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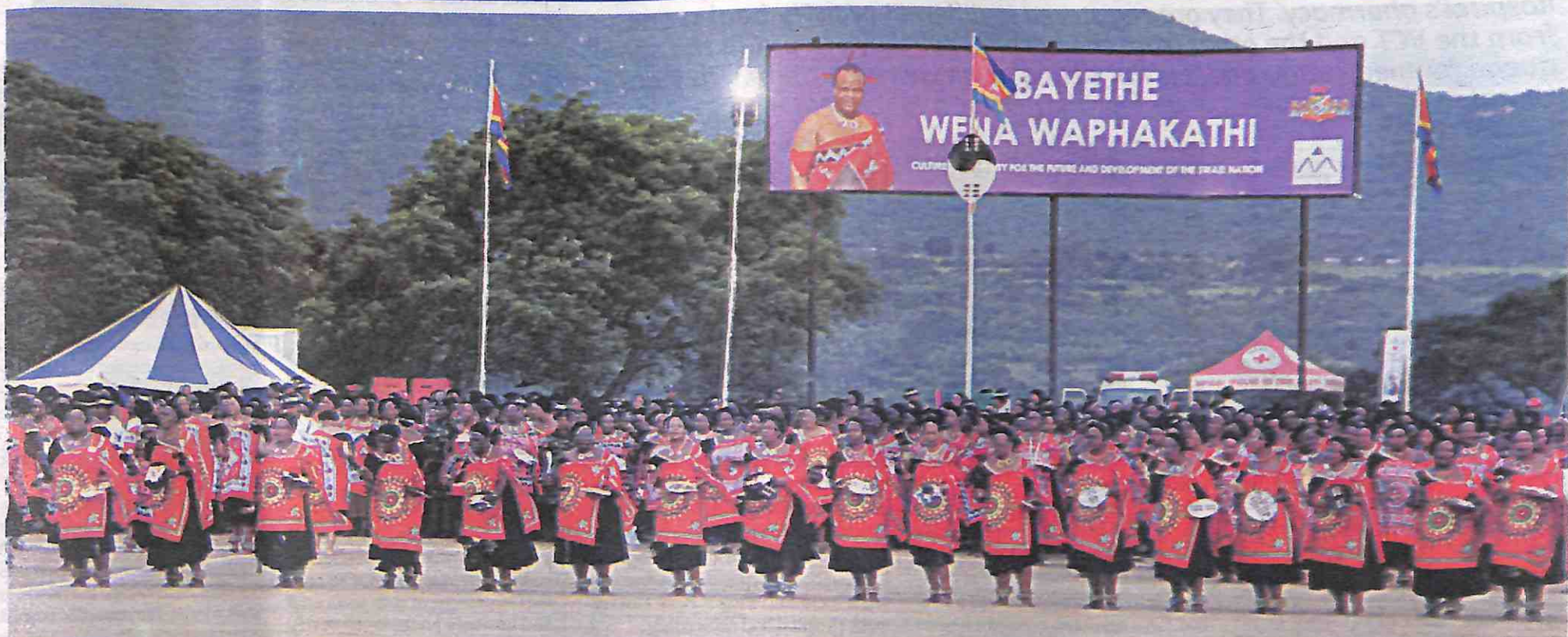
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SWAZI PRIDE: Swazi culture was on display during the Baganu Ceremony at Buhleni Royal Residence over the weekend where Lutsango danced to the delight of spectators. Traders also took advantage of the ceremony to make a quick buck. The ceremony ended on a high note yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

INYANGA GETS LIFE SENTENCE IN SA JAIL

STORY ON PAGE 3

● The Swazi healer murdered a 3-yr-old for muti

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SWAZIPOST

2 NATIONAL NEWS

VCT WORKERS THREATENED BY HIV POSITIVE PATIENTS

...The patients are not comfortable with being in the queue with the rest of the other patients especially when queuing to get their medication at the hospital's pharmacy. They are registered in different registry books, one from the VCT and the other from the hospital but they are put in the same queue for medication and it is not sitting down well with them. They are threatening to beat us and we fear that worse might happen

Stories by Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

VOLUNTARY Counseling and Testing (VCT) workers at Mbabane Government Hospital fear for their lives as HIV positive patients are threatening to assault them over a confusion caused by mixing them with other patients at the pharmacy.

Apparently the VCT patients are complaining that they are made to queue with people who are not from the VCT and they are not comfortable with that hence they threatened the VCT staff.

"The patients are not comfortable with being in the queue with the rest of the other patients especially when queuing to get their medication at the hospital's pharmacy. They are registered in different registry books, one from the VCT and the other from the hospital but they are put in the same queue for medication and it is not sitting down well with them. They are threatening to beat us and we fear that worse might happen,"



said one employee.

Acting Principal Secretary to the Ministry of Health Dr Vusi Magagula said the workers have not yet reported the matter but they will launch an investigation to look into it and find a solution. "We have been giving the issue of stigmatisation priority and if such is a problem then we have to look into it but we have not received a complaint from the workers on the matter yet," he said.

When quizzed on how far the min-

istry has gone in sorting the issue of lack of security in health facilities around the country, Magagula said they have deployed security in all four hospitals. It was recently reported that four hospitals including Pigg's Peak Government Hospital had no security.

"The significance of having security at health centres can never be emphasised enough so we sorted that and all the hospitals that were reported to have no security have now been sorted," he said.

Serious crackdown on TV licence defaulters begins today in Manzini

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE TV Licences Consortium will this morning unleash its venom on defaulters in the Manzini City accompanied by a battalion of police officers and prosecutors.

The consortium will be raiding shop by shop in search of defaulters who will face the full wrath of the law.

Last week, 26 police officers from different regions and 10 prosecutors from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions were trained on their roles as the consortium takes the collection of TV licences fees to another level.

TV Licence Project Manager Modicai Donga said the time had come for them to step up their game since they had given the public enough time to pay.

"The task team's role is to enforce the Swaziland Television Authority Act. The consortium, in partnering with the law enforcers views this as a step of progress in ensuring that television owners and businesses dealing in television sets comply and adhere to the Act," he said.

Law

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

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

Adding, Donga said: "We are convinced at this juncture that everyone knows that they have an obligation to pay for their television licence considering also that this Act dates back to 1983. We would like to thank those who have come forward to pay for their television licences. We announce today that those who have failed, ignored and/or refused to pay for their television licence are clearly flagrantly disregarding the law.

The consortium is now entering into a phase of enforcing the law," he said.

Inspection

He also emphasised that the Licence Consortium's first stop will be in



WE MEAN BUSINESS: TVL Project Manager Modicai Donga.

Manzini as businesses in the country's hub will be the first to be inspected.

Lead consultant Sidumo Mdladla pleaded with the nation last week to do the right thing and pay for their TVs.

"We are pleading with the nation to comply with the law and pay their TV licences. We are at a different stage of the collection process and we would like to urge the nation to work with us. The inspection process is set to begin in Manzini where we will start with the business section," he said.

Office

Mdladla reminded all that TV licences are supposed to be paid by everyone who owns a TV set and not for content from Swazi TV as many have assumed.

The task team that will be dealing with the inspection comprises police, the consortium officers and prosecutors.

According to Mdladla they have ample time as they have been given a five-year period to work on the collection of TV licences.

It was also mentioned that when the task team got into office the figures were alarming as only seven to 10 000 people countrywide were paying for their licences but now they are standing at 42 000 people.

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

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

It's a complicated case - NERCHA



IT'S COMPLICATED: NERCHA Director Khaya Mabuza.

THE National Emergency Response Council on HIV and AIDS (NERCHA) has labelled the matter as complicated.

NERCHA Director Khaya Mabuza said in their quest to fight stigmatisation and sparing the patients from long queues, they implemented stand-alone sites for HIV patients in hospitals but the patients complained that the sites were not putting an end to stigma but fuelling it because if they are spotted in the sites, one concludes that they are HIV patients. He said what they were trying to do now is integrate, putting the patients in one line so that

"It's a complicated matter but we are working together with SWANEPA"

they are not predicted but that seems not to work as well as they are back in long queues and they complain that at times they are called out when given the medication which speculates what kind of medication they are there for.

"Mbabane government is one of the hospitals that implemented the integration but in most of the health centres where it's been implemented, it seems not to be working. It's a complicated matter but we are working together with the Swaziland's Network of People living with AIDS

(SWANEPA) and the ministry of health to look into how best the situation can be solved," he said.

SNUS calls for students to unite, fight for scholarships

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi

THE Swaziland National Union of Students (SNUS) has called for students from all higher institutions in the country to unite and fight for scholarships.

In a statement released by Tengetile Masuku, communications and publicity officer of the union said students must be inspired by the spirit of Ayanda Mkhabela who struggled with the poor

self-sponsored students while she was fully government-sponsored.

Masuku said she knows Mkhabela would have loved to be with them in the forefront every time but her conditions no longer permit and that should inspire students even more.

Views

Speaking about Mkhabela, who was injured by a police truck during a class boycott at Kwaluseni, Masuku said as SNUS they are aware that February marks exactly two years since Mkhabela

was injured by police leading to her being permanently disabled.

Masuku said ever since that day, the union made a call and a promise that the day sh never

be forgotten in the history of the students' struggle.

Masuku applauded Mbabane campus students for taking time to observe this day.

She said the union will never sway from the view that Mkhabela is a victim of a government that is prepared to do anything to suppress voices that expose marginalisation and lack of respect for human



rights.

Masuku said the police shall on the other hand never forget that the students who were protesting on that day were demanding the reopening and extension of a closed registration period which would have seen hundreds of Swazi young people dropping out of the university because they had not met the deadline as a result of their economic position.

Masuku said as SNUS they still expect the report of the inquiry from the National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula.

WEEK TO START COLD BUT CLOSE WARM

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

FORECASTERS have predicted a cold to warm week ahead.

According to information sourced from Swaziland Meteorology Services,

this week will start cold and end warm to hot especially in the Lowveld.

"Today it will be cold with temperatures reaching a maximum of 17 Degrees Celsius in the Highveld while temperatures will reach a maximum of 24 Degrees Celsius in the Lowveld," said the forecaster.

Today, there will be drizzles and fog at places, otherwise partly cloudy intervals and cold but cool in the Highveld.

Mbabane	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
11/17	12/18	13/20	11/19	12/23	14/24

Tomorrow, there will be drizzle and fog at places, otherwise cloudy with partly cloudy intervals and cool but cold in the Lowveld.

10/25	11/26	12/28	10/27	11/31	17/32
14/27	15/28	16/30	14/29	15/33	17/34

On Wednesday, there will be morning fog at places, otherwise partly cloudy and warm but hot in the Lowveld.

On Thursday, there will be morning fog at places, otherwise partly cloudy and warm but hot in the Lowveld.

15/28	16/29	17/31	15/30	16/34	18/35
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SWAZI INYANGA GETS LIFE SENTENCE IN SA

Themba Mnyambo (46) was arrested with a Jericho man Sgodvo Mokoena (48) and four others for the murder of the three-year-old child in 2016

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi

COVER STORY

A Swazi traditional healer has been sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa for the ritual murder of a three-year-old girl at Mgobodzi area on the SA side.

Themba Mnyambo (46) was arrested with a Jericho man Sgodvo Mokoena (48) and four others for the murder of the three-year-old child in 2016.

The two Mnyambo and Sgodvo were popular traditional healers and staunch Jericho members who resided at Mgobodzi area, a place which is in the Northern Hhohho region.

Interrogation

Sgodvo was arrested after police investigations uncovered that he and five accomplices murdered Letricia Nketshane from Mgobodzi area and used her body parts for muti purposes.

According to information gathered, the child disappeared on November 29, 2015 and has never been found.

Information gathered is that Sgodvo in the company of Louise Sithole (22), Mhlolo Mazibe (20), Bongane Ngomane (28), Themba Mnyambo (46), and Jabulani Ndlovu (32) confessed to having killed the child after community members interrogated some of the sus-

THE BREAKDOWN OF THE SENTENCES;

- Sithole - 19 years
- Mhlolo - 17 years
- Ngomane - Life + Five years
- Mnyambo - Life + Five years
- Ndlovu - Life + Five years
- Mokoena - Life + Five years

pects before handing them to the police.

It is said on October 29, 2015 Letricia accompanied her uncle to herd cattle and was never seen again.

In 2016, the matter hogged headlines both in local media and South African media.

According to information published by the Lowvelder, in a statement by the local police it is said one of the suspects confessed to the kidnapping of the child.

Confession

According to the police they were aiming to kill the child for muti but nothing has been confirmed yet and the remains of the child have not been found to confirm the suspect's confession.

It is said while the trial was ongoing, angry community members were protesting outside court asking for the authorities to release the suspects so they could deal with them.

This incident also led to a chief of Mgobodzi area being attacked on suspicions that he had a hand in the disappearance of the child.

Information gathered is that residents between January 24-25 in 2016, blocked

a road in Mgobodzi village near the border with Swaziland and Mozambique.

Residents

It is alleged that the fuming residents threatened to kill the suspects if they are to be released on bail.

As the case continued in court last week, the accused were finally found guilty and sentenced by the Mpumalanga Circuit High Court in Mbombela.

Such an incident comes at a time when just recently it was reported that a Swazi traditional healer Thokozani Msibi who is based in South Africa was arrested in connection with kidnapped and murdered Witbank children.

This was after police discovered the bodies of two children in separate locations, believed to be those of the missing children, Gabisile Shabani and Nkosikhona Ngwenya.

According to reports from Times Live, a South African newspaper, while the case of the traditional healer was ongoing, one of the suspects led police officers from South Africa to the country where Mnyambo, who had another house in Swaziland, had pointed out bottles containing muti to the police.

"According to the investigating officer, Captain Freddy Magagula, the forensic laboratory had found they contained flesh," she said.

The laboratory was still determining whether this was from a human or an animal, the publication stated.



Swarm of bees sting gogo, dies

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

An elderly woman (87) from Mhlangatane was stung to death by a swarm of honey bees outside her own homestead on Saturday.

The elderly woman was sleeping outside her homestead when the obviously disturbed bees attacked her to death.

At the time of the bees attack, the deceased was all alone at the homestead while her relatives were carrying out some domestic errands.

The name of the deceased is currently withheld as the family said

they were still to inform all her next of kin about the unfortunate incident. Speaking to this publication yesterday, family members asked that their names be concealed. "We as a family are still in shock about what happened to gogo, unfortunately the problem we have as a family is we need to first inform to the deceased's other family before we can address the media about the issue. All we can say for now is the fact that gogo died after she was stung to death by honey bees. She was found dead by one of us," said one family member. Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the incident.

UNISWA Senate re-opens Kwaluseni, Luyengo campuses

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi

THE University of Swaziland Senate has resolved to re-open the Kwaluseni and Luyengo Campus.

Students at the two campuses were sent packing after they engaged in a class boycott demanding their allowances among other things.

Students were informed of the decision to reopen by their Secretary General Sanelisiwe Nxumalo that after a senate meeting, it was resolved that the university's closed campuses be opened today.

All in-campus students were expected to return back to their rooms by yesterday.

Just last week, students were informed that the ministry of labour and social

security had finally released cheques for students at Kwaluseni Campus.

However, the UNISWA Student Representative Council Secretary General Nxumalo said concerning allowances the sponsor keeps on insisting that all cheques are with the university, whereas the university on the other hand also insists that they do not have them. Nxumalo said this simply shows how much both these structures take students for granted.

He said it goes on to show how both systems have no regard for students' education as a whole. She further reminded students that as the SRC office they will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that each and every student gets their allowance as soon as possible.

The secretary general said it was an undisputable fact that its already late,

however they (SRC) assured students that they will not rest until each one of them receives what is rightfully due to them.

Nxumalo also advised students to check with the different DSAs offices in each campus to see if there are any queries with their files.

Nxumalo said such happens and it seems like it is another delaying tactic the ministry has employed to hold on to students' money. She said as students they did not engage in a boycott just because they didn't want to learn but because the hunger was no longer bearable. Nxumalo said they would be going back to class because they want to learn and they love their education therefore they will never at any point regret such gestures. Some students however made it clear that there are a lot of issues that need to be sorted out by the university hence there was a need for it to allow students to hold joint meetings.



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4 PICTURES

BUGANU FESTIVAL



THANK YOU: His Majesty King Mswati III addressing members of Lutsango at the Baganu Ceremony at Buhleni Royal Residence on Saturday. The ceremony ended on a high note yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



GIRL TIME: Liphovela LaMashwama and Princess Sikhanyiso with Emazinyane at the ceremony.



ADDRESS: Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini introducing the King before his address to the nation.



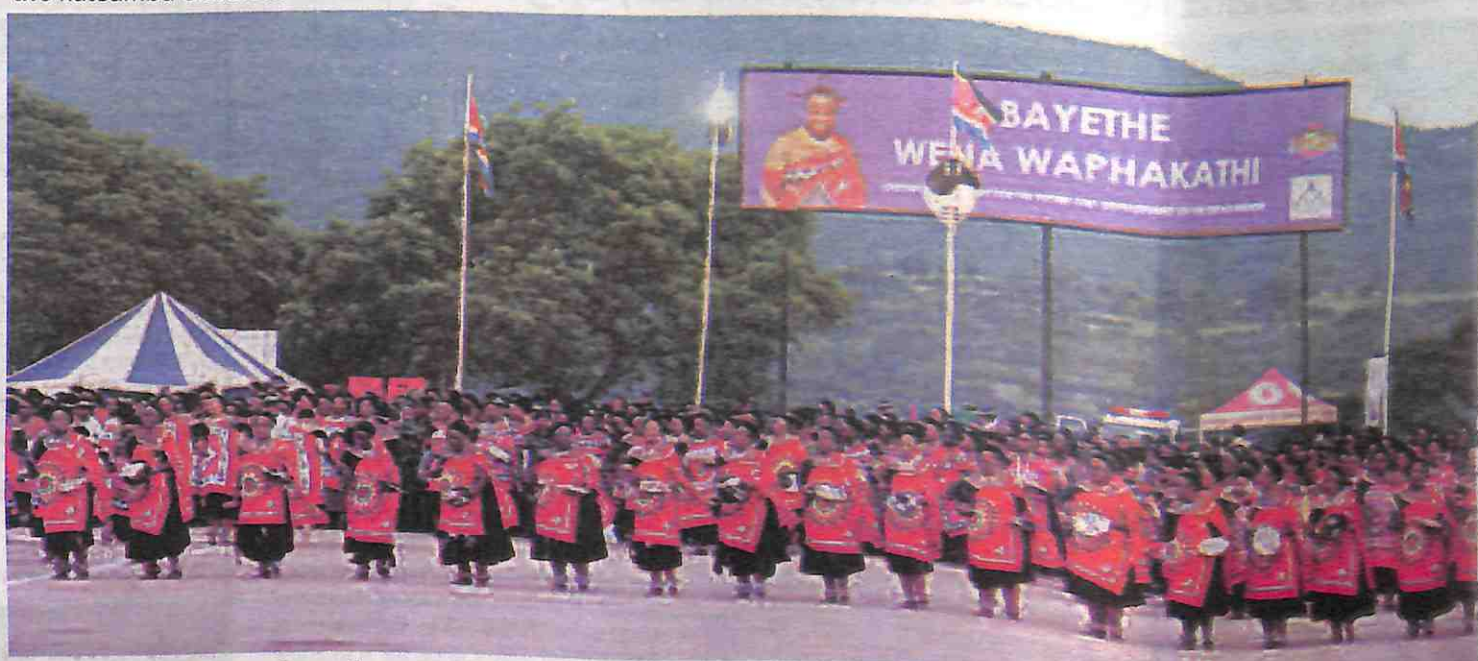
PRESENT: Zanele Mbokazi-Nkambule with her brother-in-law Meibra umbutfo Mankelale and Mabekisa Dlamini as they watched the ceremony.



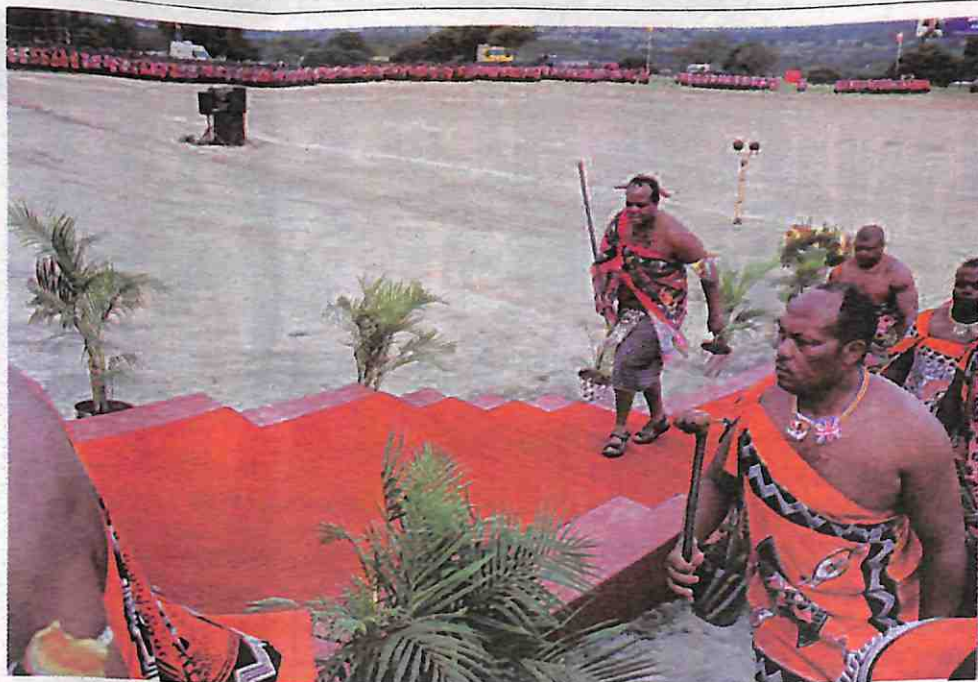
DUO: Imbali from the Royal Swaziland Police Ncobile Malindzisa and Futhi Ngozo also attended the ceremony.



LET'S DANCE: Emakhosikati appreciating Bongiwe Vivane Hlatshwako as she showcased her dance skills during the kutsamba session.



IN IT TOO: Lutsango from the royal family also came out in their numbers to dance with the multitudes.



RED CARPET: His Majesty King Mswati III on arrival for the ceremony.



THEIR MAJESTIES: His Majesty in a conversation with Her Majesty as they watched Lutsango.



JOVIAL: Lutsango from the Fire Emergency Services dancing up a storm.



UNIFORM: Lutsango in action on the day.



HAPPY DAY: Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture Lutsango also joined in to celebrate with the women folk.



JOYFUL: Diplomats were also guests to Their Majesties on the day.



CULTURAL FLAIR: The Royal Swaziland Police could not be left out as they came through in their numbers.



FOCUSED: Lacwebetelako following the proceedings from the vantage point.

Trade at Buhleni Baganu Ceremony

Small business people make a killing

...sunshades, handmade jewellery and sandals among goods popular with buyers

Stories by Sizwe Dlamini
Buhleni

SMALL business people selling wares at the 2018 Baganu Ceremony at Buhleni Royal Residence have said they made a killing out of sunshades, handmade jewellery as well as sandals which were among the popular

items.

The business people who were speaking to this publication on a hot Saturday afternoon, said due to the fact that food as well as the handcraft businesses were over saturated at such national events, it was time for small business people to think outside the box.

The annual ceremony started on Friday and ended yesterday, where Swazis,

mainly, *Lutsango* showcased their cultural beauty before Their Majesties.

Besides the ordinary people who attended in numbers, numerous companies were not left out as they also came to deliver gifts to Their Majesties.

Below are some of the small businesspeople who were interviewed during the ceremony on how their businesses fared during the ceremony.

I sold 100 pairs of handmade sandals

FIRST to speak to this publication was a 15-year veteran sandal designer and salesman from Matsapha Arnadu Tembe, who said he had sold 100 pairs of his handmade sandals at the ceremony.

"I am very grateful to our King for hosting this beautiful national ceremony because it is at such events that we the small business people have the opportunity to showcase our products so that people can buy them. I used to be a fisher man in Maputo 20 years ago then I came to Swaziland and settled in Matsapha. After two years of searching, I failed to find a job so I started making sandals using various materials.

The sandals were well received and I started to improve the designs.

Now my sandals are selling very well

GOOD MONEY: 15-year-veteran sandal designer and salesman from Matsapha Arnadu Tembe said he sold 100 pairs of his handmade sandals at the ceremony. (Pics: Sizwe Dlamini)



because I also take into account the price I sell them for. Each pair costs

only E40 and I have sold 100 pairs just in one day," he said.



GOOD BUSINESS: Handmade jewellery expert from Ndlalambi Julius Sibiya.

'I made good business by selling 60 rings'

ANOTHER small businessman who spoke to this publication was a handmade jewellery expert from Ndlalambi, Julius Sibiya said he had sold 60 rings at E50 each.

"The Baganu Ceremony is a serious blessing to us the businesspeople here in Northern Hhohho because it brings customers. I started selling jewellery in 2003 while I was in South Africa looking for

employment, luckily for me a friend of mine sold me his jewellery making equipment and taught me how to use it.

Now all I do is buy the material and then I make the rings and sell them at such events. This small business has allowed me to put my two children through school, today I have sold 60 rings all at only E50 each, to men and women alike," he said.

'My shades were selling like hotcakes'

BUHLENI resident Philile Magubane is another small business person who said she had benefited a lot from the Baganu Ceremony held at Buhleni Royal Residence.

Interviewed, she said the heat at Buhleni helped her business a lot as she was selling beautiful sunshades at only E40 each. "I have been selling sunshades for the past 18 years at the Buhleni Market, I love the annual Baganu Ceremony because a lot of people from far and wide come to our small town during this time and thus some of

us who are in business benefit a lot.

It's a fact that people want to look smart especially the ladies so, I sell them branded sunshades. The secret is to keep the prices of the sunshades low so that customers can buy them without hesitation.

So far I have sold about 51 pairs of sunshades. Most of the customers are men who present their lady friends with the eyewear at the ceremony, the scorching heat helps make the customers buy," she said.



It was moderate success for senior citizen

ANOTHER businessman, senior citizen Clifford Mamba from Buhleni said he had moderate success selling his hand carved wooden cooking spoons.

"As a senior citizen I cannot find employment, so around 2012 I started selling these hand carved

wooden cooking spoons to tourists. I love the Baganu Ceremony as a lot of tourists come and support my business I won't tell you how many cooking spoons I sold but I am happy with the moderate success," he said.



MODERATE SUCCESS: Senior citizen Clifford Mamba from Buhleni.

'People supported me, I will be back next year'

LIHIYA sales lady Nomsa Dlamini from Logoba said she was happy with the support she received from the public after she sold some of her regalia at only E70 each.

"These national ceremonies are very important for small business people like ourselves, this is because at such events we receive an opportunity to sell our goods at national level.

Today, I was supported by customers who bought my wares at only E70 each, which is encouraging and I will be back next year to do business again," she said.



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NOTICE OF SALE OF STOCK

NOTICE IS HEREBY ISSUED INTERMS OF THE POUNDS ACT NO 38/1966 THAT ALL LIVESTOCK CURRENTLY IMPOUNDED AT THE LAVUMISA ANIMAL POUND WILL BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON WEDNESDAY 21st OF MARCH 2018 EXACTLY AT 1300HRS SHOULD THE LIVESTOCK REMAIN UNCLAIMED UNTIL THE PUBLIC AUCTION COMMENCES

Below is a full description of all the animals lined up for a public auction

TAG NUMBER	GENDER DETAILS OF ANIMAL	FULL DESCRIPTION OF EACH ANIMAL LINED UP FOR SALE
01459/739	Female cow	Grey Braham kraal no. 63
919/195	Female cow	Black kraal no. 63
482/03149	Male cow	Red Kraal no. 63
	Male Cow	Brown kraal no. 63
	Male bull	Red kraal no.63

Bidders are advised to pay a refundable E1000.00 deposit at Lavumisa Town Board Offices after which each bidder will be expected to pay for each bid won during the competitive bidding. A maximum of 48 hours allowance will be granted to enable payment, facilitation of logistical arrangements, the lapse of which reverses title to the disposal of each livestock sold back to the Town Board. Bidders that are unable to show, confirm bidding rights by way of presenting same to the auctioneer shall be disqualified for bidding.

Alfred Mavuso
Pound Master

DOC 15550

3 KILLED IN ACCIDENTS OVER THE WEEKEND

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

THREE people were killed on the country's roads over the weekend.

In the first fatal accident, a 24-year-old man lost control of his car and it overturned several times along the Madlangempisi/Buhleni road on Saturday evening.

According to sources, the man was from attending the Baganu ceremony at Buhleni when he met his death.

"The driver of the Madza and three others involved in the serious accident and were rushed to Mkhuzweni Health Centre," said the source. The driver was certified dead on arrival. Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba confirmed the matter.

"Police are investigating the cause of the accident," he said.

In the second incident, a pedestrian was knocked down by a Ford Ranger along the Siphofaneni/Nsoko public road. The Ford Ranger was driven by a 29-year-old man of Big Bend and it knocked down a 28-year-old man of Ncandweni.

"The pedestrian sustained serious

... Two occurred along Madlangempisi/Buhleni road whilst the other happened along Siphofaneni/Nsoko public road



CONFIRMED: Chief PICO Superintendent Khulani Mamba.

injuries to the head and legs and was rushed to Good Shepherd Hospital, where he was certified dead on arrival. Police are investigating the cause of the accident," confirmed Mamba.

In the third incident, which happened along the Mliba/Madlangempisi public road, an unknown motor vehicle driven by an unknown man knocked down a 59-year-old man of Croydon. The driver of the car did not stop after knock-

ing down the pedestrian.

"The pedestrian sustained serious injuries and was rushed to Dvokolwako Health Centre, where he was certified dead on arrival," he said.

Police are investigating the incident.

Last weekend 11 people were killed on the country's roads. This included the eight people who lost their lives when a Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) truck collided head on with a kombi travelling along the Pigg's Peak public Road.

Mamba said motorists should be more careful when driving on roads with sharp curves or narrow lanes to keep to the far left of their side and not cut corners and encroach on the other lane.

He said the accidents reported over the weekend that claimed the lives of three people indicate that one of the drivers encroached on the other's lane thus resulting in the collision.

"On another note, motorists are warned to take note of weather conditions and drive carefully when the tarmac is wet or when there is fog and visibility is compromised," he said.

Transporter busted with over E80 000 worth of dagga

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

AS dagga cultivation seems to be getting more popular in Maphungwane and surrounding areas, police on Saturday nabbed another man who was transporting the drug measuring 85.25 kilogrammes.

The man, who is said to have been heading to Manzini, was nabbed at Mimosa, near Bhamubhamu Hill. Police are said to have recently strengthened road searches along the Siteki-Maphungwane Road after learning of escalated dagga trade in the area over the past couple of years. It has been gathered that buyers from other regions are flocking to the area for the illegal herb.

In the recent case, Zakhele Nyamane (32) of Maphalaleni was nabbed just after midnight while transporting the dagga in a Honda Fit motor vehicle.

He was produced before Senior Magistrate Donald Mavuso where he faced a charge of contravening section 12 of the Pharmacy Act 38 of 1929.

According to the charge sheet, the accused person wrongfully and unlawfully possessed 85.25 kg of dagga without being a holder of a valid permit.

Dagga is said to be selling at between E700 to E1 800 per kilogramme on the street market, depending on its

grade. The crown further filed an application to have the motor vehicle forfeited to the state in the event the accused person is proven guilty of charge. When he was informed of his rights to legal representation, the accused elected to conduct his own defence. The crown which was represented by Prosecutor Nomphumelelo Msibi also filed an application to have the matter postponed to a later date as it intends to prove commission of the offense.

In the meantime, the accused person told the court that he intends pleading guilty to the charge. He told the court that however, he was not the owner of the consignment.

The accused stated that he was asked by a friend to drive the vehicle to Manzini after it had been loaded with the dagga. He further alleged that the owner of the dagga was driving in another vehicle, and had promised to be on the lookout for police as he drove ahead of him.

"I was merely a driver who had been asked to take the vehicle to Manzini, but I was unfortunately nabbed by the police along the way," he said.

He then filed an application to be released on bail, saying that he would avail himself for trial. He was accordingly granted bail at E3 000 as the crown did not oppose to it. The motor vehicle which was used in transporting the dagga was also detained.



EXHIBIT: The eight bags of dagga weighing 85.25 kg before court.

Only three appear for DD on buganu weekend

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

MOTORISTS seemed to have behaved well during the Baganu weekend as only a few were nabbed for driving while under the influence of alcohol in Siteki.

The Magistrate's Court saw three appearing for contravening the road Traffic Act. Siphamandla Matsenjwa (31) was the first to take to the accused dock as he faced the said offence.

He was said to have driven a motor vehicle along the Siteki-Lonhlopheko road while under the influence of alcohol. He was nabbed by traffic officers who had mounted a road block along the road.

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

charge. His plea was also accepted by the Crown without leading evidence to prove commission of the offense.

He told the court that he was from attending the Baganu ceremony at Buhleni when he was nabbed by the police.

The accused stated that he thought he had not yet reached the limit which stands at 0.37 mg/l.

A breathalyser test is said to have indicated that he had 0.84 mg/l of alcohol in his system.

He was accordingly found guilty by the court and was sentenced to three months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 500.

Meanwhile, Thabiso Tsabedze of Malindza also faced a similar charge, in that he wrongfully and unlawfully drove a motor vehicle while under the



influence of alcohol. He pleaded guilty to the charge while conducting his own defence.

He was accordingly found guilty and was sentenced to three months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 500 fine.

Also appearing for the drunk-driving offence was Sanele Dlamini of Ngcina who was nabbed in the early hours of yesterday. He was handed a similar sentence after he had also pleaded guilty to the charge.

Stukie challenges govt to include budget for people with albinism

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

STUKIE Motsa of the Stukie Motsa Foundation has challenged government to consider people living with albinism in the budget.

Motsa is currently in Kenya attending a forum on Regional Action Plan on Albinism. She said government has a role to play towards people living with albinism and that includes considering them in the national budget to cater for things like medication, dermatological services, sunscreen, hats, sunglasses, spectacles and protective clothing.

"There are targets that need

to be achieved by 2021 and the targets are divided into four pillars namely, Prevention, Protection, Accountability, Equality and non-discrimination. Government has a role to play in achieving this and that includes having an officer responsible for albinism issues in the ministry that deals with the disability and in our case it is the deputy prime minister's office.

They have to work in collaboration with the ministry of health since albinism also touches on health issues and government should consider placing people with albinism in political positions as well," she said.

Motsa said these things are linked to the African Union's



DO SOMETHING: Stukie Motsa.

2063 agenda which aspires for the continent to be a prosperous one.

"Albinism is a Human Rights issue and therefore people with the condition should also be treated with dignity and non discrimination and be employed as well like all other people.

Countries should also have

a work plan to meet the set targets in accordance with their needs. Government has to work hand in hand with organisations dealing with albinism issues," she added.

Motsa said the issue of data was key so that government could know the population and be able to plan. It was very important to sensitise leaders on the uniqueness of albinism and there is a strong need for rigorous training of teachers, health workers, employers, legislatures, police, the Judiciary, Magistrates and employees.

We should also try to have sunscreen produced locally and to also include albinism in teacher training curriculum," she said.

SNAT National Burial Scheme

With The Teachers



SNAT MEDICAL AID ANNOUNCEMENT

All teachers who are **SNAT MEMBERS** are hereby notified that the **SNAT MEDICAL AID** has started working. Teachers who are interested in joining are expected to bring the following documents;

- Current pay slip
- National identity card
- Birth Certificate for dependants

Teachers are notified that if they need to be educated more about the medical aid they can request for the Committee to come to their respective schools by calling the office number at **25056391 or 76476858**.

Note: Teachers who join before **31st March 2018** will have a **3 months** waiting period. Otherwise waiting period is **6 months**.

By SNAT BURIAL SCHEME SECRETARY
Agnes S. Mazibuko

DOC:15904

In compliance with Section 129 of the Administration of Estates Act, we publish the below Statement of all monies which have remained unclaimed by owners for a period of five years and above.

After the expiry of three months from the date of this publication all monies still remaining unclaimed shall be deposited in the Guardian's Fund to be administered by the Master of the High Court in terms of the Act.

DATE TRF	NAME	ADDRESS	ACCOUNT NUMBER	DATE LAST TRNS.	AMOUNT
25.10.2012	Agusto Floriano Melo	P.O. Box 1034 Marazi	4800000054	01.06.2009 T.O.D.	20885.31
26.10.2012	Goodland Group Ltd Lufikwa Group	P.O. Box 373 Marazi	4800002802	08.03.2004	127.81
26.10.2012	Goodland Water Scheme	P.O. Box 121 Marazyana	4800000003	03.02.2003	11170.18
26.10.2012	Lufikwa School Bus	P.O. Box 279 Marazi	4800000002	3.10.2003	1000.00
26.10.2012	Imagwile Lufikwa Church	P.O. Box 19 Kalambo	4800000003	16.10.2008	807.00
26.10.2012	United CATHOLIC community	P.Bag Kalambo	4800002521	08.04.2009	1187.00
17.08.2009	Portela Dennis CRT	P.O. Box 1428 Matanga	2800001200	7.06.2007	13221.57
11.08.2010	Mwajuma Sabinu Isaac	P.O. Box 269 Saka	3800030854	20.06.2011	1700.50
25.12.2011	Manzi Mphela L.	P.O. Box 132 Marazi	2800000000	07.10.2011	1538.88
30.08.2010	Murilo Musa Ndlovu	P.O. Box 103 Marazi	5800002189	28.03.2012	85.00
30.08.2010	Thabata Phetole Miron	P.O. Box 2204 Marazi	5800000000	28.02.2012	182.20
30.08.2010	Samuel Mwanza P.	P.O. Box 2330 Marazi	5800001207	08.02.2012	280.00
30.08.2010	Samuel David Mcheli	P.O. Box 1197 Marazi	5800002570	18.01.2012	191.00
30.08.2010	Edmorena Edmore Mphahle	P.O. Box 204 Mafika	1800001404	23.02.2012	141.00
30.08.2010	Simama Zanele Mphahle	P.O. Box 12 Big Band	1800000004	3.04.2012	134.00
03.07.2010	Mphahle Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 5474 Marazi	4800000000	20.03.2012	3004.24
03.07.2010	Murilo Kofe Golegh	P.O. Box 6, Mphahle	4800000000	20.02.2012	85.24
03.07.2010	Mphahle Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 5185, Marazi	4800000000	03.04.2012	80.00
03.07.2010	Mphahle Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 31, Luvu	4800000000	07.03.2012	588.57
03.07.2010	Thabata Gye Gye	P.O. Box 1, Marazi	4800000000	08.09.2012	202.00
03.07.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 128 Matanga	4800001811	24.02.2012	36.30
03.07.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 2104 Mphahle	4800002024	28.02.2012	2201.80
03.07.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 151, Mphahle	4800001807	7.03.2012	182.20
03.07.2010	Thabata Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 2002 Marazi	4800002047	8.03.2012	188.17
03.07.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 104, Mphahle	4800000000	09.01.2012	412.20
03.07.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 4100 Marazi	4800000000	27.01.2012	94.00
03.07.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 674 Marazi	4800000000	20.01.2012	207.40
03.07.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 488 Marazi	4800000000	05.01.2012	1908.18
24.08.2010	Thabata Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 23 Marazyana	4800000000	08.01.2012	1320.93
11.11.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 1321 Marazi	4800001310	01.01.2012	180.32
05.11.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 1528 Matanga	4800001703	3.04.2012	122.10
05.11.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 18 Marazi	4800001820	03.03.2012	1004.74
05.11.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 129 Marazi	3800000000	23.01.2012	784.82
05.11.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 77 Marazi	3800004204	23.01.2012	70.32
07.08.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 153 Marazi	4800000000	20.02.2012	974.40
07.08.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 4, Saka	2800000000	7.03.2012	188.10
07.08.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 4201, Mphahle	2800000000	03.04.2012	117.20
07.08.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 432, Mphahle	2800000000	09.04.2012	73.64
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12.08.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 120 Marazyana	6800000000	21.08.2012	68.30
12.08.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 34 Marazyana	6800000000	21.08.2012	280.17
12.08.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 20 Marazyana	6800000000	03.08.2012	40.20
12.08.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 29 Marazyana	6800000000	03.08.2012	47.30
12.08.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 29 Marazyana	6800000000	2.09.2012	63.10
12.08.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 72 Marazyana	6800000000	06.09.2012	573.85
03.07.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 410 Marazi	4800004303	20.06.2012	77.40
03.07.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 2005 Marazi	4800007110	21.06.2012	1011.50
03.07.2010	Imagwile Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 67, Mphahle	4800003900	21.06.2012	89.40
03.07.2010	Mphahle Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 120, Kalambo	4800002000	20.06.2012	210.00
03.07.2010	Mphahle Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 11, Mphahle	4800001644	20.06.2012	3441.87
23.07.2010	Mphahle Mphahle Mphahle	Private Bag Mphahle	4800001741	20.06.2012	620.00
03.07.2010	Manzi Mphahle Mphahle	P.O. Box 317, Marazi	3800000000	20.04.2012	1163.17
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NEDBANK



MBABANE City NEWS



...with Lucky Tsabedze

"Responsive Quality Service on Time"

READ THE SWAZI OBSERVER EVERY MONDAYS FOR EXCITING NEWS ABOUT MBABANE

Interact with the author luckyt@mbacity.org.sz or [mcm_mbacity](https://www.facebook.com/mcm_mbacity) [MunicipalCouncilOfMbabane](https://www.facebook.com/MunicipalCouncilOfMbabane) [+268 7603 6347](tel:+26876036347)

MCM LEADS WITH OVER E2 MILLION WORTH SOCIAL PROJECT

MBABANE - The Municipal Council of continues to strengthen its social programs by increasing its foot print and presence in communities through which it renders social assistance to community members.

It is for that reason therefore that as part of its social responsibility and drive to give back to the community MCM is constructing a new social centre at Sidwashini which will continue Council's already well established social responsibility projects. At the moment Council has 11 health and

social centres in Mbabane which make a difference in the lives of about 2 000 orphaned and vulnerable children per month.

The inception of the idea comes from a charitable woman, Gogo Mthembu from Sidwashini, now deceased who used to cook and provide meals for children from her house and MCM will carry forward Mthembu's kind gesture and selfless service to the Sidwashini Community.

Council provide free meals, pre-school classes and medical assistance so far in its 11 health and social centres.

Municipal Council of Mbabane came to the conclusion that they have to continue this charitable tradition by constructing and running a health and social centre in Sidwashini. In addition to meals, the facility will provide space for basic health care, social activities, educational assistance and playground for orphaned and vulnerable children.

The building contains a kitchen, dining room for 60 people, 3 consultation rooms with waiting area and reception. A large verandah and yard will provide space for social activities and playground. The dining room can be utilized as meeting or

study room as well.

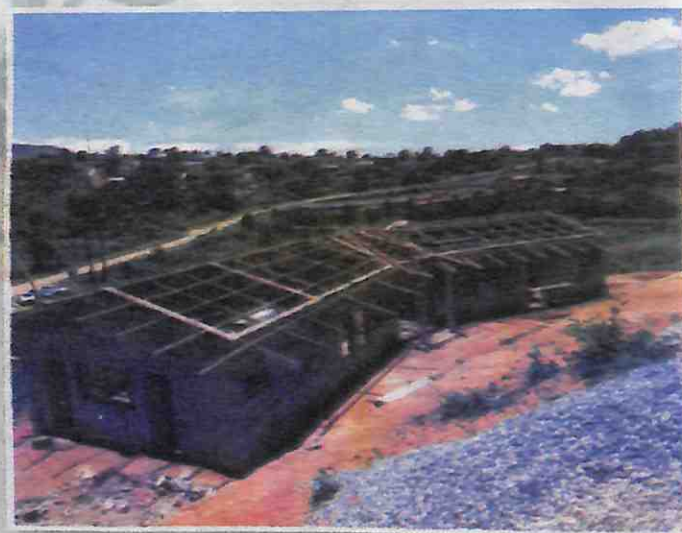
The overall area of the building is 195sq.m plus 80sq.m. verandah with a possibility for future expansion. The construction cost of the building is E2, 200, 000. The construction will be complete in April 2018.

Municipal Council of Mbabane urges local business to partner with Council for the expansion of the facility as well as purchasing equipment and furniture. Council is already in partnership in some of its health and social centres.



LIST OF EXISTING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CENTRES

1. Mangwaneni
2. Mahwalala
3. Seventh Day Adventist
4. Msunduzi
5. Fonteyn
6. Makholokholo
7. Mdzangwini
8. Nkwadini 1
9. Nkwadini 2
10. Sigcumeni(Fonteyn)
11. Malagwane



The building contains kitchen, dining room for 60 people, 3 consultation rooms with waiting area and reception.



CELEBRATION: Members of the local Baha'i faith posing for a group photo with invited guests on Saturday at Baha'i Centre in Mbabane. This was after the celebration of the life of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Baha'i faith. (Pics: Mbono Mdluli)

BAHA'IS CELEBRATE BAHÁ'U'LLAH'S LIFE

Stories by Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

THE Baha'i faith in the country gathered together and celebrated 200 years since the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, who is considered as the founder of the faith.

The event took place on Saturday at Baha'i Centre, which is situated at Malagwane Hill near Mbabane. The event has been celebrated by all members of the Baha'i faith in the whole world in the past four months. Local Baha'i members did not want to be left out.

Guests

Bahá'u'lláh was born on November 12, 1817 in Iran and died on May 29, 1892 in Israel.

Saturday's event was graced by about 700 people, who were invited by members of the faith to celebrate this day, which is celebrated once in a century.

Among those who were at the event were highly regarded digni-

...Bahá'u'lláh was celebrated because he was the founder of the faith, who was born as a modern prophet of God.

ties from the royal family, USA Embassy, Municipal Council of Mbabane, and from government including Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs Anthony Masilela.

Teachings

During the event, it transpired that Bahá'u'lláh was celebrated because he was the founder of the faith, who was born as a modern prophet of God.

The information about the Baha'is and their faith was disseminated by renowned writer Salayedvwa Magagula and June Tfwala, who were the programme directors at the event.

The two speakers would give the information, while also allowing different musical and cultural items to take place, much to the amusement of those present.

The entertaining events were

mostly talking about the Baha'i faith and their teachings, like the *Ummiso* and *Ungubho* cultural dances, which were rendered by Setsembiso Sebunye High pupils.

Magagula said what happened to Bahá'u'lláh was not something that made them happy as Baha'is. Bahá'u'lláh was subjected to prison by Iran authorities, who felt threatened by his ability to gain support from his people because of his teachings.

Bahá'u'lláh is said to have claimed to be the promised prophet of God in modern times, something that was not well received by Iran authorities at the time, hence he was subjected to prison and even exiled in Israel, where he eventually died.

Grudge

Despite all that, Magagula said they were not holding any grudge against anyone for this because they

understood that prophets of God were despised by their own people at the time. He made an example of Jesus Christ, who was crucified by his own Jews (and Romans).

Many people, Magagula said, were not aware of what was happening when such prophets were born, despite that the people were told of such events.

He thanked Royalty in Swaziland for having accepted the Baha'i faith in the country.

This was also seen by the fact that even in Baha'i schools, members of the Royal family enrolled for their studies.

This was contrary to what happened in Iran, where up to this day, they could not celebrate the life of Bahá'u'lláh.

The Iranians could only rely on people from other countries to learn about the celebration of Bahá'u'lláh.

BRIEFLY ABOUT BAHÁ'IS IN SWAZILAND:

- About 500 members in the country.
- Have congregations in places like Mbabane, Manzini, Motshane, Pigg's Peak, Nginamadvolu, Hlatikhulu, and Musi.
- Usually meet once every 19 days for an event called a Feast to increase unity within the community.
- Also gather, depending on schedule of each of the congregations, for prayer gatherings called Devotionals.
- Arrived in the country in 1954 and were received by His Majesty King Sobhuza II.
- Contributed in the improvement of many economic and social activities like agriculture, construction, education, health, business and environment.

BRIEFLY ABOUT BAHÁ'IS IN THE WORLD (SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA)

- About 7.3 million membership in the world
- Three core assertions of the Bahá'í Faith, sometimes termed the "three onenesses", are central in the teachings of the religion. They are the Oneness of God, the oneness of religion and the oneness of humanity. They are also referred to as the unity of God, unity of religion, and unity of mankind.
- Prayer in the Bahá'í Faith refers to two distinct concepts: obligatory prayer and general or devotional prayer. Both types of prayer are composed of reverent words which are addressed to God, and the act of prayer is one of the most important Bahá'í laws for individual discipline.
- The Bahá'í view of God is essentially monotheistic. God is the imperishable, uncreated being who is the source of all existence. He is described as "a personal God, unknowable, inaccessible, the source of all Revelation, eternal, omniscient, omnipresent and almighty".
- Accept Christ wholeheartedly, and therefore honour the celebration of His birth, but do not celebrate Christmas as a community.
- The Kitáb-i-Aqdas or Aqdas is the central book of the Bahá'í Faith written by Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the religion, in 1873. However, the Baha'is are also encouraged to read other holy books, like the Bible (Christianity) and the Quran (Islam).



MC: Writer Salayedvwa Magagula and June Tfwala making sure the programme went as planned.



IN SONG: Praise team of the local Baha'i community rendering spiritual songs at the event.

How Baha'is arrived in Swaziland

THE Baha'i faith was introduced in Swaziland in 1954 to King Sobhuza II, revealed Ministry of Home Affairs Principal Secretary (PS) Anthony Masilela on Saturday.

Masilela was speaking on behalf of Minister of Home Affairs Princess Tsandile as Baha'is celebrated 200 years since the birth of Bahá'u'lláh.

In 1954, John and Valera Allan, and some early Swazi friends, including two youth, Princess Gcinaphi and Ben Dlamini, introduced the faith to King Sobhuza II.

King Sobhuza II welcomed them and was especially pleased to hear that the main purpose of the religion was to bring unity of mankind and religion.

Masilela said this happened 63 years ago and today, the Baha'i community is a respected entity in the country, whose growth and impact has been felt by the society at large.

"Apart from developing their own administration, institutions and regional Baha'i Centres, the Baha'is have been active members of their local communities, participating in a wide range of socio-economic development, includ-

ing agriculture, education, health, construction, business and environment," Masilela said.

Education

He made an example of the schools situated at Malagwane Hill in Mbabane (John and Valera Allan Primary and Setsembiso Sebunye High).

He said the schools showed the Baha'i community's immense contribution in the country's education sector. Masilela also revealed how the Baha'i community contributed to the tertiary education in the country, ever since arriving in 1954.

"One of the earliest contributions in the 1960s was, in partnership with government and the African/American institute, to administer one of the first scholarship programmes in the country. It assisted many young Swazis to obtain a university education in the United States or in Africa. Today, each of the local Baha'i communities is still supporting education in one way or another," he said.

Later, the Baha'i community partnered with government, UNICEF, and then with Van Leer Foundation to pro-

mote early childhood education. This kind of education was promoted by providing one of the first systematic pre-school teacher training programmes over a period of six years, to provide training to over 300 practising pre-school teachers.

Since then, the training of early childhood for practitioners and the development of community pre-schools has remained a major priority for the Swaziland Baha'i community.

Apart from the pre-school programmes, the John and Valera Allan Primary and Setsembiso Sebunye High had been providing quality education at primary and secondary levels, respectively.

The schools followed the national curricular and also emphasised on the development of character, as well as acquisition of virtues and service to the community.

At individual level, within the Baha'i communities, regular study circles were held for children, junior youth and adults for individual study and development of personal skills, moral values, which was also commended by government.

Valentine's Day sex leads to two-year jail for boy (18)

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Matsapha

WHAT was supposed to be a romantic Valentine's Day for a young couple ended in disaster when one of the lovebirds was arrested for contravening the Child and Women's Protection Act.

Menzi Lukhele (18) of Mathangeni was arrested by Sgodvweni Police officers on February 15. The accused was arrested and charged with having sexual intercourse with a Lozitha High pupil, who is only 15 years old and by law cannot consent to sexual intercourse as she is underage. Lukhele appeared at the Matsapha Circuit Court before Magistrate Mthokozisi Dlamini.

When the charge was read to him he pleaded guilty as charged.

Buhle* (not her real name due to her age) was called by the court to narrate what took place on Valentine's Day.

It was revealed before court that the two were in a relationship and Buhle is the one who went to Lukhele's place to pay him a visit.

Lukhele informed the court that he is not the one who went to Buhle's place but the victim came over his place while he was just minding his own business watching movies with his friends. Trying to protect the accused from the wrath of the law, Buhle informed the court that the accused did ask about her age and she lied and told him that she is 17 years old.

Prosecutor Fakazi Mngomezulu however informed the court that by asking how old the victim was, the accused



person suspected that the victim was indeed underage.

Mngomezulu said by looking at the structure of the pupil (Buhle) one could tell that she was of a tender age unlike other girls who at the age of 12 have bodies which look like those of fully grown women. He said if the body was deceitful the accused wouldn't have asked how old the girl was. He said the accused knew that what he was doing was against the law.

Buhle's father was called by the court to deliver his evidence and he presented a birth certificate showing that the Lozitha High pupil was 15 years old.

Another document which was presented to the court was a medical report that confirmed that the two did have sexual intercourse on Valentine's Day.

In mitigation, the accused pleaded with the court to be lenient with him as he is not the one who went to Buhle's place. He said Buhle came over to his place

and he was excited that she was coming with nice things not knowing that it would end up with him behind bars.

The Magistrate, before passing sentence, told the accused that he has considered that he is young and their relationship with the victim might be genuine but still the accused violated the law.

The Magistrate informed the accused that such an offence carries a sentence of up to six years imprisonment without an option of a fine.

The Magistrate however exercised leniency and sentenced the accused to two years imprisonment without an option of a fine.

Half of the sentence was suspended for a period of three years. This meant that the accused will serve a year in prison without an option of a fine. Relatives of the accused left the court dejected upon hearing that Lukhele was to do time in prison.

Gospel artist Zaga fails to pay victims of army job scam

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Matsapha

GOSPEL Artist Zaga Dlamini has failed to live up to his promises of paying back the money which he allegedly stole under false pretences from people who wanted to acquire jobs in the army.

Dlamini appeared at Matsapha Circuit Court last Thursday, where he was supposed to give the court feedback on how far he had gone with reimbursing the complainants. However, it surfaced that the accused has failed to deliver on his promises. After learning that there have been no developments the court decided to take the matter to trial on March 23.

Worth noting is that earlier last year Dlamini, who is alleged to have used Umbutfo Swaziland Defense Force (USDF) Army Commander Sobantu Dlamini's name to defraud desperate Swazis seeking jobs in the army, had promised to pay back the money to the two complainants who took him to court for theft under false pretences.

Dlamini is currently out on bail and had been given time by the court to reimburse the complainants after he pleaded guilty to the two charges of theft by false pretences by defrauding two people money amounting to E45 500 after promising to secure them jobs in the army.

One of the complainants in the matter is Sipho Tfwala and he was conned E20 500.

Zaga during one of his court appearances last year revealed that he



FAILS: Gospel artist Zaga Dlamini.

would reimburse the two aggrieved parties.

He informed the court that he had some cash with him and wished to present it to the court. However, when asked more about the money the accused revealed that he was carrying E800. He was advised that the offer he was bringing to the table was too little as it would mean he would be paying each person E400.

After discussions the accused agreed that he would raise about E5 000 which he would pay to the complainants until they are fully reimbursed.

However it has since transpired that Zaga lied to the court as he didn't reimburse the complainants.

REFUGEE SENT TO JAIL AFTER FAILING TO PAY TRAFFIC FINE

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

A Congolese man, who is under asylum protection, failed to contain his emotions as he wept when he was sentenced to four months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 000 fine.

John Dambayi (38) appeared before Senior Magistrate Donald Mavuso where he faced three traffic offences. He was said to have been arrested by police while at Malindza Asylum Centre after he had attempted to evade arrest.

According to the charge sheet, the accused person was said to have driven a motor vehicle in a negligent manner and caused an accident by knocking another vehicle from behind. He is said to have also failed to stop at the accident scene, but instead, drove away. He was further charged for driving a motor vehicle without being a holder of a valid driver's licence. When the three charges were read to

him, he pleaded guilty to all of them. His plea was also accepted by the crown without leading evidence to prove commission of the offences. While mitigating for a lenient sentence, the accused person told the court that he was a refugee who had no source of income as he is prohibited from engaging in employment. The accused person further told the court that the motor vehicle he was driving did

not belong to him but to another man who had sent him to the shop. He also told the court that when the accident happened, the other driver did not stop at the scene, hence he also did not stop. "After I had

knocked the other car from behind, the driver did not stop at the scene, so I thought I should also drive away as it was already late," he said. The accused pleaded with the court to be lenient, adding that he would not be able to pay any amount of money. He eventually broke down in tears upon the pronouncement of the sentence.



E4 000 fine for possession of 8kg dagga

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

THE Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court heard how Simanga Khumalo as well as his passenger Sonto Vilakati were arrested for the possession of 8kg dagga.

The two were arrested by Buhleni police last week. The dagga was concealed in the back of a black Toyota Vits that was being driven by the first accused Khumalo.

The Vits was stopped at a routine traffic stop at Buhleni and police searched it to discover the dagga hidden inside a bucket.

Appearing inside the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court, Khumalo said he was guilty of the dagga possession as his passenger Vilakati was innocent.

"The dagga belongs to me, my passenger had no idea about it as all she wanted was a lift from Buhleni to Croydon, so I gave her the lift. As we drove we ran into a roadblock set up at Buhleni, where we were both arrested for the dagga possession," he said.



An honest Vilakati pleaded guilty to the dagga possession charges. "I plead guilty that the dagga was inside the car, I did not know that there was such in the car because I saw it later after police showed it to me. I plead guilty but the dagga was not mine," she said.

This honest response forced Pigg's Peak Magistrate Sabelo

Khumalo to acquit Vilakati, saying she could not understand the charges she was facing but her co-accused had defended her innocence amicably. Magistrate Khumalo then sentenced the first accused Simanga Khumalo to two years in a correctional facility if he failed to pay a fine of E4 000 for dagga possession.

12 NATIONAL NEWS

OVER 90 SCOT SUPPORT STAFF DELIVER PETITION OVER WORN OUT UNIFORM

By Bongani Tsabedze
(Limkokwing Media Studies student)

OVER 90 Swaziland College of Technology (SCOT) support staff last Thursday delivered a petition to the institution's management after complaints about unsafe working conditions.

The support staff is responsible for making sure the institution is kept clean.

However, the staff decided to down their tools and go to deliver a petition after complaining about working without safety gear for a long time. Amongst the queries presented to the management was the lack of safety overalls, T-shirts and boots for groundsmen as well as cleaners working in the school-yard.

It was also noted that those working in the kitchen had already

...Amongst the queries presented to the management was the lack of safety overalls, T-shirts and boots for groundsmen as well as cleaners working in the school-yard



received their uniform however groundsmen and cleaners did not receive theirs.

According to a spokesman of the support staff, the employees were promised new uniforms last year by the management however another statement was issued stating that

all new uniforms would be delivered in October this year.

The support staff members expressed their grievances, stating that October was too far and the uniform they are using are already torn and worn out.

What makes things even harder

for them is that their employee turns them back when they come to work without proper uniform.

A staff member also stated that the matter was reported to CMAC, however they did not receive any assistance as it was referred back to the management. After delivering the petition things went back to normal as staff members were seen performing their day to day duties at the school.

One of the management members who didn't want his name revealed stated that the institution was under the government and all staff personnel are supposed to wait for government to attend to the problem.

He said the institution currently had no money to buy new uniform for support staff. The institution is currently closed after sending students away as they are still waiting to receive their allowances from the government.

Woman arrested for whipping minor child

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

PARENTS have been warned against bashing children under the pretext of disciplining them as this may land them behind bars.

This came as a reminder to a woman of KaNdangu, Thabile Dlamini (36) who found herself arrested for beating her own child.

Dlamini was charged with contravening the Child Protection Act. She was said to have wrongfully and unlawfully whipped a minor child with a stick all over the body, resulting to the child sustaining bruises. It transpired that the incident was reported to the police by a neighbour who noticed that the child was uneasy as she played with her peers.

The inspected the child and discovered that she had bruises all over the body. The accused person pleaded guilty to the charge while appearing before the Magistrate's Court.

The crown however asked the court to defer judgment of the matter as it intended to make an inquiry in the livelihood of the child. The crown stated that officers from the social welfare would be asked to assist in ascertaining the state of livelihood of the child. The matter was therefore postponed to Friday while the accused person was granted bail at E500.

Meanwhile, Mbuso Maziya (27) of Magwanyana faced a charge of possession of dagga.

He was said to have wrongfully and unlawfully possessed 6.2 kg of dagga without being a holder of a valid permit. He pleaded guilty to the charge. His plea was also accepted by the crown without leading evidence to prove commission of the offense. He was sentenced to two years in a correctional facility with an option to pay E5 000 fine.

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MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE

INVITATION TO BID
TENDER NO. 186 OF 2017/18-
SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING
OF HIGH MAST LIGHT AT MANZANA

- Bid are hereby invited from suitably qualified electrical contractors for the supply, delivery, and installation and commissioning of a high mast light at the Manzana.
- Bid Documents may be purchased from the Municipal Council of Mbabane Civic Offices as from Friday 23rd March, 2018 for a non-refundable fee of E 300.00 per set. The method of payment shall be cash or bank guaranteed cheque payable to Municipal Council of Mbabane. The Municipal Council of Mbabane does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender and reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.
- Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security of E3 000.00. There shall be a compulsory site inspection at 09:00 am on Friday March 9, 2018. Interested Bidders are to meet Council representatives at the Council Offices.
- Bid Documents shall be delivered in a sealed envelope and deposited into the Tender Box located next to the Revenue Offices at the following address;

Municipal Council of Mbabane
P.O. Box 1 Civic Offices, Mahlokohla Street
Mbabane

not later than 12 Noon Swaziland time on Tuesday 21st March, 2018 at which time the tenders will be opened in public. On the outside of the envelope shall be clearly marked:

"CONFIDENTIAL
TENDER NO 186 OF 2017/18 SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF HIGH MAST LIGHT AT THE MANZANA
(Not to be opened before 12 Noon 21st March, 2018)
- No Bid documents shall be sold at the site inspection or after, except to bidders who have made prior arrangements and who would have attended the compulsory site inspection.

GIDEON MHLONGO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DOC-15550

SPUR BUST-A-BURGER SURPRISE!

FOR THE SWAZI OBSERVER MARKETING TEAM



The Swazi Observer Team Marketing posing with their Surprise Burger Lunch from Spur.



Nosipho showing them how to bust a burger.



Team Spur with Bonsile who nominated the team for the Spur Bust-a-Burger Surprise.



Bheki Kunene Spur Manager addressing the team about Spur Bust-A-Burger Promotion.



GOODIES FROM SPUR:
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SHISELWENI NEWS

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Opposite SEDCO PremisesTel: 2207 5159 Cell: 7621 5081
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...With

Starsky Mkhonta



MAHAMBBA GORGE FIRST ROAD SHOW POSTPONED

Stories by Starsky Mkhonta

THE first roadshow planned for Mahamba Gorge Hiking in preparation for this year's event which was expected to take place last Saturday in Nhlanguano was called off at the eleventh hour because of the Buhleni Baganu Ceremony.

The organisers called off the road show after they realised very late that it clashed with the national ceremony at Buhleni Royal Residence. It had been planned to market the event and sensitise the public about the annual Mahamba Gorge Hiking.

This year's event, which is the fifth edition, will be held on April 8.

Phumi Nkosi, who is Mahamba Gorge Hiking Office Administrator, said they were left with no alternative but to cancel the roadshow which was supposed to be on Saturday after they learned about the Baganu Festival. She said the Mahamba Gorge Hiking leadership and other stakeholders met and concluded that the roadshow should

not proceed in respect of the national event.

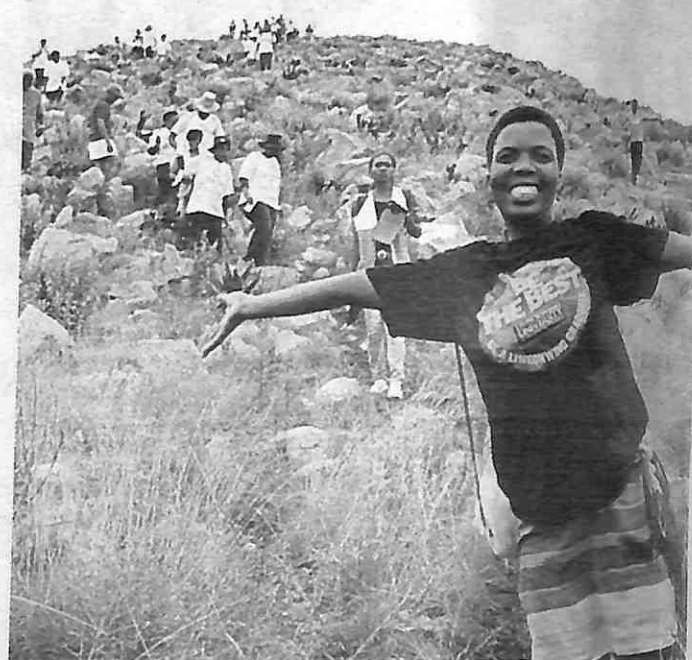
"We respect Swazi culture and an event such as the Baganu ceremony, we know its importance and that is the reason we decided to have the first roadshow shelved so that all those who are keen to see such rich culture promoted could be part of the ceremony at Buhleni. We never wanted to even debate the postponement as we are law abiding Swazis who know what is good for the country. Who are we to hold a function when the leaders of the land had called all Swazis to celebrate with them at the Baganu ceremony?" said Nkosi. Nkosi, who was once a household name in the gospel music circles, stated that the organising committee and management were still to meet and decide on a new date for the roadshow. She said the board members as well as all stakeholders would be meeting this week and to agree on the new date.

"The roadshow is part of the preparations for the upcoming event. Therefore, it is important that we hype the event before the actual date, which is April 8. We will make the announcement of

the new date soon before the last roadshow planned for March 24," said Nkosi.

Nkosi said they had received a number of calls from those who were not aware that the roadshow had been cancelled. "Some came from as far as Lavumisa while others were from Piet-Retief and they were hoping to be part of the roadshow only to learn that it was cancelled.

We apologise to all of them as we could not communicate properly, after the decision to postpone the roadshow was taken very late. We should have made a public announcement that the roadshow was being postponed but it was an oversight on our part and we apologise to those who were inconvenienced," said Nkosi. She said apart from the prizes that were to be won during the roadshow, it was also to be an opportunity for those who want to participate to register. "The roadshow was to sensitise the public about the hike and also open registration to the public," said Nkosi. Registration costs E200 for individuals and E950 for a group of five. It closes on April 5.



I MADE IT: A Limkokwing student was also part of the hiking that took place last year.

Registered hikers hitting 1000 mark

MAHAMBBA Gorge Hiking Office Administrator Phumi Nkosi has said the interest shown by the public in participating in this year's event was overwhelming as a number of hiking enthusiasts have already registered for the April 8 event.

She said currently the number was nearing 1000 people.

Registration opened on February 5 and is expected to close on March 5.

Nkosi said the enthusiasm shown by the hikers was encouraging and further stated that companies and organisations have also been coming forward to register in groups.

"We are feeling the pressure already as more people and companies with organisations are registering and by the look of things the figure is likely to be bigger by the end of the week. We anticipate this year's event to be bigger than in the last four

years," said Nkosi.

Nkosi said the Mahamba Gorge Hiking was no longer a regional or national event but now an international one. She said this was noted by the interest it has drawn from even outside the Kingdom as a number of people had enquired about it. These people are also keen to know about other arrangements such as border operation hours for planning purposes. She said there were others from overseas who after browsing internet, got to know about the event. "It's now a tourist attraction event and not only the community of Mahamba and surrounding areas benefit from this showpiece but the country as a whole. Considering that some of those coming from outside would book in hotels and also spend money in other tourist attractions in the country, clearly this event has become big for the country," said Nkosi.



SECURITY WILL BE TIGHT - ORGANISERS

HIKERS in this year's Mahamba Gorge Hiking have been assured of safety including their properties.

Phumi Nkosi, who is Mahamba Gorge Hiking Office Administrator, said as it has been the case in the past they have put in place all necessary measures to ensure that no one regretted being part of such a big event. She said as a way of making sure that no elements of crime taint the

event, they had arranged with security forces to help provide security to the hikers.

"Police, correctional services and the army all have been supportive in the past years during such an event. Even this year, we can assure everyone that the three security forces will be there and what is also good is that they participate fully in the hiking just like anyone else.

At the same time, they do keep a

hawk's eye on anything suspicious. Looking back since the inception of Mahamba Gorge Hiking, we have never received any complaints and this is because of the support we have been receiving from these security forces," said Nkosi.

Nkosi went on to say the ministry of health was also a major player when it comes to providing medical assistance during such the event. She said nurses as well as other doctors

have always been part of the event, where they attend to anyone who may need medical attention.

"It's going to be the same setup even this time around as health personnel will be all over including climbing the mountain as it has been the case even in the past.

Red Cross, Scouts and Girl Guides have all been doing marvelous work and we are optimistic that such a spirit will be maintained in all the years," said Nkosi.

Nkosi said all sponsors were key players and it was because of them

that in all the four years the event has been a tremendous success. She said without sponsors, such an event could not only materialise but also would not exist at all.

"Sponsors are the backbone of this event and we are so proud that some have been sponsoring this event since its inception four years ago and are also part and parcel of its success. We hope there will be new sponsors this year and we have been noticing that each year we have seen new sponsors hence the event is continuing to improve," said Nkosi.

MARRIED MAN RAPES MAID, CLAIMS SHE CONSENTED

By Sibusiso Gamedze
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

WITH Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala having recently urged judicial officers to be tough on granting bail for murder, rape cases seem to also be on the rise.

In yet another shocking rape case, a married man has alleged before court that the survivor had consented to them engaging in sexual intercourse.

Njabulo Sipho Dlamini (35) of Elangeni was charged with the rape of one *Thabsile Dlodlu (21) of Mpaka.

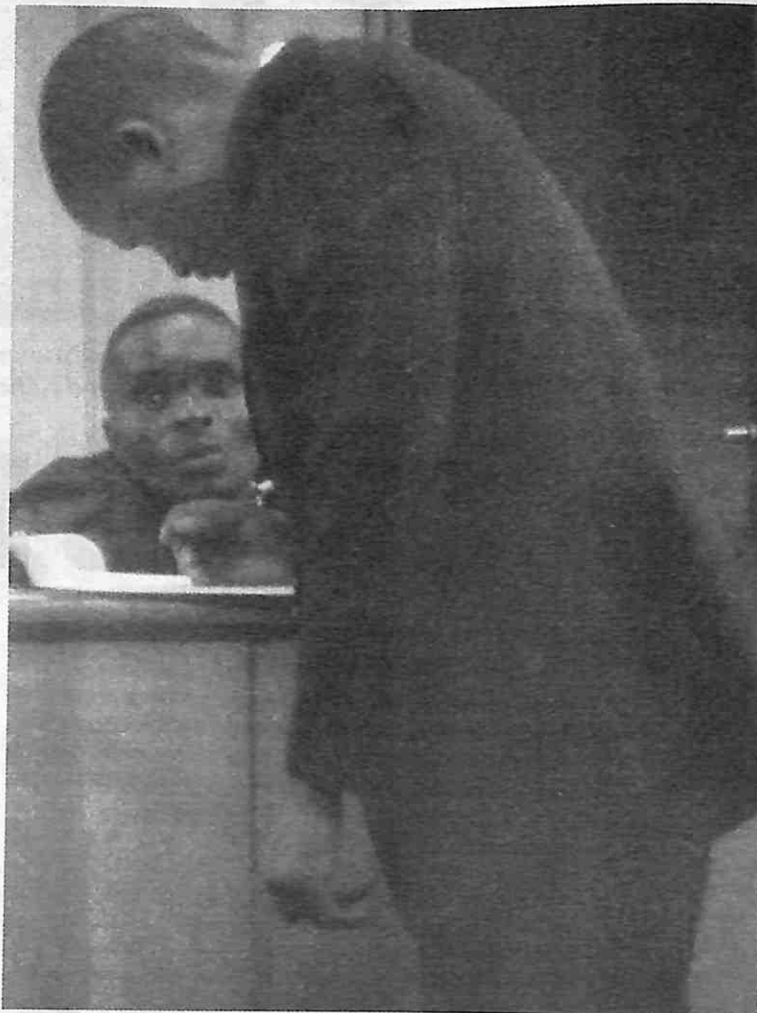
According to the charge sheet, it is alleged that on or about October 13, 2016, at or near Elangeni area, the said accused being a male adult did wrongfully, unlawfully, and intentionally have sexual intercourse with Dlodlu, a female adult of 21 years without her consent.

Victim

Furthermore, it said the alleged offence was accompanied by aggravating circumstances in that the accused did not use a condom at the time of the commission of the unlawful act and thus exposing the victim to the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases HIV and AIDS.

The accused is also alleged to have threatened the complainant with assault, and further strangled and assaulted her with open hands. He is also said to have subjected her to emotional trauma and psychological trauma.

*Josephine Khubonye, a relative of the rape survivor, said sometime during the month of October Dlodlu, who had been working for some Asians in Manzini told her



CONSULTING: Njabulo Sipho Dlamini accused of raping a maid instructing his lawyer only identified as Mngometulu. (Pic: Sibusiso Gamedze)

that a certain man had found her a better job as a domestic worker at a certain Dlamini homestead in Elangeni.

Duties

A few weeks later, she said she called Dlodlu to hear how the new job was treating and she told her that something was not right in that her employer, Dlamini was making sexual advances towards her. She

also complained of her boss fondling her while she was busy with her duties.

However, Dlodlu said she would not rush to quit the job but hoped that her employer would desist from the conduct as she really needed the job.

Khubonye said one evening she got a call from Dlodlu's boyfriend, one Ntokozo Dlamini who told her

that Dlodlu had called him and told her that her employer had raped her.

It was then that she went to the Lobamba Police Station with Dlodlu's boyfriend and they together with the police rushed to Elangeni, where along the way they met up with the survivor who was crying hysterically and looked traumatised.

Relationship

After picking her up it was decided that Dlodlu be taken to the Mbabane Government Hospital as the police car would not be able to get to the Dlamini home as the road was slippery due to bad weather and that the accused had already fled after seeing the police vehicle's blue lights.

The lawyer for the accused, only identified as Mngometulu, began his cross-examination where he asked the witness if she was aware that Dlodlu and the accused were in a romantic relationship.

She responded to the negative. He then put it to her that the accused was the same man who Dlodlu had told her about who had found her the job as a helper and that Khubonye knew about their alleged relationship just that she was told to give false testimony in order to incriminate the accused.

"My client and Dlodlu were in a romantic relationship, do you know that even to this day Dlodlu is communicating with the accused wife as she wants to withdraw the case and it is you and Ntokozo Dlamini who are preventing her from withdrawing the case," said Mngometulu.

Khubonye said it was not true that Dlodlu wanted to withdraw the rape case but it was the accused together with his relatives who

were harassing her and promising her money in order for her to withdraw the case.

Next to testify was Detective Sergeant Mkhathshwa from the Lobamba Police Domestic Violence department who said she was the investigating officer in the rape matter of Dlodlu.

She said when the police went to look for the accused at his home in the company of the complainant the suspect's wife told them that he had left for Big Bend, where he worked as a bricklayer around the same time that Dlodlu disappeared.

The police said they went back to the police station and called the accused who said he was far in Big Bend at work, and they asked him to meet them at the Big Bend Police Station.

They embarked on a journey to Big Bend and along the way, they called the accused who ignored their calls until they arrived and again called the accused who continued to ignore their calls.

Mkhathshwa said they returned to Elangeni, where they found children who said the accused's wife had also left for Big Bend.

Act

They then left a message for the accused to report to the Lobamba Police Station as soon as possible.

Fortunately, he finally decided to honour the summons and reported to the station, where after questioning, and being warned according to the judges rule he was arrested and charged with rape.

At this point in the proceedings, the accused's attorney applied for a postponement citing that new facts had surfaced after the testimony of Sergeant Mkhathshwa and he needed to get more instructions.

This did not sit well with Prosecutor Nqobile Mhlanga, who vigorously opposed the application for postponement.

However, Principal Magistrate Nhlabatsi postponed the matter until April 7 and 8, for continuation, where Mngometulu would make an application for acquittal and discharge in terms of Section 174 (4) of the CPE act.

Car theft suspects granted lenient bail of E5 000 each

By Sibusiso Gamedze
Mbabane Magistrates Court

... the two were accused of stealing a motor vehicle worth E80 000 and therefore bail was supposed to be E40 000 each.

IN a rare show of mercy, Magistrate Lenhle Zulu granted two youngsters Pholani Jele (19) and Khulandoda Msibi (24), both of Elangeni, bail fixed at E5 000 each instead of E40 000 each as per the dictates of the law.

The young men appeared before Magistrate Zulu on eight counts including contravention of the Motor Vehicle Theft Act of 1991, which states that bail would be fixed at half the value of the vehicle.

In this case, the two were accused of stealing a motor vehicle worth E80 000 and therefore bail was supposed to be E40 000 each.

After the charges were read, the duo made an application to be admitted

to bail, however, Nomkhosi Dlamini on behalf of the prosecution submitted that in terms of the Theft of Motor Vehicles Act and the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act the bail amount would be fixed at half the value of the car.

According to the charge sheet, the stolen car, a white Nissan NP200 which was the lawful property and possession of Thokozani Simelane was valued at E80 000.

Amount

According to Section 18 (3) of the Theft of Motor Vehicles Act of 1991 where it provides inter alia that:

"Where a person is charged with any other offence under this Act, the amount of bail to be fixed by a court shall not be less than half the amount

of maximum or minimum fine fixed for that offence."

Read together with Section 95 (5) of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act of 1938 provides that:

"Where an accused person is charged with any offence, other than the offences covered by the Provisions of this section but not excluding an offence under the Theft of Motor Vehicles Act, 1991, the amount of bail to be fixed by the court shall not be less than half the value of the property or thing upon which the charge relates or is based upon and where the value cannot be ascertained without any form of speculation the court may, for purposes of this subsection, without or with the assistance of any person the court deems could be of assistance to it,

also fix an amount to be the value of the property or such thing".

It was after the Magistrate asked for an adjournment that she asked the prosecution if the E40 000 bail amount would be affordable to the young men as it was clear that the duo would not afford it.

It was only after the short session in chambers that the Magistrate then admitted the two accused persons to a bail amount of E5 000, which she said was a reasonable amount in the circumstances.

The matter was then postponed to Thursday, where it is hoped that Pholani Jele would have then secured the services of an attorney after indicating that he needed legal representation.



YOUR WORSHIP: Mbabane Magistrate Lenhle Zulu.

16 NATIONAL NEWS

Zuma was sweet news to sugar industry - Jackson

UNLIKE in many businesses where the strengthening of the South African Rand translates to increased profits, the opposite is true for the local sugar industry.

The European market determines the selling price for producers such as Swaziland and other countries from Southern Africa. RSSC Managing Director Nick Jackson disclosed how the fluctuation of the rand which was experienced during former President Jacob Zuma's tenure boosted their profits.

News

"President Zuma may have been bad news to most businesses, but he was good for us as the rand weakened frequently during his time, and this meant more profit for us," said Jackson, on a night note.

Thus the MD is skeptical about

the appointment of new president Cyril Ramaphosa, saying it will bring stability to the rand, which is bad news to them.

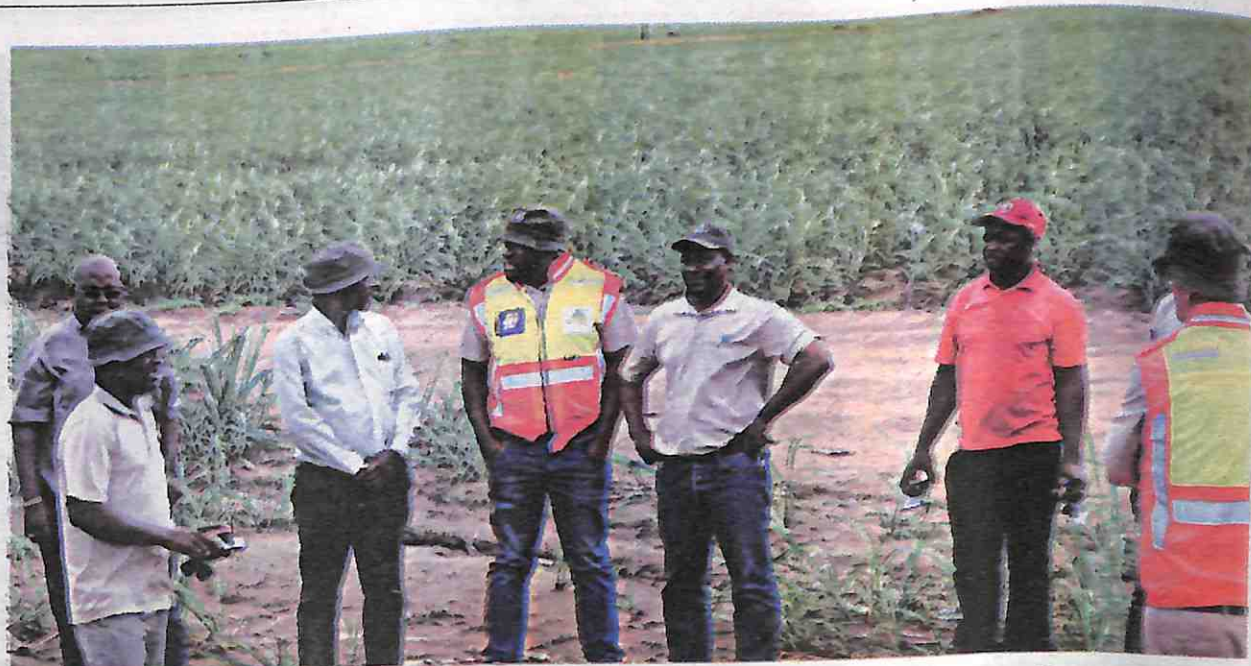
With Ramaphosa at the helm following the recent changes in South Africa, already the rand has strengthened, thus bringing bad news to sugar sales.

Apparently, countries that have a weaker currency than that of the EU make more profits when exporting regulated price products.

Strategy

Meanwhile, the MD further reported that they have recently launched a strategy which is known as SIMAMA 2020.

This is a strategy which is to reduce the company's unit cost by 20 per cent by 2020. Jackson said this will help them maximise profits under the new developments in international markets.



LOUD AND CLEAR: Public Affairs Manager Sifiso Nyembe briefing the journalists during a tour of the sugar fields whilst Thulani Thwala, Tim Shongwe and Kenneth Dlamini look on.

RSSC GROWS BIGGER

Stories by Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

ROYAL Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) is reportedly growing bigger and availing more opportunities to independent growers despite having been faced with numerous challenges in the past year.

The company has had to deal with a shrinking market in Europe (EU), and the challenges that come with the staggering selling prices. This was reported by Managing Director Nick Jackson during a media tour at Mhlume Mill last Friday.

Jackson stated that the country's giant grower and processor of sugar had experienced a collapse of prices in the EU over the past year.

Contributing to this challenge is said to be the regime change which the EU had in October 1, 2017. Apparently, the local sugar producer sells its product to the EU, United States of America and Southern Africa Customs Unions (SACU).

However, the EU has over the years been the main market for RSSC.

Jackson reported that the sugar industry as a whole has experienced challenges due to dropping prices.

In the past, the EU used to be a protected market which traded with selected country producers. However, Jackson



BEYOND SUGAR: Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation Managing Director Nick Jackson addressing journalists during Media Day Tour at Mhlume last Friday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

disclosed that this is no longer the case as more other countries such as Brazil are now allowed to sell its product to the EU market.

Brazil remains as the major producer of sugar in the world, and therefore other countries find it difficult to compete

with the Brazilian producer.

Jackson also reported that prices also dropped drastically in the SACU market due to the inability of the tariff to protect the SACU industries.

Apparently, SACU, which comprises South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland, is the most important market for the Swaziland sugar industry, accounting for between 45 per cent and 70 per cent of the country's sugar sales.

The Swaziland Sugar Association (SSA) is responsible for exporting all raw sugar produced in Swaziland. Despite all these challenges, Jackson reported that the company is growing bigger and stronger. This is evidenced by new projects which the company has engaged in.

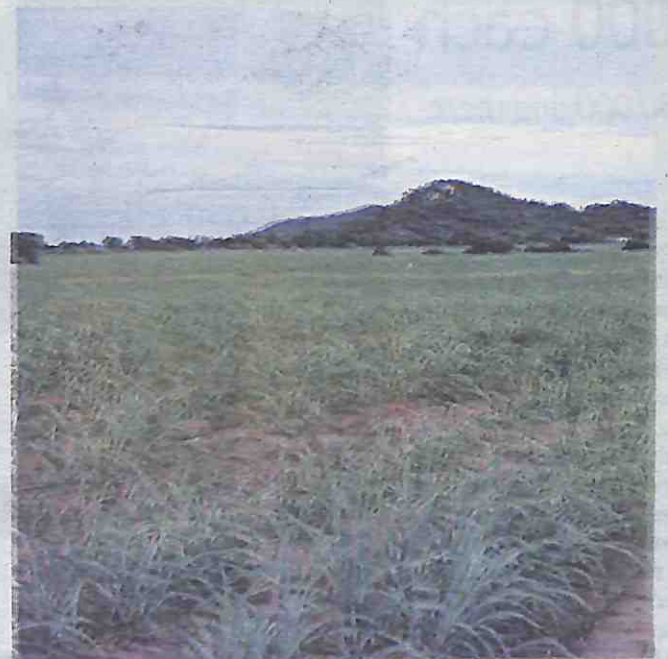
The MD disclosed that the company had recently ploughed new fields which are known as Umbombo Wendlovu. The fields are measured to 450 hectares and are about 30 kilometres away from the Mhlume Mill.

Moreover, the company is also working at extending the Mhlume Mill to ensure efficiency in productivity.

Production Manager at the factory, Samkeliso Matse said they were currently working on installing evaporation machinery as the mill expands. This will help to increase the production capacity of the factory.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: One of the teachers houses for Madzanga High School funded by RSSC still under construction.



GREEN FIELDS: Sugar cane fields at Umbombo Wendlovu which will be ready for harvest in November and December.



CONCENTRATING: Journalists from SBIS Siphesihle Nxumalo and Winile Masinga in full concentration.



WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL: Jackson meets Madzanga High School Principal Nomsa Nhlengetfwa.



ON TOUR: Media personnel touring one of RSSC projects.



VISITORS: Arrival of the journalists from different media houses at Mhlume Mill.

DESPITE MARKET CHALLENGES



ALL EARS: The Nation Magazine Editor Bheki Makhubu flanked by Swazi Observer Editor Thulani Thwala and News Editor Kenneth Dlamini.



SIMPLE: The Nation Magazine Editor Bheki Makhubu, Swazi Observer Editor Thulani Thwala, RSSC Public Affairs Manager Sifiso Nyembe and Managing Director Nick Jackson in a discussion.



OUR MAIN GOALS: RSSC's Mhlume Production Manager Samkeliso Ngozo briefing the media personnel at the tour.



I'D MAKE A GOOD FARMER: Bheki Makhubu chatting with RSSC MD Nick Jackson and Production Manager Samkeliso Ngozo.

Company anticipates hiring more workers

DESPITE having challenges in its market, the Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) has assured its workforce that their jobs remain safe.

According to Managing Director Nick Jackson, the company has a workforce of about 1 650 permanent workers and 2 500 seasonal and casual workers.

Seasonal workers refer to workers who are engaged by the company during certain periods of the year. This could be workers who are employed specifically to harvest or clear the fields.

Jackson disclosed that the company recently had some voluntary retrenchments early last year, which he described as having gone very well. He explained that many people volunteered to take the attractive exit packets that were dangled by the company.

This was during the time when the company faced serious challenges which were escalated by the drought condition. Thus he cited that he did not foresee the company undergoing retrenchments anytime soon.

The MD said currently the situation

was under control and nobody will be retrenched. In fact, Jackson said the company was actually looking at employing more people in the near future. "We are hoping that sooner than late, we will have more job opportunities for both experts and the unskilled," he said.

He disclosed that the newly established fields, Umbombo Wendlovu has availed employment to a considerable number of people of the local area. The company is anticipating the first harvest of Umbombo Wendlovu between November and December.



GREAT WORK: RSSC Public Affairs Manager Sifiso Nyembe with Swazi Observer Editor Thulani Thwala.

ON THIS DAY

... FEBRUARY 26

1940 1st televised (W2XBS, NYC) hockey game (Rangers vs Canadians).

1941 Boston Bruins set NHL record of 23-game unbeaten streak (15-0-8).

1941 February strike against persecution of Jews, in Amsterdam.

1943 Vietminh forms Indo Chinese Democratic Front.

1944 US 1st Army completes invasion plan.

1945 US aircraft carriers attack Tokyo.

1948 Communists seize Czechoslovakia and C Gottwald becomes premier.

1994 Israeli extremist Baruch Goldstein massacres 30 Palestinians in Hebron.

1995 Bomb attack on train in Assam India (27 soldiers killed).

1995 PBA National Championship Won by Scott Alexander.

1996 "Father" closes at Criterion Theater NYC after 52 performances.

1996 Rajindra Dhanraj takes 16-167 in match Trinidad v Leeward Is

1998 Pamela Lee has husband Tommy Lee arrested on battery charges.

1998 Switzerland's first legal brothel opens in Zurich.

1998 40th Grammy Awards: "Sunny Came Home" best song, Paula Cole best new artist.

2001 54th British Film and Television Awards (BAFTAs): "Gladiator" Best Film, Ang Lee Best Director.

2009 BDR massacre in Pikhana, Dhaka, Bangladesh. 74 People are being killed, including more than 50 Army officials, by Bangladeshi Border Guards inside its head-quarter.

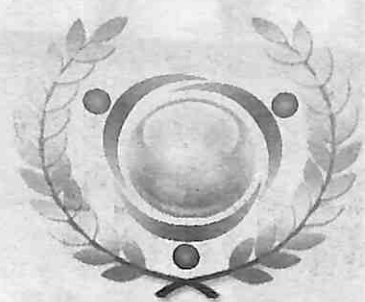
2011 In the Irish general election, the Fianna Fáil-led government suffered the worst defeat of a sitting government since the formation of the Irish state in 1921.

2011 French fashion house Christian Dior suspended its chief designer John Galliano after he is arrested for an anti-semitic verbal attack in Paris.

2012 Syrian Army kills 100 civilians in artillery shelling of Homs and Hama.

2012 Al Qaeda suicide bombing kills at least 26 people in Mukalla, Yemen.

2012 World Health Organisation removed India from the list of polio endemic countries

The Global Business
ROUNDTABLE

A New Thing Preview

A New Thing In Your TV

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

Swazi TV Mondays at 9pm
1Gospel Tuesdays at 9pm
TBN-Channel 343 Thursday and Saturday at 5pm
RTM Mondays at 8pm
ZODIAK TV (Malawi) Wednesdays and Sundays at 3 pm

A NEW THING ON RADIO

VOC (Every Tuesday 6:30 pm)
SBIS (Every Sunday 4 pm)

GBR/GFFJ WEEKLY MEETINGS

- Local GBR sessions take place every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from the different regions of the country. Everyone is free to attend these sessions and become a member, at no cost.
- Every after the session, we network, a powerful session where business deals are clinched and sealed over a meal. Our evening sessions start promptly at 6pm-8pm and the venues and days are as follows:
- In Mbabane - City Court-last Tuesday of the month
- At Ezulwini - Bethel Court-first Tuesday of every month
- At Matsapha - S&B Restaurant-first Thursday of the month
- At Simunye - Simunye Club-second Tuesday of the month
- Manzini - third Tuesday of the month, at The George Hotel
- Mpaka-Malindza Primary School, third Thursday of every month
- At Nhlalanga - Ngwane Teachers Training College-every last Thursday of the month.
- Siteki - second Thursday of the month, new building next to Baceth Hardware.
- Ngculwini-at Emmanuel Wesley Church Ntabamhloshana, second Saturday of the month 11:00 -1:00pm
- For more information log in to the GBR and GFFJ websites: www.globalbusinessroundtable.com / www.globalfundforjesus.com or send an SMS to: +268 78112986 for questions and clarifications.

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

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

PRESIDENTS AT THIS
YEAR'S WORLD CONGRESS

FOR the first time in history, GBR will do the unthinkable, in the eyes of man, but through God's backing and leading, when she gathers together present and former presidents of the African Continent in the upcoming 8th World Congress and Exhibition, billed for the 17th to 20th April 2018 at the Sandton Convention Centre, South Africa.

The following former presidents: HE Nicéphore Dieudonné Soglo (Benin), HE Festus Gontebanye Mogae (Botswana), HE Dr Bakili Muluzi (Malawi), HE Joaquim Alberto Chissano (Mozambique), HE Armando Guebuza (Mozambique), HE Samuel Daniel Nujoma (Namibia), HE Flt Lt Jerry.

John Rawlings (Ghana), HE Goodluck Jonathan (Nigeria), HE Thabo Mbeki (South Africa) and the recently sworn in HE Cyril Ramaphosa, have been invited to share their immense knowledge at the never-to-be-forgotten 8th World Congress for Trade and Investment. The Trade and Investment Summits will cover Doing Business in Africa, US-Africa Summit, Europe-Africa Summit, Africa-Asia Summit, as well as the general conference and celebration at the GFFJ Annual Banquet. The Trade and Investment Summits hosted throughout the Congress are uniquely designed to bring all nations, big business, trade agencies and funding organisations under a single roof for match-

8TH ANNUAL
GBR WORLD
CONGRESS
& EXHIBITION
2018

Theme: Africa: the Next Frontier
for Economic Development

4 Day Summit

Representatives
from 70+ Nations100+ Speakers
& PanelistsDate:
17-21 April 2018

making opportunities. This is where investors, strategic partners and funders leverage the GBR Eagle Landing Platform to discuss in detail how identified opportunities will be advanced and implemented post the Congress.

Business

The writing is on the wall!! Swaziland had a Roundtable in the past which saw SIPA marketing the country and available and upcoming business opportunities. It is envisaged, even this time that more companies and parastatals from the country will partake in this year's World Congress. And since it's a Congress and Exhibition, Swazis eager to exhibit their wares, are encouraged and expected to be a part of this historic event.

As stated, this programme includes plenaries as well as Country Roundtables whereby countries table their priority projects and status reports on each and private player's roundtables from all over the world. The plenary and roundtable discussions seek to also address the critical challenges underpinning development in the continent, and how these can be resolved. Other topics for roundtable discussions include: "Funding Opportunities for SMME's in Southern Africa", Banking systems in Africa, Europe, Asia trade and investment opportunities and a lot more topical and critical issues by industry experts aimed at forging ways in finding solutions for Africa.

National 'Stockholm Syndrome' can devastate opposition

THERE is national euphoria about the new president that can only benefit the malodorous ANC caravan that trundles in his wake, and hurt the SA and EFF.

Politicians sometimes have an eerie ability to achieve the exact opposite of their intended goals.

In trying to protect the ANC "until Jesus returns", Jacob Zuma almost destroyed it. The party that a decade ago seemed unassailable had lost control of one province and four major cities.

There was a real possibility that in the 2019 general election the ANC would add the economic

of the nation, Gauteng, to those losses. And its national vote, hovering around a sorry 55 per cent, might drop further, forcing it into some kind of coalition.

Then along came DA leader Mmusi Maimane and EFF leader Julius Malema.

In their determination to torpedo Zuma, they may have inadvertently virtually assured the ANC of a recovery in electoral fortunes.

Strategically, the outcome with the best electoral prospects for the opposition would have been for Zuma's "recall" to be delayed as long as possible. To benefit an oppo-

sition vote, the stronger the election day memory of Zuma's odorous miasma, the better.

But the opposition pushed too hard. They saddled a tiger that became remarkably powerful - civil society activism.

Through court challenges and judicial motions, parliamentary obstructionism, grandstanding and populist mobilisation, they drove Zuma into an ever-shrinking corner. That is where they would have liked to keep him for the next 16 months.

He would be politically impotent but, as head of state still, a constant reminder to voters of what the oppo-

sition had rescued them from.

Unfortunately for the opposition, the ANC's instinct for survival, which appeared dormant in the Zuma decade, reasserted itself.

The long game played by Cyril Ramaphosa came to fruition. Despite winning the party presidency by the narrowest of margins, Ramaphosa acted swiftly.

Within weeks, the Zuma camp in the national executive committee had defected to him, Zuma was fired and the National Prosecuting Authority got an appetite for munching on Zuma's corrupt cronies.

News24

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Erykah Badu - (R&B SINGER) - February 26, 1971 (47 years old)



Recep Erdogan - (POLITICIAN) - February 26, 1954 (64 years old)

THEY had no fewer than 100 sex slaves, girls as young as 12 who were freed alongside tiny babies early yesterday morning.

Leaders of the Mancoba Seven Angels Ministry cult – called “angels” by their members – have emerged as the alleged masterminds behind last Tuesday night’s massacre of five police officers at the police station in the tiny Eastern Cape town of Engcobo.

Three of the seven Mancoba brothers suspected of involvement in the murders of the officers were killed during a shoot-out with police on Friday.

National police commissioner General Khlehla Sithole confirmed to City Press that “not less than 100” young girls between the ages of 12 and 21 were rescued from the cult’s premises.

He said the “indoctrinated and brain-washed” girls and young women were taken to social workers for counselling.

“In this church it is forbidden to have identity documents. Children are not allowed to have birth certificates and they are not allowed to attend school,” Sithole said.

Allegations that the rescued girls were sex slaves will form part of the investigation.

It has emerged that the cult – run by the seven Mancoba brothers and their mother – was well known to the state.

A report by chapter nine institution the CRL Rights Commission, which was presented to Parliament’s portfolio committee on cooperative governance and traditional affairs in October last year, warned it was a disaster waiting to happen.

Commission Chairperson Thoko Mkhwanazi-Xaluva told City Press yesterday she interviewed the cult leaders in 2016 during her investigation into church practices and made the parliamentary committee aware of her “serious concerns”.

“Everyone [at the cult] was sitting waiting for Jesus to come. We told Parliament that this was a high risk and these people need urgent attention. “We warned that there will be something else [that will happen] once their money runs out. Look what has happened,” Mkhwanazi-Xaluva said. “This has been a ticking time bomb. We said either these people are going to commit suicide or something else will happen.”

“We questioned the sanity of church leaders, who saw themselves as angels sent by God.”

The Eastern Cape social development department knew about the cult. Spokesperson Mzukisi Solani said officials went there in 2016 and rescued 18 children. They were taken to places of safety after the department obtained a court order. After the raid, they alerted the CRL com-

INSIDE COP KILLERS' HORROR SEX CULT



mission to the cult.

Last Friday night, police tracked down those who allegedly attacked the police station. They were found 3km outside Engcobo and about 500m from where two of the five slain policemen were executed before their van plunged into a gorge. Seven cult members were killed in the ensuing shoot-out and 10 were arrested.

On Saturday morning, City Press watched as police escorted the girls and small babies to a waiting police vehicle. Some of the children looked terrified. Others appeared to resist the officers’ attempts to rescue them. Onlookers applauded as the bodies of the seven suspects were taken from the cult’s property and loaded into mortuary vans.

The girls were kept in about 10 corrugated iron shacks. Inside, mattresses lined the floor and clothes hung from wires or were dumped on the beds.

A high-ranking police officer told City Press that the cult, in the centre of Nyanga village, was established by a Mr Mancoba, who died in 2015.

Mancoba’s seven sons refused to follow their father’s successor. The “seven angels” and their mother subsequently became the leaders of the breakaway cult.

They soon ran out of money, which the officer said could explain why they attacked the police station and bombed two ATMs in town.

“They need money and are desperate. People of that church are brain-washed. They only live in their own world.” The officer said at least three of the seven men killed in last Friday night’s shooting were among the

“angel” brothers, who had masterminded the massacre. One of them is on the run.

“The guys, known as angels, drive very expensive cars, but do not work. They are well known here in Engcobo,” the officer said.

“There are people here in this town who go to that church. People would give up all their pensions and donate them to the church,” said the officer.

Mkhwanazi-Xaluva said cult members were required to sell their cars, houses and other belongings and give the proceeds to the cult’s leaders.

Speaking outside the Engcobo Police Station yesterday, Police Minister Fikile Mbalula promised the cult would be closed once police had completed their investigation.

“Yes, there were lots of girls found there and human bodies sleeping over each other. Anything is possible. But it is being processed.

“Some of [the girls] will be taken to a place of safety and linked to their families. Our ultimate objective is for that place to be brought down,” Mbalula said. Sithole confirmed all 10 of the firearms stolen from the Engcobo Police Station last Tuesday night were recovered at the cult’s premises.

The Takedown

Last Friday night after 10pm, police pounced after receiving information from a man they arrested earlier in the day.

Officers with the Hawks, National Intervention Unit and Tactical Response Team ordered the members to come outside so police could determine if the stolen firearms were there. Instead,

cult members opened fire.

“Within 30 minutes of the shoot out, seven suspects were on the ground,” Sithole said.

“This was an hour after we had arrested one of the suspects. We called our high risk forces to get to the place. The intention for us getting to the church was that, first, we wanted to get our firearms back.”

Mbalula criticised police for not shutting down the cult after local residents reported suspicious activities.

“Why did we let it come to the death of police for us to find guns there, when members of the community had long been reporting the church?”

Why Parliament didn’t act

An angry Mkhwanazi-Xaluva said: “Here we are now as a nation. Who must answer? Parliament must answer. We gave them a report last year. We’ve done what needed to be done. It’s up to Parliament to protect innocent people.

“We are living with this nightmare. We should not be waiting for [spurious religious leaders] to do something crazy. We are leaving this in the hands of Parliament. It must pass legislation. We are dealing with people who are a hundred times more dangerous,” she said.

“No one listened to us. This could have been avoided. We told them we cannot have a sector that is not regulated.” Mkhwanazi-Xaluva said the commission could not close the cult because it had no power to do so without an amendment to the CRL Act, which they asked Parliament for last year. *News24*

Wit and Wisdom

“None but ourselves can free our minds.”
— Bob Marley

“Don’t talk to me.”
“Why not?”
“Because I want to fix that in my memory for ever. Draco Malfoy, the amazing bouncing ferret...”
— J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

“Life’s under no obligation to give us what we expect.”
— Margaret Mitchell

“You know, Minister, I disagree with Dumbledore on many counts...but you cannot deny he’s got style...”
— J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

“Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It’s not something you learn in school. But if you haven’t learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven’t learned anything.”
— Muhammad Ali

“It’s strange because sometimes, I read a book, and I think I am the people in the book.”
— Stephen Chbosky, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart”
— Helen Keller

“Finnick?” I say, “Maybe some pants?”
He looks down at his legs as if noticing his outfit for the first time. Then he whips off his hospital gown leaving him in just his underwear. “Why? Do you find this” -- he strikes a ridiculously provocative pose -- “distracting?”
I laugh. Boggs looks embarrassed and Finnick looks more like the guy I met at the Quarter Quell”
— Suzanne Collins, *Mockingjay*

“We do not need magic to transform our world. We carry all the power we need inside ourselves already.”
— J.K. Rowling

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OUR CODE OF CONDUCT

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BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

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

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 15 FEB 2018

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	11.7045	11.7545
British Pound/SZL	16.4056	16.4757
Japanese Yen/SZL	9.0553	9.0931
Swiss France/SZL	12.6208	12.6733
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2325	1.2495
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.2957	9.3390
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.3771	9.4164
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	14.5920	14.6543
Gold	1,354.5100	
Oil	61.8800	

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Standard Bank

FNB DELIGHTS CUSTOMERS

Stories by Majaha Nkonyane

FIRST National Bank is continually working hard in becoming the bank of choice; this was showcased during their raffle Draw at Tubungu Phase Four where three of the bank's customers were awarded with prizes.

The raffle draw was in conjunction with Sunstar Properties where Sifiso Gulwako will be getting back his transfer costs; whilst Sanele Masuku will have his newly brought plot cleared by a TLB and Buyisile Nxumalo got a hamper from both the bank and Sunstar Properties. The bank has had a relationship with the real estate agency for two years now, "our relationship with Sunstar dates back to 2016 and we are happy to be having this raffle, we are looking forward to working with them. We are growing the land business and are continually looking into how we can help our customers. There are other products that we offer our customers which include personal loans and credit. We are growing the business and corporate sector as well," Acting Chief Operations Officer Diamond Moshiga said. According to Moshiga the bank is also working with other agencies which are meant to change the perception that is held by the people towards it. The continued relationships with other institutions require hard work



HOW CAN WE HELP:
FNB's acting COO Diamond Moshiga addressing the audience during the launch at Tubungu. (Pics: Majaha Nkonyane)

from both parties.

"To all the service providers here, with special reference to FNB we thank you for all of your hard work in assisting to make the client's vision a reality. Tubungu Estates wouldn't be what it is today without stakeholders like you to drive it, and for that, we as the developers sincerely thank you," Brian Figueiredo said.

It was further noted that the two have worked on a piece of land that was used for pineapple fields, according to Figueiredo it took a lot of vision, hard work and determination to make it into what it is now where customers are able to work hard.

FOCUSED: Allen Chambers addressing the audience during the launch.

FNB'S NEW RELATIONSHIP HIKE SALES BY E8M

THE newly established relationship between First National Bank and Sunstar Properties has brought about a positive change as the company has increased their sales to a staggering E8 million.

This is according to the company's General Manager Mlamuli Maseko.

"We are grateful to the bank for the work we are doing with them; it is out of the newly established relationship that the company has been able to record an E8 million increase in sales.

Aware

"This has also shifted traffic as more people are now aware of what is happening in Tubungu," Maseko said.

The company according to Maseko

was able to hike their sales by selling 29 plots through FNB and they are happy with the activity. This has only happened in Phase Four of Tubungu and they have improved the band as well.

Financing

It was also mentioned that the campaign the company is running with the bank is on until July where there will be another draw for their customers.

The estate agent company according to Maseko brings the land whilst the bank helps with financing and building.

"We hopeful this the company will continue to make more sales and draw more customers to the business. We are looking forward to assisting more people get their dream homes," he said.



AND THE WINNER IS: Sanele Masuku won herself TLB clearing on her plot with FNB's Communications Specialist Sibusile Sigwane.

SIPA LOOKING FOR INVESTORS TO PARTNER WITH LOCALS IN DIFFERENT SECTORS

By Simon Shabangu

THE Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority has invited investors to partner with locals in the agro-processing, tourism and energy generation sectors among others.

This was said by SIPA Investment Manager Martin Dlamini in a presentation he made at the East3Route Investment Seminar in Mpumalanga. The seminar was attended by representatives from all the five members of the initiative which has since attracted the Mpumalanga Province which joined the initiative about two years back.

Masilela said the country was importing large quantities of produce from the agro-business sector and called upon prospective investors to consider the available opportunities. He said the country was in pursuit of attaining first world status and has a vision of

becoming self sufficient. He said the country currently trades mostly with South Africa as the country imports 75 per cent produce from South Africa and also exports the same percentage.

"There is a high demand for the investments in agro processing, value addition in manufacturing, life sciences like health care, pharmaceutical and supply of medical equipment.

Opportunities

"There are also plenty opportunities in the power generation sector as the country currently relies heavily on the neighbouring countries for power supply," he said.

He also highlighted opportunities in the tourism sector as the country seeks to develop new tourist attractions which need investors to partner with locals.

He made an example of the Malolotja Home Village project under the Swaziland National Trust Commission which seeks to develop a 40-bedroom family lodge.

Dlamini also said there are plenty of opportunities in the mining sector which investors can also consider.

Documentation

"As SIPA we are also available to assist investors with the relevant paperwork and documentation which they need to set up. We also assist with setting up working space which is also readily available" he noted.

Meanwhile, the Mpumalanga provincial government through the department of economic development and tourism also had projects, which prospective investors can partner with through their PPP programme.

The seminar was also attended by Minister of Tourism, Environment and Communication Christopher Gamedze, Senator Lungile Gama and MP Veli Shongwe who are both Chairpersons of Portfolio Committees in Parliament. MP Hans Steffen who is also the Chairman of the Matata Group was also present.

MINISTRY AUCTIONS A TOTAL OF 49 CATTLE

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE ministry of agriculture under veterinary and livestock marketing section conducted a cattle auction sale at Magoga Fattening Ranch where about 150 people attended and there were 34 registered buyers.

A total of 50 cattle were on sale and only one was not sold. Live weight average price per kg was E21.50 and are average price per animal was E6 277.55. According to Mbali Ntuli, Livestock Marketing Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, amount due to government was E87 930 and the remaining E219 670 was for cattle owners.

"The highest price was E14 000 and the lowest price was E3 500. Total amount realised at the cattle auction sale was E307 600," she said.

Another market sale for slaughter pigs will be on February 28, at Mphisi Pig Breeding Farm, which will also be conducted by the ministry of agriculture under veterinary and live-stock services where a total of 31 slaughter pigs will be up for sale.

NMC, STAFF DONATE ABOUT E44 000 TO SOS

Stories by Majaha Nkonyane
Mbabane

THE National Maize Corporation (NMC) and its staff on Wednesday made the first donation to SOS Children's Village of E43 632 following the launch of a fund-raising drive towards the sustenance of the latter's activities through a campaign dubbed 'E1.00 Campaign'.

NMC Chief Executive Officer Sabelo Msibi handed two separate cheques of E38 190, donated by the company from sales of selected Sihlobo Rice and Umndeni Beans; and E5 442, contributed by the NMC staff, to SOS Board Vice Chairman Theo Hlophe in a low-key presentation that took place at the NMC offices in Matsapha.

Explained

Msibi explained that the main objective of the campaign was to ensure no child goes to bed on an empty stomach and to also assist with their needs at the Village through an innovative fund-raising strategy, where E1 is collected from unit sales of NMC's Sihlobo Rice and Umndeni Beans. Msibi said they were humbled when staff also took the initiative to support the campaign by contributing E1 per month.

"Initially, the E1 collections were supposed to be from the sale of our Sihlobo Rice and Umndeni Beans only, but NMC employees decided to also contribute E1 per month for the last four months. We are very proud of their efforts to end hunger and reduce vulnerability among the children," Msibi



DONATION: NMC CFO Marina Healy, NMC CEO Sabelo Msibi handing over the E5 442 staff cheque to SOS Chairperson Theo Hlophe, SOS National Director Loretta Mkhonta and SOS Marketing and Communications Officer Nontobeko Mbuyane. (Pics: Majaha Nkonyane)

said.

Msibi also said as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility, NMC and SOS Children's Village opted to set up a campaign with a strong and reliable foundation, as opposed to a lump sum donation.

"Sponsorships are always shrinking, but children still need access to education, food, shelter and care to ensure a bright future. We have sealed our partnership with SOS and we will work with them on other campaigns," Msibi said.

Meanwhile, Hlophe, the SOS Vice Chairperson said his organisation was very happy with the assistance extended to them by NMC and its staff members through the campaign, noting that

donor funds were indeed dwindling.

"SOS serves about 571 families; with 2 341 children in about 11 communities all around Swaziland. These children are all in dire need, and NMC has brought us a step closer to meeting these needs," Hlophe said.

Speaking on behalf of SOS Siblings, Lysedie Matsimbe, who is a student at Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, said she thanked NMC and her staff on behalf of the other children at the various villages.

"NMC is not helping a small group of children, but they are making a lucrative investment in Swaziland's future. These children will definitely come back to develop the economy and the families at SOS," Matsimbe said.

...NMC/SOS partnership to provide internships

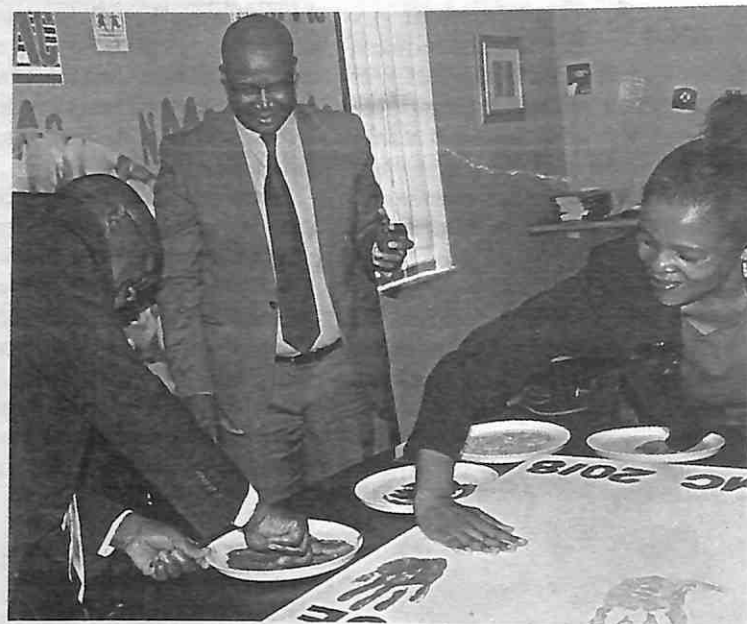
IT is anticipated that the partnership between SOS Children's Villages and National Maize Corporation (NMC) will mature to a level where it would provide internships for the students in the near future.

This was revealed by NMC Chief Executive Officer Sabelo Msibi during a presentation of cheques under the auspices of the recently launched E1.00 campaign. He said they were still looking for new avenues to explore in order to aid SOS in their operations. Meanwhile, SOS Children's Villages National Director Loretta Mkhonta said they would be capacitating their children with

skills that would make them competent to be considered for field attachments at NMC.

"To ensure the employability of our children, we have asked to have them attached with NMC and other corporates. This would enable them to attain work skills and experience so that they can earn a living for themselves," Mkhonta said.

Echoing Mkhonta's words, Nontobeko Mbuyane, also of SOS Children's Villages, said they were planning to have a family day for NMC and SOS, where staff members will interact with and educate the children about social skills.



PARTNERS: NMC Chief Operations Officer Cyrpian Lukhele, NMC CEO Sabelo Msibi and SOS National Director Loretta Mkhonta.

ICTs recognised as a catalyst for SDGs success

Stories by Hlengiwe Ndlovu

FOLLOWING the expiry of the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ICTs are recognised as having great prospects, former Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) Director General Mudenda said in a recent ICT stakeholders workshop organised by the Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce.

She encouraged Swaziland to follow the best practices in the regulation of the ICT industry though warning that regulation does not always mean control.

The workshop was facilitated by Global System Mobile Association (GSMA). Mudenda said ICTs not only enable but accelerate the achievement of the UN's 17 new SDGs. One of Mudenda's philosophies in ICT regulation is that the student will be nice if the teacher is nice.

"Regulation is not always about control. Some things are just best left to grow. For instance, Kenya's M-PESA would not be what it is today if it was overly regulated and denied permission to grow," she said.

ICT related statistics in a nutshell

THERE has been a growth of double the number of internet users in developing countries over the last five years. Mobile cellular subscription has increased from the 2.2 billion reported ten years ago to 7.1 billion as at date.

In the last four years there has been a 14 per cent increase of the 3G population network, from 45 per cent to 69 per cent. Today statistics indicate that internet gender gap is decreasing

and stands at 11 per cent. Mobile broadband subscription has grown from 0.8 billion in 2010 to an estimated 3.5 billion in 2015. Mobile Broadband pricing has dropped by about 25 per cent in least developed countries over the last three years. Fixed broadband prices surged in 2014. The data revolution has begun with the world recognising that the Internet of Things and Big data have the potential to address major developmental challenges globally.

She explained that the ICT revolution had been characterised with China becoming the world's largest Machine to Machine (M2M) market, with some 50 million connections by 2014.

Developing

She said that China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom, were all developing M2M businesses with support from their government, which has recognised the Internet of Things as a strategic industry. The government of China is currently investing USD603 billion in the M2M ecosystem for 10 years leading up to 2020.

"China wants to see transport, energy,

healthcare, education and commerce adapted to the new trends.

As a result 100 of its cities are now deploying and planning smart grids for smart cities with all sorts of applications being developed," she said, however acknowledging that this decision though grand has many challenges even for China. She also noted that the global data revolution had begun with the world recognising that the Internet of Things and Big data have the potential to address major developmental challenges globally.

As at the first quarter of 2016 there were 3.2 billion people online representing 43 per cent of the world population.

Zini Build IT promises wonderful shopping experience

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE Manzini region is said not to be the same again after the opening of the new Build It which will be called 'Zini Build IT' this is according to Build It Manager Desmond Henwood.

"Our strategy is to ensure that our customers get a wonderful shopping experience.

We are also working on giving value for money to our customers," he said.

The newly opened shop is also planning to employ a customer feedback approach, this they will achieve by stocking the shop to a minimum level. According to Henwood this will allow them a chance as a hardware store to allow customers to voice out what they need to see in the shop.

The official launch of the Manzini based store was attended by the Minister of Commerce Industry and Trade who was represented by the Acting Principal Secretary Nkululeko Dlamini. The shop was hailed for assisting government

in tackling the issue of economy boost.

"We are happy to see the private sector helping the government of the country in boosting the economy of the country. It is without a doubt that government alone cannot be able to help economy of the country rise. When there is economic activity in the private sector the country benefits," he said.

It was noted that other than contributing to the economic activity the new shop will also help in addressing the issue of unemployment. "The private sector further helps in addressing the issue of unemployment, this is also evident in this new shop which currently has 28 employees at the moment and we are looking forward to the growth of this entity," he said.

Furthermore the new hardware is anticipating a change that customers have not felt in a long time, this they want to achieve as customers walk through the door, when they interact with employees and as they are served at the counter.

Fifth instalment of the East3Route an inspiration

Stories by Simon Shabangu

MINISTER of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Christopher Gamedze has applauded the Mpumalanga Province for hosting the fifth instalment of the East3Route Initiative which he described as a huge success and an eye opener to the local tourism sector.

The minister was speaking during an interview in Mpumalanga at the East3Route Initiative which ended on Thursday evening with a gala dinner hosted by the Mpumalanga MEC for Finance Economic Development and Tourism Sikhumbuzo Kholwane at Emnotweni Arena in Mbombela.

Minister Gamedze said the business seminar and the tour of the different tourist attractions offered by that province was an eye opener to them in that they realised the potential the country has.

He said there are many tourist attractions similar to those that the Mpumalanga Province has which need to be developed and promoted to add to what the country already offers to tourists.

"The visit to Mpumalanga has been a great eye opener we will now go back home and see which projects we can develop from what there are currently in order to complement what this province



INSPIRATION: Mpumalanga MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism Sikhumbuzo Kholwane and Swaziland Minister for Tourism and Environmental Affairs Christopher Gamedze captured at the Galla Dinner for the East3Route at Emnotweni Arena. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

is already offering so that when the tourists visit Swaziland they see something different. We will also try to work with relevant stakeholders to ensure easy travel to Swaziland for our tourists as well as the businesses people since we have heard of the hindrances and delays at our borders.

That should not be happening because some of the business people deal with perishable produce. We will work closely with the Mpumalanga Province because they are open to business and they are also the closest among the members of the East3Route Initiative" he said. Meanwhile Mpumalanga MEC Sikhumbuzo Kholwane said the region needed to consider easing travel among

the SADC Member states. He said travelling within the region must not be a hassle especially because the region is a drive to promote domestic tourism. He said the region must not only rely on tourists from abroad stating that locals must know their countries and also visit the neighboring countries.

He wondered why the region trusts animals more than human beings in that wild animals are allowed easy access yet human beings do not have such a privilege. MEC Kholwane also encouraged the leadership of the SADC region and the continent at large to consider the issue of one currency to make trade easy among the countries as well as the tourists.



FIFTH INSTALMENT: Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market Project Manager Zakhele Kunene briefing the delegates about the project which is underway.



GOOD MOMENT: FESBC CEO Dudu Nhengethwa, Minister Christopher Gamedze, Businessman Thabo Magagula and MEC Sikhumbuzo Kholwane posing for our cameras.



POSE: Chunky Dlamini, Marilyn Sithole and Neli Mngomezulu looking amazing on the night.

Local farmers to source farm produce closer

LOCAL farmers will source farm produce closer once the over one billion Rand Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market is complete in about two years' time.

The delegates had an opportunity to visit the construction site of the big farm produce market which will be the second biggest in South Africa, which will be a relief to locals as they now be able to source and sell their

produce closer.

For now they have to travel as far as Johannesburg and Pretoria to purchase fresh farm produce to sell locally and supply the retail market. Briefing the delegates about the progress of the project Zakhele Kunene who is project Manager said the groundworks and basic infrastructure set-up has been finalised stating that already the first phase has consumed E500 million.

He said the total amount to be spent on the project once it is fully complete will be in the region of E1.3 billion. The market is located on a 240 hectare fruit tree farm and will be 30 000m². The road infrastructure and has been complete stating that in about two months' time the main construction will commence. He said they are aiming at completing the first phase of the project by 2019.



CHAT: SIPA's Dr Khanyisile Dlamini and STA's Sipho Simelane in a conversation with Minister of Tourism Christopher Gamedze.



PRESENT: House of Assembly Tourism Portfolio Committee Chairman MP Veli Shongwe, Senate Tourism Portfolio Committee Chairperson Senator Lungile Gama and STA Acting CEO Gcinithemba Fakudze during the dinner.



SMILES: Neli Mngomezulu, Fortunate Fyfe and Marilyn Sithole posing at the dinner.

'SME's must form consortiums and investment in big business'

THE Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of the Swaziland Business Community (FESBC) Dudu Dlamini has urged local business people to form consortiums and take advantage of the many opportunities available for investments in the Mpumalanga Province.

She said the province is open for partnerships with locals stating that the investments require huge sums of money hence it was key that business people work as a unit to be able to access financing to invest in these projects. "The projects presented to us are huge ones which require that people form partnerships and work together so that it is easy for them to get funding and stakes in the business opportunities we saw today.

We will now meet with our members and brief them about the opportunities and further advise them on how best they can be able to venture into the opportunities available this side.

I found the fresh produce project very interesting especially because we are an agricultural country and this one will present more opportunities for investments

and even trading with this project once it is complete" she said.

She said the federation will also try and address the problems that derail business in the entry points of the country. She said the regional business and trade agreements also need to be harmonised to make doing business within the region easy.

Dr. Khanyisile Dlamini of SIPA shared similar sentiments on the investments opportunities available stating that it was good exposure for the country. She said they were able to get insight on how best to link business with tourism because it is also a big business on its own.

She said they will now have strategies on how best to link the two sectors because they have seen how other municipalities and governments do it. She said there were investments opportunities available and locals must take advantage of these opportunities.

Businesswoman Fortunate Fyfe said they were excited to be part of the delegation stating that they learnt a lot from the seminar and also got to know on the many opportunities out there.



WE NEED KAUNDA'S SPIRIT IN THIS COUNTRY - ZIM'S MUGABE



CALLS FOR UNITY:
Former Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe.

HARARE - Zimbabwe's former president Robert Mugabe has reportedly said that the southern African country needs "the spirit of Zambia's Kenneth Kaunda" to bring back unity.

According to notes seen by the privately-owned Zimbabwe Independent newspaper, Mugabe told African Union's Moussa Faki Mahamat during a courtesy call he made to the Mugabes' Harare mansion this week that the country was divided on "tribal and regional lines".

Mugabe said that the country was in need of Kaunda's "One Zambia,

One Nation" concept.

During the meeting that was attended by senior government officials, Mugabe candidly told Mahamat that the country was divided after a military take over last November.

Mugabe was removed from power after the military temporarily took control of the country on November 15 - as internal feuding escalated in the ruling Zanu-PF party over his succession.

The takeover, which the army said was targeting Mugabe's corrupt allies, came days after the 94-year-old leader had fired then deputy

president Emmerson Mnangagwa, who had strong military ties and was widely tipped as the likely successor.

Mugabe's wife Grace had indicated interest in succeeding her nonagenarian husband.

"This country is now deeply divided along regional and tribal lines; that is wrong. We want our own 'One Zimbabwe, One nation'. Harassing and intimidating people must stop; witch-hunting against people must stop," Mugabe was quoted as saying.

News24

Abducted Nigerian girls' parents to join Bring Back Our Girls campaign

DAPCHI - Parents of schoolgirls newly-abducted in northeastern Nigeria plan to join the Bring Back Our Girls movement that gained global prominence in a bid to win freedom for their girls, a community leader said last Friday.

Islamist militant group Boko Haram is suspected to have kidnapped scores of girls today from a school in Dapchi village, Yobe state. Most are thought to be teenagers.

It would be the largest mass abduction since Boko Haram took more than 270 schoolgirls from the northeastern town of Chibok in 2014, sparking an online campaign that went viral and spurring several governments into action to try and find them. *Reuters*

Nigeria's president calls mass schoolgirl abduction 'national disaster'

ABUJA - Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari last Friday called the abduction of scores of girls from a school in the northeast by the Islamist militant group Boko Haram a national disaster and said he was sending more troops and reconnaissance aircraft to look for them.

There is confusion over the number missing after last Monday's attack, with estimates ranging from around 50 to more than 100. A roll-call at the girls' school in the village of Dapchi, Yobe state, last Tuesday showed 91 students were absent. The kidnapping may be one of the largest since Boko Haram abducted more than 270 schoolgirls from the northeastern town of Chibok in 2014.



NATIONAL DISASTER:
Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari.

Many of those girls are still being held, though others have escaped or been freed for ransom.

"This is a national disaster. We are sorry that this could have happened and share your pain," Buhari

said in a statement directed to the parents of the missing girls.

Earlier in the week, he sent more security forces and a ministerial team to the area.

Boko Haram, whose name roughly translates as "Western education is forbidden" in the Hausa language, is trying to create a state adhering to a strict interpretation of Islamic law.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said the tragedy of the Chibok girls' abduction had not been forgotten and described the latest kidnapping as a "new horror".

It said more than 2 295 teachers had been killed and almost 1 400 schools destroyed since the jihadist insurgency began in 2009. *Reuters*

MDC spokesperson quits amid mounting succession battles

HARARE - Zimbabwe's main opposition, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party's spokesperson Obert Gutu, has reportedly quit amid growing succession battles.

The MDC party was reportedly embroiled in a power struggle even before the death of its founder, Morgan Tsvangirai on February 14.

Tsvangirai, the country's fiercest opponent of former president Robert Mugabe's tyrannical 37-year rule, died at the age of 65 at a hospital in South Africa where he had been undergoing treatment for colon cancer. Three of the party's deputy president were at logger heads over who would lead the party following his demise. The southern African country was also due to hold its elections in four to five months time. According to the state-owned Herald newspaper, Gutu resigned from the party last Wednesday, a day after the party's youths attacked two of the party's senior leaders. *Reuters*

DRC police fire bullets, tear gas on anti-Kabila rally

KISANGANI - At least two people were wounded as police fired live bullets and tear gas yesterday to break up a banned protest against Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila in Kisangani, the country's third largest city, an AFP reporter said.

Hundreds started marching after mass at the city's cathedral but were dispersed by security forces. The AFP journalist said at least two people suffered bullet injuries.

The church-backed protest against President Joseph Kabila's refusal to step down after his long expired mandate was banned by authorities. It had been called by the Lay Coordination Committee (CLC), an organisation close to the church and an influential social and spiritual force.

Previous protests on New Year's



PROTEST: Two people were wounded as police fired live bullets and tear gas yesterday to break up a banned protest against DR Congo President Joseph Kabila.

Eve and January 21 saw a total of 15 people killed by security forces, according to tolls given by organisers and the United Nations.

The government said just two people died in those protests.

Kabila was due to stand down from office in December 2016, ending his second elected term, but he has controversially stayed on under laws enabling him to retain power until his successor is elected. *News24*

BRIEFS

Detains, summons media workers

CASABLANCA - Moroccan police on Saturday detained a journalist and summoned for questioning two employees from an independent media group, a day after its outspoken publisher was detained, his newspaper said.

Prominent publisher and journalist Taoufiq Bouachrine, known for editorials critical of authorities in the North African country, was arrested last Friday during a raid by 20 plain-clothed policemen on the Akhbar al-Yaoum daily in Casablanca. The authorities have not given the reason for his detention. Bouachrine, 49, has faced repeated legal cases in the past for allegedly defaming officials. *AFP*

C Africa deploys troops to flashpoint

BANGUI - The government of Central African Republic deployed troops alongside United Nations peacekeepers on Saturday to a flash-point district on Bangui after clashes between rival groups left at least three people dead. "The government must restore peace," said Security Minister General Henri Wanzet Liguissara in a speech broadcast on national radio. Peacekeepers from the UN's MINUSCA force were deployed with government forces in the fractious PK5 and KM5 districts of Bangui "to take out all those who don't want peace and want weapons to sound out," throughout KM5, the minister said. *AFP*

New law brings hope to abused women

TUNIS - After years of "manipulation" by her husband, mother of two Sameh is filing for divorce, thanks to a new Tunisian law broadening the definition of violence against women.

The law, passed in July, entered into force on February 1, finally providing Sameh with the tool she



needs to divorce her husband who she says has been psychologically and financially abusing her. For the past 15 years, Sameh, a teacher and 45-year-old mother of two teenage girls, has been forced to hand over her entire salary to her husband. She told AFP it took her that long to realise that he had been "manipulating" her, but when she woke up to the reality she decided to act. *Reuters*

Archaeologists find ancient necropolis

TUNA AL-GABAL - Egypt's Antiquities Ministry has announced the discovery of an ancient necropolis near the Nile Valley city of Minya, south of Cairo. The ministry said on Saturday that the large cemetery is located north of Tuna al-Gabal area, a vast archaeological site on the edge of the western desert. It includes several burial shafts and hosts more than 1 000 statues and some 40 sarcophagi as well as other artifacts. Antiquities Minister Khaled al-Anani said the necropolis is host to members of different families and is believed to date back to the pharaonic Late Period and the Ptolemaic era. *AP*

Ethiopia ruling party to pick new PM

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia's ruling coalition will meet to choose a new prime minister this week, a party official said on Saturday. Hailemariam Desalegn resigned as prime minister last week after ordering a mass prisoner amnesty and days of protest in Africa's second most-populous country. A state of emergency was declared the following day. The 180-member council of the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) would decide on a replacement, said Kassahun Gofu, Publicity Chief of the largest of the four parties in the coalition, the Oromo Peoples' Democratic Orga (OPDO). *AFP*

Focus on SA scene

ZUMA TO FACE 18 CHARGES

JOHANNESBURG - Prosecutors analysing former president Jacob Zuma's representations to avoid his day in court have recommended that all charges against him be reinstated.

City Press has reliably learnt that a team of five senior prosecutors unanimously recommended last Friday that Zuma face all charges that were previously withdrawn against him.

They are believed to have signed a memorandum which was handed to National Director of Public Prosecutions Shaun Abrahams last Friday, informing him of their recommendations.

Zuma is expected to face 18 charges of corruption, money laundering and racketeering, originating from 783 questionable payments he received.

This could be the first of several legal battles faced by Zuma who was recently forced by the ANC to resign. He is expected to be the central focus of an upcoming commission of inquiry into state capture.

Since last Wednesday the team of prosecutors has been working around the clock, putting together an indictment detailing the charges that Zuma and his co-accused will finally face after years of protracted legal wrangling.

Sources within the security cluster said although there were several disagreements and squabbles over who should remain part of the team that would prosecute Zuma, they all agreed he failed to make a compelling argument to have his charges dropped.



NO TURNING BACK: Former SA President Jacob Zuma.

"There is no turning back. Zuma has to have his day in court. I cannot imagine Abrahams ignoring the recommendations of five prosecutors he appointed to guide him with this decision," said an NPA insider.

"In fact, KwaZulu-Natal prosecutions boss Moipone Noko insisted in December that Zuma should have appeared in court 14 days after the court ruled the decision to drop the charges was irrational.

"She [Noko] was overruled by her boss Shaun Abrahams who wanted to give Zuma another chance to make representations," said a prosecutor privy to the details.

Noko could not be reached for comment.

Sources said Zuma and other parties involved in the matter will be informed first, after which a public announcement will be made of the decision.

Security cluster sources told City Press that Zuma will be joined by two co-accused, including representatives of Thint Holdings (Southern Africa) Pty Ltd and Thint (Pty) Ltd, from whom he allegedly received bribes.

Zuma's first court appearance and a trial date have yet to be determined.

City Press has learnt that Zuma will be accused number one in the case, followed by the companies, when he appears before the High Court in Pietermaritzburg.

News24

R36m flushed away in eThekweni toilet debacle

DURBAN - A confidential report has revealed how R36.1 million was flushed down the drain after two senior officials at eThekweni Municipality allegedly authorised prepayment to four companies that failed to supply toilet facilities to impoverished communities.

According to the report by the city's Integrity and Investigative Unit (CIU), 2 200 Urine-Diversion (UD) toilets were to be supplied to communities and schools in 31 rural and semi-urban municipal wards, including KwaXimba, Cato Ridge and KwaNyuswa.

The expected start date of the project was December.

However, the report, which was seen by the Sunday Tribune, revealed no toilets had been built. It also delved into other procurement flaws.

But the implicated companies, Magubane Plant and Contractors, Uhlanga Trading Enterprise, Soundrite Sound and Temblos SA collectively refuted the allegations.

Three companies each received a share of R2.5m, while Temblos SA, which later became a part of the deal, after signing a cession agreement, pocketed R28.3m.

Payment was made in December before work was done, the report read. The companies agreed to supply each toilet at R18 300.

However, according to the report, investigators established that the price charged for the toilets had nearly doubled. UD toilets charged R9 300 in August 2016.

The investigation was prompted after the city received an anonymous call in December. *Citizen*

Africa needs young, vibrant and innovative leaders - Machel

JOHANNESBURG - Africa's youth and women need to stand up and take charge as the continent's new leaders.

That was the message delivered by former first lady Graca Machel in Johannesburg on Saturday, at the African Leadership Academy (ALA).

"Africa does not need leaders who are 75 or 65 years old. We need leaders who are young, vibrant, innovative and who the continent's youth can relate to."

Machel, speaking at the 10-year celebration of ALA, called on Africa's



YOUNG LEADERS: Former first lady Graca Machel,

emerging young leaders to remain committed to the cause for the development of Africa. *Citizen*

Cabinet post for Senzo Mchunu on the cards?

DURBAN - SENZO Mchunu, the man who once vowed to rather "go hungry" than accept deployment to the National Assembly, is about to become a Cabinet minister.

Speculation is rife that he'll be part of President Cyril Ramaphosa's revamped Cabinet.

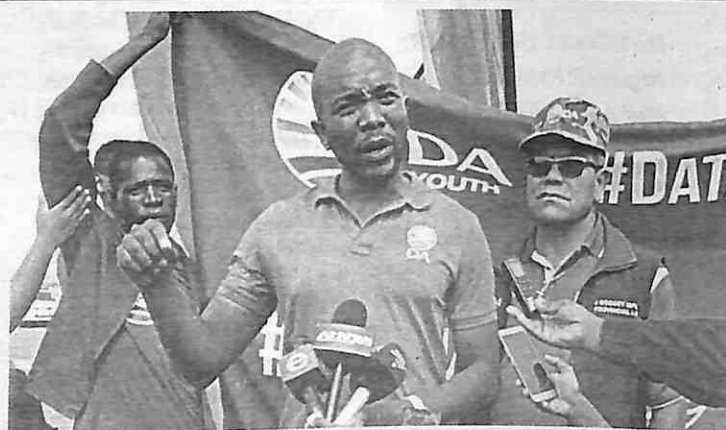
While Ramaphosa has played his cards close to his chest about a much-talked-about reshuffle, it has been rumoured that he wanted to place some of his allies in the Cabinet he inherited from Jacob Zuma this month.

But first Ramaphosa would have to deal with the vacant deputy president post, which many believed would be announced before the end of the week. The names of Minister of Human Settlements Lindiwe Sisulu and ANC Deputy President David "DD" Mabuza are being bandied about as strong possible candidates.

Political Analyst Thabani Khumalo said Ramaphosa must axe Zuma supporters.

"I don't know what Minister of Social Development Bathabile Dlamini is doing in Cabinet, except to think that she thinks she is bigger than everyone else because of her close relationship with Zuma," Khumalo said.

He said people like Mchunu and former treasurer-general, Zweli Mkhize, would inspire confidence ahead of the Minister of Water Affairs and Sanitation, Nomvula Mokonyane. *eNCA*



OPPOSITION: DA Leader Mmusi Maimane.

DA plans march against VAT increase

SOSHANGUVE - The Democratic Alliance will mobilise and march to the National Treasury to oppose the one per cent increase in VAT, from 14 to 15 per cent, announced in the budget this week, DA leader Mmusi Maimane said on Saturday.

"We want to march here in Tshwane, go to Treasury and say we reject the idea of an increase in VAT because it will make out people poor," he said at a DA rally in Soshanguve, north of Pretoria in Gauteng.

The increase in VAT, along with a "huge increase in fuel levies", would result in an increase in food and transport costs for all South Africans. "Instead of cutting the cabinet, the African National Congress is assault-

ing the people," he said at the rally to launch the DA's national petition opposing the VAT increase.

"[The] VAT [increase] is a crime against our people, it is people paying taxes for the ANC's mismanagement."

Budget

We are now of the complete view that the [budget] bill has to come to Parliament [and] when it comes to parliament we will reject it... even on the day of that vote, people will be marching," Maimane said.

Maimane was accompanied by DA Gauteng leader John Moodey and City of Tshwane mayor Solly Msimanga. *News24*

'FUNDING HIGHER EDUCATION IS AFFORDABLE, BUT WE MUST CUT SOMEWHERE ELSE'

CAPE TOWN - Uncertainties around whether government funding of free higher education is sustainable have arisen in the wake of Minister of Finance Malusi Gigaba's allocation of R57billion for the policy.

With no clear indication that a full costing proposal has been established, the next three years will form a road map that will determine how government approaches future funding models. Currently the policy will accommodate first-year students whose parents earn not more than R350 000 a year. Returning students who are dependent on the National Student Financial Aid Scheme's (NSFAS) loans will from this year have them converted into a bursary.

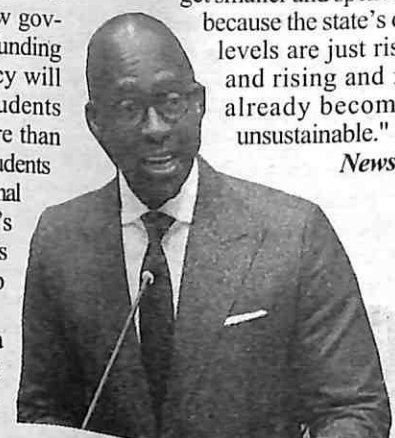
In his Budget speech Gigaba said the plan will be rolled out in the coming years to accommodate all students.

Economist Dawie Roodt said until government takes serious

strides in shrinking expenditure and cutting debt, sustaining the policy will be challenging. This as government spending increased from R1.67trillion to R1.94trillion.

"If we want to spend on universities, then we have to cut from somewhere else." "Currently total state spending is too much. The state must get smaller and spend less because the state's debt levels are just rising and rising and it is already becoming unsustainable."

News24



AFFORDABLE: SA Minister of Finance Malusi Gigaba.

CHINA - The UN Security Council has unanimously approved a resolution demanding a 30-day cease-fire across Syria 'without delay' to deliver humanitarian aid to millions and evacuate the critically ill and wounded.

The sponsors, Kuwait and Sweden, amended the resolution late last Friday in a last-minute attempt to get Russian support, dropping a demand that the cease-fire take effect in 72 hours.

The resolution comes as air strikes on the Syrian rebel enclave of Eastern Ghouta on Saturday took the civilian death toll from seven days of devastating bombardment to more than 500.

As she headed into the meeting, US Ambassador Nikki Haley said: "Today we are going to see if Russia has a conscience."

"Every minute the council waited on Russia, the human suffering grew," the US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, told the Security Council, accusing Russia of stalling.

"As they dragged out the negotiations, the bombs from Assad's fighter jets continued to fall. In the three days it took us to adopt this resolution, how many mothers lost their children to the bombing and the shelling?"

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia rejected accusations of foot-dragging, saying that negotiations were needed to arrive at a demand for a ceasefire that was 'feasible.'

Sweden's UN Ambassador Olof Skoog said before the vote that the resolution could de-escalate violence and save lives.

"The UN convoys and evacuation teams are ready to go," he said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory

UN UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES 30-DAY CEASEFIRE IN SYRIA 'WITHOUT DELAY'

...after the US blasts Russia for 'stalling' on talks amid claims 500 civilians have died during a week of bombing raids



VOTE: US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley (left) speaks to China's ambassador to the UN Ma Zhaoxu before the United Nations Security Council vote. **BOMBED:** Smoke billows following a regime air strike on the rebel-held town of Haza, in the besieged eastern Ghouta region. **(R) WOUNDED:** Wounded children are seen in a hospital in the besieged town of Douma, East Ghout.

for Human Rights said at least 35 civilians were killed in Saturday's strikes, including eight children. A night of heavy bombardment sparked fires in residential districts, it said.

The Observatory has said the air strikes are being carried out by Syrian and Russian forces. Moscow, which intervened militarily in support of its Damascus

ally in 2015, has denied any direct involvement in the Eastern Ghouta bombardment. US President Donald Trump last Friday said Russia's recent actions in Syria were a 'disgrace'.

Last Friday the vote on a UN-backed ceasefire was again delayed by at least 24 hours. But on Saturday, the meeting again failed to start as scheduled at

1700 GMT as negotiations continued in an effort to avert a Russian veto.

UN Security Council members had been discussing a cessation of hostilities for the last month to allow aid to be brought in and the injured to be taken out. But negotiations have been bogged down over a number of issues, including when the ceasefire should begin.

Moscow said that it wanted to include a 30-day calming period to allow for aid deliveries and medical evacuations but critics say that as the main ally of President Bashar al-Assad, it is in fact suing for more time. The Security Council members were unable to agree on the precise language that could gain Russia's support. (Daily Mail)



Annual Labour Law Seminar 2018

Speakers



Zweli Jele
Partner
Robinson Benyamini



Sandile Ceko
Lecturer at
University of Swaziland



Clement Dlamini
Lecturer at
University of Swaziland



Dr. Geoff Hesold
Senior Lecturer at
Wits Business School



Louis Frota
Senior Social
Protection Specialist,
ILO Pretoria

Presentation

- Key Findings on the Failure of Collective Bargaining in South Africa and Lessons for Swaziland
- Collective Bargaining in Swaziland's Public Enterprises
- Case Law Update
- Variation of Chairman's Decision by Employer
- Swaziland's Social Security Reforms and their likely Impact on Employers

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Superior and Managers of every business, HR Practitioners, Legal Practitioners, Academic, University Students, Labour Service Providers, Company Secretaries, Compliance Officers, HR Executives & Specialists, CIOs, Business Owners

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15 MARCH 2018
THE ROYAL SWAZI SUN
EZULWINI
Start: 0900 hrs
End: 1530 hrs
Fees - Members: E2200
Non-members: E2800



SWAZILAND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION
NEW OFFICE DEVELOPMENT, MBABANE

INTEGRATED SECURITY SERVICES SYSTEM CONTRACT TENDER INVITATION

FINCOP hereby invites suitably qualified local integrated security services system (ISSS) specialists, currently registered with the Construction Industry Council (CIC) for the supply, installation, commissioning and guarantee of the ISSS to the above project, situated at corner of Gwamile & Dabede Streets in the Mbabane Central Business District. The ISSS tender #SD18ISSS/FHO has been unbundled into the following packages with distinct tender numbers:

1. Structured Cabling: FHO - 1/02/2018
2. Data Centre Air-Conditioning and Ventilation: FHO - 2/02/2018
3. Data Centre Fire System and Suppression: FHO - 3/02/2018
4. Data Centre Environmental Monitoring: FHO - 4/02/2018
5. Access Control System: FHO - 5/02/2018
6. CCTV / Surveillance System: FHO - 6/02/2018
7. Unified Communications & Wi-Fi: FHO - 7/02/2018

The scope of works is detailed in the tender documents which may be obtained as from 10:00 am on Monday, 26th February 2018, at FINCOP offices, (physical address below) on payment of a non-refundable deposit of E500.00 (cash payment only) for the tender package.

FINCOP
7th Floor, Dhanubeka Building
Corner of Mdada & Lalufadlana Streets
MBABANE

Please, note that there shall be no compulsory site inspection, however, should a Tenderer wish to familiarise himself with the site, then arrangements could be made upon request.

Tenders must be accompanied by the following documents:

Original receipt confirming payment for the tender documents, Proof of registration with CIC, Certified Valid Tax Compliance Certificate, Certified Valid Trading Licence, Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years, Company Profile with CV's of key personnel, Workmen's Compensation, Labour Compliance Certificate, Statement of joint ventures / partnerships (if tendering as a JV or partnership), Tender Bond, Names and contact details of at least three (3) recent reference customers.

Tenders are to be returned NOT LATER than Monday, 26th March 2018 @ 12 noon, deposited in the tender box at the physical address mentioned above. Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope, dated and marked "FINCOP HEAD OFFICES - INTEGRATED SECURITY SERVICES SYSTEM CONTRACT TENDER". No late submission will be accepted. No facsimile, E-mail or other forms of submission will be accepted except for the prescribed.

FINCOP does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender or any tender nor give any reason for the acceptance or rejection of a tender. For enquiries, please send tender queries to E-mail: sdfc@fincop.co.sz

By Chairman of the Tender Committee



World News

UN backs Syria ceasefire as death toll tops 500

NEW YORK - The UN Security Council has unanimously demanded a 30-day ceasefire in Syria, as new air strikes on the rebel enclave of Eastern Ghouta took the civilian death toll from seven days of bombing to more than 500.

With support from Russia, the Security Council adopted a resolution on the ceasefire to allow for humanitarian aid deliveries and medical evacuations, but the measure did not specify when the truce would go into force beyond saying it should be "without delay."

After the council vote on Saturday, Syrian warplanes backed by Russian air power launched new raids on a town in Eastern Ghouta, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

At least 127 children are among the 519 dead in the bombing campaign that the regime launched last Sunday on the rebel enclave, just outside Damascus, the British-based monitor said.

At least 41 civilians were killed in Saturday's strikes, including eight children. Russia has denied taking part in the assault.

Quickly following up on the vote, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke by phone yesterday with Russian President Vladimir Putin to push for the truce to take hold "in the coming days," the Elysee palace said in a statement.

To this end France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian will also go to Moscow tomorrow.

World leaders have expressed outrage at the plight of civilians in Eastern Ghouta.

The enclave is surrounded by government-controlled territory, and its 400,000 residents are unwilling or unable to flee the deadly siege. *Reuters*

US COURT BLOCKS TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FROM ENDING OIL, GAS WASTE RULE

WASHINGTON - A US court temporarily blocked the Trump administration from delaying or ending an Obama-era rule aimed at preventing oil and gas leaks during production, according to court documents, marking the fourth time either Congress or the courts have upheld the rule's implementation.

The US District Court for the Northern District of California, in an order filed on Thursday, granted the states of California and New Mexico's bid for a preliminary injunction and denied the administration's request to move the trial to another court venue in Wyoming.

Its decision was part of a lawsuit filed by the two western US states against US Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and the Bureau of Land Management in a case that was combined with another filed by a coalition of 17 groups, including the Sierra Club environmental advocacy organisation and several tribal groups.

The rule, finalised in November 2016, took effect in January 2017 and was aimed at reducing leaks of natural gas, or methane, that happen through venting and flaring during oil production on federal land. The Obama adminis-



BLOCKED: US President Donald Trump.

tration said that venting of methane cost taxpayers over \$330 million a year in lost revenues from natural gas.

In his ruling, US District Judge William Orrick said he granted the request for an injunction given that the bureau's "reasoning behind the Suspension Rule is untethered to evidence contradicting the reasons for implementing the Waste Prevention Rule," adding that the plaintiffs were likely to prevail on the merits of their case.

"They have shown irreparable

injury caused by the waste of publicly owned natural gas, increased air pollution and associated health impacts, and exacerbated climate impacts," the judge wrote in his decision.

Orrick also said the lawsuits addressed the administration's "alleged failure to justify a different rule," not the substance of the rule that is part of other legal issues before the US District Court of Wyoming. The Wyoming court has separately denied an injunction to block the rule.

Reuters

China seeks to scrap term limit, Xi could stay in office indefinitely

BEIJING - China's ruling Communist Party on Sunday set the stage for President Xi Jinping to stay in office indefinitely, with a proposal to remove a constitutional clause limiting presidential service to just two terms in office.

Xi, 64, is currently required by the country's Constitution to step down as president after two five-year terms. Nearing the end of his first term, he will be formally elected to a second at the annual meeting of China's largely rubber-stamp Parliament opening on March 5.

There is no limit on his tenure as the party and military chief, though a maximum 10-year term is the norm. He began his second term as head of the party and military in October at the end of a once-every-five-years party congress.

The announcement, carried by state news agency Xinhua, gave few details. It said the proposal had been made by the party's Central Committee, the largest of its elite ruling bodies. The proposal also covers the vice presi-



STAYING: President Xi Jinping.

dent position. "The Communist Party of China Central Committee proposed to remove the expression that the president and vice-president of the People's Republic of China 'shall serve no more than two consecutive terms' from the country's Constitution," Xinhua said.

Reuters

Beijing protests US sanctions on Chinese firms over North Korea ties

BEIJING - Beijing has protested against Washington's decision to impose sanctions against Chinese companies accused of conducting illicit economic deals with North Korea, the foreign ministry said.

US President Donald Trump last Friday announced measures targeting more than 50 North Korea-linked shipping companies, vessels and trade businesses, hailing the package as the "heaviest sanctions ever" levied on the nuclear-armed regime. The measures, which the US says are aimed at forcing Pyongyang to roll back its banned nuclear and weapons programmes, apply to companies located or registered in North Korea, China, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Marshall Islands, Tanzania, Panama and Comoros.

Washington has been locked in a nuclear standoff with Pyongyang,

which is trying to develop missiles that could deliver an atomic weapon to major US cities, and the sanctions are designed to put the squeeze on North Korea's already precarious economy and fuel supply.

"China is strongly opposed to the United States' long-arm jurisdiction and unilateral sanctions on Chinese entities and individuals," foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said on Saturday.

"We have lodged solemn representations to the United States and asked the US to immediately cease the wrong practice so as to avoid undermining relevant cooperation between the two sides," he added.

China, North Korea's only major ally, has steadfastly rebuffed Washington's calls for a full oil embargo - fearing the chaotic collapse of the Pyongyang regime - but has accepted caps agreed at the UN. *News24*

BRIEFS

Catholics protest bill to legalise divorce

MANILA - Around 2 000 Roman Catholic Filipinos protested in Manila on Saturday against a push to legalise divorce, with church groups also using the "Walk for Life" march to slam President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly drugs war. The pre-dawn protest was organised by church groups worried about the possible passage of a divorce bill, which is being championed by Duterte's allies in Congress. The Catholic Church counts about 80 per cent of Filipinos as followers, and its lobbying has helped to make the Philippines the only state in the world aside from the Vatican where divorce is illegal. Abortion and same sex marriage are also outlawed. *AFP*

Angry French farmers boo Macron

PARIS - France's Emmanuel Macron was booed by angry farmers on Saturday during his first visit as president to the country's main agricultural fair, amid rising discontent over producer prices, European Union trade talks and Chinese land purchases. Macron was greeted by jeering farmers and activists soon after his arrival at the southern Paris showground, before stopping to talk policy with a group of hecklers. Elected last May, France's centrist president has promised five billion euros (£4.4 billion) in agricultural investment as well as minimum farm prices to prevent producers selling at a loss. *Reuters*

'Party wants new customs union with EU'

LONDON - Britain's opposition Labour party will back staying in a new customs union with the European Union, its Brexit policy chief said - a move that would smooth the path of commerce with the bloc but limit Britain's ability to strike free trade deals with other countries. Keir Starmer said yesterday his party had agreed that if it wins power it should negotiate to create a new customs union with the bloc. His comments, to the BBC, were made ahead of a speech by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn yesterday when he is expected to clarify the party's position on Brexit. *Reuters*



Shooting survivors target NRA-linked companies

WASHINGTON - Survivors of a mass shooting at a Florida high school are hoping to expand the reach of their gun control movement by seeking a boycott of companies doing business with the NRA and urging tourists to boycott the Sunshine State. A growing number of companies have announced that they are cutting or reducing ties with the NRA. They are responding to a boycott movement on Twitter, where petitions are circulating against companies that offer discounts to NRA members. The NRA responded in an email on Saturday, calling the companies' actions "a shameful display of political and civic cowardice". *AFP*

Storms dump rain across US Midwest

KENTUCKY - A band of thunderstorms reaching across the lower Mississippi Valley into Ohio on Saturday killed a Kentucky woman in her home and threatened more flooding in an area that has already seen evacuations because of high water. The storm system packing hail, high winds and possible tornadoes was forecast to drop from five to 10 cm of rain by early Sunday from Arkansas into the Ohio Valley. Much of the area was under flash flood warnings or watches after being saturated by rain in the past week or so, the National Weather Service said. "It's a pretty high-impact event over a very large area," Bob Oravec, a forecaster with the agency's Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland, said by telephone. *Reuters*



- NEWS
- REVIEWS
- STAR SIGNS
- CELEBRITY WATCH
- CARTOONS

MS COSMO LIVES UP TO EXPECTATIONS

By Lusito Tsela

CHANNEL O lady spinner Ms Cosmo lived up to expectations during the re-launch of the classy and elegant Déjà Vu Cocktail Lounge at Esibayeni Lodge, Matsapha on Friday night.

The well attended re-launch saw the Aids Healthcare Foundation (AHF) under the leadership of Thulani Mtetwa giving away T-shirts, caps and condoms to fun lovers.

Fun lovers were not only treated to an eye-appealing revamped lounge but they also danced to different genres from different spinners in the likes of DJ Cece, Supa CDQ, Fantasy, Lungster, 1D and Master P to name a few.

Ms Cosmo who was the headliner of the show took the decks from DJ Fantasy at 1am and the dance floor came to life.

Mixed

The spinner mixed songs from different genres which included hip hop and deep house, with revellers dancing and screaming in appreciation of the latest tracks rendered by the DJ.

The spinner who is arguably one of South Africa's



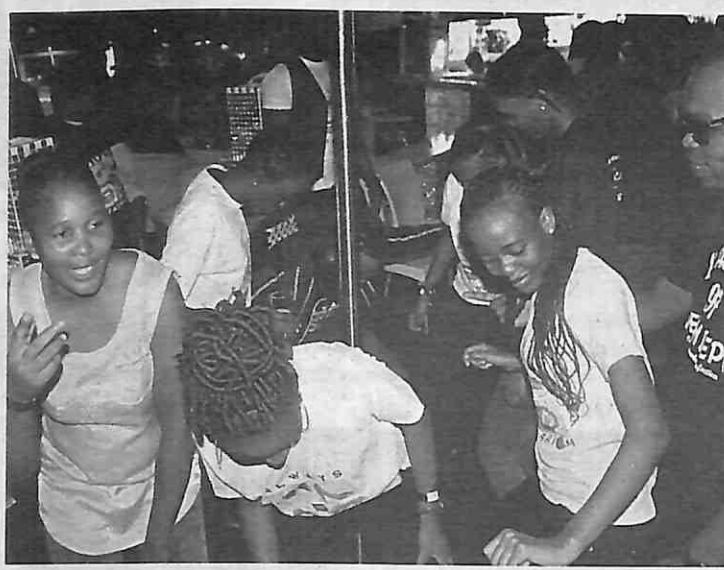
LET'S DANCE: Fans were having a great time on the dance floor.

hottest female DJs, in fact the first and only female DJ on Channel O Bassment rendered 'Baddest' by AKA, 'Particular' by Nasty C and got the VIP ticket holders dancing up a storm when she played 'formation' by Beyonce to name a few.

Whilst on the decks, the DJ got people taking selfies next to her, some recording her with their phones as she played.

All the deejays brought their A game and made the night worthy of being out.

EAR CANDY: DJ Mbo attended.



GO DOWN: These fans were having some fun on the dance floor as they danced to Ms Cosmo's music during the re-launch of the Déjà Vu Cocktail Lounge at Esibayeni Lodge last Friday Night. (Pic: Lusito Tsela)



THORN AMONGST ROSES: Illa Penboy with Bhela and Kiki Chester having a great time.

DOING HER THING



FEELING IT: Headliner Ms Cosmo feeling the track as she entertains revellers.



MASTER: DJ Master P getting the shoties dancing.



LADIES: Yolanda, Phoenix, Tyra, Wakhile, Nenekazi, Sandzi and Sakhile posing for the camera before the start of the re-launch.

LAUGHTER, THOUGHTS PROVOKED AT 'THE CHANGE' PLAY

By Nomfundo Sifundza

SHE became the change she wanted to see in the world.

The character of LaSimelane in the play 'The Change' that took place at the Swaziland Theatre Club for three consecutive days showcased how women could be the change they want to see in the world.

The play started off with a narration of how parliamentarian Absalom Mahlobo abused his wife LaSimelane physically and emotionally who later tipped the scales.

Mahlobo then felt his wife's wrath after she found out one of his 'grave' secrets.

The play that was made possible by the Association of Swaziland Theatre Groups (ASTG) in partnership with the Swaziland Theatre Club and Arterial Network showcased how sometimes the very people in power that are meant to make laws against Gender Based Violence are the ones abusing their significant others.

Mahlobo is a parliamentarian who obtained

his power by killing his first born son with the aid of an *Inyang* he has to pay a whooping E10 000 in order for him to return and maintain his seat in Parliament.

He has two wives but comes home to introduce his new girlfriend to his wife LaSimelane who is supposed to tend to the new woman and respect her in their 'mans' presence.

It is after Mahlobo has left for work that LaSimelane confronts the new girlfriend and makes her understand that women are causing their own problems in this life.

"If this was your husband bringing another woman home, how would you feel? Yet here you are in my bed and expecting me to tend to you," she asked.

Speaking to attendees that had attended the play from Thursday whilst others picked between Friday and Saturday to attend, the play was a good start for the resurrection of theatre groups in the country.

ASTG Secretary Thembinkosi 'TeeKay' Mthethwa said theatre fanatics should look forward to more plays as it is on their mandate to host one play every month for the rest of the year.



THANK YOU: The cast of 'The Change' play about to take a bow at the end of the three-day long showcase at the Swaziland Theatre Club on Saturday. (Pics: Nomfundo Sifundza)



THOKOZA: The sangoma in action before visitation by Mahlobo.



CONSULTING: Mahlobo requesting for more means to return to Parliament from his inyanga.



IN THE ACT: Mahlobo shocked as he finds his wife undressing another man who is a journalist.



IN ACTION: Parliamentarian Absalom Mahlobo preparing for his wife LaSimelane to sit on the couch after she flipped the script on him.



RADIO: Journalist Jabulani tries to adjust his radio, a scene which was played by Mahlobo.

I'LL KILL YOU: Mahlobo physically abusing his wife LaSimelane.

ALSO THERE: The audience paying attention to the play.



COULD NOT MISS OUT: A section of musicians at the show.



FAMILY: Archie Magwaza came with his wife Sandzisile and son.



SPLENDID: Tlale doing the most during his first set as he was rendering tunes from his latest album dubbed 'Swazi Gold'.

Tlale Makhene delivers splendid performance

By Ayanda Dlamini

SPLENDID is the right word to describe Tlale Makhene's performance during his one man show on Saturday at The Place, Manzini.

Tlale's performance was basically a sort of healing through his magnificent art and lyrics of his songs.

His rendition included songs from his first album and the latest dubbed 'Swazi Gold' which he dedicates to Swazis where he was bred.

He thrilled the handful audience when he performed his 'Swazi Gold' as an album that tackles on the Swazi nation and how beautiful the Swazi culture is.

It would not have been a Tlale Makhene performance without the rendition of 'Mswati UyiNkhosi KaHhohho', a public domain traditional tune.

Gracing the percussionist's performance was Itallo, Bahle Art Gallery

owner Archie Magwaza and his family, rapper KrTC, Actress Lenyelenhle Malaza, singer Khole and artist Honest Mhlanga who was on his game making a beautiful portrait of Makhene on the side whilst he was performing.

Speaking to the show's organiser Legendary Event's Nelisa Lawton, the show was basically not for a crowd but a select few as most people do not know the South African based singer.

"Our shows are basically not for the many but a few. I mean each and every show we do; we do it for 20 to 30 people. We really do not expect over 100 people for example. We are a platform for these artists to shine and expose their talent," said the event organiser.

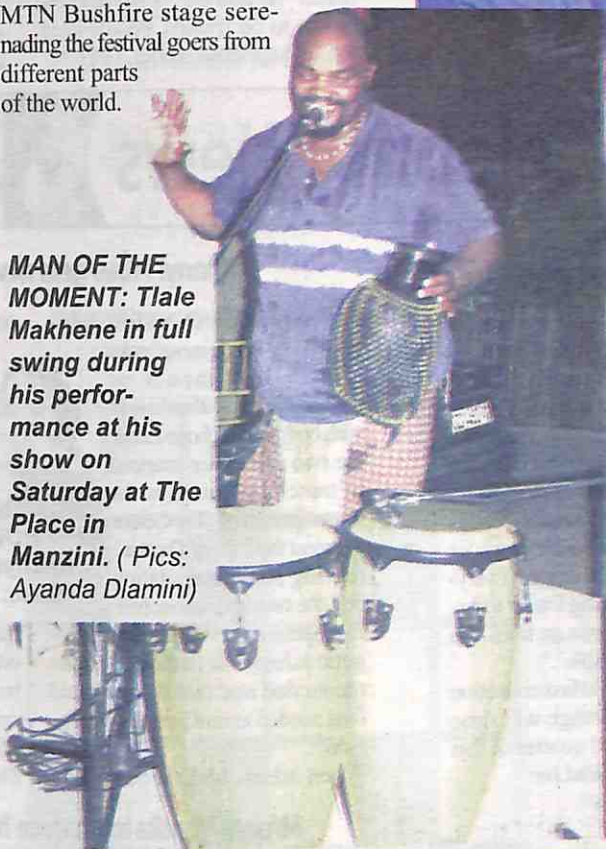
Worth noting is that almost similar show with Tlale was hosted last year at Bahle Art Gallery and attendees were impressed with Tlale's rendition as he did his best despite the loss of his wife at the that time.

"Mbabane-Manzini is our main corridor. If we are not hosting anything

here at The Place, we at Bahle Art Gallery in Mbabane. Last year we hosted Tlale at Bahle and today we are here. We want people to know our artists. We are still going to have a series of such shows where different artists with deep artistic spirit will come and serenade us," said Lawton.

Tlale Mkhene will also be at the MTN Bushfire stage serenading the festival goers from different parts of the world.

MAN OF THE MOMENT: Tlale Makhene in full swing during his performance at his show on Saturday at The Place in Manzini. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



ART: Artist Honest Mhlanga doing what he does best during Tlale's performance.



ALSO THERE: Actress and dancer Lenyelenhle Malaza was also at the show.



HAPPY MOMENT: Sanele Simelane and Zenande Simelane enjoying every single moment at the show.



MUSIC LOVERS: Khole spotted at the show with friends.



FRIENDSHIP: "Legendary Events" Nelisa Lawton and Itallo Dlamini having a light moment at the show.

International
Celebrity News

Keisha Cole dating 20-year-old fan

LOS ANGELES - Media TakeOut.com learned that R&B singer Keyshia Cole (36) has a new man, and he's one of her fans.

He's only 20 years old and an aspiring rapper.

So how did they meet? Well, dude slid into Keyshia's direct message's and tried his luck. Next thing you know, they're in love!

Keyshia Cole has not had the best history when it comes to her relationships. Her relationship with former NBA player and Love



DATING FAN: Keisha Cole.

& Hip Hop Hollywood star, Daniel 'Booby' Gibson fell to pieces after Booby could not remain faithful. Despite him desperately trying to reconnect with his wife to give their marriage another try, Keyshia was done.

She also enjoyed a brief relationship with Toni Braxton's current beau, Cash Money bossman Birdman. That also ended explosively when Keyshia Cole caught him in the act with another female and beat the woman to a pulp!

MTO

Model Emily Ratajkowski married!!!

NEW YORK - Emily Ratajkowski just pulled a fast one getting hitched in an NYC courthouse to her boyfriend of just a few weeks with only a couple of friends there to see it.

Ratajkowski and new hubby Sebastian Bear-McClard were spotted at City Hall last Friday with friends in tow. In fact, one of those friends who served as a witness to the wedding was social media star 'The Fat Jewish'.

Emily surprised fans with the announcement on her page, post-



JUST MARRIED: Emily and Sebastian.

ing a pic with Sebastian and revealing she's a missus now.

Reports surfaced just a couple weeks ago speculating the model was no longer with longtime boyfriend Jeff Magid. It became pretty obvious she and Magid were kaput after pics showing Emily and Sebastian making out on Valentine's Day surfaced.

Ratajkowski first gained fame when she appeared topless in Robin Thicke's 'Blurred Lines' music video.

TMZ

Blac Chyna lawyers get death threats

LOS ANGELES - Blac Chyna is certainly one to evoke emotion, because her lawyers have been the target of death threats and now the LAPD is on the case. TMZ has learned her attorneys, Lisa Bloom and Walter Mosley, have been getting emails and Instagram messages threatening their lives and the lives of their families because they chose to represent Chyna and refused to pass a letter on to her. Bloom received several threatening emails, one read, "My member is searching for you. If he finds you I gave him instructions already not to kill you but beat you bloody."



DEATH THREATS: Blac Chyna and her lawyer Lisa Bloom.

The messages also mentioned Lisa's daughter, "I will have five men rape your daughter at gunpoint by the end of this week."

TMZ

Mogul Jermaine Dupri finally fixes his teeth

NEW YORK - It's been a long time coming - but music mogul Jermaine Dupri got his teeth

fixed. He's been walking around with a YUCK mouth for more than a decade.

Dupri is currently starring in TWO reality television shows, The Rap Game and Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta. He was also recently linked to his ex-girlfriend, Janet Jackson, but was forced to shut down the rumours.

"I never knew us not to be friends. These stories are just all over the place," he told ET. "I never knew us not to be friends. People keep making up these stories."



FIXES HIS TEETH: Jermaine Dupri.

You cannot be on television with jacked up teeth, so his new regular spot on these shows was probably a motivating factor for his decision to fix them.

Last week, the So So Def Founder will be celebrating the label's 25th anniversary this summer by releasing a 'So So Def 25' anniversary album.

MTO

SA Celebrity News

Lady Zamar to launch her own fashion range

JOHANNESBURG - Musician Lady Zamar slayed 2017 with her hits but is planning to spread her wings with the launch of a fashion range and reality show in the next few months.

The 'Love is Blind' hit-maker has always had an eye for fashion and has arrived at gigs in unique outfits. She said she is ready to share her design secrets with a range of clothing created by her.

My range, Pin Naple, has been in the works



MONEY MOVES: Lady Zamar.

for some time. We make really high-end clothing for evening events or custom outfits for special occasions. It has different sections and lines. I am the chief designer but there are assistant designers and seamstresses who help make the dresses. Everything I wear to my shows are from 'Pin Naple'."

The first collection from her range will drop in the third quarter of this year. TshisaLive

Emtee buys his father a new car

JOHANNESBURG - Local rapper Emtee calls buying his father a car "a dream come true."

The muso, along with his brother, spoiled his dad with a new Ford Ranger.

"Me and lil brother @cash_lordlove_atm got a whip for our father. Another one of my dreams came true. Thank You Lord," Emtee wrote on Instagram.

Drum



DREAM COMES TRUE: Rapper Emtee.

Khanyi Mbau gets new role on 'Uzalo'

JOHANNESBURG - While news broke last month of Khanyi Mbau's split with boyfriend Tebogo Lerole the two were later snapped in matching outfits at the opening night of 'The Colour Purple' at the Joburg Theatre, leaving some speculating that the two had reconciled.

But, speaking to DRUM, an apologetic Khanyi says they have not reconciled and that disappointed fans needed to understand her decision.

When asked about the possibility



NEW ROLE: Khanyi Mbau.

of giving the relationship a second chance, Khanyi said, "I am open to anything. As a person I never say 'never'. Don't hate me, *hambani nami* (walk with me), give love and joy. I make mistakes like everyone else and my fans need to understand that I am not perfect."

On a happier note, Khanyi has started shooting her new role on Uzalo. She plays MaNgcobo's beautiful, sexy and slightly unhinged criminal cousin, Dinekile aka Lady Die.

Drum

Mfundu Vundla to produce historical Xhosa drama

JOHANNESBURG - Generations creator Mfundu Vundla has confirmed to TshisaLive that he is currently writing a historical Xhosa drama to be aired on M-Net. The award-winning producer was recently approached by the broadcaster to create a pre-colonial drama. He chose to craft the series around the book House of Phalo by South African writer JB Peires. The book tells the story of the rise of the 18th century Xhosa kingdom under Phalo and their way of life prior to colonialism. Mfundu told TshisaLive he

was struck by the strong message the book told of African independence and growth and he wanted to translate this on screen.

"I want to tell a story before conquest. To show that Africa existed long before the white man arrived. That the white man was the one who was seen as uncivilised. I want to show that Africa before colonisation was a place of beauty and industry. More than that, I want Africans to know that our history started before the white man and before oppression."

Sowetan

HISTORICAL DRAMA: Mfundu Vundla.

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY



FACE REALITY: Mphiyakhe, Judas and Qaphela's family.

The aftermath of the violent battle leaves a bloody and shocked group of survivors. Although revenge sounds sweet, now they have to face reality.

ISIDINGO

TODAY

Does Nikiwe have any chance of surviving Nina's onslaught? Lerato pleads with Sechaba to get their marriage back on track. Anja has high hopes for her and Ben despite Wendy's warnings.



ONSLAUGHT: Nikiwe.

Muvhango

TODAY



Vhutshilo sees a dark side to Koranani. Rashaka reads Gugu's mind. Azwindini and Livhuwani grow closer.

READS GUGU'S MIND: Rashaka.

RHYTHM CITY

TODAY



MOVES: Puleng.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Today's compassionate connection between the moon in your relationship sector and sensitive Neptune in your communication corner deepens your bonds. You don't have to give until it hurts to prove that you care. Just spend quality one-on-one time together without distractions or multitasking. If it's too hard to lock down an in-person meetup, carve out time for a call or video chat. The point is to catch up in a meaningful way.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

Perk up your daily duties by infusing them with novelty and pleasure. Today's creative moon-Neptune trine inspires you to sprinkle magic into the monotonous routines. How can you make your workday more enjoyable? Nurturing breaks will pay dividends—especially if you get up and move. Keep a stash of healthy snacks instead of chugging bottomless brews from the office coffee dispenser.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

When you look good, you feel good, Pisces! As your co-ruler, Neptune, makes a harmonious trine with the glamorous Cancer moon, you can make small but significant changes to your appearance. If your wardrobe needs a refresh, use the lunch hour to comb through the sale racks or to steal a deal from a favorite shopping site. If you're craving a new 'do, make an appointment with your stylist for a cut or new color.



Aries March 21 – April 19

Go ahead, Aries—show the world you've got a sensitive side. Your fast-paced style can come across as abrasive, but the truth is, you're just on a mission. Take the day off from get-'er-done mode and connect with people, even if it takes a little longer than planned. With an easy moon-Neptune trine activating your chart's compassionate quarters, those heartfelt and humanising moments can solidify an important bond.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

Witty words are impressive, Taurus. But if you want to win friends and influence people, practice the art of "active listening." Put the phone down when someone's talking and give them your undivided attention. Don't rush in with quick-fix advice or assume you already know what they're going to say.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

Enough with the "aw shucks" routine, Gemini. As enchanting Neptune in your career corner teams up with the moon in your money zone today, show the powers that be what you're made of.



Gather evidence to support your claims so you don't come across as boastful.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

You're a "safe space" for people, Cancer, and that superpower can make all the difference today. Has Team Crab been resistant or slacking on their duties? A harmonious trine between the Cancer moon and empathic Neptune helps you break down walls with a personal touch. You don't have to let anyone off the hook or do their work for them. Just check in and show that you actually care.



Leo July 23 – August 22

If someone tells you to take off your rose-tinted aviators, don't do it! Today brings a harmonious trine between the most sensitive planets, Neptune and the moon, in the most compassionate and intuitive sectors of your chart. Your optimism and ability to see people's best qualities will give you a competitive edge.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

Is trouble brewing on Team Virgo? If you sense dissension among the ranks, nip this problem area in the bud before it snowballs. Today's flowing trine between the intuitive moon in your collaborative eleventh house and compassionate Neptune gives you the wisdom and patience needed to get things back on an even keel—without putting anyone on the defensive. Rally the troops and fearlessly address the issue.



Libra September 23 – October 23

All for one, and one for all! Today's supportive moon-Neptune meetup in your work zones primes you for shared success. Adopt an attitude of service rather than entitlement if you want doors to open. Use your diplomatic prowess to connect with VIPs and influencers in your field. Select one person whose work and style you admire and see if they'll take you under their wing. Get in this person's good graces by (genuinely!) offering to help on a project.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

Widen your search radius, Scorpio. With the moon in your global ninth house sweetly angled to Neptune in your playful fifth house, you're eager for horizon-broadening adventures. The farther you trek outside your familiar zone, the better! Start researching winter travel deals.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

Don't hold back, Archer! Today's harmonious trine between compassionate Neptune and the moon in your sentimental sector encourages you to open up and express your feelings.

BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



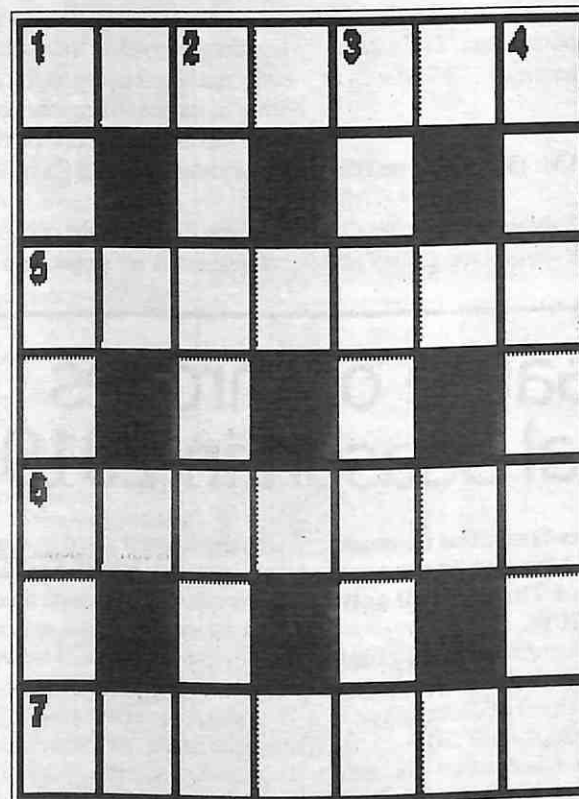
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MINI CROSSWORD - 06

PUZZLE CHOICE

Main Crossword Menu Home
Mini Crossword Menu



DOWN

1. Mythical half man, half horse
2. React
3. Paradise
4. Write music

ACROSS

1. Long-standing and recurrent
5. Panacea
6. Pear-shaped tropical fruit
7. Beam

ONLY THE APPLES



THE children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples.

The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is

watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

USELESS FACTS

1. No one really knows when donuts were invented or who invented them.
2. Apples, potatoes, and onions all taste the same when eaten with your nose plugged.
3. When an egg floats in water, it is "off" and should not be eaten.
4. The consumption of natural vanilla causes the body to release catecholamines (including adrenaline) – for this reason it is considered to be mildly addictive.
5. Banana trees are not actually trees – they are giant herbs.

BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FRIDAY'S BRAINTEASERS

1. I'm tall when I'm young and I'm short when I'm old.

Answer: Human

2. What am I? What has hands but can not clap?

Answer: Clock

TODAY'S BRAINTEASERS

1. What is at the end of a rainbow?
2. What starts with the letter "t", is filled with "t" and ends in "t"?



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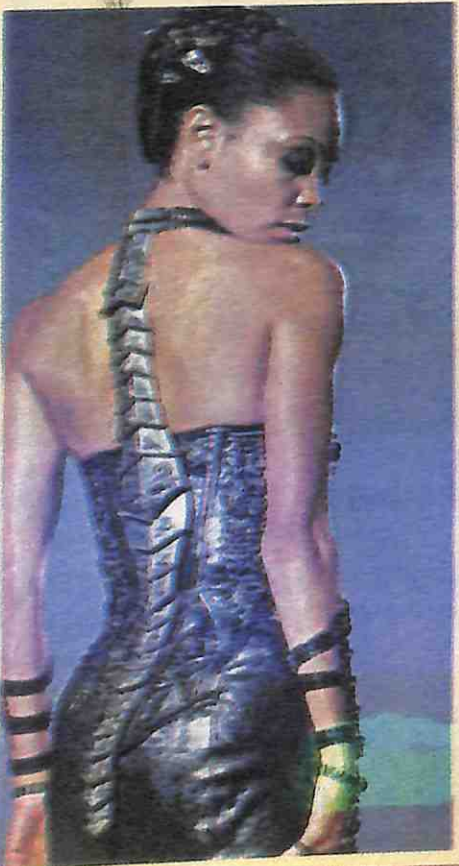
Westworld overtakes Game of Thrones

FANS of Westworld will be thrilled to know that the much awaited second season will be coming to M-Net later this year.

We caught a brief glimpse of what could be expected when HBO released a teaser trailer at Comic-Con during the Westworld panel session last July. Building on the anticipation, they then played the below trailer during Super Bowl this year.

It makes sense that HBO would invest so heavily in the show as it is their most-watched freshman show – ever, even outperforming “the biggest show in the world”, Game of Thrones’ debut! With a star-studded cast, including Evan Rachel Wood (Multi Golden Globe & Emmy nominee, also known for The Westwing, True Blood), Thandie Newton (Golden Globe, Emmy, BAFTA nominee, also known for Crash, For Colored Girls), Anthony Hopkins (Transformers: Last Knight, The Silence of the Lambs) and Luke Hemsworth (SAG nominee also known for Hickok, Thor: Ragnarok and Thor: The Dark World – there are three Hemsworth brothers!) to mention a few, it’s no wonder!

If you missed the first season, or if you want to remind yourself of the twists and turns, now is the time to binge, in preparation for the second season – watch all ten episodes from the first season of Westworld on Showmax available to DStv Premium customers at no extra cost. And if you want to make the comparison between HBO’s two top performers for yourself, visit Westeros, via Showmax and binge all seven seasons of Game of Thrones, to ensure you have an informed opinion, of course!



NEW GAMESHOW CANNON BALL

Stream Cannonball on ITV Choice with DStv Now.

Cannonball, a brand new, adrenaline-fuelled gameshow, hosted by legendary cricketer and broadcaster, Andrew ‘Freddie’ Flintoff, is set to premiere on ITV Choice (DStv channel 123) 1 March at 20:00.

STREAM: ITV Choice on DStv Now

On each show, contestants of all ages face supersized games in a

custom-built water park that tests how high, how far and how fast they can fly through the air, before they crash, splash, bang and wallop into the water. The final will see contestants on a giant swing, launching themselves ‘cannonball-style’ at a huge moving target covering the surface of a gigantic deep-water tank as they attempt to become the winner of the coveted Cannonball Cup.

Joining Flintoff as the pool side commentators are singer Frankie

Bridge, presenters Radzi Chinyanganya and Maya Jama and comedian Ryan Hand who will be reporting on all the action.

Each week, 24 contestants will attempt all four water based challenges that will test their speed, accuracy, height and distance.

The challengers will rotate around the Cannonball course as they battle to be the winner of each game, gaining medals for their achievement. The three people with the most medals at the end of the heats will then go head to head in the

final.

“What’s not to love about this show? Gallons of water and giant inflatable slides are the perfect recipe for some spectacular comedy moments. But also throw into the mix some truly incredible feats from the contestants,” said Flintoff.

This review in the UK’s Guardian newspaper:

“This is what television should be about: finding imaginative ways of putting grandmothers, cabbies, students, PE teachers and a former Miss Bournemouth into the water, from the highest possible height, with the least amount of dignity and the biggest possible splash.

(Contestants) are skimmed across the surface of the water like flat stones and launched down a gigantic, inflatable ski-jump slide. All for your entertainment. It’s certainly going down well in our house. My boys ... think it’s the best thing. They want to go to Malta to have a go themselves. Even their mother manages a smile.”

Game of thrones final season in 2019

HBO has confirmed that the much anticipated 8th and final season of Game of Thrones will only return in 2019.

HBO has confirmed that the final season of its flagship award-winning series Game of Thrones won’t be coming back until 2019.

The 8th and final season went into production in October and is expected to be completed in the middle of 2018, before being released in 2019. The month has not been confirmed.

The Emmy-winning hit series has grown in popularity every year, becoming a global megahit. Season

7 was the highest rated season, breaking records with 16.5 million viewers watching the season finale. It was the most-watched episode in series history, with 12.1 million viewers steaming as it aired.

It’s going to be a long wait for the end of the fantasy epic saga. Casey Bloys, HBO President, reveals that the vision for the grand finale is far more complicated than in prior years.

The six episodes will each be feature length, and while the episode count has decreased, the runtime will not. Traditionally episodes have been an hour long, but the



final season episodes are expected to be around 80 minutes each. The final episode length is still under discussion, but as Casey Bloys says, “Two hours per episode seems like it would be excessive, but it’s a

great show, so who knows?”

Seasons 1 - 7 are available on Showmax, so you can relive your favourite moments as well as recap on all the details ahead of the new season.

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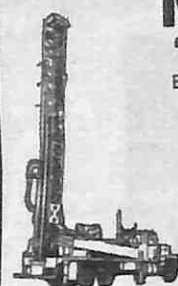
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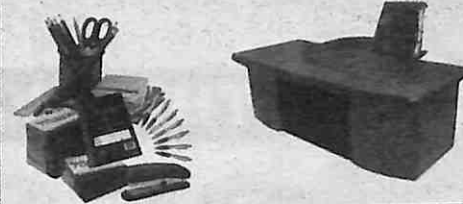
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TIGER WOODS SAYS 69 GIVES HIM A SHOT AT HONDA CLASSIC

MIAMI - Tiger Woods fired a one-under par 69 in the third round of the Honda Classic on Saturday, and said the first sub-70 round of his comeback gives him a shot at leader Luke List.

List carded a four-under par 66 at PGA National for a seven-under par total of 203.

Woods, seven shots back on even par 210, insisted he wasn't out of the running on the demanding course in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

"I put myself where I've got a shot going into tomorrow," Woods said. "I'm going to have to shoot something under par for sure. If I can go ahead and post a number early, you just never know."

The 14-time major champion notched his first score in the 60s in nine rounds this year.

In fact, it's his first score in the 60s on the US PGA Tour since he carded a 68 in the third round of the 2015 Wyndham Championship. Since then, debilitating

back trouble had seen Woods largely sidelined. He missed all of 2016 before an abortive comeback bid in 2017 ended with spinal fusion surgery last April.

So far in his latest comeback he's finished tied for 23rd at Torrey Pines and missed the cut last week in Los Angeles.

But Saturday's round had him feeling optimistic.

"That's probably the highest score I could have shot today," Woods said. "I really hit it good."

Woods who hit nine of 14 fairways and 13 of 18 greens in regulation.

"The hard part has been trying to get the ball to go in the hole," Woods said.

"These greens are a little tricky." Woods made his first birdie at the

eight, where he was in the fairway off the tee and struck his approach within six feet. The birdie putt him just three shots off the lead.

After he was unable to convert birdie chances at 10 and 11, he rolled in a 20-footer to save par at the 12th.

He drained a 14-footer for birdie at 13, but was in the rough off the tee at the par-three 15th and was unable to get up and down for par after his chip caught the fringe.

He missed the green en route to a bogey at 17, but rebounded with a birdie on the par-five 18th despite finding a fairway bunker off the tee.

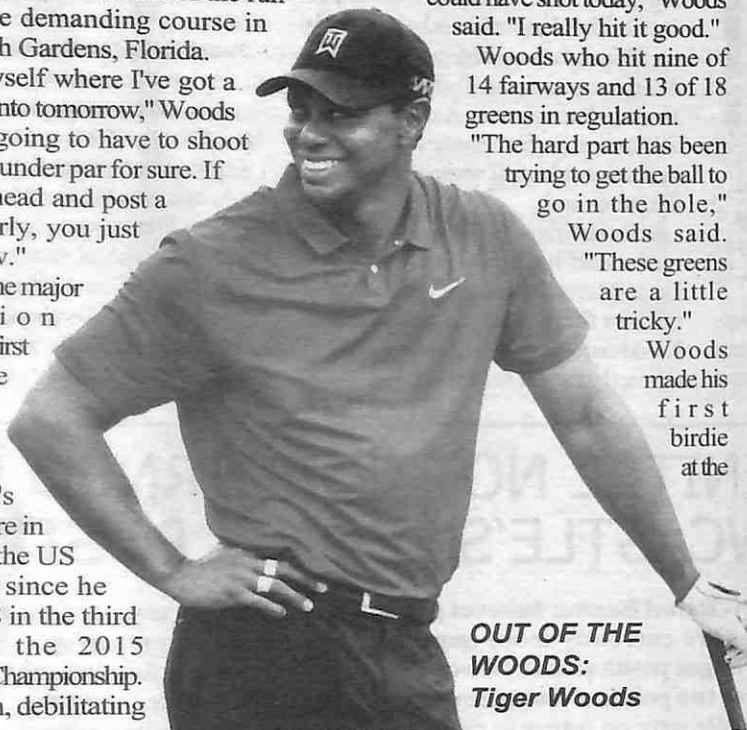
List seized sole possession of the lead with a birdie from a greenside bunker at the par-five 18th - rebounding from a bogey at 17.

His second straight 66 put him one stroke in front of reigning PGA Champion Justin Thomas and former US Open winner Webb Simpson.

Thomas's five-under 65 was a seven-stroke improvement on his second-round 72. Simpson, who also shot 72 on Friday, carded a 66.

"The course played a fair bit easier, not as much wind," said Thomas, who had four of his six birdies on PGA National's tough back nine. "I'm playing real well, I just had a little more to show for it today."

AFP



OUT OF THE WOODS: Tiger Woods

Lewandowski's 'heard nothing' from Real Madrid

BERLIN - Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski has rubbished reports suggesting a change of agent means he is off to Real Madrid, with no contact received from Spain.

The prolific Pole has turned to 'super agent' Pini Zahavi to manage his career, with the Israeli taking on one of the most sought-after talents in world football.

Lewandowski is enjoying another productive season at club level, with the 20-goal mark reached in the Bundesliga for a third successive year and the sixth time in seven years spread across

spells at Bayern and Borussia Dortmund.

It is those exploits which continue to see him linked with big-money moves elsewhere, with reports of interest from Madrid refusing to go away.

The 29-year-old has, however, once again moved to distance himself from the rumours

and play down the importance of a change in representative, telling reporters: "No, that [agent change] has nothing to do with this speculation."

"I haven't heard anything from Real Madrid, I don't know whether my agent has and people will write what they want, but it doesn't interest me."

Lewandowski drew a rare blank in his latest outing, as Bayern were held to a goalless draw by Hertha Berlin, but he remains a talismanic presence in Munich.

With that in mind,

t h e

Bundesliga

leaders have

no intention of

sanctioning a

sale, with Man-

ager Jupp

Heynckes hav-

ing said of the

incessant transfer

talk: "A player is

allowed to change

his agent, it doesn't

mean anything.

"Bayern want to - and

will - keep our top play-

ers."

Zahavi has also played

down the Real reports,

with no talks held with

the La Liga giants at

this stage. *Daily Mail*



Russians sing banned anthem after beating Germany to gold

ANGNEUNG - Kirill Kaprizov scored in overtime to lead the Olympic Athletes from Russia (OAR) past a feisty Germany 4-3 yesterday to win the men's ice hockey gold before joining his team mates to defy a ban by singing the Russian national anthem during the medal ceremony.

The Russians, competing as neutral athletes at Pyeongchang as punishment for a years-long Russian doping scandal, came back from one-goal down on a goal by Nikita Gusev with less than a minute left in regulation time to force overtime in one of the most pulsating finals in the history of Olympic hockey.

At their medal ceremony, the players team sang the Russian anthem over the sound of the Olympic anthem at the

Gangneung Hockey Centre despite being barred from having their flag raised or anthem played.

The game was played hours after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided not to restore their delegation's Olympic status, which would have enabled them to march under their flag at the closing ceremony later yesterday.

The team's assistant captain Ilya Kovalchuk said the players had discussed beforehand whether to sing the anthem if they were to win, and they agreed they would.

"We knew that we will do it if we win," said Kovalchuk, the all-time leading Russian goal-scorer in Olympic play.

Singing the Russian anthem on the field of play is a violation of the IOC's

rules on neutrality, which were imposed on Russia as part of sanctions punishing the nation over systematic doping across many sports.

The victory marked the first time a team from Russia have won the gold medal in hockey since 1992 when the so-called Unified Team representing Russia and five other former Soviet republics beat Canada for the Olympic championship.

"It means a lot. We didn't win Olympics since '92," Kovalchuk said. "It was a while ago. That was our dream. That was my dream for when I was five years old when I started playing."

AFP

'I love my playboy lifestyle and won't change'

LONDON - The Gunners' record signing has vowed to continue enjoying fast cars and garish clothes as he places little importance on the opinion of others

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has vowed to continue his playboy lifestyle at Arsenal, with fast cars and outlandish clothes part of a £55 million package.

The Gunners broke their transfer record to land the flamboyant Gabon international striker on the final day of the January transfer window. Pushing through a deal before the deadline allowed Arsene Wenger to bring a proven performer onto his books, but one who had faced criticism for his attitude during a goal-laden spell



Pierre Emerick Aubameyang (Arsenal) London Home Luxury Car Collection

at Borussia Dortmund. *Daily Mail*

Anderson is not slowing ATP ascent

JOHANNESBURG - After breaking into the top 10 Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) world rankings, experts believe Kevin Anderson's tennis standing could still improve.

Winning the New York Open last week earned the South African tennis player 250 points. This was enough to see him reach his career best position as he jumped from number 11 to nine in the latest singles rankings.

The 31-year-old's previous best ranking was at number 10 back in 2015.

Former ATP player and Tennis SA high performance consultant coach Jeff Coetzee believes Anderson can still go up a few spots.

"Looking at the number of points separating him from those above him, I think he can

close the gap and overtake some of them," said Coetzee.

"But to get to position five or six will be a huge task, unless he wins the Indian Wells and Miami Masters because they have more points. He just has to keep looking after his body and be smart when winning. [He must] not chase points all the time, but be fresh and peak in the bigger events," he added.

However, he said Anderson's chances of reaching the number one spot were slim.

"That is a very tough task that can only be achieved by winning at least two grand slams this year and being consistent in the third slam." Tennis analyst Bruce Davidson said Anderson's chances of a higher ranking would depend on his fitness.

"I think he can get to sixth place, but he has to be consistent," said Davidson.

He said the elbow injury that has plagued the tennis star could scupper his chances of capitalising on the upcoming tournaments. "There are the Miami Open, Indian Wells and Cincinnati Masters coming up, which he could do well in. But he is not 100 per cent fit, which is what concerns me," Davidson said. Anderson had to pull out of the Delray Beach Open owing to an injury he suffered during the New York Open final, in which he beat Sam Querrey 4-6, 6-3 and 7-6. *Sport24*





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KANE NETS LATE WINNER

LONDON - Harry Kane netted his 150th goal in club football as a late header claimed a vital 1-0 victory for Tottenham against Crystal Palace, handing a hammer blow to the Eagles' bid for Premier League survival in the process.

Having missed a gilt-edged opportunity earlier in the second half, Kane made amends in the 88th minute of yesterday's clash at Selhurst Park, powering home a brilliant header from Christian Eriksen's corner.

Mauricio Pochettino's side had dominated throughout, but often struggled to break down Palace's stubborn defence.

Eriksen did manage to carve out an opening in the 54th minute, only for Kane to volley wide from inside the six-yard



HEADER: Kane peeled away at the back post and was fortunate that his firm header met a weak hand from the goalkeeper and went in.

It was Kane's second big opportunity of the game, with Wayne Hennessey having pulled off an excellent stop to deny the Premier League's leading

scorer early on.

Palace's injury woes were compounded late on when defender James Tomkins went down in innocuous

fashion, and his absence was felt when Kane finally headed home the winner with the final whistle fast approaching. Palace were fortunate not to concede a penalty inside eight minutes - Hennessey's indecision almost proving costly when he brought down Ben Davies, but Kevin Friend waved play on. Hennessey atoned moments later, though, rushing out to deny Kane following Patrick van Aanholt's poor clearance, before James McArthur saw a goal-bound strike blocked at the other end.

Referee Friend did point to the spot on the half-hour mark after Timothy Fosu-Mensah brought down Kane, only for the official to quickly change his decision with the linesman's flag correctly raised for offside.

For all Tottenham's domination, Palace could have snatched the lead when Andros Townsend broke clear of his marker just prior to half-time, but the winger failed to generate enough power on his effort to beat Hugo Lloris.

Tottenham continued on the front foot after the restart, and Eriksen should have done better with a close-range effort five minutes into the second half, but it was Kane who wasted the best opportunity of the game soon after.

Aurier and Eriksen combined superbly to tee up the England striker, who - despite being unmarked - somehow failed to convert from five yards out.

Former Paris-Saint Germain defender Aurier was the next to try his luck, forcing Hennessey into a fine save with a venomous strike.

The Ivory Coast international was involved at the other end shortly after, doing brilliantly to deny Alexander Sorloth. *Daily Mail*

BENITEZ NOT CONCERNED BY NEWCASTLE'S LEAGUE POSITION

LONDON - Rafael Benitez believes performances are currently more important than league position after Newcastle threw away two points at Bournemouth.

The Magpies were on course to climb to 11th in the Premier League table after Dwight Gayle's first-half double gave them a deserved 2-0 lead at the Vitality Stadium.

However, a late collapse saw them concede twice in the final 10 minutes to leave them in 15th place, just two points above the relegation zone.

Newcastle's display on the south coast - which followed a surprise victory over Manchester United - was largely positive and Manager Benitez feels his players are showing they

have the ability to avoid an immediate return to the Championship.

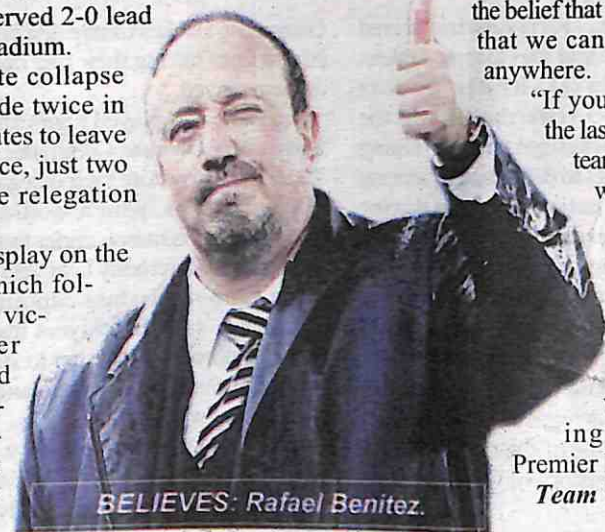
"The main thing for me is not just where you are in the table," said the Spaniard.

"You have to realise where you are but it's to be sure that the team continue fighting, playing well and with the belief that we can win, that we can get points anywhere.

"If you talk about the last games, the team was doing well, really well.

We can make mistakes because at the end we're talking about the Premier League.

Team Talk



BELIEVES: Rafael Benitez.

Pogba to stay at Manchester United

MANCHESTER - Paul Pogba is reportedly ready to stay at Manchester United but only if Jose Mourinho is no longer in charge at Old Trafford.

The relationship between the two is said to have reached breaking point after Mourinho axed the £89million midfielder earlier this month.

Pogba's super agent Mino Raiola is already understood to be in talks with Real Madrid over a summer escape plan, while his former club Juventus also have a £53m buy-back clause.

A United source told the Sun yesterday: "Things are at an all-time low between them. Paul has made it clear he doesn't want to be there if Mourinho is." Mourinho only recently com-

mitted himself to United until 2020, although the former Chelsea and Real Madrid chief remains under huge pressure to secure the Red Devils a top-four spot in the remaining months of the season.

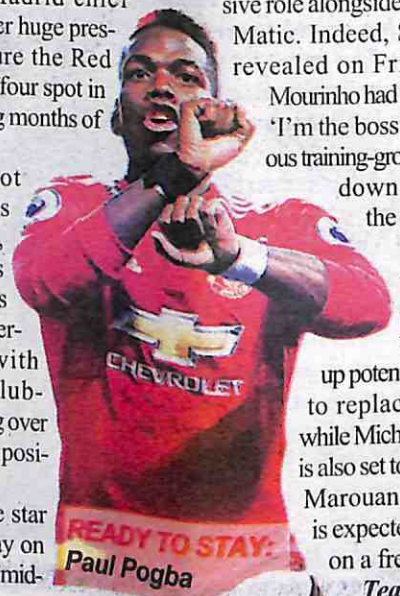
That is not Mourinho's only problem, however, as he continues to be at loggerheads with United's club-record signing over Pogba's best position.

The France star prefers to play on the left side of mid-

field in a 4-3-3 but has often been asked to play a more defensive role alongside Nemanja Matic. Indeed, SunSport revealed on Friday that Mourinho had told Pogba 'I'm the boss' in a furious training-ground showdown between the pair.

United are already said to be weighing up potential options to replace Pogba, while Michael Carrick is also set to retire and Marouane Fellaini is expected to leave on a free.

Team Talk



READY TO STAY: Paul Pogba



INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF VARIOUS SEWING MACHINES for KA-GCINA ARMY BARRACKS

Tenderers are invited from locally registered companies for the Supply, delivery and installation of various Sewing machines for KaGcina Army Barracks. Only firms that are knowledgeable about the Textile Industry and have previous relevant experience will be considered. Supplier shall submit with their tender references from garment factories, proof of capability to service the offered sewing machines and must also have local workshops to be inspected by Client.

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- A completed set of Tender Document
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- Certified copy of a valid Labour Compliance Certificate from the Ministry of Labour
- A copy of Company current Form J, stamped by the Registrar of Companies
- A copy of Company current Form C, stamped by the Registrar of Companies
- The shareholders as listed in Form C, should provide certified copies of national identity documents
- Police clearance certificate for the directors of the company,
- Technical brochures giving full description of: the type, size, stitch formation, feed mechanism, mechanical configuration and pictures of each of the sewing machine offered.

Tender documents will be available on Monday 26th February 2018 from 11:00am to 4:00pm on Tuesday 27th February 2018 and may be collected from:

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

Tenderers are advised to pay a non-refundable amount of E1000.00 (One Thousand Emalangeni only) for each document at the Government Revenue Office and should use code 233/1201/04199/G51299 when making payment. Companies are advised to consult Microprojects Unit office on the availability of tender documents prior to payment. The unit will not be liable for the refund in the event one pays for unavailable tender documents.

Tenderers are advised to present tender documents at the compulsory tender briefing and clarification meeting to be held at Microprojects office on Thursday 01st March 2018, 09.00am.

Date and place of tender submission: Friday 23rd March 2018 at the Office of the Employer
Time for submission ...: 10:00am PROMPT Swaziland time
Opening.....: 10:15am Swaziland time

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

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

Any action or tendencies that will be interpreted as an attempt to interfere with or influence the tendering process will result in immediate disqualification of the company. The Microprojects Programme does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any company. Enquiries should be addressed to Jabulani Ginindza at Tel: 2404 0199, Fax: 2404 0516, email jwginindza@microprojects.org.sz

BRIEFS

McCarthy slams Cape Town City defence

CAPE TOWN - Cape Town City coach Benni McCarthy did not disguise his displeasure at the performance of one of his defenders following Saturday's 2-1 loss to Bidvest Wits.

The Citizens were in search of a fifth successive win over the Students this season but instead left Athlone Stadium empty handed as goals in each half from Lehlohonolo Majoro rendered Craig Martin's temporary equaliser as only a consolation. *Soccer Laduma*

Ajax fixing their problems

CAPE TOWN - Muhsin Ertugral's top priority on returning to Ajax Cape Town for his fourth spell in charge of the club was to tighten things up at the back.

While overall the club's struggle had been the result of many factors, for the Turkish coach it was a case of making sure the defence was solid and that would in turn drive the team's attacking abilities.

Improvement has been steady and Ajax have certainly looked far better and a lot more solid since Ertugral's arrival. *Goal*

'I ended Cape Town City's dominance'

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits had to fight back and avoid their fifth defeat at the hands of Cape Town City, coach Gavin Hunt says they were good on the night in the Mother City. The Clever Boys lost twice in the MTN8 Cup, once in the Nedbank Cup Last 32 a fortnight ago as well as a Premier Soccer League loss in August last year. *Goal*

KOMPHELA LEFT DISAPPOINTED

JOHANNESBURG - Ahead of their Premier Soccer League clash against Bloemfontein Celtic, Kaizer Chiefs were looking for a win to narrow the gap on log leaders, Mamelodi Sundowns.

Amakhosi had a wonderful opportunity to bag the full three points and make it two points behind the Brazilians on Saturday night.

However, Steve Komphela's men failed to hit the right gear against Siwelele and secured a point instead of maximum three at FNB Stadium.

The Soweto giants dropped to valuable points considering the fact that Pitso Mosimane's men drew their previous two games, against the fourth-placed Free State Stars and neighbours, SuperSport United.

Speaking after the encounter at the Calabash, disappointment was evident on the coach's face as he admitted to dropping two points.

"It's a chance missed (to close the gap). Looking at how the game unfolded, we didn't cre-

ate clear-cut chances even though we could sit on top of the box trying to find a way," Komphela said in his post-match response.

"Today, we didn't see the goalkeeper one-on-one which is something we do normally," adds the manager.

"We regret that. This is a time where we should be scoring one or two and you narrow the gap by a match and you keep in there," he continued.

"You say again we have one point we didn't lose it. We were playing to win. This was a massive opportunity for us to win and get closer to Sundowns," lamented the coach.

Reflecting on the game against Veselin Jelusic's men, the former Ea Lla Koto and Maritzburg United coach called on his men to be more clinical.

Amakhosi created many chances, took 15 shots at goals,

yet they could only manage five on target, leaving the boss with a lot of work and time is against him. *Goal*



DISAPPOINTED
Kaizer Chiefs
head coach
Steve Komphela.



'NO ONE BETTER THAN PERCY'

JOHANNESBURG - Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane says as far as he is concerned, it is a foregone conclusion that striker Percy Tau is this season's Footballer of the Year.

"I need names of anyone else that's better and I need them now," he said on a night when Tau again scored for the Brazilians and took his tally to nine goals, just one behind leading Rodney Ramagalela in the race for the Golden Boot.

"He is an unbelievable player. I am waiting to see who is going to challenge Percy for Footballer of the Year or Player's Player of the Year. I am waiting. There are eight games to go.

Who is challenging Percy Tau? He must take everything. And he is scoring goals, and he is assisting. No, he must get everything. He deserved it.

What a brave youngster. He just shows that talent alone is not enough. You must back talent, run, play, force and must be brave. A player like this in South Africa we have not seen for a long time. He is unbelievable."

Kick - Off

Ndoro's eligibility stalemate set to drag on

JOHANNESBURG - Save the date: March 26 has been set down for the hearing of Tendai Ndoro's eligibility case.

Senior Counsel Nazeer Cassim will arbitrate the case between the Premier Soccer League (PSL) and Ajax Cape Town, and his decision will be final

and binding. SA Football Association (SAFA) legal officer Tebogo Motlanthe confirmed the date.

Sport24



SWAZILAND ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SERA 08 2017/2018: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO PREPARE DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR OPERATION OF ELECTRICIANS IN SWAZILAND

The Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority (SERA) is an organization established under the Energy Regulatory Act 2007. The mandate of SERA is the administration and implementation of the Electricity Act 2007

Pursuant to her mandate to regulate the electricity industry while ensuring protection as far as practicable for all users of electricity in the country SERA hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified service providers to prepare draft regulations for the operation of electricians in Swaziland.

Detailed Request For Proposal (RFP) documents containing the terms of reference and instructions to tender are available and obtainable after payment of a non-refundable tender fee of E 350.00 to the Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority. These documents can be emailed to tenderers or collected at the following address upon payment of the prescribed tender fee.

Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority
First floor, RHUS Office Park,
Karl Grant Street
Mbabane

Assigned and sealed tender bid clearly marked on the official envelop "Tender NO.8 of 2017/18, REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO PREPARE DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF ELECTRICIANS IN SWAZILAND" should be deposited in the tender box situated at the SERA reception. If posted ensure that the RFP reaches SERA on or before the closing date marked for the attention of the "Chief Executive Officer". The closing time for receipt of tenders is 11 AM, on 13th March 2018.

Enquiries
Enquiries relating to the tender must be directed via email or in writing to the Legal Counsel at the following addresses: matsebulaf@sera.org.sz.
Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority
P.O. Box 7137, Mbabane, H100, Swaziland

Kindly note that any actions or tendencies that will be interpreted as an attempt to interfere with or influence the tendering process will result in immediate disqualification of the tenderer.

SERA does not bind herself to accept the lowest or any tender.

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Samir Nasri banned from football

LOS ANGELES - Samir Nasri has been banned from football following the investigation into the intravenous drip treatment he received at a Los Angeles clinic.

The player's legal representative in the case, Juan de Dios Crespo Perez, told Press Association Sport that a six-month suspension has been imposed on Nasri by UEFA, European football's governing body.

Former Arsenal and Manchester City playmaker Nasri received 500 millilitres of hydration in the form of sterile water containing micronutrient components on December 26,

2016, while on holiday.

At the time, he was on loan from City to Sevilla, and Nasri had reported feeling ill and vomiting before calling a doctor, his Maryland-based former girlfriend Dr Sarabjit Anand who provided an initial diagnosis.

Nasri received treatment from a private medical company, Drip Doctors, in his hotel room and later posed for a photograph with the organisation's co-founder Jamila Sozohdah that drew publicity.

World Anti-Doping Agency rules state there is a 50 millilitre infusion limit per six-hour period for active

athletes. A

request by Sevilla for a retroactive therapeutic use exemption (TUE) for Nasri was refused in February 2017 by UEFA, whose decision was later upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Spanish sport

newspaper Marca reported Nasri has

been banned for one year, stating UEFA will confirm that today, however Mr de Dios Crespo Perez disputed that figure.

He confirmed Nasri has received a ban, saying in an email: "Indeed. But he has received only six months suspension."

Nasri is currently without a club, having left Antalyaspor in January after just six months with the Turkish team.

The 30-year-old former France international played for Arsenal from 2008 to 2011 before moving to City for £25million, going on to win two Premier League titles during his time at the Etihad Stadium.

During his loan spell at Sevilla last season he made 30 appearances and scored three goals.

TEAMTALK

Ronaldo's Benzema gesture 'speaks volumes' - Navas

MADRID - Cristiano Ronaldo's selfless gesture to allow struggling team-mate Karim Benzema to score in Real Madrid's rout of Alaves did not come as a surprise to Keylor Navas.

Ronaldo passed up the opportunity to complete his hat-trick as he let Benzema seal Madrid's 4-0 victory over Alaves in La Liga Saturday.

Benzema had only scored three league goals prior to the clash at the Santiago Bernabeu before five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo paved the way for the Frenchman to convert an 89th-minute penalty.

"Cristiano's gesture speaks volumes for the type of team this is and how he is as a person," goalkeeper Navas said post-match.

"We're all pulling in the same direction and we have to show our unity more than ever.

"We're thrilled with Karim's goal, as team-mates, we have to stick together. We're always going to fight for each other and while there is a lot of talk about Karim at the moment, we have to support one another."

Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane also praised Ronaldo for helping out Benzema, who has been under fire for Madrid.

But team-mate Lucas Vazquez wants to see the French forward continue playing well, with Madrid now in the business end of the season.

"He had a terrific game, provided two assists and scored. We're really happy with his efforts and let's hope that this continues," the Spaniard said.

"He's bang on form right now." Defending champions Madrid are third in La Liga, 14 points behind leaders and rivals Barcelona, but are still alive in the Champions League, where they hold a 3-1 lead over PSG heading into the second leg of their last-16 tie. AFP

'Neymar, Mbappe don't have PSG in their DNA'

PARIS - Neymar and Kylian Mbappe may be superstar additions at Paris Saint-Germain but they do not have the club in their DNA, says former Parisiens player Pierre Ducrocq.

In an effort to position themselves at the top of domestic and European games, the Ligue 1 heavyweights continue to invest heavily in proven talent.

A record-breaking €222 million deal acquired the services of Neymar from Barcelona in the summer of 2017, with Mbappe joining him in the French capital from Monaco in a deal which will eventually be worth €180m.

Both men have impressed in new surroundings, but Ducrocq acknowledges that neither has PSG in their heart ahead of a derby date with arch-rivals Marseille.

A former academy graduate at Parc des Princes told Goal: "You cannot ask the players to have this feeling in their heart.

"It's not in their DNA, like other players who are Parisians like [Adrien] Rabiot or [Presnel] Kimpembe."



NO DNA: Neymar and Kylian Mbappe

Mbappe was actually born on the outskirts of Paris, but headed south to Monaco at an early age.

He has already conceded that he was unaware of the intense rivalry between PSG and Marseille, stating after a 2-2 draw between the two sides in October: "We didn't realise how important that game was."

Those comments were not particularly well received by a

demanding fan base in Paris, but they came as little surprise to Ducrocq.

"Kylian didn't grow up in Paris. He went to Monaco at a very young age," he added. "It was his first PSG-OM. It's not like when you grow up in the PSG training academy. You can attend six or seven PSG-OM games."

"The most important thing is how he reacts after that game."

GOAL

END OF THE ROAD: Samir Nasri.

Salah, Mane and Firmino praised

LONDON - Plaudits continue to rain down on Liverpool's front three of Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino, with Emre Can the latest to hail their "unbelievable" talents.

The Reds have been full of goals this season, with their collective tally across all competitions passing 100 during a Premier League meeting with West Ham.

A fearsome attacking unit has contributed 66 efforts towards that century, with Salah leading the way with 31 during a remarkable debut campaign at Anfield.

Firmino, meanwhile, has 22 goals to his name and Mane 13, with the in-form trio all on the scoresheet once again in a crushing 4-1 victory over the Hammers.

Can told Liverpool's official website after another star showing: "It's amazing. The front three can score in every game at any minute. It's unbelievable how good they are. They did it again."

"We are always happy if they can score and we win."

Germany international Can actually opened the scoring against West Ham, with the 24-year-old nodding home from a well-rehearsed set-piece.

Daily Mail

'Best in history' Messi lauded by Barca colleagues

BARCELONA - Philippe Coutinho and Sergio Busquets hailed the performance of the "amazing" Lionel Messi in Barcelona's crushing 6-1 La Liga victory over Girona.

The Argentina international set up Luis Suarez for an equaliser after Girona had taken a third-minute lead, and netted twice himself, the second an inventive free-kick steered under the opposition's defensive wall at Camp Nou.

Coutinho, a January arrival from Liverpool, also supplied an assist for Suarez before getting on the scoresheet, and the Brazilian is already revelling in a productive relationship with his superstar team-mates.

"Leo is amazing," he told Movistar.

"He fooled everyone with his goal. It's incredible how good he is. Each game we understand each other better, with him, with Suarez, he's very important for us."

"Bit by bit I'm learning and I have a lot of work to do." Holding midfielder Busquets echoed the sentiments of Coutinho, saying of Messi's contribution: "He always makes the difference and that's what makes him the best player in the world and in the history of football." Ousmane Dembele could not find the back of the net himself but did tee up Suarez for the Uruguayan to complete his hat-trick, and Coutinho expects the young France international to hit his stride soon.

"Barcelona play unique football," he said.

"Dembele is a great player, I'm sure that with time and work we will learn. We want to do the best we can."

TEAMTALK

AMAZING: Lionel Messi.



MANCHESTER - In injury time at Old Trafford, Romelu Lukaku received the ball with his back to goal, turned and powered away up field.

It was a pressure relieving moment for Manchester United as they hung on to their lead but it was also symbolic. It was a sign of what the Belgian can do and, if we feel we don't see enough of it, then maybe we can say the same about Jose Mourinho's United team also.

This was a win that United deserved. A goal down in the first half and second best in most areas at that stage, United's grip on second place in the Premier League and indeed on their own confidence seemed to be growing weaker.

Chelsea's Willian had made the most of a number of mistakes in the United midfield — the first of them by Paul Pogba — to race away and thunder a shot through David de Gea after half an hour.

But from that point on, United found something of their true selves to recover and prosper. Mourinho's team — with Lukaku leading them on — showed glimpses of how they can play when the mood takes them and ultimately it proved enough.



LUKAKU SCORES, ASSISTS TO INSPIRE RED DEVILS VICTORY

They were maybe a little fortunate with five minutes to go when Alvaro Morata drove the ball in from a tight angle. Chelsea's Spanish striker looked offside and was flagged offside. However, replays suggested otherwise. Their equaliser, not long before half time, was a lovely goal. Lukaku started and finished

it and it served to liberate United.

The home team did not go on to overpower Chelsea. The second half was tight and there were few chances. But United did grow stronger as Chelsea seemed to tire and when Lukaku crossed well towards substitute Jesse Lingard with fifteen minutes left, he escaped his mark-

er to direct a header in to the corner at the Stretford End.

For Mourinho there will be some satisfaction in beating Chelsea manager Antonio Conte. The two men do not like each other. For the record, the managers shook hands relatively cordially at the start and the end of the game. *Daily Mail*

Dembele fuels Celtic defeat of Aberdeen

ABERDEEN - Moussa Dembele helped Celtic retain their nine-point lead at the top of the Scottish Premiership with a goal and an assist in yesterday's 2-0 win away to Aberdeen.

Frenchman Dembele headed the defending champions ahead on 37 minutes at Pittodrie before triggering a late counter-attack that resulted in Kieran Tierney sealing the victory.

Celtic crashed out of the last 32 of the Europa League in midweek following a 3-1 aggregate defeat by Zenit St Petersburg but showed their domestic quality against an Aberdeen side that has now lost back-to-back matches.

"It was brilliant win for us 72 hours after the game in Russia at, arguably, one of the most difficult places to come," Celtic boss Brendan Rodgers told the BBC.

"Moussa (Dembele) is a big game player and we are at the stage of the season where he comes alive in terms of what the team needs from him."

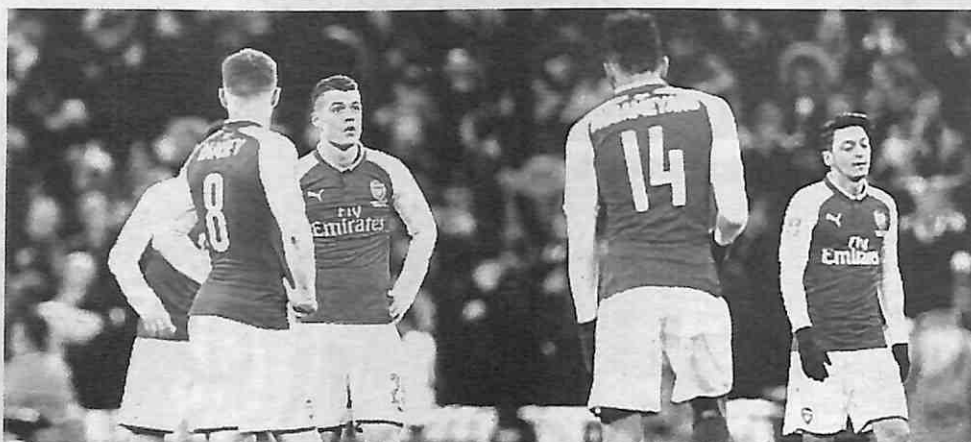
Scott Sinclair and Tom Rogic returned to the starting line-up for the Hoops, but it was Aberdeen who nearly struck first when Kari Arnason was inches away from connecting with a Kenny McLean free-kick.

Celtic then began to assert their authority with Sinclair hitting the crossbar from a corner in the 16th minute, before Rogic was denied by a save at point-blank range from Freddie Woodman.

Aberdeen escaped again when Olivier Ntcham drilled a 25-yard effort against the upright, but the hosts fell behind with half-time approaching as James Forrest crossed for Dembele to nod in for his 10th goal of the campaign.

The Dons threatened an equaliser in the 73rd minute when Dorus de Vries parried a McLean drive, with follow-up efforts from Niall McGinn and Anthony Connor blocked by Celtic defenders. The visitors were forced to play out the final 15 minutes with 10 men following the dismissal of Mikael Lustig for a second yellow card, but Aberdeen were punished on the break while chasing a way back into the game.

AFP



BLASTED: Gary Neville name-checked Ramsey, Xhaka and Ozil as he blasted Arsenal on Sky Sports.

'Arsenal are spineless and an absolute disgrace'

LONDON - Gary Neville hit out at Arsenal's players over their performances during yesterday's Carabao Cup final loss to Manchester City.

The Gunners were thrashed by Premier League leaders City at Wembley courtesy of goals from

Sergio Aguero, Vincent Kompany and David Silva.

Commentating on the game for Sky Sports, Neville began to rant during the second half when the Gunners were two goals behind. Neville was furious at Aaron Ramsey, Granit Xhaka and Mesut Ozil for what he perceived as a lack of effort.

Walking

"Look at Ramsey walking," Neville fumed. "He's walking. Xhaka's walking, Ozil's walking. They're walking! Don't walk at Wembley."

"Don't walk on a football pitch. It's impossible. You're two-nil down, run." Moments later, after

goal No 3, Neville continued: "A minute before that goal I mentioned the walking and then the retreating runs of Ramsey and Xhaka ambling and jogging back... absolute disgrace they are."

"They are an absolute disgrace. Walking on a football pitch at Wembley, giving up... spineless."

As the Sky camera panned to a young Arsenal fan crying, Neville added: "Look at that. That's what you cause."

"All a fan wants to see is a player running as fast as he can and as hard as he can."

Daily Mail



JOHAN-NESBURG

Orlando Pirates overcame Chippa United 4-2 in an ABSA Premiership match at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium on yesterday.

The victory took the Buccaneers to second spot on the league standings, while the Chilli Boys slipped down to ninth place on the table.

The Buccaneers dominated possession from the start with Bernard Morrison and Justin Shonga looking lively upfront for the visitors.

Milutin Sredojevic's side was playing enterprising football and they were awarded a free-kick in a promising area in the fifth minute.

Shonga then stepped up and he forced Chippa goal-

keeper Brighton Mhlango into a good diving save from the set-piece. However, the hosts grew in confidence as the match progressed and they managed to break the deadlock in the 18th minute.

Andile Mbenyane set-up Mxolisi Macuphu, who beat Pirates keeper Jackson Mabokgwane with a beautiful volley to make it 1-0 to Chippa. *Kick Off*

LOGS

ABSA Premiership

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Sundowns	22	12	4	6	34	19	15	40
Orlando Pirates	22	9	9	4	26	20	6	36
Kaizer Chiefs	22	8	11	3	19	12	7	35
Maritzburg	22	9	7	6	27	14	13	34
Free State	22	9	7	6	22	21	1	34
Cape Town City	22	9	4	9	21	21	0	31
Baroka FC	22	6	10	6	26	29	-3	28
Bidvest Wits	22	7	7	8	20	23	-3	28
Chippa United	22	5	12	5	20	19	1	27
AmaZulu FC	22	6	9	7	20	24	-4	27
Golden Arrows	22	5	11	6	24	24	0	26
SuperSport	22	6	8	8	20	24	-4	26
Bloemfontein	21	6	8	7	18	24	-6	26
Polokwane City	21	4	11	6	22	25	-3	23
Ajax CT	22	5	6	11	19	24	-5	21
Platinum Stars	22	3	8	11	14	29	-15	17

Premier League

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Man City	27	23	3	1	79	20	59	72
Man United	28	18	5	5	53	20	33	59
Liverpool	28	16	9	3	65	32	33	57
Tottenham	28	16	7	5	53	24	29	55
Chelsea	28	16	5	7	50	25	25	53
Arsenal	27	13	6	8	51	36	15	45
Burnley	28	9	10	9	22	25	-3	37
Leicester City	28	9	9	10	40	41	-1	36
Everton	28	9	7	12	32	47	-15	34
Watford	28	9	6	13	38	47	-9	33
Bournemouth	28	8	8	12	33	43	-10	32
Brighton	28	7	10	11	26	37	-11	31
West Ham	28	7	9	12	35	50	-15	30
Huddersfield	28	8	6	14	25	48	-23	30
Newcastle	28	7	8	13	27	38	-11	29
Southampton	28	5	12	11	29	41	-12	27
Crystal Palace	28	6	9	13	25	43	-18	27
Swansea City	28	7	6	15	21	41	-20	27
Stoke City	28	6	8	14	28	54	-26	26
West Brom	28	3	11	14	22	42	-20	20

Spanish LaLiga

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Barcelona	25	20	5	0	68	12	56	65
Atletico Madrid	24	16	7	1	36	9	27	55
Real Madrid	25	15	6	4	62	27	35	51
Valencia	24	14	4	6	47	28	19	46
Villarreal	25	12	5	8	36	29	7	41
Sevilla	24	12	3	9	31	35	-4	39
Celta de Vigo	25	10	5	10	43	37	6	35
Eibar	25	10	5	10	32	38	-6	35
Girona	25	9	7	9	35	36	-1	34
Getafe	25	8	9	8	29	22	7	33
Real Betis	24	10	3	11	41	50	-9	33
Leganés	25	8	6	11	21	28	-7	30
Real Sociedad	24	8	5	11	46	45	1	29
Athletic Club	24	6	10	8	24	27	-3	28
Espanyol	25	6	10	9	22	32	-10	28
Deportivo	25	9	1	15	22	37	-15	28
Levante	24	3	11	10	21	38	-17	20
Las Palmas	25	5	4	16	18	52	-34	19
Deportivo LC	25	4	6	15	24	53	-29	18
Málaga	24	3	4	17	15	38	-23	13

Italian Serie A

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Napoli	25	21	3	1	55	15	40	66
Juventus	25	21	2	2	62	15	47	65
Lazio	26	16	4	6	64	33	31	52
Internazionale	26	14	9	3	42	21	21	51
Roma	25	15	5	5	40	19	21	50
Sampdoria	26	13	5	8	46	34	12	44
Milan	25	12	5	8	35	30	5	41
Atalanta	25	10	8	7	37	29	8	38
Torino	26	8	12	6	36	32	4	36
Fiorentina	26	9	8	9	35	32	3	35
Udinese	26	10	3	13	37	38	-1	33
Bologna	26	10	3	13	33	38	-5	33
Genoa	26	8	6	12	21	27	-6	30
Chievo	26	6	7	13	23	43	-20	25
Cagliari	25	7	4	14	23	36	-13	25
Sassuolo	26	6	5	15	15	46	-31	23
Crotone	26	5	6	15	23	47	-24	21
SPAL	26	4	8	14	26	49	-23	20
Hellas Verona	26	5	4	17	24	51	-27	19
Benevento	26	3	1	22	18	60	-42	10

Bundesliga

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Bayern	24	19	3	2	55	18	37	60
Dortmund	23	11	7	5	48	29	19	40
Schalke 04	24	11	7	6	38	30	8	40
Frankfurt	24	11	6	7	32	27	5	39
Leverkusen	24	10	8	6	43	32	11	38
RB Leipzig	23	11	5	7	36	31	5	38
M'gladbach	24	10	4	10	31	35	-4	34
Hoffenheim	24	8	8	8	38	38	0	32
Hannover 96	24	8	8	8	32	34	-2	32
Augsburg	23	8	7	8	32	29	3	31
Hertha BSC	24	7	10	7	30	30	0	31
Stuttgart	24	9	3	12	20	27	-7	30
Freiburg	24	6	11	7	25	38	-13	29
Werder Bremen	24	6	8	10	22	28	-6	26
Wolfsburg	24	4	13	7	27	31	-4	25
Mainz 05	24	6	6	12	29	42	-13	24
Hamburger SV	24	4	5	15	18	35	-17	17
Köln	23	3	5	15	20	42	-22	14



SWAZIBANK CUP GRAND OPENING

UYAYIFUNA NA?

HIGHLANDERS VS MOYENI UNITED



FOLLOW ME: Moyeni United's Bhekumusa Shongwe chasing Mbabane Highlanders' Sibusiso Mkhonta during the SwaziBank Cup grand opening at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Highlanders won 5-1.



TUSSLE: Highlanders Mthobisi Mngometulu winning the ball from Moyeni's Siphelele Gamedze. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



PUSHING: Mngometulu controls the ball while Siphelele Gamedze blocks him.



YEBO NGI YAYIFUNA: Mbabane Highlanders' Thabiso Mokenkoane scoring the team's first goal.



NOT THIS ONE: Moyeni United goalkeeper Mfanufikile Nkambule making a brilliant save.



HAPPY: Highlanders supporters having fun as they celebrate their win.



GWAZA NKUZI: 'Landers supporters celebrating.



MORE GOALS: 'Landers scoring their second goal.

RIGHT - NET: Another 'Landers goal.



YES: Thabiso Mokenkoane celebrates his goal.





SWAZIBANK CUP GRAND OPENING

UYAYIFUNA NA?



PRESENT: PLS Chief Operation Officer Pat Vilakati with SwaziBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele.

SWALLOWS VS MILLING HOTSPURS



MARCHING IN: Mbabane Swallows and Milling Hotspurs players on their way to the field of play.



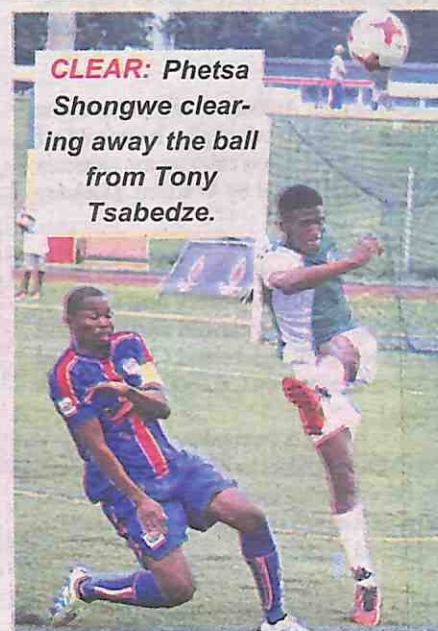
BALL CONTROL: Swallows' Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko controls the ball while Milling's Likhwa Tfwala moves closer.



WHOSE BALL: Milling's Likhwa Tfwala trying to mark Swallows' Sifiso Mabila.



LEFT - IT'S A GOAL: Mbabane Swallows third goal against Milling.



CLEAR: Phetsa Shongwe clearing away the ball from Tony Tsabedze.

RIGHT - DONE DEAL: Swallows' third goal. Swallows won 3-0.

BUFFALOS VS HLATIKHULU TYCOONS



MOVE: Buffaloes' Siboniso Ngwenya attempts to go past Hlatikhulu Tycoons Mcebisi Matse.



KHONA'BAZO NETFWA: Referees leading SwaziBank defending champions Young Buffaloes and Hlatikhulu Tycoons to the pitch.

NO WAY: Young Buffaloes' Phiwa Dlamini trying to go past a Hlatikhulu player.

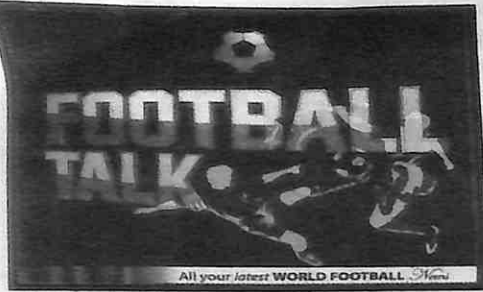
CELEBRATION: Buffs celebrating their first goal.



WELL BEATEN: Young Buffaloes first goal against Hlatikhulu Tycoons. Buffaloes won 5-0.



NET: Another Buffaloes goal.



● Paris St-Germain and Brazil striker Neymar, 26, has told Real Madrid he wants more money than the Spanish club's 33-year-old Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo in order to seal a move to the Bernabeu. (*Sunday Express*)

● France midfielder Paul Pogba is ready to leave Manchester United if Manager Jose Mourinho stays on at Old Trafford. (*Sun on Sunday*)

● Former England Manager Glenn Hoddle says 'there is a fantastic player in there' when it comes to Manchester United's Pogba, 24, but 'whether Mourinho can find him is the question'. (*Mail on Sunday*)

● Manchester United are among the top clubs monitoring Lazio's 22-year-old Serbia midfielder Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, who is rated at £80m. (*Sunday Mirror*)

● Former Manchester United boss Louis van Gaal is in the frame to replace Antonio Conte at Chelsea if the relationship between the Italian and the club's board deteriorates further. The 66-year-old Dutchman is keen for another chance in the Premier League. (*Sunday Mirror*)

● Chelsea Manager Antonio Conte will not tone down his touchline behaviour after being told off by his father for being too calm on the sidelines during the recent defeat by Watford. (*Sunday Express*)

● Manchester United and Spain goalkeeper David de Gea wants a £350 000-a-week deal to stay at Old Trafford. The 27-year-old earns around £180,000 a week but lags behind Chile forward Alexis Sanchez, who is on £505 000 a week. (*Sun on Sunday*)

● Watford's French midfielder Abdoulaye Doucoure, 25, says he welcomes interest from Arsenal and Liverpool before the summer transfer window. (*L'Equipe, via Metro*)

● England fans have reacted angrily after they were allocated 1 659 tickets for the World Cup group match with Belgium at the 35 000-capacity Kaliningrad Stadium. (*Sunday Mirror*)

● Former Gunner Robert Pires says Arsenal's 2003-04 'Invincibles' had "more talent and spirit" than the current Manchester City team. (*BT Sport*)

● Chelsea and Crystal Palace have clashed over the best way to treat injured midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek. The 22-year-old England international, who is on loan at Palace, has been out since the end of December. (*Daily Star Sunday*)

● Arsenal and Colombia goalkeeper David Ospina, 29, says he would be open to leaving the Gunners this summer in a bid for first-team football. (*Directv, via Daily Star Sunday*)

● Newcastle Manager Rafael Benitez is not worried about forward Islam Slimani's injury, which is set to keep him on the sidelines until the end of next month, and believes the 29-year-old Algeria international is getting closer to his debut. (*Chronicle*)

● England Manager Gareth Southgate and Scotland counterpart Alex McLeish are set to step up efforts to persuade 21-year-old Manchester United midfielder Scott McTominay to play for their country. (*Times - subscription required*)

PROFESSOR LOOKING TO GO FAR IN SWAZI BANK CUP

By Qondile Ntiwane

SOCCER - MBABANE
Highlanders Coach Professor Ngubane is looking to go far in the Swazi Bank Cup.

Interviewed after seeing his charges gore Moyeni United 5-1 at the Somhlolo National Stadium, the coach said he was happy to see his

side progress to the next round of the knockout tournament.

"We started a bit slow even after scoring the goal. But in the second we came hard on them. The plan was to score many goals so they do not come back. They are a good team but I am happy with the win."

He said his players did well on the day.

"I wouldn't want to state which team I would want to play next but my wish is to go far in this tournament. This would be good for the team," he said.

Working

The coach said they would continue working hard and prepare for the next match.

Meanwhile, Moyeni United coach Mandla Shabalala said playing

against the Premier League outfit was a good experience for them.

"We did all we could during the game but we were playing a good team."

We gained a lot of experience from this game and being a team that just got promoted to the Super League, we will use the experience gained to better ourselves in the campaign," he said

Moneni, Tambuti claim wins in Under-20 SwaziBank Cup

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER - MONENI Pirates and Tambuti collected maximum points with emphatic wins against Red Lions and Malanti Chiefs, respectively.

This was during their SwaziBank Cup groups stage encounters played at the Manzini Club yesterday afternoon.

The first match saw Moneni Pirates take on Red Lions.

The Sea Robbers had a bright start into the match as they would now and again threaten the opposition with counter attacks.

Red Lions were, however, up to the challenge as they defended res-



olutely.

The first goal came 10 minutes before break when Moneni Pirates predator Celani 'Hlokoloza' Mabila scored with an easy tap-in after a beautiful build-up.

The match went to recess with the Moneni Buccaneers leading 1-0.

After the break, the striker 'Hlokoloza' doubled the advantage and two minutes later versatile defender Sandziso 'Cheese' Simelane scored the third.

Mabila then hit the final nail in the coffin, claiming his hattrick to hand 'Amabhubezi' their first loss

of the tournament.

Meanwhile, in the second match, Lubombo based side Tambuti handed Malanti Chiefs another thrashing this season, beating them 6-0 following their historical 0-18 loss against army side Young Buffaloes in the league. The Northern Hhohho side started the match with 10 men in the field and Tambuti capitalised on that, scoring four goals before the recess through Solomon Shongwe, Njabulo Tsabedze, Masiko Dlamini and Msimisi Matsebula.

After the break Malanti Chiefs tried to come back, but it was Tambuti, who scored two more goals with Msimisi Matsebula and Masiko Dlamini claiming their braces.

Caleb Ngwenya hails 'Xavi' impact

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER - GREEN Mamba coach Caleb Ngwenya praised attacking midfielder Mthunzi 'Xavi' Mkhontfo after his side's 4-0 drubbing of Hub Sundowns in the SwaziBank Cup last 32 on Saturday.

Mkhontfo signed with Green Mamba in the recent January transfer window

after returning from a spell with AS Vita. Playing in only his second match for the club, 'Xavi' scored a goal and assisted another at the Mavuso Sports Centre, subsequently drawing praise from his coach after the win.

"I think he is improving his physical condition with each passing game. He is coming from a long lay-off so it will take him sometime (to reach peak physical condition)," Ngwenya said. Sundowns coach Alou Badara meanwhile said he could not blame his players after the heavy defeat.

"I can't say it's a big loss. If you look at it, I think we were not bad."

We also created a number of chances especially in the first half but I think it's a good learning curve. We will now focus on the league. I can't blame my players," Badara said.

Nyanga to manage 'Spider's showboating

SOCCER - Manzini Wanderers coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe says he will have to cleverly manage new midfielder Manqoba 'Spider' Maseko's showboating habits.

Maseko, who was signed from Midas City in the January transfer window, thrilled the Mavuso Sports Centre crowd with his skills as his Wanderers side beat Bad Boys 2-1 in the SwaziBank Cup on Saturday. While happy with the midfielder's overall contribution, Wanderers coach Hlophe says he will have to gradually cut

out Maseko's showboating.

"Spider is still growing up. I think a young boy like him needs proper mentorship. We need to teach him to cut down on the showboating slowly because you can't stop it in one day. He needs a talking to of course," Hlophe said.

Bad Boys coach Mpendulo Mawelela meanwhile blamed the loss on a lapse in concentration.

"I think it was a matter of a lapse in concentration. We knew we were going to be under pressure from the word go but we tried defending as a team," Mawelela said.

Their players are over-age - Malanti coach

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER - MALANTI Chiefs Under-20 coach Sicelo Dlamini has complained of Tambuti's 'over-age' players.

The coach said this when interviewed during his post-match interview after his side's 0-6 loss to Tambuti.

Dlamini made it clear that he was content with his charges performance and blamed the loss on the opposition players' 'over-age'.

"I am happy with my players' performance as they tried their best but it was not to be. I, however, blame this loss entirely on the glaring fraud in age. It is not right, and I don't know how they manage to beat the system."

He said it was wrong for other teams to cheat.

On the other hand, his Tambuti counterpart Ishmael Zwane refuted the claims against his players, and lauded them for a great performance.

"I think it's all wrong to say my players are 'over age'. We have all the proof on my player's card and this is why all this misleading claims infuriate me. I think my boys were brilliant and deserved to win. We definitely would love to win the trophy," he said.



PRAISED: Mthunzi Mkhontfo and Tebogo Motale celebrating their third goal.



IMPHAMA: Highlanders players celebrating one of their five goals.

SHISA MPAMA AS BULL CRUISE TO LAST 16

By Qondile Ntiwane

Moyeni..... (0)1
Highlanders..... (2)5

SOCCER - MBABANE Highlanders cruised through to the next round of the Swazi Bank Cup after thrashing Moyeni United 5-1.

This was during a luke-warm encounter played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The black and white side just proved too strong for the Manzini Super League side but missed chances in the early minutes of the game.

They, however, managed to break the deadlock in the 14th minute through the lanky South African forward Thabiso Mokenkoane, who slotted home a Menzi Sithole pass.

Highlanders continued pushing numbers forward but were unfortunate not

to convert the chances.

Sithole added Highlanders' tally to two just before the breather when he blasted home a Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze corner kick.

Highlanders came hard at the opposition, which could have been the first to score in the stanza but were denied by goalkeeper Sidumo Vilakati, who tipped over the bar a right flank shot by Nkosingphile Isaac Dlamini in the 50th minute.

The full of blunder Moyeni goalkeeper made what was his brilliant save on the day in the 53rd minute when he tipped back into a play another 'Chocco' corner kick shot.

Substitute Melusi Dlamini rattled the net in the

75th after heading home a ball looped over the advancing Nkambule by Mokenkoane.

The black and white ensemble was at it again eight minutes before time

and it was Micheal Musonda who had been in the field less than five minutes after resting Mokenkoane.

The Zimbabwe-born striker fired a shot past the goalkeeper at close range.

Moyeni got their consolation goal two minutes later after being awarded a penalty by referee Leticia Viena after Celumusa Simelane was brought down inside the box. The spot kick was coolly converted by Sphelele Gamedze.

Scored

But the party for the Black Bull was not over as they scored their fifth four minutes before time and it was yet another substitute Mthobisi Mngomezulu to tapped a pass from inside the box into the net.

THE TEAMS:

Moyeni - Mfanufikile, Mbuso, Bhukumusa, Sphelele, Mxolisi, Jackie Amos, Nkosingphile, Mzwandile, Sandile, Celumusa.

Highlanders - Sidumo Vusumuzi Peter Simphiwe Mncedisi Bhinkosi (Melusi) Thabiso (Musonda) Menzi, Mthobisi, Sibusiso (Thami), Xolani.



Birds fly into SwaziBank Cup next round

By Sibusiso Masilela

Mbabane Swallows..... (1)3
Milling Hotspurs..... (0)0

SOCCER - DEFENDING champions Mbabane Swallows are through to the last 16 of this year's SwaziBank Cup after thrashing Milling Hotspurs 3-0 during a match played at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The red and white glamour side easily diffused the National First Division cup specialists in the drizzling afternoon of the 'Uyayifuna Na' grand opening.

Doing the job for Swallows were the seasoned pair of Tony 'TT' Tsabedze, Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko and Nigerian striker Daniel Atakorah, who all found the back of the net for the local CAF

champions League envoys.

Birds' skipper 'TT' opened the scoring with only 11 minutes of the match with a simple header that came from a Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze corner.

Speedy Winger 'Samba Jive' nearly made it 2-0 before the half hour mark when his rasping 35-yard freekick hit the upright with Milling goalkeeper Sibusiso Dlamini at sea.

Missed

Milling striker Lungelo Nyoni could have leveled matters for his side in the 33th minute but his low curler missed target by a whisker following a good attacking move.

The match went to break with Swallows leading by a solitary goal.

The second half saw Swallows continue to dominate proceedings and eventually doubled the advantage in the 75th minute through a shot from 'Samba Jive' that went between the legs of the

bemused Sibusiso Dlamini in the visitors goals.

The keeper thought he would easily make a save after a weak shot from 'Samba Jive' but only for the ball to kiss the back of the net.

The player was also shocked to see the ball at the back of the net as he somehow missed the ball when taking the shot.

Swallows second substitute Daniel Atakorah put the final nail in the Milling coffin five minutes before fulltime when he tapped home a 'Samba Jive' corner kick.

He benefitted from a scramble inside the box to make it 3-0, shattering the cup dreams of the Manzini based side.

THE TEAMS:

Swallows - Sandile, Mabila, Mkhweli, Siphamandla, Palma, Njabulo, Wonder, Banele, Sandile, Felix, Tony

Milling - Sibusiso, Linda, Phetsa, Fanose, Macome, Likhwa, Bhakisisa, Reagen, Mthokozisi, Nyoni

PHIWA HATTRICK FIRES BUFFALOES THROUGH

By Sibongiseni Zondi

Tycoons..... (0)0
Buffaloes..... (2)5

SOCCER- Young Buffaloes got the defence of their SwaziBank Cup title off to a perfect start with a 5-0 drubbing of Hlathikhulu Tycoons yesterday inspired by a hattrick from striker Phiwayinkhosi Dlamini.

The last 32 match between the two sides was the last of three in the tournament's grand opening at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Buffaloes were eager to get over the disappointment they suffered in midweek as they were knocked out of the CAF Confederation Cup by Cape Town City.

The first real chance of the match came as early as the 6th minute as Buffaloes striker Phiwa Dlamini rattled the crossbar with a powerful shot from inside the box.

The army side would find their opener in the 19th minute through Wandile Maseko who hit a lovely freekick from the edge of the box into the back of the net.

Just before the half hour mark, Buffaloes doubled their lead via the boot of Sifiso Mazibuko. The winger tapped in an easy one after a scramble inside the Tycoons box following a Buffaloes freekick.

Buffaloes were in total control of

proceedings from the second goal onwards and saw out the rest of the first half as the match went into the half-time break with Dominic Kunene's charges 2-0 ahead.

When the second half resumed, Buffaloes picked up where they had left off in the first stanza. They found their third just two minutes into the half through Phiwa who hit home from close range, finishing off what looked to be a goal-bound effort from fellow forward Ndoda Mtsetfwa.

Buffaloes were running riot and added a fourth in the 66th minute through Phiwa who headed in from playmaker Sandile Gamedze's corner for his second.

Phiwa completed his hattrick six minutes later in stylish fashion as he powered home a drive from range to put his side 5-0 in front.

Buffaloes took their feet off the pedal in the final minutes as they saw out the remainder of the match. The final score read 5-0 in favour of the defending champions.

THE TEAMS:

Tycoons - Simelane (A. Dlamini), Mhlanga, Nkambule, M. Dlamini, S. Dlamini, Mdluli, Matse, S. Simelane, Maziya, M. Mabuza, A. Mabuza

Buffaloes - Gwebu, Mamba, M. Dlamini, Gamedze (Sibonelo), Ngwenya, Mkhwanazi, Tsabedze, Maseko, Phiwa, Mazibuko (Nkonyane), Ndoda (Mkhabela)

Milling gave us tough time - 'Koki'

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - MBABANE Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati says Milling Hotspurs gave them a tough time despite their 3-0 win over the First Division side during the 2018 SwaziBank round of 32 encounter played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

Vilakati stated they had to dig deep into their reserves to book their place in the next round of the 14-year-old knockout competition. "We had to double our efforts on the day due to their previous good cup record and I told my players to press them hard and go for an early goal. They still showed character even after conceding the goal and maintained their play of using counterattacks.

"I am happy we emerged victorious and I commend

my players for their fighting spirit which they demonstrated until the end of the match," he said.

Meanwhile, his Milling counterpart Xolani Sigudla said he was happy with his team's showing despite the loss.

"I think we played well on the day where we

only failed to

organise ourselves at the

back and

allowed

the

opposition

to

score

an

early

goal.

We

wanted to

contain

them and try

punish them

towards the end

and possibly take

the match into a

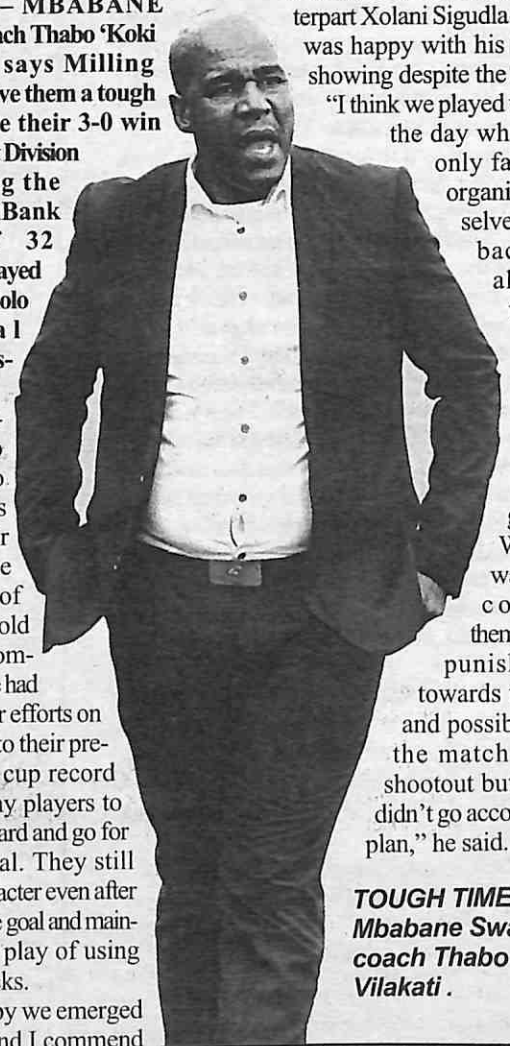
shootout but things

didn't go according to

plan," he said.

TOUGH TIME:

Mbabane Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.



RESULTS

ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Arsenal	0-3	Manchester City
PREMIER LEAGUE		
Manchester United	2-1	Chelsea
Crystal Palace	0-1	Tottenham
Watford	1-0	Everton
Burnley	1-1	Southampton
AFC Bournemouth	2-2	Newcastle United
West Bromwich Albion	1-2	Huddersfield Town
Liverpool	4-1	West Ham United
Brighton & Hove Albion	4-1	Swansea City
Leicester City	1-1	Stoke City

SPANISH LALIGA

Athletic Club	2-1	Málaga
Villarreal	1-0	Getafe
Barcelona	6-1	Girona
Leganes	0-0	Las Palmas
Real Madrid	4-0	Deportivo Alavés
Celta de Vigo	2-0	Eibar
Deportivo La Coruña	0-0	Espanyol

BUNDESLIGA

Bayer Leverkusen	0-2	Schalke
Werder Bremen	1-0	Hamburger SV
Bayern München	0-0	Hertha BSC
Stuttgart	1-0	Eintracht Frankfurt
Hoffenheim	1-1	Freiburg
Hannover 96	0-1	Borussia M'gladbach
Mainz 05	1-1	Wolfsburg

ABSA PREMIERSHIP

Chippa United	2-4	Orlando Pirates
Golden Arrows	1-0	Ajax Cape Town
Kaizer Chiefs	0-0	Bloemfontein
Celtic		
Free State Stars	0-0	AmaZulu FC
Mamelodi Sundowns	1-1	SuperSport United
Cape Town City FC	1-2	Bidvest Wits
Baroka FC	1-1	Polokwane City
Maritzburg United	2-1	Platinum Stars

Man City lift Carabao Cup

LONDON - Manchester City won their first trophy under Pep Guardiola as they brushed aside Arsenal in the Carabao Cup final at Wembley.

Sergio Aguero took advantage of some poor Shkodran Mustafi defending to latch on to Claudio Bravo's goal-kick and lob David Ospina for the opener. Captain Vincent Kompany diverted home Ilkay Gundogan's shot to double their lead.

And David Silva added the third when he smashed home from Danilo's pass.

The Gunners were as poor as the scoreline suggests and their best chance came at 0-0 but Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's close-range effort was at Bravo. The League Cup remains the only domestic trophy Arsene Wenger has not won at Arsenal, losing in the final for the third time in his 21-year reign.

Kompany started in the landmark win over Manchester United at Old Trafford, and in the recent 4-0 victory at Basel too. For a forgotten man, this is becoming an increasingly memorable season. Kompany's goal marked the end of Arsenal's resistance and summed up the canyon between these two sides.

He may be a relative veteran but he was thinking quicker than any of the younger men around him when he gave his team a two goal 58th minute lead. Kevin De Bruyne took a short corner to the edge of the area, Ilkay Gundogan hit a low shot and Kompany was first to react, turning the ball past David Ospina in the Arsenal goal.

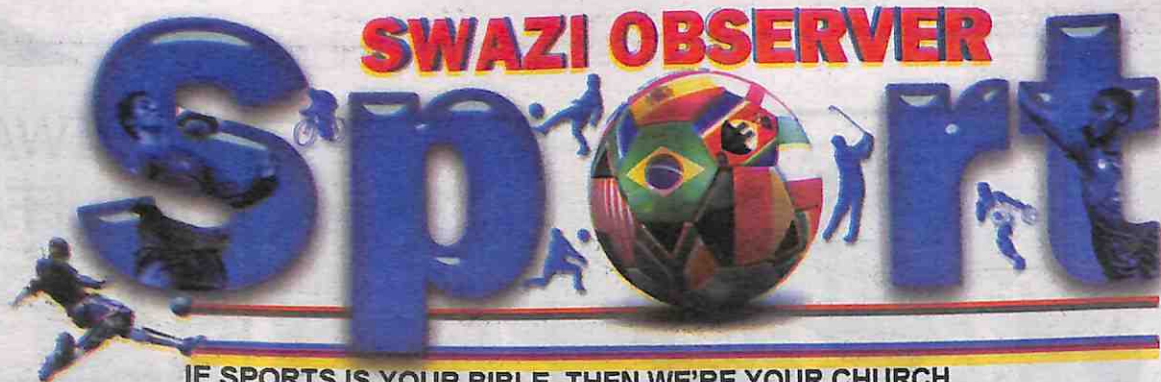
One can argue about the position of Leroy Sane which in the days when football's rules made sense would have been offside, but it wasn't in the modern game and Craig Pawson did not even go to VAR to ask if a man standing inside the six yard box two yards behind any Arsenal defender might have been interfering with play.

It would have been a moot point anyway because Arsenal pretty much used Kompany's goal as an excuse to stop interfering with play themselves and the third, in the 65th minute, was merely a matter of time.

Jack Wilshere lost the ball, Danilo slipped the ball into the penalty area and David Silva was first onto it - he could hardly have been second given how slowly Arsenal were moving - finishing smartly to put the outcome beyond doubt. If it ever was.

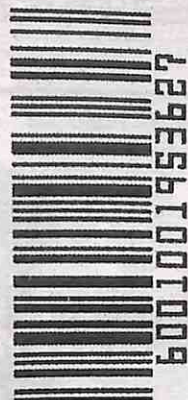
Maybe it was an illusion; maybe it was an accident and on the touchline Pep Guardiola was silently seething, but Manchester City did seem to be considerably more correct against Arsenal than usual. *Daily Mail*

SWAZI OBSERVER



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

MONDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2018



NO UPSETS IN UYAYIFUNA NA AS...

BIG GUNS THROUGH TO LAST 16

LAST 16 TEAMS:

Midas City
Royal Leopard
Sikahlo se-Africa
Callies
Red Lions
Moneni Pirates
Matsapha United
Manzini Sundowns
Malanti Chiefs
Green Mamba
Manzini Wanderers
CK Survival vs Tambuti (pending)
Vovovo
Mbabane Highlanders
Mbabane Swallows
Young Buffaloes

By Mphikeleli Msibi
Sports Editor

SOCCER - NORMALITY observed. Those two words perfectly sum up yesterday's SwaziBank Cup grand opening which saw the big guns in Mbabane Highlanders, Mbabane Swallows and Young Buffaloes ease into the last 16 of the 'UYAYIFUNA NA' competition.

Highlanders were the first to take to the stage at Somhlolo National Stadium, taking on Moyeni United. The Bull supporters would have been forgiven for being anxious before the match as they had indeed seen their side suffer an embarrassing loss to Milling Hotspurs in the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup earlier this season. But Highlanders made light work of United, hitting five past their opponents in a one-sided match at the national stadium.

Inspired by new forwards Thabiso Mokenkoane and Mthobisi Mngomezulu, the 'Black Bull' could have scored even more in a ruthless performance that will surely inspire their fans going into the last 16.

Responded

Then came the Mbabane Swallows vs Milling Hotspurs match. Swallows had come into the match bruised after their 1-3 defeat to Bantu FC of Lesotho in the CAF Champions League last Wednesday. But the 'Birds' responded well yesterday, completely dominating giant killers Milling Hotspurs in an assured performance. Any fears of 'trouble in paradise' were put to bed as Swallows thrashed the National First Division side 3-0 to book their place in the last 16.

The last match of the day saw Young Buffaloes take on Hlatikhulu Tycoons. The army side also came into the match at the back of a disappointing midweek CAF result. Buffs, defending champions in the SwaziBank Cup, put on a show yesterday as they ruthlessly dispatched Tycoons, beating them 5-0 to reach the last 16

UYAYIFUNA NA?

SOME THE THE ACTION



HIGH BALL: Milling Hotspurs goalkeeper Sibusiso Dlamini making a save during their game against Mbabane Swallows where they lost 3-0 yesterday at Somhlolo National Stadium. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



THROUGH TO LAST SIXTEEN: Mbabane Highlanders' Menzi Sithole, Xolani Sibandze and Sibusiso Mkhonta in jubilation.

of the prestigious tournament. Inspired by striker Phiwayinkhosi Dlamini, who bagged a hat-trick, Buffaloes were a menace from the get

go and their big win should be a warning to all those hoping to wrestle the SwaziBank crown away from them.