREPARATIONS

By Sibusiso Masilela

TAEKWONDO – The Eswatini Taekwondo Federation has started their preparations for the upcoming World Championships and the All Africa Games both set to take place next year.

The association, under the watchful eye of local technical bench headed by Bongani Nxumalo, has introduced a training session where the athletes train twice a day and will do so until next year.

The training sessions are in preparation for the championships slated for England and Morocco. ETF Secretary Mbongeni

Sibandze when contacted yesterday, said the early training programme was meant to keep the team fit ahead of these major competitions.

"The national team is already training twice a day at St Michaels and this is mainly to keep the athletes fit. We are aiming for a podium finish during the All Africa Games. We will intensify our preparations early next year," he said. The ETF is also looking to host two tournaments next year namely; SADC invitational tournament and the annual Korean Ambassadors Cup which is expected to attract a number of international artists from the region.

I WANT TO MAKE SWAZIS HAPPY - NEW SIHLANGU COACH

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCKER – Newly appointed Sihlangu mentor Kostadin Papic has pledged to make the nation happy during his one year stint with the senior national team.

Interviewed on the Robert Marawa on Thursday sports show aired by Supersport, the Serbian born mentor said he would do everything in his power to change the misfortunes of local football, following his appointment on Tuesday afternoon. "I am looking forward to the new job but it won't be easy."

Going to a small country with a population of about 1.4 million people, one needs to select the right kind of players and be aware that it is possible to change or not to change them.

"Turning the team's misfortune won't happen overnight, but I am determined to make the people from Eswatini happy," he said.

Papic, who is expected to lead the squad to their AFCON clash against Tunisia, said they would try and do

well during the game despite the fact that team is already out of the tournament."

"Yes AFCON is over and I have received a nice message from someone from Eswatini saying that we must win the match and the team will continue to win the next ones. I am positive that we will start everything nicely," he said.

The former Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs mentor's contract begins on January 1 2019 but he will officially assume his duties on January 5 2018.

Papic is to choose his two assistants that will work with him during his tenure as the nation's pride coach.

His first official assignment will be to lead Sihlangu to win AFCON 2019 Qualifier against Tunisia.

The European mentor is also expected to guide the nation's pride to the 2019 COSAFA senior challenge and to the 2021 AFCON qualifier set to commence later next year.

Papic brings vast football experience where he has coached the likes



PROMISING: Newly appointed Sihlangu mentor Kostadin Papic.

of Enugu Rangers (Nigeria), Hearts of Oak (Ghana), Young Africans (Tanzania), before his stint with

South Africa sides such as Black Leopards, Maritzburg United and Chippa United.

Its Weslians vs Buffs in next MTN Premier League action

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCKER – Local fans should gear up for a humdinger when the MTN Premier

League resumes next year, as hub giants Manzini Wanderers will welcome title darkhorses Young Buffaloes.

This will be during the week 14 round of fixtures released by the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) yesterday.

The 'Weslians' will be looking to improve in the log standing, where they are currently languishing at position 12 with 12 points while second placed Buffaloes will be hoping to close the five points gap set by log leaders Green Mamba.

Another main attraction will see defending champions Mbabane Swallows visit Manzini Sundowns who recently got the better of them in the first round, beating them 1-0.

Meanwhile, week 15 will see Moneni Pirates clash with Mbabane Highlanders, a game that ended 2-1 in favour of the Buccaneers at the King Sobhuza II stadium a few weeks ago. The 16 string of games also promises fireworks as two giants Mbabane Swallows and Manzini Wanderers will face off in what is likely to be a redemption seeking clash for the struggling 'Weslians'.

Swallows got the last laugh over the Weslians after handing the maroon and white ensemble a 3-2 drubbing in the first round encounter.



'Papi', Wanderers' Sihle out of Ingwenyama last 16

By Sabelo Gwebu

SOCCKER – At least 13 players from 11 different clubs, both in the Premier League and First Division will miss the last 16 round of the Ingwenyama Cup.

Among big name players nabbed by the notorious yellow card rule are combative Mbabane Swallows midfielder Colani 'Papi' Sikhondze, dependable Manzini Wanderers defender Sihle Mkhonta, Tambuti's crafty playmaker Mpendulo 'Navigator' Ngidi and forceful Young Buffaloes striker Phiwa Dlamini.

