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AMITOFO PUPILS TOUR TAIWAN, HONG KONG, JAPAN



BEYOND OUR BORDERS: Amitofo pupils with Director of Social Welfare Moses Dlamini and Shiselweni Regional Education Officer Thabile Nxumalo in Taipei. STORY ON PAGE 12

MASHUMI GOES FOR THE BIGGER ELECTIONS

Page 2

SCHOOL GOES FOR PREGNANCY TESTS

Page 3

TRAIN RUNS OVER TWO MEN, KILLS THEM

Page 2

COPS STILL LOOKING FOR MORE SUSPECTS...

VICTOR'S DEATH: COPS **RAID** SUSPECT'S HOME AT MSUNDUZA

...Suspect is linked to the execution of Victor Gamedze

STORY ON PAGE 3

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2 NATIONAL NEWS

INCREASED CHANCES OF RAIN IN FIRST 3 MONTHS

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

A seasonal forecast for first three months of 2018 shows a generally increased chance of above-normal-to-normal rainfall.

This is for the period January-February-March (JFM).

However, the seasons of February-March-April (FMA) and March-April-May (MAM) start to show a decline in rainfall probability with some parts of the country likely to experience below-normal rainfall.

The forecaster said this does not mean

that some parts of the country will not receive rains above normal during the FMA and MAM period.

This means that rains will be reduced in some parts of the country, clarified the forecaster

Probability

According to a recently released forecast, the first month of 2018 (January) shows a generally increased chances of above-normal-to-normal rainfall for the period.

"The February-March-April (FMA) and March-April-May (MAM) start to show a decline in rainfall probability with some parts of the country likely to experience below-normal rainfall," said the

forecaster.

The forecaster said rainfall received during the period of October to December 2017 was relatively about average of normal in most parts of the country.

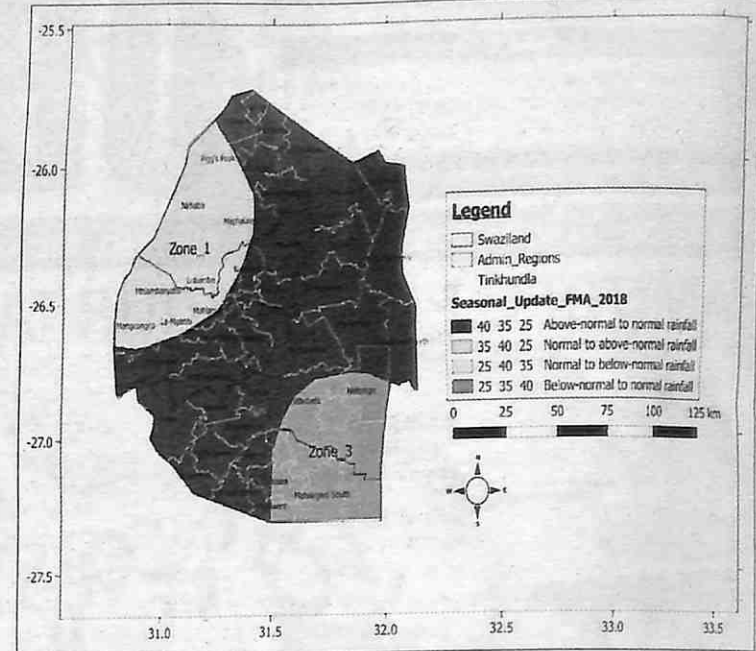
Signify

He said cooler than normal sea surface temperatures over western Pacific Nino regions signify a continuation of the weak La Nina event, which models predict will prevail until the start of autumn.

"Temperatures will relatively remain warm during the day, with occasional cold snaps," he said.

The predictors used put most of the country in normal-to-below-normal rainfall over the forecast period.

BELOW IS A CHART SHOWING FMA FORECAST:



TRAIN KILLS 2 MEN IN A MAHINDRA

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

TWO people died in a horrific accident when a Mahindra they were travelling in was run over by a train.

The incident happened along the Mhlume Section 1 public road on Sunday.

According to sources that witnessed the accident, the Mahindra driven by a man of Bulandzeni was run over by a train belonging to Swaziland Railways.

"The driver and his passenger sustained serious body injuries and were rushed to Mhlume Clinic in an ambulance," stated one source.

They were later transferred to Manzini Clinic (formerly Philo Clinic) where they were certified dead on arrival.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani

...According to sources that witnessed the accident, the Mahindra driven by a man of Bulandzeni was run over by a train belonging to SD Railways

Mamba confirmed the matter.

"On Sunday at 10:15 hours along Mhlume/Section 1 public road at Section 1 field M14502, train 9476 driven by a 57-year-old man of Swaziland Railways ran over a Mahindra driven by a 53-year-old man of Bulandzeni," said Mamba.

Mamba said the driver and a 30-year-old man of Dvokolwako sustained serious injuries.

The police mouthpiece said both men were rushed to Mhlume Clinic where they were treated and transferred to Manzini Clinic. The victims were cer-

tified dead on arrival at Manzini Clinic.

Mamba said police are investigating the cause of the accident. This is a second train accident where a life was lost. A 90-year-old woman of Siphofaneni was also run over by a train while trying to cross the rail line.

Meanwhile, Simunye police arrested and charged a 33-year-old man of Malindza for being found in possession of 22 bones and Giraffe fat without a licence or permit while at Hlane. Mamba said the suspect appeared at the Simunye Magistrate's Court yesterday.

MASHUMI NOW WANTS THE BIGGER ELECTIONS

Stories by Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangano

"THIS time I am not going to decline when nominated as I feel I am matured to join politics."

These were the words of Mashumi Shongwe, one of the popular figures not just in the Shiselweni region but throughout the Kingdom with regards to the national elections this year. He said he was 100 per cent available and he would not just run to add numbers but to make sure that he wins.

He will be contesting for the Member of Parliament position and he stated that he still needed to decide where he will contest. He qualifies to stand for election under Maseyisini or Shiselweni II.

Makhwelela which is under Shiselweni II is Shongwe's parental home while his homestead is at Evusweni under Maseyisini. He frequents both areas and also participates fully in community activities.

"My time is now as I feel I am matured enough to join politics. The country's leaders have urged Swazis to take part in this year's elections and I am going to do just that," said Shongwe.

During the launch of his organisation, Federation of Swaziland Trade Union (FESWATU) almost two years ago at the King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium, Shongwe did give a hint that he was considering contesting for a Parliament seat in 2018.

"It's no longer a consideration but



READY: Mashumi Shongwe.

let me publicly announce that I am available. For the past two terms, I kept on being nominated but I have been declining as there were other things that made me feel I was not ready.

Contest

"I now feel it's time I serve my constituency and I am more than ready. It's going to be up to me to decide where I feel I should stand for election as I qualify to contest under Maseyisini where my home is and I can also contest under Shiselweni II as it's a constituency where my mother's parental home is located. Very soon, I will be announcing which between these two constituencies I will be running for during the elections," said Shongwe who is also a popular football administrator.

Shongwe said what made him decline when nominated in the past, apart from other engagements, he also wanted to learn and understand what it meant to be a politician.

...Believes Tinkhundla is the best

"OUR Tinkhundla system of governance is the best and can't be compared with any other system."

Mashumi Shongwe said anyone spoke blasphemy of the Tinkhundla system was not a true Swazi but someone that still had to learn a lot on what makes Swaziland a unique nation. He said just like in a family setup, there were problems but those problems were not above the families as they were sorted out and life continues.

"Anyone who speaks ill of his or her family, is someone who deserves a checkup. As Swazis we should not be misled and we should be thank-

ful to God for making us what we are. The Tinkhundla system, has kept us together and united as a nation," said Shongwe.

Shongwe said he wanted to wait until he was matured enough to join politics, it has helped him to understand the Tinkhundla system.

"It is this reason I feel I should not just be a spectator in shaping our country but be seen as fully involved hence I am now publicly declaring to join the race to Parliament. I fully understand the system and I feel I should be directly involved and to be directly involved I feel becoming an MP is part of that," said Shongwe.

Gamedze's killers will be caught before month end

Stories by Qondile Ntiwane
Mbabane

DIVINE Healing Ministries Bishop Dr Nash Shongwe has prophesied that Victor Gamedze's killers will be caught before the end of January.

The Bishop made the prophecy just before the funeral service of the slain Mbabane Swallows held at KaLanga Siteki on Sunday.

The Bishop was reacting to yet another prophecy made by Association of Christian Artists in Swaziland (ACASWA) President Mzwakhe Myeni who had said the killers would be brought to book before the end of February

Feeling

"This will not happen in February but before the end of January. These people will turn themselves in. I feel something. Things happen when such gathering occur especially in such a manner."

"We release the power that raised Jesus Christ from the death," he said.

Meanwhile Myeni had said it was time

MOURNERS REPRIMAND OTHERS FOR RECORDING VIDEO CLIPS OF FUNERAL

SOME mourners took it upon themselves to reprimand others for taking video clips of the funeral proceedings of assassinated Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Chairman Victor Gamedze.

A section of mourners were not happy to see other taking pictures and recordings at the graveside.

They asked why people were taking clips of the funeral as it was insensitive to do. They specifically directed their wrath to two ladies who were engaged in the act.

They asked the ladies to explain why they were recording the proceedings and how it would help them.

to invite the heavens to intervene in ensuring that the killers are found.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Minister David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala said govern-

They added that they would deal with them as even the phones they were using were not up to standard.

Understood

"Just stop what you are doing. Why are you recording the funeral and how will it help you. People are doing all this just to go and post on social media. This is not right because they don't do such at their respective homes during funerals," said on mourner.

His instruction was seemingly understood as the ladies stopped recording the service.

It was however unfortunate, as hundreds of other supporters continued to record the clips of the service.

ment condemned such action.

"As a country we don't want to see such a scene again. We ask Christians pray for the country to ensure that it never happens again," he said.



STUDY LOAN RECOVERY NEWS



STUDY LOANS TEAM BUST CHEATING BENEFICIARIES

By Observer Reporter
Mbabane

Some beneficiaries of the government study loans are trying all tricks in the book to evade repaying their scholarship.

The Study Loans Recovery Consortium has since discovered that some beneficiaries who informed the consortium that they were unemployed are actually in gainful employment.

Project Coordinator Gugu Mahlalela said they learnt with shock that some beneficiaries who are in gainful employment could present deceitful information in a bid to evade making the study loan repayments.

"The Study Loan Recovery Consortium (SLR) is therefore sending a stern warning to beneficiaries who have committed this offence. We urge those who presented false information to contact our office as soon as possible to correct it. These beneficiaries should act quickly to correct this before the deadline which is slated for January 31", she said.

Mahlalela said the discrepancies were discovered last week when the consultants were cross-checking some beneficiaries claims of being unemployed.

"We have discovered that a number of the beneficiaries who said they were unemployed are actually in gainful employment. The consortium has since confronted some of these beneficiaries and unfortunately they have given unsatisfying reasons on why they misrepresented the truth on their employment status.

Thought

"The fact of the matter is they thought they would easily evade making the study loan repayment and carry on reaping the fruits of the study loans without being caught," she said.

The project coordinator said the consortium is still deciding on what measures will be taken against the culprits who have been found to have lied about their employment status.

She further warned beneficiaries against misrepresenting information as all unemployed individuals will be confirmed with the relevant stakeholders who have all the necessary information

about everyone's employment status in the country.

"Should there be any beneficiaries found to have committed this act, there will be serious consequences," she said.

Mahlalela further encouraged beneficiaries who have not made the study loan repayment arrangements to make sure they visit the consortium's office before the deadline at the end of this month.

Advising

"Beneficiaries must utilise these last few days to come and make the arrangements. We advise against coming on the day of the deadline. As you may remember during the last deadline at the end of November last year, beneficiaries chose to make use of the last day and they were met by queues which resulted in some beneficiaries not getting assistance on time," she said.

She added that beneficiaries who are currently employed on contract basis are not exempt from making the repayment arrangements as some assumed.

Mahlalela said all beneficiaries who are earning something should start the repayment process.

She said beneficiaries who have access to the internet do not necessarily need to visit their offices in person as they can be assisted through email.

Efficient

"We urge those who can email and scan in their respective documents to do so as it is also efficient. Beneficiaries must also note that after receiving their statements via email, they are supposed to sign and email the consent form back to the consultant for the process to be complete.

"Beneficiaries who are outside Swaziland need not stress too much as they can communicate with us through email and have the entire process completed.

"The consortium has an office in South Africa on 168 Leonie Street, Doringkloof Centurion. Beneficiaries can also contact the office on +2712 667 4540 and will be assisted accordingly. We have heard suspicions about the legitimacy of the South African office in the past and we assure the beneficiaries that it is legit," she said.

It is worth noting that beneficiaries who fail to make the repayment arrangements by January 31, will lose the 50 per cent indulgence from the government and they will be expected to pay the total award they received for their studies.

VICTOR'S DEATH: COPS RAID SUSPECT'S HOME AT SKOM

COVER STORY

By Mboni Mdluli
Mbabane

...It is not proper for us to investigate such cases with journalists around because this is unacceptable to the people that are investigated. This is private property, which we have to respect. It would be understandable if the scene was just in an open public space

POLICE are investigating another suspect that could potentially be linked to the assassination of businessman Victor Gamedze.

Yesterday, police were seen at the gate of the alleged suspect's home, which is located at Msunduzi (Skom), Mbabane.

The plain-clothed police officers were found doing their investigations at the home, which was also barricaded a yellow tape.

The Swazi Observer news team arrived at the scene at about 3pm. The name of the suspect will be withheld for now, pending the investigations by the police.

The arrival of the news team was not well received by the police officers. They stated that they did not understand why the media was there because this was jeopardising the



HAMBA KAHLE MADLENYA: Mbabane Swallows players carrying the casket of Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze during his funeral at KaLanga.

investigations done by the police officers.

"It is not proper for us to investigate such cases with journalists around because this is unacceptable to the people that are investigated. This is

private property, which we have to respect. It would be understandable if the scene was just in an open public space," said one of the investigating officers. The police said they did not have a problem with coop-

erating with the media, but the media should give them time to properly do their investigations. They said this would help them apprehend their suspects, without them being given a chance to escape because of the information they get from the media.

They pleaded with the media to be patient and wait for the police to conclude their investigations before the information could be given to the press for public consumption.

The investigating officers did not want to commit themselves further with the media on the scene, except only to say they were investigating the home. They said it would not be good for the subjects of the investigations to have their information out in public even before the investigations could be concluded.

Gamedze was shot dead by an unknown person last Sunday at Galp Filling Station in Ezulwini.

He was laid to rest yesterday at KaLanga, just outside Siteki, after a memorial service that was held on Saturday at Prince of Wales Sports Ground in Mbabane.

Bodyguards would not have stopped Victor's assassination - Bishop Nash

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

THE sudden death of businessman Victor Gamedze may have been the doing of some greedy and jealous individuals, but the time was approved by God.

These were the words of comfort to the Gamedze family by Bishop Nash Shongwe.

Shongwe was one of the preachers who gave spiritual healing to the bleeding hearts of the family and the nation at large during a funeral ser-

vice at KaLanga on Sunday.

The renowned bishop shared the Holy Scriptures with the thousands of mourners who had come to pay their last respects to celebrated businessman.

Shongwe highlighted that the death of a person was never a mistake with God. He stated that even though some people were of the view that Gamedze's life would have been spared if he had bodyguards, God's timing was always correct. The bishop said the thoughts that bodyguards could have helped, were only feelings of bleeding hearts. "Nothing would have stopped

Gamedze's death when God had approved it. As Christians we must be aware that the passing away of a person is never a mistake to the Lord," he said.

Shongwe urged the family to remain united and embrace the legacy that Gamedze has left behind him. He also urged local churches to always be supportive of the family and give them spiritual guidance.

"Gamedze was passionate in helping other people as we have been made aware that he paid school fees for a considerable number of needy children," Shongwe added.

He recalled that in one instance, one of his congregants reported to him that Gamedze had just assisted her get a job.

While acknowledging that the entire nation had been left heart broken by the assassination of the businessman, Shongwe appealed for calm from everyone and hoped that all those who took part in the cruel act will soon be brought to book.

Currently one suspect is behind bars in businessman Sipho Shongwe who also owns Matsapha United FC. He appeared in court on Sunday where he was remanded back into custody.

SCHOOL OPTS FOR PUPILS PREGNANCY TESTS

By Mboni Mdluli
Mbabane

SIPHOCOSINI High School parents are reported to have agreed that their female pupils should undergo pregnancy tests this year.

The parents are said to have reached the decision during the parents meeting held at the school late last year.

The parents took this bold step to save themselves from paying fees for pregnant pupils in the school thus by testing the girls they would be safeguarding against wasting resources. This becomes a financial blow to the parents, who pay school fees, only for the children to fail and not finish their course of study due to the pregnancy.

The most painful part of this situation is that the fees paid for the pregnant pupils are usually non-refundable hence parents reached this decision.

However, the implementation of the tests seems to be difficult for the parents, as government had found the exercise to be expensive. According to a source, it is now each and every parent responsibility to ensure their children go for the pregnancy test to avoid potential disappointments.

One of the parents in the school said she liked the idea because it was a way of saving them from potential disappointments of paying for a child that was pregnant.

"It is very frustrating for a parent to pay huge amounts of money for school fees only to find that during the course of the year that the child is pregnant. The idea of pregnancy tests is good," said the parent.

Minister for Education Phineas Magagula said there was no problem with the pregnancy tests, as long as parents agreed to take this route. He further mentioned that any form of medical examinations were acceptable at any learning institution to ascertain the health conditions of learners.

4 PICTURES



HAMBA KAHLE MADLENYA: Mbabane Swallows players and officials led by the team's coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati and captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze carrying the casket of Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze where over 15 000 people paid their last respects at KaLanga in Siteki on Sunday morning. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

MORE FROM VICTOR'S



IN ORDER: Gamedze family making sure everything is in order.

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DUST TO DUST: MP Joseph Souza paying tribute to his brother Victor Gamedze.



ALSO THERE: Former Under Secretary Maswazi Shongwe with Minister David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala.



IN SONG: Frans Dlamini singing his lungs out.



ON AIR: ACASWA artist Vusumuzi Maculube on the stage.



BEHIND THE MIC: ACASWA President Mzwakhe Myeni also performed.

Death Notice



Kwatiswa BantfwabeNkhosi nemaLangeni onkhe, baka Dludlu, bangani, nelibadla le Swazi National Assemble kutsi iNkhosikati laDludlu lomkhulu wemntfwaneNkhosi Mahlaba akasekho emhiabeni.

Kutawuba nenkozo yekumkhubula ka Lobamba Christian Revival eceleni kwaka Fire ngaLwesibili mhlaka 23/01/2018 Nga1 pm. Kutawulindzelwa kusihlwa kaHhoye kaNdlela Abekwe endlini yakhe yekugcina ngaLwesitsatfu ekuseni ngelisiko lemaLangeni.

Simemetelo sikhishwa yiNduna eLuDzidzini

PUBLIC NOTICE



Management wishes to inform the public that Maxwell Dlamini who was working for the The Swazi Observer as Circulation Sales Support/Driver is no longer working for The Swazi Observer as of 18 January 2018. Accordingly, he is not authorised in anyway to conduct any transactions be monetary or otherwise on behalf of The Swazi Observer.

The Swazi Observer shall therefore not be held liable nor take responsibility for any dealings conducted with Mr Dlamini.

BY MANAGEMENT

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ON SATURDAY

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FUNERAL SERVICE



TOUCHING: 1. Gamedze's wife Princess Lungile being comforted by relatives. 2. Victor's children saying goodbye.



IN TEARS: Most of Swazi Mobile staff members failed to hold back tears when the casket of their boss Victor Gamedze was being lowered.



EMOTIONAL: Mbabane Swallows supporters in tears.



SAD: Sandile Hlatsjwako was emotional during the funeral.



CELEBRATING HIS LIFE: A section of Swallows followers singing and dancing at the grave yard.



UNBELIEVABLE: Swazi Mobile employees also bid farewell to their boss.

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Closing date for all applications is 26th January 2018.

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Memorial Service



Memorial service In the memory of our beloved sister, mother and receptionist Mrs Yemengushal Zewdie (Mrs Yemi), who passed on 25.12.2017, after short illness. Memorial service will be held at Khanyisile Primary school hall starting at 10.30 am on Friday 26.01.2018.

Her lovely smile, kindness and helping hand shall be missed by all dear friends, Ethiopian community, scholars and teachers at Khanyisile Primary School.

Dr Getahun Tsegaye.

SHEBEEN PATRONS ATTACKED, ONE KILLED

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Moneni

FED up community members of Moneni ended up taking the law into their own hands when 18 members of the infamous Ludzeludze 'Boko Haram' gang attacked patrons at a popular drinking spot killing one of them during a skirmish that left a number of people hospitalised.

According to information gathered from eyewitnesses, the gang was led by murder suspect Thabo Shongwe who is still out on bail for allegedly stabbing Maxwell Masilela to death at a drinking spot at Mbhuleni. The incident happened at a drinking spot known as Kasi Vibe on Saturday.

Patrons, who witnessed the incident, said they were watching a football game when they heard that Thabo Shongwe, who is famously known as 'Slaughter' was on his way to the bar with a group of armed men.

One of the survivors said knowing that Shongwe was once arrested and charged with the murder of a well-known socialite at Mbhuleni, he started to prepare to leave the bar because he knew that Shongwe and his crew always terrorise bars around the area. The patron said just as he was preparing to leave, he met Shongwe who immediately withdrew a bush-knife and started hacking him without saying any word.

The survivor said all hell broke loose as the about 18 men entered the bar and started assaulting and stabbing everyone who was inside.

...incident occurred at popular Moneni drinking spot



MURDER SCENE: Kasi Vibe drinking spot where a patron was stabbed to death during a violent fight involving Ludzeludze gangsters. (Pic: Sifiso Nhlabatsi)

It is said during that skirmish a 20-year-old man known as Andy Bafana Nkambule allegedly stabbed a patron who was enjoying his drinks at the shebeen.

Teamed up

The patron, Victor Iron Ndzinisa was stabbed several times with a Rambo knife on his upper body and died on the spot. It is said after they were done, all the members ran off towards the road leading to town. However, Shongwe is alleged to have stayed behind.

It is then that community members including residents who live next to the drinking spot teamed up and went to hunt for the gang members. It is said after a chase they finally caught up with Shongwe next to Moneni Filling Station.

The community members are said to have started assaulting Shongwe with all sorts of weapons with the intention of killing him. However, the accused was

saved by the intervention of police who quickly got to the scene and took him to hospital. He was taken together with Thomas Mthandi Vilakati who was allegedly hacked by the mob.

However, information gathered by those who were on the scene is that by the time Ndzinisa was taken to hospital he was already dead due to the stab wounds he sustained.

Shongwe and Nkambule appeared before Manzini Magistrate Sindisile Zwane yesterday, where the former was charged with assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

During his court appearance he was remanded back to custody and granted bail fixed at E3 000. Nkambule was charged with murder, informed that bail was opposed and could only move such at the High Court due to the nature of the offence.

Disappointment as gang leader granted bail

THE communities of Ludzeludze and Moneni have been left shocked and without any trust to the justice system of the country following the release of well-known gang leader, Thabo Shongwe, who is currently out on bail for murder charges and a string of grievous bodily harm charges.

Earlier in 2015, Shongwe was accused of stabbing to death Maxwell Masilela during a scuffle at Mbhuleni. Shongwe was arrested and later released on bail by the High Court. One of the bail conditions was that the accused must not commit offences of a similar nature.

However, the accused has been in and out of courts for a string of assault charges where he is accused of assaulting, stabbing people on different incidences around Ludzeludze and other areas in the Manzini region.

Havoc

The accused who has been causing havoc at Ludzeludze has even earned himself the infamous nickname of 'Slaughter' among his peers.

The accused seems to always have a way to dodge doing time as he is always released on bail every time he is arrested for an assault charge after allegedly stabbing people.

Just last year alone, the accused appeared in court two times for assault charges and has been hospitalised more than once after he in turn was stabbed during

scuffles.

Prosecutor Fakazi Mngomezulu last year even mentioned in one of the court sessions where the accused had appeared for an assault matter at the Matsapha Circuit Court that the suspect poses a threat to the community as he (Mngomezulu) had records which proved that the accused was out on bail for related charges.

Mngomezulu opposed the accused's bail on grounds that if released on bail, the accused would continue causing trouble.

The accused was denied bail that time but his lawyers fought tooth and nail for his release and he was eventually released.

Yesterday the accused appeared before court with bandages all over his face and looked to be in a very bad state. Court records stated that the accused had committed an offence of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

It is alleged that on Saturday near Moneni area the accused assaulted Thomas Mthandi Masuku with a bush-knife several times on his body.

The accused's attorney Lindelwa Mkhwanazi from Mabila attorneys applied that the accused be released on bail so that he gets medical attention because of his injuries. The prosecutor did not oppose bail and Magistrate Zwane granted the accused bail fixed at E3 000.

Thabo will die - vengeful Moneni residents

RESIDENTS of Moneni have made it clear that they will take the law into their own hands and kill Thabo Shongwe for terrorising them in their own area.

The community members were of the view that the accused (Shongwe) had died after giving him a taste of his own medicine by assaulting him on Saturday.

However, after they were informed that the accused had since survived the assault, some of those who were part of the group that hunted him down made it clear that the worst was still to

come for him because they were tired of being terrorised by the same person.

The residents said they had learnt that it was not only Moneni which had been terrorised by Shongwe but other areas including Ludzeludze, Ngculwini, Mbhuleni and Fairview.

The residents said it was clear that the law has failed to deal with the accused and lots of lives would be lost if nothing was done to stop him.

Charges faced by the two accused persons:

Bafana Nkambule (20) of Ntabamhloshana faces a murder charge in that upon January 20 at Moneni area he wrongfully and unlawfully killed one Victor Iron Ndzinisa by stabbing him several times on the upper body.

Thabo Nelson Shongwe (21) of Ludzeludze is charged with assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm in that on January 20 at Moneni area, he wrongfully and intentionally assaulted Thomas Mthandi Vilakati with a bush knife several times on his body.

Cape Town appoints acting commissioner

CAPE TOWN - The City of Cape Town yesterday appointed an acting commissioner for its Transport and Urban Development Authority (TDA) following the recent suspension of its senior transport head.

Gershwin Fortune, portfolio manager for integrated transport, will start his job immediately following the suspension of Melissa Whitehead last Friday, as a result of the alleged covering up of irregularities in which embattled Mayor Patricia de Lille is implicated.

Whitehead's suspension came after a special meeting by council members last

Friday to discuss, among other things, allegations of fraud and tender irregularities levelled against Whitehead and De Lille, as well as the water crisis.

News24 learnt that during a closed session, council voted to place Whitehead on precautionary suspension pending an investigation into her conduct.

Fortune has 19 years relevant work experience which includes predominantly local government and, to a lesser extent, international experience as an urban transport specialist for the World Bank, the City said in a statement.

"The TDA is spearheading a number of

projects that are critical to the spatial transformation of our city, and in establishing an integrated public transport system that will bring down the cost of transport and the time residents spend on commuting between their homes and work. The turnaround plan for urban commuter rail, and the provision of affordable and inclusionary housing on well-located land, count among the key priorities we will be focusing on in the coming months," said Councillor Brett Herron, the city's member of the mayoral committee for transport and urban development.

News24

PUBLIC NOTICE

Budget estimates for 2018/2019 financial year

The Hlathikhulu Town Board informs the residents, rate payers and the general public that board approved budget estimates for 2018/19 can be viewed at no cost at the town board offices from 8:00 am to 4:45 pm during working days from the 19th to the 29th January 2018. Written submissions can be forwarded to the Town Clerk, Box 523 Hlathikhulu.

Bongani Dlamini
Town Clerk

I would have got a merit – robbery suspect

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

...He submitted that had his bail not been revoked, he would have passed with flying colours in the 2017 SPC Examinations

A school going robbery suspect, whose freedom was short-lived when his bail was revoked by the Magistrate's Court, has filed an urgent application for bail at the High Court pending a review application against the magistrate's decision to revoke his bail.

The primary going pupil (18), from one of the schools in the Shiselweni region who wants to be released from custody, yesterday moved the bail application before High Court Judge Nkosinathi Maseko where he is seeking an order of court reviewing, correcting and setting aside as unlawful the decision of Magistrate Philisiwe Dlamini remanding him back into custody despite having paid bail with sufficient surety.

He further wants an order of court declaring that the magistrate made an error in holding that the applicant's bail conditions include that he should not commit any crime with a theft element whilst out on bail and that his continued incarceration at the Nhlangano Correctional facility is unlawful.

School

The pupil, who is desirous to go back to school, in his affidavit submitted



that he was arrested for a robbery offence involving clothing belonging to Mzwandile Zwane, a case which is

pending before the Nhlangano Magistrate's Court.

He stated that he moved an applica-

tion for bail before at the same court and was granted same on April 6, 2017 and was able to pay a bail deposit of E2 000 which was accompanied by a surety.

He submitted that after his release he continued to attend the criminal case at the Nhlangano Magistrate Court as it was set for trial together with his co-accused who happens to be his half brother.

The school going suspect who was doing Grade seven at the time of his arrest, submitted in his court papers through his lawyer Professor Msibi that he has never been in default of attendance and has never interfered with witnesses of the Crown.

However when the matter was scheduled to appear before Magistrate Dlamini on October 4, for continuation of the hearing but the matter could not proceed because there were no witnesses in attendance and was reset for another date.

To his shock, the suspect in his affidavit stated that the prosecutor on that day applied that his bail be forfeited and be remanded back into custody arguing that he had violated his bail conditions in that he was convicted of another crime being theft of cooper wires.

Prosecutor

The prosecutor according to the sus-

pect submitted that the court had ruled earlier that he should not be found guilty of an offence where theft is an element whilst continuation of his trial Magistrate Dlamini agreed with him and remanded him back into custody.

"My arrest in this matter has greatly disturbed my studies as I was schooling at the time of my arrest and doing Standard Five, I could not even write my exams as I was remanded back into custody whilst attending one of the trials and am still in detention to date," he submitted.

He submitted that he wanted to re-join school and pursue his Standard Five this year but such cannot happen as he has been re-arrested.

He further submitted that had he not been re-arrested after his bail was revoked, he would have attained a merit in the 2017 Swaziland Primary Certificate (SPC) Examinations.

He also attached his school report for the standard four examinations which indicated that he performed well stating that during the school's speech and prize giving day he was given an award for best performing pupil.

The matter was postponed to tomorrow as Judge Maseko ordered that the suspect's father appear in court to confirm that he still stands as a surety.

U-Tech pupil busted with 57.5kg dagga

By Sibusiso Gamedze
High Court

THREE people including a pupil from U-Tech College have been arrested on charges of being found with dagga weighing 57.5kg.

Senzo Ntshangase, a 24-year-old man from Mambane under Chief Mvimbi appeared at the High Court together with Sibongile Dlamini, 45, of kaMfishane and Nontobeko Dlamini, 32, also of Mambane before Judge Doris Tshabalala for contravening Section 12 (1) of the Pharmacy Act of 1929.

According to the charge sheet, the accused were found conveying dagga weighing 57.5kg in a Toyota Run X sedan at or near Nedso area in the Shiselweni region and failed to produce a valid licence or permit.

In Ntshangase's application for bail filed under a certificate of urgency, his lawyer Machawe Sithole from Sithole and Magagula Attorneys submitted that he was at home on January 16 when Nontobeko Dlamini came to him driving the above mentioned motor vehicle and asked him to drive them to Nhlangano as she had no driver's licence.

Ntshangase said he did not ascertain the nature of the journey but only picked up his driver's licence and drove the car as requested. Along the way they came across two gentlemen who were carrying a bag signaling a request for a lift around Sithobelweni area.

He said he stopped the car to give them a lift as they seemed to be in a hurry and requested them to put the bags in the boot as the car by then was fully loaded with five passengers.

Along the way, one of the gentlemen busy on his cellphone immediately requested that they be dropped off as there was another car which they had been waiting for and was following the accused car.

After stopping, the two men are said to have alighted from the vehicle and did not notice that they had forgotten their bags in the boot as all was done hastily.

Along the way whilst driving, they a roadblock at a place called Nedso in the Shiselweni district

wherein the police stopped the car and requested to search it and no objection was made by the accused.

Ntshangase said they were perplexed when the police advised them that they had retrieved a bag that contained dagga. They were arrested and charged for possession of dagga.

In his motivation for bail, he submitted that his continued incarceration had serious repercussions to him as he was a sickly person as he suffered from asthma.

He said that his stay in the prison cells would worsen his health as it was dusty and the blankets were dusty.

He submitted that he was also due for classes at U-Tech college and could not attend owing to his incarceration. Upon hearing the accused arguments Judge Tshabalala admitted the accused persons to bail of E2 000 which they reportedly paid and were released as such.

LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licensing Board will hold its sitting to hear the following applications at the Ministry of Justice Conference Room on the 5 February 2018 starting at 09.00 am.

Region Hhohho
1. Mpendulo R Mvubu, P. O. Box 4631, Mbabane **Renewal of a Bottle Store**
Liquor Licence situated at Plot 938, Sidvashini known as **Ehawini Bottle Store.**

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

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD
P.O. BOX 451
MBABANE



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES
SWAZILAND

SOS Children's Villages is an International Child Development non-profit organization that provides for children at risk of losing (as well as those who have lost) parental care. The Member Association of Swaziland is currently serving at least 3500 children and this is done through two methods; Family Based Care, as well as Family Strengthening. The association is currently functioning in four national regions and aims to expand its coverage in order to meet the needs of more children.

Applications are invited for the following vacancies:

PROGRAMME STAFF VACANCIES

PROGRAMME HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATOR- NHLANGANO

The ideal candidate will be hired on a 2 year (renewable) contract, and will require the following qualifications:

Qualifications:

- Minimum academic qualification; Diploma in Human Resources
- Added advantage: Diploma in Accounting/AAT qualifications
- MS Office skills
- Minimum 2 (two) years' work experience in relevant field
- Fluent in both English and siSwati (written and spoken)
- Able to work under minimum supervision
- Drivers Licence

Experience in:

- Financial administration
- Monitoring the utilization of company facilities such as vehicles and other assets
- Recruiting and orienting new co-workers
- Report writing
- The ability to administer and facilitate budget related activities
- The ability to develop staff at programme/ basic level
- The ability to assist with organization and facilitation of trainings and workshops
- The ability to oversee relationships between staff members at programme level

Personal Attributes:

- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to work well in a team and to communicate effectively with colleagues, partners, etc.
- Good planning, organising and coordination skills with attention to detail and accuracy
- Ability to manage own time and to work under high pressure
- Maintain confidential information
- Conduct themselves appropriately when with and around children
- Trustworthy

PROGRAMME FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR- SITEKI

The ideal candidate will be hired on a 2 year (renewable) contract,

and will require the following qualifications

Qualifications:

- Minimum academic qualification; Diploma in Accounting, AAT qualifications
- MS Office skills and accounting software
- Minimum 2 (two) years' work experience in relevant field
- Fluent in both English and siSwati (written and spoken)
- Able to work under minimum supervision
- Drivers Licence

Experience in:

- Financial administration and record keeping
- Report writing
- Monitoring the utilization of company facilities and assets
- The ability to administer and facilitate budget related activities

Personal Attributes:

- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to work well in a team and to communicate effectively with colleagues, partners, etc.
- Good planning, organising and coordination skills with attention to detail and accuracy
- Ability to manage own time and to work under high pressure
- Maintain confidential information
- Conduct themselves appropriately when with and around children
- Trustworthy

NB! All applicants must have traceable references as well as a police clearance.

A 13th cheque and contributory medical aid shall be offered.

If you are interested in the above post, please send a detailed CV and letter of application to: The Human Resource Manager SOS Children's Villages at Nhlalakhe Villiers Street opposite Cashbuild delivery site Manzini. Alternatively, fax applications to 2505 8491 or email to wendzile.zwane@sos-swaziland.org. If you are not contacted within 7 working days of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

Closing date for applications is 29th January 2018

8 NATIONAL NEWS

MAN STRIPS WOMAN NAKED, ARRESTED

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

A 30-year-old man has been ordered to pay E5 000 bail after he was arrested for allegedly stripping a woman's skirt, underwear and violating her.

Mfanimpela Magaya Mndzebele (30) of Mahlanya area under Chief Msobokazane appeared before Magistrate Sindisile Zwane at the Manzini Magistrate's Court yesterday.

When his rights to legal representation were read to him, the accused opted to conduct his own defence. When asked how he intended to plead to the charge of

...he is admitted to E5 000 bail

indecent assault, the accused informed the court that he would plead guilty.

The charge sheet states that the accused on January 6, committed an assault of an indecent nature by stripping off the skirt and underwear of Nobuhle* (28) and further inserted his fingers in her privates. The prosecutor applied that the accused be remanded back into police custody and return to Malkerns Circuit Court next week Thursday. The accused was informed that should he want be out on bail he should pay E5 000. However, the accused failed to pay the bail amount.

'Obsession with miracles clouding Christian faith'

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

MORE people in the Christian fraternity are said to be more concerned about receiving miracles and have developed the love for riches instead of being concerned about their eternity.

This was said by Apostle Thokozani Zulu during the funeral service of slain businessman Victor Gamedze on Sunday. As a norm during funeral services, Zulu took to the podium and preached repentance to the mourners.

He highlighted the fact that Christians were slowly shifting focus from the main purpose of repentance to getting rich instantly.

Zulu noted that it was for this reason that the few churches which still adhere to the teachings of repentance and eternity have less numbers of people registered as members. "Evidently, if I can dish out prophecies and preach miracles



MOURNERS: Christians listen to Pastors during Gamedze's Funeral service.

right now here, I can become an instant favourite amongst many of you here," he said. Meanwhile, Reverend David Chaliyumba spoke of anger management, saying that Christians and the general public must learn to handle situations which are not in their best interest.

He noted that if people were able to control their anger, many problems faced by the society could be avoided. Chaliyumba then urged the public to learn to follow the right structures whenever they had

differences with other people.

"There are relevant structures to report to whenever we encounter differences or have grievances against each other, and as a society, we must learn to make use of these," said the Reverend.

The prominent preacher then went on and read the Biblical story of Cain who killed his brother Abel out of jealousy. He pointed out that some people were controlled by jealousy, something which more often ends tragically.



INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROPOSED REHABILITATION OF GCINA ARMY BARRACKS KITCHEN, ELECTRICAL & FIRE ALARM INSTALLATION IN THE MANZINI REGION.

Tenderers are invited from locally registered Electrical Contractors, under Category E1, for the proposed Rehabilitation of Gcina Army Barracks Kitchen, Electrical and Fire Alarm Installation. Only firms that hold a valid registration certificate issued by the Construction Industry Council (CIC) and of which at least 60% of the controlling shares are owned by Swazi citizens will be considered. The qualification process will include the evaluation of personnel capabilities, equipment capabilities, financial standing previous experience and current work load.

- Bonafide tenders should comprise the following:
- A completed set of Tender Document
- A Certified copy of a valid tax clearance certificate (for Government Tender)
- A General Receipt as proof of purchase
- A Certified Copy of a valid Trading Licence
- A Certified Copy of a valid Labour Compliance certificate
- A Certified Copy of a valid Construction Industry Council (CIC) registration certificate E 2
- 500,00 Tender deposit in a form of a Bank Guarantee
- A Current Company Form C, stamped by registrar of Companies
- A Current Company Form J, stamped by registrar of Companies

Tender Documents will be available from 2:30pm on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 until 4:30pm on Thursday 25th January 2018 and may be collected from:

Microprojects Programme
Suite 102, Dlan'ubeka House, Corner of LaLufadlana & Mdada Streets
Mbabane

Tenderers are advised to pay E250.00 (Two Hundred & Fifty Emalangeni only) for each document non-refundable amount at the Government Revenue Office and should use code 233/1201/04199/G51299 when making payment. Companies are advised to consult Microprojects Unit office on the availability of tender documents prior to payment. The unit will not be liable for the refund in the event one pays for unavailable tender documents. Compulsory site inspections date are as follows:

There will be a compulsory site inspection on Friday 26th January 2018. Tenderers are advised to assemble at Gcina Barracks at 10:45am then proceed to site. Please note that Tenderers who will not attend site inspections will not be evaluated.

- Date and place of tender submission: Friday 02nd of February 2018 at the Office of the Employer
- Time for submission: 09:00am Swaziland time
- Opening: 09:15am Swaziland time

Completed tenders should be delivered in a sealed envelope to the Microprojects Office and the envelope should only show the Project Name, Project Number and addressed to:

The Coordinator
Microprojects Programme
First Floor Dlan'ubeka Building
P.O. Box 2122
MBABANE

Any action or tendencies that will be interpreted as an attempt to interfere with or influence the tendering process will result in immediate disqualification of the Tenderer.

The Microprojects Programme does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender.



INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROPOSED REFURBISHMENT OF GCINA ARMY BARACKS KITCHEN IN MANZINI.

Tenderers are invited from locally registered Contractors, under Category B2 only, for the Proposed Refurbishment of Gcina Army Barracks Kitchen in Manzini. Only firms that hold a valid registration certificate issued by the Construction Industry Council (CIC) and of which at least 60% of the controlling shares are owned by Swazi citizens will be considered. The qualification process will include the evaluation of personnel capabilities, equipment capabilities, financial standing, previous experience and current work load.

Bonafide tenders should comprise the following:

- A completed set of Tender Document
- A Certified copy of a valid tax clearance certificate (for Government Tender)
- A General Receipt as proof of purchase
- A Certified Copy of a valid Trading Licence
- A Certified Copy of a valid Labour Compliance certificate
- A Certified Copy of a valid Construction Industry Council (CIC) registration certificate
- E 500,00 Tender deposit in a form of a Bank Guarantee
- A Current Company Form C, stamped by registrar of Companies
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Tender Documents will be available from 2:30pm on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 to 4:30pm on Thursday 25th January 2018 and may be collected from:

Microprojects Programme
Suite 102, Dlan'ubeka House, Corner of LaLufadlana & Mdada Streets
Mbabane

Tenderers are advised to pay E500.00 (Three Hundred Emalangeni only) for each document non-refundable amount at the Government Revenue Office and should use code 233/1201/04199/G51299 when making payment. Companies are advised to consult Microprojects Unit office on the availability of tender documents prior to payment. The unit will not be liable for the refund in the event one pays for unavailable tender documents. Compulsory site inspections date are as follows:

There will be a compulsory site inspection on Friday 26th January 2018. Tenderers are advised to assemble at Gcina Army Barracks main gate at 10:45am then proceed to site. Please note that Tenderers who will not attend site inspections will not be evaluated.

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MBABANE

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MARRIED MAN ARRESTED AFTER RAPING TWO MINORS (10), (11)

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

A 44-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly raping two children aged 10 and 11 while at Ndzevane.

Mfanawenkosi Thembelihle Mahlaba (44) of Ndzevane, who is a married man, made his court appearance in the company of his wife yesterday.

He was slapped with two counts of rape.

According to court records, the accused is alleged to have on November had intentional sexual intercourse with his daughter Sihle* (10) while at Ndzevane.

On the second count, it is alleged that on the same month the accused



also had intentional sexual intercourse with Buhle* (11) without her consent.

The offence is alleged to be accompanied by aggravating factors since the accused is alleged to have not used a condom in commission of the offence.

According to the charge sheet, it is alleged that the children are the accused's daughters however when

the accused appeared before Magistrate Sindisile Zwane yesterday, he informed the court that the two were not his children but his neighbour's.

Mahlaba informed the court that raping the two minor children was a mistake.

Accused

The accused, wearing his wedding ring when appearing before court led to the magistrate to ask if he was a married man.

Mahlaba responded to the affirmative and when asked where his wife was, he quickly pointed at her inside the court room after telling his wife to stand up so that the presiding magistrate could see her. He was rebuked by the magistrate for the offence and he was informed

by the court that he had done something that would even traumatise his wife.

The accused informed the court that the two minor children belong to a tenant who is a neighbour to him. He said the children used to come to his house often and they would wash dishes and even clean his house.

He said as a form of saying thank you he would then give them money. When asked why he then decided to rape the minor children the accused stated in vernacular "kwabakulingeka nje".

During his appearance before Magistrate Zwane, the accused was remanded back into police custody pending his appearance before Principal Magistrate David Khumalo.

Another man assaults, rapes 20-year-old woman

MEANWHILE, in the same court another 23-year-old man appeared before the magistrate on charges of rape and indecent assault.

Dumisani Sanele Dlamini (23) of Sihhohweni is alleged to have on January 14 assaulted Zanele* with a spear, fists and kicks and open hands on the face, head and all over the body.

The court record states that the accused person further committed a crime of rape in that he had sexual intercourse with Zanele, who is only 20 years old without her consent.

The offence is alleged to be accompanied by aggravating factors as it is alleged that the accused did not use a condom in commission of the offence.

During his court appearance the accused informed the court that he intends to plead guilty to the charge he was slapped with. Dlamini was remanded back into police custody and told to return tomorrow to make an appearance before the principal magistrate.

NB: *not their real names



Dlamini denies undermining SASSA with parallel workstreams

MIDRAND – Minister of Social Development Bathabile Dlamini has denied that the workstreams she established were meant to undermine the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).

Dlamini was testifying at an inquiry into her personal role and liability in the social grants crisis in 2017. The inquiry was being held at the offices of the Chief

Justice in Midrand yesterday. The Constitutional Court ordered last year that an inquiry be held to investigate whether she should be held personally liable for the costs incurred during the SASSA payment crisis.

Dlamini said it was "untrue" that the workstreams she established and which reported to her were meant to operate parallel

to the work of SASSA or undermine the agency's work.

The inquiry, chaired by retired Judge Bernard Ngoepe, was established to investigate whether Dlamini sought the appointment of individuals to lead the various "workstreams" to report directly to her. Further, the Constitutional Court ordered the inquiry to investigate the details of the appointments, such as when people were appointed, who they reported to, and the dates and contents of the report of the workstreams to the minister. *News24*



DENIES: Minister of Social Development Bathabile Dlamini.

Request for proposal

Improvement of internal controls

Our company in Matsapha is looking for a consulting company or individual with proven ability to assist in improving internal controls for the purpose of making it more efficient, manageable and better organized.

Detailed proposals can be sent to: admin@constructionlogistics.co.sz

Closing date for submission = 2018/02/09

Doc. 14157

BODY PARTS CENTRE & SPARES



BODY PARTS CENTRE & SPARES is deeply saddened by the untimely death of businessman & Chairperson of Premier League of Swaziland **Mr. Victor Gamedze.**

Directors, Management and staff would like to express their deepest condolences to the, family, friends, and the Swazi Nation for the death of **Mr. Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze.**

MAY YOUR SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE MADLENYA

DOC. 14158

MANZINI LAWYER'S E1.5M HOUSE UP FOR GRABS

By Observer Reporter
Mbabane

THE High Court Registrar has issued a notice of sale to the effect that a three-bedroom house belonging to Manzini based lawyer Justice Mangosuthu Mzizi will be auctioned pursuant to a writ of execution that was issued in favour of Nedbank (Swaziland) limited.

According to the notice of sale, the house will be sold by public auction to be effected by the Deputy Sheriff for the Manzini District, outside the Regional Administrators office in Manzini on Friday February 23, at 1430 hours.

The house is on certain lot No. 326 situated in Ngwane Park Township.

Includes

It is a three-bedroom house which includes a master bedroom, a lounge, dining area, kitchen, passage, two bedrooms, and a bath-

room.

The house sits on a piece of land measuring 1 865 square metres. According to the notice of sale, interested bidders who wish to

obtain further information on the upcoming auction of the lawyer's house may contact the High Court registrar for further details. Even though the reserve price

currently stands at E1.5 million, the house could be sold at a higher price on the day, depending on the bidding process and interest from the bidders.

BACKGROUND

In 2015 Mzizi was arrested allegedly for theft together with Mike Macilongo Ndlovu, at the time they were partners of Masina/Ndlovu Attorneys, in connection with the case of Mbabane socialite and former SBIS employee, Nkosingphile Mthunzi.

They were alleged to have entered into an agreement with Mthunzi to deposit a sum of E190 000 into their law firm's trust account held at Nedbank, knowing very well that it formed part of proceeds of alleged unlawful activities. They were slapped with four charges, which include contravening Section 42(1) (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act No.3 of 2006, and that of theft as a 'continuing crime'.

The two lawyers were arrested by officers from the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) and police officers from the Commercial Crimes and Fraud Unit.

They were charged jointly with their law firm Masina/Ndlovu Attorneys (a partnership of attorneys at the time of the commission of the alleged offence).



The lawyers later successfully applied to be admitted to bail of E30 000, where each was ordered to pay E3 000 in cash and provide surety for the remaining E12 000 each, which they did and are currently out on bail.

Search for Msitsini's missing body parts to start

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

MEMBERS of the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) Services have started searching traditional healers for the mutilated body parts of decapitated Gciniwe Msitsini.

This comes after police arrested alleged confessed murderer of Msitsini, Velaphi Khumalo last Tuesday.

After the arrest, Khumalo failed to show the police where the head and hands of his victim were located, leading them (police) to believe that the mutilated body parts are already at somebody's home.

Speaking to this publication on Sunday evening, senior police said the unemployed and cancer stricken Khumalo might have been used as a tool to commit the evil crime.

Case

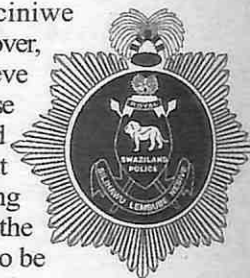
"The case of Gciniwe Msitsini is far from over, a lot of people believe that it is closed because Khumalo confessed to the murder. That is not the case seeing that after the arrest, the body parts are yet to be recovered meaning that somebody else might be hiding them at their home or place of work," he said.

Involved

The police added that Khumalo was also suffering from cancer seen on his left hand, meaning that more than two people might have been involved in the actual murder.

"It makes no sense that the murderer is arrested, but the body parts haven't been found. The police are appealing to whoever has the mutilated body parts to hand them to the police, or keep them and face the full wrath of the law. Traditional healers as well as families in and around Nginamadvolu where Khumalo resides will be approached by police to be searched," he added.

Meanwhile, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba said investigations of the Gciniwe Msitsini case are still ongoing even after Khumalo confessed.



Man (27) fined E1 000 for impregnating a minor (15)

Stories by Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

A man aged 27 has been fined E1 000 by the Magistrate's Court for fathering a child with a girl aged 15.

It is said Xolani Simelane met the minor in church.

After fathering the child, he then sent the young mother and their new-born baby girl back to his in-laws homestead.

The incident of Simelane chasing the minor away happened in late December, 2017 at a homestead at Mashobeni.

Simelane was arrested on Saturday and appeared before the court yesterday.

In court he said, he first noticed his future love interest because of her sexy church clothes.

"I did not know that she was still

a child when I first saw her in her sexy church clothes.

Details

"I then courted her because I thought she was a young adult. I first saw her when she was leaving her church, I then began to speak to her on a regular basis, I do know that she is still a scholar but at the time I did not know such details," he said.

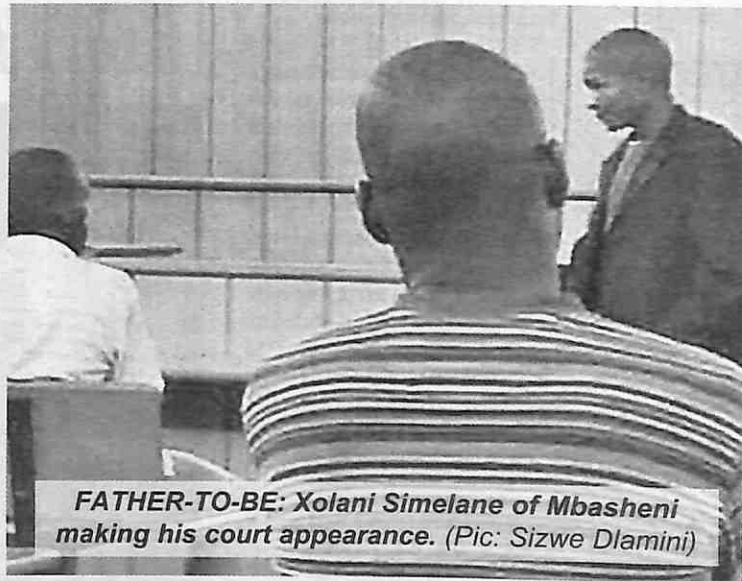
He added that early 2017, he invited the minor to his homestead where she spent the night.

Headache

"She got pregnant that night, after that I did try to take care of my new family, but my mother-in-law became a headache," he added.

Senior Magistrate, Siphosini Dlamini told Simelane that he had ruined the girl's life by making her a mother at the tender age of 15.

Dlamini then sentenced Simelane to the maximum sentence for such



FATHER-TO-BE: Xolani Simelane of Mbasheni making his court appearance. (Pic: Sizwe Dlamini)

a sexual offence which is two years in a correctional facility if he failed to pay the E1 000 fine for impregnating the minor.

Dlamini then told Simelane that

a further two years without the option of fine will also be activated if the accused is arrested for committing the same crime within a three-year time period.

...MAGISTRATE DECRIES GIRL CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 1928



DECRIES: Senior Magistrate Siphosini Dlamini.

SENIOR Magistrate Siphosini Dlamini says some provisions of the Girl Child Protection Act of 1928 are outdated, as a result many men are having sex with minors in the country.

He said this during the sentencing of Xolani Simelane who fathered a child with a 15-year-old minor.

The magistrate said the maximum sentence for a sexual offender in Swaziland was two years in a correctional facility or a fine of E1 000.

"Government needs to revise

it the old Act of 1928 and upgrade it to fit the crime as well as the modern society we currently find ourselves living in.

Offences

"It is not fair for the many young girls who are being impregnated and sexually abused by adult men who know very well that the law is relaxed when it comes to sexual offences of minors," he said.

He said girls in the northern Hhohho had been reduced to simple fire wood collectors or domestic workers, because they had been forced to become

young mothers and drop out of school at an early age.

Dlamini said sex between old men and minors must be frowned upon as Swaziland is on the road to becoming a first world country by the year 2022.

Lenient

"This first world status dream will never materialise if nobody changes the law. Currently, if you have sex with a minor, you only pay E1 000 if found guilty and this is too lenient. It is one of the main reasons that adult men keep having sex with minors," he added.



ONGOING: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba.

COP SUSPENDED FOR CRIMINAL DOCKET THEFT FAILS TO STOP DC

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

...Files urgent bail application at the High Court but fails as hearing was yesterday morning

A police officer, who was suspended from duty after being charged for contravening the Prevention of Corruption, tried in vain to stop his Disciplinary Hearing by the Royal Swaziland Police Service (RSP) as he filed his urgent application late at the High Court yesterday.

The Nhlanguano based officer, Vusi Alfred Mfaden eventually withdrew his application through his lawyers at noon as he served the Attorney General's office at 10:30am yesterday, yet the Disciplinary Hearing was scheduled for 10am.

The urgent application to stop the hearing was eventually brought before court just after noon, which was an indication that it had been over taken by events hence the officer's defence withdrew the application in court.

The Nhlanguano based police officer is alleged to have contravened the said act in that he engaged in corrupt practices, soliciting and accepting bribes and disobeying a lawful order and further warning a suspect to escape lawful arrest.

According to the police officer, in his court papers, on January 29, 2017, he was arrested and charged by the Nhlanguano

Police for contravening the act and appeared before court where he was admitted to bail fixed at E8000 and released from custody.

"Upon my release, I was slapped with five disciplinary charges by the first respondent (National Commissioner of Police) or his agents which inter alia were dishonest or engaging in corrupt practices," he submitted in his papers.

Submitted

He submitted that the disciplinary hearing failed to take off after being charged and he assumed the respondent was awaiting for the criminal court proceedings to be completed.

He submitted that he was taken aback when he was served with a notice for a disciplinary hearing scheduled for December 11, 2017 at 10am but the hearing could not proceed as the criminal court proceedings were also on the same day.

He stated that his criminal matter was postponed to June 6, by the Magistrate's Court for continuation of trial adding that the first respondent did not communicate anything to him about the hearing and reasonably believes that the disciplinary board will wait for the outcome

of the criminal proceedings.

He submitted that he was shocked while on duty on January 18, after being informed verbally by his immediate supervisor Bremer Mdluli that his disciplinary hearing had been scheduled to proceed from January 22 to 24.

He stated that he asked for permission to be excused from duty on January 19 (last Friday) in order to consult and instruct his attorneys in a bid to stop the disciplinary proceedings pending finalisation of the criminal proceedings.

He submitted that he is advised and verily believes it is true that in terms of General Order A 909 (1) read with Regulation 38 (3) of the Civil Service Board Regulations of 1973, if criminal proceedings are instituted against a public servant in any court, disciplinary proceedings upon any grounds involved in the criminal charges shall not be taken pending the result of the criminal proceedings.

He stated in his papers that he has a clear right to fair hearing adding that the proceeding of the disciplining hearing before finalisation of the criminal proceedings is unlawful.

Convict says he was wrongly convicted

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

● He has filed for urgent bail application pending appeal at the High Court

● Matter removed from the roll, bail application to be moved at the Magistrate Court

WITH the belief that he was wrongly convicted of robbery by the Manzini Principal Magistrate Court, a convict has noted an appeal at the High Court.

Mzwandile Nhlengetfwa (21) yesterday filed an urgent application for bail at the High Court pending his appeal.

Nhlengetfwa strongly believes he was wrongly convicted for robbery instead of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Represented by Mabila Attorneys in Association with Noncedo Ndlangamandla and S Mabila Law firm, Nhlengetfwa appeared at the High Court where he appeared before High Court Judge Nkosinathi Maseko as he is seeking an order admitting him to bail on terms and conditions the court may deem fit pending the appeal.

Papers

According to Nhlengetfwa, in his papers filed before court on November 16, 2017, he was convicted by Principal Magistrate David Khumalo in Manzini on one count of robbery and subsequently sentenced to five years imprisonment without an option of a fine and is now currently kept at Pigg's Peak Correctional facility.

He submitted that he believes that he was wrongly convicted of the offences he was charged with, he noted an appeal at the High Court which he verily believes if lucky it may be heard next year in the first session of the High Court.

He submitted that since his conviction, his lawyers have been trying to secure the record of proceedings hence his delay in filing the urgent application yesterday.

"Whilst waiting for my appeal, deal I am desirous of being admitted to bail and have been advised and verily believe that this court has the powers to admit me to bail pending the appeal, I am a born and bred Swazi with no other citizenship or foreign passport and my family is rooted in Swaziland," he submitted.

Nhlengetfwa further stated that he has never been arrested for any offence in the past and is a first offender and has no desire to be found on the wrong side of the law again and stated that there is nothing to suggest that he will not be able to serve his sentence in the event

his appeal is unsuccessful.

He submitted further that the administration of justice will not be endangered if he is admitted to bail adding that the court is at liberty to impose conditions stringent enough to ensure compliance with all directives it may issue in the matter.

In considering his application, Nhlengetfwa stated that the court may also take cognizance of the fact that there are prospects of success in his appeal which he is advised are determined by considering if there is any chance that another court may find and hold differently from what was found by the trial court as opposed to enquiring whether or not the trial court found and held correctly as that is the preserve of the court.

If admitted to bail, he submitted that he will not abscond trial and neither will he interfere with the Crown witnesses and will comply with any conditions which the court will attach on admitting him to bail.

Application

The Crown, represented by Patrick Mkhathji, moved an application to remove the matter from the roll by consent with the defence counsel and applied that the bail application be moved at the Magistrate's Court pending appeal at the High Court.

According to the charge sheet, Nhlengetfwa of Ntabamhlophe is charged with the offence of robbery in that on or about September 26, 2015 at or near Thirsty Corner Bar, acting jointly with Bongani Nhlengetfwa in furtherance of a common purpose, did unlawfully and intentionally assault Lungelo Simelane by stabbing him seven times all over the body.

They are further said to have stabbed him on the forehead with a knife and by use of force and violence to induce submission did take and steal from him a cell phone worth E1000, a hat valued at E120 all property valued at E1120.



PRESIDING: High Court Judge Nkosinathi.

Pigg's Peak Council donates 18 pairs of school shoes to the less fortunate

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

AS part of its social responsibility programme the Pigg's Peak Town Council has donated 18 new pairs of school shoes to less fortunate children.

The donation took place in front of very excited school children at the Civic Centre Building in Pigg's Peak yesterday. Present at the presentation was Pigg's Peak Town Council Clerk/CEO Mzwandile Ndzinisa, Pigg's Peak Mayor Victor Rodriguez as well as representatives from social welfare.

Speaking during the donation, Ndzinisa said a transparent process was used by the Pigg's Peak Town Council when selecting the 18 beneficiaries of the shoes. "It is that time of year when schools open for first term and the Pigg's Peak Town Council through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, felt bound to donate 18 pairs of shoes to needy students. These students were handpicked from the six wards of the town. To ensure transparency in the selection process, Ward Councillors worked jointly with Bagcugcuteli when identifying the recipients of the shoes," he said.

Ndzinisa added that contrary to common belief urban dwellers are not free from the scourge of poverty, and it is no secret that Pigg's Peak has residents who are less fortunate than others.

He said therefore the Pigg's Peak Council will continue supporting the less fortunate segment of the population through donations. "We hope that the beneficiaries will be motivated to work even harder in the year ahead since education is key to the development of the country."



DONATION: Pigg's Peak Town Council donated 18 pairs of school shoes to the less fortunate at the Civic Centre Building in Pigg's Peak yesterday. (Pics: Sizwe Dlamini)



BENEFICIARIES: Pigg's Peak Town Mayor Victor Rodriguez with the recipients of the school shoes.

12 NATIONAL NEWS

RSSC, partners reward philanthropists

Stories by Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

THE Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) in partnership with Soul Providers has awarded five people courtesy of the 'Going Beyond Sugar' project.

The presentation was held at Soul Providers office in Dlanubeka Building last Wednesday. Going Beyond Sugar is a project initiated by RSSC in collaboration with Soul Provider East on Facebook.

It allows people to nominate individuals who contribute immensely in their community or around the country.

After receiving the nominees, RSSC and Soul Providers East then selected the best five.

The individuals are required to choose equipment that amounts to E1000 that can contribute to their various projects.

The awards were given out by RSSC Corporate Social Investment Manager Phindile Lukhele-Dlamini.

Swazi MTN employee and motivational speaker Alex Lushaba was one of the people who received the award.

He received a projector that will help him when mentoring young people. Alex was nominated by Busisiwe Manana.

Another winner was Mthobisi Dlamini who is a student at SANU, studying nursing.



INCENTIVE: Motivational speaker Alex Lushaba receiving his projector from RSSC Group Public Affairs Manager Sifiso Nyembe and Communications Officer Sisusa Dlamini.



BEATING ODDS: Fanelo Zikhali who is living with disabilities (2nd from left) receiving his prize from RSSC representatives.

He received vegetable seedlings and manure as he grows vegetables to feed himself and to sell.

Fanelo Zikhali from Sigcineni who is living with disabilities was also a winner and he won a photocopying machine.

Zikhali is doing a great job for the

deaf around Swaziland, especially the deaf youth. He was nominated by Menzi Imma Dlamini.

There was also Noks Nhose-Dlamini who resides in Mbabane.

She received sanitary pads from RSSC as she collects and distributes sanitary towels to disadvantaged girls from

around the country.

Her name was submitted by Nyande Nonceba Maphalala.

Lastly, there was Welcome Khumalo who received school shoes and socks to give to destitute children in Sihhoye. He is a pioneer of Sihhoye Youth Club. On that note, RSSC Group Public

Affairs Manager Sifiso Nyembe congratulated the winners and further encouraged them to continue serving their communities.

"The donation might look small but it will make a great impact in changing someone's life in their various communities," he said.



HELPING HAND: Corporate Social Investment Manager Phindile Lukhele-Dlamini, Noks Nhose-Dlamini, RSSC's Nyembe and Sisusa presenting sanitary pads to one of the winners of 'Going Beyond Sugar' in collaboration with Soul Providers. (Pics: Nozipho Sibiya)



WINNERS: The beneficiaries taking a group picture.



STUDENT MEDICAL AID COVER

In view of the South African Immigration Act of 2014, it is required that students studying in South Africa should be covered by a South African registered medical aid.

Pursuant to this, Swazimed has partnered with some South African Medical Aid Schemes which are registered with the South African Council of Medical aid schemes, in order to comply with the Student registration requirement in South Africa.

Students and Members of Swazimed who require medical aid cover should contact the Swazimed office for more information.

We unreservedly apologize to the South African High Commission for the communication breakdown.

PM SIMELANE
PRINCIPAL OFFICER



OUTING: Amitofo children with Director of Social Welfare Moses Dlamini and Shiselweni Regional Education Officer Thabile Nxumalo.

Amitofo pupils tour Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan

CHILDREN from Amitofo Care Centre had the chance to visit Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan for an overseas educational and cultural exchange tour.

Amitofo Care Centre Public Relations Officer Brenda Kgaleli said the children embarked on the tour towards the end of last year and returned last Saturday.

Kgaleli said the children were accompanied by government officials, Director of Social Welfare Moses Dlamini and Shiselweni Regional Education Officer Thabile Nxumalo and Amitofo volunteers.

"The purpose of the tour was to encourage the pupils to partake in activities at their local schools. They also went sight-seeing along the beautiful island from north to south.

"The tour also provides the children an opportunity to experience other cultures and get to



CULTURE: Children performing sibhaca at a local school.

see the world at large," she said.

In Taiwan the children visited the ministry of foreign affairs, ministry of education, schools in cities such as Taipei, Taichung Hsinchu and others.

Activities

"They took part in various activities in the schools in overseas countries.

They participated in sports such as playing soccer, craft and performed sibhaca and ummiso."

They children also had the chance to visit local schools in Hong Kong and Japan."

The children also met with the Swaziland Embassy officials and Swazi students whilst they were in Taipei.

To date the children have trotted half the globe, having travelled to countries like Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Germany and others.



GOVERNMENT OF SWAZILAND
Terms of Reference

Title:	Review of the 2010 National Gender Policy
Country of Assignment:	Swaziland
Type of Contract:	Individual Contract (Team of an International and National Consultant)
Start Date:	15 February 2018
Duration:	45 working days
Expected Duration of Assignment:	4 months

BACKGROUND

Swaziland adheres to a number of international, regional and national instruments that express commitment for the promotion of gender equality commitments, namely the 1995 Beijing, 2004 CEDAW and the 2007 SADC Gender Policy. These pledges recognize the promotion of gender equality as a development objective and a prerequisite for sustainable development. Such recognition and commitment calls for appropriate measures to ensure the full realization of equitable sustainable development that leaves no one behind through national policy and programme interventions. The domestication of the various instruments led to the Government of Swaziland (GOS) developing the National Gender Policy in 2010.

The Beijing Plus 20 Outcome Document, and its First 10-Year Implementation Plan, both adopted in 2015 have been translated into the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development for alignment by the Members States. Additionally, the global community, including Swaziland endorsed, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Africa Union Agenda 2063. These instruments foster gender equality across the 17 SDGs, and further embrace and close interface with culture in the AU Agenda. The country has taken the initial steps to integrate these two in unison, into the National Development Strategy (NDS), Vision 2022, for realisation of inclusive gender-responsive outcomes.

Sustainable development participation and opportunity deviation status for the country was assessed through the 2016 Swaziland Gender Development Index. The Index revealed progress made regarding the social-related development in particular in the education sector. Economic opportunities and women participation in decision-making however lag, in particular when considering that women parliamentary representation is recorded at 15%. Access to credit and production tools and skills remain low contributing to the high unemployment rate of 40% amongst women versus 28.1% of the general population. Maternal mortality rates remain high with access to quality services challenging the public health sector. On the other hand, the national surveillance mechanism on the gender-based violence indicates an increase in reported cases and more women and children than men falling victims.

Gender indifferent sectoral policies and strategies limit the ability of the country to translate the gender equality mainstreaming agenda, and combined with inadequate monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools the national resources allocation requires a review to enhance commitment through resource allocation and targeted results and timeframes.

The 2010 National Gender Policy capacity to drive effective national institution coordination through the Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO) Department of Gender and Family Issues (DGFI) remains deficient of benchmarked national performance targets along the 2015 Agenda 2030 SDG 5 and the AU 2063 Agenda. Promotion of comprehensive gender mainstreaming and protection of human rights ensuring coherent gender definitions and conceptualisation for improved understanding of gender equality process and its integration in the various sectors has to be achieved, hence the call for the review of the Gender Policy.

A team of an International Consultant (IC) and a National Consultant (NC) is required to undertake a comprehensive valuation of the 2010 National Gender Policy under the leadership of the Department of Gender and Family Issues and develop a comprehensive costed Strategy Action Plan (SAP) with and M&E Framework and indicators. The International Consultant will lead in achievement of the assignment deliverables with support by the National Consultant. The team of consultants will work closely with the Technical Working Group (TWG) that will be established by the DPMO.

SCOPE OF WORK AND OBJECTIVES

The Team of Consultants will review the 2010 National Gender Policy and align it with the international instruments such as the Beijing Plus 20 Outcome Document, CEDAW, Agenda 2030, African Union Agenda 2063 and AU Gender Policy, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and on the Rights of Women in Africa, Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality, African Charter on the Rights of the Child, Protocol on the Suppression and Punishment of Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, Convention on the Rights of the Child, the reviewed SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and its indicators and the United Nations' Resolutions 1325, 60/2.

This process is envisaged to align all gender equality related issues with the National Development Strategy (NDS), Vision 2022 and the Nation Action Plan 2013-2018. The SAP will be transformational in its nature, highlighting the strategic direction of gender equality including institutional frameworks, capacity provisions and clear benchmarks and indicators for monitoring and evaluating policy performance.

ASSIGNMENT TASKS AND DELIVERABLES

The assignment tasks will include:

1. Development of a detailed Inception Report, indicating the roles and responsibilities of the IC, NC and TWG, and work plan for the review of the 2010 National Gender Policy. The Report is to be presented within five (5) days of signing the contract.
2. Review all relevant international, regional and national instruments and documents, including the 2005 National Constitution, Parliamentary Reports, policy guidelines, and legal framework that provide the gender equality institutionalization, mainstreaming and implementation in the country;

3. Review the SDG 2030 and AU63 NDS-integration process and facilitate prioritization of gender equality targets at national and sectoral levels;
4. Conduct in-depth national stakeholder discussions, including DPMO Parliament National Portfolio Committee, Traditional Leaders and community members and groups (women and the people leaving with disabilities), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector to solicit further inputs on the formulation of the reviewed National Gender Policy and Strategy Action Plan document addressing the key focal areas: Constitution and Institutional Arrangements; Human Rights and Legal Regulatory Instruments of Good Practice; Gender Equality Development and Sectoral Management for education, health food-security and nutrition, HIV and AIDS, Economic Production and Trade; and, Women Empowerment and Participation; and Capacity Building, Research and Training;
5. Review the national budgetary allocation and mainstreaming process and suggest improved resource envelopes to meet gender equality outcomes.
6. Conduct quality assurance in the development of the SDG-aligned sectoral-based M&E Framework with ASmart Indicator Reference per thematic area and design disaggregated Sector-based Data Reporting Tool;
7. Develop the National Stakeholders Consultation Report;
8. Facilitate the validation of the comprehensive National Gender Policy and cost;
9. Strategy and Action Plan by national stakeholders; and
10. Draft the final National Gender Policy and Strategy and Action Plan for approval by the Government of Swaziland DPMO.

Deliverables:

The assignment will crystallize to the following deliverables:

- (i) Inception Meeting and Inception Report detailing methodology and work plan including schedule of deliverables and budget one week after signing of the contract.
- (ii) Stakeholder's Consultations Report.
- (iii) Draft National Gender Policy, Strategy and Action Plan with Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for presentation in a validation meeting.
- (iv) National Stakeholders Validation Meeting.
- (v) Final draft of the reviewed National Gender Policy, Strategy and Action Plan with Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with ASmart Indicator Reference per thematic area and design disaggregated Sector-based Data Reporting Tool.

REPORTING

The successful Team of Consultant will work with a TWG and report to the Director for the Department of Gender and Family Issues in the DPMO. The Team is encouraged to maintain a dialogue with the national counterparts, the PSC, UNDP country office Programme Specialist - Policy Services to report on progress and address emerging challenges during the undertaking of the work, on monthly basis.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCIES

Qualification

Basic qualifications required for the consultants include but are not confined to the following:

- A Masters in Gender Development Studies, Social Sciences, Law, Demography with good knowledge and skills on Monitoring and Evaluation. A PhD would be an added advantage.
- Seven (7) years' experience in gender equality policy development for the International Consultant and five years (5) for National Consultant.
- Knowledge of gender promoting and protecting international, regional and national instruments.
- Proven record and experience in Policy formulation.
- Experience and knowledge in working in countries with dual system of governance and strong cultural foundations would be an asset.
- Experience with development of Strategy Action Plans and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). Frameworks and research on gender and development.

COMPETENCIES

- Strong conceptual and analytical skills, in particular on gender equality
- Excellent facilitation, communication and presentation and report- skills.
- Proven analytical, organizational development and inter-personal skills.
- Ability and demonstrated experience in working with multi-disciplinary teams.
- Ability to meet deadlines with minimum supervision.
- Proficiency in English, written and spoken.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Interested candidates are invited to submit detailed CV's and Expression of Interest marked, 'Review of the 2010 National Gender Policy Consultancy' to UNDP Offices, 5th Floor Lilunga House, and PO. Box 261, Mbabane, or email application to: registry.sz@undp.org by 26 January 2018.

Additional Considerations

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

LUBOMBO NEWS

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Wonderboy Dlamini

'LUGONGOLWENI INKHUNDLA HAS SUFFERED A BLOW'

LUGONGOLWENI constituency is still trying to come to terms with the loss of businessman Victor Gamedze who was laid to rest over the weekend following his tragic demise.

Gamedze grew up at Ka-Langa and attended school at Lubombo Central High School in the early 1980s.

Thousands of mourners paid their last respects to the celebrated businessman and football administrator. Speaking during an interview yesterday, Lugongolweni constituency headman, Matus Matsebula said the constituency had suffered a huge blow with the demise of Gamedze.

Matsebula stated that Gamedze was one of the local businesspeople in whom the constituency banked its hopes on for a better future.

He pointed out that while the country strives to achieve First World Status by 2022, the constituency intended to prioritise economic growth and support the establishment of new businesses.

"Gamedze and a few other business gurus who grew up in this constituency were our hope that they will invest in the establishment of businesses locally and eradicate poverty amongst those who are currently unemployed," said Matsebula.

Matsebula stated that Gamedze had already employed a consider-



IN NUMBERS: Close to 20 000 people attended Gamedze's funeral.

able number of the youth from his home area.

He also noted that the businessman was always passionate with helping other people, especially the needy. "Unlike other businesspeople who would only dine with people of their status, Gamedze would

host Christmas parties for the needy and spend quality time with them," Matsebula said.

Moreover, Matsebula said Gamedze was also useful to the *umphakatsi* as he paid allegiance to the local authorities. Meanwhile, Matsebula passed his condolences to the

Gamedze family and the constituency at large.

He stated that the *inkhundla* will always be supportive to the family of the man who had remained respectful to the local authorities despite having been a successful businessman.

Inkhundla thanks residents for good behaviour at Victor's funeral

LUGONGOLWENI *inkhundla* has commended residents of the constituency for displaying excellent behaviour during the funeral service of slain businessman Victor Gamedze.

An estimated 20 000 people from across the country paid their last respect to Gamedze.

Constituency headman Matus Matsebula expressed his gratitude at the manner in which the mourners handled themselves.

Matsebula noted that despite the huge numbers, there has been no incident of violence reported.

The throngs of people celebrated Gamedze's life as they sang throughout the night.

They were also quick to take orders from the directors of the



funeral programme. Matsebula said this indicated that the people of the constituency, who were part of the vigil, respected the culture of a funeral.

Amazing

"It was amazing that such a huge number of people were able to

remain under control as they were ready to listen when they were cautioned," said Matsebula. In the same vein, Matsebula thanked the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) Services for deploying officers who assisted in maintaining peace during ceremony.

The constituency headman also commended community police under the leadership of Kaizer Mathonsi for being instrumental in keeping peace during the funeral service.

The community police are said to have also been at the Gamedze homestead the entire time last week as they assisted in the preparations of the funeral.

"The constituency is proud to have such people who support each other in this manner, and we urge them to remain supportive even to other people who would be in need of assistance in the future," said Matsebula.

He stated that this was actually the spirit of Ubuntu which should be displayed by every citizen.

Community police weigh new strategies to fight stock theft

COMMUNITY police under various areas in the Lubombo region are weighing possible ways to implement new strategies of fighting stock theft.

The region is riddled with stock theft, a plague which has tormented farmers for decades now.

This is said to be crippling the region as most people in rural areas depend largely on stock farming.

Speaking during an interview, Lugongolweni community police leader Kaizer Mathonsi said they were currently weighing options on their next step to tighten up some loose ends.

He pointed out that they have already tried several other means to fight stock theft, but it still remains a thorn in the flesh of farmers. Mathonsi said even though it has not yet been formally announced and planned, they intend to engage in a meeting to discuss whether the current forms of fighting stock theft are effective. He stated that they will also engage the police to assist them in coming up with a suitable strategy.

He disclosed that amongst the things they hope to discuss, is reviving protected grazing lands.

It has been gathered that some areas used to have fenced grazing lands to prevent their cattle from straying too far from their homes.

Parents urged to mind first time scholars today

TODAY marks the first day of this year's academic calendar in formal education, and some children will be attending school for the very first time.

In the rural areas, particularly, many children have not had the opportunity to start at pre-school before enrolling for Grade One. For such children, this day will be filled with mixed feelings as they are not used to spending time away from home.

Community Police have therefore urged parents to ensure that their children are safe. Lugongolweni Community Police leader Kaizer Mathonsi noted that a majority of children who were reported missing in the past, were said to have disappeared during the beginning of first school terms.

Skip

Some children would skip school with the intention of returning home, and would go missing along the way.

"We encourage parents to ensure that first time scholars are guided to and from school to avoid instances of children going missing," he said. Mathonsi said this was just a safety precaution which needs to be adhered to by every parent.

ELECTRICITY SCHEMES POWER 2 000 HOMES

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlengano

HOSEA Inkhundla will soon be launching electricity projects which have been successful since the current (*inkhundla*) team was ushered into office in 2013.

The electricity schemes under the constituency have been funded through the Regional Development Fund (RDF), Micro Projects as well as the Republic of China on Taiwan under the rural electrification programme.

These projects, according to the local Member of Parliament Thulani Masuku are worth millions of Emalangeni and have benefitted close to 2000 homesteads.

"We will be officially launching these projects and we expect the minister of natural resources and energy to officiate," said MP Masuku.

The MP said a number of areas were now electrified and his wish was to see the few remaining homesteads follow.

He said electricity and water were important projects which were given priority by the *inkhundla* team.

He said government played her part in ensuring that the *inkhundla* was not left out in all the programmes for development.

"It has been through the support we receive from government that a majority of the areas under this constituency have developed as we now have access to electricity no matter how remote some of these areas are.

It's encouraging that government has been instrumental as it funded some of these projects, including the country's development partners," said Masuku.

The MP said with their term in office coming to an end this year, they were proud as *inkhundla* team that most of what they had outlined in their programme of action, they managed to achieve.



EXPLAINS: Member of Parliament Thulani Masuku.

He said as someone who was not new in serving as MP, this current *inkhundla* team, had delivered to the people's expectations.

"We can't blow our own trumpets, but our work is there for all to see. I think this has been hardest the working team I have ever worked with. I served as MP in 2003/2008, but the team still in office; I think it is the best. We all have been dedicated to our work and a testimony to this is the projects we initiated, some of which are the ones we will be launching this week," said MP Masuku.

The MP said the launch of these projects, could be the last main activity for the *inkhundla* before their term in office comes to an end as this year there will be the national elections.

Unfenced dam posing a danger at Vusweni

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlengano

"SHOULD my dog or my chickens drown in that dam, government should be ready to compensate me with millions as I have complained about it for a long time now."

Dumisani Gumbi, a resident of Evusweni under of Maseyisini is furious over the construction of an agricultural dam which he said it was a threat to children as they now swim in it anyhow.

He said he had approached almost all the relevant authorities including elders of the community as well as the *inkhundla* where he raised his concerns but no action has been taken.

"It is the same dam I complained about when it was constructed, I was never consulted as it somehow passes through my fields.

Now my children swim in it during hot days. Children have access to this dam because it is not fenced and no one seems to care. Probably, those respon-

sible for it will act once a life is lost as at this moment when we warn them of the danger, we are accused by certain individuals of blocking development," said Gumbi.

Gumbi said as someone who has children, he sometimes finds himself having to be on the lookout for his children not go into the dam where their peers are normally found when it is hot.

"It's frustrating and it's an issue which I think has to be addressed by government as those individuals who I have been told are behind this project, don't take me serious. I know there is someone who keeps saying I am against development.

It's not true but my concern is the way the dam was constructed and the lack of security, it's an indication that those who were involved never considered the peoples safety. Fencing the dam, is all I am concerned about now but no one is listening," said Gumbi.

Gumbi said he wondered what would happen should any of the children drown in the dam.

"We do not want to see that happening and we do not want to be heard saying 'we told you so'.

It's life that I am concerned about as the children from the community now swim in this dam. Whosoever is behind it, should know that soon it will bring tears to the community," said Gumbi.

Threat

On the other hand, authorities at Evusweni said they were aware how the dam was now a serious threat to human life especially to children who were now using it to swim.

"I agree with Gumbi that the dam needs fencing as a way of preventing children from swimming in it. We do not have control even as the authority, we were ignored when we tried to raise the concern of lack of security in that dam.

It's a project which also did not receive our blessings and when we want explanations on why we were not approached, someone said there was no need," alleged Evusweni Indvuna Reggie Lukhele.



POSING A DANGER: Unfenced dam in one of the areas.

Lawyer withdraws from human trafficking case involving Pakistani nationals

By Sibusiso Gamedze
High Court

TOP Human Rights Lawyer Siphon Gumedze has withdrawn his services as an attorney of record in a human trafficking case involving Pakistani nationals.

He was reluctant to divulge reasons for withdrawing due to legal ethics.

"I have withdrawn my services as the attorney of record in the case Basharal Ahmed and another against the National Commissioner of Police and others and if it were not for the ethical issues I would give you the reasons," said Gumedze during an interview.

According to court papers, the applicants Basharal Ahmed and Muhammad Ashraf, both from Pakistan who are businessmen from Manzini made an application that their relatives who arrived in the country from Pakistan last year and were detained by the

police be released.

The applicants alleged that on December 27, they went to the King Mswati 111 International Airport to receive their alleged relatives who had come to the country to stay with them.

When they got to the airport, they were called by the police who informed them that a new government policy was that everyone from Asia coming into the country should be investigated upon entry.

Investigations

After police investigations their relatives were detained on suspicion that they were being trafficked into the country.

They then sought the services of their attorney, Siphon Gumedze, to assist them after the police allegedly refused to release their alleged relatives.

Their desire was to have their alleged relatives, namely, Danish Basher,

Khalid Muhammad Hashir and Hassan Muhamad Bilal released as they believed there was no legal reason for the trio to be detained as they had visas which allowed them to be in the country and at the time been had not revoked by the minister of home affairs. The applicants alleged that the police called them to the Manzini regional headquarters where they not only refused to release their alleged relatives, but also refused for them to see their lawyer (Gumedze) nor were they told where the trio was being detained. It was on that basis that the applicants applied to the High Court for a Habeas Corpus which is a recourse in law through which a person could report an unlawful detention or imprisonment to a court and request that the court order the custodian of the person, usually a prison official, to bring the prisoner to court, to determine whether the detention is lawful.

The applicants alleged that they were

informed that on December 29, a certain police officer identified as Dlamini then produced the trio before the Siteki Magistrate's Court and obtained an order for their detention pending further investigation of a case of human trafficking.

In response to these allegations the state alleged that investigations by police showed that the trio was being trafficked into the country.

This was allegedly due to the fact that through police intelligence they learned that there was a syndicate working with a Pakistani national based in that country who was conspiring with locally based Pakistani's to traffic their unsuspecting fellow countrymen into Swaziland which was a clear case of human trafficking.

According to an affidavit by Nduduzo Hlatjwako, a protection officer under the people trafficking and people smuggling secretariat at the prime minister's office submitted that he

believed the three Pakistani nationals who arrived in the country were smuggled.

Further according to one detective Sizwe Mazibuko, the visas which the three had were improperly obtained by another locally based Pakistani national described as one Haji Ahmed Abdullah who did so without the knowledge and authorisation of the three.

It was also gathered that on December 27 the police became suspicious when they noticed the applicants frantically shouting the names of the three while at the airport in a bid to identify them, which showed that the trio were in fact total strangers to the applicants as further investigations revealed that the trio said they did not know the applicants, nor were they in any way related to them as alleged.

What further cemented the police suspicions was that in the visa application forms, the host's identity number did not exist in the computerised population register, nor was his residence permit submitted and the cell-phone number provided was constantly off when dialed.

The three are said to be currently kept at a safe place of refuge which is why the police refused to divulge where the trio was being kept.

16 PICTURES

KING **DISPERSES** REGIMENT



HIGH ENERGY: His Majesty King Mswati III taking a lead during the song and dance session before dispersing the regiments at Ngabezweni Royal Residence on Saturday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



LAST DAY: Emazinyane Sicalo and Mavela among the Inkanyeti regiment after listening to the King's speech.



KIYO MAJAH: Prince Majaha during the singing of the last song of the Incwala ceremony.



IN FULL SWING: Lutsango also joined the King in song and dance.



POSE: Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini flanked by Indvuna Lomapotapota from Shiselweni and Chief Mkhumbi after the day's work.



TOOK PART: Mkhwakhweni, Mahhunga and Maphopho were also among the throngs of Libutfo present on the day.



CAMERA ACTION: State Photographer Len Mohale capturing the action of the day.



UNISON: Emalangeneni also joined the throngs in song and dance.

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FEATURES & OPINION

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TIVE
LEADERSHIP
CENTER



... With

Kholwaphi
Mdziniso

Guest Writer

GREAT LEADERS ARE BORN WITH GOLD BLOOD IN THEIR VEINS

SCHOLARS and Management theory subscribe to two schools of thoughts on leadership.

One school says leaders are born and the other says leaders are made. My own view says both schools of thought are true but today as I write this article, I have come to believe that great leaders are born and born with gold blood in their veins. It is true that great leaders are made in the process but the level of influence they rise too shows that there is something extra ordinary about them.

The country mourns the departure of Mr Victor Gamedze whom many of us believe he has departed too soon. Gamedze rose from the ranks of a football player, to a small business person, to an influential leader that will go down to history as one of the few outstanding leaders that Swaziland had. Victor was a legend, he managed to touch many sectors of the economy which made him an all round leader.

I am not sure of his leadership style but what I know is that the essence of leadership is 'getting the job done' and Gamedze managed to do that very well.

The success and tribute that has been paid to Gamedze shows that whatever he touched and focused on, he would turn it into gold.

The leadership rank of Victor Gamedze shows that though born an ordinary person with a normal childhood, he rose above his peers to where he became a distinguished person in Swaziland.

His leadership acumen shows that he possessed all the distinct fundamental leadership core competencies that are essential for successful leadership.

LEADERSHIP CORE COMPETENCIES GAMEDZE POSSESSED

Gamedze showed many leadership attributes and competencies, listed are some of the fundamental core competencies he possessed

1) **Ability to lead people** – he managed to start a small business MVTEL and grow it to a successful big company. He managed to orchestrate and launch Swazi Mobile, a big company that many people can only dream about.

2) **Ability to lead change** – many of us believed that Swazi Mobile was a farfetched story.

Even after winning the licence of the mobile network company, still pulling it together was thought to be a white elephant.

The idea of a Swazi owning a Mobile company was too big a dream- but today Swazi Mobile is not only an active network but many Swazis own shares through the Empowerment Programme that Gamedze launched and that includes myself.

3) **Result Driven** – Swazi Mobile shows that Gamedze would set his goals, pursue them and achieve them all.

4) **Business Acumen** – his business acumen was amazing, he would see opportunities and was not afraid to dream and think big.

He dared to dream and dream big. Victor comes from the small town of Siteki and who would have thought that a boy from KaLanga can own a mobile company in Swaziland?

5) **Building business Coalition** – the Swazi Mobile Umilo Cross Over show that was on New Year's Eve 2017/2018 shows that Gamedze was very much aware that business coalition is paramount for success. Swazi Mobile is still a very new company but still in its infancy stage but Gamedze believed that coalition was of importance.

The two schools of thought shows that perception is everything, even if perception and reality are often at odds.

...Swaziland mourns the passing on of a great leader



BORN TO LEAD: The late Mr Victor Gamedze.

Some perceive leadership to be about nature, others ascribe to the nurture theory. I find it to be a bit of both, with emphasis on nurture.

The life and leadership rank of Mr Victor Gamedze makes me believe that leaders can be made but great leaders are born and made in the process.

Great leaders are born because there is a unique trait which no matter how educated you can be without that "magic wand" touch you can only rise to a certain level.

BORN WITH GOLD BLOOD

Some leaders seem to have been born with an "extra something," a trait of tenacity and take-over-ship that makes

them "natural born leaders." Gamedze was born with some gold blood in him. It seems whatever he touched, it turned into gold.

Many leaders are able to influence a specific economic sector but Gamedze managed to influence different circles and facets of the economy.

He was an old round leader, he influenced; business, sports, social, and he was just getting into politics following his appointment to the Royal Board of Trustee by his Majesty the King Mswati the third in 2014.

He was surely no average leader and certainly he was born with gold blood in his veins. He may not have been born with blue blood but he was no ordinary

leader.

LEADERSHIP TRAITS THAT WERE HIGHLIGHTED IN HIS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Some of the leadership traits that were highlighted in the memorial service were a celebration of his life.

● **Innovator, visionary** that would think out of the box.

"He was not eloquent but if you listen and ponder on what he says you would immediately see that he was visionary, innovative and a person that would think out of the box" - MVTEL Prosper Mpofu.

● **No ordinary philanthropist** "he brought Newspapers to be read by *emabutfo* when they came for royal assignment, who would have thought *Lamnyama* can read the national Newspapers before engaging in their royal duties". He also dreamed and spoke of a project of having cell phones that would be given to elderly women "bogogo" so that they were able to call their children in town - Prince Thumbumuzi

● **He was a trail blazer.**

He introduced the shareholding philosophy which many Swazis thought it was farfetched. Gamedze introduced a National Empowerment Shareholding Programme that was open to all Swazis (not just the elite) and ensured that many Swazis get to own a share of Swazi Mobile.

Some of the mourners here are shareholders – Phiwayinkhosi Ginindza, SIDC and Swazi Mobile Share Holder Swaziland mourns the loss of a great leader, Mr Gamedze we salute you. Your leadership legacy will live on.

History will carry on your leadership torch in this nation and your memory will linger on through Swazi Mobile. I say it again and with great conviction "Great leaders are born and born with Gold Blood in their veins".

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ON THIS DAY

...JANUARY 23

1924 - The first Labour government was formed, under Ramsay MacDonald.

1937 - In Moscow, seventeen people went on trial during Josef Stalin's "Great Purge."

1941 - The play, "Lady in the Dark" premiered.

1943 - Duke Ellington and the band played for a black-tie crowd at Carnegie Hall in New York City for the first time.

1943 - The British captured Tripoli from the Germans.

1950 - The Israeli Knesset approved a resolution proclaiming Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

1960 - The US Navy bathyscaphe Trieste descended to a record depth of 35,820 feet (10,750 meters) in the Pacific Ocean.

1964 - Ratification of the 24th Amendment to the US Constitution was completed. This amendment eliminated the poll tax in federal elections.

1968 - North Korea seized the US Navy ship Pueblo, charging it had intruded into the nation's territorial waters on a spying mission. The crew was released 11 months later.

1971 - In Prospect Creek Camp, AK, the lowest temperature ever recorded in the US was reported as minus 80 degrees.

1973 - US President Nixon announced that an accord had been reached to end the Vietnam War.

1974 - Mike Oldfield's "Tubular Bells" opened the credits of the movie, "The Exorcist".

1975 - "Barney Miller" made his debut on ABC-TV.

1977 - The TV mini-series "Roots," began airing on ABC. The show was based on the Alex Haley novel.

1978 - Sweden banned aerosol sprays because of damage to environment. They were the first country to do so.

1983 - "The A-Team" debuted on TV.

1985 - OJ Simpson became the first Heisman Trophy winner to be elected to pro football's Hall of Fame in Canton, OH.

1985 - The proceedings of the House of Lords were televised for the first time.

1989 - Surrealist artist Salvador Dali died in Spain at age 84.

1997 - A judge in Fairfax, VA, sentenced Mir Aimal Kasi to death for an assault rifle attack outside the CIA headquarters in 1993 that killed two men and wounded three other people.

1997 - A British woman received a record £186,000 damages for Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI).

2001 - A van used by the remaining two fugitives of the "Texas 7" was recovered in Colorado Springs, CO. A few hours later police surrounded a hotel where the convicts were hiding. Patrick Murphy Jr. and Donald Newbury were taken into custody the next morning without incident.

2002 - John Walker Lindh returned to the US under FBI custody. Lindh was charged with conspiring to kill US citizens, providing support to terrorists and engaging in prohibited transactions with the Taliban while a member of the al-Qaida terrorist organization in Afghanistan.

2003 - North Korea announced that it would consider sanctions an act of war for North Korea's reinstatement of its nuclear program.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Arjen Robben
(Soccer player) -
January 23, 1984 (34
years old)



**Julia Jones (Movie
actress)** - January 23,
1981 (37 years old)



CHALLENGES OF PROPHETS TODAY



**BISHOP
KEITH
HARRINGTON'S CORNER**

LAST week we started expounding on the challenges that prophets face in this era.

We continue looking into this subject:

ANGER

Prophetic people often get angry with those who do not receive their words, when the real problem is that the message was not spoken clearly. The prophetic person may have been given a truth to share, but if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, no one will respond. The hard truth for prophetic people to swallow is that an unclear word is a dead word. Praise from friends and people who have already received the word does not mean much. We are all receptive to words that confirm our own views.

The real test of a word is whether it is clear to those challenged by it. Taking rejection as a sign that a word was true is dangerous, because this is not always the case. Rejection often occurs because the word was not clear, and sometimes because it was not true. Prophets must constantly look at the way they present their message and should hone their words, so they can present a clearer warning.

PRIDE

Prophets usually lead lives that are extremely righteous. They can easily take on the spirit of the Pharisees, who felt good, because they could see the sins of other people. Pr

is very destructive of prophetic ministry. The arrogant cannot stand in your presence (Psalm 5:5). Another trap into which I commonly see prophetic people fall for is the desire to be awesome in ministry, to be "a prophet to the nations." This is exactly opposite of the true Spirit of prophecy (Rev 19:10). Prophecy is meant to testify to the awesomeness of Jesus, not to the prophetic ministry. Why does God have to deal so strongly with those who are prophetic? For one thing, they are so stubborn! For another, they are more prone to pride.

BUILDING CLOUT

Prophets must avoid the trap of pushing their name forward. This often comes from frequent rejection, but must be rejected. Prophets must be servants of God's Word. Their only concern should be that God's Word is heard. If the Word is heard, it does not matter if the prophet is forgotten.

Prophets are human, so this is easier to say than to live. When a prophet hears a word he brought being quoted with the vague words, "I think this came through a young man who lived in the south", his heart will often scream for his name to be mentioned. This feeling is human, but is dangerous for a prophet, because it is rooted in pride, and pride kills prophecy.

Prophets must struggle to quiet their hearts and be content if the word they spoke is being heard. Many prophetic people get in touch with their giftings long before they cultivate the corresponding wisdom, humility and character that is necessary to succeed in prophetic ministry. In the beginning, they may appear arrogant or pushy because of their zeal. As years go by, this usually increases because of fear, hurt and rejection. The average person who has been in prophetic ministry for 10 years is pretty beat up and bruised. This is especially true if the prophetic gift was active in their early years.

By the time they are 40 or 59 they

are often very guarded and suspicious of authority figures. Some people are attempting to build enough credibility to insure they won't be rejected. Since building clout is so important to many prophets, there is the temptation to push hard to get credit for having accurately heard from God figures. Prophets must take on the ministry attitude of the Spirit of Christ, which does not demand the right of self-promotion and self-preservation.

REBELLION

Pride often leads to rebellion. Rebellion is terribly crippling for a prophet. It is the moral equivalent of witchcraft (1 Sam 15:23). I believe that many prophetic people (like myself) do have problems with "rebellion". They seem to rub leaders the wrong way almost by design sometimes.

And then they develop a "persecution complex" or slink off wallowing in self-pity. I have done all of this and more. In times past I have found myself sitting in the "gate" like rebellious Absalom, subtly speaking words against the leadership and growing my own reputation thereby.

Rebellion is the most insidious sin, and when you begin to see how much it dominates our world, and how ingrained it is in us, it is a real eye-opener. I have found that it is only when you have dealt with rebellion that you can trust yourself to speak only God's word to a leader. Rebellion can greatly affect the words we bring to leaders, and yet many prophets seem to hardly know they have a problem in this area.

I can look back now and I wince at the influence of rebellion over my words and actions in the past. But God does cleanse and heal.

Often now I see the pastor's point of view - that of a leader and responsible shepherd, when unwise prophets arrive looking for something or someone to "target". So-called "prophets" like this are a curse, not a blessing. God is dealing with rebellion now. If you can't sit under

authority today, you will be a pain in the neck to tomorrow's leaders too. Deal with your rebellion now, or miss out. It's that simple. I believe a lot of problems could be caused by roaming "lone ranger prophets" in the coming move of God - even worse than today. Tell me friend, do you have the makings of being just such a "lone ranger"??

Our democratic society is a breeding ground for insubordination. Because of this we have lost sight of what it means to submit to authority. True submission never wavers. Yet today we only submit when we agree. If authority goes against our will or direction, we disobey or grudgingly go along with it until a better option presents itself. This makes us especially vulnerable to deception and the counterfeit prophetic ministry.

CONTROL AND
MANIPULATION

The Jezebel spirit uses manipulation and control to achieve results. It is the opposite and the enemy of the prophetic ministry. Prophets must avoid all temptation to "help" the fulfilment of their words by manipulating people. Steer clear of the "Three C's" Condemnation, Control, and Criticism. These have to stay out of our prophecy. We need to root out the three C's ruthlessly in our words, in our thought life, in our actions.

Don't give them a place. Don't pray them, don't think them, and don't speak them. Then they won't get into the prophecy. Every church that embraces a prophetic ministry will have to contend with the Jezebel spirit because it mimics the prophetic gifts and callings of God.

This spirit comes to destroy the prophetic gift. Consequently, since it works covertly, its activities are extremely treacherous. The prophetic spirit is not worried about the timing of the prophetic word. It links with the heart of God and declares his heart. Be patient, stay with God, stay with his heart.

WILL THE WEATHER GET WORSE IN 2018?

LAST year unleashed some catastrophic weather across the world.

At the beginning of 2017, Australia experienced one of the hottest summers on record in Sydney and Brisbane, followed by a killer summer heatwave across southern Europe and wildfires triggered by heat in California.

The Atlantic hurricane season was particularly active, recording three mighty category five hurricanes – Harvey, Irma and Maria – resulting in significant casualties. The cost of the damage across the American continent was in excess of \$260-billion.

At the same time, the 2017 monsoon season brought considerable rains to the Indian subcontinent, and resulted in devastating floods in parts of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh (one of the most flood vulnerable countries in the world), causing more than 1 000 deaths.

Monsoon flooding in the Himalayan foothills of India, Bangladesh and Nepal affected more than 40m people last year. EPA, CC BY-SA

At the end of 2017, we could look back at the statistics and see that globally it was the warmest non-El Nino year on record. El-Nino is the warming part of the El-Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle which affects global ocean and atmospheric currents and can create powerful storms and hurricanes.

In a world that is getting warmer, what does that mean and what might 2018 hold for weather across the globe? Are we destined to see more and more of these “unusual” and catastrophic weather events which result in significant devastation? What effect will climate change have on our weather and will this become the new norm?

LOOKING AT THE FACTS

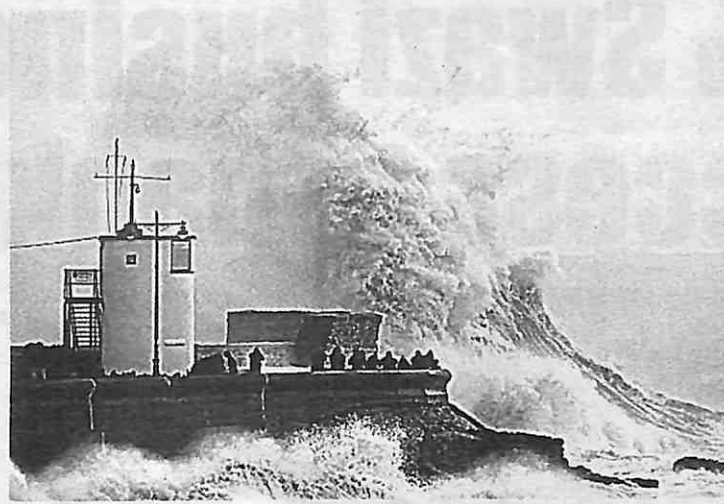
First, we need to untangle the difference between weather and climate change, something president Trump seems to confuse. In a nutshell, the difference is time.

Weather is the conditions in the atmosphere over a short period of time.

Climate is how the atmosphere behaves over a longer period of time. When we talk about climate change, that generally means changes in long-term averages of daily levels of temperature and rainfall. So we may see a change in average or typical weather over a number of years, but we can still experience extremes in any one year.

Recently, scientists have used robust event attribution where natural or human influences on particular events are studied to understand the role climate change may play in particular weather events. This can help support future regional contingency planning.

This also helps us to understand the role climate change has played in past events such as heatwaves,



CATASTROPHIC: Last year unleashed some catastrophic weather across the world.



TRAGEDY: Monsoon flooding in the Himalayan foothills of India, Bangladesh and Nepal affected more than 40m people last year.



WET: Heavy snowfall on the US eastern seaboard seriously disrupted cities like New York this winter.

wildfires, droughts, or extreme flooding and some of their large-scale drivers such as ocean and atmospheric patterns of warming and cooling, like El-Nino.

Looking at the past there are many factors which control the onset, spread and eventual impact of a big weather event.

But not all of these factors are climatic and many relate to things such as urbanisation, engineering interventions or land-use changes.

WHAT THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, an international body set up to assess the science of climate change, we can continue to expect an increase in the average global temperature.

That means we will be experiencing warmer years in the future.

But at the same time, we may see changes to the extremes, which could become more frequent in the case of high temperature or heavy rainfall, or less frequent in the case of extreme cold.

This means that the distribution, occurrence and expected averages of our weather (for example, temperature and rain) throughout the year may change, resulting in warmer years on average with more extreme hot days, and fewer extreme cold days in the future.

Heavy snowfall on the US eastern seaboard seriously disrupted cities like New York this winter. EPA, CC BY-SA

This pattern has a direct link to such phenomena as heatwaves,

which are caused by more extreme temperatures. The links to droughts or periods of extreme low flows in rivers are more complex. Global Circulation Models (GCMs) – a collection of numerical models that provide a 3D analysis of global climate interactions such as atmosphere, oceans, ice and land – predict increases in temperatures for some regions, such as southern Europe.

In terms of tropical cyclones, the effects of climate change on these phenomena is an active area of research as the processes are complex. For example, the Clausius-Clapeyron relationship which can be related to the water vapour-carrying capacity of the atmosphere, may have an impact on the strength and intensity of such storms.

The relationship states that for every degree rise in temperature, the water-holding capacity of the atmosphere increases by seven per cent, so in a warming ocean, the air above the water has a much greater capacity to hold water and thus store more rain that can feed more powerful storms.

But sinking cold air from the upper atmosphere may prevent storms from rising in the first place. If this happens more frequently with climate change then we can expect fewer such storms. That means in the future there may be fewer tropical cyclones forming, but those that do will be stronger and more intense.

WET WET WET

In a warming world, we can expect it to get wetter. The distribution of the rainfall throughout the year could change as we experience longer, drier spells, although when rain falls it may be in intense bursts.

Recent research by Newcastle University analysed the results from finer scale GCMs climate projections and suggests we may expect more intense summer rainfall in the UK in future. New climate projections from GCMs are being prepared for the UK to help predict what the future climate may look like.

Flooding from intense rainfall or river sources has many complex drivers which cause the damage in catchment areas.

For example, land use changes (such as intensive farming practices or deforestation) and the degree of urbanisation both play a part in flood risk. Recent research for the UK suggests that we will see an increase in the frequency of extreme river flooding.

So what can we expect for 2018? Already Australia is experiencing extreme heat, while the eastern seaboard of the US is suffering a severe cold spell, and the west coast devastating mudslides that have killed 17 people. So far 2018 seems to be picking up right where 2017 left off.

Governments need to recognise and absorb that extreme weather across the globe is likely to become more common and start to adapt accordingly, rather than treat it as shocking one-off events. Otherwise we risk increasing loss of life and environmental damage in the future.

Lindsay Beevers, Professor/Chair Futures Forum, Heriot-Watt University.

The Conversation.



● “And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.”

– Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*

● “Books are the ultimate Dumpees: put them down and they’ll wait for you forever; pay attention to them and they always love you back.”

– John Green, *An Abundance of Katherines*

● “There is nothing better than a friend, unless it is a friend with chocolate.”

– Linda Grayson

● “The question isn’t who is going to let me; it’s who is going to stop me.”

– Ayn Rand

● “To die will be an awfully big adventure.”

– J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

● “It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.”

– E.E. Cummings

● “Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.”

– Albert Einstein

● “We believe in ordinary acts of bravery, in the courage that drives one person to stand up for another.”

– Veronica Roth, *Divergent*

● “I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of any thing than of a book! - When I have a house of my own, I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library.”

– Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

● “There are infinite numbers between 0 and 1.

There’s .1 and .12 and .112 and an infinite collection of others. Of course, there is a bigger infinite set of numbers between 0 and 2, or between 0 and a million. Some infinities are bigger than other infinities. A writer we used to like taught us that. There are days, many of them, when I resent the size of my unbounded set. I want more numbers than I’m likely to get, and God, I want more numbers for Augustus Waters than he got. But, Gus, my love, I cannot tell you how thankful I am for our little infinity. I wouldn’t trade it for the world. You gave me a forever within the numbered days, and I’m grateful.”

– John Green, *The Fault in Our Stars*

● “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it.”

– Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

● “I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

– J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.75%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	4.7%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swazi Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.25%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E12.80 per litre
Replacement	E12.85 per litre
Diesel	E12.00 per litre
Paraffin	E 8.95 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 18 JAN 2018

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	12.2741	12.3241
British Pound/SZL	16.9757	17.0448
Japanese Yen/SZL	9.0205	9.0548
Swiss France/SZL	12.7325	12.7790
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2507	1.2669
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.7825	9.8235
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.8643	9.9013
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	14.9762	15.0373
Gold	1,328.1000	
Oil	69.2300	

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Standard Bank

Only 8% Swazi businesses have access to bank credit

Stories by Hlengiwe Ndlovu

A paltry eight per cent of businesses in Swaziland have access to bank credit while a whopping 57 per cent budding entrepreneurs solely rely on friends and relatives to obtain money to support their businesses, the National Financial Inclusion Strategy for Swaziland (NFIS) 2017 to 2022 states.

Another disturbing highlight contained in this strategy is that most Swazis make a living in the informal sector, while only one in every five adults earn their main source of income in the formal sector—either as civil servants or as company employees.

Five per cent of Swazis have a regular job income from a farm or another individual, the strategy states while the rest of the population have to find a way to make ends meet either through informal trading, piece jobs, or are dependent on family or the state for their living.

The strategy was launched at the Royal Villas last week by Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini in an event attended by different stakeholders in the financial sector.

Financial inclusion is defined in the NFIS as the delivery of financial services and products in a way that is available, accessible and affordable to all segments of society and plays a vital role in combating poverty and contributing to inclusive economic growth.

Government hopes to rectify the lack of financial inclusion in Swaziland by growing mobile money services and remittances, deepening bank reach, getting credit basics right, ensuring risk management products are available, and enabling alternative channels to serve the



FINANCIAL INCLUSION COUNCIL COMING SOON

GOVERNMENT has made an undertaking to establish a financial inclusion council which will be chaired by the Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini and supported by the governor of the Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS).

The council, according to the newly launched National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) will provide technical guidance to

the Financial Inclusion Coordination Agency (FICA) and is expected to meet on a quarterly basis.

FICA will be responsible for the co-ordination of the implementation of the NFIS in collaboration with all relevant actors while also establishing working groups to assist on the key activities depending on demand and need.

poor.

"There is a need to grow mobile money, more generally the electronic money to enable more effective savings and payments products," the strategy states while identifying remittances as a major source of income for many hence "the need

for alternative mechanisms for domestic and cross border remittances to support vulnerable and dependent groups".

The FinScope Swaziland National Consumer Survey of 2011 established that the Swazi adult population face severe budget constraints

and struggle to make ends meet.

"A household often makes a living through more than one means and only a minority of adults have consistent, formal income sources," the strategy reveals whilst also acknowledging that a significant number of Swazis are excluded or face a number of access barriers like low affordability, and sometimes onerous documentation requirements.

The report notes that Swaziland's barriers to financial inclusion are experienced differently across the four product categories of transactions, savings, credit and insurance.

The NFIS policy document was formulated by among others the ministry of finance working closely with the Central Bank of Swaziland, the Financial Services Regulatory Authority, the financial sector and the Micro-Finance Unit.

With so many Swazis still not accessing financial services, one of the goals that the NFIS seeks to achieve is to "increase the depth of financial inclusion, growing the per cent of adults with access to two or more formal products from 43 per cent to 75 per cent, and reducing the excluded from 27 per cent to 15 per cent by 2022".

The need to expand on insurance given the vulnerability of Swazis was identified as one of key strategies which can be used to drive financial inclusion.

Meanwhile, to enhance Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) government makes an undertaking that the NFIS will collaborate with all the relevant actors for them to improve access to business data on entrepreneurs, enhance business and financial management skills and implement a business competitive scoring system.

Local entrepreneur introducing debt free solution

By Majaha Nkonyane

LOCAL entrepreneur Nkosingiphile Kunene is inviting both unemployed young people and those struggling in debt to a presentation to be held at the George Hotel on Saturday.

"We have an amazing presentation that we would like to share with the nation on debt free solutions that could help both young and old.

"This will be an event that has testimonials from people who are now living their dream lives on how one can be able to break away from debt and make money either on part time basis or full time basis," she said.

Kunene mentioned that this will be an opportunity to talk about a home based business that will change peoples' lifestyle.

She further mentioned that the seminar will talk about making millions a month in a low capital invest-

ment business.

In addition, she mentioned that people have an opportunity to build wealth while living healthy at a minimal cost to earn extra income and leave a vibrant business for the family.

"When we die, we die with our careers, whilst our traditional business collapses because we are the only ones that can best run them, but the nature of the business being presented assures sustainability even when you are dead, you can

do it part time or full time," she said.

The seminar provides a chance to discuss how individuals can make much returns from business.

"We also want to go on vacations every now and then but this becomes a luxury when both our finances and health are compromised, this home business has a reward to that. I would like to invite everyone to come have a chance to understand how to fight the syndrome of being broke," she said.

E3.8 BILLION LOST DUE TO 2016 DROUGHT

Stories by Majaha Nkonyane

WITH the country on the recovery road from a devastating 2016 drought that swept through the country, the UNICEF Year-end Humanitarian Situation Report has revealed that the country lost a total of E3.8 billion.

"The study by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) on the socio-economic impacts of the 2015-2016 drought indicates the total lost revenue due to the drought as US\$296 million (E3.8 billion)," the report revealed.

This comes after the organisation noted that certain areas in the country are still not fully recovered from the drought.

According to the report, the 2017 rainfall has alleviated the water scarcity in Hhohho and Manzini regions, the current prolonged drought conditions continue to be felt in Shiselweni and Lubombo regions affecting food and water security for a significant part of the population.



ity for a significant part of the population.

The results from the 2017 Vulnerability Assessment indicated that over 53 per cent and 55 per cent of the population in Shiselweni and Lubombo regions respectively access water from unprotected sources.

In addition the report further revealed that UNICEF successfully delivered 30 hand pumps and supplies to the ministry of natural resources and energy, which will support the rehabilitation of hand pumps in vulnerable communities in the Lubombo and Shiselweni region as part

of resilient building in 2018 providing 4 500 people with access to safe water.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is responsible for coordinating the emergency response on behalf of the Government of Swaziland.

The United Nations (UN) country team, headed by the UN Resident coordinator, leads the UN's emergency response. UNICEF leads Education and WASH clusters, co-leads the Health and Nutrition cluster and is an active member of the child protection cluster.

Based on the official end to the emergency in 2016, the NDMA deactivated the cluster system from the second quarter of the year and transitioned into resilient programming.

In support of national disaster reduction and preparedness, UNICEF in its co-lead role supported NDMA to develop and cost the 2018-2019 Multi Hazard Contingency Plans for the Education and WASH sectors.

UNICEF Swaziland received over E19 million for 2018

THE report further revealed that the local UNICEF office has received approximately E19 536 800 for operations in 2018.

This is according to the UNICEF Year-end Humanitarian Situation Report. "As of December 31, UNICEF Swaziland received approximately E19 536 800 against the US E39 684 125 in the 2017 Humanitarian Action for Children, of which E7 073 689 was mobilised from 2017 while E12 421 326 was carry-over funds," the report said.

The report further revealed that in 2017, 818 adolescents were sensitised on HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support and 3 726 adolescents (2 217 females, 1 509 males) were on ART in the two target regions.

UNICEF in partnership with the MoH and Baylor College of Medicine supported an SMS-based platform (U-Report) to provide real-time reporting and psychosocial support and information through online responses to the inquiries and reports from adolescents living with HIV and those affected by violence. This

was aimed at strengthening capacity to respond to low ART adherence by adolescents.

The platform facilitated responses to questions and inquiries, and 1 604 adolescents received psychosocial support through U-Report based provider response to SMS messages from adolescents.

The partnership also provided peer support and counselling to strengthen ART adherence through teen clubs, and supported 190 males and 228 females which led to 87 per cent of achievement in undetectable viral load, higher than national average of 55 per cent. The MoH with support from partners will continue to collect HIV-related data for further reporting and planning in 2018.



Transport inflation increased

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

WHILE food inflation decreased in November, transport inflation increased from 4.4 per cent to 5.6 per cent, Central Statistics Office Price Statistician Bongumlenzi Zwane has said.

The increase in transport inflation was attributed to operation of personal transport equipment, mainly fuels and lubricants.

While local consumers grapple with fuel costs, neighbouring South Africa decreased its fuel price a few weeks ago as petrol went down by 34 cents a litre, diesel by 26 cents and illuminating paraffin by 28 cents.

Meanwhile, the Central Statistics Office reported that the headline inflation rate in December 2017 which is the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in December 2017 compared with that of December 2016 for the country stood at 4.7 per cent.

This annual rate of inflation was reportedly 0.2 index points lower than the corresponding annual rate of 4.9 per cent observed in November 2017.

Zwane, in the CSO report stated that the lower headline inflation was due to decreasing annual rates of change reflected in December in the price indices for furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance which decreased from 3.5 per cent in November 2017 to 2.4 per cent in December 2017.

Household

Household appliances (small electric household appliances), goods

and services for routine household maintenance (non-durable household goods) largely contributed to the lower index.

Meanwhile, food and non-alcoholic beverages decreased from 3.5 per cent in November 2017 to 2.6 per cent in December 2017 while vegetables, bread, cereals and non alcoholic beverages (coffee, tea and cocoa) were the largest contributors to the lower index.

Meanwhile, inflation in restaurants and hotels increased from 5.1 per cent in November 2017 to 6.1 per cent in December 2017. The Central Statistics Office attributed the increased index in this sector to catering services, such as restaurants and cafés.

Meanwhile, NKC Research Institute observed that a further decrease in CPI inflation has given the Central Bank of Swaziland greater scope to cut its policy rate to align itself with South Africa's interest rates, with the latter having cut its policy rate in July.

"The CBS has taken a hawkish approach over the last few months. However, we foresee a policy rate cut by the CBS in the near future in order to align the two countries' interest rates.

Price pressures in the housing and utilities sub-index have increased following the hike in electricity tariffs.

Heightened social pressure is expected to fuel fiscal expenditure before the 2018 Parliamentary elections, while the government seems unwilling to cut back on the high public wage bill over the short term," said NKC Research Institute's Greg Struwyeg.

Top food chains, supermarkets piloting Bitcoin payments

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

BITCOIN may be experiencing turbulent times now unlike in 2017 when it recorded all-time highs, but it seems there is no turning back as the crypto currency is now being accepted by top brands such as KFC Canada.

In their website, KFC Canada announced that they will, for a limited time, accept BITCOIN the fast-food chain is now accepting the cryptocurrency for a limited time for customers to buy a BITCOIN-themed chicken bucket called the "BITCOIN Bucket".

In a recent interview, UNISWA Lecturer and Economist Sanele Sibiyi had predicted a BITCOIN crash in 2018. His sentiments were based on the fact that there was no way the cryptocurrency could sustain its current demand.

He nevertheless acknowledged that while BITCOIN remains illegal in many countries, but it has come to change the face of monetary policies around the globe.

Sibiyi's sentiments were shared by different economists from around the globe, but despite the imminent crash, the BITCOIN fever just will not stop as many hopeful investors including those from



Swaziland continue to invest in the crypto currency.

Meanwhile, Pick n Pay, one of South Africa's leading supermarkets with several franchises in Swaziland, just like the KFC food chain, was also in a reported trial of the cryptocurrency in September last year.

Retailer

According to Finance24, the retailer, together with tech companies Electrum and Luno, piloted letting staff pay for groceries via BITCOIN at its head office in Cape Town.

KFC Canada announced in its website that "for a limited time, orders will be fulfilled within Canadian delivery zones.

We can only accept purchases within Canada. Apologies, rest of the world". "We designed a process from user registration, tender acceptance at point of sale to funds authorisation, currency exchange in real time during the transaction and instant payment settlement," said Richard van Rensburg, Pick n Pay's Deputy CEO in Finance24.

The pilot programme was, however, limited to one store and is no longer active.

KFC Canada and Pick n Pay are not the only leading brands to flirt with BITCOIN as many other retailers now accept the crypto currency as payment for goods and services.

BUSINESS EXTRA

Transnet officials summoned to appear before Scopa

JOHANNESBURG – Certain Transnet executives and board members have been served with notices to appear before Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) Today and tomorrow.

This comes after officials failed to appear before a scheduled hearing with SCOPA on December 6.

SCOPA has since "resolved to subpoena individual members of the executive and board members to appear before the committee to make submissions and answer questions on alleged violations of the Public Finance Management Act of 1999, and contractual deviations and expansions for the 2016/2017 financial year, includ-

ing the first and second quarters of 2017," the committee's statement read.

It says the summons were issued in terms of Section 56(a) of the Constitution, read with Section 14(2)(b) of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act 4 of 2004.

eNCA

MTN, Vodacom worry over Electronic Amendment Bill

DURBAN - South Africa's leading mobile network operator, MTN, said last week that the Electronic Amendment Bill, which was approved by the Cabinet in November last year, will discourage investment in the sector.

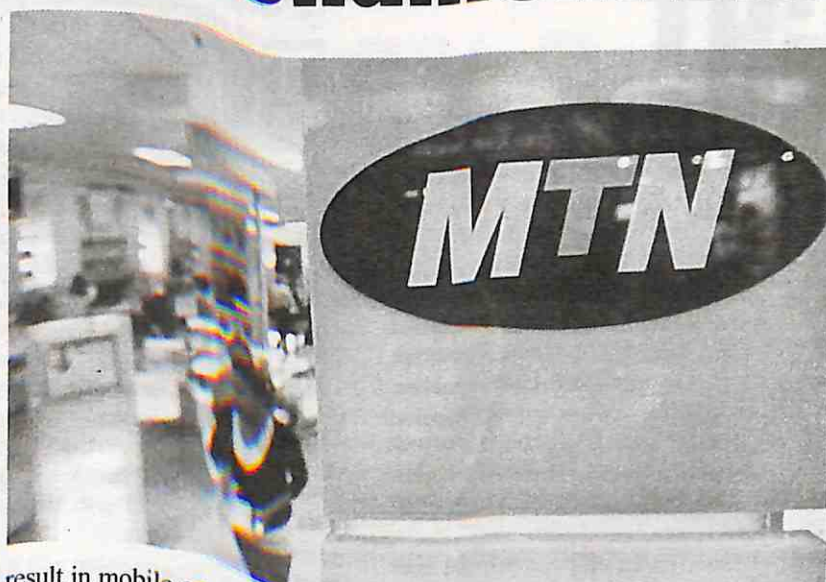
Jacqui O'Sullivan, an Executive for corporate Affairs at MTN SA, said it was with great concern that the Bill, irrespective of the risks associated with it, was approved by the cabinet.

"The risks associated with this Bill are extensive and significant. This Bill will discourage investment in the sector. A slowdown in capital investment in our mobile networks will degrade the service and quality of the networks. This will have serious and unintended consequences," she said.

Vodacom also raised concern and said it did not provide certainty on licensing of current and future spectrum.

O'Sullivan said the Bill did not address the single biggest issue facing the local telecommunications industry, which was the serious "spectrum crunch".

"The withholding of spectrum will



result in mobile operators needing to scale back plans for continued growth option but to re-form the spectrum and cost," she said. The mobile operators first raised the red flags in November, 10 days after the Bill was passed by the Cabinet, and said the Bill, if enacted,

would make sweeping changes to the governance of the information and communications technology sector in South Africa. The Free Market Foundation also criticised the amendment Bill and said it ignored months of behind closed doors negotiations between mobile network operators and the government.

Business Report

RAGING BULL INVESTMENT SUMMIT RAISES HOPES

JOHANNESBURG Empowerdex Head of research and advisory Nomzamo Xaba hopes the Raging Bull Investment Summit and Awards, to be held in Cape Town, will serve its purpose and not become another talk shop.

She will form part of the panel expected to discuss "the effects of current and future regulation on the investment industry" in South Africa. The focus will be on how regulation is transforming the industry as well as presenting challenges for asset managers.

Xaba said relevant regulation she would be speaking about included treating customers fairly, regulation 28, the default pension fund regulations, the retail distribution review, and the change-over to the twin peaks regulatory structure. Businessman Andile Khumalo is expected to moderate the panel discussion.

Speaking to Business Report, Xaba said she would also touch on some of the regulations that had been put in place in recent years. "More importantly, investors

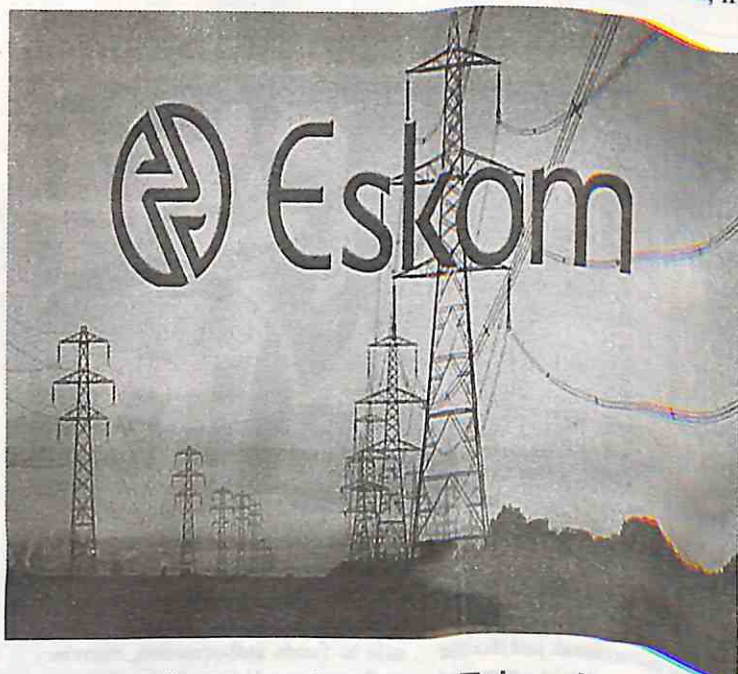
need to be sure that they are protected by legislation," she said, commending legislation that sought to bring more blacks up to speed with investing.

"A lot of our people are not astute investors; they tend to go in blindly, they don't go into core investments," Xaba said she was looking forward to the investment summit, but she warned against it turning into a talk shop, saying: "South Africans are known to be quite good at talking, but not so in implementation."

She said it would be good for delegates to walk away from the conference having gained information about innovative products that could meet people's socioeconomic needs.

"We have a thriving financial services industry in South Africa, but the industry must be opened up," Xaba said. Public Investment Corporation Chief Executive Officer Daniel 'Dan' Matjila will deliver the keynote address at the summit, where financial and investment service industry stakeholders will engage with delegates.

Business Report



BASA welcomes the new Eskom's board

CAPE TOWN - The Banking Association of South Africa says the appointment of the new board of directors by Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa is one of the opportunities to place the country back on track for economic growth and job creation.

"The new board, under the leadership of the newly-appointed Chairperson, Jabu Mabuza, must move quickly to strengthen the executive team at Eskom, get rid of those in the team under investigation for corrupt activities, address the 'going concern' crisis and enable the organisation to play the critical role it must to enable economic growth," a statement issued on behalf of BASA read.

BASA hopes that the new board which is led by the newly-appointed Chairperson, Jabu Mabuza, will move quickly to strengthen the executive team at Eskom, get rid of those in the team under investi-

gation for corrupt activities.

"If South Africa is to position itself as 'open for business' at next week's World Economic Forum in Davos, the government will need to provide clarity on what immediate actions it plans to take to re-establish both domestic and international confidence in South Africa as an investment destination," BASA added.

BASA described Ramaphosa's decision as a positive development and wishes the new Eskom board well in the significant tasks ahead.

Energy expert and fundi of all things Eskom-related, Chris Yelland said, "The fact that we have a new board is a positive sign but now there needs to be short, medium and long-term strategies and plans to draw up".

He added that it could even take up to a decade before the state power utility is out of the red.

Business Report Online

R16.2bn graft in Joburg benefited Cabinet ministers

JOHANNESBURG - The City of Joburg's finance department and City Power have emerged as the biggest contributors to its R16.2billion fraud, corruption, theft and maladministration racket.

These shocking revelations are contained in an internal document compiled by the city's Group Forensic and Investigation Services (GFIS), which showed how finance had accounted for more than R8bn in graft and wasteful expenditure, which the GFIS has uncovered, while City Power has been fingered for more than R2bn.

The document, which The Star has seen, was tabled at a closed mayoral committee meeting in November. It highlighted that 65 per cent of Joburg's delinquency was committed by the city's 14 departments, and amounted to about R9.9bn, while its seven entities accounted for R5.5bn. More than R800million was recorded as unauthorised, irregular, fruitless or wasteful expenditure.

Lucky Sindane, a Director in the GFIS, said the department could not comment on its report as it was still an internal document at this stage.

However, Mayor Herman Mashaba, who spoke to The Star last week, said the uncovering of what he described as the billions looted from the city's coffers was a concerted effort by his administration, after it had declared corruption "public enemy number one".

"Then there is a further R16.2bn in corruption where substations were claimed to have been built but were not."

"And regarding the Metro Trading Company's (MTC) purchase of a fibre broadband network: in my report I said it was worth R1.3bn. In fact, the price is standing at R1.7bn - and growing,"

Mashaba said.

MTC, the mayor said, was a municipal entity created in 2015 to purchase about 900km of fibre; a project which Mashaba said was ridden with corruption, according to an investigation that implicated high-ranking politicians in the graft.

"Regarding the MTC issue, people inside (President Jacob) Zuma's administration benefited up to R200m. When the city bought this (network), some of the people who benefited are (Cabinet) ministers," Mashaba said, without disclosing any names.

"There's also the R68m paid for a substation in Eldorado Park. When I went there, there was no substation. Can anybody really blame me for (fighting) this corruption of R16.2bn and stealing of public money openly?" he asked.

The Star

Lonmin reports 65% fall in 2017 profit on higher costs

LONDON - Platinum miner Lonmin reported a 65 percent drop in 2017 profit yesterday citing higher costs and subdued commodity prices but reiterated its 2018 targets.

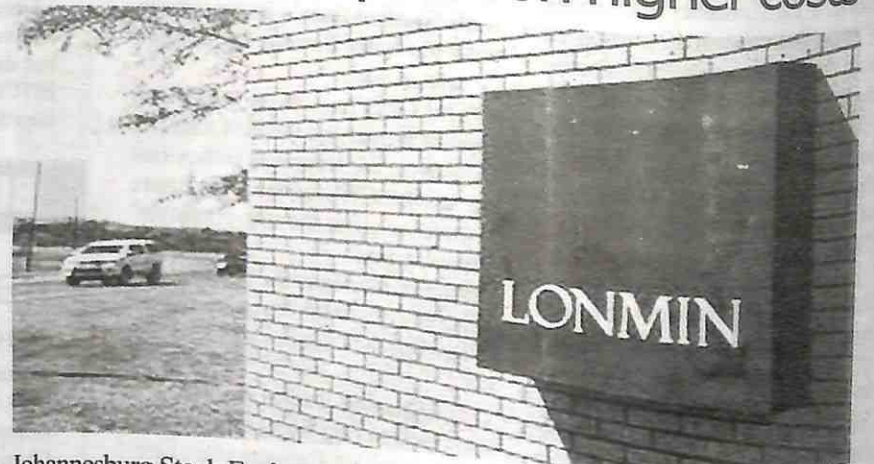
The London and Johannesburg-listed miner said earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) fell to \$40 million for the year to ended September 30 from \$115 million a year earlier.

Lonmin delayed its results last year pending the outcome of a business review.

You may also be interested in: South African Rand hits fresh two and a half year high, government bonds firm

Top story on Business Report: Lab meat to transform meat industry in 2021

Lonmin, which is listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the



Johannesburg Stock Exchange, is one of the world's largest primary producers of PGMs. These metals are essential for many industrial applications, especially catalytic converters for internal combustion engine emissions, as

well as their widespread use in jewellery. Lonmin's operations are situated in the Bushveld Igneous Complex in South Africa, where more than 70 per cent of known global PGM resources are found. *Reuters*

BRIEFS

'Malawi has plenty of food'

MALAWI - President Prof Arthur Peter Mutharika on Sunday assured Malawians and the world that no one will die of hunger this year as the country has enough maize in stock. Speaking during a developmental rally at Lunzu Primary Ground in Blantyre North East constituency, the president said unlike last year, many parts in the country have been heavily hit by drought and fall army worms this year, a situation that is raising fears of poor crop production. President Mutharika, however, said Malawians should not panic as the country has enough grains in its reserves. *Nyasa Times*

Buhari's health will be a factor

ABUJA - President Muhammadu Buhari's health status will determine whether or not he will seek re-election in 2019, the presidency has said. The Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Mr Femi Adesina, said this in an interview. "Yes, health is wealth. Health is wealth. The president is not a frivolous person. If he thinks that his health cannot carry anything, he will not do it. So, of course, his health will matter a lot. It will be very important, but we need to give the glory to God for the way he is now. "Every day you see the president, you see a glow about him; you see freshness about him. *AllAfrica*

Farmer seeks Mnangagwa assistance

HARARE - A Zimbabwean white farmer Richard Seager is reportedly seeking President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government to assist him get back his 609 hectare farm that was seized from him in 2007 by an indigenous farmer. According to the privately-owned Standard newspaper, Seager claimed in a letter to Mashonaland East Provincial Minister of State David Musabayana and Lands minister Perrance Shiri that his farm in Wedza, was "fraudulently and violently" taken away from him. "Having heard the new government's mandate and witnessing the reinstatement of several white farmers, this has prompted me to make this application seeing how fair, just and committed the government is with this exercise. *News24*

7 die at Ethiopia's Epiphany

ADDIS ABABA - An Ethiopian police official in the restive Amhara region in the north confirmed Sunday evening that seven people were killed when worshippers celebrating the Epiphany holiday clashed with security forces. The killings on Saturday in the town of Woldiya, some 500km north of the capital Addis Ababa, happened on the second day of the colourful Epiphany celebrations in this East African nation. Amare Goshu, a police official in the region, told the state-owned Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation that seven people died, including one security officer, during the confrontation. *AP*

Delta govt to parley militia Avengers

ASABA - The Delta State Government has expressed readiness to dialogue with militia group, Niger Delta Avengers (NDA), in the light of its reported threats to resume hostilities against oil and gas installations in the Niger Delta region. The state Deputy Governor, Mr. Kingsley Burutu Oturao, gave the hint while appealing to the NDA to sheathe their sword and embrace the option of dialogue to resolve whatever their grievances might be. Oturao, who is the Chairman, Delta State Advocacy Committee Against Vandalism of Oil and Gas Facilities, noted that much has been achieved since the resort to dialogue following resurgence of militancy targeting oil and gas facilities in the region. *AllAfrica*



'GRACE MUGABE WAS NOT MENTALLY OKAY'

HARARE - President Emmerson Mnangagwa says he believes former first lady Grace Mugabe had become mentally unstable towards the end of her husband's long rule.

In an interview with Britain's Financial Times, Zimbabwe's new president said the incident that convinced him of this was a rally held by Grace Mugabe in November, in which she called Mnangagwa a snake who should have his head crushed. "I was being castigated there as a snake. And to deal with this snake you must crush the head. And this snake is Mnangagwa, we must crush the head, not beat the tail or the body," Mnangagwa recounted the first lady as saying.

The rally in question was held a day before Mnangagwa was sacked by Mugabe on November

BELIEVES:
Zimbabwe
President
Emmerson
Mnangagwa.



6. Mnangagwa did not attend the rally, but said he had listened to reports about it.

"She went berserk on that one. At that stage now I believed she was not mentally OK," Mnangagwa said.

He took over from Mugabe later in November after the army stepped in and the 93-year-old leader was forced to resign after nearly four decades in power.

The ZANU-PF youth wing organised a series of rallies last year in support both of Mugabe's presidency and Grace Mugabe's likely bid for higher office.

Despite the criticism, Mnangagwa attended most of the rallies, including one in August in which he claims he was deliberately poisoned by opponents within the party. *News24*



STAYING: Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa.

'Bond notes aren't going anywhere'

HARARE - Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa has reportedly denied reports that the country's surrogate currency - the bond notes - would be phased out soon.

The state-owned Herald newspaper quoted Chinamasa as saying that the controversial bond notes were not going anywhere until the southern African country had its own currency.

The minister said that there were macroeconomic fundamentals that the treasury was working on before the surrogate currency could be discontinued.

"We need to address the budget deficit, we need to address the issues of exports and we need to build foreign currency reserves of at least three months, at the moment we are at 0.7 months. This is why we are coming up with all these proposal or incentives to incentivise production so I just want to plead with you, please let's look at the positive side, let's not dwell on the negative, let's not be driven by falsehoods that are peddled through social media. You are intelligent enough to distinguish between an obvious falsehood and that which may have credibility," Chinamasa was quoted as saying.

The southern African country adopted the use of multiple currencies in 2009 after its currency had been rendered worthless by hyperinflation.

The US Dollar had been the main transacting currency but it has been in short supply since 2015 due to low exports and externalisation.

This led to the introduction of a surrogate currency in November 2016 to ease chronic shortages of US Dollars, and to encourage exporters who earn the country foreign currency.

News24



GRATEFUL: These heartbreaking photos capture the moment 83-year-old Ali Mee, from Ordu Province in the Black Sea region of Turkey, cuddled up to his only surviving cat after his house burned down. Ali had been trying to cook on a wood stove but the gasoline he poured on caused it to explode and flames engulfed his home. Thankfully, Ali and his family - and his cat - were saved from the blaze and no one suffered serious injuries.

Six dead in DRC protest crackdown

KINSHASA - Six people were killed in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Sunday as the authorities cracked down on a banned protest against President Joseph Kabila.

Witnesses said security forces fired live rounds and tear gas in Kinshasa to disperse demonstrators who had gathered after Catholic Church leaders called for a mass peaceful demonstration against Kabila's 17-year rule.

The UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO said six people were killed in Kinshasa and 57 injured nationwide in the rallies.

"The defence and security forces did not apply the principles of necessity, proportionality and legality in accordance with international standards," MONUSCO spokesperson Florence Marchal told AFP.

Pope Francis, who was in Peru on the final day of a South American tour, called on all parties in the country to "avoid all forms of violence and seek solutions for the common good". MONUSCO said 111 people were arrested across the country, adding that some UN observers were "threatened and harassed" by security forces in the capital. *AFP*

Tunisia kills senior Al-Qaeda member

KASSERINE - Tunisian security forces have killed a senior member of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb who was wanted by Algeria for two-and-a-half decades, officials said.

"A terrorist wanted by Algeria since 1993 was killed in an operation carried out by the Special Unit of the National Guard," Tunisian interior ministry spokesman Khelifa Chibani said. A security source said the person killed was Bilel Kobi, an Algerian who was close to the network's leader, Abdelmalek Droukdel. Kobi had been charged with overseeing links between the network, known by its French initials, "AQMI", and its Tunisian

branch, the official said on condition of anonymity. Another Algerian, Bechir Bin Neji, thought to have been the commander of an AQMI cell in the Sammama region of Tunisia, was also found dead with an assault rifle by his side, Chibani said. The Friday evening operation took place in the Mount Sammama area of central-western Tunisia, which lies in a range of hills that are a favoured hideout of Al-Qaeda and Islamic State group jihadists. It is adjacent to Mount Chaambi, considered to be the Jihadists' main rear base near the border with Algeria. The area is the scene of regular clashes between the army and Jihadist groups. *AFP*

Focus on SA scene

REGGIE NKABINDE TIPPED TO BECOME ANCYL PRESIDENT

JOHANNESBURG - Mabala Noise boss and ANC Youth League Treasurer-General Reggie Nkabinde looks set to replace Collen Maine as President without raising a sweat when the congress is held later this year.

This emerged this week as party insiders told of how there are moves to bring the congress forward from September to May, before the current leadership's term ends in August.

One of the provincial leaders who was a contender for the youth league's top spot, KwaZulu-Natal Secretary Thanduxolo Sabelo, has surrendered the fight.

"I don't think I am ready for the position," he said.

"My view is that there are leaders who are better positioned for the job and they include comrade Reggie Nkabinde, Ndumiso Mokoko, Mlondolozzi Mkhize, Muhammad Khalid Sayed and Vincent Shoba," said Sabelo. Nkabinde said he



EXPECTED CHANGE: ANC Youth League President Collen Maine and Treasurer-General Reggie Nkabinde, who is expected to take over from him.

was ready to be deployed to any position by the party. "If the branches say I must serve as president, I can never say no," he said. "Wherever the ANC send me, I will go." Incumbent Presi-

dent Maine is not eligible to contest for a second term due to his age and his direct election into the ANC National Executive Committee (NEC).

Sowetan Live

Metro cop shoots children in attempted murder-suicide

JOHANNESBURG - A Johannesburg metro cop is in hospital after trying to kill herself and her children at the weekend, the metro police department said yesterday.

"The officer is suspected to have consumed rat poison and then used her service pistol to shoot her eight-year-old son in the left leg as well as her 11-year-old daughter, who was shot in the abdomen," said Chief Superintendent Wayne Minnaar.

The incident happened at the officer's home in Green Village, Soweto, on Sunday. The officer and her injured children were taken to Tshepo Themba Private Hospital.

"The officer is a widow and is said to have lived only with her two children. Charges against the officer will be determined pending the outcome of the investigation, both internally as well as by the SAPS," said Minnaar.

Sowetan Live



Day Zero bigger than WWII, 9/11

CAPE TOWN - Helen Zille is sailing into action as Day Zero looms — and says the challenge is greater than World War 2 or the aftermath of 9/11 in New York City.

The Western Cape premier said on Monday she was stepping in to manage the impending disaster of Day Zero. In her column on Daily Maverick, Zille said the need to intervene became clear when Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille announced last Thursday that the city was now likely to run out of water. "The province has a mandate to manage provincial disasters. The question that dominates my waking hours now is: When Day Zero arrives, how do we make water accessible and prevent anarchy? And if there is any chance of still preventing it, what is it we can do?" Zille said a week before dam levels hit 13.5 per cent, the city council would announce the date

of Day Zero for residential suburbs. Once taps were turned off, residents will have to collect a daily allowance of 25 litres from 200 distribution points across the city. "The city has not yet revealed details of how allocation will be managed at the collection points, but the current proposal is to do so on the basis of municipal accounts where the number of users would be registered, and the person collecting the water would have to provide proof of identification and the registered number of persons in the household," she said. "A sophisticated system will be necessary to prevent water theft through 'double dipping'. These logistics must still be resolved in the short time remaining. "Consider this scenario: If every family sends one person to fetch their water allocation, about 5 000 people will congregate at each distribution point every day.

Times Live

Maimane demands arrest of Zwane, Magashule over Estina saga

CAPE TOWN - DA Leader Mmusi Maimane called for the arrest of government officials implicated in the capture of the Estina Dairy project in Vrede as the NPA's asset forfeiture unit placed the project under curatorship.

He described the dairy farm as a "devious corrupt scheme" thought up by those who represent the ANC.

"Ace Magashule, Mosebenzi Zwane and their fellow comrades stole public money to pay for a Gupta wedding in Sun City.

"But the worse crime here is that those who thought up this evil plan are still in government today. One of

them has just been elected to the Top six of the ANC. The other is still a minister in President Zuma's Cabinet," he said. He called for them to be fired from their government posts and said their retention was an insult to the country. "These are thugs and crooks. They belong in prison, not government," Maimane charged.

"I welcome the decision by the NPA's Asset Forfeiture Unit to intervene and take control of the farm by placing it under its curatorship. This ought to have been done four years ago when we knew about this, not only now when it's politically convenient.

"This must lead to reclaiming the

stolen money, and returning it to the intended beneficiaries. And it must lead to legal accountability for Ace Magashule and Mosebenzi Zwane," he said.

The Bloemfontein High Court granted the AFU a preservation order, stipulating that an amount not exceeding R220 202 652 "which constitutes proceeds of crime" could be seized from various bank accounts linked to the dairy project.

Court papers revealed that soon after money was paid into the dairy project's accounts, the money was siphoned to the accounts of several other Gupta-linked companies. *Times Live*

Intended beneficiaries of Gupta-linked farm speak out

JOHANNESBURG - Intended beneficiaries of a community empowerment project from which about R220-million disappeared say they have not received a cent.

The money was meant to fund the Estina Dairy Project, empowering emerging small-scale farmers, but was instead divided between the friends of President Jacob Zuma and their associates.

Between 80 and 100 people from Phumelela in Vrede in the Free State were supposed to have been given five cows each as part of the community empowerment project.

At a meeting with the provincial agriculture department five years ago a beneficiary list was drawn up and people's IDs were taken. That was the last time the beneficiaries heard of the project.



The community has a 51 per cent stake in the farm but has never seen a cent from it. Intended beneficiary Meshack Ncongweni said: "It makes me very angry. It hurts me actually ... we did not get anything." Another intended

beneficiary Issac Mkhwebane said the sad thing was that as beneficiaries, they were told to sell their cows to be slaughtered. "This was to be in exchange for dairy cows. I am one of those who sold their cows but until today there has never been any other meeting," he said.

Philemon Ngwenya said: "My heart, my heart is so sore, because they asked us to bring our IDs in order to start the dairy from scratch here in Vrede. Since then there has never been a meeting to tell us when the dairy will start."

The Chairperson of the African Farmers Association of South Africa, Phumelela Dhlamini, said the government should pin down the person responsible for the corruption so they can be forced to pay back the money.

eNCA

SAILING INTO ACTION:
Helen Zille.



WOMAN 20, STILL LOOKS LIKE A CHILD

LONDON - A 20-year-old woman has a rare genetic disease that means she is regularly mistaken for a child.

Michelle Kish, from Illinois, was born with Hallermann-Streiff syndrome, a condition so rare that at the time of her birth there were only 250 known cases worldwide.

Symptoms include distinct round, childlike facial features and a form of dwarfism that means Miss Kish only comes up to just above her sister's waist.

She requires round-the-clock medical care through the night, has a dedicated nurse to travel with her to school, and has to make frequent visits to hospital. Despite the constant medical attention she receives, she has flourished into one of the 'happiest' girls who aspires to be a paediatric doctor.

She now dreams of following in her sister Sarah's footsteps and finding a boyfriend - ideally a long-haired man

● *Michelle Kish, from Illinois, was born with Hallermann-Streiff syndrome*

● *The condition is so rare that at the time of her birth there were only 250 known cases worldwide*

● *Symptoms can include distinct childlike facial features and a form of dwarfism*

who is in touch with his emotions.

"Do people assume that I am lot younger than I am? I think they do when they ask my age but they never say it," Miss Kish said. Her mother Mary, who is also her primary caregiver, said: "When I was pregnant with Michelle everything was normal. "There was no issue at all through the pregnancy or through the delivery. It was very normal."



RARE: Michelle Kish, from Illinois, was born with Hallermann-Streiff syndrome.

Doctors knew something was wrong

DOCTORS immediately realised something was wrong with Miss Kish, but her condition was so rare that they had to draft in a geneticist from another hospital.

The specialist was able to diagnose Miss Kish from having seen pictures in medical textbooks.

Mrs Kish said: "No one had ever seen it in person at Children's Memorial Hospital, where Michelle was born.

"When the doctor gave us the diagnosis of Hallermann-Streiff syndrome my heart sank.

"I was worried about how we were going to care for our child who had a rare genetic disorder that was one in five million.

"It was unknown what her prognosis was going to be. They couldn't tell us because they had never seen it before and it was devastating."

Miss Kish added: "I do have to go into the hospital a lot. I can't count how many times but a lot. It's like a second home to me, basically."

What symptoms

does she have?

In total, she has 26 of the 28 symptoms of Hallermann-Streiff syndrome, including craniofacial abnormalities, a small beak-like nose, a recessed chin, bilateral cataracts and frontal bossing of the forehead.

She also has a number of the secondary characteristics, such as dwarfism, cardiomyopathy, chronic pulmonary lung disease, microgastria, fragile bones and alopecia. But despite the medical hurdles she faces, Miss Kish has flourished into a warm, bubbly adult, who loves playing piano, playing games on her iPad and spending time with her dog Piper.

Mrs Kish added: "Now Michelle is a 20-year-old lady, she is smart as a whip and happy as ever. She is one of the happiest 20-year-olds I know.

"My favourite thing about Michelle is that she has high self-esteem, she loves herself and she really has a lot of confidence, she moves on every day with a happy heart and she makes me happy even when I'm down in the dumps.



FAMILY: She relishes the company of mother Mary, father Brad, 64, sister Sarah and beloved dog Piper.

The downsides of her condition

BUT despite her positive outlook, Miss Kish admits there are some aspects of her condition that get in the way of her doing the things she wants to.

She said: "The most annoying thing being small is there are lot of amusement park rides that I want to go on and I can't because they have a stupid height restriction.

"Also my tracheostomy tube means I can't go underwater, which sucks because I want to be a mermaid!"

Finding a boyfriend

Miss Kish also dreams of following in her sister Sarah's footsteps and finding a boyfriend - ideally a long-haired man who is in touch with his emotions. She said: "I've never had

a boyfriend, but I want one, because I am already 20 and Sarah had her first boyfriend at high school.

"I would love a boyfriend with lots of hair. I don't care about the height because pretty much everyone is taller than me!" But for the time being she relishes the company of Mrs Kish, her father Brad, 64, sister Sarah and beloved dog Piper.

And despite her diminutive size, Miss Kish is determined to dream big for the future. She said: "My dream job would be to be a paediatric doctor, but my two backups would be a fashion designer or an actress."

Miss Kish is happy in the family home, but with government proposals to change Medicaid still on the

horizon, her parents worry her future is uncertain. Requiring round-the-clock care Mrs Kish added: "Michelle requires private duty nursing in the home in order for her to stay at home meaning she needs 24 hour care, throughout the night which you have to monitor water in the tubing of her ventilator, suction her trach, administer medications and g-tube feedings.

If the Medicaid cuts the waiver programme that she's on, she'll have to live in an institution and Michelle would not thrive in an institution.

"Michelle's long term outlook is unknown at this point. We have had several close calls but overall she is fairly healthy at the moment and we pray to God that they don't take our nursing away."

Daily mail



HALLERMANN-STREIFF: THE FACTS

Hallermann-Streiff syndrome is a rare, congenital condition characterised mainly by abnormalities of the skull and facial bones.

Characteristic facial features, sparse hair, eye abnormalities, dental defects, degenerative skin changes, and proportionate short

stature are also present. Intellectual disability is present in some individuals. Almost all reported cases of the condition appear to have occurred randomly for unknown reasons. Treatment for Hallermann-Streiff depends on the specific signs and symptoms present in each affected individual.



FIND LOVE: Miss Kish also dreams of following in her sister Sarah's footsteps and finding a boyfriend - ideally a long-haired man who is in touch with his emotions.



World News

US SHUTDOWN EXTENDED AS CRUNCH VOTE DELAYED

WASHINGTON - US lawmakers failed to agree on Sunday on ending a government shutdown before the start of the working week as they postponed a crunch vote in the Senate, despite marathon negotiations.

Although leaders of President Donald Trump's Republican party and the opposition Democrats said progress had been made in a weekend of talks, they pushed back a vote scheduled for 1am (0600 GMT) yesterday for another 11 hours.

The delay means the shutdown - which cast a huge shadow over the first anniversary of Trump's inauguration as president on Saturday which forced hundreds of thousands of federal government workers to stay at home without pay when they would normally report for duty.



FAIL: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) leaving the senate floor on Capitol Hill.

After a special weekend session of Congress that had seen bitter recriminations traded by both parties, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell pledged in a speech to the chamber late on Sunday to address Democrat concerns over key issues such as immigration reform.

The top Democratic Senator, Chuck

Schumer, responded by saying he was "happy to continue my discussion with the majority leader about reopening the government" but added that the parties were "yet to reach an agreement on a path forward".

McConnell then called for Congress to reconvene for another vote on a

stop-gap funding measure at noon, a proposal that was nodded through.

Hopes that the shutdown, which began at midnight last Friday, could be limited to the weekend had been raised in the afternoon when a bipartisan group huddled for hours on trying to end the standoff but they ultimately failed to resolve all their differences.

Trump early on Sunday encouraged the Senate's Republican leaders to invoke the "nuclear option" - a procedural manoeuvre to change the chamber's rules to allow passage of a budget by a simple majority of 51 votes to end the shutdown.

But Senate leaders have been wary of such a move in the past, as it could come back to haunt them the next time the other party holds a majority.

AFP

'West's Russiaphobia worse than during Cold War'

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Sunday said the West's "Russiaphobia" was worse than during the Cold War and warned that Moscow has "red lines" that should be respected.

"This Russiaphobia is unprecedented. We never saw this during the Cold War," Lavrov, fresh from a visit to New York last Thursday and Friday, said in an interview with the Russian daily Kommersant's online edition.

"Back then there were some rules, some decorum... Now, all decorum has been cast aside," he said.

Lavrov warned: "Russia has its 'red lines'.... Serious politicians in the West understand that these 'red lines' should be respected as they were during the Cold War."

Lavrov denounced what he called "efforts to punish Russia by any means possible," calling sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union "absurd and baseless".

Russia was slapped with sanctions in 2014 because of its annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, with Kiev and the West accusing Moscow of backing rebels -- allegations the Russian authorities deny.

Russia is also mired in a doping scandal which led to the exclusion of its athletes from the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro and the World Athletics Championships in London last year.

The International Olympics Committee has also suspended Russia from next month's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. AFP



IMPRESSIVE: May Aitcheson's army of knitting enthusiasts have created an impressive model of Cloughmills, the tiny village, in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, where they live. The model even includes the children's playground and allotment plots full of cauliflowers. Grandmother Mrs Aitcheson, 73, set up the Cloughmills Crochet Club around seven years ago after she retired from her job working in a shop. She said she got the idea for the model after visiting another village. It took them seven months to make the model.

Main dates in troubled history of modern Cyprus

NICOSIA - Cyprus will hold a presidential election, 28 January, that could determine if the divided eastern Mediterranean island relaunches a push to reunify.

Here are key dates in the island's history since it gained independence from Britain in 1960: On August 16 1960, Cyprus became independent from Britain after a guerrilla campaign waged by fighters

aiming to unite the island with Greece. A new Constitution seeks to keep a balance between the island's main communities, with the president from the Greek Cypriot majority and a Turkish Cypriot vice-president. Britain, Greece and Turkey pledge in a treaty to guarantee the independence of Cyprus through the right of military intervention.

In December 1963, inter-communal violence erupts

between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in unrest known as "Bloody Christmas".

British troops begin overseeing a ceasefire along a "Green Line" dividing the communities in Nicosia but violence spreads to other areas.

In March 1964, a UN peace-keeping force for Cyprus (UNFICYP) is established in a bid to staunch further unrest.

AFP

BRIEFS

3 died, 18 injured in S Thailand bombing

BANGKOK - A motorcycle bomb exploded at a market yesterday morning in southern Thailand, killing three people and injuring 18, police said.

The attacker parked the bike rigged with explosives nearby and bought goods at the market to blend in with the crowd, police Lt. Eakapong Rattanachai said. The bomb exploded when the attacker left the market area, causing the casualties, Eakapong said.

The explosion happened in Yala province, one of Thailand's three southernmost provinces where Muslim militants have waged a yearslong insurgency. AFP

World Bank signs \$300m loan for Nepal

KATHMANDU - The World Bank on Sunday approved a \$300 million loan for Nepal as the impoverished nation struggles to raise money to rebuild almost three years after an earthquake killed thousands and flattened homes.

Nearly 9 000 people died when a 7.8-magnitude quake struck in April 2015, destroying more than half a million homes.

Only one in ten of those homes has been rebuilt as the third anniversary of the disaster looms and Nepal faces a \$1.2 billion shortfall in reconstruction funds, the World Bank said.

AFP



Tokyo holds evacuation drill

TOKYO - More than 300 people have participated in an evacuation drill in Tokyo under the scenario of an incoming North Korean ballistic missile.

The drill was held at the Tokyo Dome amusement park, a subway station and a community centre downtown.

Loudspeakers warned that yesterday's activities involved a scenario of a missile attack and urged people to shelter indoors or go underground. At the amusement park, operators immediately stopped the rides. AFP

'Pray for me'

KABUL - As gunmen went on a night-time rampage through Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel on Saturday, Aziz Tayeb posted a desperate plea on Facebook: "Pray for me. I may die."

"The telecom executive hid behind a pillar as six heavily armed attackers stormed the luxury hotel and began spraying terrified guests and staff with bullets.

At least 18 people were killed, including 14 foreigners -- six of whom were Ukrainian -- in the 12-hour ordeal as the attackers engaged in a fierce gunfight with Afghan security forces.

"I saw people who were enjoying themselves a second ago screaming and fleeing like crazy, and some of them falling down, hit by bullets," Tayeb told AFP on Sunday, hours after his traumatic experience. AFP



- NEWS
- REVIEWS
- STAR SIGNS
- CELEBRITY WATCH
- CARTOONS

MISS TEEN PRINCESS RAISES E2 700 IN MAKE-UP PROJECT

By Ayanda Dlamini

MISS Teen Swaziland first princess Emihle Dzimba is indeed a beauty with brains.

The young beauty ambassador managed to raise E2 700 in her makeup endeavour which was basically her first fundraising project.

The total of E2 700 was made in four days in which she charged E30 to apply makeup on an individual.

The 17-year-old beauty embarked on her drive from Wednesday until Saturday the Swazi Plaza Corporate Place.

The catch phrase was 'get your brows on fleck and help educate a child in need' and a number of women supported the initiative.

The money raised by the beauty will towards paying school fees and buying uniform for a child in need.

"Her name is Tandzile Zodwa Dlamini, she lives at Buhleni and her mom was having difficulties paying for her school fees. Last year she was doing Form One at Mavula High School and her end of year results were excellent. She wants to transfer to Timphisini High School as it is a better school and has more resources and is more technologically developed. I raised E2 700 in total and the money will help buy her uniform and help pay some of her school fees," said the beauty during an interview yesterday.

"I loved the turnout as a lot of ladies came to do their make-up, and it was great working with all the awesome ladies, making them look even more

beautiful, they were so kind and I got to the chance to interact with a lot of different personalities, which truly was a blessing as it also showed me that people really have a heart of gold, since they supported this initiative to help the less privileged," she added.

Dzimba used her make-up skills to help raise the funds and get a brilliant child educated because she believes that education is the key to success.

"As Nelson Mandela once said: 'education is a great power engine of personal development, it is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can be head of the mine and that the child of farm workers can become president of a great nation,' she elaborated.

It is also worth mentioning that the



FACE BEAT: Miss Teen First Princess Emihle Dzimba getting a client's 'brows on fleck' during her fundraising project at Swazi Plaza on Saturday, where she managed to raise E2 700. (Courtesy Pic)

princess was appointed as a Junior Achievement Brand Ambassador where she will be doing her educational projects and helping the less fortunate through those projects.

Speaking Pageants Swaziland Chairperson Catrien Potgieter, they were impressed with the work done

by the beauty as she did what she dearly loves the most which is face beat.

"It was a great initiative and I am very impressed with the work done. She did something which she likes most and I always advise them to partake in something they dearly enjoy doing," said the chairperson.

Lutfo throws party for 3 SWAMA Executives

Stories by Ayanda Dlamini

FORMER President of the Swaziland Arts and Music Association (SWAMA) Lutfo Dlamini spoiled three new executive members of the association when he threw them a graduation party on Sunday.

The celebration was held at the newly established Bhulane Resort in Nkamazi, in the northern Hhohho region. It also doubled up as a SWAMA networking event.

The graduates were Vice President Lindelwa 'Lindz' Mafa, Executive Secretary Bongani 'DJ Tizalami' Dube and Public Relations Officer Thabile Mdluli. The three all graduated on separate occasions at different institutions last year.

Mafa, who is also a radio personality, graduated with a Diploma in Journalism and Media Studies from Mananga College in November last year. She also holds a Diploma in Telecommunications and Engineering from SPTC Training College.



CAPPED: SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini, Vice-President Lindelwa 'Lindz' Mafa, Secretary General Bongani 'DJ Tizalami' Dube, PRO Thabile Mdluli, and former President Lutfo Dlamini posing at their graduation party at Bhulane Resort, Nkamazi in Hhohho on Sunday. (Courtesy pic)

Dube, on the other hand, graduated from the University of Cape Town with a post graduate Advanced Diploma in Business Project Management.

He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Solusi University (of

Zimbabwe); which he attained in 2007.

Mdluli, meanwhile, graduated with a BA in Communication Science from the University of South Africa (UNISA) during September last year. She also

OTHER QUALIFIED SWAMA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

1. Vice Executive Secretary Tiya-mike 'Tiyas' Maziya – LLB (University of Swaziland)
2. Treasurer Penny Bouwer – BA Linguistics and Psychology (University of KwaZulu Natal)
3. Member Sicelo 'Dj Chuidy' Zwane – Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism (Tshwane University of Technology)
4. Member Brian 'Staycool' Mdluli – Certificate in Music (FUBA School of Music, Johannesburg).

holds several qualifications in Environmental Education (Rhodes University), Development Journalism (SIMP), Quality Management Systems (SWASA), Customer Service, among others.

Addressing the graduates, Dlamini congratulated them for achieving this milestone. He added that Africa was in need of educated people and thus it was humbling to note that the new SWAMA executive was comprised of both youthful and qualified individuals.

viduals.

He urged the executive to put its qualifications to good use and bring the right change to the association.

"This great milestone needed to be celebrated, and I'm delighted that we have done it at the break of the year; wherein we anticipate that the new executive will lead the arts and music fraternity to greater heights given the anticipated historic nature of 2018," he said.

Recalled

He said SWAMA had come a long way in terms of having educated office bearers, and recalled that there was at least one educated executive committee member in the first SWAMA executive.

Meanwhile, the entire SWAMA executive holds tertiary qualifications in different fields. President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini holds a BA Social Sciences from the National University of Lesotho, as well as certificates in Digital Marketing (Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa), Tour Guiding (Hotel and Tourism Association of Swaziland), and Customer Service (MTN Foundation.)

....Pledges full support to new SWAMA executive

FORMER SWAMA President Lutfo Dlamini has meanwhile pledged full support to the new executive.

Speaking at a graduation party he hosted for three members of the new

executive, Dlamini said leadership was a gift from God, which could be nurtured through constant consultations with the elderly.

"While we are all excited at having new and young leadership of your

calibre, it stands to reason that you can only succeed if you pay homage to your predecessors, and seek their counsel from time to time.

"We hope that you will carry the aspirations of your primary constituent

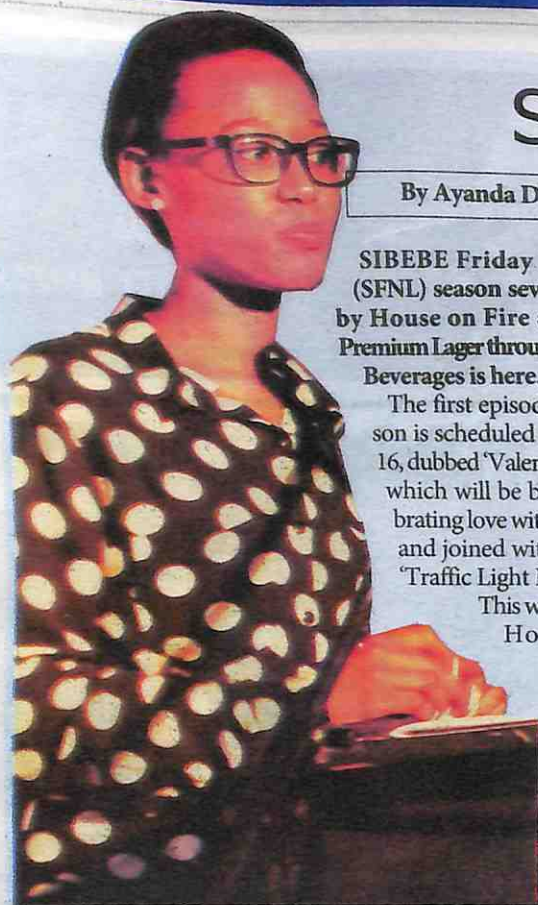
artists, and elevate them to a higher status in line with global developments in the arts and music sector," said Dlamini.

Appreciation

Meanwhile, newly elected SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini extended his executive's apprecia-

tion to his forerunner, and pledged their commitment towards uplifting the arts and music sector in Swaziland.

He took the same opportunity to update Dlamini of the great support and feedback they have been receiving from the arts fraternity since their November 4 election into office.



By Ayanda Dlamini

SIBEBE Friday Night Live (SFNL) season seven powered by House on Fire and Sibebe Premium Lager through Swaziland Beverages is here.

The first episode of the season is scheduled for February 16, dubbed 'Valentines Edition' which will be basically celebrating love with great music and joined with the annual 'Traffic Light Party.'

This was revealed by House on Fire

SFNL, Valentines Edition slated for February 16

....*"Show off your love status by wearing red if you are taken, orange if you are undecided and green if you are single. The night will also feature fun games based on the theme of love that will keep attendees entertained through the night,"*

Communications Officer Noncedo Dlamini yesterday.

Dlamini said will guests enjoy the best of both worlds as they revel in great local sounds from Swaziland's emerging artists while taking part in the classic theme of Valentine's Day that brings the love game to the forefront.

"Show off your love status by wearing red if you are taken, orange if you are undecided and green if you are single."

The night will also feature fun games based on the theme of love that will keep attendees entertained through the night," Dlamini stated. SFNL continues to bring talented acts to Swaziland's most iconic Amphitheatre.

"We will see more of Swaziland's emerging artists as musicians that have applied

to be part of the competition take to the SFNL stage.

Applications for season seven of Sibebe Friday Night Live opened on December and will close on January 31. A panel of judges which consists of local industry professionals will be responsible for selecting the artists that will participate in the new season. Each SFNL show will consist of a headliner, opening act and a DJ, as per norm" said the communications officer.

According to Dlamini, the lineup for SFNL Valentine's Edition will be revealed as soon as season seven artists have been confirmed and tickets will be available soon costing E80.

Sibebe Friday Night Live is a platform conceptualised by House on Fire and

Sibebe Premium Lager in 2010 as a premier showcase supporting the development and growth of the performing arts in the country.

The series features live music, dance, poetry, DJ's, interactive arts & fashion from within Swaziland.

Sibebe Friday Night Live has in the last six years introduced over 100 Swazi acts to the House On Fire stage as well as attracting 18 000 attendees to share in this home-grown artistic platform.

Exclusive to local artists, this series has played a major role in providing a much-needed stage and exposure to most of Swaziland's emerging acts, whilst contributing to the evolving Swazi arts industry and the broader creative economy. Since its inception, Sibebe Friday Night Live has cumulatively contributed E600,000 towards local artists, presenting a chance for the winners to perform on the internationally acclaimed MTN Bushfire stage, which attracts over 25 000 spectators from around the world.

SUBJAMZ FEATURES BOOM SHAKA'S THEO IN NEW SINGLE

By Ayanda Dlamini

...SA musician joins Amanda Mo and Nigeria's TS

HE is known for producing hits, the MTN SWAMA 'Best Producer' award winner is set to do the same with his new single.

Subjamz as he is affectionately known has attained the skills of South Africa's Boom Shaka member Theo Nhlengethwa and Nigeria's TS. He obviously did not leave behind his stable mate, Swaziland's Amanda Mo.

Both Amanda Mo and Subjamz are signed under a Durban based stable called Icon PB which is managed by Sands former Manager, Phila Koshini.

Produced

According to the producer, the song is basically a love song and will be produced right on time for the world celebrated 'Valentines Day.'

"The song will be out by Valentine's Day, and it is a good love song. Basically, I wanted to add different flavours hence we have three artists from different countries," said the producer.



The MTN SWAMA award winner said they have not titled the song yet but by the

end of the month (January) the love song will be known.

Subjamz born Sabelo Sithungo is one of the most sought after music producers.

He is the man behind the impeccable production of the biggest song on South African radio stations 'Tigi' which was written and sung by afro soul star Sands.

The producer reckoned fans should be on the lookout for his music as he intends to send his fans abuzz this year, mentioning that in 2018 he will up his game which is basically producing more hits for music fanatics.

NEW SINGLE:
Sabelo 'Subjamz'
Sithungo and
Theo
Nhlengethwa.



Amadodana Aku Matsapha release fourth album

By Lusito Tsela

AMADODANA Aku Matsapha group recently released their fourth album titled 'Akwaba sendivuma'.

The Award winning Amadodana Aku Matsapha last released an album in 2016 titled 'Thetha Nkosi Ndilindele', which came after 'Gcobani KuJehova' and 'Umhla We Sabatha Nkhosi'.

This was revealed by the group's Public Relations Officer Ronnie Dlamini saying, "Amadodana Aku Matsapha has released their fourth album. The album consists of 13 tracks which include 'Akwaba Sendivuma, Gcoph'ingcinga, Imizamo, Lowo Mthombo, Mandingozeli' and 'Ndipheleke Mkhululi' to name a few.

The soft-spoken spokesperson said he was convinced the whole album would shake the music industry as each song has its own significance and a message that gospel lovers can relate to.

Powerful

"This album is very powerful, as the composition is top notch and the production from Down East Studios in Mbabane is amazing," Dlamini said.

He added that the album was a result of a consistent instruction from their fans and the Methodist family in the country and abroad.

"This album has all kinds of songs that are of worship and backs the tradition of the Methodist Church. It accommodates everyone; hence we

would like to encourage people to go out there and buy the Methodists cooked CD at Mgavuzi and Five to five," he said.

In addition, the spokesperson thanked the directors and their church for the support while also acknowledging ACASWA for its role on the project.

Amadodana Aku Matsapha is a group based at Kwaluseni Methodist church and they have been in existence since 2009.

The group won the 2014 Best Amadodana awards and in 2016 they won the Best Acappella award during the gospel awards.

The group has since ventured into charity as from time to time they give back to the community, donating food



FOURTH ALBUM: Amadodana Aku Matsapha.

parcels and school uniforms to name a few.

Dlamini added that anyone who is

interested in booking the group for an event should not hesitate to contact his office directly.

SAG AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture

The Big Sick (available to rent on BoxOffice*)
Get Out (watch Get Out, on Saturday, 27 January at 21:30 on M-Net)
Lady Bird
Mudbound
Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role

Judi Dench, Victoria & Abdul (available to rent on BoxOffice*)
Sally Hawkins, The Shape of Water
Frances McDormand, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
Margot Robbie, I, Tonya
Saoirse Ronan, Lady Bird

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role

Timothée Chalamet, Call Me by Your Name
James Franco, The Disaster Artist
Daniel Kaluuya, Get Out
Gary Oldman, Darkest Hour
Denzel Washington, Roman J. Israel, Esq.

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series

The Crown
Game of Thrones
The Handmaid's Tale (binge the first season of The Handmaid's Tale on DSTV Catch Up)
Stranger Things
This Is Us (season two of This Is Us premieres on M-Net, Monday 22 January at 20:00)

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Drama Series

Millie Bobby Brown, Stranger Things
Claire Foy, The Crown
Laura Linney, Ozark
Elisabeth Moss, The Handmaid's Tale
Robin Wright, House of Cards

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Drama Series

Jason Bateman, Ozark
Sterling K. Brown, This Is Us
Peter Dinklage, Game of Thrones
David Harbour, Stranger Things
Bob Odenkirk, Better Call Saul (watch season three of Better Call Saul on M-Net, Wednesdays at 21:00)

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Television Movie or Miniseries

Laura Dern, Big Little Lies
Nicole Kidman, Big Little Lies
Jessica Lange, Feud: Bette & Joan
Susan Sarandon, Feud: Bette & Joan
Reese Witherspoon, Big Little Lies

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Television Movie or Miniseries

Benedict Cumberbatch, Sherlock
Jeff Daniels, Godless
Robert De Niro, The Wizard of Lies
Geoffrey Rush, Genius
Alexander Skarsgård, Big Little Lies

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role

Steve Carell, Battle of the Sexes
Willem Dafoe, The Florida Project
Woody Harrelson, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
Richard Jenkins, The Shape of Water
Sam Rockwell, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role
Mary J. Blige, Mudbound

Hong Chau, Downsizing
Holly Hunter, The Big Sick
Allison Janney, I, Tonya
Laurie Metcalf, Lady Bird

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series

black-ish (Thursdays at 19:00 on Vuzu AMP)
Curb Your Enthusiasm
GLOW
Orange Is the New Black
Veep

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series

Uzo Aduba, Orange Is the New Black
Alison Brie, GLOW
Jane Fonda, Grace and Frankie
Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Veep
Lily Tomlin, Grace and Frankie

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Comedy Series

Anthony Anderson, black-ish
Aziz Ansari, Master of None
Larry David, Curb Your Enthusiasm
Sean Hayes, Will & Grace
William H. Macy, Shameless
Marc Maron, GLOW

Outstanding Action Performance by a Stunt Ensemble in a Comedy or Drama Series

Game of Thrones
GLOW
Homeland
Stranger Things
The Walking Dead (returns to FOX on Monday, 26 February at 21:00)
Outstanding Action Performance by a Stunt Ensemble in a Motion Picture
Wonder Woman
Baby Driver (available to rent on BoxOffice*)
Dunkirk
Logan (watch Hugh Jackman as Logan on DSTV Catch Up)
War For The Planet Of The Apes

SAG AWARDS



GODDESS: Halle, 51, chose a bronze sequined plunging gown with a black lace overlay skirt; the movie star paired the dramatic gown with pulled back hair and nude lipstick.



DATE NIGHT: Nicole Kidman chose a sparkling copper coloured gown by Armani Prive; she arrived with her husband, singer Keith Urban, who wore an Armani suit.



HAVING A BLAST: Stranger Things star Millie Bobby Brown (l), paired her blush halter Calvin Klein Pre-Spring 2018 dress with twin buns and Converse sneakers; posing with Dakota Fanning (r) who wore a Prada gown.



STANDING OUT: Actress Niecy Nash went for a green look for this year's red carpet.



ANGEL: Tracee Ellis Ross decided to go with a caped frock in all white.



GOOD LOOKING: 'This Is Us' actor Sterling K. Brown alongside his wife Ryan Michelle Bathe, who wowed in a textured white gown with a corset style fit.



LEGEND: Morgan Freeman paired his bow tie with his black blazer and trouser.



GOOD LOOK: Daniel Kaluuya chose a textured jacket with tailored trousers and velvet shoes



MARY J. BLIGE: The transition from the waist up to the shoulder down to the covered arm was a thought-out design at its best.

WOW FACTOR: Also choosing a grey toned gown was actress Lupita Nyong'o; her sparkling Ralph and Russo dress had a feathered black hemline; she added Niwaka jewelry. The Screen Actors Guild Awards were held in Hollywood and broadcasted live on M-net.

International
Celebrity News

Malia Obama fun time in big apple with boyfriend

NEW YORK - Malia Obama is full-on attached to her new boyfriend.

Malia and Rory Farquharson took a field trip from their home base at Harvard in Cambridge to New York City, where they strolled through Soho.

Rory's a Brit who pretty quickly set his sights on the former First Daughter. They were caught during the Harvard-Yale game last November, and they've clearly kept it going. Malia's 19, a freshman, and Rory's also 19 and a freshman at the Ivy League school in Cambridge.

MTO



HAVING FUN: Rory Farquharson and Malia Obama.

Morgan Freeman calls out front row chatterbox

HOLLYWOOD - Morgan Freeman awkwardly called someone out during his Lifetime Achievement award speech at the SAG Awards Sunday ... but the person's identity remains a mystery. Freeman was just about to launch into his acceptance speech when he stopped and zeroed in on someone in the front row, who appeared to be talking and distracting him. The legendary actor didn't let it go -- if anything, he dragged it out by saying "Hey, I'm talking to you. Yeah, hey." He finally finished with "Okay, well you just stand out to me. That's all" before continuing



MAKES A STATEMENT: Morgan Freeman.

with the rest of his speech. We're digging to identify the culprit, but lesson learned to whomever that was, don't interrupt Morgan Freeman!!

TMZ

Iskra Lawrence puts on a VERY risqué display

HOLLYWOOD - She's an active body confident advocate, passionate about getting the modelling industry to represent women of all sizes.

And Iskra Lawrence certainly made the most of her enviable curves as she arrived at the SAG awards in LA on Sunday. The British-born model, 27, accentuated her hour-glass physique in a floor-length gown slashed dangerously high on her hip as she put on a sizzling display on the red carpet.

Making the most of her incredible proportions, the off-the-shoulder dress offered a glimpse at her enviable waist to hip ratio.

Daily Mail



GORGEOUS: Iskra Lawrence

Drake mega-expensive home renovation

TORONTO - Drake is giving his YOLO Estate a face-lift, and the scope of the project is massive. The Toronto rapper has been remodeling his Hidden Hills mansion since March 2017, according to building permits obtained by TMZ. As for the work he's putting into the place, here are some highlights:

- Remodel of the 1 695 sq ft master bedroom, plus adding 98 more ft.
- Addition to the maid's room and

the deck that sits above it.



FACE-LIFT: Drake.

come with better locks.

TMZ

- New roofs on all structures, new stucco siding.
 - 68 new windows(!).
- Some other notables include putting in all new doors, remodeling the kitchen and master bath, and adding a spa. The permits value the total job at US\$342 752, but Drake's likely to pay much more than that when it's all said and done.

Drake bought the home in 2012, and it's been broken into multiple times.

Hopefully these doors

SA Celebrity News

Zodwa on Uzalo cameo

DURBAN - Zodwa Wabantu spent some time rubbing shoulders with the cast of Uzalo ahead of her cameo on the drama series, which got her thinking about the importance of believing in your dreams. The entertainer and dancer revealed to TshisaLive that she was invited by the show's producers to make an appearance on the show. "I am not an actor but I was invited and am happy about it. Maybe it will open more doors for me." While taking pictures with thespians like Baby Cele and Nokuthula Mabika, Zodwa realised that



RUBBING SHOULDERS: Zodwa Wabantu and Baby Cele.

believing in her dreams led to the moment.

TimesLive

Du-Pont ventures into fashion with online store

JOHANNESBURG - Television personality Amanda du-Pont is taking her fans with her on her journey to fashion royalty.

The Skeem Saam actress has ventured into fashion by launching her online store, Tribe Capitol. "Tribe Capitol has been an idea brewing for years," says Du-Pont.

"When I was in university, I sold clothes and hair from the back of my boot. I later ventured out to do collaborations with other brands where I had my own lines.

"This for me was a trial. I was testing the market to see if I ventured into my own hub of products, would I sell out? Obviously, with all business, initial capital is needed, so it was just a matter of time and saving to have enough to start up."

TshisaLive



VENTURES INTO FASHION: Amanda du-Pont

Amazing things Bonang has achieved

JOHANNESBURG - She's always in the news: if it isn't about fashion, it's about her relationships or her achievements.

TV/radio presenter and businesswoman Bonang Matheba, reportedly spilt from rapper bae AKA, is doing well for herself.

From A to B book release: Bonang released her book, From A to B, last July.

It's based on her career decisions and secrets of how she created her brand.

However, the error-ridden book caused a storm and was recalled

and reprinted.

Cell C endorsement: Following in Kim Kardashian West's Kimoji footsteps, Bonang teamed up with local mobile network service provider Cell C to create BMoji by Bonang - a set of emojis that can be downloaded on iOS and Android.

Being Bonang reality show: Queen B teamed up with DSTV and Vuzu to broadcast her reality TV show, Being Bonang. The show had her fans in a frenzy but Bonang later announced there won't be a second season.

Drum

Allen Makhubele's body finally repatriated

JOHANNESBURG - The body of South African TV producer

Allen Makhubele, who died during the Miss Africa pageant in Nigeria, has been repatriated.

Makhubele, 30, fell from a staircase at a hotel in Nigeria on December 23 and died on New Year's Day after suffering head injuries.

His family had to halt funeral arrangements as efforts to bring his body back to the country took long.



REPATRIATED: Allen Makhubele.

Sowetan

His sister Mantombi said the family was relieved that they would finally go ahead with his funeral tomorrow.

"He arrived yesterday at 5am. The family will do a proper body viewing later after his body has been prepared because it was a long journey," she said.

"Friends and family were there to receive him. It was emotional for everyone. It has been a long and tiresome journey but we are grateful to finally have him home."

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY



EMOTIONAL: Qaphela and Judas.

Politics reign at Emamondweni. The Zungu women are excited for the upcoming umembo. Zanele makes amends with Lillian and Beauty. Judas shares an emotional moment with his son.

ISIDINGO

TODAY



Hendrik begins pointing fingers at the culprit. Gabriel writes a letter to Nikiwe warning her she's in danger. Enhle struggles to tell Lerato the truth.

WARNED: Nikiwe.

Muvhango

TODAY



DENIED TO LEAVE: Rendani

The news about Mpho takes everyone by surprise. Gugu shows Tenda that she is a force to be reckoned with. Matodzi doesn't want to let Rendani go.



TODAY



TAKEN TO SUN CITY: Suffocate.

Suffo and Sabelo are taken to Sun City. David has a new job for Pearl. David gets wind of Gail's new secret.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

Today is not the day to let calls go to voicemail, Capricorn. Even if you're up to your freshly threaded eyebrows in work, you might be needed by someone in your inner circle. With the sensitive moon aligned with unpredictable Uranus in your home zone, a close friend or relative could send out an SOS, and you want to be able to respond quickly. Note to self:



Cancer

June 22 - July 22

Eyeing an epic prize at work? Don't lose your focus! Rapid change could come as soon as today, as your galactic guardian, the moon, aligns with transformer Uranus in your career corner. An unexpected opportunity could land in your inbox through your social network, or you might be scrolling through a random site and just happen to spot a posting for your dream job.



Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

You're not the type to shy away from creative self-expression, but you could take it to a whole new level today, Aquarius. A flamboyant Aries moon is mashed up with your co-ruler, innovative Uranus, in your communication sector. Whether you have a presentation to make or an evening event to attend, don't hold back in the style department. Bold colors and eye-grabbing images? Why not? A bell-bottom pantsuit and colorful faux fur jacket: mais oui! If anyone can pull it off, it's you!



Pisces

February 19 - March 20

Your financial life could get a shot in the arm today, Pisces, but you might need to take a little bit MORE of a risk than you usually would. With a merger of the intuitive, sensitive moon and game-changer Uranus in your money house, you could hear of a new gig or be invited to submit a proposal for a dream project.



Aries

March 21 - April 19

You're no shrinking violet, Aries—but you may be surprised by your own actions today, as the moon teams up with capricious Uranus in your sign. The wildest and most unorthodox parts of your personality leap up on the stage, which could be a good thing (shaking things up!) or not-so-good if the boss or a new client takes offense.



Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Drowning in clutter? The time has finally come to take definitive action. Today's merger of the moon and shake-things-up Uranus in your twelfth house of closure will give you the motivation to clear your space of all that...what IS that stuff anyway, Taurus? Piles of papers, unopened gifts, junk mail... it's all just distracting you from getting things accomplished.



Gemini

May 21 - June 21

Get your geek on, Gemini, and bonus points if you can make it chic! Actually, that's not hard for your stylish sign, given your appreciation of all things "cuddle tech." If you've been clinging to your Luddite ways or not making timely software updates, today's moon-Uranus merger in your eleventh house of technology can move your needle. Uranus brings change, the kind you can't resist.



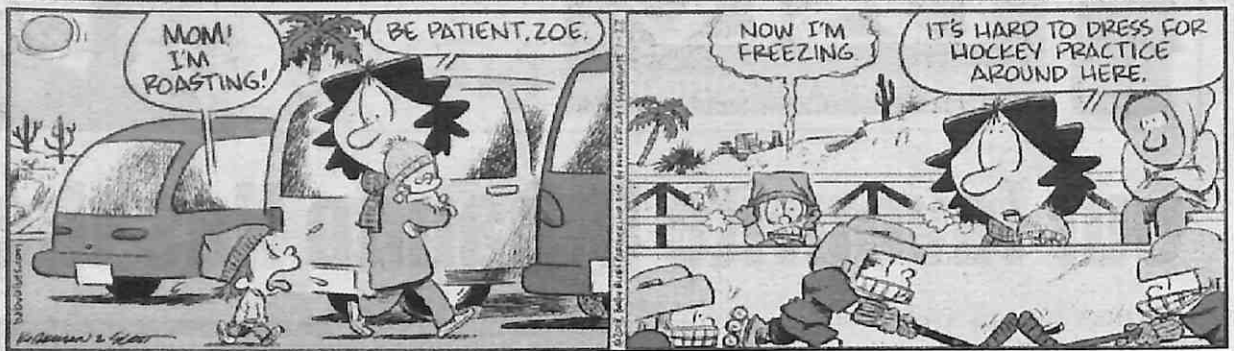
Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

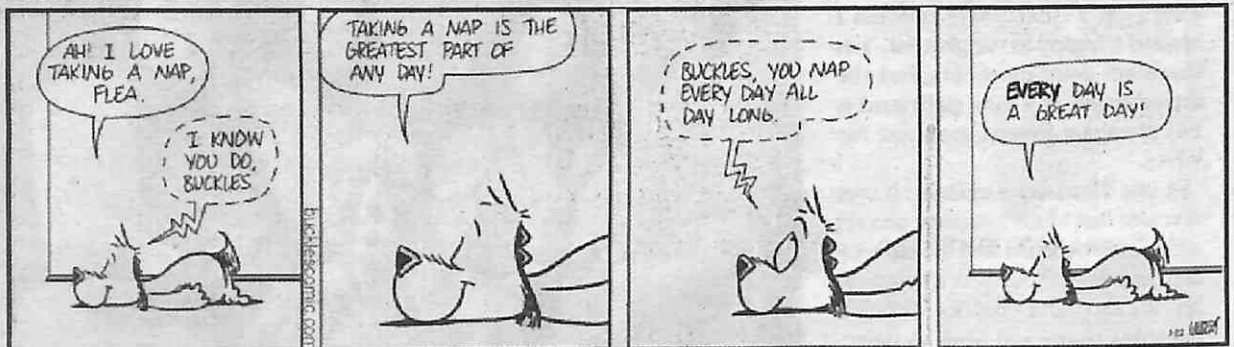
Today, Cupid could make an unannounced cameo in the most unlikely of places, maybe when you're in line at the post office or returning a dress you borrowed from a friend. If you're single, follow up on all "superlikes", winks and nods.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES

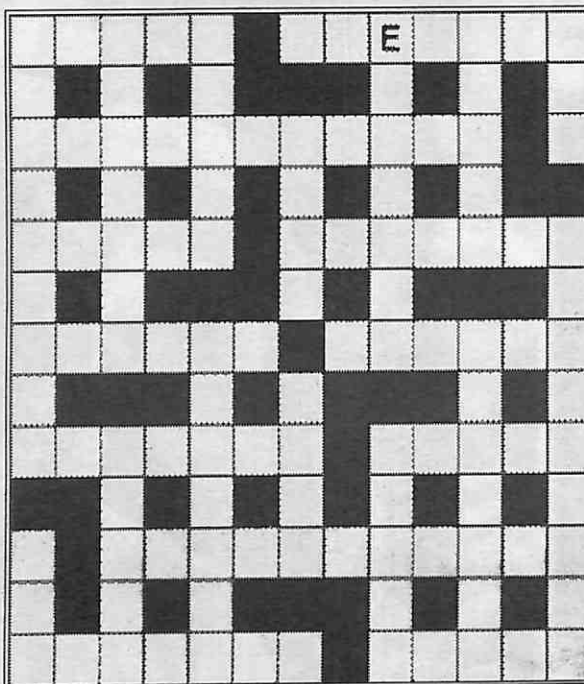


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PUZZLE CHOICE

Can you find the fifty words in the list below containing the letter Z? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.



- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. Sharp (5) | L. Prevarication (3) |
| A. Remedied (7) | M. Award (5) |
| A. Protective garment (5) | N. Pleasant (4) |
| C. Hoard (5) | N. Observed (5) |
| C. Tapers (7) | O. Sumptuous (7) |
| C. Group of bovines (6) | R. Send payment (5) |
| C. Fake (11) | S. Short tail (4) |
| E. Epoch (3) | S. Begin (5) |
| E. No longer in existence (7) | S. Powerful (6) |
| G. Chivalrous (7) | S. Proposed (9) |
| I. Lit up (11) | T. Rising current of warm air (7) |
| L. Terse (7) | W. Bet (5) |
| L. Lackadaisical (7) | W. Capricious (9) |

OH MAN

There is a man who has three girlfriends, but he does not know which one to marry. So he decides to give each one 5 000 and see how each of them spends it.

The first one goes out and gets a total makeover with the money. She gets new clothes, a new hairdo, manicure, pedicure, the works, and tells the man, "I spent the money so I could look pretty for you because I love you so much."

The second one went out and bought new golf clubs, a CD player, a television, and a stereo and gives them to the man.



She says, "I bought these gifts for you with the money because I love you so much."

The third one takes the 5 000 and invests it in the stock market, doubles her investment, returns the 5 000 to the man and reinvests the rest. She says, "I am investing the rest of the money for our future because I love you so much." The man thought long and hard about how each of the women spent the money and decided to marry the one with the largest breasts...

USELESS FACTS

1. The word 'pixel' is a contraction of either 'picture cell' or 'picture element'.
2. The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screeched."
3. The dot over the letter 'i' is called a tittle.
4. Duddley DoRight's Horse's name was "Horse."
5. Charlie Brown's father was a barber.

BRAINTEASERS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's brain-teasers

1. If there are six apples and you take away four, how many do you have?

Answer: The four you took two. If you had only one match, and entered a dark room containing an oil lamp, some newspaper, and some

kindling wood, which would you light first?

Answer: The match.

Today's brainteasers

1. Is it legal for a man to marry his widow's sister?
2. Some months have 31 days, others have 30 days. How many have 28 days?



DStv
Feel every moment

NEWS



Our favourite Uthando Nes'thembu wives ranked

AFTER last Thursday's episode of Mzansi Magic's *Uthando Nes'thembu* – a reality show that follows businessman Musa Mseleku and his four wives – it's clear polygamy isn't always a happy arrangement. Yes there are good moments, but the introduction of a new girlfriend is not always a joyous moment for wives.

In last Thursday's episode it was revealed that Musa's original second wife, Sindi MaSaule, died in a car accident and the episode was a tribute to her. We also learnt – besides MaCele's pompous nature and MaKhumalo's heart of gold that is – that MaSaule was a darling.

She knew all of Musa's girlfriends and was good to them and she was friends with MaKhumalo (who was just a girlfriend at the time) and MaNgwabe. It's rare that a wife gets on with her husband's girlfriends, and it seems the first and second wives MaCele and MaMyeni were not happy about this revelation.

We've ranked Musa's wives in order of our favourites:

1. MaSaule

Even though she died before we could meet her, from the way she's described she was a beautiful soul.



She loved her husband's girlfriends – maybe because she knew it was not about her, but her husband. MaKhumalo said she used to buy her lunch every day without fail and even lived under the same roof. When MaKhumalo had to visit her family home on weekends, MaSaule didn't want them to be separated. Fam, let's agree, she was a rare breed.

2. MaKhumalo

She is the most loved wife in the Mseleku household – maybe she learnt from the best, MaSaule.

However, in last week's episode it was disclosed that she struggles to bear children. This was one of the emotional episodes on the show because people just love MaKhumalo's good heart.

She loves Musa's kids and the feeling is certainly mutual. But to know that she can't have kids of her own really broke people's hearts.

Messages of comfort were sent and with God by her side we hope she receives her greatest gift soon. Many say she should have been the first wife because she is considerate and loving.

3. MaNgwabe

She is sweet and is one of the two Twitter favourites on the show. MaNgwabe is a nurse and her baby underwent an operation in last week's episode. Oh, and she gives to the less fortunate!

4. MaMyeni

In the first season it was revealed that MaMyeni was Musa's first girlfriend but MaCele ended up being the first to wed Musa.

She speaks slowly and you don't know whether she is interested in anything because all she does is play her favourite game, Candy Crush.

5. MaCele

She has the first wife entitlement but her husband respects and loves her. She is also referred to as Mamkhulu. We admire her for welcoming the other wives into her life, because we know it is not easy.

She might be difficult to deal with at times but it is not easy to move from being the only wife to being the first of five wives.

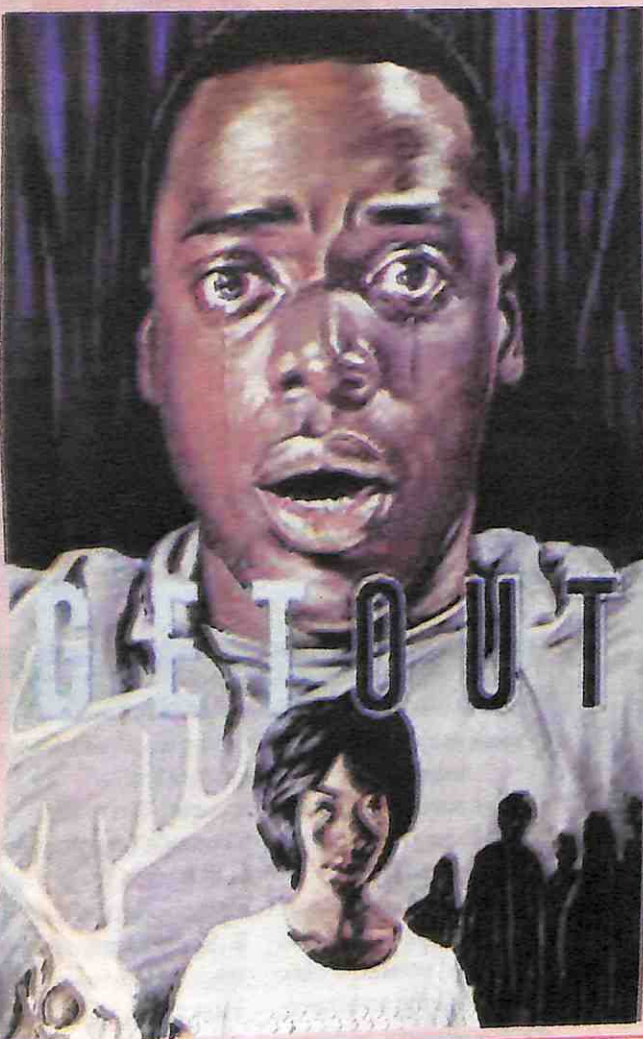
Even though she is not Twitter's favourite wife we should all cut her some slack and allow her to enjoy the perks of being uMamkhulu!

Now tell us who your favourite wife is as you gear for this Thursday's episode.

YOU MUST SEE THE MOVIE 'GET OUT'

ABOUT THE MOVIE
CRITICALLY acclaimed psychological horror. A young man heads to a secluded coun-

try estate to meet his girlfriend's parents, but their wholesome façade soon turns into a nightmare.



VUZU AMP rebrands to 1Magic

NEW year, new look! DStv customers are in for a treat in 2018 when a new channel makes its debut on DStv Channel 103! From Monday, January 29, the curtain will fall on Vuzu AMP to make way for 1Magic on DStv channel 103 – a new channel that will deliver the hottest local and international entertainment to DStv Premium and DStv Compact+ customers at great value.

On this rebranded channel, DStv viewers can look forward to an array of exclusive and riveting local programming like *The River*, *Unmarried* and *Kheth'oMthandayo*. Together with audience favourites and the edgiest international series such as the much-anticipated season finale of *The Fixer* as well as *Ballers*, *Queen Sugar*, *Insecure*, *Survivor's Remorse*, this channel promises to provide the best in

urban entertainment. Vuzu AMP fans will certainly not miss out on any of their favourite programming as 1Magic will continue to serve a mix of compelling, relevant and entertaining shows adding to their existing, exciting viewing.

1Magic will become the entertainment destination of choice for viewers who enjoy gripping local dramas, movies, telenovelas, reality shows and are also looking for the best in the latest pop-culture favourite programming in reality, series, drama and movies.

Leading the charge will be the channel's flagship telenovela, *The River*, which boasts the crème de la crème of South Africa's acting talent. Starting on January 29, it is spearheaded by a formidable cast made up of seasoned actors, Sindi Dlathu, Hlomhla Dandala, Moshidi Motshegwa, and newcomer, Larona Moagi.

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BALE HAD THE PERFECT RESPONSE TO MADRID FANS

MADRID - There are early signs that 2018 is going to be a very good year for Gareth Bale.

The Welshman found the net twice in Real Madrid's 7-1 destruction of Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday, making it five goals in his four matches during this calendar year after an injury-hit end to 2017. Prior to his current run of form, Bale had only scored four times in 13 appearances this season, leading to widespread criticism from Real fans and jeers ringing out when he picked up the ball at the Bernabeu.

That has led to widespread speculation that he could be set to leave the club in the summer, perhaps making a return to the Premier League.

But - as reported by ESPN - after his starring role against Deportivo, Bale hit back at the dissenters.

When asked what it was like to hear the fans chant his name, he sarcastical-

ly replied: "Yeah, instead of whistles, which is always good."

"It would have been nice to have stayed on to get the hat trick, but the most important thing is always to get the victory and to try and get some confidence back in the team." Bale has been making an impact in matches from the bench recently, but after his brace he insisted he can still be an important player for his club.

"I think I can be important but at the end of the day you have to prove it," he said. "I feel like I have been doing that of late. And I have been working hard to stay fit. I have to keep playing the best I can. I'm almost there I think. It's been a while since my ankle operation and I felt 100 per cent."

"It's only been very recently that I have been without pain in my ankle, so I am getting there game by game. I keep working game by game and hopefully I'll be

there very soon."

Bale was also asked about how he feels about coming up

against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League next month, but insisted he's not too bothered about facing the French champions.

"I don't really watch much football, I'd rather watch the golf to be honest," he laughed. *Mirror*

GOOD YEAR: Gareth Bale.



Balotelli set for shock switch to Juventus

NICE - Mario Balotelli is reportedly set for a shock switch to Juventus as the former Liverpool striker prepares for another crack at the big time.

The Italian has had a chequered career taking in spells at Manchester City, Anfield, AC and Inter Milan and now Nice.

He has been in impressive form this term, netting 12 times in 16 Ligue 1 outings, and that has caught the eye of Juve, according to The Sun.

Balotelli is out of contract in the summer and Juve are apparently lining him up on a free transfer, as well as Liverpool midfielder Emre Can. Super agent Mino Raiola represents Balotelli and he has a good relationship with the Bianconeri with two of his other clients, Blaise Matuidi

and Moise Kean, plying their trade in Turin. Balotelli is reportedly set to pen a five-year deal with the 'Old Lady' which would include a hefty signing-on bonus.

The Italian international would face competition from Gonzalo Higuain up front but Juve are seemingly confident Balotelli will have a key role.

Mirror

SWITCH: Mario Balotelli.



Tennis juniors Sikhosana, Mhlongo off to France

JOHANNESBURG - Two of South Africa's top-ranked wheelchair tennis juniors will be in action at the 2018 Cruyff Foundation Junior Masters in Tarbes, France this week.

Players from seven different countries will contest the boys' singles and doubles in Tarbes, with South Africa represented by current world No. 4 Alwande Sikhosana as well as wild card Mpho Mhlongo.

Sikhosana, who is no stranger to the Junior Masters, will be hoping for better results this year after finishing in fourth place in 2016 and 2017 in Tarbes.

"I love participating in the Junior Masters, the level of competition is very high and fascinating. This year I hope to do even better and reach the finals," commented Sikhosana.

Meanwhile 16-year-old Mhlongo will take part in the world's premier event for junior wheelchair tennis players for the first time.

"I have struggled to obtain travel documents for the past two years and this is a dream come true to finally get an opportunity to travel and gain some international exposure."

"I've been working real hard preparing for this tournament and I look forward to the challenge and most importantly to learn," said Mhlongo.

Eight of the top-ranked junior boys and four of the top ranked junior girls will contest the prestigious event, which takes place in conjunction with the last four days of the Les Petits As tournament between Thursday and Sunday.

With entries based on the Cruyff Foundation Junior Ranking dated October 20, 2017, seven players in the boys' event and three players in the girls' event have qualified directly by ranking, with one wild card awarded for both events. *African News Agency*



Depay scores dramatic winner for Lyon over PSG

PARIS - Memphis Depay struck a dramatic late winner as Lyon beat 10-man Paris Saint-Germain 2-1 on Sunday to move within eight points of the Ligue 1 leaders.

Nabil Fekir gave the hosts a shock second-minute lead at Groupama Stadium with a brilliant free-kick, but PSG snatched an equaliser on the stroke of half-time as left-back Layvin Kurzawa hammered home a stunning volley.

PSG full-back Dani Alves was given a straight red card for dissent, and Lyon made their man advantage count deep into injury-time as substitute Depay picked out the top corner. "At

the start, I wanted to cross, but I saw that the keeper was on the side of the goal," Fekir told Canal+.

"It's going to be difficult (to catch PSG), and the goal of the club is to take a Champions League place."

PSG centre-back Marquinhos added: "Football is like that, they manage to shoot and score two goals."

Lyon retook second place from Marseille after inflicting only a second league defeat of the season on PSG, but Bruno Genesio's men would still need an unlikely collapse from the capital club to launch a title challenge. *AFP*

Weah was world footballer of the year but now he will be president

LONDON - The sun had gone down on another sweltering West African day and mosquitoes and bats filled the humid air while goats roamed the sandy ground of this swamp land.

In a clearing away from the bamboo-thatch huts that offered slim shelter from the oppressive heat, sat a circle of chairs, 13 of them on the front row, with all eyes turned on the man dressed in a white 'high-high' suit, the African tunic and trousers worn by the boss men.

For he was the former Chelsea and Manchester City striker, once the best footballer in the world, George Weah. And on Monday at around lunchtime, if arrangements go to schedule, which they never do around here, he will be sworn in as the 25th president of Liberia.

We are a 30-minute drive out of Monrovia, the capital of unimaginable poverty. It is not so much a journey to where we find Weah at

this secluded resort as a slalom of hom-beeping danger, dodging pedestrians with food balanced on their heads, snaking motorcyclists without helmets and high-speed cars that intermittently come at you the wrong way.

For the moment, Weah is relaxed, away from the formal engagements that lead up to his inauguration. He offers me a plate of jellof — rice, tomatoes and fried chicken and fish — from the buffet and contemplates why he is seeking to emulate Samuel K Doe, a President he respected.

A master sergeant in the Liberian Army, Doe mounted a military coup in 1980, ending the rule of Americo-Liberians who had held sway here since the republic was established by American slaves in the 1820s.

But Doe's dictatorship ended with him howling for mercy as his enemies tortured and decapitated him. His chief tormentor, Prince Y Johnson, sipped a beer as Doe's ears were

CAPE TOWN - Interim head coach of Banyana Banyana, Desiree Ellis says her charges have to be proud of the performance they put up despite losing 3-0 to Sweden in an international friendly match played at the Cape Town Stadium on Sunday.

An own goal in the opening 10 minutes by defender Bambanani Mbane, and two other goals in the second half left the South Africans disappointed after competing with the Europeans.

"We take a lot of positives from this exercise and we are the first to admit that we have to raise our level a little bit more to get to their level. This was a fantastic performance from the players, but it is not the result we wanted."

"We will continue to work hard



PROUD: Interim head coach of Banyana Banyana Desiree Ellis.

towards the bigger picture, which is the qualification of the 2019 FIFA World Cup.

This match was the start of that process, so we are happy with the output but not the result," said Ellis.

African News Agency



LEGEND: George Weah won the World Player of the Year award in 1995 during his first season.

cut off. Civil war followed from the late Eighties, killing eight per cent of the population of some four million, and then the Ebola illness struck four years ago, further blighting this land fortune forgot.

The stadium where Monday's ceremonies will take place is named

after Doe. Does Weah not fear for his own chances of success, if not life itself? Why is a man who once earned £30 000 a week and won the FA Cup while briefly on loan at Chelsea in 2000 taking this hideous job?

DailyMail



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



Briefs

McCarthy suffers double leg fracture

LONDON - James McCarthy's season ended on Saturday with a double leg fracture during the 1-1 draw with West Brom. The Everton midfielder was stretched off after a tackle on Salomon Rondon with an hour played. He was replaced by Wayne Rooney. Speaking after the game, Toffees boss Sam Allardyce confirmed fears of a break. He said: "It's a tibia and fibula fracture compounded. A very nasty injury." The Republic of Ireland international had only returned from an injury in December and was playing just his third game of the season. Allardyce added: "We had just worked hard to get him back to fitness. AFP



Pellegrino not losing sleep over Saints

LONDON - Southampton Manager Mauricio Pellegrino insists he doesn't lose any sleep over his job security despite dropping into the relegation zone for the first time. The Saints held Tottenham to a 1-1 draw at St Mary's Stadium on Sunday but dropped into 18th position nonetheless. Davinson Sanchez scored an own goal before Harry Kane equalised for Spurs.

Pellegrino's charges are now without a Premier League victory in 11 games and the pressure on the manager has grown in recent weeks. However, he has made it clear he is not concerned. "I fear for a lot of things but I do not fear for my job," he said, according to the Independent. "I am not afraid to lose my job because football has always been a part of my life, ever since I was 10-years-old, and in football even when you win a game the next Monday you have to train in order to win again. Sport24



Pochettino coy on Kane Real link

LONDON - United Kingdom - Mauricio Pochettino dismissed talk of a potential £200 million Real Madrid bid for Harry Kane after the England striker scored his 99th Premier League goal in a 1-1 draw at Southampton. "I'm not going to speak about rumours because if I give information about one rumour I have to do it at all press conferences. It's not my problem to talk about rumours," he said. Pochettino did say he doesn't expect to sign any new players this month after seeing his team miss the chance to move back into the top four as they were denied by a spirited Southampton. "I am not concerned about that.

I know very well it will be difficult to add quality to the team in this period. If something happens and all the conditions are right to sign a player then perhaps. I am relaxed, calm." Spurs' buildup was hampered by a flu virus that saw Hugo Lloris and Christian Eriksen miss the game. AFP



Chelsea in talks with Roma over £45million double swoop

LONDON - Chelsea are in negotiations with Roma about a £45m double deal for Roma duo Edin Dzeko and Emerson Palmieri.

Blues boss Antonio Conte is desperate for a striker to provide back-up and competition for Alvaro Morata and they are keen on the former Manchester City forward.

They are also keen on Brazilian left back Emerson who wants to move to Chelsea in this window.

Roma want in excess of £50m but the clubs are haggling over add-ons but the Italian club are already looking for a replacement which suggests they think the deal

will get done. Chelsea have been looking at Andy Carroll and Peter Crouch as a back-up but Dzeko might be a name to please the fans and Conte.

Roma want the vast majority of the fee up front while they say Chelsea want to spread the payments.

Dzeko, 31, has reservations about being a back-up but knows Roma want to sell him and is now ready to make the switch. Chelsea are desperate for a left back and, having been rebuffed on Juventus's Alex Sandro, it looks as if Emerson is a viable deal. Mirror



DUO: Emerson Palmieri and Edin Dzeko.

GRACIA AIMS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE

LONDON - Restoring confidence will be the key to getting Watford back to the fine form they enjoyed at the start of the Premier League season, new Manager Javi Gracia said.

The 47-year-old Spaniard was appointed on an 18-month contract on Sunday, hours after the sacking of Marco Silva.

The 'Hornets' were fourth in the Premier League after eight matches, but Gracia takes over with them 10th in the table, four points above the relegation zone, following a run of 11 defeats in 16 league matches since.

"The most important thing in this moment is the players recover confidence because they have played very good matches this season and I think they can do it again.

Confidence, work hard and the results will arrive," Gracia told the club's website.

"The most important thing is to listen. I have plenty of energy to win the rest of the matches."

Gracia secured back-to-back top-10 finishes in La Liga while in

charge of Malaga from 2014-16. He joined Rubin Kazan the following season but left last June after leading them to a ninth-place finish in the Russian top-flight.

Speaking in broken English, Gracia hinted he would bring a Spanish style to Watford.

"It's easy to say Spanish football because the national team and big clubs in Spain win many competitions," Gracia said.

"It is not easy to arrive in this moment when the league has opened, but it is our work. You must be ready. Watford called me and I am grateful."

Gracia's first matches in charge of Watford will be away to Southampton in the FA Cup on Saturday and away to Stoke City in the Premier League on 31 January. His team selection will be hampered by a spate of injuries, with Younes Kaboul, Miguel Britos, Nathaniel Chalobah, Will Hughes, Tom Cleverley and Isaac Success all sidelined. Reuters

Smalling hails defensive strength

MANCHESTER - Manchester United defender Chris Smalling has hailed Jose Mourinho for building a strong defence at the club after they recorded their 14th clean sheet of the Premier League season at Burnley.

United are yet to concede a goal in 2018 and have gone 504 minutes since their defence was last breached, when Burnley midfielder Steven Defour's free-kick beat David de Gea on Boxing Day.

Along

with Chelsea, United have the stingiest defence in the division — each have conceded just 16 goals — and Smalling credited Mourinho's work in forming that solid base following the 1-0 win over the Claret on

Saturday. "I think we're well drilled," he said. "Even last year I don't think we conceded many goals. It's good that as a team we can shut up shop and not give the other team too many chances, knowing that more often than not we're going to go up the other end and score because certain teams can only keep us out for so long."

Smalling has started the past two games at the heart of the defence with Phil Jones in a centre-back partnership which has not always been available to United's managers due to injuries to both men.

Mourinho's side, in second place, temporarily reduced City's lead at the top to nine points before Pep Guardiola's men re-established a 12-point cushion by beating Newcastle United. AFP

STRENGTH: Chris Smalling.

Man City won't fall into complacency trap - Guardiola

LONDON - Pep Guardiola says Manchester City

to winning ways following defeat against Liverpool.

The runaway Premier League leaders responded to their first domestic loss of the season at Anfield on January 14 by overpowering the Magpies 3-1 with a Sergio Aguero hat-trick on Saturday.

Guardiola had said beforehand it was important that his players responded well and he

feels the performance at the Etihad Stadium, which maintained a 12-point lead at the top, showed their character.

"I said many times it was going to happen, we can lose, so it is important the reaction we have to do," said the manager.

"Still we have 42 points to play (for). It is 14 games. It is a lot of games to play and difficult games like Saturday and like Liverpool. It is important

to show the team is still there but I don't have the feeling we give up.

"We want to go through to the final in the (League) Cup and the FA Cup, so (we have) a lot of games but I think the people have the desire to keep going, to keep going, to keep going. "Even with 12 points it is important to see the personality, the team and try to do the things with no mistakes. AFP



proved against Newcastle United that their title charge will not be derailed by complacency as they bounced back

BENNI MCCATHY RESPONDS TO ERTUGRAL'S 'BABY' COMMENT

CAPE TOWN - Benni McCarthy responded on Twitter to the comments of Ajax Cape Town mentor Muhsin Ertugral describing the Cape Town City coach as a "baby".

Ertugral suffered a third defeat in four games since returning to Ikamva last month, as their local rivals ran out convincing 1-0 victors at the Cape Town Stadium to do the double over the Urban Warriors this season.

The derby only really came to life in the second-half, despite the Citizens having dominated proceedings in the opening 45 minutes.

Craig Martin had been denied by the woodwork early on in the game, but he went on to

break the deadlock in the 52nd minute to secure all three points.

Gerald Takwara was dismissed for Ajax just before half-time, and McCarthy was also sent to the stands in the closing stages following a confrontation with Ertugral.

An error from the fourth official sparked the incident, after he allowed substitute Kwanda Mngonyama to enter the fray before Martin had left the pitch.

Ertugral wanted Mngonyama to be booked and McCarthy took exception to the Turk's demand, with the former Bafana Bafana international needing to be restrained after breaching his opposite number's technical area. "He needs to learn, he is still a baby... next time I will



VERBAL BATTLE: Benni McCarthy and Muhsin Ertugral.

bring lollipops so he can play with them," Ertugral said during his post-match press conference.

McCarthy, who did not face the media after the match, replied to Ertugral's comment on Twitter. "Yeah, I'm still a baby when it comes to coaching but a very

difficult baby to beat it seems. So, I must just shut up when my team or players are getting bullied on the field of play? Don't know what SICK world all you lot think I'm living in if I'm going to sit still and be screwed over," he tweeted in response to a comment. *Sport24*

CHIEFS SHOWING TITLE MENTALITY - KATSANDE

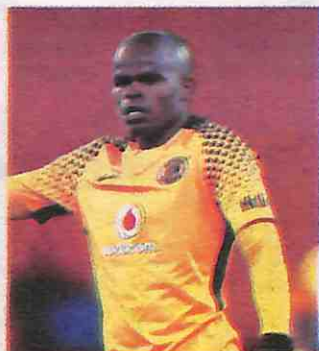
JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs midfielder Willard Katsande is optimistic that Amakhosi's recent come-from-behind wins show they've got the character to challenge for the title.

The Glamour Boys recovered from going a goal down two weekends ago to beat Polokwane City 2-1 and repeated that on Sunday with a 2-1 victory away to Baroka FC, which saw new signing Leonardo Castro netting the winner on his debut.

Chiefs are now third on the table, five points behind league leaders Mamelodi Sundowns, and Katsande is hopeful that the manner of the recent victories suggests the Soweto side are up for the challenge.

"We knew that it was going to be a tough game. One of my [former] coaches once told me that it takes a second to concede a goal," he said after the Bakgaga match on Sunday.

"Once we scored we knew that they were going to be overconfident. Us as professionals playing for a big team like Kaizer Chiefs, we knew that if we took the game to them we were going



OPTIMISTIC: Willard Katsande.

to get something.

"We were also trying to turn the tables because they said we have never won against Baroka.

"I think this might be the turning point also after coming back from a goal down in two consecutive matches it means this is a championship mentality and performance.

"I think credit must go to everyone in defence, they were amazing. We just need to build on this performance going forward." The Zimbabwe international also paid tribute to the impressive form 'Amakhosi's' young players have shown this season.

Teamtalk

Ertugral hopeful a deal can be struck for Gaxa to join Ajax

CAPE TOWN - Ajax Cape Town coach Muhsin Ertugral remains hopeful that a deal can be struck for former Bafana Bafana international right-back Siboniso Gaxa to join the club, but believes it will be another three weeks before the player is ready for action.

Gaxa has been training with Ajax after leaving Bidvest Wits at the end of last season, and likely played in a friendly match against touring Swedish side Djurgardens yesterday.

"I can't wait to have him with us, but it will take another three weeks I think," Ertugral said.

"A player like Siboniso is an international that played in Europe and having him on the sidelines [without a club], I don't understand it.

"I would love to have him as quick as possible and he is training with us.

"But since October he has had no game-time at all, so it will probably take him two of three weeks at least to get to a

certain level." Ertugral is also cautious about trying to push Gaxa into service too quickly, if he does eventually sign for the club.

"We will play him on Monday, at least one half, so that he gets some game-time, but also you know that when players have not been involved, the injury factor can happen and so I am a little bit cautious about that."

Gaxa is a free agent and so therefore is not bound by the transfer window.

Ertugral wants to bring him in to provide experience at the back, having been critical of the defending of 20-year-old right wing-back Sergio Kammies.

Timeslive



STAR: Siboniso Gaxa.

Komphela excited by Castro, Paez 'chemistry'

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs coach Steve Komphela was pleased with Leonardo Castro's debut goal and expects him to forge a deadly combination with Gustavo Paez.

With former Bafana Bafana striker Bernard Parker also in the mix and the young Ryan Moon among the goals of late, the Amakhosi striking department is looking in good shape for a title challenge, with Chiefs currently five points behind

pace-setters Mamelodi Sundowns with 12 matches to play.

Castro, who was signed from Sundowns just before Christmas, hit the ground running when he came off the bench on Sunday for his first appearance in Chiefs colours and netted the winner in a 2-1 victory over Baroka FC.

"He did well, he did well," Komphela said of the Colombian. "And the beautiful thing about strikers, if they

score the confidence goes higher. We are happy for them, let them score."

The 'Amakhosi' mentor believes both Castro and new signing Siphelele Ntshangase will settle in quickly at the club after arriving in the January transfer window (the 'Glamour Boys' other new arrival, Kabelo Mahlasela has cruelly had his debut delayed for several months after picking up a knee injury in training). *Timeslive*



BRIEFS

Billiat might still leave - Pitso

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane admitted he'll have little say over whether Zimbabwean international Khama Billiat stays at the club. Billiat was at his best on the weekend when he fired in two brilliant free-kicks to help Sundowns to a 3-0 win over Platinum Stars, which ensures the 'Brazilians' a four-point lead over second-placed Cape Town City. Billiat's future though has long been the subject of much speculation as he heads into the final six months of his contract and Mosimane concedes that the 27-year-old could still exit the club in the January transfer window. "It's not in my hands, but what's important is for us to have a back-up," Mosimane said. "We love Khama. If he stays, okay, but that's between Khama and the agent as well as the board of Sundowns." My job is to ensure that the team keeps going and stays at the top of the log.

Teamtalk

Mobara urges strong Bucs finish

JOHANNESBURG - Versatile Orlando Pirates defender Abbubakar Mobara feels Bucs have it in them to mount a late challenge for the league title. The Buccaneers have spent much of the season tucked behind the leading pack. And currently sitting seven points behind league leaders Mamelodi Sundowns, after they came from behind to claim a 1-1 draw with Polokwane City last weekend, they certainly cannot be counted out of the race. Mobara is confident that there is enough character in the

Pirates squad to put the title contenders under pressure as the season heads into the final few months. "We will end the season strongly. I believe in our players, the character and attitude we have, I think we will chase the top [position]," he said. "A new coach has come in with a new philosophy, new style of play and that is what is important. We have to take what they are teaching us and put it in the field." We are working hard, we are doing our homework and that's what we have to do to improve." *Teamtalk*

Chiefs player robbed of R70k household items

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs midfielder Keagan Buchanan came home on New Year's Day to find some of his belonging stolen. Robbers reportedly entered his apartment in Noordwyk, Midrand after midnight on January 1. They made off with household items worth R70 000, including two Sony TVsets, an iPad, Playstation and a MacBook Pro. Midrand police spokesman Mahlaume Mamabolo confirmed the incident to the Sunday World and said no arrests were made. "That Monday, at about 2:10am, the complainant left doors and windows closed, all was in order when he left the house. At 4:15am on the same day, the complainant came back and when he opened the door he was surprised to notice that the plasma TV was stolen. "On further investigation the complainant noticed that the other items were stolen," Mamabolo said. *Citizen*



AO 2018
australian open

FEDERER LEAVING NOTHING TO CHANCE

RESULTS

Men's singles

4th round

Tomas Berdych (CZE x1) bt Fabio Fognini (ITA x25) 1-6, 6-4
Roger Federer (SUI x1) bt Marton Fucsovics (HUN) 4-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-2
Tennys Sandgren (USA) bt Dominic Thiem (AUT x5) 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-7 (7/9), 6-3
Chung Hyeon (KOR) bt Novak Djokovic (SRB x14) 7-6 (7/4), 7-5, 7-6 (7/3)

Women's singles

4th round

Madison Keys (USA x17) bt Caroline Garcia (FRA x8) 6-3, 6-2
Angelique Kerber (GER x21) bt Hsieh Su-wei (TPE) 4-6, 7-5, 6-2
Simona Halep (ROM x1) bt Naomi Osaka (JPN) 6-3, 6-2

Tennys, like Federer, has a SA-born mother

MELBOURNE - The 2018 Australian Open's surprise package, Tennys Sandgren, has a South African connection.

The unheralded American yesterday upset Austria's fifth seed Dominic Thiem to advance to the quarter-finals of the tournament in Melbourne.

The 97th-ranked Sandgren won 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-7 (7/9), 6-3 in just under four hours to continue his extraordinary Australian Open run which included a win against former champion Stan Wawrinka earlier in the tournament.

According to Netwerk24, Sandgren's mother, Lia Sandgren, née Lourens, was born in South Africa.

The Afrikaans website reported that Lia grew up on the farm Broodsnyersplaas between Bethal and Middelburg in Mpumalanga.

She matriculated at Hoërskool Middelburg before obtaining a Bachelor of Music degree (BMus) at the University of Pretoria.

She met Tennys' dad, David, at a tennis club in Johannesburg and the family moved to Nashville, Tennessee in 1988. Tennys' dad was a tennis coach, but passed away in 2011.

Sandgren became just the second man in the last 20 years - since Frenchman Nicolas Escude - to make the quarter-finals on his Australian Open debut.

Amazingly, the 26-year-old missed out on even qualifying for the main draw in the past four years in Melbourne.

Sandgren is not the only ATP Tour star with a South African bond, with world No. 2 and 19-time Grand Slam winner Roger Federer also boasting a mother born in the country. "I don't know if this is a dream or not,"

Sandgren was quoted as saying by AFP after beating Thiem yesterday. "He played some really great tennis, especially in that fourth set tie-breaker. 'I knew I had to take my chances. I knew that behind the court he could probably outlast me and out-grind me, he's a heck of a player. Sport24

MELBOURNE - Familiarity won't be breeding contempt for Roger Federer as the defending champion lines up for his fifth Australian Open match against long-time rival Tomas Berdych.

The Swiss star charged into his 14th Australian Open quarter-final with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 win against Hungary's Marton Fucsovics in just over two hours on Rod Laver Arena yesterday.

Federer will be facing Berdych for the 26th time overall in tomorrow's last eight match, holding a 19-6 lead over him dating back to 2004.

The 19-time Grand Slam champion, who hasn't lost in four matches against Berdych in Melbourne, won't be taking the big-serving Czech for granted nor relying solely on past performances.

"I did watch a little bit of Tomas's win against Fabio Fognini today and I saw a little bit of him against Juan Martin del Potro," he said. "For me, I think personally it is important to see a little bit just because he might be using differ-

ent weapons this week.

"He might be taking the ball earlier or later or serving different patterns, so it's good to know.

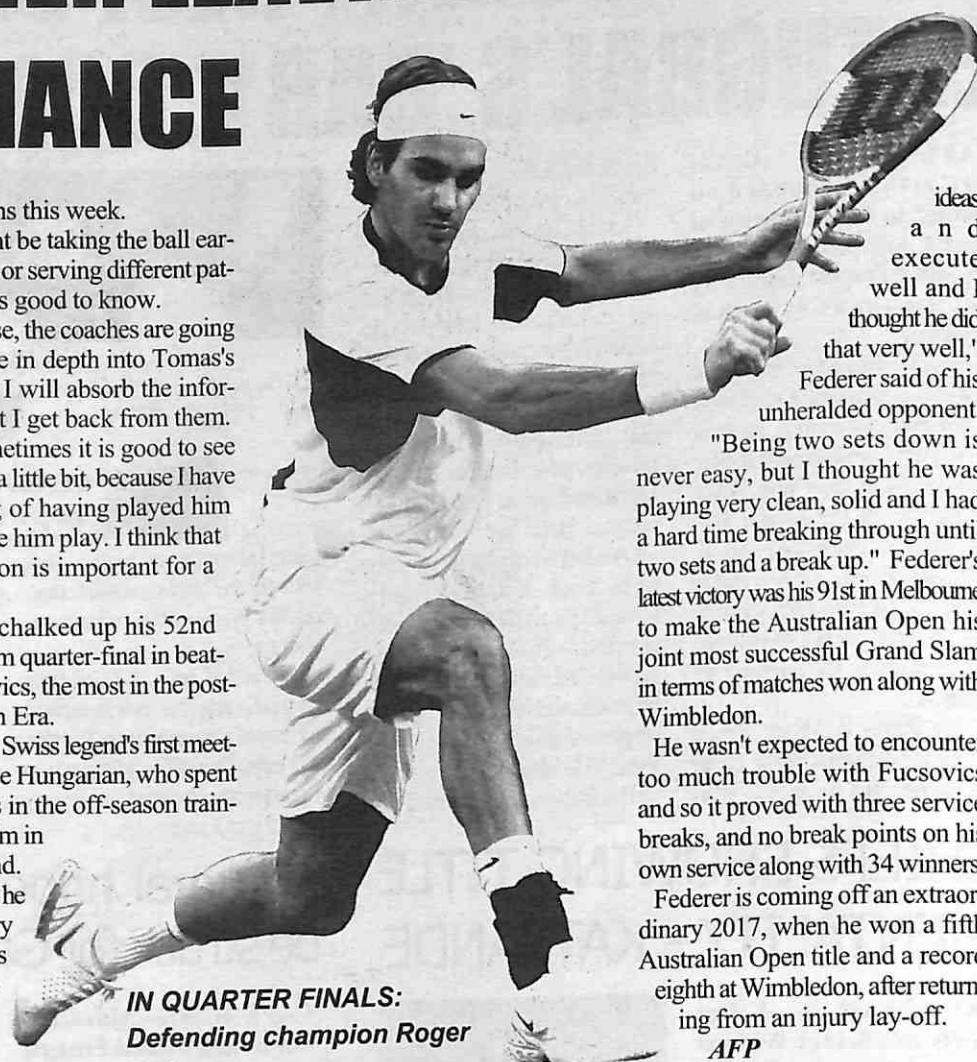
"Of course, the coaches are going to get more in depth into Tomas's game, and I will absorb the information that I get back from them.

"But sometimes it is good to see for myself a little bit, because I have the feeling of having played him but also see him play. I think that combination is important for a player."

Federer chalked up his 52nd Grand Slam quarter-final in beating Fucsovics, the most in the post-1968 Open Era.

It was the Swiss legend's first meeting with the Hungarian, who spent a few days in the off-season training with him in Switzerland.

"I thought he played very well. It was fast conditions, you have to have quick



IN QUARTER FINALS:
Defending champion Roger Federer.

ideas and execute well and I thought he did that very well," Federer said of his unheralded opponent.

"Being two sets down is never easy, but I thought he was playing very clean, solid and I had a hard time breaking through until two sets and a break up." Federer's latest victory was his 91st in Melbourne to make the Australian Open his joint most successful Grand Slam in terms of matches won along with Wimbledon.

He wasn't expected to encounter too much trouble with Fucsovics and so it proved with three service breaks, and no break points on his own service along with 34 winners.

Federer is coming off an extraordinary 2017, when he won a fifth Australian Open title and a record eighth at Wimbledon, after returning from an injury lay-off.

AFP

Chung dumps wounded Djokovic out of Open

MELBOURNE - South Korean star Chung Hyeon dumped six-time champion Novak Djokovic out of the Australian Open yesterday in a sensational fourth round upset.

The 21-year-old beat the battle-weary Serb, who was clearly in pain as he stretched for balls, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5, 7-6 (7/3) in 3 hours and 21 minutes in a night match on Rod Laver Arena.

Chung, the first South Korean man to reach the round of 16 at the Australian Open, will face American bolter Tennys Sandgren in the quarter-finals on tomorrow.

Two years ago Djokovic out-classed Chung in straight sets in the opening round

of the Australian Open, but the South Korean spectacularly reversed the result with three hard-fought sets against the wounded Serb in the fourth round.

Djokovic, who sought treatment for his troublesome right elbow and an apparent hip injury when stretching for a ball, battled through in great discomfort, as Chung stayed composed and mentally tough to claim his biggest win.

"I didn't know if I was going to win this match tonight, but I was just honoured to play with Novak again," said Chung.

"When I was young I was trying to copy Novak because he's my idol. I can't believe this, dreams come true tonight."

Djokovic showed the effects of playing four rounds in his first tournament back after six months out since Wimbledon with elbow trouble.

He made a horror start to the match with two double faults in each of his two opening service games for a double break.

The six-time Melbourne winner clawed back to 5-5, but he called for the trainer to treat his right elbow early in the second set.

AFP

Halep books place in quarter-finals

MELBOURNE - Simona Halep made light work of up-and-coming star Naomi Osaka to reach the quarter-finals of the Australian Open yesterday.

The world No. 1 was on court for just an hour and 19 minutes as she recorded a 6-3, 6-2 victory to set up a last eight clash with Barbora Strycova or Karolina Pliskova. Her latest performance, and in particular the ease of victory, was worlds away from round three, in which she saved three match points in a four-hour epic.

Halep has never been past the quarter-finals in Melbourne, but is in the form of her life and could well go all the way this year.

The Romanian is in search of her maiden Grand Slam title, having only ever reached the semi-final at Wimbledon and the US Open in the past.

Halep was the seventh woman to book her place in the last eight, joining Angelique Kerber, Madison Keys, Elise Mertens, Elina Svitolina, Carla Suarez Navarro and Caroline Wozniacki.

DailyMail

Kerber reaches Australian Open last eight

MELBOURNE - Title favourite Angelique Kerber withstood the unique challenge of Hsieh Su-Wei to move into the Australian Open quarter-finals.

Hsieh plays a completely different game from most of her rivals, relying not on power but a mixture of spins and slices and ball placement that bamboozle opponents and frequently drive them to distraction.

Her scalps in Melbourne had already included Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza and Agnieszka Radwanska, and for a long time it looked like Kerber might join them.

But the German has a deep well of confidence after her unbeaten start to the season and kept her composure to turn the match around and win 4-6 7-5 6-2.

The 2016 champion seemed close to losing it as Hsieh continued to spin her magic late in the second set, and the Kerber of last year would surely have crumbled. But this is a different model and she let out a huge scream of joy and relief after sending a forehand winner down the line to level the match before racing quickly through the decider.

DailyMail



MOVE: South Korean star Chung Hyeon.

Man United have announced the signing of Alexis Sanchez

LONDON - Manchester United have officially announced the mega-money signing of Alexis Sanchez from Arsenal, with the Chilean joining on a deal worth £600,000 a week.

The forward was busy morning, having visited the United training ground and Old Trafford — where he bumped into club legend Sir Alex Ferguson before being spotted at an immigration office in Liverpool for approval on his work permit. Henrikh Mkhitaryan was seen arriving at the same UK Visas and Immigration centre, at The Capital Building on Union Street in Liverpool, minutes after Sanchez, with the pair both waiting to have their documents approved by the Home Office. Sanchez, who has chosen United over their arch rivals Manchester City, was seen arriving at Carrington at 8am yesterday before departing the club's training base later that morning.

The former Barcelona star also visited Old Trafford where it is understood he was greeted by United legend Ferguson, who was pictured speaking to people sitting inside the 29-year-old's taxi.

He was later seen leaving the Lowry Hotel, where he is staying, before leaving Manchester for Liverpool, where he travelled to have his work permit approved.

By sealing his move, Sanchez, 29, has become the club's best-paid player on almost £600,000 a week — a basic wage



DONE DEAL: Manchester United have officially announced the mega-money signing of Alexis Sanchez from Arsenal.

of £350,000, £100,000 image rights and £144,000 in bonuses.

He will join up with his new United colleagues today when they begin prepara-

tions for Friday's FA Cup fourth-round tie at Yeovil Town, following two days off after the weekend win over Burnley. *Daily Mail*

From humble beginnings to most recognisable sportsman, Sanchez

MANCHESTER - Alexis Sanchez has captured the imagination of Premier League fans since moving to Arsenal in the summer of 2014, and will enter a new realm of fame when he joins Manchester United.

The Chilean has been on quite a journey from his humble beginning in Tocopilla, but is now one of the most recognisable sportsmen on the entire planet. Yet there is still plenty we are still to learn about this South American sensation.

Five fascinating things you may not have known...

● Alexis Sanchez was born in Tocopilla in northern Chile, a city with 25 000 inhabitants. The main industries are fishing and mining, while it is known as the 'city of energy' because it generates electricity for the region. His brother Humberto said four years ago: "If Alexis wasn't a footballer he would be working in the mines like most men around here."

● His nickname as a boy was 'Dilla', which is short for the Spanish 'ardilla' meaning squirrel. Sanchez earned the name because it only took him seconds to climb trees or scale buildings to retrieve lost footballs during street games. He now has a street in Tocopilla named after him.

● Sanchez had humble beginnings. His father left shortly before he was born and his mother Martina sold fish to scrape a living. When Sanchez was playing for Cobreloa aged 16, Martina was fined \$1,000 for selling fish without a licence. She could not afford it so Sanchez was put in touch with agent Fernando Felicevich, who bought his registration and settled the debt.

● He is quite literally a road runner. While at Udinese in Italy, he once drove into town for a shopping trip only to lose his keys. Instead of asking for a lift, he ran the four miles back home to get a spare set before running back to his car. No wonder his pace terrifies defenders!

● Despite signing for Manchester United and not their rivals City, Sanchez holds his former Barcelona boss Pep Guardiola in high esteem. He once said of the City manager: "Guardiola made me feel like a Ferrari." Guardiola returned the compliment, once saying after Barcelona beat Real Madrid at the Bernabeu: "Alexis has stolen my heart — our hearts. He has arrived here with the excitement of a child and hasn't let that go. His courage is remarkable."

Daily Mail

PSG hopeful Mbappe injury not serious

PARIS - Paris Saint-Germain said initial tests carried out on Kylian Mbappe were "reassuring" after their young star was stretchered off in the first half of Sunday's 2-1 defeat at Lyon.

"The check-up at the end of the match was reassuring and allowed Kylian Mbappe to return to Paris," the club said in a statement.

"Further tests will be carried out at the start of the week." Mbappe, who turned 19 last month, had to be carried off the field at the Groupama Stadium late in the first half after being flattened by a full-blooded challenge from Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes.

He had already been in the wars, needing treatment for a bloody head wound suffered in a clash with Houssem Aouar.

"Just a message to say that I am alright, it was a more of a scare than anything else despite the

impressive collision," Mbappe tweeted. "No hard feelings A.Lopes." The France international forward must nevertheless be a doubt for tomorrow's French Cup tie at home to Guingamp. PSG were already without Neymar for the game in Lyon, the world's most expensive player missing the trip due to an apparent thigh injury.

Unai Emery's team looked set to escape with a point from the encounter after Layvin Kurzawa cancelled out Nabil Fekir's second-minute opener for the hosts.

AFP



INJURED: Kylian Mbappe.

O'Neill turns down Scotland job

LONDON - Northern Ireland Manager Michael O'Neill has turned down the opportunity to replace Gordon Strachan as manager of Scotland, the BBC reported yesterday.

Strachan left his post as Scotland coach in October after failing to guide the team to the World Cup playoffs and O'Neill was the Scottish Football Association's (SFA) top choice to replace him. "It's a huge honour to be offered the position however, I do not feel that this is the right opportunity for me at this moment in my career," O'Neill was quoted as saying by the BBC. "I would like to place on record my gratitude to the SFA for the very professional manner in which they conducted negotiations and I would also like to wish them every success for the future." O'Neill's stock has risen since taking Northern Ireland to Euro 2016, their first major tournament since 1986, but his team fell short of making it to the World Cup in Russia, losing a two-legged playoff against Switzerland in November. *Reuters*

Guinea exit 2018 Chan with a win

MOROCCO - Ibrahim Sankhon scored the only goal of the game as Guinea clinched a narrow 1-0 win over Mauritania at the Stade de Marrakech in Marrakech on Sunday evening.

Victory, though, comes as small reward for the Syli Nationale who along with their opponents exit the 2018 African Nations Championship (Chan) in the group stages. Guinea finish third in Group A, four points off Morocco and Sudan while Mauritania were condemned to the wooden spoon following three straight defeats.

Sankhon's winning strike came within the 15th minute of the clash.

The Guinea captain with a composed finish following great awareness from Daouda Bangoura who turned his man before teeing up his skipper for what proved to be the game's only goal.

Mauritania threatened to find the equaliser as soon as three minutes later with El Mostapha Diaw's powerful effort well saved by Guinea goal-minder Abdoulaye Kante.

Backpage TXT

Robinho agrees deal to join Sivasspor despite sentence

MILAN - Former Manchester City and Real Madrid star Robinho has agreed to sign for Turkish side Sivasspor despite being sentenced to nine years in prison for gang rape last year.

The 33-year-old, along with five others, was implicated for an attack on an Albanian girl in a Milan nightclub in January 2013. The Brazilian striker was found guilty in November but Robinho has since appealed his sentence, which could take years to be resolved.

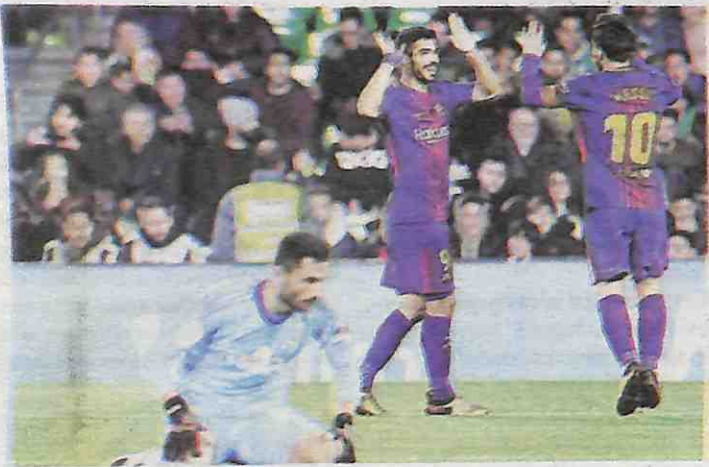
Robinho has insisted he played no part in the incident and has a right to two appeals - Italy would only launch extradition proceedings once this legal process is exhausted, a legal source said at the time. As the appeal process takes place, the former AC Milan forward is free to continue playing football. Super Lig side Sivasspor have announced via their official website that they agreed terms with the striker and he would shortly be joining the club after he has signed a contract.

Daily Mail



NEW DEAL: Former AC Milan star Robinho.

SPANISH LA LIGA GAMES



DOUBLE TROUBLE: The duo proved too much for Real Betis to handle as Barcelona ran away with the game in the second half. Real Betis lost 0-5 to Barcelona.



CELEBRATING: Ivan Rakitic celebrates after breaking the deadlock in Sunday's La Liga clash with Real Betis at the Estadio Benito Villamarin.



THE SNIPPER: Suarez leaps in the air after netting the fifth and final goal of a breathtaking second half in Seville.



CATCH ME IF YOU CAN: Messi skips past Spanish midfielder Fabian Ruiz on his way to scoring his second goal of the night.



DRIBBLING WIZARD: Argentinian forward Lionel Messi dribbles with the ball as his team looked to further extend their lead at the top of La Liga.



FEUD: Suarez (left) squares up to Moroccan midfielder Zouhair Feddal (right) after being on the wrong end of an ugly challenge.



JOB WELL DONE: Rakitic (left) and Messi (right) make their way off the pitch after the referee had blown his full time whistle.



TEAM WORK: Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi after combining to score Barcelona's fourth goal against Real Betis.



CELEBRATES: Cristiano Ronaldo has a subdued celebration after finishing coolly to score his first goal in three La Liga matches. Real Madrid won 7-1 against Deportivo.



OUT JUMP: Bale rises high to head home his second goal of the game as the hosts began to take full control of the clash.

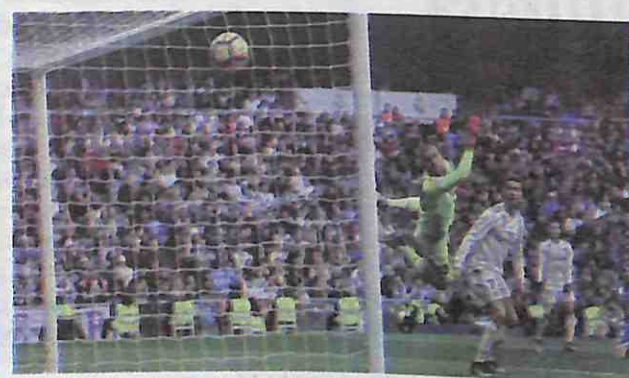


HAPPY MAN: The Welsh forward celebrates after doubling his side's lead with a fine header from a corner in the second half.



LEVEL: Nacho celebrates after bringing his team level in Sunday's La Liga showdown with Deportivo at the Bernabeu.

ON TARGET: Luka Modric scores his team's fourth goal with a precise curling effort midway through the second half.



CURLER: Deportivo goalkeeper Ruben Martinez watches on as Gareth Bale's (right) strike flies past him and into the top left corner.

MORE FROM VICTOR GAMEDZE'S FUNERAL



LAST RESPECTS: Top businessman and former PLS Chairman Moses Motsa on his way to the graveyard during the late PLS Chairman Victor 'Maradona Gamedze's funeral which was held on Sunday at Ka Langa. Behind him is top lawyer Sdumo Mdladla. (Pics : Sibusiso Masilela and Sibongiseni Zondi)



TILL WE MEET AGAIN: Former Mbabane Swallows striker Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe was part of the mourners together with supporters Sandile Dlamini and Khizitha Dube.



TRUE BIRD: Swallows supporter Linda 'Sithawula' Tsela.



IN SONG: Supporters singing at the late Gamedze's house.



UNITED: Royal Leopard supporters were part of those that celebrated the life of the late Gamedze.

DON'T FOLLOW ME, FOLLOW THE BIRDS



FAREWELL: Mbabane Swallows fans singing and dancing at the funeral of their late boss Victor Gamedze.



PRESENT: Swallows Technical Director Aaron Mavimbela was part of the mourners together with other supporters.



SWAY'SWAYI: Swallows supporters in song.



ALSO THERE: Swallows official Bongani Mamba and legend Bhusha Mdluli at the graveyard.



GOOD TO SEE YOU: Former Swazi Observer senior reporter Winile Mavuso greeting PLS desk officer Ncamisile Mkhonta. Also in the picture is former Green Mamba coach Dumisani 'DU' Makhanya.



WE CAN DO MORE: Acting PLS Chairman Peter Magagula chatting with coaches Musa Manyatsi and Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini after the funeral.



REPRESENTING: Malanti Chiefs PRO Lungile Dube standing next to PLS staff members.



● Chile forward Alexis Sanchez has been pictured wearing a Manchester United kit for the first time as he edges closer to completing his move from Arsenal. (Metro)

● Arsenal midfielder Mesut Ozil, 29, is eyeing a massive new contract if the Gunners sign Borussia Dortmund striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, 28, and Armenia playmaker Henrikh Mkhitaryan, 29, on huge deals in this transfer window. (Sun)

● Roma's sporting director Monchi has refused to rule out the prospect of Chelsea signing both Bosnia striker Edin Dzeko, 31, and 23-year-old Brazilian defender Emerson Palmieri. (Metro)

● Newcastle manager Rafael Benitez has told the club he will not discuss extending his contract until after the January transfer window. (Telegraph)

● Chelsea could still sign Peter Crouch, despite new Stoke City boss Paul Lambert insisting his 36-year-old English striker is not for sale. (Independent)

● Burnley's English forward Ashley Barnes, 28, is now a target for Blues boss Antonio Conte in his search for a new frontman. (Sky Sports)

● Manchester United will be concerned after Athletic Bilbao's 23-year-old goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga rejected the chance to join Real Madrid, meaning the La Liga giants could again target the Red Devils' fellow Spain international David de Gea, 27. (Mirror)

● Arturo Vidal says there is 'no chance' of him leaving Bayern Munich in January. The 30-year-old Chile midfielder has been linked with a move to Chelsea. (Goal)

● Several clubs across Europe - including Tottenham - have taken notice of Bordeaux's Brazilian forward Malcom, 20, sharing a video of himself on a plane as he flew to meet his agent. (Sun)

● Stoke have made a £3.25m bid for New York City winger Jack Harrison. The 21-year-old Englishman is a former Liverpool and Manchester United academy player. (Mail)

● Manchester City academy chief Brian Marwood has made a personal check on £20m-rated Lille and France Under-19 midfielder Boubakary Soumare, 18, who has been described as the new Paul Pogba. (Mail)

● Manchester City are exploring the possibility of sending young players to Carabao Cup semi-final rivals Bristol City on loan. (Mirror)

● Swansea manager Carlos Carvalhal says Wilfried Bony will get more Premier League game time in the coming weeks - but only when he believes the 29-year-old Ivory Coast forward can operate at 100%. (Wales Online)



...with Mphikeleli Msibi

THE PUNCH POW!
[STRIKING, STRAIGHT AND STRENGTHENED]

BEFITTING VALEDICTION FOR VICTOR GAMEDZE

WHAT a send-off.

The late Premier League of Swaziland Chairman and Mbabane Swallows boss Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze was indeed loved by all. You had to be at the funeral to believe this.

Gamedze was laid to rest at KaLanga on Sunday following a memorial service at the Prince of Wales Ground. Honestly, I had not seen so many people at a funeral. Yes, I have been to a number of funerals but Gamedze's funeral was something else, one that will linger in the minds of all those who were in attendance.

Mourners

I thought my nephew's funeral (Mzabalazo Zwane; may his soul rest in peace) had the highest number of mourners out of the many funerals I have been to but alas it is just no match to the people, who came to pay their last respects to Gamedze.

This was just not your ordinary funeral, judging from the number of cars parked along the road on the way to the Gamedze home-stand. I repeat, I have never seen so many people at a funeral, not in this lifetime.

The shocking news of Gamedze's assassination was reported by different media outlets all over the world, the whole of last week.

South African teams playing over the weekend all observed a moment of silence in honour of the late PLS boss.

All this should tell you something about Gamedze. He was not just an ordinary man.

For once I wished Gamedze was able to see his own funeral, but I quickly told myself he is probably



LOVED BY MANY: Mourners singing at the funeral of late Premier League of Swaziland Chairman and Mbabane Swallows boss Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze.

smiling wherever he is.

We will all die at some point in time but this is definitely not the way, but again God knows why it happened. Gamedze is now no more but I know for sure, he is now in a better place (the other side of life).

Clad in the team's regalia, Swallows fans came out in their hordes to pay their last respects to the fallen hero, the chanting of these die-hard adherents mitigated the sombre atmosphere which usually permeates in funeral services.

It was clear that they were only celebrating his life.

The who's who in the local football fraternity and different football gurus from outside the country were also present to bid valediction to the native of Siteki. The honourable Minister of Sports David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala spoke

glowingly of Gamedze, highlighting his good work as football administrator and an astute businessman.

Encouragement

The crowd was rapturous as the Swallows players and officials dressed in tracksuits looked so depressed and weary.

Keynote speakers all spoke warmly of Gamedze, calling him the giant of Swazi football and describing his death as a charade for the country.

They would now and again offer words of encouragement to his family, friends and relatives and Mbabane Swallows players, telling them to be strong and to persevere.

The mood ranged between sombre and festive, with red-eyed fans sobbing during the procession of the coffin and then blowing *vuvuzelas* and singing chants later on. Still I was finding it hard to come to

terms that it was Victor Gamedze inside the casket. I am not one to say I spent so much time with him, but I am honoured to be one of those Gamedze would call.

I still say that Gamedze's murder was senseless and I will forever curse the finger that pulled the trigger that ended his life.

A life taken so early in such an unnecessary way leaves us saddened and outraged and in society the value of human life is being challenged.

As far as I know, it was the first time that an icon of this nature departs in the fashion that Gamedze departed in the country.

All in all, it was a great sending off for 'Maradona'. The spirit of Gamedze will live on.

Lala ngekuthula Madlenya, imisebenti yakho lemhle iyohlala isikhumbuto etimphilweni tetfu.

Back to action in MTN Premier League

THIS week will see the resumption of the MTN Premier League after over a month-long break. With every side left with eight league matches to go, the season is at a crucial stage.

At the top of the table, league leaders Mbabane Swallows have a three point lead to protect.

The 'Beautiful Birds' were at one point level on points and goal difference with second placed Young Buffaloes but after the latter were defeated by Manzini Wanderers in December, Swallows regained their lead.

They now have eight matches to try and protect it. It surely has developed into a two horse-race now between Swallows and Buffaloes.

Green Mamba, who are occupying the third position, are seven points off second place.

They have, however, been in scintillating form under Caleb Ngwenya, who took over the coaching reins in October last year.

Ngwenya is yet to lose a league match in nine matches since taking over from the sacked Harries 'Madze' Bulunga. Just below Green Mamba, four points adrift are hub giants Manzini Wanderers.

Going down the table, giants Mbabane Highlanders have eight games to save what so far stands to be a hugely disappointing season.

Sitting in ninth place, Highlanders have been hugely inconsistent this season and need coach Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane and his boys to deliver if a respectable finishing position is to be achieved.

At the foot of the table, Midas City finally picked their first point of the season after 18 matches when they drew with Moneni Pirates but their relegation to their National First Division seems all but a done

deal now.

To add to their woes, City are still struggling to find a new coach to replace Artwell Dlodlu.

Five points above them are fellow strugglers Red Lions who have won just once this season - that win came against City.

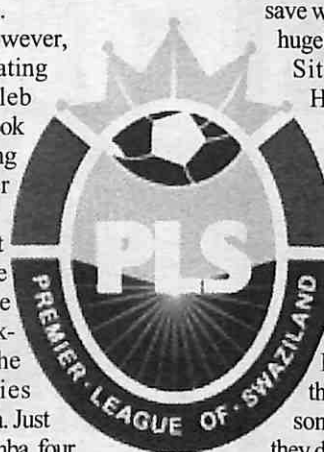
Red Lions know they have a fight on their hands to maintain the Premier League status they have held since 2014.

City and Red Lions are not the only sides in danger, however.

Tambuti above them sit on 18 points while Vovovo sit on 20 points and Moneni Pirates have 21 points.

All these clubs could yet still find themselves in a relegation dog fight.

There is still a lot to fight for at both the top and bottom of the Premier League log table. Let the games resume.



'TARIBO' SET FOR SENSATIONAL MBABANE SWALLOWS RETURN

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - STRIKER Mfan'futhi 'Taribo' Bhembe is set for a sensational return to his former club Mbabane Swallows after leaving Manzini Wanderers.

The dreadlocked striker earned cult hero status while playing for Swallows in the 2004/05 season and between 2009 and 2011. Bhembe left Swallows for Wanderers in 2014 after falling out of favour at the club. The player, who will begin training with Swallows today, in an effort to keep fit, says there is now an 80 per cent chance of a return to the 'Birds' nest. "For now I have just requested that Swallows allow me to train with them.

They have given me permission to train with them and I will be keeping fit while I finalise my next move. But obviously Swallows is my club. I grew up with them. If you ask me, I would say there is an 8/10 chance that I return formally but obviously it's not entirely up to me. If they feel that I can be part of their plans

then that would be great," he said. Bhembe added that it was fitting to return to Swallows now after the death of the club's boss Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze. "Obviously after the death of the Chairman Mr. Victor Gamedze, it makes a lot of sense to rejoin the club at this difficult moment and be part of the way forward. That can be now or in future in an administrative role," he said.

Expressed

Bhembe however expressed disappointment at how his time at Wanderers ended.

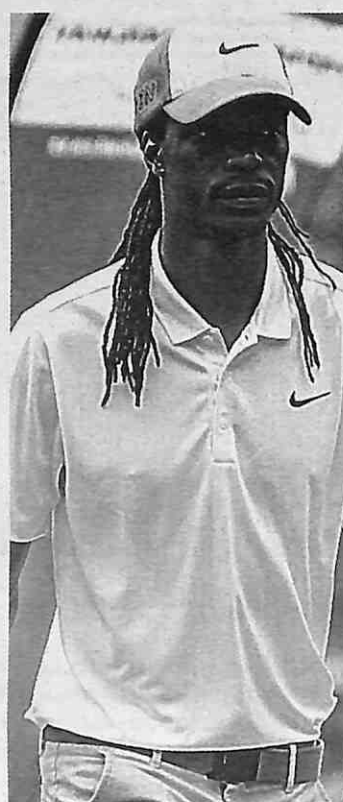
"I got a directive from the directors that I wasn't in the coach's plans going forward. The directors told me that Nyanga (Hlophe) suggested that I should be part of the administrative staff. It was disappointing not to hear that directly from the coach himself because we have worked together for a long time. It was disappointing that he didn't man up and tell me that I was no longer in his plans," Bhembe said. When reached for comment, Wanderers CEO Pat Mahlalela con-

firmed Bhembe's exit and wished him all the best for the future. "Firstly, we would like to thank 'Taribo' for the service that he has given this club.

He has been a true professional. The big problem we encountered was the fact that his work schedule and our training schedule clashed but we would like to wish him all the best for the future. We are hopeful that when he retires he can return to the club in an administrative role or even a director position, who knows. It is worth remembering that 'Taribo' comes from a Wanderers family so we are really grateful for his service," he said.

Swallows General Manager Sandile Zwane meanwhile said Bhembe's issue would be discussed by the club. "We don't have a comment on that for now as we have just come from a long week in which we buried our chairman. But we know 'Taribo' very well, this is his club.

We will meet with the technical team and his matter will be discussed," he said.



RETURNS: Mfan'futhi 'Taribo' Bhembe.

'Birds', Leopard headline league return

By Sabelo Majola

SOCCER - MBABANE Swallows and Royal Leopard will headline the return of the MT Premier League games after two weeks of suspension.

The 19th string of the league games is likely to be underway this weekend with the two heavyweights set for a showdown in a fixture yet to be released by the Premier League of Swaziland.

However, PLS Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati said they were yet to meet and discuss the logistics of the games going

forward. "The arrangement was that the league games will continue midweek but there might be changes, so it would be premature to confirm the continuation of games yet.

We are yet to meet and discuss the way forward and until then, there is nothing solid to reveal," he said.

According to the master fixture, game 19 will see Capital City giants Mbabane Highlanders take on Manzini Sundowns while second placed Young Buffaloes will be looking to maintain a good run when they take on Malanti Chiefs.

Game 19 full fixture:

Midas City	vs	Tambuti
Green Mamba	vs	Red Lions
Manzini Sundowns	vs	Mbabane Highlanders
Manzini Wanderers	vs	Vovovo
Moneni Pirates	vs	Matsapha United
Young Buffaloes	vs	Malanti Chiefs
Mbabane Swallows	vs	Royal Leopard

ERNEST FUTURE AT PIRATES UNCERTAIN

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - MONENI Pirates Manager/ coach Ernest Mavuso's future looks uncertain as he is said to have failed to submit a performance report demanded by Managing Director December Mavimbela before the end of last week.

The soft spoken mentor is also alleged to have incited the players to stop training last week, something that did not go down well with the management committee. A source close to the matter revealed that the former national

Under-20 coach could be relieved from his position soon after failing to comply with the requirements of the MD. "The coach was supposed to bring a report last Friday before the board over the inconsistent performance of the team but he failed.

The board is angry with his actions and they will soon make changes to the technical bench before the end of the week," the source said.

Pirates Managing Director December Mavimbela could not be reached for comments on the matter when tried yes-

terday as he was reportedly out of the country. Efforts to get Mavuso also proved futile as his cellphone rang answered when tried several times yesterday and a questionnaire was also sent to the soft spoken coach.

Mavuso joined Pirates about three months ago from Manzini Sundowns during the era of the former Director Osborne Nzima.

The coach was recently elevated to the position of Manager/ coach by the 'Sea Robbers' as Pirates are fondly known by local football fans.

Matsapha United thunderstruck by Director's arrest

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER - AMBITIOUS elite league rookies Matsapha United whose co-Director Siphon 'City' Shongwe was arrested and officially charged with the brutal murder of Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Chairman and Mbabane Swallows boss Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze have expressed their shock over the latest developments.

Speaking through their co-Director Victor Malambe during an interview yesterday, the 'Deep Blue Ocean' as the side is affectionately known made it clear that they were thunderstruck by the arrest of their co-director, and were quick to highlight that Gamedze's murder was also a loss to the team.

"As a team, we are still flabbergasted by the latest developments.

We just read the papers and learnt that our Director (Siphon Shongwe) has been arrested and charged as a suspect in the murder of Victor Gamedze, and we were totally shocked.

Gamedze's death is a huge loss to us as a

team just as it is to the whole country. We are also shattered by his loss because Gamedze was a servant to football and worked indefatigably to improve the league's standard, and football in the country.

Even after his funeral, it still feels unreal that Gamedze has passed away and we still wake up hoping that all this is not true."

When questioned on the arrest of Shongwe, Malambe said although Shongwe had been charged, he still hadn't been convicted, hence they hoped he was innocent until proven guilty by the courts.

"Eish (deep breath), this is a very sensitive issue and I don't want to make a lot of comments.

To try and answer your question though, Shongwe is still a suspect and hence he is innocent until proven guilty. We will only be able to answer that question once we get the whole story because as you know, both men were also in the business world, so we wouldn't know what misunderstandings they might have had.

Only then will we be able to properly answer your question.

We need to know whether this was a football related issue or was it a business misunderstanding," he said.



Hurube thanks mourners

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - ROYAL Leopard PRO Frank Hurube has thanked the Swazi nation for being well behaved at the memorial and funeral services of the late Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Chairman Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze.

The Leopard mouthpiece was tasked, alongside other PLS affiliates including Young Buffaloes PRO Sandile Gwebu, to work on the logistics of Gamedze's funeral.

Hurube went on national radio on Friday requesting the public to be well behaved at the memorial service as well as the night vigil and funeral service.

Hurube, on behalf of the committee he worked in, said the pub-

lic did exactly what they requested. "We just want to thank Swazis for what they did at the memorial service, night vigil and at the funeral service.

Swazis came out in their numbers, thousands and thousands, who came to pay their last respects to Mr. Gamedze and they were extremely well behaved.

Appreciate

We really appreciate that. What is done is done and we hope that God will heal all wounds. It is all God's plan," he said. Gamedze was laid to rest in KaLanga, Siteki on Sunday morning after a night vigil. His memorial service was held at Prince of Wales ground on Saturday.

The Mbabane Swallows chairman was shot dead by an unknown gunman at Galp Filling Station in Ezulwini last week Sunday.



GRATEFUL: Royal Leopard PRO Frank Hurube and Young Buffaloes PRO Sandile Gwebu.



United sign Alexis Sanchez

Ingwenyama Cup draw today

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - THE SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup semifinal draw will be held today at the sponsor's Headquarters in Mbabane.

The draw will be held at 1pm with defending champions Mbabane Swallows, last season's runners up Young Buffaloes, Royal Leopard and National First Division (NFD) side Mbabane Citizens the last four teams left standing in the competition. The draw had been originally scheduled for last week Monday until the assassination of Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Chairman Victor Gamedze last week Sunday which resulted in the suspension of all football activities in the country. In an interview yesterday morning, Ingwenyama Cup PRO Nkhosilenhle 'Makawosi' Masuku confirmed that the draw would now be conducted today while he was reluctant to announce the date of the semifinal matches.

"Yes, we are having the draw tomorrow (today) at 1pm at SMVAF headquarters in Mbabane. After the draw, the MC (Management Committee) will meet to decide when the semifinals will be played so for now we can't confirm the dates of the semis. We are edging closer to the final. After the semifinals have been played, we will then wait for His Majesty King Mswati III to commission the date for the final," Masuku said.

Swallows beat rivals Manzini Wanderers 1-0 while Buffaloes beat Green Mamba 2-1 in the quarterfinals played on January 14. Meanwhile, Citizens beat fellow NFD side Milling Hotspurs 2-0 while Leopard beat Manzini Sundowns 1-0 in the other quarterfinal matches played on January 13.

SWAZI OBSERVER Sport

IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

TUESDAY JANUARY 23, 2018



By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER - THE Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) governors will meet soon to discuss the way forward following the death of their Chairman and on top of their agenda will be the future of Matsapha United, whose co-director Siphon 'City' Shongwe was on Sunday charged with the ruthless assassination of PLS boss Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze on Sunday.

The PLS was expected to release the fixture of mid-week games but it was later decided that the governors should meet first, hence the fixture will be released today.

This was revealed by the organi-

SUSPENSION LOOMS FOR MATSAPHA UNITED

- Team director charged with murder
- PLS governors to deliberate on team's future today
- League games to resume this weekend

sation's Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati yesterday, who confirmed that league games would resume this week.

"We learnt of Shongwe's arrest today in media and felt it would be proper to have a meeting with the governors."

Consequences

This is of course an issue that we need to handle with caution to avoid catastrophic consequences. I cannot say anything for now because the governors are still to meet and discuss this. I can only confirm that Matsapha United's future will certainly be on top of the agenda during the meeting. With the latest developments, it is important that we meet

and find a viable solution.

"We know very well what is at stake and we promise to deal with it. We did not anticipate this, so we will have to be mature and deal with it properly. This is why I cannot say much for now until the meeting with the governors" he said.

Meanwhile, impeccable insiders within the PLS have alleged that suspension looms for Matsapha United pending the investigations, as the governors fear violence might occur. "The team (Matsapha United) might have to be suspended because of the charge against their director. All soccer fans, in fact the whole soccer fraternity is still hurt by the brutal murder of the Chairman Victor

Gamedze, and want those responsible to pay. Now, we wouldn't want a situation where violence might reign in a soccer match," he said.

On another note, the COO confirmed that football activities would be back this weekend, stating that he they were still finalising the fixture. He promised to release the full fixture today.

Finalising

"Yes, games will be back this weekend. I am still working on the fixtures, as a matter of fact, I'm finalising dates and times to be specific, and I think I will conclude everything tonight (yesterday evening). They will be ready for release tomorrow (today)."

If we could, we would turn back time - Swallows' Sandile Zwane

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - MBABANE Swallows General Manager Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane says they wish they could bring back their murdered boss Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze to life while he thanked the entire Swazi nation for supporting them over the past week.

Gamedze, who was killed in cold blood last week Sunday, was laid to rest at his home in Ka Langa, Siteki on Sunday morning. His memorial service was held at the Prince of Wales on Saturday and his funeral was attended by thousands of people and Swallows GM Zwane has thanked the entire nation for the support.

"Firstly, we would like to thank Their Majesties who supported us from the start up until the end. We would also like to thank the entire Swazi nation for their huge support throughout the past week. We appreciate the sup-



port we received from government, Mbabane Swallows supporters and the entire public. We are thankful that everyone was well behaved and people took directions well. Wherever our Chairman is, he saw that he received the perfect send-off," he said.

Zwane went on to thank the police as well as the different companies that helped in the funeral logistics. "We would also like to thank the police, especially Lubombo police and their boss (Mr. Magic Zwane) who handled everything exceptionally well. We would also like to thank companies like Swazi Mobile, Inyatsi and others for assisting us," he added.

The Swallows GM then urged everyone affected by Gamedze's demise to remain calm and allow the police to do their investigations on the matter.

"What happened is tragic and our hearts are still bleeding from the loss of our Chairman. If we could, we would turn back time and bring him back to life. From now on we will play every match with the intention of keeping his legacy alive. To everyone, we appeal that we try and remain calm during this extremely difficult moment. It is bad but let us give the police space and time to investigate the matter and leave everything to God. We pray that God will heal all wounds and lead the police to the killers," Zwane concluded.

Bull put 'Smoothies', 'Chicken' on transfer

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - MBABANE Highlanders have placed five players on transfer including winger Mphucuko Dlamini and on loan Royal Leopard midfielder Bongani 'Chicken' Sibandze.

These players are part of the five deemed as surplus to requirement by the current technical bench headed by Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane.

The other players shown the exit door are striker Frank Antwi, midfielder Gabriel Goshen and goalkeeper Isaac Amoah.

Mphucuko established himself as one of the seasoned performers at the black and white ensemble over the years after joining the team four seasons ago from MTN National First Division side Mahlalani FC.

He has played under several coaches at Highlanders including the late Basil Peterson, Meck Mwase, Ernest Mavuso, Terisayi Changara, Herbert Maruwa and the current mentor 'Professor' Ngubane among oth-

ers. Surviving the chop is Zambian player Micheal Musonda, who has also been blowing hot and cold since he joined the team.

Highlanders Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Celucolo 'Dino' Dlamini confirmed the developments when contacted yesterday.

"It is true four players have been released after they requested to go seek game time elsewhere and we felt we should allow them to explore their careers elsewhere. We value their contribution to the team during their respective stints and we wish them best of luck on their future endeavours," he said.

Reports also coming from the 'Black Bull' camp suggest that the team has completed the signing of two South African players Sibusiso Hadzebe and former University of Player Thabiso Makenkoane.

This means that Highlanders have now signed three players following the recent capture of Young Buffaloes development product Khayelihle Manana.