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**STUDY LOANS:  
LETTERS OF  
DEMAND  
OUT JUNE 1**

THURSDAY MAY 24, 2018

REVIVED, RELIABLE AND READ

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## MOTHER PUTS BABY IN REFUSE BAG, DUMPS IT IN DUSTBIN



**THOLAKELE:** The child, who looked a few days old, was wrapped with a refuse bag and dumped in a dustbin next to the traffic circle along Gwamile Street in Mbabane last evening. The child was found by a young man estimated to be in his 20s. Paramedics rushed her to Mbabane Government Hospital. (Pics: Lucky Simelane) **STORY ON PAGE 4**

## AS SENATORS DELAY SEXUAL OFFENCES BILL...

# MAN GRABS GIRL (5) FROM MOTHER, RAPES HER

...Cops can't help because cars are servicing the EBC elections registration

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## PM **BACK** FROM TAIWAN HOSPITAL

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## 2 NATIONAL NEWS

## PM back from Taiwan hospital

By Lungelo Nkambule  
Mbabane

**THE Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini has returned home from the Republic of China on Taiwan where he was receiving medical attention.**

Dlamini left the country two weeks ago in the company of his wife Gugu to seek medical attention.

His trip came a week after he had been admitted in the Intensive Care Unit

(ICU) at the Mbabane Government.

His return was confirmed by government Spokesperson Percy Simelane in a statement.

## Trip

In the statement, Simelane said the trip was successful and the premier was responding positively to treatment.

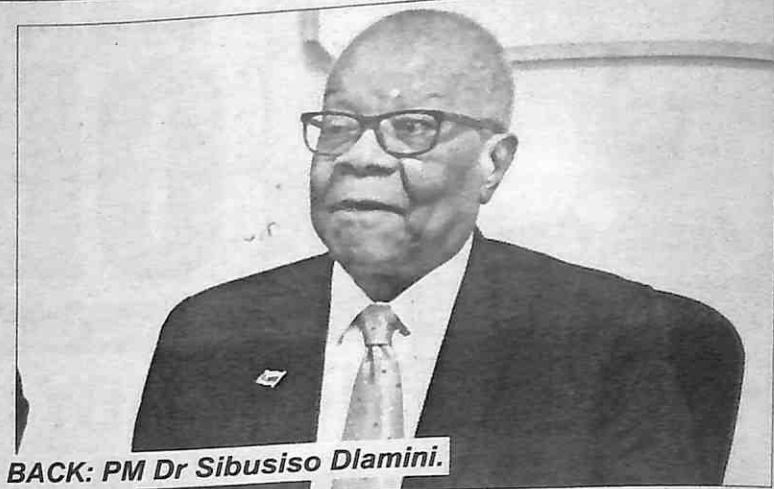
"He has responded more positively to the treatment of his team of doctors. On return, the prime minister paid tribute to Their Majesties for blessing his departure to undergo routine medical

check-up in Taipei, the government of the Republic of China on Taiwan for arrangements and support, doctors from the Taipei Medical University Hospital for their dedication and professionalism.

## Recovery

He is humbled too by those who wished him speedy recovery through messages and prayers even on his birthday on May 15," the statement read.

The prime minister left the country on Friday May 11, 2018.



BACK: PM Dr Sibusiso Dlamini.

## STUDY LOANS: LETTERS OF DEMAND OUT JUNE 1

Stories by Lungelo Nkambule  
Mbabane

**BENEFICIARIES of the government of Eswatini study loans who have not yet made repayment arrangements will be served with letters of demand come June 1.**

Project Manager Khanya Magagula revealed that at the beginning of June 1, the study loans consortium will be sending out letters of demand to beneficiaries who have failed to come forward to make repayment arrangements.

"The consortium has already identified beneficiaries who are failing to come to make the appropriate arrangements and come June 1, we will serve them with the necessary legal documents," he said. Magagula said the consortium has to this end, done all possible means to have Fmaswati who benefitted from the initiative voluntarily come forward but some have chosen to ignore all the pleas.

He explained that the letters of demand will be giving the defiant beneficiaries a specific time frame to present themselves before the consortium to make repayment arrangements before their cases are escalated to the government's attorney for legal action.

"The letters of demand are like a final warning shot to the beneficiaries who have been failing for various reasons to come present themselves and make repayment arrangements. Individuals who have not come through should utilise the period between now and May 31, to avoid legal steps being taken against them. This is a serious offence and beneficiaries should understand it," he said.

He added that before the consortium decided on the next step of litigation, ben-

*...The letters of demand are like a final warning shot to the beneficiaries who have been failing for various reasons to come present themselves and make repayment arrangements. Individuals who have not come through should utilise the period between now and May 31, to avoid legal steps being taken against them. This is a serious offence and beneficiaries should understand it*



**IN NUMBERS:** Some of the hundreds of study loan beneficiaries flooded the DataNet offices next to the Swazi Observer offices in Mbabane for the repayment of study loans last year. (File pic)

eficiaries have been approached at their places of work, where with the help of employers they were notified about their obligation of repaying the study loans, but still some could not be bothered.

"It is only fair to those who adhered to our calls that we proceed with the litigation stage.

"After all, the consortium has been to all the country's regional towns to try to get closer to the people. We have also had three deadlines still trying to get beneficiaries to come and make repayment arrangement and some have not bothered themselves about doing the right thing," he said.

The project manager highlighted that the consortium is faced with challenges

where certain beneficiaries have come up with all sorts of theories about the project and are purposely refusing to cooperate.

He said these some beneficiaries say they will only start making the repayments once they are convinced that the funds go straight to funding students who are pursuing higher education.

"This is a wrong way of doing things because this means these beneficiaries can afford to repay the study loans but they just don't want to. The fact of matter is that the government gave you a study loan and you must honour the agreement and repay the loan so that other students may be afforded the same opportunity as you and receive higher education as you did," he said.

## The importance of proper referencing

**THE Project Manager Khanya Magagula advised beneficiaries who are paying through the bank to do proper referencing so that their payments may be accordingly allocated.**

Magagula revealed that the consortium faces challenges when a beneficiary pays through the bank but uses an invalid reference.

"Each beneficiary has a unique government computer number which they must use as a reference when making any transaction that involves the study loan. We encourage beneficiaries to use this unique government computer number when making their payments. This

is the only number that enables the consortium to identify you, not your name or your surname. Some beneficiaries put their Identity numbers (ID), cell-phone numbers and some even put the word "government computer number" which is wrong," he warned.

Magagula further encouraged beneficiaries who did not finish the repayment arrangement process to make follow-ups.

He emphasised that the onus is on the beneficiary to ensure that the deduction has been effected hence where such has not taken place the beneficiary needs to find out why.



**COME JUNE:** Study loans Project Manager Khanya Magagula.

## Train cuts SEC man's car into two

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

**AN employee of the Swaziland Electricity Company Somandla Shongwe is lucky to be alive after his car was cut into two in a collision with a train at the Matsapha Industrial area.**

Shongwe was later arrested for negligent driving in that he drove on a train track without exercising caution and as a result his car was hit by a train driven by Mpendulo Dlamini from Mpaka Railway.

The accused made his court appearance at the Matsapha Circuit Court before Magistrate Mthokozisi Dlamini.

During his court appearance, the accused pleaded guilty to the charge. Narrating the ordeal, Shongwe informed the court that he was on his way to buy bags at Quick-Feed.

He said when he reached the stop sign just near the train track he looked both sides to convince himself that there was no oncoming train.

He said he didn't see anything not even the people who usually man traffic when a train is approaching.

The accused said he decided to

drive on and just when he was crossing the railway track he saw a train approaching and he tried to avoid it by accelerating so that he could avoid being hit.

He said the next thing he remembers was his car spinning in midair. He said fearing that the car was going to burst into flames he released his seatbelt and jumped out while the car was still in motion.

Shongwe said the car continued on its own and halted at a nearby gas factory. After listening to the submission by the accused, the magistrate expressed amazement on how the accused survived such a nasty accident which seemed like a scene from a movie.

The magistrate further noted that such accidents are very rare. When asked if he was alone in the car the accused answered to the affirmative.

In mitigation, Shongwe pleaded with the court to be lenient when passing sentence. When asked if the train was damaged during the accident the accused informed the court that he didn't see anything. Shongwe was sentenced into six months imprisonment with a fine option of E600.

## Ex-Minister's corruption trial now set for September

By Sandile Nkambule  
High Court

**FORMER Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister Senator Sibusiso Shongwe's corruption trial has now been set for September.**

Yesterday High Court Judge Mbutfo Mamba allocated the trial date to September 25, 2018 as he met both the crown and defence attorneys in his chambers.

Representing Shongwe in the matter is senior attorney Lucky Howe while the crown is represented by Principal Crown Counsel Thabo Dlamini. Shongwe is charged with contravening the Prevention of Corruption Act of 2006.

The trial had been initially set for March 5, before Judge Mamba and the last time he appeared before court, the matter was allocated 10 days.

Shongwe's case is amongst those that are expected to be finalised before the close of the last session of the High Court.

The matter has been postponed at least three times now as initial-

ly, the former minister, now senator, had his trial dates allocated by High Court which were August 7, 2017, and the last date which had been allocated was August 17, 2017, but the matter was postponed to the first session of the High Court this year which was March 5, 2018.

The former minister was in 2014 arrested in connection to E2 million that was found in his law firm's trust account, which he allegedly failed to disclose its source when requested to do so by ACC Investigators.

His law firm practices under the style Sibusiso B Shongwe and Associates and is based in Mbabane.

Already there has been a pre-trial conference for the legislator and the crown is expected to parade its witnesses. Corruption related cases are being expedited by the courts following the appointment of more Judges of the High Court and that the subsequent appointment of a permanent full bench of Judges of the Supreme Court.

Already the E50 million case has been concluded with three convicted and sentenced to 10 and four years respectively.



# MAN GRABS GIRL (5) FROM MOTHER, RAPES HER

## COVER STORY

By Starsky Mkhonta  
Nhlangano

**WHILE** senators are engaged in petty politics with regards the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill debate, young girls and women continue to be brutally violated physically and sexually.

The Bill aims to protect women from sexual and physical abuse but disturbingly, it has stalled in Senate after it was approved by the House of Assembly. Semantics appear to be the delaying factor of the Bill being passed.

As the legislators run in circles, a life of a young girl aged five will never be the same after she was grabbed from

*...Doctors examined her and found that indeed there was penetration but it was not that deep. She was given medication that has to do with infection and pain. I am still terrified and scared for my daughter's safety even now. It's a trauma that would haunt her for a long time as she was also threatened with death when she screamed for help*

her mother before being dragged into a bush by a monster that sexually violated her.

The petrifying incident happened on Monday around Mahlalini, an area in the outskirts of Nhlangano.

The toddler was accompanying her mother to a neighbour's homestead when the man emerged from a thicket.

He grabbed the child and disappeared with her in the thicket where he sexually violated her.

Information gathered is that it was around 4pm when the mother took a walk to a neighbour's home with her five-year-old daughter. The young girl walked a couple of steps ahead of her mother who was carrying another child.

Community members suspect that the heartless man could be one of the gangs that abuse drugs, in particular dagga.

### Cellphone

According to the girl's mother who cannot be mentioned to protect the violated child, they were going to fetch a



cellphone from the neighbour's homestead they had taken for charging.

"We were going to fetch a cellphone from the neighbour's homestead where we always take it for charging.

"It is not far away from our home but because the pathway is surrounded by shrubs and bushy vegetation, it's not easy to see the one you are following and in the case of my daughter, she walked in the front and just vanished from my eyes. At first I just thought she had proceeded straight to the homestead without assuming anything strange could have befallen her," she narrated.

The saddened mother said in that maze she heard her daughter scream but could not locate where the screams came from.

She said her attempts to call out her daughter's name did not work as there was no response.

She said for a moment she lost her mind and while she contemplated her next move, a stranger emerged from the thicket with her teary daughter in tow.

"There she was with the stranger emerging from the bush. I did not hesitate as I personally confronted the man and just when I got hold of him, he slipped and was swallowed by the bush again," she said.

The mother said her shaken daughter bore all the signs of a person who had been sexually violated.

She quickly checked on her and

her fears were confirmed, her daughter had been raped.

The terrified mother raised an alarm that community members responded to promptly and combed the forest in search of the monster with the hope that he was still in the vicinity.

### Caught

Indeed, he was spotted and just when the residents thought they had caught him, he slipped again leaving his bewildered captors holding his stinky jacket.

The mother said police were alerted but the excuse they gave was that there was no vehicle at the police station as they were all assigned to the ongoing elections registration process.

She said it was then that an ambulance from 977 arrived and the child was rushed to hospital.

"Doctors examined her and found that indeed there was penetration but it was not that deep.

"She was given medication that has to do with infection and pain. I am still terrified and scared for my daughter's safety even now. It's a trauma that would haunt her for a long time as she was also threatened with death when she screamed for help," said the mother.

Police mouthpiece Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the incident and further stated that there has been no arrest as the suspect managed to escape when means were made to apprehend him.

## Moi Moi: A husband will never rape his wife

Stories by Lungelo Nkambule  
Mbabane

**CLAUSE 151** of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill continued to be a hot topic yesterday during the deputy prime minister's office Senate portfolio committee debate of the proposed legislation.

The clause which reads "marital or other relationship, previous or existing, shall not provide a defence to any offence under this Act" sparked a hot debate in the upper chamber.

There were senators who were of the view that the clause should be removed completely from the Bill. These senators argued that rape did not exist in marriage, hence this clause belittled the institution of marriage and if this clause was left in the Bill that would eventually be enacted into an Act, could create confusion and also break marriages.

Senator Moi Moi Masilela said from where he was standing the clause had to be removed.

He said the sole purpose of marriage was to engage in sexual intercourse whenever one felt like.

He said women during sexual intercourse initiation or foreplay had the tendency of not giving in easily and they would do that after a lot of begging and convincing.

He was worried that if the Bill was

left as it is, many married men would find themselves behind bars.

"Generally women do not give in easily nor do they initiate sexual intercourse, we men initiate and further convince women by begging and touching them in the right places to engage in sexual intercourse with us. I worry that this clause will allow women to run to report their husbands accusing them of rape every chance they get when that wasn't exactly what had happened. Women that say husbands rape them are those that don't want to submit to husbands. While making laws we must be cognisant of our customs as Emaswati. This clause suits people who are married through civil rites because divorce exists in the white context. White people long accepted that people can fall out of love, something that our culture does not recognise hence there is no divorce in our culture," he said.

Senator Lindiwe Ngwenya, on the other hand, disagreed with Masilela.

She said the clause was necessary to protect women against their husbands who didn't understand that a wife had a right to say no to sexual intercourse. She said a woman was not a sex machine, therefore, there were times when she didn't feel like it. She further said the senators' attitude towards the clause was worrying.

"The attitude of fellow senators is worrying. I am tempted to think that



**NOT POSSIBLE: Senator Moi Moi Masilela.**

you are animals at home," she said.

These remarks didn't sit well with the male senators and Senator Themba Ginindza, who was sitting in front of Ngwenya, was heard saying; "Our wives aren't like you."

Senator Princess Phumelele asked that the clause be revisited.

Seeing that the clause was rubbing the senators the wrong way, Chairperson of the committee Senator Lungile Gama suggested that the senators skip it.

"Can I suggest honourable senators that we skip this clause; we will come back to it together with the others (clauses) that we skipped at a later date," she said.

Senator Prince Fipha, who since the beginning of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill debate argued that the definition of rape was very shallow, yesterday pointed this out.

Making his point, the senator said in the Bill rape was defined as an unlawful act with a person and, therefore, this couldn't take place in a marriage because this was a lawful commitment between two people.

## How do men prove they were raped? - Prince

**"WHILE** women can see a medical practitioner to prove that there was forced penetration in their private parts how do men prove that they were forced to engage in sexual activities?"

This was a question posed by Senator Prince Kekela yesterday in Parliament during the portfolio committee debate of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill.

Prince Kekela said women were not the only ones who were victims of rape but men were raped too by other men and women.

He said there had been cases of raped

men reported in the media.

"I understand that women would go to medical practitioners to prove that there was forced penetration. What happens when a man is raped? How does he prove it to the police that he had been raped?" he asked.

### Revisited

He advised that this must be revisited because it was giving the idea that men cannot be raped when in actual fact they could.

He further said the law needed to protect men from women who used 'rape' to punish men.

"Some men are in jail for rape but

when you follow the case they didn't rape these women as it was consensual but out of spite the women reported them for rape," he said.

Senator Bonisile Mngomezulu concurred with him, narrating that in her time while serving as a wardress at His Majesty's Correctional Services, a man was remanded for allegedly raping his ex-girlfriend but was acquitted a year later when it finally came out that the woman had lied.

"What happens when a woman out of spite reports a man for rape when in actual fact she had consented?" she asked.

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## 4 NATIONAL NEWS

By Mbono Mdluli  
Mbabane

A child was found dumped in a dustbin yesterday evening in one of the streets of Mbabane.

The child, who looked a few days old, was found wrapped in a black refuse bag and thrown into a dustbin at the traffic circle along Gwamile Street.

The child was found by a young man estimated to be in his 20s. The young man, who did not want to reveal his name, said he heard a sound of a crying child coming from the dustbin. The child was found at about 7pm.

"I was walking past the traffic circle when I heard the sound of a crying baby coming from the dustbin. I could not believe it at first, but upon hearing the sound, I went to find out what it was because I could not think it could be a child. I thought it was a cat maybe," he said. He further stated that upon opening the black plastic bag, he was shocked to find that it was a child.

He then took the child and gave it to security guards from 4Him Security Services, who are stationed at the Municipal Council of Mbabane.

Personnel from the Emergency Medical Services (popularly known as paramedics) were called to take the child to hospital for further examination.

Police were also called to record some statements on the incident. They had not arrived at the time of compiling this report.

# MOTHER PUTS BABY IN REFUSE BAG, DUMPS IT IN DUSTBIN



**MUNTU MUNTU:** Paramedics admiring the child which was dumped in a dustbin next to the traffic circle along Gwamile Street last evening. They rushed the child to Mbabane Government Hospital. **2. HERE:** The dustbin where the child was found by a young man estimated to be in his 20s. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

## Central Bank GM takes Majozi to court over DC

Stories by Sandile Nkambule  
Industrial Court

A general manager (GM) of financial regulation at Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS) has taken the Governor Majozi Sithole to court where he is challenging the governor's decision to take him to a disciplinary hearing.

Mbongiseni Nkambule is also seeking an order that the governor, deputy governor and assistant attend and file a report on how the concerns he raised have been addressed as per the Executive Committee resolution of March 27, 2018.

Further, he is seeking an order that his suspension from work be declared unlawful and declaring the governor's action or conduct of preferring charges against him as *ultra vires* premature and should be quashed and set aside.

Initially, Nkambule lodged an appeal at the Industrial Court of Appeal after the Industrial Court held that it does not have jurisdiction to hear and adjudicate over the application brought by him, stating that the chairperson of the disciplinary hearing can issue declaratory orders.

He has now brought the application which was yesterday before Industrial Court Judge Abande Dlamini.

He stated that he also expunged the minutes attached to his affidavit without notice as contemplated by the rule of court and in so doing, the court struck



**TAKEN TO COURT:** CBS Governor Majozi Sithole

out all the contents leaving the application at a disadvantage.

He submitted that the application is urgent and it cannot be afforded redress in due processes based on reasons that stopping the respondent from proceeding with the disciplinary enquiry such that his appeal may become academic because its purpose is to uphold the position that a chairperson of a hearing cannot issue declaratory orders as he only recommends unless a disci-

plinary code or any other policy stipulates otherwise.

He submitted that the appeal may be overtaken by events if the disciplinary action which he complains of its unlawfulness is allowed to proceed.

He stated that there is no way redress can be obtained at this stage save for waiting for the adjudication of the matter at appeal and further stated that the respondent has made additional charges on the basis that he attached minutes of the Executive Committee on the initial legal proceedings as though he has published same which shows that the governor is all out on him.

He submitted that there is nowhere a person can be denied his right to approach a court of law in seeking redress, arguing that in the advent of the constitutional dispensation, courts should be slow to tolerate and entertain the old notion of the absolute power of disciplinary at the workplace, adding that there must be checks and balances.

"I submit that I have a clear right to prosecute this action which right is sourced from Section 19 (4) of the Industrial Relations Act and the relief sought herein will protect my right against being subjected to gross unfair labour practice which gave rise to the dismissed application," Nkambule submitted.

He stated that there was no other alternative remedy obtainable elsewhere besides the honourable court, adding that he may suffer irreparable harm if the stay of the disciplinary hearing is

## Chairperson has requisite jurisdiction for declaratory orders- Central Bank

**ACCORDING to the Central Bank of Swaziland, the chairperson of the Disciplinary tribunal has the requisite jurisdiction to make declaratory orders.**

According to Bonsiwe Masuku, who is the General Manager Corporate Services, the primary relief sought by the applicant was an interdict and the application fell short of peremptory requirements.

With respect to the question as to whether a chairperson can declare a particular procedure or institution of disciplinary charges unlawful, the court was correct that the chairperson has the requisite jurisdiction.

She submitted that the crisp issue in the present application is the absence of prospects of success on appeal and the absence of irreparable harm and the notion of injustice.

Masuku stated that the applicant can appear before the chairman of the disciplinary hearing and make representations, including on the issues he has indicated he wishes to challenge and should the chairman dismiss those objections and in circumstances where he commits a renewable

irregularity, then the applicant has a competent remedy of approaching the Industrial Court, highlighting that the court cannot usurp the functions and powers of an employer to institute discipline.

Masuku denied that the applicant can suffer irreparable harm and prejudice, arguing that he is required to demonstrate in terms of the law the potentiality of irreparable harm or prejudice if the application for stay is not granted.

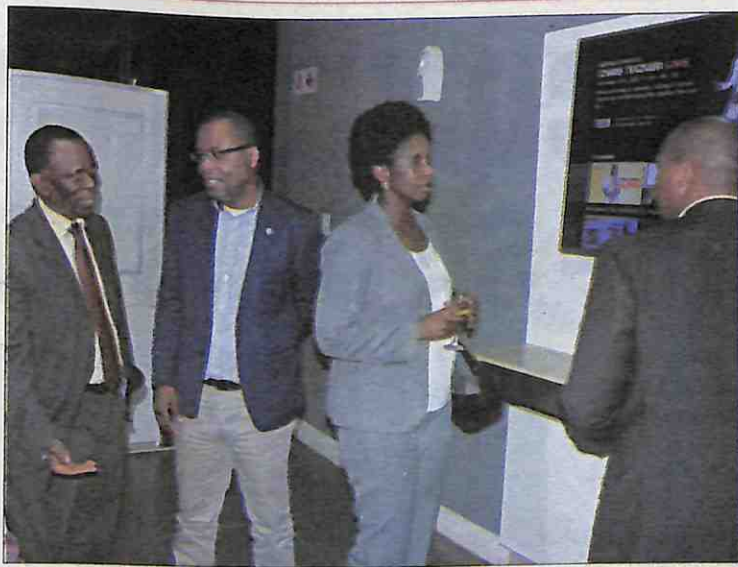
"The mere contention that the appeal would become academic does not address the question of the irreparability of harm and the right of appeal is not disputed, however, it is not the mere exercise of the right that warrants the grant of a stay," Masuku submitted. She submitted that the applicant can appear before the disciplinary enquiry and request for a postponement pending finalisation of the present matter before court, adding that the chairperson of the hearing who is seized with the matter has the requisite jurisdiction to grant or refuse such a request for postponement.

not granted as he may be subjected to proceedings which he is questioning its legality.

He submitted that the balance of convenience favours that the

stay be granted and that there is no way the respondent may be prejudiced by a court process, adding that he has prospects of success in the application.





**THIS IS HOW IT WORKS:** Mbabane Municipal councillor and former Mayor Sikhatsi Dlamini listens attentively as a Swazi Mobile employee explains how the latest gadgets operate during the corporate event held at the Swazi Mobile offices on Tuesday evening. 2. **MINGLING:** Swazi Mobile CEO Jeff Penberton in a brief discussion with Sandile 'Chief' Dlamini while Nozizwe Mulela finds out more about the products. 3. Swazi Mobile's Benedict Bennett and Inhlonhla Holdings CEO Mbuso Simelane in a conversation. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

# SWAZI MOBILE HOSTS COMPANY EXECUTIVES

...We know you might have contractual agreements and that's okay, all we are saying is that when the time comes for you to renew them remember you are spoilt for choice

By Observer Reporter  
Mbabane

SWAZI Mobile on Tuesday night hosted different company executives in a bid to update them on the services the company is offering.

Making the presentation, Sales Manager Benedict Bennett said the company was wanted to give its clients a first world experience. Bennett informed the executives of the recently launched

cheaper roaming services called 'anywhere smCall'.

He said people who use this service could spend as little as E20 while roaming in different places in the world just as long as they had WiFi. "All you do is download the smCall application from the Android store, register with your Swazi Mobile number and load units for calling at any experience centre. When you leave the country you activate it and load as little as E20 airtime," he said.

Swazi Mobile is the second mobile network company in the country that went live a year ago. Programme Director on the night, Chief Consumer Officer Gciniwe Fakudze, said the purpose of the event was to network and remind the executives that they had a choice now.

"We know you might have contractual agreements and that's okay, all we are saying is that when the time comes for you to renew them remember you are spoilt for choice," she said.



**WOW:** Some of the guests being shown the latest gadgets by Swazi Mobile staff members.



**TOP MANAGEMENT:** Gciniwe Fakudze introduces members of the Swazi Mobile top management. They are; Enock Dube, Wandile Mtshali, CEO Jeff Penberton, Genius Sihlongonyane and Velile Malinga.



**AT YOUR SERVICE:** A section of the Swazi Mobile members of staff.



SWAZILAND HOSPICE AT HOME  
"SIKHONELA WENA"  
"HERE TO HELP"



## AGM POSTPONED

Due to reasons beyond our control, The Friends of Hospice Membership, Hospice Executive Board Members, all our Invited Guest and all interested stakeholders are hereby notified that the Swaziland Hospice At Home Annual General Meeting (AGM) will now be held on:

**Date:** 9 June 2018

**Venue:** Swaziland Hospice at Home -Matsapha Premises

**Time:** 1:30 PM

Members are advised to keep time.

For more information, kindly contact 7605 2381.

Statement issued by the Chairperson of the Board



## 6 NATIONAL NEWS

# FINANCE BILL COMPROMISES HUMAN RIGHTS - SA CONSULTANT

Stories by Samkelisiwe Khoza  
Ezulwini

**THE Finance Bill of 2018 compromises basic human rights causing corporate tax dodging that drives extreme inequality, making the rich richer and the poor poorer.**

South African Amnesty International Consultant, Theminkosi Dlamini said this during the Consultative Dialogue of the Finance Bill hosted by the Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO) in collaboration with the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace at Sibane Hotel yesterday.

The consultant said corporate tax dodging is caused by political capture, revolving door of influence whereby governments let big business rig tax rules in their favour.

Dlamini mentioned that citizens have an obligation to pay taxes but also a right to know, influence and benefit from how their money is being

spent. He said over-charging for civic services as proposed in the Finance Bill of 2018 might be counterproductive and lead to the Kingdom sliding backwards in a number of key social indicators.

He added that state legitimacy and effectiveness, including wise budget planning and expenditure, strongly influences citizens' willingness to pay taxes. "Public budgets are a central tool to the planning realisation and evaluation of human rights policies," he said. Furthermore, he highlighted that public budget enable the progressive fulfillment of human rights. Government has the obligation to maximise resources to achieve the realisation of their human rights commitments.

"Unfair tax systems undermine human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination," he said.

Tax haven governments facilitate tax avoidance and evasion depriving the people and governments of other countries of the revenue they used to



**PARTICIPANTS:** Some of the people who took part in the Consultative Dialogue on the Finance Bill of 2018 held at the Sibane Hotel yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

deliver on their human rights commitments. Moreover, the consultant jogged memories, saying the Kingdom of Eswatini scored poorly in the 2017-Open Budget Survey, the world's only independent, comparative assessment of the three pillars of public budget accountability; transparency, oversight and public participation.

"Eswatini seems to have missed most of the targets it set in the 2013-2018 development unusual programme of action," he said.

Meanwhile, Dlamini shared possible solutions that can be considered, saying having the potential to reduce or reinforce social and gender inequality by redistributing wealth and income,

reflect governments' social and economic policy priorities.

Dlamini said the government of Eswatini needs to stop rigged rules that allow a race to the bottom and companies to benefit at the expense of the poorest people. "The government needs to also support calls for an intergovernmental body for tax cooperation like some of a World Tax Authority where all countries have an equal say," he suggested.

"It should also be agreed to increase tax cooperation, capacity development and end tax competition between countries and also create a roadmap towards a fairer future tax system which could include steps to ensuring that companies pay tax where economic value is created and see an eradicating tax havens."

He moved on saying fair taxation, international aid budgets under threat and with the risk that government debt will become unsustainable in many countries.

"Increasing the capacity of tax authorities, ensuring tax systems are progressive and clamping down on illicit financial flows could all yield significant amounts."

Lastly, Dlamini mentioned beneficial ownership as the real person who ultimately owns, controls or benefits from a company or trust fund and the income it generates (Transparency International).

## 'Overtaxing, humiliating the poor, not God's purpose'

**OVERTAXING of the poor and humiliating them against the rich is never God's purpose for mankind, which is the inclusivity of his people in all spheres of life and even in finances of their country.**

This is according to Council of Swaziland Churches' Human Rights and Advocacy Officer, Vusi Kunene during the consultative Dialogue on the Finance Bill of 2018.

Kunene said taxes are supposed to help balance the difference between the have and the have-not so that even the have-not should enjoy living and that is why the scripture says the church is made of different parts. "Why are so many taxes

that are going to affect the poor introduced?" he posed.

The advocacy officer continued asking whether in that way the poor are not made more poor instead of lifting them up. "If the taxes or the service fees are going to cripple the poor then the government is failing in bringing about God's purpose for mankind.

Poverty in the midst of those who have, takes away the dignity of a human being," he mentioned.

Kunene clarified saying the church is not against the paying of taxes because Jesus himself commanded people to pay taxes and Jesus forfeited taxes.

"Give Caesar what belongs to Caesar,"

he quoted.

Moreover, Kunene said the church is the prophetic voice of the state and therefore should speak to those who are overtaxing the people and must hold the people's hand as they cry about taxes.

"The church cannot pray alone and think that is enough without action, which includes voicing the cry of the poor on taxes," he said.

Meanwhile, Kunene explicated reiterating a plea to those in power, saying it is not that people should not be made to pay taxes but the overtaxing is the problem. "May the Almighty God forgive us for failing to hold the hands of the needy and walk with them," he concluded.

## Finance Bill policies not clear – FSE & CC

**THE Finance Bill of 2018 is not clear on its policies and its targets.**

This was said by Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce's Trade and Business Support Coordinator, Musa Maseko during the consultative dialogue on the Finance Bill of 2018.

The Bill is not thoroughly analysed on some policies on saving for ordinary consumers. "Are we promoting saving or are we just focused on increasing the country's economy," wondered Maseko.

He said the Kingdom of Eswatini needs to have a public panel discussion on the finances of country where the public can have the lever-

age to voice out their concerns. "Eswatini needs to engage in serious and urgent policy and legislative reforms-including the outstanding review of the Public Finance Management Act," he said.

Maseko said a mismatch between government revenues and expenditure now and in the forcible future is avoidable at times.

He went on to say over optimistic revenue projections on account of anticipated policy reforms, what exactly does it mean?

He moved on saying a huge budget deficit that requires financing either domestic or foreign debt, spurs inflation is a tax on the poor.

## Heated debate on human rights, taxes

**A heated panel discussion revolved on the issues of human rights as well as high taxes effects especially on the poor.**

The panel included Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA), Council of Swaziland Churches, Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce (FSE&CC) as well as a consultant.

FSE&CC's Trade and Business Support Coordinator, Musa Maseko said there was a need to put the citizens at the centre of government in order to strengthen the social contact between state and citizen-linking tax development outcomes. TUCOSWA member of the National Executive Committee, Fundizwi Sikhondze said a country by country reporting mandatory disclosure of payments made all levels of government potentially more.

Council of Swaziland Churches' Human Rights and Advocacy Officer Vusi Kunene said they should advocate that "poor should not be overtaxed by collectors should be hon-



**FOLLOWING:** Part of the participants during the dialogue yesterday.

est as the Holy Scripture mentions.

Meanwhile, Theminkosi Dlamini, from Consultant Amnesty International South Africa, said domestic taxation will be the most important source of revenue to fund public investments.

In conclusion, the panel agreed that the country needs to have the potential to reduce or reinforce social and gender inequality by redistributing wealth and income. They agreed that unfair

tax systems undermine human rights principles of equality commitments. **Ways in which the government should raise funds were shared.**

● Non tax revenue can be user fees only the user pays principles should apply.

● Rules of thumb with user fees is cost recovery basis equivalent to the cost of providing the service.

● Tax revenue can be tax on income.

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Applicants who are interested and believe they meet the above requirements should forwards their detailed CV to

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Doc181E



# 2-MONTH-OLD BABY LEFT ALONE IN HOUSE FOR WHOLE NIGHT, DIES

...mother arrested and charged under the Child Protection Act.

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

A 36-year-old woman of Mbikwakhe has been arrested after she left a two-month-old baby alone in a house for a whole night, resulting to the death of the infant.

Thandaza Nokwethu Matse was arrested by Sgodweni police and she appeared at the Matsapha Circuit Court before Magistrate Mthokozisi Dlamini yesterday. She was charged with contravening the Child Protection Act of 2012.

During her court appearance, her rights to legal representation were read and the accused elected to conduct her

own defence.

According to the court record, it is said the accused is charged with contravening Section 48 (1) of The Children Protection and Welfare Act 6/2012 in that on 20 May, while at Mbikwakhe, the accused person abandoned her minor child Lindo\*, a two-month-old baby alone inside a house the whole night without making provision for supervision and care for the child, who was then found dead.

The accused was not made to enter a plea on the charges levelled against her as the prosecutor Fakazi Mngomezulu made an application that she be remanded into police custody pending commitment to the High Court.

Normally people who are charged

with neglecting their babies are tried by the magistrate and can also make bail application at the Magistrate's Courts, however, in this instance the prosecutor informed the accused that should she want to apply for bail she must do so at the High Court.

## Charge

The prosecutor said the reason was because the charge might be amended as the court was still trying to ascertain if the death of the child could be attributed to the abandonment by her parent who left her alone for the whole night.

The accused was then remanded into police custody pending her next court appearance next Wednesday at the Matsapha Circuit Court.

## Boy (16) stabs younger brother (13) in fight over school socks

By Sizwe Dlamini  
Pigg's Peak

A family of Msumphe is struggling to come to terms with a case of a minor (13) who was stabbed by his own brother (16).

It has been said the stabbing, although only skin deep, could have been much worse if the mother of the two boys had not involved herself during the very heated fight. The incident happened yesterday morning at a homestead located past Msumphe.

Sources revealed that both brothers had consumed some dagga popcorns with their friends the night before the fight. The names of both the minors have been withheld for ethical reasons. Interviewed by this publication yesterday afternoon, well-placed sources said the dagga was still in the boys' system when the fight occurred.

"The information we currently have is that the boys started to fight over school socks; an argument which then got heated due to the fact that the father at the homestead had already departed early for work. During the fight, the younger brother produced a pocket knife that was

quickly dispatched to the floor by the older brother," he said.

The fight then went on resulting in the older brother picking up the knife and eventually stabbing his younger brother in the stomach.

At this point, the mother barged into the room and separated the fighting sons. The injured brother was then rushed to the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital by his mother and the young man received two stitches," added the source.

When approached for comment at the hospital, the boys' mother told this publication that she did not want to report the matter to the police.

She also preferred that it was not reported by the media. Pigg's Peak police later said the matter was not reported. The source said both boys needed counselling because this could impact in their lives in future.

"The young men needed some counselling to avoid this type of violence, especially if it is suspected that they smoke dagga at their tender age." Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed that the matter had not been reported to the police at the time of compiling this story.

## Africa faced with corruption – Bible Society

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

THE Bible Society of Eswatini has noted with concern the challenge of corruption which is faced by African countries.

This was raised during the welcoming dinner for the Eighth Edition of the Swaziland African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI) which took place at The George Hotel yesterday.

The main event of the Swaziland African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI) will take place at Royal Swazi Spa, starting from September 25 to 28.

Yesterday, some of the guests who will be making their presentations during the event later this year shared what they have for the country.

Bible Society Eswatini Chief Executive Officer Ngebo Mbuli, making his remarks during the event, said the biggest challenge facing Africa was corruption. He said the Bible has solutions which can be taken and applied into Christians' businesses. Mbuli said some members were running faith based institutions and other businesses, adding that as Bible Society they realised that once someone has a Bible it was not enough, thus as a Society they had a responsibility to unpack the Word to that person.

He said due to changing times as Bible Society they needed to change their approach and make it more progressive. He said as Christians they were faced with a lot of challenges at their workplaces such as corruption, fraud and other work related challenges.

He said it was for that reason that they saw it fit to meet with other leaders and come together to discuss ideas on how to forge a way forward.

He said the event (ABLI) scheduled for September was a forum where leaders from all over the world would come together to share experiences and be equipped on serving effectively in public office.



ALSO THERE: A section of those who attended the dinner hosted by Bible Society of Eswatini.

## 'Church leaders very influential people in African societies'

AN African leadership study conducted by Robert J Priest and Kirimi Barine has revealed that church leaders and churches are the most influential people and organisations in the country.

The study was done on African communities.

This is what will be shared during the upcoming ABLI seminar to be

held in late September. Barine shared this and other few findings they made during the study he conducted with his partner. He said he would be unpacking more of such during the event in September. Some interesting findings shared by Barine during the dinner yesterday were that 60 to 70 per cent of churches in Africa were made up of women, but sur-

prisingly enough, only 20 per cent of these women were in leadership positions.

## DEATH NOTICE



PRINCE JOHN NDUBUISI DURU

Friends and relatives of Prince John Ndubuisi Duru are notified of his demise.

Memorial service will be held at Mater Dolorosa Church in Mbabane on Friday, 25th May 2018 at 2pm.

Announcement by wife.



REMARKS: Bible Society of Eswatini CEO Ngebo Mbuli making his remarks during the event.

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## 8 NATIONAL NEWS

# DR HUBER FOUNDATION OPENS NEW BOREHOLE AT NDZINGENI TOMORROW

By Sizwe Dlamini  
Pigg's Peak

DR Huber Foundation, which is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), will be opening a new borehole at Ndzingeni Umphakatsi tomorrow.

This is the third borehole that has been dug at Ndzingeni by the foundation within a space of two years.

The digging of the borehole costs about E30 000 and it started yesterday morning and is expected to be completed by tomorrow.

Speaking to this publication yesterday, Secretary of the Foundation Nomahlubi Dlamini said the borehole will provide about 200 people with safe drinking water.

"The people of Ndzingeni have been lacking a safe drinking water source for many years, as you know we, as an organisation, have already unveiled other boreholes in the area.

These have aided a multitude of locals but it is important to note that Ndzingeni is a very vast area and these areas stretch as far north as Bulandzeni.

That is why we felt that another borehole was needed in the area so that the residents don't have to travel long distances to use the other two boreholes.

Unfortunately, at many rural homesteads, children and women walk long distances to fetch water, as an organi-



**FOR A GOOD CAUSE:** Dr Huber with Secretary of the DR Huber foundation Nomahlubi Dlamini will be unveiling another new borehole at the Endzingeni Umphakatsi on Friday. (Pic: Sizwe Dlamini)

sation we are hoping that this new borehole will alleviate some of the pressures brought on by the lack of a proper water source in the area," she said.

Also at the unveiling of the new bore-

hole, we will have Dr Huber who will unveil the borehole for us, we will start at the Ndzingeni Umphakatsi and then we will take locals to the new borehole in the afternoon," she added.



## Woman (55) arrested for dagga possession

By Sandile Nkambule  
High Court

A 55-year-old woman has been arrested for being found in illegal possession of 57 kilograms of the illegal herb.

Sithembile Sithole of Gasa area in the Hhohho region was nabbed by the police while conveying the habit forming drug and subsequently charged for contravening the Pharmacy Act.

Represented by lawyer Sabelo 'chicken' Dlamini, she was yesterday arraigned before the High Court where she appeared before Judge Mzwandile Fakudze as she filed an urgent application for bail.

With the crown not opposing her

bail application, she was admitted to bail fixed at E15 000, however Judge Fakudze ordered that the E10 000 shall be in a form of a surety.

### Proceedings

With her relatives having crammed Court B as they had come for the court proceedings, they immediately rushed to the Treasury Department after having obtained the relevant documents from the Criminal Registry and paid the bail and she was released from custody by noon yesterday.

Meanwhile another man Mongi Dlamini was also admitted to bail fixed at E15 000 for contravening the same Pharmacy Act and he too was ordered to pay E5 000 cash with the rest in a form of a surety.



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# 18 PENSIONERS GRADUATE IN BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS

By Sabelo Majola  
Mbabane

**GOVERNMENT** pensioners proved that learning has no timeframe nor is it made for the young as 18 of them graduated in Microsoft Office and Basic Computer Skills.

The pensioners assembled at the Mbabane National Library yesterday to get their certificates from Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) acting Principal Secretary Bheki Gama and Swaziland National Library Services (SNLS) Director Jabu Hlophe.

The initiative was implemented by the SNLS and the course took place at the Mbabane National Library. They started their course on September 11 last year and completed on February 21.

Making her remarks during the ceremony, Hlophe said being a pensioner does not mean that people are of no use but one has to keep up with the times and familiarise themselves with the relevant tools in the technological era.

"Times have changed as we are now in a technology era and a lot of information that can come very handy to the pensioners is found in the different social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Google and many others.

It is for that reason that we offered the pensioners a chance to take up this course and familiarise themselves with relevant surroundings in terms of technology. This was just the first group as we

...The pensioners were assembled at the Mbabane National Library yesterday to get their certificates from Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) acting Principal Secretary Bheki Gama and SNLS Director Jabu Hlophe



**GRADUATES:** The 18 pensioners who graduated in Microsoft Office and Basic Computer Skills posing with Ministry of ICT acting Principal Secretary Bheki Gama while displaying their certificates at Mbabane National Library yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

can only afford to house a small number but another group will soon be commencing on the same course again," she said.

Mbabane Branch Pensioners Chairman Osvart Sukati, who was also among the graduates, expressed their gratefulness to SNLS for the platform and said government should not be wasting large sums in budget on consultants as they

can use the pensioners for consultations, thus save a lot.

"There are a combination of experts here that have vast knowledge in different spheres and government should be doing her consultations with us instead of having to waste a lot of funds on consultation companies," he said. Acting PS Gama also shared the same sentiments and challenged the pensioners to



**HERE:** One of the pensioners Prisca Dlamini accepting her certificate from Ministry of ICT acting Principal Secretary Bheki Gama.



**ME TOO:** Former St. Mark's High School Principal Dominic Nxumalo receiving his certificate from Gama.

continue with studying as things are centred around technology nowadays.

Also getting a certificate was for-

mer St Mark's Principal Dominic Nxumalo, who is the General Secretary of the Mbabane Branch of Pensioners.

**FOR YOU:**  
Stephen Mavuso accepting his certificate from Gama.



## Selling dagga keeps me away from serious crimes - Accused

By Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

**AN accused person, who was arrested for possession of dagga, left the court stunned when he stated that selling the illegal herb kept him away from committing more serious crimes.**

Mlandvo Ndzinisa (34) was appearing before Senior Magistrate Donald Mavuso, where he faced a charge of contravening the Opium Act. He was said to have wrongfully and unlawfully possessed dagga weighing 1.58 kilograms.

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused person pleaded guilty. His plea was subsequently accepted by the Crown without leading evidence to prove commission of the offence. During mitigation, the accused first asked the court to be lenient when passing sentence, saying he was unemployed. He stated that he intended to sell the dagga so that he could get some money to bring food on the table for his family.

The accused person said he resolved to sell-

ing dagga after failing to get employment for the past years. He said he was aware that this was against the law, but it was the only thing that kept him away from committing serious crimes. Court records indicate that the accused person is fresh from serving six years in a correctional facility for a string of house breaking and theft charges.

"This is the least I could do to survive, otherwise I could have committed more serious crimes," he said, much to the amusement of the people who were in the gallery.

Meanwhile, the accused further informed the court that police assaulted him during the arrest. He alleged that the police believed he had more dagga in his house, but they eventually failed to get it.

When issuing judgment, the senior magistrate advised the accused person to first work on getting a licence permitting him to sell dagga.

Mavuso said in the meantime, possession of dagga remained one of the serious crimes in the country. Ndzinisa was eventually sentenced to five months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 500 fine.



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#### Request for Proposal

##### Design and Supervision Consultancy Service TENDER No. SWADE/0370

Proposals are invited for Design and Supervision Consultancy Service for SMLP/CSARL implementation. The RfP document can be obtained from Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 from 830hrs to 1600hrs at SWADE Head Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, MVA Building, Mhlabi Street, Mbabane, Swaziland.

A compulsory clarification meeting and site inspection with Consultants will be conducted in two(2) days at the following places:

1. Ngololweni Site - meeting at SandleniInkhundla at 10:00 a.m., on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018
2. Nceka Site - meeting at SWADE Siphofaneni Main Office at 9:00a.m., on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018
3. Ndinda Site - meeting at NAMBoard Encabeni Offices at 2:00p.m., on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018

The RfP document can also be obtained from our website: [www.swade.co.sz](http://www.swade.co.sz), and SPPRA's website at [www.sppra.co.sz](http://www.sppra.co.sz). Consultants are advised to pay an amount of E350.00 cash non-refundable. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheque made out to "SWADE" will be accepted. No documents will be sold after the site inspection.

The Proposals should be hand delivered and deposited in the Tender Box at the SWADE Main Office, no later than the Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 10:00a.m. Proposals will be accepted from companies which are registered and not individuals. Proposals should be signed and completed and accompanied by the following documents:

1. A Business Profile with Trade References
2. A certified copy of valid Tax Clearance Certificate
3. A current certified Copy of Trading License
4. A current certified Copy of Form J endorsed by Register of Companies
5. A current certified Copy of Form C endorsed by Register of Companies
6. Police Clearance Certificates for Director's Listed in Form C
7. A current certified Copy of Labour Compliance Certificate
8. A current certified copy of Construction Industry Council (CIC) Certificate
9. A current certified copy of Certificate of Incorporation
10. A current certified Copy of VAT Registration Certificate
11. Site Visit Attendance Certificate
12. Original SWADE Receipt of Tender Purchase
13. A document providing Power of Attorney
14. Curriculum Vitae for Consultant Team
15. Certified Copies of National IDs of Company's Directors
16. A current Copy of original Workman's Compensation Policy

Tenders must be sealed and addressed to the Chairman of the SWADE Tender Committee. A tender must remain open for a period of 120 days from closing date for the submission of tenders, during which period the tender may not be amended or withdrawn and may be accepted at any time by SWADE. Queries relating to the issue of these documents, administrative and technical matters may be addressed to e-mail [smlp-procurement@swade.co.sz](mailto:smlp-procurement@swade.co.sz).

Telegraphic, telephonic, telex, facsimile, e-mail and late tenders will not be accepted. SWADE will accept no responsibility for the late delivery of tenders by courier services or any other means. SWADE does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.



## 10 NATIONAL NEWS

# Tertiary institutions to get allowances month end

By Sabelo Majola  
Mbabane

**IN a quest to curb violence at universities caused by delay of allowances, the ministry of labour and social security has assured tertiary institutions that they will be getting their allowances before the end of the month.**

Students in most tertiary institutions have over the years opted for boycotting classes and engag-

ing in violence when their allowances are delayed which most often results to closure of the institution.

Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security Mkhalihi said since yesterday, some of the students had already been given their allowances while others will be getting them in the course of the month.

"We are hoping that by May 31 all the tertiary institutions will be sorted with their allowances so as to avoid the class boycotts

and violence's that erupt as a result of the delay in allowances," he said.

This assurance from the ministry came after complaints by some students from Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (LUCT) who claimed their allowances were due February but they have not yet received them.

They claim to have been handed a memo instead, that calls for them to provide particulars for purposes of upgrading study loan disbursement processes through filling a form.

Student Representative Council President at LUCT Benele Simelane said they did get the assurance from the ministry that they would be given their allowances this month and they were expecting it.

Meanwhile, the school's SRC, which is facing suspension for allegedly perpetrating a class boycott in March, went to a disciplinary hearing and they are awaiting the verdict as revealed by Simelane.

## SUICIDAL POSTURE

**JUST CHILLING: A man dangerously sits on top of the overhead bridge at Ndlunganye. This should be discouraged. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)**



## ASPIRANT INDVUNA REPORTED FOR DISTRIBUTING DAGGA SEEDS

By Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

**AN aspiring indvuna yenkhundla under Matsanjeni North Constituency is being accused of distributing dagga seeds to residents of Mahlahlane and Mhlabubovu.**

The matter is said to have been reported to the umphakatsi, where the residents demand that the aspiring indvuna be hauled before the council for reprimand.

Apparently, Mahlahlane and part of Mhlabubovu communities are known for the cultivation of dagga.

However, the dagga produced by the illegal farmers of the said areas is said to be of poor grade.

Information gathered has been to the effect that the aspiring candidate was distributing seeds from the Northern Hhohho trivial.

According to sources close to the matter, the distribution exercise would be undertaken during meetings which would be disguised as empowerment meetings for farmers.

Residents who are against the cultivation of dagga in the area are said to have viewed this as an act which could perpetrate moral decay in the area.

### Handful

A handful of residents who were interviewed on the matter confirmed knowing the said aspiring politician only as a person who has suddenly grown to be known for making random distribution of freebies.

"I happened to experience one of that person's distributions where she, distributed two cases of beer to a group of youth who were from playing football at a nearby sports ground," said a resident who claimed to have been part of the group.

He described the aspiring candidate as someone who had a good heart and always assisted mainly the youth in various spheres.

A senior member of the inner council who only wanted to be identified as Maziya also confirmed having received complaints to this effect.

Maziya said they have received an informal complaint from some residents about the aspiring politician's behaviour.

"The matter has not yet been discussed by the umphakatsi since some of us have been of the view that this could be a decampaigning stunt designed by other potential candidates," he said.

In the meantime, efforts to get a comment from Indvuna of the umphakatsi Moris Mbuli were unsuccessful as his mobile phone was not available on the MTN network.

## 'Quorum issues can be sorted by women'

Stories by Mbono Mdluli  
Lobamba

**THE thorny issue of failing to form a quorum by MPs can be sorted by the presence of women in Parliament, MP Thuli Dladla said in the House of Assembly.**

She was speaking on the importance of women involvement in Parliament. Dladla said women were diligent in their work and were very good helpers.

Dladla said MPs who would come from the same Inkhundla with the women would find it easy to work towards developing their Inkhundla. She urged MPs to ensure that the women Bill is passed so that everyone could benefit.

The involvement of women, according to Dladla, would ensure unprecedented progress in terms of representation, legislation and oversight.

"The quorum issues that are now a problem in this House can be sorted by the presence of women. Look at this from what I am doing. I am always in this House from start to finish," Dladla said.

Dladla was supported by MP Princess Ncengcenge, who also supported the Bill because many African countries had already adopted this practice. Eswatini would find it difficult to work if it did not adopt the practice.

Manzini North MP Jan Sithole said people should not take women for granted because they could do a lot for the country, if they were given the opportunity.

He then stated that women were originally made to become helpers of men because it was discovered that men's lives were miserable without the presence of women.

It would be a mistake to think of women as people who were not capable of doing something because they were helpers.



**WOMEN POWER: MP Thuli Dladla.**

No person can agree to be helped by someone who was of a low mental capacity. Women were helpers because they had strong mental capacity.

## 'ONLY NOMINATED WOMEN SHOULD BE ELECTED'

**NOMINATED women should be considered for elections only if the electorate did not elect 30 per cent of women to be in Parliament.**

This was a view expressed by Mkhweni MP Gideon Dlamini, who said such nominated women would be able to work diligently and with respect. He said the individuals who never had the experience of campaigning for elections and being elected have in the past proven to be a problem because they never worked in cooperation.

Cooperation, according to MP Gideon, was the cornerstone of the Tinkhundla system of governance. If people did not want to cooperate, they were working against the system.

The MP said in his constituency, people would just go and talk to certain organisations, without involving the MP, yet the MP was the one who had to sign for the organisations to be funded by government.

This was done by politicians who were never elected, some of whom were ministers. However, MP Princess Ncengcenge had a problem with the nomination prerequisite for women. She said this could prove to be a challenge for women because it was difficult to nominate women at



**MY VIEW: Mkhweni MP Gideon Dlamini.**

chiefdom level. Most women were married and had husbands.

This was a challenge because a man would sometimes not be happy when his wife was nominated by another man. Hosea MP Thulani Masuku also posed concerns regarding the nomination stating that it was a problem because it needed 10 supporters for the nominated person to be considered for primary elections.

## Finance Bill ready to be debated

**THE controversial Finance Bill, 2018 (Bill No.4 of 2018) is supposed to be debated anytime from now.**

This follows the tabling of the Bill on Monday by Minister for Education and Training Phineas Magagula.

He was acting for Minister for Finance Martin Dlamini, who was not present in the House of Assembly on Monday.

The purpose of the Bill is to impose and alter taxes, duties, levies, tolls and fees.

It is also there to amend certain enactments relating to taxes, duties, levies, tolls and fees and to provide for other matters related to tax matters.



# Batlokwa King appeals for Royal palace after visit to Eswatini

By Sabelo Majola  
Mbabane

**FOLLOWING** his recent visit to the Kingdom of Eswatini, Batlokwa's King Puso Gaborone was inspired to have his own royal palace.

The Batlokwa leader said he has travelled to many places and noted that kings live in palaces. "A king should live in a beautiful palace with royal kraals and many other cultural activities for Morafe. I have travelled to many places and kings live in palaces. It is high time we build our own as Batlokwa," he said, in a meeting back in his native land on Saturday.

He found the meeting in progress as he had just returned from the Kingdom of Eswatini with President Mokgweetsi Masisi.

Gaborone expressed the need for tribes to care for their kings, adding that the prevailing conditions were not enticing enough for some to stay in chieftainship. Gaborone also told his subjects that as the royalty, they were working with the Batlokwa Development Trust to come up with ideas that would generate income and create employment for Batlokwa.

Republic of Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi arrived in the country last Thursday for a three-day official visit.

The fifth president of Botswana, who was inau-

gured in April, paid the country a visit for the first time since assuming office as head of state but it was his second visit in a space of 12 months as he was in the country last June while still deputy president.

He was representing then President of Botswana Ian Khama at the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) Summit Heads of State and Government.

Upon his arrival in the country, he paid a courtesy call to His Majesty King Mswati III at Mandvulo Grand Hall in Lozitha. He also toured Sidvokodvo Farm before visiting King Sobhuza II Memorial Museum at Lobamba during his stay in the country.



**APPEALING:** Batlokwa's King Puso Gaborone.

# Residents take Chief Mashampu to court

Stories by Sandile Nkambule  
High Court

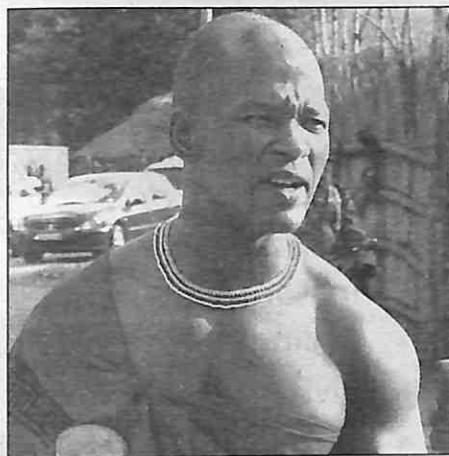
*...Ex-SNAT boss Musa Dlamini has filed urgent application at the High Court seeking an order interdicting, restraining Chief Mashampu Khumalo, Micro-Projects from constructing community hall*

**FORMER** Secretary General of the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) Musa Dlamini, together with other residents of Ezulwini, have taken Chief Mashampu Khumalo and Micro Projects Coordinating Unit to court, where they are seeking an order interdicting and restraining the two from constructing a community hall in the area.

Dlamini of Ezulwini, who is also an Industrial Court assessor together with the other residents, are also seeking an order that a rule nisi be issued in terms of the interdict returnable on a date to be determined by the court calling upon the respondents to show cause why an order in terms of the above prayers should not be made final.

According to Dlamini, in his affidavit filed before Judge Mzwandile Fakudze on Tuesday, on February 15, 2018 at Ezulwini, the first respondent (Micro Projects) convened a meeting of members of the community and present at the meeting were the community members only and the inner council from Ezulwini Umphakatsi sent by Chief Mashampu.

Developmental issues on the agenda of that meeting were discussed, according to Dlamini, and amongst those was the construction of the



**MNGANI:** Chief Mashampu Khumalo.

community hall.

Dlamini alleged in his affidavit that the decision to construct the hall was taken by the second respondent (chief) without the involvement or participation of the members of the community as a representative from the royal kraal informed the meeting that finances for the construction had been secured from Micro Projects,

which is under the ministry of economic planning and development and that it was to commence soon.

"Some of the community members present at the meeting reacted with shock and expressed their dismay at the decision taken without them being consulted, involvement and being allowed to participate in the planning and implementation of the construction project and I was one of those," Dlamini alleged.

## Dissatisfaction

He stated that he, together with the other residents, expressed their dissatisfaction with the project through a letter dated February 18, 2018 addressed to the first respondent and subsequent to the letter of complaint, the chief and his inner council convened another meeting in order to explain the exigencies of the construction and get the community to participate.

Dlamini stated in his affidavit that Chief Mashampu convened zonal meeting (*tigcuma*), where the issue of the community hall was discussed despite advice that it be held at *umphakatsi* level where the hall issue arose.

Represented by senior attorney and human

rights lawyer Thulani Maseko, Dlamini argued that in terms of Section 7 of the Finance Management and Audit Act of 1967, the role of Micro Projects is to facilitate the implementation of developmental projects within the spirit and ambit of the Act and has to take into account the views, involvement and participation of the community.

"I am advised and verily accept that it is essential that as members of the community of Ezulwini, we are to be involved in the development agenda of the community. We are further advised that public involvement in decision making is in-built in Section 79 of the Constitution," Dlamini submitted.

This section provides emphases and devolution of state power from central government to tinkhundla areas.

He submitted that the matter is urgent and hearing it on the normal course will render it academic as the violation which he seeks to stop will have taken place and near completion.

Dlamini submitted that the enrolment of the matter on urgent basis is justified on grounds that the respondents have already cleared and dug trenches on the land where they intend to build the community hall, hence it has been brought with a certificate of urgency.

## APPLICANT HAS NO LOCUS STANDI, HALL CONSTRUCTED AT ROYAL KRAAL - INDVUNA

**IN** his answering affidavit to the allegations made by the applicant, the Headman of the Royal Kraal (Indvuna Yemcuba) Wilson Ndlavela Mavimbela argued that the applicant (Dlamini) has no locus standi to seek the relief he is seeking as regards the community hall issue.

Mavimbela, in his affidavit, stated that an applicant instituting proceedings must allege facts in the launching affidavit indicating that he has the necessary locus standi to institute same and must show direct and substantial interest in the relief sought and such must be based on a legally enforceable right.

According to Mavimbela, the structure that Dlamini seeks to stop being constructed is being constructed in a royal kraal wherein the chief is in charge as governor.

The urgency alleged by the applicant, according to Mavimbela, is nothing but a smokescreen and an abuse of court process, applicant has been given the opportunity to voice his views, not even once, but twice on the project and the fact that he and a few of his cohorts is against the project, does not make the matter any urgent.

"The issue of the community hall is a long

standing one and its construction issue was raised in 2007 after the community saw the need to have a multi-purpose hall which the community could use for holding community meetings and which government can use as a development centre to bring her services closer to the people," Mavimbela submitted.

The hall is also aimed at being used as offices for the *umphakatsi* and various *Emabandla* (development committees) and to that end, Mavimbela argued that the community of Ezulwini has displayed their commitment to the project by making monetary contributions towards the realisation of this dream and to date, the community had contributed more than E40 000 towards the project.

The indvuna submitted that on or about April 12, 2017 the inner council formally applied for financial assistance from the community development special fund managed by Micro Projects under the ministry of economic planning and

development.

He stated that the *umphakatsi* is made up of seven zones (*tigcuma*) being Mvutjini, Somjalose, Gelekeeni, Nyonyane, Ntshakabili, Lomngalaza and Buka and after the funding was confirmed, a meeting was convened where the communi-

ty members were informed of the construction of the community hall.

"I must state that the majority of the people present at the meeting appreciated the project and its commencement. The applicant, however, objected to the construction and was supported by one Bhakisisa Abraham Bhembe, who is the Indvuna Yenkhundla for Lobamba as well as other five individuals," Mavimbela stated. However, in

a view to put the issue of the community hall to rest, the *umphakatsi* leadership visited the various zones (*tigcuma*) to gather their views and opinions towards the construction of the hall and the majority was in favour of the construction.

**According to Mavimbela, the structure that Dlamini seeks to stop being constructed is being constructed in a royal kraal wherein the chief is in charge as governor**

## Matter constitutional, referred to full bench

**HIGH** Court Judge Mzwandile Fakudze did not hear the matter in open court but met both parties in his chambers, where he postponed it to June 7.

This, after he noted that the matter is constitutional and ordered that it will be heard by a full bench on the said date.

Human rights lawyer Thulani Maseko and Bonginkosi Dlamini from the Attorney General's Chambers were called to Justice Fakudze's chambers where they were advised formally that the matter is constitutional.

Meanwhile, Dlamini, together with the aggrieved residents who had crammed the court, waited for the resumption of the matter in Court D while others waited outside in readiness to follow the proceedings, but they were later informed by court officials that the matter has now been referred to the full bench with their lawyer expected to inform them of the dates for hearing.

Having come on board a Toyota Quantum and other vehicles, the residents were seen leaving the court thereafter while counsel Maseko and Dlamini proceeded to Justice Fakudze's chambers later at



In addition, she mentioned that the bank's SME customers have alluded to how the FNB ADT has made the depositing of cash more convenient as it is not restricted to branch opening hours.

FNB's partnering goes beyond just providing solutions but has consistently been focused on supporting the growth of the sector in totality hence its longstanding support of SEDCO in its endeavour to recognize and reward entrepreneurs.

In a statement SEDCO noted its support for the services that FNB has introduced into the market to empower local businesses. Further, SEDCO mentioned that FNB's title sponsorship of the Awards has seen the bank recognize SMEs and spending in excess of E1.2 million.

SEDCO applauded the fact that the bank has contributed to the growth and expansion of five EYA overall winners since 2010 through access to finance and the provision of other banking services.

The partnership between SEDCO and FNB for the benefit of the local sector will be taken to new heights as these organisations have elected to host the Premium Cocktail on 31 May 2018 to provide a platform for past winners to network and share stories on development and pointers on growth.



## Transact and Borrow with FNB Business

### Transact

- Instant Accounting
- Online Banking for Business (OBE)
- FNB App for Business
- Debit Card for Business

### Borrow

- Overdrafts
- Term Loans
- Commercial Property Finance
- Trade Finance

## 5 YEARS IN AND FNB IS STILL MY BANK OF CHOICE

2017 Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Winner, Thabiso Kunene of Waterman Swaziland says FNB Swaziland's innovative approach makes FNB his bank of choice.

Kunene has been banking with FNB Swaziland for about five years. He said the bank had played a key role in the growth of his business and also its success in the recent EYA competition.

"What sets FNB apart is the innovative products that make it easy for us to do business quicker, reliably and more efficiently. I also like the fact that they are a global bank so one can transact anywhere." Kunene added that the bank's Business Relationship Managers also help to build and grow any business.

Speaking on the event, Kunene said he looked forward to networking with other like-minded individuals so they can share ideas on how to take their businesses to new heights.

Doc 16250



FNB/EYA Winners Premium Cocktail



FNB  
First National Bank





# FNB MARKETPLACE SERIES

where entrepreneurs meet for **meaningful conversation**



It takes a lot more than courage and tenacity for an individual to make it from an emerging small, self-standing business to a budding, high growth entrepreneur. It takes an entrepreneurial edge.

To celebrate this spirit and local SMEs who have made it to top of the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards since their inception in 2002, FNB will celebrate these at a premium cocktail to be held on 31st May 2018 at Happy Valley Hotel.

With HELP at its core the bank recognises the important role played by SMEs in economic growth and the nation's development and therefore seeks to enhance the daily business operations of these. This it has done by providing innovative 'e' solutions that help entrepreneurs bank better.

In an interview with FNB Swaziland's Head of Business Banking, Lubasi Katundu, she stated that the bank valued the enduring, rewarding relationships they have with clients as this is based on a partnership approach. "We provide customised solutions to meet client's needs and use state-of-the-art banking and communication technology. Not only has our Online Banking Enterprise made banking for SMEs better but our Instant Accounting product as well as the FNB App for Business is being used by a significant number of entrepreneurs," she said.





# 180 TRAINEE PARAMEDICS NOT PAID FOR TWO YEARS

By Sizwe Dlamini  
Pigg's Peak

**ABOUT 180 trainee paramedics in Northern Hhohho are complaining that they have been engaged in practicals since 2016 while waiting to be employed by government.**

The same trainees also complained that while they have been patiently waiting for employment, other 300 new trainees have been introduced to the region.

It is said the original group of 180 trainees was introduced to Northern Hhohho under the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in 2016. At the time, they were told to complete about one year of practicals before they could be hired as fully fledged paramedics.

Under that aforementioned agreement, the 180 trainees were supposed to be hired as paramedics in 2017 but this did not happen as only eight were hired.

In 2018, while the original group of trainees was still waiting to be hired as paramedics a new group of 300 new trainees joined the old ones for practicals, which has infuriated the original group who has been working for free since 2016.

Speaking to this publication on Tuesday, the trainees who asked that their identities be concealed in fear of reprisals at their work place, said it was very hard to work for free for two long years.

"It is very hard working for free, we



**NOT ON DUTY: Ministry of Health Director Dr Vusi Magagula.**

all joined this profession with the hope of saving people's lives as well as getting paid, but this has not happened and our original group has dwindled in size as more and more people have dropped out due to the lack of employment.

It is painful to work this long without getting paid and a lot of people don't know that we trainees actually got a tertiary education before we became paramedics.

Some of us got this education through

government scholarships and some had to rely on our parents to pay for our tuition fees. This is not encouraging and it is not good for us because we wake up to go to work and come home with nothing.

We work strange hours and in dangerous places, honestly the government of Eswatini should start thinking about our needs because we are human and we have basic needs as well.

We can't work for free for two whole years without pay; they should inform us if there is no employment," one of them said.

Meanwhile, when approached for comment on the issue paramedic administration at the Pigg's Peak EMS centre confirmed the story but said they were not the rightful authority to comment. They referred this publication to the Director at the Ministry of Health Dr Vusi Magagula.

When asked for comment Magagula said he was not at work and referred comments to Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Health Dr Simon Zwane, who did not answer his phone due to the cabinet meeting that was in progress when the story was being compiled.

Efforts were also made to contact Civil Services Commission's (CSC) Owen Nxumalo as well as the Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Public Service Evert Madlopha, who both did not entertain their phones due to the daylong cabinet meeting.

## Bullied pupil now back in class

By Starsky Mkhonta  
Nhlango

**THE 12-year-old Grade Seven pupil of Ekuphakameni Primary who was allegedly bullied and later sent home has returned to class after the intervention of the ministry of education and training.**

The girl was bullied by classmates who mocked her by referring to her as a lesbian. It is said in her class, she was called by the name 'GC' which is the name of an actress in the SABC 1 soapie, Uzalo.

'GC' plays the role of being gay in the soapie.

The young girl did not take kindly to the comments and it is said in one of the days she arrived home crying and her brothers wanted to know what happened. She told them she was bullied at school and also labelled as someone who was gay.

After hearing that their sister was abused, it is said the girl's brothers who were a group of four proceeded to the school where they beat up all those who were abusing their sister.

The administration of the school heard what happened and sent the girl home to fetch her parents as the actions of her brothers was viewed as dangerous and a lack of respect. They ordered the girl to bring along with her parents or brothers to give an account of their action.

The girl's mother had complained bitterly that her daughter was missing a lot in terms of lessons and it was then that she decided take the matter up with the relevant author-

ities and her first stop was social welfare offices and then to the regional education offices.

It is said a decision was taken that the administration should allow the girl back to class unconditionally. A team from the Regional Education Officer (REO) was sent to the school with the purpose of finding a lasting solution in the matter.

It is said the girl returned to class last Friday as the officials from the ministry started working on the issue from Wednesday where it was ruled the previous day that the administration should make sure the issue was resolved.

The girl's mother also confirmed that her daughter was expected back in class after officials from the ministry ordered.

"The officials from the ministry handling the matter resolved that my daughter should return to school.

I have been assured of her safety and no one would bull her or call her with a name undermining her. She has been counseled and I hope she is going to cope and focus in her school work," said the mother.

Principal Cathren Shongwe con-

firmed that the issue was now handled by the ministry of education and training.

"It is true that the girl is back in class.

After all, she was not expelled by anyone but we only requested her to fetch parents following the episode which unfolded. I wanted her back in class while other issues were handled by the parties concerned," said Shongwe.

“

*"The officials from the ministry handling the matter resolved that my daughter should return to school."*



**HERDBOY: A traffic police officer removing cattle from the road at Nkambeni along Madlangemphisi/Tshaneni road on Saturday during Dups Mafutseni Cycle Classic. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)**

## No arrest so far in E200 000 daring robbery at MTN shop

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

**POLICE have not yet made an arrest in the armed robbery which saw thieves raiding an MTN outlet and snatching over E200 000 on Monday.**

Members of the public in the bustling city of Manzini were treated to a movie like scene when heavily armed robbers attacked an MTN outlet and stole the money.

Information gathered is that the incident which left employees of the outlet which sells cellphones and airtime shocked, occurred in broad daylight at around lunch time on Monday.

It is said the staff had prepared money and was just getting ready to take it

to the bank when the incident happened.

A security personnel, who was found at the accident scene, said he noted two guys who did not look suspicious in any way as they went to buy a cold drink at a shop which is on the same complex with the MTN outlet, located near the Old Trade Fair.

The guard said the two men sat for some time conversing and enjoying their drinks. It is said after some time a BMW vehicle pulled up on the scene and the occupants were joined by the two who were enjoying their drinks and they approached the shop.

It is alleged that the thieves were heavily armed and shots were fired as they demanded money from the employees of the shop.

Seeing that the suspects were heav-

ily armed no one tried to stop them as they made away with the cash.

Some of the witnesses found at the scene said they were really disappointed that police took their time to arrive after they were called and when they eventually did the thugs were long gone. Worth noting is that these days police officers are all over town manning election registration centres. Coincidentally, at the complex where the robbery took place, there are police officers deployed at a voter registration centre which is just a stone throw away from where the robbery took place. It has been revealed that one of the thugs is known to some people who work around the complex as some revealed that he would from time to time go to the outlet to buy airtime.

This has led to those who have seen the suspect frequenting the place to believe that he was pretending to buy airtime while in reality he was just surveying the area.

The manager of the shop when asked for comments declined to talk to the media as he stated that he was too busy. Such an incident comes at a time when a series of audacious robberies by heavily armed gangs in the country have been reported and seemingly crime groups are increasing in firepower and committing daring robberies in broad daylight.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba confirmed the robbery, saying police received a report about an outlet which was robbed money amounting to E200 000 in Manzini.



**CONFIRMED: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba.**



## No electricity no problem as Mnjoli High scoops prizes

WITH no electricity supply and the internet, Mnjoli High has proved that nothing is impossible in the world of research.

It took a passionate teacher to use his cellphone and airtime to assist pupils at the school to research and further compile a moving report on how agribusiness can help the country achieve its first world status, come 2022.

Driven by the passion to prove their competitors that with or without electricity they can compete, speaker after another submitted on how the country has been boosted by agribusiness.

Even though the school finished in the third position, winning a computer plus two printers, it transpired that they were the best in terms of their research, hence hoisting the school's flag high.

Nkosinathi Dlamini and Ncobile Mabuza, both teachers of Mnjoli High, said they were proud of what the pupils had done for the school.

The teachers explained that it took the pupils more effort in terms of research since there is no electricity and internet in the area. "We used our phones to help the pupils download the information they used today for the debate," the teachers said.

"This is the reason we are grateful to the hard work they have shown and we believe that in future such attitude will yield good results," they further added.

## 'THIS IS A SIGN SCHOOL WILL RECORD GOOD RESULTS'

MCOZINI High Principal Thoko Dlamini said winning the debate is an indication that the school would record the best results at the end of this academic year.

The excited Dlamini said as a school they put so much work in terms of research and preparing the pupils for the debate.

Mcozini is the defending champion of the Mkhweni annual schools debate. The school also represented

the country in Midrand, South Africa, where they also scooped lucrative prizes.

"Teamwork from the teachers and hard work from the pupils has resulted to us achieving these great results. We are also thankful to our MP Gideon Dlamini who pioneered and sponsored this event as it has changed the attitude of the pupils toward their approach to education," she said.

## Minister of education applauds ex-minister

MINISTER of Education and Training Phineas Magagula has applauded the Mkhweni Constituency, especially MP Gideon Dlamini, for introducing a programme that is mentoring pupils on academic issues.

The minister explained that societies have a moral obligation to equip their people with skills and competencies that will enable them to deal with challenges that are unpredictable.

Speaking through Martha Shongwe, Inspector of Secondary Schools in English, the legislator said mentoring was of critical importance in one's life. "Everyone that makes it in life has a mentor. On that note, I

would like to applaud the inkhundla and the mentoring partners for such an initiative," he said.

"As a ministry of education and training, it is mandatory for us to produce learners that are able to contribute meaningfully towards the national vision and goals. We have to think about how products of the education system are capacitated to enhance Vision 2022.

One of the challenges that we contend with is limited career pathways offered to products of the education system whose ramifications are inefficiencies such as high repetition rates and the majority of our learners falling through the cracks," the minister said.

## Debates part of mentoring programmes - Gideon

MKHIWENI Member of Parliament Gideon Dlamini said school debates were part of mentoring programmes that were introduced by the constituency.

He said many pupils have benefited from the programme such that it has attracted even sponsors beyond the country.

He said for this event, over E50

000 was spent.

The money, according to the soft-spoken legislator, was used to buy the prizes which include seven computers plus seven printers, three tablets, food and transport costs.

"This is the eighth programme since we started. It is career enhancing for pupils under the Mkhweni Constituency," he said.



JUDGES: Vincent Nxumalo, Deputy Principal of Sigombeni High School, Theresa Dlamini, Inspector for English Lubombo region, Dumsani Sithole, Director of Decentralisation in the Ministry of tinkhundla administration and development. 2. WELL DONE: Best male presenter Sihle Dlamini from Mnjoli High School won an iPad.



## MKHIWENI SCHOOLS BATTLE IT OUT IN EX-MINISTER'S E50 000 DEBATE

Stories by Observer Reporter Mkhweni

...Mcozini High emerges champions again

WITH the country tightens its belts to attain a first world status in 2022, pupils at Mcozini High School were crowned champions for arguing and portraying art as a catalyst to help the country attain its vision.

Making reference to festivals and events that the country recently hosted and would be hosting (MTN Bushfire), the pupils last Thursday minced no words during the Mkhweni annual schools debate, arguing that art has played a significant role in boosting the country's coffers.

Nelly Motsa, one of the five presenters for Mcozini High, argued that an early exposure of art education to pupils can help individuals discover their talents and thus concentrate on how to make it be an income generating genre.

Motsa submitted that art is a therapist. Vusi Vilane, also from Mcozini, made reference to a number of events where art has played a vital role in poverty reduction in the country, including the employment of many people countrywide during events such as Bushfire, Biggest Braai, Funfair and gospel extravaganzas.

Vilane, who was crowned Best of the Best Presenter, argued that a significant amount of tax has been collected from DJs and artists who were invited to perform in the country. He submitted that even the sound engineers, lighting engineers, stylist, backup vocalists and other art practitioners are paying tax, thus boosting the economy.

For winning the debate, Mcozini High won two brand new computers and two printers. The prizes were donated by Mkhweni Member of Parliament Gideon Dlamini, a former minister. Runners-up for the competition were Florence High, who also won two computers plus a printer.



CHAMPIONS: Mcozini High School pupils posing with their prizes with Mkhweni Member of Parliament Gideon Dlamini.

During the debate, Florence Catholic High presenters had their own topic in which they submitted and argued about the importance of industrial science. Ncobile Dlamini, who opened the debate, argued that industrial science is a driving force behind every production. She submitted that science produces new goods.

She made an example that mobile services such as cellphones have made communication to be easier nowadays. She argued that currently Eswatini has three telecommunication companies and this has made communication easy.

She submitted that without science, the formation of these telecommunication companies was impossible.

Meanwhile, taking third position was Mnjoli High.

The school won itself a computer plus two printers. It scooped these prizes after successfully arguing about the importance of agribusiness. Zethu Masuku, who represented Mnjoli, submitted that through agribusiness the country has been ensured enough food supply.

Zethu argued that agribusiness is the

main vehicle to transport the country with ease to its vision 2022. The pupil explained that agribusiness has created and improved environment for residents at Sihoye. She said the establishment of sugarcane fields and association for Sihoye residents has seen a tremendous improvement, both to the environment and lifestyle of the residents. Such, she submitted, has also contributed in the country's economy.

Mlandvo Mantimakhulu, who also represented Mnjoli, submitted that "as human beings we are able to breathe because of the energy we source from food."

He explained that through agribusiness, the country was able to construct the Maguga and Lubovini dams hence improving the standard of living for beneficiaries. He submitted that agribusiness was the only tool that could be used to curb inflation on food products. Five schools participated in the debate after two withdrew due to unpreparedness. The schools that participate included Khuphuka, Mliba, Mnjoli, Florence Catholic and Mcozini High.



APPLAUSE: A section of the pupils who attended the debate.



# DOUBLE TRAGEDY AS EBENEZER LOSES TWO PUPILS IN 48 HRS

By Starsky Mkhonta  
Nhlango

**IT was double tragedy at Ebenezer High after the school lost two pupils within a space of 48 hours.**

The school, situated a few kilometres from Hlatikulu town, under Mtsambama Inkhundla, had to turn back pupils on Monday after they were told that two of their colleagues died in separate incidents.

It is said some of the teachers and pupils were so emotional that others broke down upon hearing the devastating news, turning the morning assembly turning into a funeral mood.

It has reliably been gathered that last

Friday, one of the pupils was killed when a kombi ran over him after he fell from the back of a truck near the school. He had got a lift with others.

The pupil, identified as Phelani Ndzinisa, is said to have leaned on the side of the truck, which was not properly closed as he fell onto the road and just before he could pick himself up, an oncoming kombi ran over him.

This shocking accident, which left almost everyone shell-shocked, was confirmed by the police.

The boy was doing Form Two and was a resident of Ebenezer. It is said Phelani was planning to join other school-mates to cheer his school during the ball games on the same day.

While still trying to come to terms

with losing Phelani, pupils residing around Ebenezer, learnt that another colleague had also died while receiving medical attention at the Hlatikulu Government Hospital.

Vuyisile Mkhwanazi, a Form Three pupil, had been taken to the theatre for an undisclosed ailment where she was later certified dead.

## Theatre

It's said the girl died last Sunday.

"It was painful and some of the teachers and pupils cried hysterically while others comforted their heartbroken classmates. We were then advised to return home as lessons could not continue under such circumstances," said a source at the school.

It's said teachers then proceeded to



**NO COMMENT YET:**  
Mtsambama MP Richard Mphaya Simelane.

the two bereaved homesteads to pass their condolences.

Of note is that the two pupils' homesteads are situated close to

each other.

There was no immediate comment from the school administration as several efforts to get the Principal Dumisani Shabangu hit a snag.

His deputy Boy Mmango's cell-phone also rang several times without being answered.

On the other hand, Mtsambama Member of Parliament Richard Mphaya Simelane said he was not ready to comment about the matter as it was sensitive. He only confirmed to have heard about the death of two pupils from the school.

However, he did not have details but only passed condolences to the families as well as the school and the community at large.

"I am told that the two pupils are from the same area (Ebenezer). I can't say much as I am also still devastated," said MP Simelane, who is a former principal of the school.



**CAPTURING:** A man seems to be taking the Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary sign using his mobile phone near the Parliament buildings yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

## 'No election campaigns at Correctional facilities'

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

**OFFENDERS** around the country might have been allowed to vote in the 2018 elections but candidates who would like to convince inmates to vote for them will not get that chance to canvass for votes as they (candidates) will not be allowed entry at Correctional Services facilities to campaign.

Early last week when voter registration began, it was revealed that the Elections and Boundaries Commission, which has set a schedule for registering all qualifying inmates, is geared to visit all 14 centres of the department having started at the Correctional Staff College.

It was said Commissioner General of His Majesty's Correctional Services Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase, who has also registered for the elections, expressed gratitude to the King for ushering a new era in the department by allowing inmates to take part in the national elections.

Ntshangase is said to have informed reporters that as the department aligns itself with international correctional standards, inmates across the various facilities have been allowed to register through the assistance of the Elections and Boundaries Commission.

However, aspiring candidates have raised their concern that registering inmates to vote might raise other problems because when the time for campaigning comes they might not be allowed to visit inmates in order to convince them what they will do for the country if they are voted and this, it has been alleged, will lead to inmates making uninformed decisions on who to vote for.

Worth noting is that Correctional centres currently keep about 3 500 offenders.

People who are hoping to be running for the various positions include tindvuna tetinkhundla, bucopho and Members of Parliament have expressed concern that if they are not allowed to go into correctional facilities, such might result to corruption as officers can turn into bogalajane (agents) and convince inmates to vote for their (officers) own candidates.

According to regulations of national elections, the campaign process in the electoral system takes place immediately after the announcement of the primary elections results until a day before the poll.

It is said in the first stage, there must be an organised campaign which is initiated by the Commission and its purpose is to introduce the candidates in the chiefdoms under that constituency. During this stage, candidates are given an opportunity to present their agenda in line with the national vision.

The electorate is then given the opportunity to interrogate the candidates so as to make an informed decision on the day of the poll. However, such will not happen for inmates even though they have been given the opportunity to vote.

HMCS Public Relations Officer (PRO) Gugulethu Dlamini, when asked if aspiring candidates will be allowed to visit correctional facilities for campaign purposes when the time is right, clearly stated that no one will be allowed to campaign in correctional centres.

Dlamini said instead, pictures of candidates with their information would be put up at the correctional centers.

She said inmates know people from their areas, hence they will not have a problem in knowing who to vote for. This, however, goes against the campaign rule which states that the electorate must interrogate candidates.

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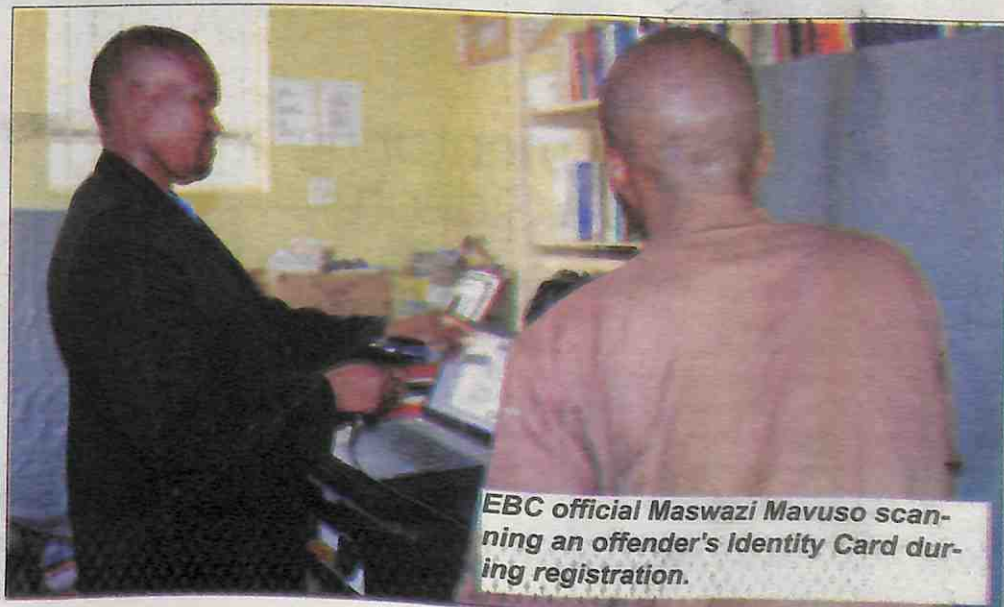
Executive desk

Wooden reception desk

Filing cabinet

Airport benches

Glass reception desk



**EBC official Maswazi Mavuso scanning an offender's Identity Card during registration.**





# FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

## MULTISECTORAL RESPONSE (MR)



BY SAMKELO MAHLALELA

Information Centre Assistant Manager  
The National HIV and AIDS Information  
and Training Centre

**THE African perspective on doing things emphasises collaboration, its more about the community and less about what can be done by the individual alone.**

This assertion is embodied in two African proverbs. The first from the Masai people of Kenya saying, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together," and the second is attributed to the Igbo and Yoruba in Nigeria, "It takes a village to raise a child."

As for the second, I have not heard a better definition of its meaning than that given by musician Brian Nhira (whose Zimbabwean parents moved to the US over 30 years ago) in his graduation speech to over 10 000 people at the Oral Roberts University. Nhira whose definition holds true, the spirit of Eswatini culture, said:

"The upbringing of a single child is an effort that can only be successfully completed by the collective efforts of a community of people, sowing into the life of the child, in the ways of the village and even disciplining, so that he/she can grow up to be a successful and independent human being."

Everyone in the village gets involved in the process of raising the child – moms, dads, siblings, cousins, etc. Everyone in the village carries with them, something that the child will need to successfully grow up."

In Eswatini, the child is referred to as "UmlibaLoyaEmbili" meaning that children are the future – as the continued existence of the people of Eswatini rests with them. In moulding the lives of future generations, the culture of EmaSwati embraces that the conduct of a child should concern everybody, and not just the parents and close relatives.

We go on to say 'Umfwana wem-mango', that a child belongs to the community they are raised in. This is especially true when a child has engaged in unbecoming behaviour, where all adults have the right to rebuke or discipline that child – even going to the extent of informing the child's parents of their rebuke so they can enforce the discipline. It is true however, that modernisation has taken

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TAKES CENTRE STAGE IN ESWATINI'S HIV PREVENTION RESPONSE

away some of our noble values and given rise of individualistic, selfish and self-centred modern-day citizenry, who only care about themselves.

The winds of change are at our doorstep and slowly, programmes like HIV prevention and the institutions involved, are recognising the value of collective efforts of communities.

There is now a consensus that if we want to end AIDS as a public health threat in the Kingdom of Eswatini, we need meaningful engagement of our communities.

## A synopsis of the HIV response in Eswatini

The Kingdom of Eswatini has a persistent HIV and AIDS epidemic with the highest HIV prevalence rate in the world, at 27.0 percent among adults ages 15 years and older, approximately 210 000 people are living with HIV and AIDS. Annually, the country experiences approximately 7 000 new cases of HIV.

This is a serious public health concern and presents socio-economic development challenges for the government of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The recently ended extended National Strategic Framework (eNSF) 2014-2018, focused on halting the spread of HIV and reversing its impact on the Eswatini society.

The focus was on the complex inter-related factors that influence the transmission of HIV, a clear priority on the populations most vulnerable to HIV acquisition, and an emphasis on the high-impact interventions that prevent and reduce transmission and acquisition of the virus among the population.

The eNSF recognised that "individual and social factors are both a cause and potential solution of the epidemic, which is seen as a reflection of the patterns of behaviour in society, the complexities of our sexuality, our relationships, our beliefs and attitudes that influence the transmission of HIV." In responding therefore, a combination prevention approach was found to be the most logical approach, with a standardised core package of prevention interventions tailored to specific priority populations.



## The Core Package for HIV Prevention

As a means of supporting national HIV prevention efforts, the National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA) and partners have come up with a Core Package for HIV Prevention to support prevention efforts to address the strategic gap of "inadequate targeting and lack of intensity among HIV prevention programmes" noted in the implementation of the eNSF.

The Core Package guidelines offer a standardised approach to design, development and management of targeted HIV prevention programmes and provides a set of guidelines to help programme managers focus their interventions on priority populations and sub-populations that are driving the epidemic.

Programming across the core prevention package is driven by the fundamental principle that "the HIV epidemic is about locations and populations" and that we can circumvent transmission by focusing on areas and populations with higher probabilities of transmission and acquisition. The core package is constructed around a priority population and its unique epidemiological and behavioural profile. The priority populations for the Core Packages are those

at high risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV, including Adolescent girls (AG: 15-19 years); Young Women (YW: 20-24 years); Adult men (25-39 years); and Adolescent boys and young men (ABYM: 15-24 years). These populations experience significant HIV burden and they influence the dynamics of the HIV epidemic.

## Community engagement the driving force in new HIV prevention efforts

Community engagement is a key objective that is prioritised in several national documents, including the recently ended eNSF as a "critical enabler" to identify high-risk groups, create demand for and use of services, and critically to help reduce vulnerabilities.

Additionally, in its 2013-2018 Strategic Plan, the Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development (MTAD) emphasized the role of community mobilization and action in key development pillars, including HIV and AIDS.

The MTAD Strategic Plan identified people-focused service delivery as a central strategic objective. In collaboration with MTAD, MOH and partners, NERCHA created community engagement guidelines designed to complement the eNSF. The guide-

lines describe a systematic approach to effective community engagement through multiple layers from chiefdom to Inkhundla, region and nation, bringing together multiple sectors to catalyse a community-led response that can address social and behavioural barriers to uptake of and retention in health services.

Engaging communities effectively will become a core activity for the new HIV prevention efforts as no matter who the population or population segment is, the transmission of HIV results primarily from social and cultural factors – and only secondarily from biomedical ones.

There is a common understanding that intimate behaviours, such as sexual relationships and practices, are shaped and affected more by community norms than clinical factors. The conclusion therefore is that the success of any HIV prevention intervention requires engagement well beyond the traditional health sector and must extend into the community. As the Rwandan proverb says, "The dancers have changed, but the drums are the same". I say, even though the challenges are different, the people of Eswatini will once again look to emphasise collaboration.

It is time for communities to rise and play a meaningful part in the health and future of their people. And yes, even communities of key populations!



## ON THIS DAY

...MAY 24

1967 - California Governor Ronald Reagan greeted Charles M. Schulz at the state capitol in observance of the legislature-proclaimed "Charles Schulz Day."

1974 - The last "Dean Martin Show" was seen on NBC. The show had been aired for nine years.

1976 - Britain and France opened trans-Atlantic Concorde service to Washington.

1980 - The International Court of Justice issued a final decision calling for the release of the hostages taken at the US embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979.

1983 - The Brooklyn Bridge's 100th birthday was celebrated.

1983 - The US Supreme Court ruled that the federal government had the right to deny tax breaks to schools that racially discriminate.

1986 - Montreal won its 23rd National Hockey League (NHL) Stanley Cup championship.

1990 - The Edmonton Oilers won their fifth National Hockey League (NHL) Stanley Cup.

1993 - Roman Catholic Cardinal Juan Jesus Posada Ocampo and six other people were killed at the Guadalajara, Mexico, airport in a shootout that involved drug gangs.

1993 - The Ethiopian province of Eritrea declared itself an independent nation.

1994 - The four men convicted of bombing the New York's World Trade Centre were each sentenced to 240 years in prison.

1999 - 39 miners were killed in an underground gas explosion in the Ukraine.

2000 - Five people were killed and two others wounded when two gunmen entered a Wendy's restaurant in Flushing, Queens, New York. The gunmen tied up the victims in the basement and then shot them.

2000 - The US House of Representatives approved permanent normal trade relations with China. China was not happy about some of the human rights conditions that had been attached by the US lawmakers.

2000 - A Democratic Party event for Al Gore in Washington brought in \$26.5 million. The amount set a new record, which had just been set the previous month by Republicans for Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

2001 - Temba Tsheri, 15, became the youngest person to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

2011 - NASA announced the development of the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV) spacecraft. It is intended to facilitate exploration of the Moon, asteroids and Mars.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Eric Cantona  
(Soccer player) - May  
24, 1966, (52 years)



Tracy McGrady  
(Basketball player) -  
May 24, 1979  
(39 years old)

## THE NATIONS PRAY

A NATIONAL CALL TO PRAY



A.T Pearson writes, "From the day of Pentecost, there has not been one great spiritual awakening in any land which has not begun in a Union of Prayer, though only two or three, no such outward and upward movement has continued after such prayer meetings have declined, and it is in exact proportions to the maintenance of such joint and believing supplication and intercession that the word of the Lord in any land or locality has had free course and been glorified."

"The day of small beginnings in Revival should not be despised."

A survey of church history in Revival shows that almost every great Revival that has swept the world with its power has a humble beginning. In a study on the promotion and progress of Revivals, it is evident that the urge, the impulse to pray for Revival was first received in the hearts of a few who had been aroused by the deep sense of need in the church and in the world.

As they have yielded to the spirit and given themselves up as channels of intercessory prayer, Revival fires have been fanned into flame, the church has been purified and sinners converted.

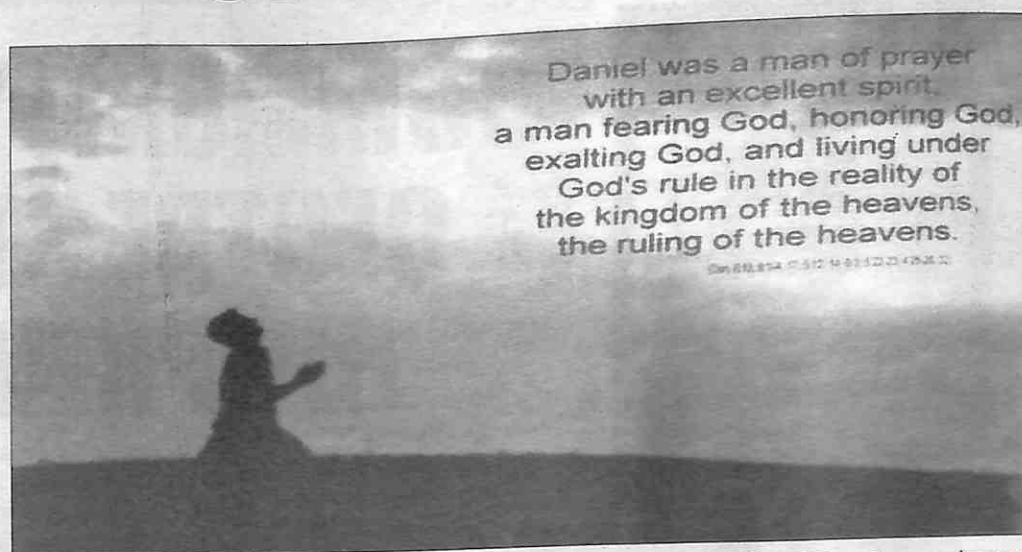
The first Revival in church history had its beginning in a 10 day prayer meeting. It was a small company in an upper room in Jerusalem, but it was a mighty union of hearts and voices continuing in one accord, steadfastly in prayer.

Every genuine heaven sent Revival from the day to this present one we are expecting, 'The Earth Shaking Spiritual Awakening' - (Revolutionary Revival) had its humble origin in the fervent prayers of a Godly few. And that is what we are doing with 'The Nations Pray' that is spreading around the world today to create awareness and hunger in the hearts of those that are yearning for the new move of God.

The mighty spiritual upheavals of the great reformation came out of the strong crying and tears of the bold reformers, Luther, Huss and others.

The tide that turned the terror and the blood shed of the French Revolution from the imperiled shores of England and precipitated, instead a glorious work of the Holy Spirit of God was the heroic work of the praying, pioneering Methodists under Wesley, Whitefield, Bramwell and their associates. John Knox, viewing the spiritual needs of Scotland, cried in an agony of prayer to God "Give me Scotland or I die!" D.L.

## HUMBLE ORIGINS OF REVIVAL



Daniel was a man of prayer with an excellent spirit, a man fearing God, honoring God, exalting God, and living under God's rule in the reality of the kingdom of the heavens, the ruling of the heavens.

Moody, seeing the cities of America in the deadly grip of vice, immorality and corruption, prayed "Oh God! Stir the cities of America once again and this is our heart cry with the Nations Pray for God to stir and awaken the nations back to God. The great need of Christendom today is for giants like these of faith, prayer and vision."

The Day of Revivals is not past - 'It's time' The Holy Spirit is waiting to be poured out again and again when we humbly go on our knees and ask for it. "How much more," reads the promise "Shall your heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Luke 11 vs. 13

In the early part of the 19th century, a great spiritual awakening swept the cities of Ireland. For two years prior, four young men met in a small house near Kells and wrestled day and night with God for the salvation of the ungodly. Their prayers turned a profaned nation into a veritable Holy Land, for when the Revival came it swept everything before it.

## Flocked

Multitudes flocked to the churches. Buildings were not large enough to hold them. Hundreds were under the conviction of sin in every service. Criminal courts and jails were closed for lack of occupants.

Cannot this past spiritual awakenings be matched today? A study of the Word of God makes it plain that any group of seeking believers may receive the full blessings of Pentecost for their church and Nation if sought by earnest, persistent, believing prayer. Church history amply substantiates this fact. In 1903, all Wales was ungodly, impious and crime was rampant. In 1904, Wales was aflame with a heaven sent Revival. For years, Evan Roberts had prayed himself and had steered others to pray definite-

ly believingly for Revival. When it came, it went through Wales like blaze. Incidents such as this might be multiplied to show that it is not necessary that the whole church takes to its knees to begin with.

These and past religious awakenings have started in the hearts of a few men and women whom God has succeeded by arousing in His spirit to believe Him as a God who hears and answers prayers, and upon whose hearts He lays the burden from which non rest can be obtained except in crying out to him for the greatly needed Revival

## - Revolutionary Revival in the 21st Century

Before the great Revival came to Wales, over 300 extra prayer bands were formed throughout the land. Wales became one great prayer meeting. If only believers in Eswatini Kingdom today will take to their knees, what would happen?

Witnessing the peril of spiritual indifference, worldliness, compromise, defeat and barrenness in the church today, seeing the appalling intemperance, licentiousness and vice in the nations, and realising the imperative need of united intercession for a widespread spiritual awakening in our land and the nations, let every man and woman of God covenant to stand at this hour between the nation and it's great peril and God and his great power to deliver.

Join us for 'The Nations Pray' monthly Revival prayer this month we will be with Zoe Christian Family Centre in Matsapha on Saturday past the Eieteni Engen starting from 2:15pm to 3:30pm.

Please also visit our Facebook page The Pentecost Ministries International Trust and your feedback is also welcome to the [revolutionary-mandate@gmail.com](mailto:revolutionary-mandate@gmail.com).

## How many more must die of Ebola in DRC before its an emergency?

**IF 30 people died from a virus within 10 days anywhere else in the world, it would have been described as a public health emergency.**

Not when it is the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Since May 8, an estimated 26 people have died from Ebola out of 45 suspected to have the virus.

According to Doctors Without Borders (MSF), 514 people who may have been in contact with infected people are being monitored.

The latest incarnation of the virus started in a rural part of north-western DRC, before it moved to Mbandaka a city of 1.2 million people. Ebola is

highly contagious and is spread through physical contact with infected bodily fluids. The virus induces a haemorrhaging fever that can lead to fatal bleeding.

There is still no cure for the virus.

"It is concerning that we now have cases of Ebola in an urban centre, but we are much better placed to deal with this outbreak than we were in 2014," Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Director-General, said on Monday.

Between 2014 and 2016, the virus spread through West Africa killing at least 11 000 people in mainly Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

A wry mix of arrogance, complacency

and racism led to the Ebola crisis of 2014 with the disease running out of control. When the first cases were reported in 2014, both West African nations and the WHO downplayed the virus, calling it "relatively small" and "sporadic".

## Health

It was only when two US health workers in Liberia had contracted the virus that it was deemed an international concern.

By the time the WHO declared a health emergency, at least 1 700 people had been infected; 932 were dead. The virus had spread so far in some countries like Liberia that it was only in June 2016 that the WHO

declared Ebola over in that country.

Incidentally, the DRC was also hit by incidents of Ebola in 2014. But given its longer history with the virus (811 people have died from Ebola since 1976 in eight previous outbreaks), the authorities' ability to contain isolated and areas of lower population densities, the virus did not cause the damage it did in West Africa.

"This is the ninth Ebola outbreak in Congo in the last 40 years. So far, all of them have occurred in remote and isolated areas, as was the case last year in Likati, when the epidemic didn't spread," Henry Gray, MSF Emergency Co-ordinator in Mbandaka, said. *IOL*





# Women and Law

in Southern Africa Research and Educational Trust - Swaziland

**Swaziland Office:**  
Essex Street 142  
Mandlenkosi building  
Manzini, Swaziland

P.O. 508, Mbabane, H100, Swaziland  
wlsaswaziland@gmail.com  
**Tel: 2505 6343**

**Regional Office:**  
Plot No. 14022, Off  
Katimalilo Road, Olympia  
Extension, Lusaka, Zambia

## IMPORTANCE OF GENDER DIVERSITY IN LEADERSHIP

RECENT years have seen an increasing focus on female leadership.

Women have made substantial gains not only in the workplace, but in more significant leadership roles such as heads of state.

It appears the glass ceiling and all barriers that have been keeping women from leading have been broken.

Despite this positive evolution, the number of female leaders is surprisingly low. This is puzzling because women seem to be more empowered than they were in the past few decades.

Furthermore, women not only attain more education than a couple of decades ago, they also seem to attain more education than their male counterparts. But why are they still occupying less leadership positions than men?

Well, there are many pitfalls to female leadership, including stereotypes and discrimination. Society still puts women in a box that prevents them from climbing the leadership ladder.

Another pitfall is the fact that women continuously have to navigate between work and taking care of the home, and are forced to take more leave, maternity breaks, and work more regular hours.

### Disadvantage

Another disadvantage that comes with this expectation is that people expect women to put less effort into work than men, on the assumption that in the navigation between family and career, women will choose family as their primary concern.

Discrimination and prejudice is another pitfall to female leadership. These forms of discriminatory behavior can come from underlying



ing processes creating prejudice, which is the third factor that recognise as a possible pitfall for female leaders.

It does not necessarily concern outright forms of prejudice, but relates rather to subtle links which people tend to make the link between male traits and leadership traits a consequence of two phenomena, gender stereotyping and gender symbolism.

Even with the many pitfalls to female leadership, there have been positive strides as well. Women's access to leadership roles creates a gain for equal opportunities. We have to admit that when a woman is in leadership, she will ensure equality in distribution of resources for both women and men. Meaning, everyone will be happy and feel involved. There will not be an imbalanced consumption of resources that were meant to be shared equally by all members of society. That is an advantage for both sexes.

Women's proportional representation



tation in politics and within social groups affects their life experiences. This means that not only will they be exposed to opportunities, they will make use of them and change their lives and the lives of those around them.

### Brings

When a woman brings more home, it is not only for her, but it will be shared within the immediate family as well as the extended family. So, in fact, when a woman has a job and brings home money, it is going to feed more than the mouths in her house. Many neighborhood care points exist because of women's efforts. The African proverb is true because indeed, when you educate

a woman, you have educated the whole village.

Women in leadership have the capacity to bring in their naturally given characteristics such as caring and nurturing, and this can give birth to a new leadership style that can be passed on to men.

We cannot ignore the gender differences between men and women, nor the fact that it is these differences that determine the kind of leader either gender can be. So with more female leaders, it would give more opportunity to study their leadership style so that future leaders can be more inclusive and considerate while encouraging equal participation from those they lead.



"Maybe this world is another planet's hell."  
— Aldous Huxley

"Learning to ignore things is one of the great paths to inner peace."  
— Robert J. Sawyer, *Calculating God*

"Man, when you lose your laugh you lose your footing."  
— Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."  
— Aristotle

"You get what anybody gets - you get a lifetime."  
— Neil Gaiman, *Preludes & Nocturnes*

"I figured something out. The future is unpredictable."  
— John Green, *An Abundance of Katherines*

"In the summer  
I stretch out on the shore  
And think of you. Had I told the sea  
What I felt for you,  
It would have left its shores,  
Its shells,  
Its fish,  
And followed me."  
"Men are afraid that women will laugh at them.  
Women are afraid that men will kill them."  
— Margaret Atwood

"While I sleep, I dream of you, and when I wake,  
I long to hold you in my arms. If anything, our  
time apart has only made me more certain that  
I want to spend my nights by your side, and my  
days with your heart."  
— Nicholas Sparks, *Nights in Rodanthe*

"Dreams come true. Without that possibility,  
nature would not incite us to have them."  
— John Updike

"The problem with doing nothing is not knowing  
when you are finished."  
— Nelson DeMille

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress  
can be judged by the way its animals are treated."  
— Mahatma Gandhi

"If we listened to our intellect we'd never have  
a love affair. We'd never have a friendship.  
We'd never go in business because we'd be cynical:  
"It's gonna go wrong." Or "She's going to hurt me."  
Or, "I've had a couple of bad love affairs, so therefore..." Well, that's nonsense.  
You're going to miss life. You've got to jump  
off the cliff all the time and build your wings  
on the way down."  
— Ray Bradbury

"You forget what you want to remember, and  
you remember what you want to forget."  
— Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*

### HOW TO CONTACT US

#### MANAGING EDITOR

**Mbongeni Mbingo**  
e-mail: mbingo@observer.org.sz  
Cell: 7602 9564 / 7904 8641

P.O. Box A385, Swazi Plaza,  
Mbabane, Belfusile Street  
Tel: 2404 4437, 2404 4436,  
2404 9600, 2404 9797, 2404 0708  
Email: info@observer.org.sz  
Website: www.observer.org.sz

#### EDITOR:

**NEWS EDITOR:** Thulani Thwala - 7605 0985 / 7905 0985 editor@observer.org.sz

**SPORTS EDITOR:** Kenneth Dlamini - 7607 0035 / 7946 0330 newseditor@observer.org.sz

**ENTERTAINMENT SNR REPORTER:** Mphikeleli Msibi - 7605 8044 / 7925 7918 sport@observer.org.sz

**BUSINESS SNR REPORTER:** Nomfundo Sifundza - 7901 4289 entertainment@observer.org.sz

**SNR SUB EDITOR:** Hlangiwe Ndlovu - 7946 0385 business@observer.org.sz

**Paradise Mamba** - 7603 5639 / 7946 0328 subeditor@observer.org.sz

#### CIRCULATION OFFICER

Bongani Simeane: 7605 3707 / 7946 0338  
circulation@observer.org.sz

#### MARKETING MANAGER

Siphelele Mkhonta: 7605 2296 / 7946 0308  
2404 8671 / 2404 8699  
smm@observer.org.sz

#### MANZINI

Makhaya Convenient Centre, Office No. 25  
Sifiso Nhlabatsi CELL: 7674 6378 /  
7946 0374 Tel: 2505 2320, Fax: 25 05 7220

#### PIGG'S PEAK

Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite,  
Office No. 3 Tel: 2437 1083  
Sizwe Dlamini Cell: 7670 0678 / 7946 0377  
Email: observersipiki@realnet.co.sz

#### SITEKI

Siteki Market Office No. 15  
Wonderboy Dlamini  
CELL: 7643 6549 / 7968 3737

#### NHLANGANO

Tobacco Company Complex, Cnr King George  
Masengule Street Opposite SEDCO premises.  
Tel: 2207 5159 Starsky Mkhonta  
Cell: 7621 5081 / 7946 0346  
starsky@realnet.co.sz

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# BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

## CONTACTS

Hlengiwe Ndlovu  
(79460385)  
business@observer.org.sz  
Majaha Nkonyane  
(7844 8668/7944 8668)  
Tel: 2404 9600/1  
Fax: 2404 5503

## VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
<b>First National Bank</b>	
Inflation Rate	4.8%
<b>Central Statistical Office</b>	
Mortgage Rate	10.5%
<b>Swaziland Building Society</b>	
Bank Rate	7.0%
<b>Central Bank</b>	
Petrol (u)	E12.80 per litre
Replacement	E12.85 per litre
Diesel	E12.80 per litre
Paraffin	E 9.15 per litre
<b>Engen Garage</b>	

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 23 MAY 2018

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	12.6175	12.6675
British Pound/SZL	16.9131	16.9802
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.7231	8.7537
Swiss France/SZL	12.7128	12.7581
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2618	1.2769
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.5136	9.5551
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.8137	9.8518
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	14.8363	14.8951
Gold	1,290.0100	
Oil	81.4100	

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Standard Bank

# Taxes could reduce Africa's heavy reliance on development aid

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

**TAXATION is not the nicest of subjects to talk about lately, not especially at Eswatini, with the Finance Bill of 2018 proposing an increase in over 15 duties, taxes, user fees and tolls.**

However, if put to proper use, taxes can significantly reduce African countries' heavy reliance on aid for development.

Resource mobilisation is one of the African Continental Free Trade Area's (AcFTA) key tenets also vouched for by the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF).

This subject was one of those which took centre-stage in an ATAF side event in the recent 51st session of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the conference of African ministers of finance, planning and economic development held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa two weeks ago.

The ministerial segment was preceded by a preparatory meeting of the committee of experts.

The AcFTA pushes for minimal reliance on donors to help bolster development, so that countries like Eswatini can use taxes as an engine for economic growth.

However, such efforts are constantly being undermined by illicit financial flows which drain the continent of an estimated \$50 billion every year.

As a voice on African tax issues to inform and influence the global dialogue, ATAF is increasingly becoming important in the development and shaping of tax policy in the continent.

### Legislation

The organisation recently achieved revised legislation on transfer pricing in many countries where these legislations have come into law.

Also, ATAF has played an important role in revenue mobilisation through technical assistance programmes that have identified revenue gaps and have returned money to countries to

the tune of over \$150 million.

Even though taxation remains a sensitive matter for many Eswatini at the moment, one of the issues which emerged in ATAF's side event at the 51st ECA was the need to address trade mis-invoicing and abusive transfer pricing by some multi-national corporations through technical assistance and country cooperation at a continental level.

A call was also made by Akingbolahan Adeniran, Rule of Law Advisor to the Vice-President of Nigeria, to 'amplify advocacy' for the return of illicit financial assets from developed countries to source countries on the African continent.

In the meantime, ATAF Executive Secretary Logan Wort and the African Union Commission Vice-Chair engaged in a discussion on advancing capacity for effective tax administration to enhance domestic resource mobilisation, curbing tax frauds and corruption in Africa, with the aim of improving the living standards of the continent's people.

## SWIFT HELPS LAUNCH 36 BRANDS IN SIX YEARS

By Majaha Nkonyane

**THE Swaziland Fair Trade (SWIFT) has played an instrumental role in developing the country's small enterprise sector by helping launch 36 new successful brands over the past six years.**

This is according to SWIFT Director, Julie Nixon. "We are happy to have been able to help launch 36 new successful brands over the past six years, and Bushfire continually offers our businesses a chance to test new products and earn income."

These brands are called successful because six years into the programme these have upward sales trends and increased profits," she said.

The organisation has three core components to its specialised capacity development training. These include business training modules, mentoring and market linkages.

"We believe that our members should earn while they learn, so the market linkages programme is as important as training, coaching and mentorships," she said.

### Double stand

During the annual Bushfire Festival which takes place over the weekend, SWIFT has a double stand in the Market Place for the micro enterprises so they can be part of this important event.

Members such as D. Tempt Creations, Dumzandla, Litsembe Mtiya, Gone Indigenous, Crocheting for a Cause, Ngetsembele eNkhosini and K. E Designs will be showcasing their work and selling on the SWIFT stand in this year's Bushfire Festival.

Nixon said by being a sponsor of the Market Place, SWIFT ensures that members showcase their craft at discounted rates in the organisation's Bushfire stand.

Nixon also highlighted the principle of fair



**LOCALLY PRODUCED:** A T-shirt by one of the hawkers at the SWIFT stand showcasing their work.



**HARD AT WORK:** Leonard Webb captured in one of the stands at the Bushfire Festival.

trade as being hence this year's Bushfire presents an opportunity to spread the word on this critical subject.

Meanwhile, SWIFT will this year hold a number of raffle draws during the festival where

patrons stand a chance to win a gift bag from performing artists full of Fair Trade goodies.

SWIFT members Zubani and Golden Hands will be dressing the MCs over the weekend in stunning handmade designs.



# AFRICA'S TRADE PATTERN STILL A CAUSE FOR GREAT CONCERN

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

**AFRICA's trade performance was boosted, lately, by the global economic recovery and commodities exports.**

However, the composition and direction of the continent's trade remains highly worrisome and to a large extent imbalanced, delegates attending the 51st session of Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development observed.

Themed the 'African Continental Free Trade Area' (ACFTA), the conference was held in Addis Ababa two weeks ago and attended by hundreds of delegates including ministers of finance, planning and development from 45 countries, regional economic communities, United Nations bodies, representatives from international and regional organisations and observers from non-African countries.

A high powered delegation from the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) led by the organisation's Executive Secretary Logan Wort also participated in this meeting.

Experts noted that while intra-African exports had increased over the past few years, that same trend was not reflected in intra-African imports, which showed the effect of underdeveloped regional

value chains and low levels of intraregional trade in intermediate goods among African countries.

The ACFTA, which officially came into being earlier this year, is expected, amongst other things, to address the barriers to trade amongst African countries themselves whilst providing a platform for enhancing productive integration and value chain development in Africa.

Other concerns that emerged from deliberations bordered on the regularity, quality and relevance of the statistics used on the continent, in particular those pertaining to social development issues.

## Availability

Experts stressed that ECA must take the steps necessary to ensure the timely availability of data and statistics, as the latter remained critical for development planning, policy design and implementation.

The Kingdom of Eswatini was among the first countries to sign the ACFTA, which amongst many other key functions is also expected to reduce African country's heavy reliance on development assistance and to enhance domestic resource mobilisation as the engine of the continent's economic growth.

However, like other countries, Eswatini has not taken notable steps to ratify the

treaty unlike Ghana and Kenya which have already made bold strides by depositing instruments for ratification.

ECA Executive Secretary Vera Songwe encouraged signatories to capitalise on the ACFTA by creating fiscal spaces to foster investments to ensure economic diversification and job creation.

If implemented, the ACFTA contains suitable strategies for countries to diversify their economies, industrialise and develop and ways in which small and medium enterprises should be empowered and geared towards entrepreneurship.

Despite the ACFTA being in place, there is a lot that still needs to be done to ensure its full operationalisation.

Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the African Union and ECA, Woinshet Tadesse outlined the outstanding issues as being the first phase of negotiations which still must be resolved and the commitment needed from member states to reach consensus during the second phase for the agreement to benefit all member states.

Tadesse also emphasised on the need for the agreement to be accompanied by national strategies to build productive capacities and put in place trade related infrastructure in order to ensure equitable benefits to all African countries.

## BUSINESS AS USUAL



**SMALL BUSINESS:** The driver of this Mercedes Benz had to slow down to give way to the man with his containers as he crossed the road towards Mangwaneni yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

## 'One-third lump sum provident fund pay-out free from taxation'

By Majaha Nkonyane

**THE Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) has assured that taxation of one third of the lump sum pay-out of provident funds is free from taxation, Director of Communications Vusi Dlamini said.**

He said that since the balance of two thirds is paid out in the form of an annuity (monthly payouts), this annuity is, therefore, subjected to taxation like all other employment income.

He further explained that during the life of the contributions, tax relief is afforded to the taxpayer.

"In essence, tax relief for pension fund affords tax relief before taxation and during the life of the contributions whereas with provident fund relief is postponed till retirement," Dlamini explained, also highlighting the E360 rebate afforded on provident fund contributions on a yearly basis.

Dlamini also assured that the payment of such benefits is governed by the fund rules in line with Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA)'s regulations.

Moving forward, Dlamini assured

that no changes would take place regarding tax treatment of pension funds.

"The current treatment of pension fund benefits is what has always been occurring," he affirmed. Retirement funds have the same meaning as defined in the Retirement Funds Act of 2005.

SRA's tax training coach at Ntsizwa Muthasa last week described retirement funds as being businesses carried on with the purpose of providing annuities and or lump sum benefits for members on their retirement or to the dependants of such members on the death of such members.

Muthasa was speaking during the second annual Swaziland National Provident Fund Stakeholder Forum held at the Happy Valley Hotel.

On another note, Muthasa said transfer from one pension fund, irrespective of whether the fund is a defined benefit or defined contribution to another pension fund, shall not be subject to tax.

He also highlighted that transfer from one provident fund to another would also not be subject to tax while transfer between pension and provident fund would result in tax implications.

## MTN PROMISES 'MASSIVE' CSI PROJECT

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

**AS part of its 20-year celebrations, MTN Chief Executive Officer Ambrose Dlamini has promised a massive Corporate Social Investment project this year.**

The CEO did not delve into specific details of this project save for the promise that it will be massive and worthwhile. As part of its CSI programmes the company normally hosts '21 Days of Y'ello Care', an annual employee volunteer initiative launched in 2007. The campaign promotes participation of MTN staff, and partners, in high-impact social projects.

Dlamini was speaking on Tuesday where the company officially unveiled two Ford Everest vehicles worth E500 000 each which will be given away by MTN to its lucky customers as part of the company's 20-year anniversary celebrations.

Apart from the latest Ford vehicles, the company will also give away eight motorbikes, airtime and Mobile Money



**WIN ME:** One of the two Ford Everest vehicles worth E500 000 which will be given away by MTN to its lucky customers.

weekly prizes worth E5 000 in total.

This is made up of 5x E1 000 weekly Mobile Money cash prizes. The pro-

motion is open for both post-paid and prepaid customers and it will run for 10 months, until March 2019.

## SEA to ensure safe environment for farmers locally

By Majaha Nkonyane

**WHILST the debate between biotechnology farming and traditional methods continues, the Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA) has assured farmers of a safe environment.**

The organisation made an undertaking to continually ensure that food produced and consumed in the country is safe.

This was said by the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Christopher Gamedze during the official opening of the Biosafety Indaba held at Royal Swazi Sun on Tuesday.

"SEA is regulated by the Biosafety Act 2012.

"The major objective of the act is to ensure an adequate level of protection in the field of safe transfer, handling and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse

effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account human health," he said.

The minister recognised the Act as providing a transparent and predictable process for review and decision making for GMOs and related activities.

He suggested that this could be achieved by regulating GMOs. Procedurally, farmers intending to import GMOs must apply for an import permit from SEA. The supplier is also expected to apply for an export permit.

## NATIONAL TOURISM POLICY REVIEW IN FINAL STAGES

By Majaha Nkonyane

**THE review of the national tourism policy is now in its final stages.**

The review process is being handled by South African consultant Christele Gronhmann.

Yesterday, different stakeholders met at the City Court in Mbabane to discuss each of the policy's provisions.

One of the provisions is that the media must support tourism awareness programmes to the population at large by providing coverage and supporting special campaigns to promote responsible tourism initiatives.

Society also has a key role to play in promoting tourism by being friendly, hospitable and helpful to

tourists and visitors. They also are to foster sustainable tourism in both urban and rural areas throughout the country.

Whilst encouraging the participation of youth, women, senior citizens and communities in tourism development and operations.

Local government's role mainly centres on putting in place tourism infrastructure in collaboration with ministries and agencies.

The new policy also calls for establishment of an inter-ministerial tourism committee which will facilitate dialogue between the ministry of tourism and environment and its parastatals as well as with other relevant ministries and parastatals.

Local governments are also to be part of these dialogues.



# ENACTUS partners with US Peace Corps for first ever 'Seniors Programme'

enactus

GRADUATING ENACTUS students were invited to a first of its kind training last weekend on 18th-19th May at SANU Faculty of Health Sciences to learn about opportunities to assist them with their entrepreneurial initiatives after college.

The event was sponsored by the U.S. Peace Corps and brought 12 speakers from various partner organisations to address the 63 students in attendance.

The speakers included Youth Enterprise Fund Operations Manager Vuli Simelane, RSTP Assistant Communications Officer Ayanda Nhlabatsi, RSTP Business Advisor Sanelisiwe Mkhwanazi, SEDCO Senior Manager Themba Dlamini, RDF Regional Officers Neane Vilane and Mayibongwe Vilakati, Kashamiri Consultancy Director Zothile Mabusela, Catalyse Director Sam Sukati, and two entrepreneurs Jay Dupont, Director of Du Green, and Celumusa Dlamini, Director of Net Storm. ENACTUS student Phesheya Dlamini noted that, "We don't get anything like this at school, it has been so helpful for us as we are all preparing to graduate." Opening remarks were given by U.S. Peace Corps Programme and Training Manager Musa Malaza and Promotional Officer at the ministry of commerce, Industry, and Trade Philiswa Dlamini.



ENACTUS Country Director Wonderboy Khumalo then presented the ENACTUS 2018-2022 strategy to students and attending faculty advisors. The strategy has four pillars: talent and business development of students, communities and alumni running sustainable social enterprises, strengthening partnerships, and organisational sustainability.

Khumalo noted that under the second pillar, alumni will be given support and encouraged to continue developing businesses through ENACTUS.

## NEW ENACTUS STRATEGY

**VISION-** To create a better, more sustainable world.

**MISSION-** Engage the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders to

use innovation and business principles to improve the world.

The students then had the chance to hear from key partners about funding and mentorship opportunities available to them in Swaziland.

The students were given overviews of funding available at YEF, incubation services available at RSTP, funding opportunities from RDF, business support available at SEDCO, and were given pointers and motivation from Jay and Celumusa. The students also had the opportunity to learn about CV writing and interview skills from Zothile. The students then had an opportunity to network with speakers and discuss opportunities going forward for developing their businesses after graduation.

## KEY POINTS SHARED DURING TRAINING:

- Most businesses fail due to lack of planning, poor feasibility, lack of technical expertise, poor management, lack of succession planning, and disharmony within the group.

Some interventions to prevent failure include: Capacity building, incubation, M&E, business plans, market analysis, value chain assessment, clear succession and fall back plans, adoption of saving culture, and facilitation of market linkages.

## YEF

- There are five phases of starting a business: Know, Study, Plan, Prepare, and Promote.

- Some of the most common mis-

takes in CV writing include: Not properly specifying your personal details, poor attention to detail, lack of clear career objective, and fabrication of facts. - Kashamiri Consultancy

- Some benefits of being incubated include: low overheads, acquisition of business skills and networks, access to finance, legitimacy, and support from fellow entrepreneurs and small business owners. - RSTP

The students showed their appreciation for the event with many of them noting in the evaluation forms that "all of the sessions were relevant and helpful" and "it is an initiative that should definitely continue every year." LUCT student CEO Tina Themba gave feedback saying, "I want to thank you all so much for organising this event. It has been so helpful and really connected us with useful resources."

ENACTUS is an international organisation dedicated to inspiring students to improve the world through entrepreneurial action. The ENACTUS experience transforms both the lives of the people the projects serve, and in turn, the lives of ENACTUS students as they develop into more effective, values-driven leaders.

ENACTUS Swaziland is proudly sponsored by the Government of Swaziland, Coca-Cola Swaziland, Harmony Gold Mining Company, Nedbank Swaziland, MTN Swaziland, Swaziland Water Services Corporation (SWSC), Swazi Bank, Standard Bank, Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC), Central Bank of Swaziland, Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA), SEDCO, DD Williamson, Swazi Observer, Letshego, Ngwenya Glass, Destiny Music, Strengths Inc, Swaziland Tourism Authority, Sdudla Engineering, Dups, Achieve Success, TransMagnific, Swaziland Posts & Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC) and KPMG.

## Capitec Bank launches funeral plan with Sanlam Group

CAPE TOWN - Capitec Bank has added insurance to its expanding range of financial services products, with the Tuesday launch of Capitec Insure and a unique funeral product.

According to the bank, the funeral plan, underwritten by Centriq Life Insurance Company, is set to be the most affordable and flexible insurance product of its kind in South Africa. Featuring paperless applications, claims paid out within four hours, and cover for up to 22 lives on one policy, the funeral plan is unmatched in its

features. Funeral cover ranges from R10 000 to R100 000. "We designed the funeral plan to be the most affordable, easiest to use and straightforward product on the market and based it on the same principles that our business was founded on 17 years ago, simplicity, transparency and affordability," said Gerrie Fourie, Capitec Bank Chief Executive. "By introducing an insurance offering, we are delivering on our diversification strategy to grow our service offering and bring more value to our clients."

African News Agency



## Eskom's R16 million 'maybe'

CAPE TOWN - Power utility, Eskom is reportedly paying R16.5 million for a licence fee to the National Nuclear Regulator in order to secure a nuclear power plant in Thuyispunt.

This comes after Minister of Energy, Jeff Radebe said on Friday that the utility must pay R16.5 million for an installation site license application in the Eastern Cape. Eskom reportedly said they will pay this fee in order to secure the availability of the site in the long term for the nuclear construction, reports Business Insider.

The power utility reportedly added that this is not a new build investment and merely licence fees and Eskom views this as a valuable insurance.

In other Eskom news, the National Union of Mineworkers said yesterday it would hold a protest march against power company Eskom in Durban on June 9 after the state-owned utility made the "provocative" offer of a zero per cent wage increase at the start of negotiations on Monday.

"Amongst other things, the NUM is not happy about is the manner (in which)

Eskom is negotiating, which demonstrates arrogance and a don't care attitude to its employees," the union said.

"NUM is aware that Eskom has developed a new corporate plan which talks about reducing employees by 30 per cent.

They are initiating the plan to provoke NUM members and other employees." NUM said it would submit a memorandum about corruption in the KwaZulu-Natal region and its ongoing opposition to an agreement Eskom signed recently with independent power producers, which unions say will lead to job losses in the coal sector.

## Business Report

## SA municipalities spent R28 billion unnecessarily

CAPE TOWN - Irregular and wasteful expenditure has continued to increase in South Africa's municipalities.

Yesterday, Auditor-General Kimi Makwetu released the audit outcomes for SA's municipalities for the 2016/17 financial year in Parliament. The results are shocking and illustrate irregular and unnecessary spending. Last year, municipalities spent R16 billion on irregular expenditure, this was a 50 per cent increase from the previous year. Results show that this year municipalities fur-

ther increased that percentage to 75 per cent, spending R28.4 billion in unnecessary expenditure. The AG audited 257 municipalities and 21 municipal entities, according to the department. Makwetu noted his disappointment and acknowledged that there has been little to no compliance with his constant advice on administrative lapses and failures.

When looking at the last five years, the AG said during the briefing, that little change has occurred in these municipalities and there are still issues with

accountability and good governance. "When we released the 2011/12 municipal audit outcomes in August 2013, we highlighted amongst others, a lack of decisive leadership to address the lack of accountability by ensuring consequences against those who flouted basic processes that hampered effective municipal governance." "We reported weaknesses in internal control risks that needed attention in local government by providing root causes for audit findings and recommendations to remedy underlying causes," he noted. Business Report





# EBOLA DEATH TOLL HITS 27 IN DR CONGO

**MBANDAKA** - The death toll from ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has risen to 27, the health ministry said on Tuesday, after a fatality was recorded in a city on the front line of the outbreak.

The death, which involved a person confirmed by lab tests as having the viral disease, occurred in Wangata, a district of Mbandaka, the ministry said in a press release.

So far, there have been 51 cases since the outbreak was declared on May 8, it said. Of these, 28 cases have been confirmed, 21 are probable and two are suspected.

One of the world's most notorious diseases, ebola is a virus-caused haemorrhagic fever that in extreme cases leads to fatal bleeding from internal organs, the mouth, eyes or ears. The outbreak began in rural

northwestern DRC in a remote location called Bikoro, about 150km away. Last Thursday, a first case was reported in Mbandaka, an event that triggered international concern.

The city of around 1.2 million people, lies on the Congo river, where it is a transport hub to Brazzaville and Kinshasa downstream and to Bangui, upstream. The health authorities on Monday began administering a prototype vaccine to a small number of health workers in Mbandaka, as part of the campaign to contain and roll back the disease.

The immunisation team will follow suit on Saturday in Bikoro, vaccinating more than 600 people in all for the first phase of the operation.

The outbreak is the ninth in the DRC since the disease was first identified in 1976. It was named after a Congolese river where the first cases



**TREATMENT:** A World Health Organisation (WHO) worker administers a vaccination during the launch of a campaign aimed at beating an outbreak of ebola in the port city of Mbandaka, Democratic Republic of Congo. (Reuters)

were recorded. The last outbreak was in 2017, and was rapidly cur-

tailed with four deaths. **AFP**

## No sign of Mugabe at Zim parly hearing

**HARARE** - A Zimbabwe parliamentary committee gathered yesterday to hear evidence from former president Robert Mugabe, but there was no immediate sign that he would attend.

Lawmakers want to question Mugabe over his 2016 claim that the country had lost \$15 billion in revenue due to corruption and foreign exploitation in the diamond sector.

The parliamentary schedule said Mugabe, who is 94 and in frail health, was due to give oral evidence but that his attendance was still to be confirmed. Mugabe was not present yesterday morning as the committee met to start the hearing at 09:00 and there was no extra security at the parliament building in the capital Harare.

Journalists were asked to leave the committee room and told they would be called back later in the morning. The head of the mines committee, independent lawmaker Temba Mliswa, told state-run the Herald newspaper on Tuesday that a letter summoning Mugabe was delivered last week. **News24**



**ABSENT:** Former Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe.

## 12 killed, 134 infected in cholera outbreak

**ABUJA** - A cholera outbreak has killed 12 people and may have infected at least 134 others in the northeast Nigerian state of Adamawa, a medical official said yesterday.

"So far 12 people have died from the disease and there are many more cases", said Ezra Sakawa, medical director of the general hospital for Mubi, the town where the disease has struck. "We have little man-

power to deal with an outbreak of such magnitude," Sakawa said, adding that nurses were on strike.

Northeast Nigeria is ground zero for Nigeria's nine-year war against Islamist insurgency Boko Haram and its offshoot, now Islamic State's West Africa ally.

The conflict has spawned one of the world's largest humanitarian crises, with millions of

people displaced and in need of aid to survive.

Those conditions are ripe for any outbreak of disease, such as cholera, to be deadly on a wide scale, humanitarian workers say. Mubi, although less affected by the humanitarian crisis, has been attacked repeatedly by suspected Boko Haram militants, killing scores of people.

**Reuters**

## UN criticises Algeria for mass deportation of migrants

**ENEVA/ALGIERS** - The United Nations on Tuesday urged Algeria to stop rounding up and expelling sub-Saharan migrants, highlighting an influx of immigrants from Mali and Niger that Algeria says it needs UN help to address.

Hassen Kacimi, a senior official at Algeria's Interior Ministry, told Reuters on Saturday that Algeria had called for help from the international community, while the United Nations had done little to save the migrants.

UN spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told a regular UN briefing in Geneva that depor-

tations and expulsions have increased markedly since the second half of 2017, and a UN human rights team went to Niger to investigate this month.

"What they heard was that Algerian authorities frequently carry out mass round-ups of sub-Saharan African migrants in various parts of the country," Shamdasani said.

Of 25 migrants interviewed by the UN team, only one had had her passport checked before being expelled. Most had been told to put thumbprints on Arabic documents they could not read.

Most were not told why they were being detained and were

not allowed to pick up their belongings, passports or money before being expelled. Some were taken straight to Niger, others were held in military bases, in inhuman and degrading conditions, before being taken south. "Some are crammed into big trucks to be transferred to the Nigerien border where they are abandoned and left to walk hours in the desert heat to cross the border into Niger," she said. Algeria says it faces a huge influx of migrants. "A surge of migration is invading the south of Algeria," Kacimi said.

**Reuters**

### BRIEFS

#### 3 suspected Islamist militants killed

**OUAGADOUGOU** - Burkina Faso security forces killed three suspected Islamist militants and arrested one more on Tuesday morning in an operation in the capital Ouagadougou, its gendarme force said. One gendarme was killed and four others wounded in the fighting in Ouagadougou's Ragnongo neighbourhood, while one civilian was also injured, the force said in a statement. Ouagadougou has been hit by several Islamist militant attacks in recent years. **Reuters**

#### Court convicts pensioner for rape

**NAIROBI** - A 72-year-old pensioner has been found guilty in a British court of raping two Kenyan girls while he was on holiday in the East African nation, the latest example of cross-border collaboration to stamp out child sex offences by Western tourists. Britain's National Crime Agency said Keith Morris, a retired locksmith from the northern city of Hull, was convicted of nine child abuse offences on Tuesday in Leeds Crown Court after a trial in which Kenyan witnesses testified via video link.

**Reuters**

#### Trouble brewing between govt, opposition

**JOHANNESBURG** - Trouble is once again brewing between Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta's ruling Jubilee Party and opposition leader Raila Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party, despite their March 9 "handshake" deal to reach a compromise following months of political turmoil. Odinga returned home yesterday after a week-long trip to London, but he was welcomed, not by the amity he left behind, but by growing political animosity that is putting his unity pact with Kenyatta to the test, Kenya's Daily Nation reported yesterday.

**African News Agency**



#### 'Suicide bomber hits military convoy'

**MOGADISHU** - A suicide car bomber from Somalia's Islamist group al-Shabaab hit a military convoy outside Mogadishu on Tuesday, causing an unknown number of deaths, a police officer and the group's spokesman told Reuters. The attack targeting a passing military convoy occurred in Afgoye, a district about 30 km northwest of Mogadishu, police officer Major Abdiqadir Ali said. "What we are sure of is a military vehicle was hit," Ali said, adding there were casualties but the death toll had not yet been determined. **AFP**

#### Home demolitions ramped up

**CAIRO** - Egypt's army has drastically stepped up its demolitions of homes, businesses and farms in the Sinai since launching a widespread campaign against militants in February, Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday. The watchdog said it documented at least 3 000 homes and commercial properties destroyed in the peninsula, where Egypt has battled a long-running jihadist insurgency, as well as 600 razed just before the latest military operation. **AFP**





# Focus on SA Scene



## Ransom: Kinappers demand is Bitcoins for kidnapped boy (12)

**WITBANK** - Three people have been taken into police custody in connection with the disappearance of 12-year-old Katlego Marite.

Yesterday marked the third day of the alleged abduction. His mother revealed how a lead had popped up just hours after he was taken. Speaking to TimesLIVE from her Witbank home, Miriam Marite said the lead had come from a former colleague. He had rushed to her house after hearing of Katlego's kidnapping from locals.

They showed him the CCTV footage taken from a neighbour's house, revealing the moments before and after the boy was forced into a silver-coloured Toyota Corolla, which sped off with him. After seeing the footage, Marite's colleague decided to go in search of the alleged suspects' car. "He said to us, 'Let me drive quickly to the location and go to different taverns where they drink,' and when he arrived, at a place they call Lunchbox, he called us and said he has seen the car," Marite said.

Marite said she and her family all rushed to the scene, along with the police and members of the community crime watch group. The three men who were in the vehicle similar to the one that drove off with Katlego were taken by the police.



**VICTIM: Katlego Marite.**

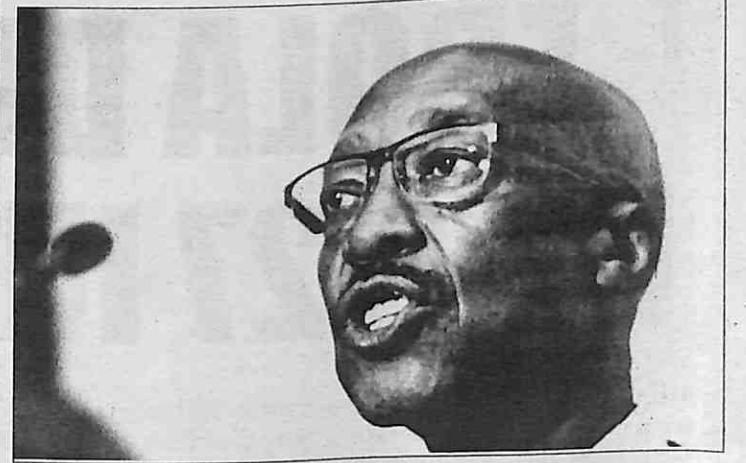
Brigadier Leonard Hlathi told TimesLIVE that no suspects had been arrested or charged, adding that taking in people for questioning did not automatically mean they would be charged. It was not immediately clear whether the three who were questioned had since been released from police custody.

TimesLIVE understands, however, that the vehicle was still in the possession of police on Tuesday afternoon.

The Marite family say they have yet to hear anything further from the kidnappers, who had threatened to hang and decapitate Katlego if their demands were not met.

The last communication they received was on Sunday when they received a ransom note, which detailed their demand for 15 Bitcoins in exchange for Katlego's safe return.

*Timeslive*



**SUSPENDED: Sars Commissioner Tom Moyane.**

## Hawks launch separate investigation into Moyane

**JOHANNESBURG** - The Hawks say the criminal probe is separate from the disciplinary inquiry into Moyane.

The Hawks have launched another probe into suspended Sars Commissioner Tom Moyane, EWN reports.

Moyane was suspended by President Cyril Ramaphosa, who has accused him of gross misconduct over his handling of an investigation into former senior Sars official Jonas Makwakwa.

EWN reports the Hawks wish to finalise the criminal investigation into Moyane by the end of the month.

Though the Hawks spokesperson

would not divulge to the news website the details of its probe – the docket of which was reportedly transferred from the Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit – he confirmed the investigation was separate from the disciplinary inquiry over Moyane's handling of an investigation into Makwakwa.

Ramaphosa appointed Advocate Azhar Bham SC to replace Judge Kate O'Regan as the presiding officer to oversee the disciplinary inquiry into Moyane after Moyane had claimed that because of O'Regan's ties to NGO Corruption Watch, she would be biased against him. *citizen*

## Supra Mahumapelo goes on 'early retirement'

**JOHANNESBURG** - Supra Mahumapelo announced yesterday that he is going on "early retirement" and will vacate his position as North West Premier. The announcement comes after Mahumapelo, who was on a leave of absence, was recently linked to damning allegations of corruption and maladministration in the province. Mahumapelo has also been seen as a close ally of former president Jacob Zuma and having links to the controversial Gupta family. The province was placed under the control of the national government on May 13.

The Constitution states that, when

a province cannot or does not fulfil an executive obligation in terms of the Constitution or legislation, the national executive may intervene by taking any appropriate steps to ensure fulfillment of that obligation, parliament's spokesman Moloto Mothapo said.

Mahumapelo was expected to resign two weeks ago but the African National Congress (ANC) in the North West insisted at the time that Mahumapelo is "going nowhere". However, North West Finance, Economic and Enterprise Development MEC Wendy Nelson was appointed as acting premier. *IOL*

## 4 shot dead, 6 injured in Brakpan

**BRAKPAN** - Four people were shot and killed amid taxi-related violence in Brakpan, in Ekurhuleni, on Wednesday morning.

The incident happened around 09:00 on the corner of High Street and Wenden Avenue. Police spokesperson Captain Pearl van Staad said the Brakpan taxi association had held a meeting to resolve their complaints.

Van Staad said: "There was a dispute amongst themselves" relating to taxi routes between Brakpan and Tsakane. This resulted in the shootings. Four people were killed and six others were injured and taken to Far East Rand Hospital. Van Staad said eight others were arrested. Police recovered nine firearms – four pistols, one AK47, two AR-15 rifles and two LM5 rifles. *News24*

## SA woman, 25, found dead in the Bahamas

**NASSAU** - The family of a South African woman has been left with more questions than answers after the 25-year-old's body was found in a hotel in the Bahamas.

Carla van Eeden had finished crewing on a yacht and decided to spend a few days relaxing on Paradise Island, off Nassau, before making her way to the US, the family's lawyer William Booth told News24.

While information is still sketchy, local media were reporting that police found her body hanging by a cord at the back

of the bathroom door of her hotel last week. "Her family are a bit traumatised and upset and are not able to understand how it happened. They are extremely shocked," Booth said. A petite Van Eeden shared her recent and extensive travels on Facebook. Last month, she expressed her excitement at having attended the Coachella music and arts festival. She made her way to Mexico "for some serious down time", followed by a quick stop in Cape Town before heading back to the US.

Her brother contacted Booth, a well-

known criminal lawyer who has represented people involved in several high-profile murder cases over the past few years, to help police probe her murder and to give the family advice.

Booth said not much information had yet been relayed by authorities, and the cause of death was not yet known.

Some family members flew over to the island this week to get more answers.

They had asked South African authorities at the nearest embassy to meet up with them and assist diplomatically. *News24*

## Parly sets up feasibility study to look into move to Pretoria

**CAPE TOWN** - National Assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete says an external service provider has been appointed to look into the feasibility of moving Parliament to Pretoria.

Former president Jacob Zuma first made the suggestion, in his 2016 State of the Nation Address, to move the national legislature to the country's capital.

This was in order to cut costs, he argued.

During Parliament's budget debate on Tuesday, Mbete announced that Pamoja PTY LTD had been appointed to conduct a "six-month socio-economic and impact study" on the proposal, commencing this month. "This [is] a matter that we will hand over to the sixth



Parliament," Mbete said in her speech.

That means the results of the study and its feasibility or non-feasibility will be looked at only after the 2019 gener-

al elections by the newly-elected Parliament.

Zuma said, in his SONA two years ago, that a "big expenditure item that we would like to persuade Parliament to consider the maintenance of two capitals, Pretoria as the administrative one and Cape Town as the legislative capital". It was costly for Cabinet to spread its work over the two capitals, he said at the time. "This must not come at expense of workers and families. In February 2016, Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) and Nomura economist Peter Attard Montalto said moving South Africa's Parliament from Cape Town to Pretoria would cost R7bn, but could bring savings of around R500m to R750m a year. *News24*



# BABY BORN WITH HER BRAIN OUTSIDE HER HEAD

A toddler who was given just 20 minutes to live after being born with her brain outside her skull has made a miraculous recovery.

Karlie Toland, now 17 months, is thought to be the only person in the world to suffer from five rare conditions, including encephalocele, which caused her brain to develop on the outside of her head.

Defying the odds, Karlie was discharged from hospital, but medics still insisted she would die within days.

After four weeks, Karlie's parents Gemma McCusker, 24, and Kyle Toland, 20, took their daughter to Belfast's Royal Hospital for Sick Children, where the youngster underwent a five-hour operation.

Surgeons are thought to have removed Karlie's outer brain before closing the wound.

Fully recovered, Karlie is now crawling and able to eat on her own, with her parents hoping she will take her first steps in the next few months.

Ms McCusker, the toddler's mother, said: "Looking at her now makes me so proud, she's always smiling, laughing and happy, she's such a little miracle we don't know what the future holds for Karlie but we are sure she will continue to defy the odds."

Speaking of her daughter's birth, Ms McCusker said: "I was told my daughter would die within 20 minutes."

"I was heartbroken and although she had part of her brain outside of her skull, she looked perfect."

"But she refused to give up and we knew she was strong enough to pull through despite everything we were told by doctors."

"After being discharged from hospital we went home with Karlie and used bottles of sterile water at room temperature and cotton wabs to

● Toddler defied the odds after being given just 20 minutes to live



**MIRACULOUS:** At four weeks old Karlie underwent a five-hour operation to repair her outside brain tissue.

wipe away the brain fluid leaking from her skull.

"We had been told Karlie would die in the next few days but she defied everyone and once we got a second opinion, four weeks later, she had the operation she desper-

ately needed."

Ms McCusker was told during her pregnancy her daughter would likely be born with deformities, but did not expect her brain to be outside her skull.

She said: "During my pregnancy

I was told at my 20-week scan there was something abnormal on her head but we had no idea what it was until she was born.

"I was told to prepare myself for missing limbs, her nose to be on her forehead and that she might not even have eyes."

"But Karlie had none of those deformities and was born with all of the correct facial features and limbs."

As well as encephalocele, Karlie also has cerebral palsy; an abnormal brain structure, called holoprosencephaly; a missing chromosome, known as 22 deletion syndrome; and microcephaly, which causes her head to be smaller than normal.

Although it is unclear how Karlie's health conditions will affect her future, her family is confident she will continue to defy expectations.

Ms McCusker added: "We've been told by doctors that Karlie is a miracle to be alive and she really is."

"She has proven everyone wrong and even after her major operation in December 2016 she was only in hospital for 48 hours before coming home. 'We couldn't believe it and although no one expected her to progress as her brain doesn't have the normal three structures, so far she is on par with other children her age."

"The only thing she is delayed with is her walking but she can stand if I told her hand so I don't think we'll need to wait much longer."

Karlie's parents believe the only reason their daughter is alive is due to the work of Dr Mano Shanmuganathan, a neurosurgeon at Belfast's Royal Hospital for Sick Children. Ms McCusker said: "We are so thankful to Dr Mano that he never gave up on our daughter. His surgery saved her life and gave us a future with Karlie." *Daily Mail*



**HOPE:** Although Karlie's future is uncertain, her mother says she will continue to defy expectations.

## WHAT IS ENCEPHALOCLE?

**ENCEPHALOCLE** is a rare birth defect where the structure that forms the brain and spinal cord folds and closes.

This causes a sac-like protrusion of the brain and its covering membranes through an opening in the skull.

It affects around one in 12,200 babies born in the US every year. Its UK prevalence is unknown.

Encephalocele's exact cause is unclear but may be a combination of genetic and environmental factors, such as insufficient vitamin D and folic acid during pregnancy.

Treatment involves surgery to place the protruding brain back into the skull and close the opening.

The patient may experience ongoing complications. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*



**THANKFUL:** Karlie's parents have thanked her surgeon for refusing to give up on their daughter.



**LIVELY:** Ms McCusker said the fully-recovered youngster is always smiling, laughing and happy

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## BRIEFS

## Convicted of forcing teen to marry

LONDON - A British jury convicted a woman on Tuesday of forcing her teenage daughter to marry a man 16 years her senior in Pakistan, capping a rare criminal prosecution in England for forced marriage. The victim said she was 13 years old when she was forced to enter a marriage contract with the man, became pregnant and had an abortion. She says that as her 18th birthday approached in 2016, she was tricked into going to Pakistan for what she thought was a family vacation and made to marry the man instead. *AP*

## N. Korea's decision welcome

SEOUL - North Korea has accepted a list of South Korean reporters to visit their nuclear testing site after a days-long tug of war with Seoul, South Korea's unification ministry said yesterday. North Korea invited a handful of media from a number of countries to witness the dismantling of the Punggye-ri testing site to uphold its pledge to discontinue nuclear tests. However, it had declined to take the South Korea reporters after calling off planned inter-Korean talks in protest against US-South Korean air combat drills. *Reuters*

## 16 killed, 38 wounded by blast

KANDAHAR - At least 16 people were killed and 38 wounded on Tuesday when a minivan packed with explosives detonated as security forces were trying to defuse it in southern Afghanistan, officials said. Security forces in Kandahar had already cleared the area around a bus station where the van was found, provincial governor spokesperson Daud Ahmadi said. "As the security forces were trying to defuse the van, it detonated," said police spokesperson Mohammad Qasim Azad. *AFP*



## Hand grenade kills teenager on bus

DONETSK - A hand grenade exploded in a teenager's rucksack on a bus in rebel-held eastern Ukraine, killing one child and wounding three others from the same school, separatist authorities said. The apparent accident happened as a group of children aged 14 to 16 were taking a bus in the town of Debaltsevo in the rebels' self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, a rebel official was quoted as saying by the separatist news agency DAN. *AFP*

## 'US leaders cruel and disloyal'

LONDON - A senior Iranian military official branded US leaders disloyal and cruel yesterday and told Parliament Tehran would not bow to Washington's pressure to limit its military activities. "Iranian armed forces are now, thanks to God, more prepared than ever and will not wait for the permission or approval of any power to develop defence capabilities," Major General Mohammad Bagheri was quoted as saying by the state news agency IRNA. *Reuters*



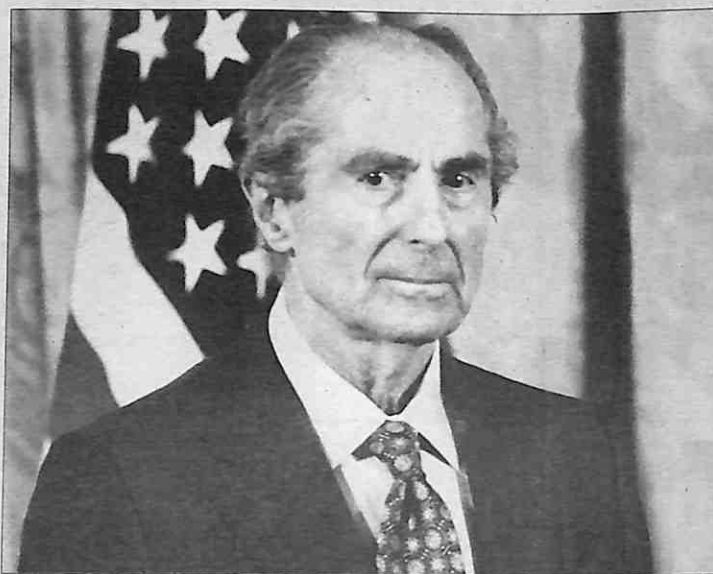
# CELEBRATED LITERARY GIANT PHILIP ROTH DIES

NEW YORK - Prolific novelist Philip Roth, a dominant force in American literature throughout the latter half of the 20th century, has died at the age of 85.

Roth's death on Tuesday, first reported by the New Yorker and The New York Times, was later confirmed by Roth's literary agent Andrew Wylie. He said the cause was congestive heart failure. Roth won the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his acclaimed novel 'American Pastoral'. "I'm in a state of shock. I'm stunned and speechless. He was a truth teller," Roth's friend Judith Thurman, also a writer, said.

A prolific essayist and critic, Roth was best known for mining the Jewish-American experience in his work.

He first achieved fame for his 1969 novel 'Portnoy's Complaint', about a horny teenager named Alexander Portnoy. His titanic stature on the post-World War II literary scene came from the universality of his message - in his own words: "I don't write Jewish, I write American." He long



NO MORE: Novelist Philip Roth.

managed to sustain his literary output both in terms of quality as well as quantity, as exemplified by his widely admired political trilogy that included 'American Pastoral', 'I Married a Communist' (1998) and

'The Human Stain' (2000). The decorated author won most top literary honours, but the coveted Nobel Literature Prize eluded him. The Swedish Academy announced earlier this month there will be no Nobel Literature Prize

this year in the wake of a crisis stemming from the anti-sexual harassment #MeToo campaign.

Philip Milton Roth was born on March 19, 1933 in Newark, New Jersey, the grandson of European Jews who were part of the 19th-century wave of immigration to the United States.

In 2012, Roth said that his most recent book, 'Nemesis', published two years earlier, would be his last, after having re-read all his books.

"I decided that I was done with fiction," he said. "I don't want to read any more of it, write any more of it, and I don't even want to talk about it anymore... It's enough. I no longer feel this dedication to write what I have experienced my whole life." Thurman said that after he stopped writing, Roth spent his free time reading and swimming, and meeting friends. "He was such a driven perfectionist, so when he felt his power ebbing, he wanted to quit at the top of his game, and he did," she said. *AFP*

## Kim summit could be delayed - Trump

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump warned his landmark summit with Kim Jong Un may be delayed but insisted the North Korean leader is "serious" about denuclearisation.

Hosting South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the White House, Trump did little to quell speculation about the wavering prospects of a historic first summit between US and North Korean leaders. "It may not work out for June 12," Trump said of the Singapore meeting, adding in a now familiar non-committal riff "if it does not happen, maybe it will happen

later." "There are certain conditions we want to happen. I think we'll get those conditions. And if we don't, we won't have the meeting."

Politically, Trump has invested heavily in the success of the meeting, and so privately most US officials, as well as outside observers, believe it will go ahead. But as the date draws near, Trump's divergence from his top aides, the differences between the two sides and the astronomically high stakes are coming into sharp relief.

Success could lead to peace on the Korean peninsula and end the threat of nuclear war.

Failure could all but destroy hopes of a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"You never know about deals," Trump said. "I've made a lot of deals. You never really know."

North Korea's willingness to denuclearise -- the very basis for the talks -- was recently plunged into doubt when the government denounced US demands for "unilateral nuclear abandonment."

Pyongyang also cancelled at the last minute a high-level meeting with the South in protest over joint military drills between Seoul and Washington. *AFP*

## Archbishop steps aside after conviction

MELBOURNE - Australian Catholic Archbishop Philip Wilson said yesterday he would stand aside from his duties, a day after a court found him guilty of concealing child sex abuse by a priest.

Wilson, who faces up to two years in prison, said he was still considering the court's reasons for the judgment.

"While I do so, it is appropriate that, in the light of some of his honour's findings, I stand aside from my duties as arch-



QUITS: Australian Catholic Archbishop Philip Wilson.

bishop," Wilson said in a statement emailed to media.

The archbishop of Adelaide, the capital of South Australia state, and former president of the Catholic Church's top body in Australia, said he will permanently resign as archbishop if it becomes "necessary or appropriate".

Wilson was accused of covering up a serious indictable offence by another priest, James Fletcher, after being told about it in 1976 when he was an assistant parish priest in the state of New South Wales. *Reuters*

## Venezuela expels US envoy in response to sanctions

CARACAS - President Nicolas Maduro ordered the expulsion of the top US diplomat in Venezuela in retaliation for a new round of sanctions over Venezuela's widely-condemned election.

The United States was among a string of countries that did not recognise Sunday's vote. The 55-year-old successor to Hugo Chavez won re-election easily, but critics said the vote was riddled with irregularities, from the barring of two popular opposition rivals to the offering of a government 'prize' to voters. President Donald Trump responded with an executive order limiting Venezuela's ability to sell state assets, heightening pressure on the cash-strapped government. Accusing US charge d'affaires Todd Robinson of being involved in "a military conspiracy," Maduro ordered him and another senior diplomat, Brian Naranjo, to leave within 48 hours. He gave no details of the accusations but said the US Embassy had been meddling in the military, economic and political issues, and vowed to present evidence to the nation shortly. "Neither with conspiracies nor with sanctions will you hold Venezuela back," Maduro said, at an event in downtown Caracas at the headquarters of the election board, which is run by government loyalists. *AFP*





WITH: Simon Shabangu

# CHURCH NEWS



## Bishop Nhlapho's Thursday Prayer services start today

DUE to the high demand for prayers and deliverance sessions, Bishop ND Nhlapho of God Never Fails will from today host prayer sessions starting from 11 until late in the evening.

Bishop Nhlapho says the Wednesday evening sessions which happen after the service are not enough as people do not make the time mainly due to transportation issues.

He said there been complaints that the time allocated is not enough hence he has opted to dedicate Thursday to the prayer and deliverance sessions.

He said despite his busy schedule as he is in and out of the country he has decided to make the Thursday prayer time. "I would like to tell the people of the Kingdom that their prayers have been answered. I have reschede and now will be available every Thursday to pray for the sick and deliver people from the bondage and



COME ALL: Bishop ND Nhlapho.

clutches of the devil. God never fails and indeed I believe that people will be delivered because the God I serve never fails," he said.

## Light of God Chapel to host fundraising dinner

LIGHT of God Chapel Ministries of Big Bend will host a fund raising dinner at Matata staff Carteen sports ground on Saturday night.

The event according to the host Pastor Eric Mathokoza Gamedze is aimed at raising funds for the many projects that they want to do as a church.

He said they have invited a number of guests including Prophet Bhobhobho from Sounds of Glory Ludzeludze, Apostle Sabelo Thwala and Pastor Mabuza a local Pastor from Mndobandoba. "We are appealing for support in this special event as a church. We have decided to make it very affordable so that everyone can come through and support us. Tickets are already available at only E40 for a general and E65 VIP. We will also have local choirs perform for guests on the night. The prophet will also make time for prayer and prophecy," he said.



FUNDRAISING: Pastor Eric Mathokoza Gamedze.

## All Nations to launch two new branches

ALL Nations Christian Church in Zion will launch two new branches in August and September, the founder Arch Bishop Bheki Lukhele has announced.

He said the first to be officially opened will be their new structure at Ezulwini which is near completion. He said the following month they will proceed to Pietermaritzburg which is the capital and second-largest city in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. He said the new structure in that area is also nearing completion and will be ready to open in September. He said the dates for both events will be announced soon.

"God is blessing us with more branches and we are excited that the church is spreading its wings even beyond the borders of the Kingdom," he said.



LAUNCHING: Arch Bishop Bheki Lukhele.



**MBABANE ALLIANCE CHURCH**

**Church services**

**Mondays**  
Prayer 6:00pm-7:30pm  
**Thursdays**  
Bible Exposition 6:00pm-7:30pm  
**Fridays**  
Youth 6:00pm-7:30pm  
**Saturday**  
Women 2:00pm-3:30pm  
**Sundays**  
English Service 8:30am-10:30am  
Siswati Service 11:00am-1:00pm

Children's Ministry 8:30am  
10:30am, 11:00am, 1:00pm

Men-Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month 6:00pm-7:30pm

Single Parents-Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 2:00pm-3:30pm

Contacts 2404 0979



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**DIVINE**  
Healing Ministries International

**Manzini Branch:**  
Wednesdays- Prayer 6:00-7:30pm

**Thursdays- Mid-week Service** 6:30-8:00pm

**Sundays- Teachings** 9:30-10:30am

**Main Service** 10:30am - 1pm

**Mbabane Branch:**  
Tuesdays - Prayer 6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Sundays- Service** 10am - 1pm

**DIVINE**  
Healing Ministries



**EVANGELICAL**  
Church - Nhlanguano

**Every Sunday**  
English Service at 0830hrs - 0955hrs

**Bible Study -**  
1000hrs - 1055hrs  
**Siswati Service -**  
1100hrs - 1300hrs

**Every Monday Prayer:**  
1800hrs - 2000hrs

**Last Tuesdays of the Month Family Fellowship:**  
1800hrs - 2000hrs

**Every Friday Youth Services:**  
1800hrs - 2000hrs

**Venue:**  
Evangelical Church Nhlanguano Church Hall, Opposite Nhlanguano Central Primary School

**Contacts**  
22075 020/7603 6628



**FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

**God Can Still Do It Again with Apostle Jeremiah**  
Venue  
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**CONTACTS**  
7671 0029/7631 4007.  
Come one come all



**MBABANE FREE EVANGELICAL ASSEMBLIES**

**Rev. Dr. A. M. B & Pastor T. Matsebula**

**Sunday English service**  
9:00 am - 10:30am

**Main Service**  
10:45am - 1:00pm

**Wednesdays Prayer**  
6:00pm - 7:30pm

**Mondays Couples** 6:00pm - 7:30pm

**Thursday Bible Study**  
6:00pm

**Mbabane FEA**  
below Mbabane clinic, Contacts

24045807/76572977

Email: mbabanefea@swazi.net



**GOD IS ABLE**  
CHURCH SERVICE Times

**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
MBABANE THEATRE CLUB  
10:00 AM-1:00 PM

**MANZINI SATELITE**  
2:30 PM-5:00 PM

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**GROWING FAITH**  
Ministries International

**Mondays:**  
Prayer & Transformation 6-8pm

**Tuesdays:**  
Transformation Class at Syney Williams in Manzini 6:30-8pm

**Fridays:**  
Breakthrough Service 6-8pm

**Sundays:**  
Prayer 9am

**Main Service**  
10am - 1pm

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**Saturdays**  
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**Sundays**  
Main Service 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

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10am-12pm

**Venue:**  
Woodlands, Ezulwini



**ZAKHELE FREE EVANGELICAL ASSEMBLIES**

**SUNDAY English service**  
@9:00am - 10:45am

**Siswati Service**  
@11:00am - 1:00pm

**Venue:**  
Zakhele, Nkambule street, Manzini

**BY: Rev Msibi**

**Contacts:**  
2505 6419 / 7600 2140



**DIVINE**  
Healing Ministries International

**Manzini Branch:**  
Wednesdays- Prayer 6:00-7:30pm

**Thursdays- Mid-week Service** 6:30-8:00pm

**Sundays- Teachings** 9:30-10:30am

**Main Service** 10:30am - 1pm

**Mbabane Branch:**  
Tuesdays - Prayer 6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Sundays- Service** 10am - 1pm

**DIVINE**  
Healing Ministries



**GOD'S GLORY ABLAZE CHURCH (NHLANGANO MATHENDELE)**

**Services**

**Sundays**  
Prayer 6:00am-7:30am

**Wednesdays** 6:00pm-7:30pm

**Thursdays** 6:00pm-7:30pm

**Fridays** 6:00pm-7:30pm

**Sundays** 6:00am-7:30am

**Host;**  
Pastor N.T Dlamini





# Eswatini Entertainment



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## BUSHFIRE SCHOOLS' FESTIVAL GIVES BIRTH TO ARTS CURRICULUM

By Nomfundo Sifundza

**THE MTN Bushfire Schools' Festival has given birth to competency based education which is anticipated to be rolled-out in schools starting from Grade 1 in 2019.**

The curriculum framework seeks to introduce new subjects such as expressive arts, music, drama, fine art, and dance to mention only but just a few.

Speaking during the MTN Bushfire 2018 Schools' Festival open day on Tuesday, Minister of Education Dr. Phineas Magagula said Swazi MTN, who are the title sponsor of the schools' festival and the European Union (EU), who have also been supporting the festival, should take pride in knowing that they have contributed significantly in building the country.

"You have contributed generously in giving the young Emaswati an opportunity to be trained and equipped for the future and to be able to create jobs for themselves and others," he said.

The minister said the inclusion of arts in the school curriculum was indeed in



**FUTURE:** Some of the pupils that attended the MTN Bushfire Schools' Festival at the House on Fire in Malkerns on Tuesday. (Courtesy pic)

line with the objectives of the festival which brings to light the importance of arts and underscores various ways of using arts education to empower learners through knowledge, self-expression, comprehensive sexual health education

and individualised action.

Swazi MTN Chief Executive Officer Ambrose Dlamini said they appreciate that the MTN Bushfire Schools' Festival has been developed to supplement formal arts and culture curriculum in pub-

## EU commends inclusion of pupils with special needs

**THE MTN Bushfire 2018 Schools' Festival has been commended for including children with special needs.**

This was in line with the theme, "Child Social Protection," which was intended to raise awareness of the need to provide for the protection to children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.

European Union (EU)

Ambassador Esmeralda Hernandez Aragonés said it was important to include children living with disabilities for their own self-expression and development.

"Because arts and culture can be tools for peace, social development and the promotion of human rights, the EU will continue to support such initiatives," she said.

lic schools.

"Our aspiration is to ensure that training in the arts is systematised in the school curriculum and cascaded into all the schools in the country. Music and arts are too important to be left to an event that takes place once a year," he said.

Dlamini said experience has shown that young people have a huge potential to excel in music and arts. "We owe it to them to provide the right foundation as we take them under the tutelage of dramatists, musicians, artists and other creative industry professionals," he said.

EU Ambassador Esmeralda Hernandez Aragonés said this was important, because arts and culture play a very important role in human and social development.

"They help to shape societies as well as contribute significantly to enhancing people's creativity," she said.

The theme for this year's MTN Bushfire Schools' Festival is, "Child Social Protection."

Participating schools include; Siphocosini, Ezulwini Community, St Marks, Lomahasha, Vulamasango, Swazi National, Mbabane Central, Ngcoseni Central, St Theresa, Bhokinkhosi High Schools, and Ekwetsembeni Special School.

Students from these schools got a rare opportunity to stand and perform at the Bushfire main stage which will also be used by artists from all over the world for the main festival which is expected to attract at least over 300 000 fans from different parts of the world.

## MTN, EU inject E640 000 for MTN Bushfire 2018 Schools' Festival

**SWAZI MTN and the European Union (EU) have collectively pumped almost E650 000 towards the MTN Bushfire 2018 Schools' Festival.**

Swazi MTN forked out E390 000 and the EU contributed E250 000.

This kind gesture was commended by Minister of Education Dr. Phineas Magagula.

He further invited the private sector to emulate the practical example of Swazi MTN and the EU and partner with government to relieve the plight of the youth by offering them opportunities to improve their lives.

"All of our youth and vulnerable groups require undivided attention from all sectors of our society. Effort

should not, therefore, be spared in confronting, head on, the challenges of unemployment in the country," he said.

### Support

EU Ambassador Esmeralda Hernandez Aragonés said the EU was proud to support the Bushfire Schools' Festival for the third consecutive year.

"By supporting this annual schools' festival, the EU is also helping to expose the young people of Eswatini to the many languages of art, thereby broadening their creativity and self-expression," she said.

Swazi MTN chief executive officer said supporting the schools' festival was a practical demonstration of the company's commitment to

the development of arts alongside other great partners like the EU, ministry of education and training—who share a similar vision when it comes to the development of young people.

### Arts

"We are pleased to be part of the journey of orienting young people across the country in the arts as we have contributed E390 000 to this year's MTN Bushfire High Schools' Festival," he said.

MTN

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SMS "Fire" to 6464

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- Each SMS costs E1.71.
- Entrants must be over the age of 18 years.
- The Competition is **NOT** open to the Swazi Observer Group of Newspapers employees.
- Send **MORE** sms's to stand a viable chance of winning
- The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into

Entries close on Thursday 24 May 2018

**1ST PRIZE**  
1x2 Golden Lounge  
Tickets

**2ND PRIZE**  
1x2 Main Arena  
Tickets



Swazi  
Swaziland in  
real time

BRING  
YOUR  
FIRE

12  
EDITION

Bring your FIRE to the 12th edition of the MTN BUSHFIRE 2018





## 12 brands enter Swazi clothing awards

By Nokwanda Sibandze

A total of 12 Swazi clothing brands have entered for this year's clothing awards.

These are; Slam, DukeDeep, Blkpen, Yung Panda, X-Arty, Swag Syndrome Hleze, Golden Rose, LeCebra, Fear, Myto Africa and Venom.

This comes after the new clothing brand under the leadership of a young Lindani Simelane held the first edition of the clothing brands last year December.

Earlier this year, Simelane announced that the entry stage was open to all who would be interested in the awards.

The awards will see clothing brands being awarded in 15 categories, which include brand of the year, influential brand, talk of the town, designer's choice award, best new comer and most creative designer.

These awards also include other creatives such as photographers. The awards are gaining momentum as more and more brands are joining the contest.

Every brand will be given the platform to showcase their merchandise with models walking the runway clothed in different brands.

Simelane said the event would be held annually and hopes that the momentum the awards are getting would continue to escalate to greater heights. He hopes that all local brands will participate in the event which will also help put Swazi brands on the map.

"The bottom line behind the awards is to empower and instill a motive of promotion and hard work in clothing brand ventures," he said. Simelane said this was also a platform for sharing ideas amongst clothing brand owners.

The event will be packed with fashion and music as Kangaroo, DJ Khulu, DJ Teddy, DukeDeep and many other local artists will be performing.

Tickets are available and the first 10 buyers will walk away with free TGMA merchandise.

It will go down on June 23 at the Swaziland Theatre Club in Mbabane.



## MIXED FEELINGS OVER SANDS BUSHFIRE SLOT

By Nokwanda Sibandze

**FOLLOWING a debate about Sands' slot at this year's Bushfire Festival SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini has defended the Bushfire team.**

Fans of the star had mixed feelings about him performing before Kwesta and Sho Madjozi on Saturday. The main argument was that Sands was a bigger act now and should not open for the likes of Sho Madjozi and Kwesta.

The fans took to their social media handles to question why Sands should be seen as though he were an open act in his home country.

However, the star and his president under SWAMA feel that the slot is perfect.

Last year, Sands was slotted for 16:00pm and this year he is scheduled for 17:50pm, which is said to be the prime time for any artist. Dlamini argued that this was usually the time where everyone was at the main arena. "We could not ask for a better time because during this hour, everyone is at the show from children to adults and with that said Sands is able to cater for everyone who actually listens to his music."

It may be argued that the time slot he got is seen as though he will be an open-

ing act for international acts but Dlamini continued to say that performing in this slot also gives the audience the chance to see and listen to every song he has prepared for the show before people start rushing back home to change and drop off their young ones.

Nonetheless, Sands promised the best show ever, also reiterating that the time slot does not really matter as he always gives his best no matter the time of the day. He argued that for him the success of a performance is not measured by the time of the day. "I really do not mind the time nor the slot given to me. People should expect an explosive performance."

Sands said he would perform his well-known songs and some of his new ones as well.



Kwesta.



PROMISES: DJ Touch Of Soul.

## DJ TOS has a 'surprise' for Bushfire

By Nomfundo Sifundza

**AN elated DJ TOS has a surprise to be unleashed to his ardent fans at the Bushfire Festival.**

The DJ said he was ready for his slot at the festival.

TOS is scheduled for 11pm on Saturday at the Firefly Stage.

The Eswatini born yet Durban based spinner will be making his second appearance at the Bushfire Festival and he promised the throngs of fans that he would shut the place down just as he did last year.

The Firefly Stage is a youthful arena where youth in a jovial mood dance the night away. It is also the stage dedicated to the three MTN Bushfire Firefly winners who perform throughout the weekend but in between, there are supporting acts.

DJ TOS is one of those and he has promised to surprise his fans.

The spinner shot to stardom after the success of his clothing merchandise TOS.

Currently he runs shops in Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg. His deejaying skills were remarkably proven when he won a deejaying competition in KZN during his university days. Ever since then, the spinner has never looked back but only continues to soar higher.



By Nomfundo Sifundza

**THE race is for the swift indeed.**

Award winning gospel songbird Nothando Hlophe is set to release her second album in July.

The CD and DVD was recorded live in South Africa, Johannesburg at the Soweto Theatre on April 28 and according to her management, it will hit the shelves from July month end.

Known and celebrated for her strong vocals and deep worship ability, Hlophe's second album also contains

songs that want to match if not surpass the success of her outstanding song '*Khulula ugcobo*.'

This is a song she did with Women in Praise and was written by song-writing maestro and producer Siyabonga Sukati.

In the singer's second album, songs like 'Lord we invite you' and 'Tibonakalise' are the ones gospel music lovers have been humming and eagerly waiting to listen from the fine-tuned album.

Leserato's Sphiwe Nxumalo said: "it is definitely something we are also looking forward to. We implore Swazis to continue supporting her as they did before."

Describing the upcoming DVD/CD, Nxumalo said it was a beautiful project that appeals to all members of the family and was a high quality production.

Worth noting is that this time around the singer wrote most of the songs in her album herself. These include the soul-searing '*Ungilwela timphi tami*' and the brutally honest yet groovy '*Shiya*.'

Hlophe has hit many strides in a very short time in her career.

First of all, she won the national Women in Praise auditions which was followed by the live recording and release of her debut album '*Imphilo yami*.'

From then, the songbird joined South African powerhouse Spirit of Praise led by the legendary Benjamin Dube.

In-between then she has been performing at various places in and outside the country, including the SABC Crown Gospel Music Awards stage where she put the auditorium to a standstill, blasting her lungs out in song.

She has also won two awards from the National Council of Arts and Culture Awards (NACAs).

As the road builds to the biggest award ceremony in the country, the MTN SWMA Awards, Hlophe has joined in the race to produce the latest material which will still be fresh to the ears by the time of the awards in December.

## Nothando Hlophe album out in July



International  
Celebrity News

## Meghan Markle makes Royal debut

LONDON - The Duchess of Sussex has arrived.

A mere three days after marrying Prince Harry and officially becoming a member of the family, Meghan Markle has made her first public appearance as a royal. The newlyweds stepped out at Buckingham Palace for garden party hosted in honour of Prince Charles as part of his 70th birthday celebrations, though the Prince of Wales' actual birthday is not until mid-November. This particular event was held in recognition of the royal's work as a patron for hundreds of organisations and charities. As Prince Harry joked during



ROYAL: Meghan Markle.

his speech, "Can I ask you to join me in wishing the Prince of Wales a very Happy Birthday—six months ahead of his 70th! How very Royal!"

Eonline

## Glen Davis arrested for felony assault

NEW YORK - Ex-NBA star Glen 'Big Baby' Davis was arrested on Friday for felony assault with intent to cause great bodily injury ... TMZ Sports has learned.

We broke the story ... the ex-NBA star was being investigated for allegedly getting violent with a man outside of a West Hollywood nightclub back in April.

Sources told us ... 32-year-old Davis was accused of almost hitting a man with his car and, when the man confronted Davis, he allegedly picked him up and slammed him on the concrete.

We're told the alleged victim was hospitalised for severe injuries including facial fractures, a broken tooth



ARRESTED: Glen 'Big Baby' Davis.

and broken ribs.

Law enforcement tells TMZ Sports ... Davis surrendered on Friday with his attorney and a bail bondsman. He was booked and released on \$50k bail. *TMZ*

## Jet Li 'completely fine' amid hyperthyroidism battle

HOLLYWOOD - The internet is crying out after a new photo has emerged of martial arts master Jet Li looking frail.

In the photo, many commenters were quick to notice that the wushu legend looked drastically different from his past onscreen roles. The image has been widely circulated and caused an outcry of public concern over the beloved star's health.

The growing alarm was sparked after a fan tweeted a photo with the 55-year-old actor while visiting a temple on May 19 and wrote, "So, apparently, Jet Li is suffering from 'hyperthyroidism and spinal problems' and this is him now." Many



NEW LOOK: Jet Li.

fans were quick to express their dismay, fear and distress over his appearance. In the past, the actor and producer has been open about his struggle with hyperthyroidism, a disorder that causes the production of too much thyroxine hormone and can greatly affect weight. *Eonline*

## Victoria power dresses in star-studded breakfast

LOS ANGELES - She was criticised for her 'miserable' appearance at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's royal wedding on Saturday.

But Victoria Beckham power dressed as she got back to business at her Dover St VB Store after hosting a lavish breakfast to celebrate her collaboration with Scott's in London's Mayfair on Tuesday, which sees her re-decorate the famous terrace.

The fashion designer, 44, looked gorgeous in green as she flattered her model-honed figure in the emerald two-piece for her outing



ELEGANT: Victoria Beckham.

with Lilly Becker and Tamara Beckwith.

*Daily Mail*

## SA Celebrity News

## Somizi named ambassador for woman's make-up brand

JOHANNESBURG - Somizi Mhlongo's legendary face has bagged him a lucrative make-up deal.

Mhlongo has become the first African man to be a brand ambassador for women's make-up, Black Opal announced on Tuesday.

Head of Marketing and PR at Black Opal, Busi Xaba, confirmed their partnership with Mhlongo. She said they chose Mhlongo because they wanted to demonstrate that make-up can be worn by anyone, whether you were a guy or girl, "as long as you have fire". "We chose Somizi because he is confident and lively.



NEW ROLE: Somizi Mhlongo.

He is comfortable with himself and also comfortable with wearing make-up," Xaba said. The television and radio personality said the company approached him because they saw something special in him.

*Sowetan*

## Three weeks later, still no charges in Akhumzi case

JOHANNESBURG - Police have confirmed to Tshisa Live that no charges have been laid relating to the incident where five people were killed in a car accident including Akhumzi Jezile, Siyasanga Kobese and Thobani Mseleni.

Akhumzi, Siyasanga, Thobani and two others were travelling on the N6 near Queenstown when they were involved in a head-on-collision. All five of them died while the people in the other car were left unscathed. "The incident is still under investigation and there have been no other developments," said police spokesperson Captain Namhla Mdleleni. Meanwhile, the family



and friends of those who died have told Tshisa Live that they have been deeply affected by their deaths. Siyasanga's father, Pastor Norman Kobese, said he keeps replaying what happened and wished he could take his daughter's place. He said she was supposed to make a detour to visit her family but was then killed.

*Tshisa Live*

## Jennifer Bala's new addition to the family

JOHANNESBURG - Loyiso Bala and his wife, Jennifer have confirmed that the latest addition to the Bala clan has made her grand entry. Taking to Instagram on Tuesday morning, excited mama Jennifer shared the first picture of their second daughter.

Jennifer revealed that their baby girl was born on May 19 and that she weighed 3.09kgs.

Loyiso and Jennifer have named their princess, Tori Liyana which is Xhosa for 'showers from heaven'. It (her name) symbolises the blessing that has been poured on us from above."



NEW MEMBER: Loyiso Bala and his wife Jennifer.

The proud parents revealed in November last year that they were expecting after trying to have another baby for two years.

*Sowetan*

## Malaika's Tshedi Mholo goes gospel

CAPE TOWN - Singer-songwriter Tshedi Mholo is returning to her gospel roots - she'll showcase her singing talent with a show at The Fringe at Joburg Theatre on 30 June. "We have to start somewhere and explore other genres within our talent range before going full circle," she tells DRUM about her return to gospel. "I've always known I'd end up going back to gospel music. It took me a long time to go back into studio - learning new sounds to be able to evolve. I had a light bulb moment where gospel kept pulling my soul back to what I know



GOSPEL SINGER: Tshedi Mholo.

best." But while she'll be tapping back into her love for gospel music, she says she isn't turning her back on Afro-pop. "I'm not recording a gospel album or anything like that. This is a performance that I'll be doing as part of the annual performances I do, and this time I wanted it to be gospel music." *Drum*

## WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY

Iris receives some disturbing news regarding her OTA taxi. Ngwebedla reports to Sunday, their plan is going very well. The Ndlovus and Zungus find themselves in support of Thandeka.



SUPPORTED: Thandeka.

ISIDINGO

TODAY

Wendy continues being spooked by Clive's presence in HD. When she confides in Lalage as to why, Lalage is sceptical. Mavusana turns nasty when Sechaba throws him and his cronies out of the hotel for rowdy behaviour. Gabriel tries to get behind Nina's latest scheme, but she stone-walls him.



TRIES: Gabriel.

Muvhango

TODAY

Teboho plays a very dangerous game but the ancestors are onto her. Meme changes her tune about the abusers, Imani scolds her for this and for getting back with KK. Thobile gets on a speeding train to disaster.



IN GAMES: Teboho.

RHYTHM CITY

TODAY

Melusi surprises Mapula about the Matric dance. Mampho misses the DNA test. David finds new evidence on Suffo and his cronies.



CAPTURED: Suffo.



## PICTURE OF THE DAY



## TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

## Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Wait and see? That could be difficult today, especially when it comes to partnerships. Your natural goal orientation may get the better of you as the moon in your status-conscious tenth house locks horns with Venus in your relationship zone. You want answers, and if you can't get firm ones, then at least you need a clue where things are heading.



**Aquarius January 20 – February 18**  
Are you getting hung up on the details again, Aquarius? Today's dynamic dust-up between the moon and Venus helps you loosen up a little. You don't have to let go of the wheel; just move your inner perfectionist to the passenger seat and let your visionary self pilot. Once a plan works on paper, there's room for creativity.



## Pisces February 19 – March 20

There's no holding back feelings today, Pisces, and you'd love nothing more than to emot to your heart's content. The only caveat: You need to choose the right audience for your "talk therapy" sessions. Sensitive Venus is flowing through your passionate fifth house and head-butting the moon in your intense eighth. Under these dramatic skies, you could get yourself whipped up into a frenzy of feels.



## Aries March 21 – April 19

Do you REALLY want to go there, Aries? With the moon in your partnership zone throwing shade at sensitive Venus in Cancer, your rawest feelings won't be far from the surface. One comment may be all it takes to provoke you—but don't take the bait! Well, not unless you want to spend the day locked into a lover's quarrel or a BFF brouhaha. Be careful not to rush in for the save with a struggling soul in your circle.



## Taurus April 20 – May 20

Can you back up those promises, Taurus? Today, the moon in your communication corner squares people-pleasing Venus in your work-and-service sector. Before you volunteer to take on a project or help a loved one out of a jam, take a look at what's already on your calendar.



## Gemini May 21 – June 21

The pleasure principle is operating at full strength today as sensual Venus luxuriates in your decadent second house. But think twice before pulling out your Visa for an impulse splurge. With the moon in your fifth house creating friction, your style sensibilities may be slightly askew. Unless you



love-love-LOVE it, don't even consider bringing it home.

## Cancer June 22 – July 22

Putting up healthy boundaries can be hard for your nurturing sign, but don't get sucked into playing caretaker today. With the moon and Venus at loggerheads, you'll instinctively lean in to a friend's or relative's dramatic news or upset feelings. Unfortunately, this could also throw you off-course for the rest of the day.



## Leo July 23 – August 22

Today's mashup between the moon and Venus could spur a mini-identity crisis. This befuddling transit may leave you questioning a forthcoming decision or trying to figure out where your values lie in this insanely mercurial world. Try not to cling to notions just because they USED to fit you.



## Virgo August 23 – September 22

Somebody's got to be the stabilising force today, and with your grounded cool, it might as well be you. When people around you start freaking out, detach from the drama and remind them to focus on facts and figures. If it feels appropriate, you might even lead them through a few deep breaths to calm the central nervous system.



## Libra September 23 – October 23

Overdoing it again, Libra? With the moon and generous Venus in a dynamic dance, you may have a hard time recognising when you've hit "enough" today. While an ambitious quest could reach an epic milestone, it's not worth exhausting yourself in the process. Take a look at the end result you want to achieve.



## Scorpio October 24 – November 21

If you've gotten into the habit of saying "one more can't hurt," hit "pause" and do a reality check. Your intense sign does everything to the max, and today, as sensual Venus in your expansive ninth house power-struggles with the moon in your unconscious twelfth, you'll be tempted to give in to your hedonistic tendencies.



## Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

Have you heaped too much responsibility onto your plate? Being the boss of yourself is hard enough, much less trying to direct the flow of duties for everyone else. With the moon in your cooperative, communal eleventh house squaring Venus in your controlling eighth, you CAN loosen up the reins without worrying that your entire mission will fall apart.



## BABY BLUES

HII-YA! HOO! HO! HA! YAAHHHHHHH!



## BUCKLES



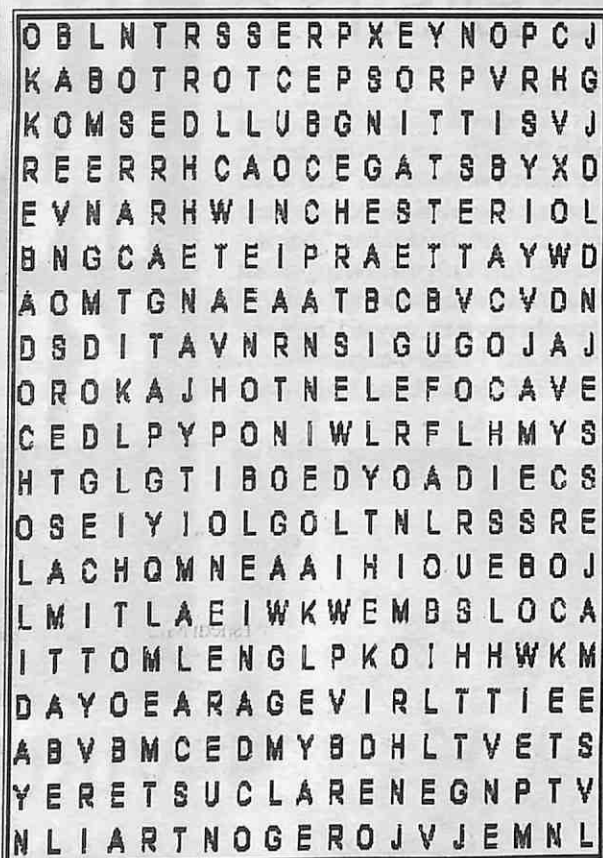
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## AMERICANA

## PUZZLE CHOICE

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.



ANNIE OAKLEY, BAT MASTERSON, BILLY THE KID, BOOT HILL, BUFFALO BILL, CALAMITY JANE, COCHISE, DANIEL BOONE, DAVY CROCKETT, DOC HOLLIDAY, DODGE CITY, GENERAL CUSTER, GERONIMO, GOLD RUSH, JAMES

BOWIE, JESSE JAMES, KIT CARSON, OREGON TRAIL, PAT GARRETT, PIONEER, PONY EXPRESS, PROSPECTOR, SITTING BULL, STAGECOACH, WAGON TRAIN, WILD WEST, WINCHESTER, WYATT EARP.

LOL  
Laughing Out Loud

## WE DEAD NOW

## A husband died.

A few weeks later the wife died. As she got to heaven she saw her husband. She ran up to him with tears in her eyes. 'Darling, how I've missed

you!

The husband extends his arms stopping her from embracing him and says, 'Whoa there woman, the contract was until death!'

## USELESS FACTS

1. The value of Pi will be officially "rounded down" to 3.14 from 3.14159265359 on December 31, 1999.
2. The Great Wall of China is the only man-made structure visible from space.
3. A piece of paper can be folded no more than 9

- times.
4. The amount of computer Memory required to run Word Perfect for Win95 is 8 times the amount needed aboard the space shuttle.
5. The average North American will eat 35,000 cookies during their life span.

BRAinteasers  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## Yesterday's brainteasers

1. The more there is, the less you see.  
**Answer:** Darkness.

2. They come at night without being called and are lost in the day without being stolen.  
**Answer:** Stars.

## Today's brainteasers

1. What kind of room has no windows or doors?
2. I have holes on the top and bottom. I have holes on my left and on my right. And I have holes in the middle, yet I still hold water. What am I?





**DStv**  
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**NEWS**



## Only Petronella can neutralise the bomb that is Mamiki

FROM the moment Mamiki set foot in Boi's corner, Cleo's sixth sense warned her that the girl was going to be trouble and even though she hasn't seen Mamiki in action, the viewers knew that it was up to Cleo to brief the starring aka Petronella.

The newest addition to The Queen, Mamiki (played by Pabee Moganedi) is causing havoc and because her presence hypnotises all the men, it's up to the women to set her straight.

Cleo realised that if left up to her hubby Roy and her cousin Thato, Pabee will leave them bankrupt and may destroy her marriage as well. She accused the men of thinking with their "other heads" where Mamiki is concerned and Twitter agrees with her. But we all knew that the original starring aka Petronella would sort her out. So we weren't surprised when Cleo dragged her there!



STARRING: Petronella.



TROUBLESOME: Mamiki.

## CNN GOES HD

DStv customers can now experience clearer viewing on CNN, which is in HD.

The Cable News Network has been a credible source of information for years and will continue to showcase an array of programmes that not only educate but also entertain the viewers.

The channel, voted as the top international media brand brings great programming including the special half-hour edition One Square Metre. Today at 09:30, the show heads to Greece to explore the impact of foreign capital on the world's property markets how overseas investment and the desire to attract it is reshaping the cities in which we live.

Also, not to be missed is the half-hour special hosted by Nicki Shields, CNN Equestrian which covers all the action from the Longines Global Champions Tour and Global Champions League. From Miami Beach to Shanghai to Hamburg, the best show jumpers in the world will compete for the title of Champion of Champions in 2018. Catch it on Saturday at 13:30.



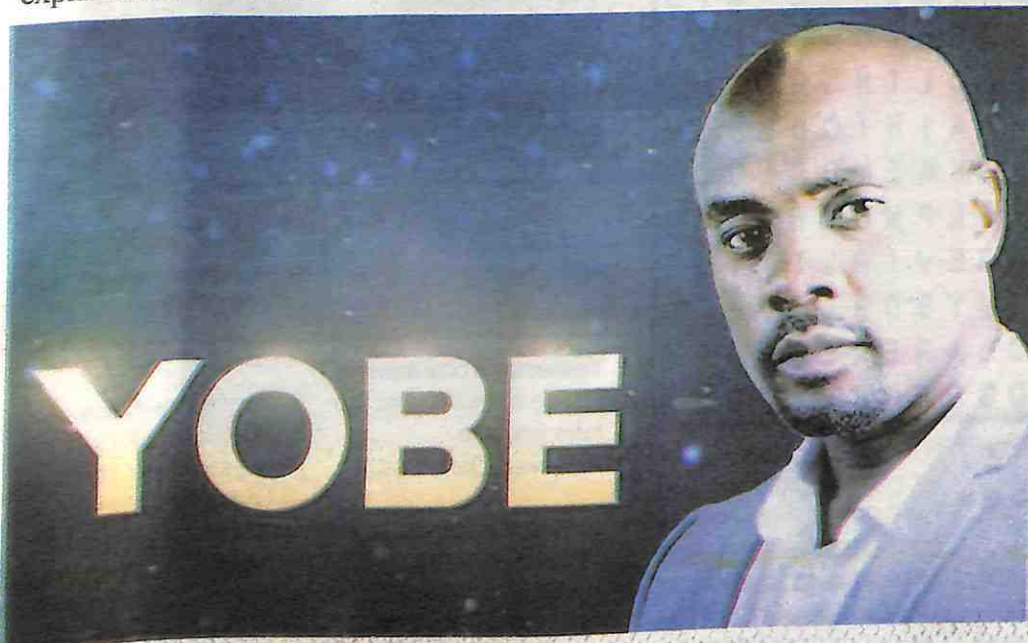
## WHY DOES EVERYONE ON YOBE FORGIVE SO EASILY?

WHILE the reality show 'Yobe' revolves around the concept of asking and receiving forgiveness for past sins, Twitter isn't buying into the way every victim "just easily forgives" the person who hurt them or their families.

Tuesday night's episode saw Maduna and his accomplice apologise for murdering Freddie Hunter's father during a house break in. The two men, who were busy serving their time when they asked the show to intervene, wanted to explain themselves to Freddie.

Their explanation?

They didn't intend on killing anyone. They broke into the house because "white people always have money in the house" and when they went past their house before, they saw them having a good time and decided they "definitely" have money. Just imagine! Despite what Twitter thought was a lame apology and lack of remorse from the prisoners, they still "received" their forgiveness and Twitter thought it was too good to be true. Yobe is on Mzansi Magic every Wednesday.



## VIRUS: INVISIBLE KILLERS

## VIRUS: INVISIBLE KILLERS

VIRUSES have for years shaped our health and history, and, despite all the tools of modern medicine, they continue to kill millions of people every year.

Believe it or not, Influenza, smallpox, and Ebola are amongst

the top three most deadly viruses to have plagued humankind. Each one of these lethal diseases has taken a devastatingly large toll on the human population.

But, the threat remains as it is becoming one of the most

feared bioterror threats facing mankind today.

Catch 'Virus: Invisible Killers' on Discovery Channel (DStv channel 121) from Sunday at 20:00 to find out what threat this deadly disease still poses.



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- Fridge repairs.
- Car aircon Service **E400.**
- Cold rooms repair.
- Office and home aircon.



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Doc:16242 Dx 04 June 2018

### Jumping Castles



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KING OFF ALL HERBS (with Ganoderma)



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- SEXUAL PROBLEMS
- MIGRAINE/HEADACHE
- KIDNEYS
- IMPROVES EYESIGHT
- IMPROVES MEMORY
- HERPES(Libhande)
- ARTHRITIS
- BRONCHITIS
- WOUNDS + MANY MORE



LFY SHOP - WOODLANDS SHOPPING CENTRE  
(Embangweni near Shoprite)  
76376839

Dx 22 JUNE 2018 Doc:16513

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- MAZDA DEMIO.....**E359.00**
- ISUZU GO.BIG.....**E299.00**

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- OPEL CORSA3.....**E600**
- GOLF 4.....**E600**
- COROLLA 2000/AE100/AE110.....**E600**
- RUN X.....**E668**
- HILUX D4D.....**E529**



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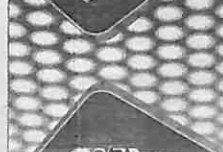
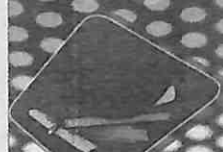
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inspection at the office of the Master of  
the High Court of Swaziland, Mbabane  
branch First Floor Miller's Mansion for a  
period of **Twenty One (21)** days from  
the date of publication of this notice.

Any person objecting to the account  
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P.O. BOX 345  
SWAZI PLAZA  
76318587

R/N 200477 Dx 24 MAY 2018



**15. DEATHS****Silindele "Sli D" Dlamini**

**Funeral: 26/05/2018**  
**Vigil: Friday**  
**Place: Etiyeni**

Relatives, friends and colleagues of Silindele Dlamini are notified of her death on Tuesday the 15th May 2018. A night vigil will be held at Etiyeni ka-Lamgabhi next to kaLamgabhi Primary School on the 25th May 2018 from 21h00. Funeral will be held on Saturday 26th May 2018 at the same place. Announcement by Sifiso Dlamini on behalf of the family.

**Mantfombi Nel'siwe Maziya nee Shongwe**

**Funeral: 27/05/2018**  
**Vigil: Saturday**  
**Place: Nkiliji**

Relatives and friends of Mantfombi Nel'siwe Maziya nee Shongwe are notified of her passing away. Funeral on Sunday 27 May 2018 after a night vigil at Nkiliji. Announcement by her husband Mfanawabani Maxwell Maziya.

**Jabu Kunene ulaTfwala**

**Funeral: 26/05/2018**  
**Vigil: Friday**  
**Place: Nkoyoyo**

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Jabu Kunene ulaTfwala kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa bekhakhakhe kaKunene bakubo ku Maliyaduma nalabo bekasebenta nabo e Milling. Kutawuba ne memorial eNkoyoyo EWC ngaLesihlanu nga 2pm. Siteshi kuka Tsela. Utawufihlwa ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 26 May 2018 emvakwemlindzelo lotawuba sekhaya lakhe eNkoyoyo. Simemetelo sikhishwa bantfwabakhe egameni lemndeni.

**Jethro Ndlovu**

**Funeral: 26/05/2018**  
**Vigil: Friday**  
**Place: kaPhunga**

Relatives and friends of babe Jethro Ndlovu who was working for the Correctional Services in Nhlanguano are notified of his demise. Funeral on Saturday 26 May 2018 kaPhunga after a night vigil. Announcement by his father on behalf of family.

**Nonhle Simphiwe Mkhabela**

**Funeral: 26/05/2018**  
**Vigil: Friday**  
**Place: Mjinga**

Relatives and friends of Nonhle Simphiwe Mkhabela are notified of her untimely demise. She was a teacher at Mjinga High School and a student at SANU. She will be laid to rest on Saturday 26 May 2018 after a night vigil on Friday. Memorial service will be at Mjinga High School at 10am on Friday. Announcement by her mother Sonto Sangweni.

**Philile Precious Bavenda**

**Funeral: 27/05/2018**  
**Vigil: Saturday**  
**Place: Enkhungwini**

Relatives and friends of Philile Precious Bavenda are notified of her demise. Funeral will be held at her parental home on Sunday 27th May 2018 after a night vigil on Saturday at Ngwenya Enkhungwini. Rest in peace Boyabenyathi.

**REST IN PEACE****Dumisa Daniel Dlamini**

**Funeral: 27/05/2018**  
**Vigil: Saturday**

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Dumisa Daniel Dlamini lobekasebenta e Correctional Services kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa bekhayakubo ka Dlamini eMhlatane, bekhakhakhe ka Mabila eSiteki nebaka Mbingo eJubukweni eKhabonina ka Kubheka basemsebentini labesebenta nabo. Kwatiswa nenhlanguano yemaphakamani, Kwatiswa nebelibandla lakhe le Reedemtion Emgazi kutsi kulindzela ngeMgcibelo kungwatjwa ngeliSontfo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumake wakhe egameni lemndeni.

**Nomsa Liya Zwane**

**Funeral: 26/05/2018**  
**Place: Emcozini**

Friends and family are notified that Nomsa Liya Zwane is demised. Funeral on 26 May 2018 at eMcozini, 0500hrs. Announcement by bantfwabakhe.

**Sholiphi Mavis Dlamini ulaTsela**

**Funeral: 27/05/2018**  
**Vigil: Saturday**  
**Place: eTimbutini**

Kwatiswa tihlobo ta Sholiphi Mavis Dlamini ulaTsela kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa bakaTsela kaVelezizweni, neMalangeni eNdlandlameni nebelisontfo lakhe ICana yaseHawini kutsi ufihlwa ngeliSontfo mhlaka 27 May 2018 kakhe eTimbutini-Emkhuzweni emva kwemlindzelo. Siteshi kuseMhlangeni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngeMalangeni

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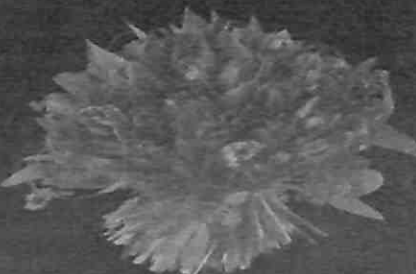
Though He slay me,  
yet will I hope in him;  
I will surely  
defend my ways to  
his face.

*The LORD is close to  
the broken-hearted; he  
rescues those whose  
spirits are crushed.*

it's almost unbearable  
when so much hope  
turns in deep sorrow  
wishing you much strength



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## BRIEFS

## Man Utd make huge call on Pogba, Sanchez

MANCHESTER - Manchester United have told Jose Mourinho that Paul Pogba and Alexis Sanchez will not be sold any time soon – but that the duo must perform better in 2018/19 to avoid the axe next summer. That's according to a report in The Sun which believes Mourinho has been told he must get the best out of the under-performing pair next season if their time at Old Trafford is not to come to an unsatisfactory conclusion. France midfielder Pogba returned to Old Trafford back in the summer of 2016 for a then world-record fee of £89.3million – but appears to have lost his way in recent months after some inconsistent performances and an apparent falling out with Mourinho.

Teamtalk



GOING NOWHERE: Paul Pogba and Alexis Sanchez.

## Rooney flies to Washington for medical

LONDON - Wayne Rooney is bound for Washington for talks with MLS side DC United and is set for a medical today. A spokesman for Rooney confirmed that the former England captain is due to travel to the US with his agent, Paul Stretford, for what will be a first proper look at the MLS outfit. Rooney was photographed at an airport in Barbados, where he has been on holiday with his family, boarding a plane for the US. Personal terms have already been agreed, and while Rooney heads to Washington with the permission of Everton the terms of his settlement with the club – when he has a year to run on a £300 000 a week contract that is paid jointly by the Merseysiders and Manchester United – have not yet been finalised. *Daily Mail*



ON THE MOVE: Gianluigi Buffon.

## Buffon's move can help seal €15m-rated keeper

PARIS - French outlet L'Equipe claim that Buffon's impending move to the Ligue 1 champions could force Alphonse Areola out of the club. They go on to state that a €15m move to Tyneside is on the cards for Areola, with Newcastle targeting a move for the 25-year-old Frenchman due to the uncertain situation surrounding on-loan stopper Martin Dúbravka. Meanwhile, Spanish paper AS claims that La Liga duo Athletic Bilbao and Real Betis have been quoted a price of €10m if they want to sign Mikel Merino from Newcastle this summer. Merino joined Newcastle on loan from Borussia Dortmund last summer, and triggered a clause in the deal in October based on appearances. *Teamtalk*



## Arsenal appoint Unai to replace Wenger

LONDON - Unai Emery has been appointed as the new manager of Arsenal, the club announced yesterday.

"Unai Emery is to become our new head coach," said a statement on the club's website.

"He joins the club after completing a two-year spell at Paris Saint-Germain, where he recently landed the treble of Ligue 1, Coupe de France and the Coupe

de la Ligue."

Emery succeeds Arsene Wenger, who left Arsenal at the end of the season after 22 years in charge.

"Unai has an outstanding track record of success throughout his career, has developed some of the best young talent in Europe and plays an exciting, progressive style of football that fits Arsenal perfectly," said Chief Executive Ivan Gazidis.

"I am thrilled to be joining one of the great clubs in the game," said the new Spanish boss.

"Arsenal is known and loved throughout the world for its style of play, its commitment to young players, the fantastic stadium, the way the club is run.

"I'm very excited to be given the responsibility to start this important new chapter in Arsenal's history." *AFP*

## Lampard 'dreams' of one day managing Chelsea

LONDON - Frank Lampard admits he dreams of managing former club Chelsea.

The 39-year-old spent 13 years at Stamford Bridge as a player, winning three Premier League titles, four FA Cups, the Champions League, the Europa League and two League Cups.

A highly decorated midfielder, Lampard was always seen as one of the most trusted lieutenants in the club's dressing room, along with ex-Blues defender John Terry.

While Terry is currently chasing promotion to the Premier League with Aston Villa, Lampard has transitioned into a media career, working as a pundit for BT Sport and the BBC.

He will be a part of the latter broadcaster's team for the 2018 World Cup in Russia and, while Lampard is enjoying providing his insights, he maintains that he still harbours an ambition of managing the Blues.

"I have thought about coaching and I have been working at Chelsea with the academy all year, around my media stuff," Lampard exclusively told Goal during the BBC Media Day.

"I am enjoying the media and it's been great for me to finish, have some different time to work on my coaching, but also have breaks with the

family, plus work in the media. That allows me to keep one foot in the game, so I've got my eye on both.

"Chelsea, of course, is like a dream job that will be there one day. But that is not always the route that it takes, so it might take me to go somewhere else before I can ever do that. We will see, but I certainly have ambitions to do it.

"How could I not take it if Chelsea offered me the job? Chelsea are my club and I feel like I have a lot to offer. But that's obviously for other people to decide, for important people, if and when I

ready to do that."

Lampard has repeatedly been linked with managerial jobs, and has recently been placed in the frame for jobs in the Championship, with Ipswich Town and Derby County. The ex-midfielder, who played at three World Cups and won 106 caps for England, believes that clubs need to be more open-minded regarding appointing young managers, as he insists there is unearthed talent out there.

"Young managers need to be given a chance," he added.

"It's very easy to say 'why are people taking a chance on an inexperienced manager?'. If you never do that, then how are we going to develop young managers? "Eventually, we want young, fresh managers in this country.

Well, give people a chance and you might find out they are actually pretty good."

There is set to be a vacancy at Chelsea in the near future, with Antonio Conte set to depart his role despite ending his second season in charge by winning the FA Cup.

Goal



## Sarri front-runner for Chelsea job as Conte edges closer to exit

LONDON - Chelsea remain keen to replace Antonio Conte with Napoli's Maurizio Sarri and it is increasingly a matter of when, rather than if, the Italian leaves Stamford Bridge, Goal understands.

Sarri is keen for a move to Chelsea and his enthusiasm for the job has allowed him to become the front-runner ahead of former Barcelona coach Luis Enrique, whose higher wage demands make him a tougher appointment. Zenit St Petersburg have also made an offer to Sarri, but he is delaying his response in the hope that officials at Stamford Bridge activate his £7 million (\$9.3m) release clause.

Napoli Chairman Aurelio De Laurentiis is already in talks with Carlo Ancelotti to replace Sarri at the Stadio San Paolo after failing to receive an answer following post-season talks to renew the 59-year-old's contract. In addition to Sarri, Chelsea have also been linked with Fulham's Slavisa Jokanovic but he appears to be an outsider for the job, while Monaco are growing increasingly confident that Leonardo Jardim will stay in his post, despite Portuguese super-agent Jorge Mendes taking an interest in placing him at a new club. However, there is a meeting in the coming days and there has yet to be an announcement to confirm Jardim's stay at Stade Louis II. Meanwhile, the confirmation that Conte will leave Chelsea is imminent, despite his FA Cup final win at Wembley last Saturday against Jose Mourinho's Manchester United. *Teamtalk*

## Klopp hypothesises about Coutinho still being at Liverpool

LONDON - Jurgen Klopp has suggested Liverpool would have a team of world-beaters had they managed to retain the services of Philippe Coutinho this season.

In two days time, the Reds will play in their first Champions League final for 11 years when they take on Real Madrid in Kiev – and much praise has been heaped upon Klopp's side.

But Klopp believes Liverpool could have proved even more fearsome this season had they had a fully-fit Adam Lallana and retained Coutinho's services. The Brazilian, of course, made a £142m switch to Barcelona in January.

Klopp has revealed that plans were in place to cope with Coutinho's exit but he admits it would have been interesting to see the attacking midfielder remain until the end of the season.

"What do we do?" Klopp told Robbie Fowler in the Daily Mirror. "We brought in Naby Keita already, an outstanding player. We will bring in a couple more players and that will happen.

"But we had the quality of players already to finish the season higher.

"Think about the season we played without Lallana, and half a season without Coutinho. Two of the best players in the whole Premier League. They didn't play on the pitch for us.

"Can you imagine Phil Coutinho still in the team?

"And we play with the three up front and Phil at eight – that would have been nice!"

Teamtalk



# DADS RONALDO AND MESSI STILL SEEK WORLD CUP GLORY

GENVA - Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi have put up impressive numbers - in life and on the field - as they head into a fourth Soccer World Cup.

So much has happened for football's standout stars since the 2014 tournament, when both left Brazil still lacking the game's most coveted prize.

Yes, each has scored at least 200 more goals, won at least one more Champions League title and taken home at least one more Ballon d'Or trophy since that last World Cup. Ronaldo also captained Portugal to win the 2016 European Championship.

Both have also turned 30 and seen their families grow, becoming doting dads while still the game's best players.

Ronaldo is now a 33-year-old father of four children, and three were born

within the last year.

Messi will have his 31st birthday in Russia during the group stage, and two of his three sons were born since Argentina lost in the 2014 World Cup final.

Life is changing even as their will to win and hunger for goals stay the same.

"You start to see things differently, in another manner," Messi said in an interview with Spanish sports daily Marca, "and the truth is that becoming a father is the most beautiful thing that has happened in my life."

For Ronaldo, there was a revealing recent interview with celebrity lifestyle magazine *Hola!*

"It has shown me things about love I never knew existed," the Real Madrid forward said of his family. "It has softened me and given me new perspective on what is really important in life."

● Both have also turned 30 and seen their families grow, becoming doting dads while still the game's best players.

This life balance delivered results on the field this season.

Messi inspired Barcelona to go unbeaten until the league title was won, when many expected a dip after Neymar left.

Ronaldo scored in Madrid's first 10 Champions League games on the way to a fourth final in five years, against Liverpool on Saturday. Madrid won the previous three.

AP



## Demba Ba proud of his form despite Senegal snub

GUZELYALI - Ba last turned out for the Teranga Lions in March 2015 and was hoping to stake a claim in coach Aliou Cisse's World Cup squad after scoring seven goals in 13 appearances for his Turkish club Goztepe.

The former Chelsea forward's career has been plagued by injury in recent seasons, limiting his playing opportunities for both club and country.

Facing competition in a Senegal strike-force that includes Sadio Mane, Keita Balde and Mame Biram Diouf who did duty at last year's Africa Cup of Nations finals in Gabon as well as qualifying the team for Russia, Ba's return was always going to be a difficult challenge.

Failing to reclaim his place in the national team has, however, not worried Ba as Senegal return to the World Cup for the first time since 2002, thereby missing three editions.

"I am not too disappointed at all," Ba was quoted as saying by Senegalese publication Record. "I have no control over the coach's decision, I will only hurt myself by pulling my hair out or by feeling sorry for myself."

"The only power I have, in reality, is to keep producing good performances. I do not have to whine about missing the chance to play in a World Cup."

"I have no regrets as my progress in football has taken the proper route because hard work has taken me to where I am today after 18 months out with injury". AFP



UNDER-DOGS: Egyptian national team.

## Hussein El-Shahat tips Egypt as WC surprise package

CAIRO - Egypt are in Group A with hosts Russia, Uruguay and Saudi Arabia as they bid to become the first African team to reach the World Cup semifinals.

Led by the marauding Mohamed Salah, fresh from a remarkable season with Liverpool, Egypt return to the global football quadrennial tournament for the first time after 28 years. Since their last World Cup appearance in 1990, Egypt have gone to win four Africa Cup of Nations titles but had failed to transform their conti-

mental dominance onto the global stage. However, despite being snubbed from the squad headed for Russia, El-Shahat is backing Egypt for an incredible run at the tournament.

"The Uruguay match is definitely the toughest, and if we succeed in achieving a positive result, either a win or a draw, it will pave our way to qualify for the second round," El-Shahat told DMC Sports.

"I think Egypt will be the surprise of the World Cup and will make it to the second round."

El-Shahat was in the running

for a place in the Egypt team but Argentine coach Hector Cuper overlooked him despite being involved in 18 goals in 11 games for Abu Dhabi side Al-Ain whom he joined in January from Egyptian Premier League side Misr El-Makkasa.

"Whether they were going to take me or not, I will always respect the decisions of the technical staff. I am not sad and I hope the team will honour our country and the whole Arab world in the World Cup," he said.

AFP

## Man United goalkeeper Romero ruled out of World Cup

MANCHESTER - Argentina's World Cup preparations suffered a blow on Tuesday as goalkeeper Sergio Romero was ruled out of the tournament with a knee injury, the Argentina Football Association (AFA) said.

The Manchester United goalkeeper injured his right knee during training in Buenos Aires on Tuesday.

"Romero will be removed from the list of 23 players who will participate in the 2018 World Cup in Russia," the AFA said in a statement.

Romero, 31, is the most capped goal-

keeper in the history of the Argentina national team with 83 appearances and represented the country at the 2010 and 2014 World Cups.

The AFA said Romero had suffered a blockage in his right knee and was being evaluated surgically. A replacement will be announced "in the coming days," the statement said.

As well as his World Cup experience, Romero has represented Argentina in three Copa Americas and was also a member of the side that won gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Argentina, beaten finalists in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, open their Group D campaign in Russia against Iceland on June 16.

Other first-round opponents include Croatia and Nigeria.

AFP

## Rabiot emails Deschamps rejecting WC standby spot

PARIS - Midfielder Adrien Rabiot has written to France Manager Didier Deschamps saying he is not prepared to be a World Cup standby player.

The 23-year-old Paris Saint-Germain player sent an email to Deschamps saying he would not "be able to follow the training programme" sent to the 11 standbys.

A source who had seen the message said yesterday it was short but filled with phrases that read as if they had been written by a lawyer.

French sports daily L'Equipe wrote that Rabiot "had decided to act himself without necessarily listening to the advice of those around him".

Another newspaper, Le Parisien, suggested that it was "a thoughtful decision" that the French coaching staff "would have tried to change".

AP



RULED OUT: Argentina goalkeeper Sergio Romero.



# WE WOKE UP VERY LATE - PITSO

**GUINEA** - Pitso Mosimane admitted that his Mamelodi Sundowns side only started performing in the second half of their CAF Champions League encounter on Tuesday night.

The Brazilians left Conakry, Guinea with just one point after playing to a 2-2 draw against Horoya AC in the group stages of the CAF Champions League competition.

Speaking to the media, Mosimane admitted that Horoya was the better of his side in the first half in the encounter, admitting that he is not happy with the draw, as Sundowns lost their 2-1 lead in the 83rd minute.

"What I think, I said, is exactly what came out, we need to come

and respect the team, we need to be very careful, exactly the same players I mentioned, Mandela... and the two midfielders and they caused a little bit of problem in the first half. It was a game of two halves; we woke up very late, were asleep and couldn't play our normal football in the first half," he said.

"The first half belonged to Horoya in my opinion, the second half we showed the experience we have, we could control the midfield and play and that's how we got the two goals. We have quick strikers; there is not much we can say. I am a little bit unhappy because it was 2-1 and my centre back left the most



LATE COMER: Pitso Mosimane.

important player that we all know on set-pieces, corner kicks, he is the only player who scores with the head, we all know. He scored, my player left him. It's football," he added. *Soccer Laduma*



NEW HOME: Knowledge Musona.

## Musona leaves KV Oostende for Anderlecht

**ANDERLECHT** - Former Kaizer Chiefs striker Knowledge Musona has signed for Anderlecht from KV Oostende.

The Zimbabwe international was also on the radar of another Belgian side Standard Liege, but Anderlecht came with an enticing offer to lure him from Oostende ahead of next season.

Reports emerged last week that Musona could be lost to Oostende, but while the club played their cards close to their chest at the time, indications were that the player would still remain in Belgium.

Anderlecht took to their social media platforms to announce the arrival of Musona yesterday at midday.

Musona has taken the Belgian top flight by storm since his arrival from German outfit Hoffenheim in 2015.

He featured mostly on the left-wing during his three-year stint at Oostende, scoring 48 goals and providing 18 assists in over 110 appearances.

This past season, the Zimbabwean marksman made 28 appearances in all competitions for Oostende, scoring 10 goals and grabbing six assists in the process.

The move will be seen as a step in the right direction for the 27-year-old former Amakhosi marksman, who will now be campaigning in the UEFA Europa League with Anderlecht next season.

Musona is believed to have agreed a four-year deal with Anderlecht.

Anderlecht remain the most successful club in the Belgian top flight with 34 league titles to their name.

His departure from Oostende follows that of Andile Jali, who was released from his contract in April this year.

Unlike Musona, Jali took a decision to return to South Africa where he's hoping to sign with one of the big teams in the PSL before the start of the new campaign.

*Goal*

## Pirates rekindle interest in Wits captain

**JOHANNESBURG** - Orlando Pirates have rekindled their long-term interest in Thulani Hlatshwayo and want to sign the Wits skipper during the off season, according to club insiders.

Pirates have long been linked with the 28-year-old Bafana Bafana captain and are said to have tried to sign him in January.

However, Hlatshwayo extended his deal with Wits.

Hlatshwayo's current contract with Wits ends in 2022, but a source close to Pirates tells Phakaaathi that Bucs are prepared to sweeten the deal by offering Mpho Makola and other players for Hlatshwayo.

"Wits agreed to sell Hlatshwayo to Pirates, but they wanted [Abubakar] Mubara.

Everything was on course for the deal to happen until Mubara turned down Wits' offer," said the source.

"Pirates are now offering Mpho and other players to try to sweeten the deal, but nothing has been agreed upon so far."

Makola's contract with Pirates is set to expire at the end of the 2018/19 season. It's unclear at this stage if the 32-year-old midfielder will be willing to go to Wits or if he will remain with Pirates.

*Citizen*

**WANTED:**  
Thulani  
Hlatshwayo.

## Moon wants to make South Africa proud

**JOHANNESBURG** - Kaizer Chiefs striker Ryan Moon has expressed delight after Bafana Bafana coach Stuart Baxter included him in the squad for the upcoming 2018 COSAFA Cup tournament.

The regional tournament will be staged in Polokwane this weekend, and the Amakhosi player says he wants to put the country ahead of his personal ambitions.

Moon exclusively spoke to Goal after the squad was announced on Tuesday evening, saying he is happy to be part of the team. Although he will not join the national team

set up for the first time under Baxter, the former Maritzburg United forward has praised the English mentor.

He said the coach has taught him new elements of the game and has helped him to grow as a lethal forward whilst saying he is looking forward to learning more in the camp.

**Learned**

Moreover, the 21-year-old said he wants to put the lessons learned from experienced club teammate, Bernard Parker into practice during the regional tournament.

Bafana will want to dethrone Zimbabwe as COSAFA Cup

champions, and the ex-Amakhosi boss will look to the striker for goals as they want their fifth regional crown "Yeah I am excited to get a call-up and I am honoured to represent my country. I am looking forward to the tournament," Moon told Goal.

"It feels good and I'd like to settle in and do well, and to win it will be a special moment for me," he reacted.

"However, I will put the country ahead of myself. I just want to do well and learn from the guys because we have a great team and it is important to do well in the tournament," said the elated forward. *Soccer Laduma*

## SAFA presidential elections won't be halted by sexual allegations

**JOHANNESBURG** - Word reaching the Siya Crew is that the South African Football Association National Executive Committee electoral congress will go ahead as planned, amidst new rape allegations levelled against SAFA boss Dr Danny Jordaan.

Earlier this week, several media publications reported that an unnamed 40-year-old woman filed a sexual complaint against Jordaan claiming that the current SAFA President sexually assaulted her on more than three occasions.

A Siya source close to the FA informed the crew that the upcoming electoral congress will proceed as expected despite the second allegations.

"The new rape allegations don't change a thing. The electoral congress will proceed as planned.

"We are not worried about any tactic that may be used to delay the upcoming congress further," added the source.

Meanwhile, Jordaan and SAFA have continued to endure numerous scandals and challenges on the road towards the SAFA elections.

SAFA's electoral congress is expected to take place on Saturday.

Dr Danny Jordaan still remains unopposed for a second term as SAFA President.

*Soccer Laduma*

## Eymael wants Ngobeni on a permanent deal

**BETHLEHEM** - Free State Stars coach Luc Eymael says the club has already begun negotiations with Mamelodi Sundowns over the possibility of signing Thela Ngobeni permanently. Ngobeni helped Ea Lla Koto end their 24-year-old trophy drought last weekend, playing a key role as the club beat Maritzburg United 1-0 in the final to clinch the Nedbank Cup title.

Stars in the process qualified

for the CAF Confederation Cup, and with Ngobeni hinting after the win that he is willing to stay at the Free State-based outfit.

The 29-year-old goalkeeper is in his second loan spell with Ea Lla Koto having struggled for game time at Sundowns, where he recently signed a new contract.

"Yes, I'm very keen to sign Ngobeni permanently from Sundowns," Eymael told Vodacom Soccer.

"But now we are discussing

and I do not know what will happen exactly.

"If not, we will have to look to somebody who is free because we need absolutely a second good goalkeeper.

"We need to have two good goalkeepers like Ngobeni and Badra Ali Sangare. That's the one thing I'm very sure of."

*Sport24*

**NEGOTIATIONS:** Free State Stars coach Luc Eymael.





# Golfer Rory McIlroy seeks to solve Wentworth puzzle

**WENTWORTH** - Rory McIlroy admits to having a weird relationship with the Wentworth course, but he will be hoping after a chastening experience at the Masters to rediscover a bit of his old sparkle at the PGA Championship.

The 29-year-old quadruple major champion, who looked well placed going into the final round to win an elusive Masters before his challenge fizzled out, makes his first appearance on European soil this year in a bid to win the prestigious title he claimed in 2014.

McIlroy is the major drawcard in a field that includes defending champion Alex Noren of Sweden and last year's Race to Dubai winner Tommy Fleetwood.

"I've had a weird relationship with Wentworth," said McIlroy in April.

"I had the win there back in 2014, but I haven't really done much else.

"I think I had a top five back in 2009, but it's been a place of high frustration for me so I'm looking forward to going back and trying to solve the puzzle again. "At least I do have good memories there."

The former world number one, who started the European Tour season with top three finishes in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, is encouraged that his relationship with the course could be due a change because it has undergone a revamp since he last played it.

"I haven't played there in a couple of years (he had a rib injury last year) but from what I've seen, with the new grass that they've put in, it looks a much better golf course, a much more playable

golf course," said McIlroy.

"It was always a great golf course but sometimes it could get very tricky with some of the lies you could get.

"For them to re-grass the place and for it to look as good as it does is great, and I'm looking forward to playing it."

McIlroy carded a sublime 66 in his final round to win in 2014 - an annus mirabilis for him as he went on to win two majors, the British Open and the US PGA - but Noren bettered that in some style last year with an incredible round of 62 after beginning the day seven strokes off the lead.

Noren, who will tee off with McIlroy and veteran Lee Westwood, admitted he also had his issues with the course prior to his victory.

"It's by far the biggest tournament



OUT FOR A WIN: Rory McIlroy.

I've won, and it would be unreal to defend it," said Noren.

"I think it was a shock to me to win it.

"I played it ten times before last year and I always thought the golf

course was not up my alley.

"I made it, in my head, a bigger tournament than it maybe is - it's already huge and then I made it feel even bigger.

AFP

# AB DE VILLIERS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM CRICKET



RETIRED: AB de Villiers.

**CAPE TOWN** - Proteas star AB de Villiers has announced his retirement from all international cricket.

The right-handed batsman, who has just completed the IPL season for the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), made the surprise announcement yesterday in a video recorded at the Tuks Cricket Oval in Pretoria.

"I want to let you know that I have decided to retire from all international cricket with immediate effect," De Villiers said.

"After 114 test matches, 228 one-day internationals, and 78 T20 internationals, it is time for others to take over. I've had my turn, and to be honest, I'm tired.

"This is a tough decision. I thought long and hard about it, and I'd like to retire while still playing decent cricket.

"And after the fantastic series wins against India and Australia, now feels the right time to step aside.

"It would not be right for me to pick and choose where and when, and in what format, I play for the

Proteas.

"For me, in green and gold, it must be everything, or nothing."

The 34-year-old De Villiers ended with 22 test hundreds and 8 765 test runs, at an average of 50.66, and in ODIs, he scored 9 577 runs, with 25 hundreds and an average of 53.50.

"I will always be grateful for my teammates, the coaches and the staff of Cricket South Africa for their support through all these years.

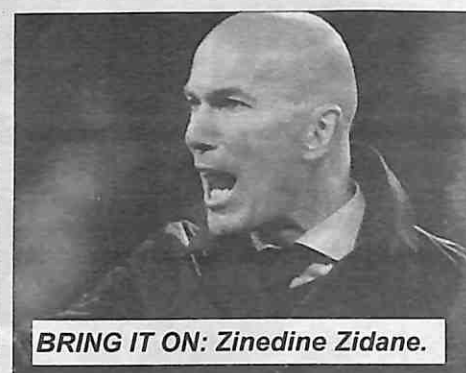
"It's not about earning more somewhere else. It's about running out of gas, and feeling that it's time to move on. Everything comes to an end.

"To cricket fans around South Africa, and around the world, thank you very much for your kindness, your generosity, and today, for your understanding.

"I have no plans to play overseas. In fact, I hope I can continue to be available for the Titans in domestic cricket.

"And I will remain the biggest supporter of Faf du Plessis and the Proteas. Thank you."

Sport24



BRING IT ON: Zinedine Zidane.

## Real as hungry as ever, Zidane warns Liverpool

**MADRID** - Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane has warned Liverpool that his side are as hungry as ever to win the Champions League, rejecting claims that the Spanish giants might have lost their edge ahead of Saturday's final in Kiev.

There have been some suggestions that Real, having won the past two finals, might not be as motivated as Liverpool, with the English club have not tasted European glory since 2005.

"I can't talk for the opponents, but we always have the same desire as we always do and nobody can say we don't," Zidane told a news conference.

"We're in a third final and we have the chance to do something historic and win it three times in a row. You can't say Liverpool have more hunger than us; it simply isn't true.

"Nobody can take our hunger away from us. We're Real Madrid ... We always want more and will always give our all to get more."

The Frenchman also said that his side's experience of playing in and winning three finals in the past four years will have no bearing on the outcome. By comparison, no player in the Liverpool squad has reached this stage of the competition before.

"It's a one-off game, in a neutral venue. We're ready for it, but our experience doesn't count," Zidane said.

"Granted, we have more, but we need to show that we want to win it. Our experience doesn't count for anything. It's a final, they (Liverpool) haven't played, but they'll kill themselves for this and we know it."

Inevitably, talk turned to star men Cristiano Ronaldo and Mohamed Salah, but Zidane was unequivocal when asked if he would swap the Portuguese for Liverpool's Egyptian star.

"Cristiano is the best, he shows it every year," the coach said.

"Sometimes pressure gets to players and it spurs others on. He is certainly the latter. He's of maximum importance to us."

AFP

## Serena's French Open seed denial stirs fresh debate

**PARIS** - The decision by French Open organisers not to grant Serena Williams a seeding on her long-awaited Grand Slam return has prompted renewed focus on the sport's policy towards female players and parenthood.

"French Open is punishing Serena Williams for having a baby" read a USA Today headline, arguing an expectation for the 23-time major winner to be made for today's draw.

At 36, the American is looking to regain her top form following the birth of her daughter last September. After sitting out of competition for over a year, she no longer had a ranking upon her return to the WTA circuit in March.

She has played just four matches this season across appearances at Indian Wells and Miami. But her results, far from convincing, have only been good enough to climb to 449th in the world rankings.

With a ranking so low, no player would typically even be able to take part in qualifying for the main draw. That is unless benefiting from a

wildcard or using a protected ranking, which has at least allowed Williams direct entrance into the field.

It is a system that lets a player retain, for a transitional period, a former ranking upon return from a long absence - between six months and two years - due to injury, illness or pregnancy.

But it does not guarantee them a seeding, leaving Serena vulnerable to an encounter with leading title contenders as early as the first round.

At Miami, Williams ran into Indian Wells champion Naomi Osaka in her opening match and was easily beaten.

"She has won this title so many times (eight) that she needs protection," Miami tournament director James Blake said after the WTA refused to alter its rules despite conceding that they would be "further reviewed" going forward.

"It's not as if she left because of injury and lost her passion for the game," Blake said. "She had a kid, which we should all be celebrating, so when she comes back there should be a grace



UNFAIR: Serena Williams.

period where she can still be seeded."

Maria Sharapova also spoke up in support of her long-time rival last week. AFP





SHUKUMA



SWAZILAND



# RASA HERE COMES ESWATINI!

By Dumisani Ntiwane  
(SNSRC Media Officer)

**SHUKUMA Eswatini! Greetings to the loyal readers of this column.**

It will be a night of glitz and glamour this coming Saturday, in Johannesburg, South Africa. The spacious Birchwood Hotel will host the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Regional Annual Sports Awards (RASA).

You will recall that last year the country scooped the Country of the Year Award, which was a major achievement, as we had not yet hosted the National Sports Awards.

It is the primary mandate of the AUSC Region 5 is to encourage all 10 member countries to host national sport awards preceding the RASA. The winners at country level are automatically entered as RASA nominees.

Although the Kingdom of Eswatini will now be represented in just two categories; the Outstanding Junior Sportsman and the Outstanding Journalist, it is still a major achievement for the country.



**REPRESENTING:** The Kingdom of Eswatini will take part in the annual African Union Sports Council Regional Annual Sports Awards.

try to be represented in the prestigious awards.

We take pride in the fact that for the first time in our history, we actually have two nominees, who are going to contend the awards alongside some of the best that the region has to offer. The other nominees should not despair. They are already winners in our eyes.

The fact that they were nominated is a clear sign that sports in the land is headed towards the right direction. This should mark the start of big things for the country.

We wish our two candidates all the best of luck on Saturday. They are hoisting the country's flag and the nation should support them with prayers.

## New netball executive must work hard

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for the new Netball Association of Swaziland (NAS) National Executive Committee.

They have just been elected into office and replace the previous executive led by long-serving president Mandisa Sigudla.

We do hope that they will bring in fresh ideas in their bid to improve the sport.

Sigudla and her executive committee did well during their tenure and hopefully, the new executive will strive to do even better.

We wish them the best of luck as they execute their duties.

### The new executive

**President** – Simangele Motsa  
**Vice President** – Nkabinde Shabalala  
**General Secretary** – Ntombikayise Masango  
**Treasurer** – Edgar Du pont  
**Members** – Themba Dlamini, Roaster Lukhele, Catherine Potgieter

We are fully aware that sport in the country is run mainly through volunteering. We expect the new executive members to dedicate their time to the sport. It calls for a lot of sacrifice to be in the national executive and hopefully the new members are up to it



## Remember it's a Youth Year

**MOST** will recall that early in the year, this column declared 2018 as a year for the youth. It was not just this column saying this but rather the SNSRC Board.

The youth, we all know, represents the future of our sports. Of course, we need to invest on the youngsters that still have a number of years ahead of them in sports. They are the ones that will carry on the baton when the current crop of sportsmen passes on the torch. They represent the future.

The SNSRC has noted that for the country's athletes to prosper, there is a need to invest heavily in our youth.

We are not only talking grassroots development but youth development holistically.

Our youth should brace themselves to embrace the many programmes coming their way this year. Where is our youth? Get ready to rumble!

*I will talk to you again next week. Until then, Shukuma Eswatini!*



## Review meetings ongoing

**OUR national sports associations are reminded and urged to attend the ongoing review meetings with our officers in conjunction with our partners, the Swaziland Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (SOCGA).**

It is crucial for all the associations to attend the review meetings least they risk being not recognised by the SNSRC.

The review meetings are not a monster to be feared by our associations but are actually meant to help them to be even more efficient and above all, to be fully recognised by the umbrella body of sports in the land.

Failure to attend our review meetings will obviously have dire consequences.

We need to know whether

our associations were on point for the past 12 months and whether they were able to meet their goals and objectives before granting them recognition again.

Unrecognised associations are not entitled to financial assistance or any other help from the SNSRC. The SNSRC reserves the right to financially assist associations and recreation bodies.

## Cricket has a 'new broom' to sweep cleaner

**THE Swaziland Cricket Association (SCA) has new office bearers.**

As it is often said that a new broom sweeps cleaner, we have little doubt that the new office bearers will grab the bull by its horns and continue from where the previous executive left off.

Cricket is one of the fastest growing sports in the land and there is no doubt that they are on the right track.

We wish the new executive well, as they strive to improve the sport in the country.

**President** – Sohail Khan  
**Vice President** – Safraj Bagas  
**General Secretary** – Eric Phiri  
**Treasurer** – Shahzad Mehmoog  
**Development Director** – Musa Thwala  
**Tournament Director** – Faizel Nababawa

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"No bird soars too high if he soars with his own wings" – William Blake



# PICK n PAY KIT PRESENTATION



**GAME ON:** Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala (c) Pick n Pay Africa Prakash Parsad (right) and other sponsors representatives posing with the young stars during the kits presentation for the Pick n Pay Kick Off Under 13 tournament which starts this coming weekend in Ezulwini and UNISWA Sports Grounds. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

## Cruising right along...



**STILL FIT:** Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala displaying his skills at the kit presentation.



**ALL YOURS:** Logico Sales Manager Jabulani Nsibande (c) presenting the soccer kits to Mangwaneni and Malkerns Valley Primary schools representatives.



**THANK YOU:** Logico Principal Manager Angel Fortune presenting the kit to Mahlanya Primary School representative Mbongwa Jele (teacher) and Sandile Busika (pupil).



**WATCHING:** Teachers and pupils from different schools following the proceedings.



**WE CONNECT:** Swazi Mobile Sponsorships and Brand Manager Fisiwe Vilane and Pick n Pay's Cedric Dlamini presenting the kit to Qedusizi Primary School's Mduduzi Dlamini (teacher) and Mnelisi Carimo (player).



**MORE SPONSORS:** Parmalat Key Accounts Manager Kim Thring and Qinisile Maphanga (Marketing) presenting a soccer kit to Ntontozi Primary School's Sandile Simelane and Vusimuzi Magagula.



**GREAT JOB:** Ngcamphalala with Pick n Pay's Cedric Dlamini and FA First Vice President Dr. Comfort Shongwe.



**GREAT INITIATIVE:** Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala chatting with Pick n Pay Africa Division Buyer, Prakash Parsad.





● Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola is considering a move for 18-year-old Ajax and Netherlands defender Matthijs de Ligt. (*Guardian*)

● New Rangers Manager Steven Gerrard wants to sign 18-year-old Liverpool and Wales striker Ben Woodburn on loan. (*Daily Express*)

● Manchester United are willing to listen to offers for France forward Anthony Martial, 22, but are not keen to sell him to a rival team in England. (*Mail*)

● AC Milan are interested in signing Chelsea's Spain striker Alvaro Morata, 25. (*Sky Italia - in Italian*)

● Emery intends to make midfielder Aaron Ramsey, 27, central to his plans with the Gunners despite the Wales player being linked with a move away. (*Sky Sports*)

● Barcelona remain confident that Atletico Madrid's France forward Antoine Griezmann 27, will sign for them in the summer having given his word. (*Mundo Deportivo - in Spanish*)

● Arsenal are plotting a move for Nice and Ivory Coast midfielder Jean Michael Seri, 26. (*Mail*)

● Former European champions AC Milan could face exclusion from next season's Europa League as a result of breaching Financial Fair Play rules. (*La Gazzetta dello Sport - in Italian*)

● Newcastle Manager Rafael Benitez is confident defender Jamaal Lascelles, 24, will remain at St James' Park despite interest from some of the top six clubs. (*Newcastle Chronicle*)

● West Brom midfielder James McClean, 29, suggests he is keen for a summer move, following the club's relegation. (*Irish Mirror*)

● Arsenal and England striker Danny Welbeck, 27, is being tracked by Turkish side Besiktas. (*Fotospor via TalkSport*)

● Swansea have held talks with Ostersunds FK Manager Graham Potter over their vacant managerial post. (*Mail*)

● New York City Manager and former Arsenal midfielder Patrick Vieira has denied reports he is set to join Nice as manager. (*Goal*)

● Brighton are closing on Paris St-Germain's Malian defender Moussa Sissako, 17. (*RMC - via Mirror*)



# GAYLE GIVES LIVERPOOL KIT, EDGARS VOUCHERS, BIBLES TO MANZINI CENTRAL PUPILS

By Sibusiso Dlamini

**SOCCER – THE Bible Society and Liverpool legend Howard Gayle on Tuesday donated Liverpool kits, Edgars vouchers and Bibles to pupils of Manzini Central High School.**

This was during their visit to the school. When delivering his speech to the pupils, Gayle reminisced to his very first trials with the Reds at Melbourne under the watchful eye of the most successful Liverpool mentor Bob Paisley.

"Well, I will tell you guys about my very first trials with Liverpool. Black players were still scarce in the English Premiership and there was still perception that we couldn't stand the weather or that we cracked under pressure.

"So the players I was with also had the same mentality such that they didn't even pass the ball to me for the first 10 to 15 minutes, and



**HOLY BOOK: Simphiwe Gama receiving her Bible from Gayle.**

when I eventually got the ball, in my own half, I used my speed – something we are naturally born

with as Africans."

He said he managed to beat four defenders with his speed, unleashed

a hardshot that hit the cross bar, it bounced back and before it even touched the ground he volleyed it right to the top left corner on the net.

"When I turned I saw the technical team nodding and I knew I had made the right first impression." Gayle continued to motivate the pupils to take their education seriously as it was a key to opening most doors.

"Now, you have to be clear with the fact that education is very important. Whatever talent you may have and whatever passion, make sure that you arm it with education. Also, sacrifice and discipline is also something you need. You have to be disciplined and that's where God comes in as well. If you accept Him as your Lord and Saviour, He does this for you without a problem," he said. About 10 lucky pupils won themselves the vouchers, Bibles and Liverpool soccer kits after they answered questions following Gayle's speech.

## Buffaloes beat 'Landers, keep title chase alive

By Sibusiso Dlamini

**SOCCER – PREMIER League of Swaziland (PLS) Reserve League defending champions Young Buffaloes claimed a 2 – 1 win over capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders to keep their title hopes alive.**

The Mbongwa Dlamini-led charges have not had the best of seasons so far and to win the headlining fixture played at the country's soccer Mecca this past weekend got them back in action.

In the match played earlier between Sundowns and Green Mamba, the Penuel Malinga led-side were on the losing side as they bit the dust, losing 2 – 0 against the Correctional Services side.

Lubombo based green and white ensemble Tambuti played to a 2-all stalemate against Moneni Pirates. Meanwhile, in the Under-17 League matches, Sundowns won 2-1 against Green Mamba while

### FULL RESULTS:

#### Esibayeni Lodge Under-17 League

Manzini Sundowns	2 – 1	Green Mamba
Matsapha United	1 – 1	Malanti Chiefs
Young Buffaloes	2 – 0	Mbabane Highlanders
Vovovo	4 – 2	Mbabane Swallows

#### PLS Reserve League (Under-20)

Buffaloes	2 – 0	Mbabane Highlanders
Midas Cit	4 – 0	Manzini wanders
Tambuti	2 – 2	Moneni Pirates

Tambuti thrashed Moneni Pirates 3-0.

Log leaders Matsapha United played to a 1-all stalemate against Malanti Chiefs while their closest competitors in defending champions Young Buffaloes won their encounter against Mbabane Highlanders. Vovovo also played against capital city giants Mbabane Swallows and managed a 4 – 2 win.

## Two changes in Swaziland Cricket Association board

By Jongile Xuba

**CRICKET – THE Swaziland Cricket Association hosted its Annual General Meeting at Enjabulweni School Hall last Saturday.**

These elections also marked the end of term office of the board members, meaning elections were to take place for the new board. The new members elected will serve a two-year term until the next AGM. There were six positions up for contention namely president, vice president, general secretary, treasurer, tournament director and development director.

First up was Sohail Khan, who retained his seat as the President of the association, including Safraj Baggas as the Vice President.

The General Secretary's position also remained unchanged with Eric Phiri retaining his post. Musa Thwala, who was Development Manager for the past two years, is the last member from the previous board to retain his seat. Junaid Hansrod lost his seat as Treasurer to Shazad Mehmood, who

will serve for the next term and the second change to the board was in the Tournament Directors seat with Zia Uddin, making way for Faizal Nanabawa.

Making his remarks after the voting results, General Secretary Eric Phiri said he was happy to have retained his position in the board.

"It is a rare case to win elections of such magnitude uncontested. When you have all members backing you, it simply means that you're doing a great job."

He further pleaded with companies to assist them with sponsorships for two major tournaments.

"We will be sending the Under-19 national team to Potchefstroom in August and the senior men's team to Gaborone for the ICC T20 World Cup Qualifiers in October. These two major events will need a lot of funding, and we plead with companies for assistance in terms of sponsorships," said Phiri.

He said they wanted to decentralise the sport and engage all Swazis to participate in the game of cricket, putting their motto 'Cricket For All' to practice.

## Mlamleni to be crowned Mantjonga League champions on July 2

By Sibongiseni Zondi

**SOCCER – MLAMLENI will be officially crowned champions of the Mantjonga League on July 2.**

The League, which is sponsored to the tune of E20 000 by Mtfongwaneni Member of Parliament (MP) Mjuluko Dlamini and businessman Linda Sihlongonyane, came to an end over a week ago with Mlamleni emerging as champions ahead of runners-up Rovers.

This coming Sunday the League will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Mantjonga Primary School, according to Chairman Sikelela Matse.

"Our League has come to an end. This coming Sunday (May 27) we will be having our AGM and each team is requested to send two representatives. Then on July 2 we will have our official prize presentation ceremony at Mantjonga Sports Ground. The champions Mlamleni will face the runners-up Rovers in an exhibition match. Both our sponsors, MP Mjuluko and Mr Sihlongonyane, will be there to give out the prizes," Matse said.

An Under-15 tournament sponsored by Sihlongonyane will also be launched on the day of the presentation. "Mr Sihlongonyane has also given us E2 000 for an Under-15 tournament which will be launched on July 2. We are very happy with the support we have received from both our sponsors as well as the entire community throughout the season," Matse concluded.

### MANTJONGA LEAGUE PRIZE BREAKDOWN:

Champions: Mlamleni:	E5 000
Runners-up: Rovers:	E3 000
3rd place: Mhlaleleni:	E2 000
4th place: Bulunga United:	E1 000



# MKHWELI, MAGAWUGAWU DROPPED FROM SIHLANGU

By Qondile Ntiwane

**SOCCER – MBABANE** Swallows left back Sanele Mkhweli and Moneni Pirates defender Menzi 'Magawugawu' Simelane have been dropped from Sihlangu.

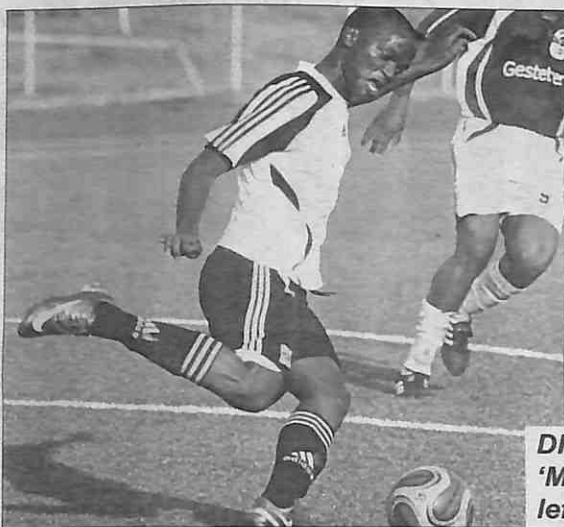
The two, alongside Royal Leopard goalkeeper Phephisani Msibi and Young Buffaloes duo of Siboniso Mamba and Fanelo 'Order' Mamba, were not part of the squad named for the international friendly against Harambee Stars of Kenya.

The nation's pride will lock horns with their Kenyan counterparts tomorrow.

The game will form part of the team's preparations for the COSAFA Cup where they will take on Lesotho in a quarterfinal clash at the Old Peter Mokaba Stadium on June 2.

The team's head coach Anthony Mdluli said during the team's farewell function held at the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS)

...Duo amongst five others left out of squad to play Harambee Stars



**DROPPED:** Moneni Pirates defender Menzi 'Magawugawu' Simelane and Mbabane Swallows left back Sanele Mkhweli.

Technical Centre at Lobamba yesterday that they were hopeful the team would do well during the game.

"Firstly, we would like to thank the Football Association for making it possible to have this game. Playing Kenya is a big task, especially because they are ranked better than us in the

FIFA rankings. As a result, we need to double our efforts in terms of performance. "Also the game will help us as we prepare for COSAFA. The last time we played was against Namibia hence this game will help us determine if we have improved and what we need to do going forward," he said.

The coach added that the squad comprised of different players and he was hopeful they would blend in time for the tournament. "Some players have two or three caps while others have plenty. I am hoping their experience will rub off on the others, as they all want to improve. As a coach I don't

## The squad:

### Goalkeepers

Sandanezwe Mathabela M Swallows  
Nhlania Gwebu Y Buffaloes

### Defenders

Banele Dlamini G Mamba  
Lindo Mkhonta Y Buffaloes  
Phumani Dlamini R Leopards  
Wandile Maseko Y Buffaloes  
Siboniso Ngwenya Y Buffaloes

### Midfielders

Mandla Palma M Swallows  
Sihlangu Mkhwanazi Y Buffaloes  
Zwelli Nxumalo R Leopard  
Tony Tsabedze M Swallows  
Njabulo Ndlovu M Swallows

### Strikers

Wonder Nhleko M Swallows  
Phiwa Dlamini Y Buffaloes  
Barry Steenkamp R Leopard  
Sifiso Mazibuko Y Buffaloes  
Musa Dlamini G Mamba  
Xolani Sibandze M Highlanders  
Felix Badenhorst M Swallows  
Bonginkosi Dlamini R Leopard

### Coach:

Anthony Mdluli  
Assistant Coach Caleb Ngwenya  
Goalkeeper Coach Musa Manyatsi  
Physical Trainer Sithembiso  
Shona

### Team Doctor:

Charles Mdluli  
Siphos Dlamini Kit Manager  
Richard Fakudze Manager  
Sikhumbuzo Dlamini Nutritionist

have control over the team winning but we are hoping for the best," he said. The team, led by NFAS executive member MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini, left the country by road yesterday and will connect at the OR Tambo Airport, South Africa, for Nairobi tomorrow.

## BRING LIVERPOOL TO ESWATINI - MINISTER CRUISER URGES GAYLE

Stories by Qondile Ntiwane

**SOCCER – MINISTER of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala has challenged Liverpool legend Howard Gayle to facilitate the English Premiership side's visit to the country.**

The minister said, during their visit, the team would have a date with local giants Mbabane Swallows at the Somhlolo Stadium.

Making his remarks during Sihlangu's farewell function held at the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) Technical Centre at Lobamba yesterday, the minister said they were looking up to Gayle to bring the international team to the country. "We are happy that you are here with us today. As a former Liverpool star we request you to facilitate a visit by the team to Eswatini. This is difficult but possible as we have seen our neighbours SA doing it. "You are

now our ambassador and please let them know they should forget beating Swallows at Somhlolo even if they manage to do it will be during penalties," he said. The minister further declared during the event that he was now a Liverpool supporter, a move inspired by Gayle's visit.

"In my time I didn't like anything that had to do with red and couldn't follow even international teams. But that you are here at Eswatini and have seen the good man you are, I declare that I am now a Liverpool fan, which is not difficult because I have never supported any team," he said.

The minister then expressed gratitude to the Bible Society of Swaziland for the 'Bible in the Soccerfield' tournament. "The work by the Bible Society is tremendous. As Swazis we believe in God and we ask that you pray for the team as they go to Kenya for the friendly game."

## Top referee sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for bar fight

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi

**SOCCER – SWAZILAND's top referee Mbongiseni Fakudze and his accomplice Thabiso Dube have been found guilty of assaulting two patrons at KaGcina Bar on Friday and sentenced to three years imprisonment.**

The accused appeared at Matsapha Circuit Court yesterday before Magistrate Mthokozisi Dlamini. According to court records, the two were charged with

assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm in that they assaulted Banele Dlamini with a beer bottle and further assaulted him with fists. On the second count Fakudze appeared alone and he was charged with assault common in that he assaulted Mxolisi Banda with fists on the face.

### Accused

Both accused persons pleaded guilty to the charge they were slapped with. Explaining their side of the story before court, Fakudze said he had gone to KaGcina to pick up his girlfriend and when he arrived there trying to take his girlfriend someone else grabbed hold of her and when he asked why he was doing that the person told him that the lady was also his girlfriend. Fakudze said a fight ensued after the confrontation with

the person who was claiming ownership of his girlfriend. Dube said he ended up being involved in the skirmish because he was trying to help his friend who was being assaulted. He said he ended up being stoned by the complainant. Dube said the complainant was the one who was violent as he even assaulted police officers when he found them (Fakudze and Dube) while they were at the police station being charged.

The magistrate condemned the accused persons' act of violence. He sentenced Fakudze to 18 months imprisonment for each count with a fine option of E2 000, which means he will have to part with E4 000 to gain his liberation.

Dube was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment with a fine option of E2 000.

## STOP CRITICISING SIHLANGU - COACH

**SOCCER - UNDER-fire Sihlangu coach Anthony Mdluli has received the backing of Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala.**

The minister said they were in support of the coach, who has been criticised for leaving behind crucial players in the squad, including the Mbabane Swallows duo of goalkeeper Sandile Ginindza and midfielder Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze as well as Young Buffaloes' Sandile Gamedze, amongst others.

"Coach I want to assure you that you have our support. Let us all support the technical bench and stop criticising them. They want what is best for the country and we are also confident that they will do well in both the game against Kenya and COSAFA," he said.

The minister then implored the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) to work together with the ministry in securing financial assistance for the national squad.

"Government is facing a serious financial challenge but we will do our best to ensure the team is well taken care of. But as government we cannot do it alone but need assistance from the corporate sector.

"With little time left in office, I would urge football that we meet and come up with proposals that will see to it that companies, especially those involved in football, assist the squad," he said.

Meanwhile, NFAS President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa thanked the minister for his efforts in developing the national squad.

"We really appreciate the efforts of your ministry and you personally for making sure that Sihlangu is always catered for in terms of resources," he said.

Mthethwa, a self-proclaimed Liverpool fan, also expressed gratitude to the team's legend for making time to visit the country and being with the team.



**SOCCER - WHILE in the field referee Mbongeni Fakudze is expected to bring peace between players, however, the referee has been labelled as the most violent person.**

This was noted by Magistrate Mthokozisi Dlamini during the trial of Fakudze at Matsapha Circuit Court.

The magistrate said cases of violence have proven

to be a huge headache leading to murder cases, especially in these drinking holes found all around the country.

Magistrate Dlamini said these murder cases start with a little misunderstanding and end up with people murdering each other. This was after explaining that he (Fakudze) was provoked after someone tried to grab his girlfriend inside the bar. The magistrate told the top referee that he should have talked to his girlfriend instead of assaulting the complainant. The magistrate noted that it is clear by her action that Fakudze's girlfriend 'yintfombi yasetjwaleni', he said the referee should have asked her that it looks like she

is for the whole world (sandanezwe) as the interpreter put it. Hence she should be the one that the accused was supposed to talk to and ask who she was really with.

Magistrate Dlamini told the referee that he is 43 years old and looking at his age it is assumed that the referee's mental capacity is supposed to be matured, but by the look of things the referee is the most violent person as he assaulted two people at the drinking spot.

Fakudze was charged with two counts, which was that of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and assault common and for each count the referee was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment with a fine option of E2 000.

**MOST VIOLENT:** Top referee Mbongiseni Fakudze.



# 'Rubber' slapped with E20 000 fine for assaulting Mkhonta

By Sibongiseni Zondi

**SOCCER - MBABANE** Citizens official Bheki 'Rubber' Simelane has been hit with a E20 000 fine by the Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) for assaulting executive member Sicelo Mkhonta.

Simelane is accused of having assaulted Mkhonta, who is also a Director of Manzini Sea Birds, at the Somhlolo National Stadium on May 13 after the National First Division (NFD) championship decider between Citizens and Sea Birds. Sea Birds won that match 2-0 to clinch the NFD title and the E120 000 first prize cheque.

In a letter dated May 16 and titled 'Re: Summary Fine for Misconduct by Bheki Simelane,' the PLS informs Citizens and Simelane of the fine.

"Mbabane Citizens is hereby summarily fined E20 000 for violent misconduct in that on the 13th of May 2018 at Somhlolo National Stadium, the accused team's official and/or supporter Bheki Simelane assaulted the PLS Executive Member Mr. Sicelo Mkhonta. The PLS has invoked Article 7 (2) of the 2017/18 MTN National First Division League Rules and Regulations," part of the letter, which this publication is in possession of, reads.

Article 7 (2) states that, "Notwithstanding, the provisions of Article 7 (1) above, the PLS reserves the right to charge any player, official, marshal, supporter, fan, spectator positively identified by the Referee or Match Commissioner or PLS official to have contravened any of Article 7 (1) and if found guilty he/she shall be punished in accordance with NFAS constitution and/or the NFAS rules and regulations or the NFAS disciplinary code," the letter concludes.

Contacted yesterday, Simelane refused to comment much on the matter.

"No, I haven't received any letter. I have no idea. I don't want to comment on it," Simelane briefly said. Citizens will also be hit with a E3 000 fine by the PLS for failing to follow instructions of match officials at Somhlolo during that match against Sea Birds.

"Mbabane Citizens FC were also handed a summary fine of E3 000 for failing to adhere to the instructions of the PLS official and/or match officials regarding the use of facilities at Somhlolo National Stadium on the 13th of May 2018 by using the car gate instead of the regulated entry designated by officials," reads another letter sent to the club which this publication is also in possession of.

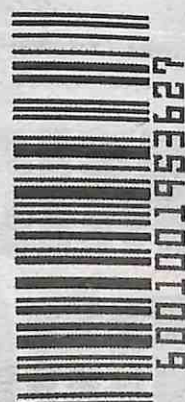


**SUED:** Young Buffaloes striker Phiwa Dlamini.

# SWAZI OBSERVER Sport

IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

Thursday May 24, 2018



Yes sir, thank you sir as...

## LEOPARD MC DISBANDED!



By Sibongiseni Zondi

**SOCCER - AFTER** a trophy-less season, Royal Leopard President and Police Commissioner Isaac Magagula has disbanded the club's entire Management Committee (MC) after another underwhelming season for the police side.

Leopard had a 2017/18 campaign to forget, finishing seventh in the MTN Premier League and failing to win a single cup competition. That disappointing season has prompted club President Magagula to ring changes, with the MC being the first

- NatCom relieves entire MC of duties
- Leopard finished 2017/18 trophy-less

to suffer, according to a source close to the club.

### Disbanded

"The commissioner has disbanded the entire MC. He met with them last week and again this week. The commissioner was left disappointed with last season's results so he wants the team to do better next season," the source, who preferred to remain anonymous, said.

Reached for comment on Tuesday, Leopard PRO Frank Hurube con-

firmed that the commissioner had met with the MC but denied that there had been any disbanding.

"Yes, it's true we met the commissioner and his executive yesterday (Monday). He also met with the players.

The commissioner thanked us (MC) for our service to the team over the years but noted that the recently completed season had been a disappointment.

He then asked our suggestions on

how to get the team back to winning ways but we politely asked him to make those decisions as the president of the club," Hurube said.

The Leopard PRO then added that there would definitely be changes at Leopard between now and the start of next season.

"Changes will happen, definitely. You will see them. When the next season starts, changes will have been made," Hurube added.

The disbanded Leopard MC consisted of Mxolisi 'Master' Dlamini, who was the Chairman as well as Mabamba Shiba, who was the secretary, amongst others.

## Play without fear, Gayle implores Sihlangu stars

By Qondile Ntiwane

**SOCCER - LIVERPOOL** legend Howard Gayle has implored Sihlangu players never to play with fear in order to succeed.

Addressing the players during their farewell function held at NFAS Technical Centre at Lobamba yesterday Gayle, who is the first African to play for the

...players also get Bibles from Bible Society

English Premiership side, said it was important for the players to work together as a team as this would ensure they achieve great results.

"As a former player, I have travelled this path and my advice to you would be that a footballer who plays with fear will never be good.

A player needs to believe in himself, listen to the coach as they have expertise needed inside the field of

play. "Also you also need to believe and have faith together as a team. By doing that you can beat anyone who comes your way," he said.

### Players

The former player, who is currently in the country courtesy of the Bible Society of Swaziland, further challenged each of the players to work hard and become the first from Eswatini to play in the EPL.

"As Africans we are gifted when it comes to the game. The great Pele said in the 90s that 'once an African nation wins the World Cup, the rest of the world will never get it' and I believe he was telling the truth.

"Nothing is impossible in football and players should believe in themselves. I wish Sihlangu all the best as they go to Kenya and will make sure to check the results when I get home," he said.

The players were also not left out of the initiative by the Bible Society as they were presented with Bibles and urged to make good use of the Holy Book.

## Buffaloes' Phiwa slapped with E220 000 lawsuit

By Qondile Ntiwane

**SOCCER - YOUNG** Buffaloes striker Phiwa Dlamini has been slapped with a E220 000 lawsuit by Swazi TV camera-man and journalist Siphon Celani Mavimbela.

The striker has been cited as the first defendant in the matter with Buffaloes as

the second defendant. **Assaulted**

In his papers filed at the High Court, Mavimbela, cited as the plaintiff, stated that on or about 26 November 2017 at Somhlolo National Stadium, the first defendant unlawfully assaulted the plaintiff by strangulating him and further hitting him with an open hand on the right eye.

He stated that Dlamini was acting within the course and scope of his employment with Buffaloes, thereby rendering the army side responsible.

Mavimbela added that as a result of the strangulation, he suffered soft tissue injuries in the structures around his neck, including his vocal cords and further caused his larynx to swell resulting in odynophagia.

### The breakdown

Medical costs	E20 000
Pain and suffering	E200 000

As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff suffered damages worth the above mentioned amount. The defendants in the matter have been given 10 days to show intention to defend the matter and serve a copy to the plaintiff's attorney.