The Ingwenyama Cup will kick start the 2019 footballing year on the weekend of January 5-6 with the last 16 batch of matches to be played over five venues across the country. While Royal Leopard will miss influential midfielder Junior Magagula in their game against Wanderers, it is a double blow for Moneni Pirates who will be without captain Menzi 'Magawugawu' Simelane and flying winger Lwazi 'Shumi' Mamba in their clash against

● Malanti's 'Djemba', Vovovo captain Bheki Dlamini to save two matches after receiving second suspension of the season

Matsapha United. The duo of hard tackling Malanti Chiefs defender Thembinkosi 'Djemba' Mayisela and Vovovo captain Bheki 'Djemba' Dlamini will miss their sides' next two matches after receiving their second suspensions of the season as per the provisions of Article 6.2 of the 2018/19 MTN Premier League rules and regulations.

Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Simanga Nhleko confirmed the suspensions.



OUT: Colani 'Papi' Sikhondze.



Menzi 'Magawugawu' Simelane.

FULL LIST OF PLAYERS NABBED BY YELLOW CARD RULE

Premier League

- Thembinkosi 'Djemba' Mayisela (Malanti Chiefs)
- Bheki 'Djemba' Dlamini (Vovovo)
- Bhekinkhosi Mlota (Mbabane Citizens)
- Mpendulo 'Navigator' Ngidi (Tambuti)
- Lwazi 'Shumi' Mamba (Moneni Pirates)
- Menzi 'Magawugawu' Simelane (Moneni Pirates)

Pirates

- Junior Magagula (Royal Leopard)
- Phiwayinkhosi Dlamini (Young Buffaloes)
- Colani 'Papi' Sikhondze (Mbabane Swallows)
- Sihle Mkhonta (Manzini Wanderers)

First Division

- Mavi Mamba (City Warriors)
- Sethu Ngcamphalala (Madlenya)
- Lucky Gamedze (Madlenya)
- Ntsiki Makhanya (Tinyosi)

INGWENYAMA CUP LAST 16 FIXTURE

Saturday (05/01/19) at King Sobhuza Stadium		
Rangers	vs Swallows	3:30pm
Saturday (05/01/19) at Mayaluka Stadium		
Tambuti	vs Young Buffaloes	3:30pm
Leopard	vs Wanderers	5:50pm
Saturday (05/01/19) at Nsukuwansuku Stadium		
Matsapha	vs Moneni Pirates	3:30pm
Highlanders	vs Vovovo	5:30pm
Sunday (06/01/19) at Somhlolo National Stadium		
Citizen	vs Tinyosi	2pm
Sundowns	vs Ubombo Flyers	4pm
Sunday (06/01/19) at Killamey		
Malanti Chiefs	vs Madlenya	3:30pm

We will welcome any coach – Weslians fans

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCKER – Manzini Wanderers fans say they will support any coach picked by the authorities of the team.

This was said by the team's National Supporters Committee (NSC) Chairman Majaivane Dlamini following rumours circulating that seasoned mentor Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe's future is hanging by a thin thread, with former Mbabane Swallows mentor Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati tipped as a possible replacement.

"We as the fans do not have the power to pick who the coach is, as this is a decision made by the team's management. As fans,

all we are going to do is support and take whatever the management has agreed on and support it," he said.

The chairman further urged the team's fans to be patient as positive results would arise in perfect time when the team had fixed their problems.

"Manzini Wanderers is not in its rightful position in the log and we all want the best for the team. But then I would like to plead with the fans to be patient and hope for the best. Things will get better, but only if we work together for one common goal. Let's rally behind the boys as they will definitely do better than what they did in the first round," he said.

DEVELOPMENT LEAGUES KICK - OFF JANUARY

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCKER – The Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Under-17 and Reserve leagues will kick-off next month.

This is according to a statement released by PLE Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Simanga Nhleko yesterday, where he urged teams to register their players before the games commence.

He stated that only players born before 01 January can register for U-17 league.

"We are so happy to announce yet another season of these leagues and are happy to the fact that so much talent has been unearthed. We would like to request teams to conclude the registration of the PLE Under-17 league and this league will kick-off on the weekend of 12 – 13 January," he said. "The reserve league on the other hand will kick-off on the weekend of 19 – 20 January, and players registered should be born on or after January '1999," he said. Last season's champions of the

Under-17 were army side Young buffaloes who have bagged it for the past three seasons whilst Correctional Services side Green Mamba walked away with the Reserve league title.

The leagues have developed a number of youngsters in the country, such as Young Buffaloes' Lindani 'Rio' Matsenjwa, on form Mbabane Swallows midfielder Sizolwethu 'Nunu' Shabalala and Richard McCreesh, alongside Vovovo's Leon Manyisa to name just a few.

RESULTS

ABSA PREMIERSHIP
Bidvest Wits 2-0 Chippa United

FIXTURES

ABSA PREMIERSHIP

15:30 AmaZulu FC vs Golden Arrows
18:00 C. Town City vs Bloem Celtic
20:15 Maritzburg vs Baroka FC

PREMIER LEAGUE

14:30 Arsenal vs Burnley
17:00 Bournemouth vs Brighton
17:00 Chelsea vs Leicester
17:00 Huddersfield vs Southampton
17:00 Man City vs Crystal Palace
17:00 Newcastle vs Fulham
17:00 West Ham vs Watford
19:30 Cardiff City vs Manchester United

CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

15:00 Vipers SC vs CS Constantine
15:00 Sundowns vs Al-Ahly Benghazi
15:00 FC Platinum vs AS Otoho
15:00 ZESCO vs TP Mazembe
16:00 African Stars vs Orlando Pirates
16:30 Coton Sport vs Ismaily
19:00 ASC Jaraaf vs Wydad Athletic



**OUT: OVER 10
PREMIER LEAGUE
STARS TO MISS
INGWENYAMA CUP**

PAGE 43

**ON THE GREENS:
CALISILE, PHAYO
NAMED THE BEST
JUNIOR GOLFERS**

PAGE 42

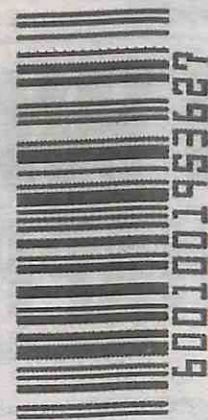
**YELLOW: PREMIER
LEAGUE SECOND
MASTER FIXTURE**

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SPORT

IF SPORT IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

December 22 2018



I AM READY - PAPIC

Newly appointed Sihlangu coach acknowledges results won't happen overnight but is determined to change the team's fortunes



Table-topping Wits pull clear of Pirates

JOHANNESBURG - ABSA Premiership leaders Bidvest Wits moved three points clear of Orlando Pirates with a 2-0 victory over Chippa United at the Bidvest Stadium yesterday night.

The Clever Boys looked lively in the early stages of the encounter, with Terrence Dzvukamanja and Lehlohonolo Majoro Majoro going close to scoring in the opening 15 minutes of the clash.

Chippa, meanwhile, were no pushovers and managed a couple forays forward, with Mark Mayambela causing a couple problems in the opposing final third.

With 28 minutes played, Gavin Hunt's charges were handed a penalty when Dzvukamanja was deemed to have been brought down in the box. Majoro's penalty was initially

saved by Daniel Akpei, but he slotted home the rebound.

The Chilli Boys tried to claw their way back into the encounter, but they were unable to carve out another opening as Wits were resolute in defence. The hosts thought they should have had a second penalty just before the break when Zita Macheke appeared to have handled in the box, but the referee waved away the appeal. Wits should have doubled in the opening stages of the second half, Dzvukamanja squandered two golden chances inside the opening 10 minutes of the stanza.

The second goal eventually arrived for Wits just after the hour mark, with Thabang Monare finding the back of the net with a superb free-kick from 20-yards out.

Joel Masutha responded by throw-

ing Jabulani Shongwe and Kurt Lentjies in the final 20 minutes as he looked to add more bodies in the middle of the park.

Despite the fresh legs introduced by the visitors, the Clever Boys continued to dominate and they nearly bagged a third goal in the 82nd minute when Akpeyi was forced to top Elias Pelembe's over the crossbar.

Chippa did have a chance to bag a consolation with three minutes but Puleng Tlolane failed to steer his volley on target, while Darren Keet produced a fine save to deny Rhulani Manzini moments later.

Nevertheless, Wits held on for the victory and clean sheet to move three points of the Buccaneers, while Chippa extend their winless run to eight matches in the league.

Soccer Laduma

Wanderers sack Nyanga

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - The 'marriage' between hub giants Manzini Wanderers and Head Coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe has ended. The two parties parted ways yesterday after serious deliberations following the team's unimpressive performance in the MTN league.

The maroon and white side have finished the league first round in a disappointing 12th position on the log standings with a meager 12 points in 13 games played.

Wanderers CEO Pat Mahlalela confirmed the developments yesterday, saying they had agreed with the coach to part ways amicably.



"We have since terminated the contract between Wanderers and the coach on mutual consent. We are however, still to engage the coach where the contractual obligations are concerned but this is the situation right now," he said.

He said they are still to meet as a team and discuss the way forward as to what would happen going forward.

The coach said he had accepted the team's decision when contacted last night.

"I have accepted the decision by the team's directors. Such decisions have to be taken by authorities in any team if they feel the need to do so," he said.

SACKED: Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe