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Emazinyane, led by Princess Sikhanyiso (wearing jacket at the back), looking radiant in their Golden Jubilee lihiya during the 50/50 Double Celebrations held at the Mavuso Exhibition and Trade Centre recently. (Picture Courtesy of Daniel Toro)



Sands disqualified from SAMA

Eight children left homeless as

home sold

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How PM 'fell'

sick

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SOCIALITE QUESTIONED WHILE ...

CIVIL SERVANT ARRESTED FOR PROSECUTOR'S On-going court case leads to fight outside Solani's

STORY ON PAGE 2

MANAGING EDITOR

bane Betfus/e Street 2404 4437 2404 4436 2404 9600 1 9797 2404 0706

Thembeka Dlamini -7936 4936 Zwelethu Dlamini - 7946 0316 Fortune Ndlangamandla - 7946 0386

Email: sunday@observer.org.sz

Email: sport@observer.org.sz

Email: subeditor@observer.org.sz

Qondile Ntiwane - 7946 0316

SPORT REPORTERS

NEWS REPORTERS

SPORT EDITOR:

Sibusiso Masilela

Sibongiseni Zondi

SCENE EDITOR: scene@observer.org.sz

NHLANGANO

SENIOR SUB-EDITOR Futhi Dlamini - 7946 0345 / 7615 8517

Sibusiso Dlamini

Mbongeni Mbingo

e-mail: mbinge@observer.org.sz Cell: 7602 9564 / 7904 8641

CLARIFICATION

CIVIL SERVANT ARRESTED FOR PROSECUTOR'S MURDER

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI AND ZWELETHU DLAMINI

civil servant has been arrested following his involvement in a gruesome murder of High Court Prosecutor Stanley Dlamini (40) of Bhekinkhosi who was allegedly stoned in the head with a brick twice in the wee hours of yesterday morning.

The incident, which took place a few metres from Solanis on the turn off to Gobholo just above Masakhane, occurred as most fun lovers were downing their last drinks and ready to go home.

Often times, revellers stay in the parking lot until the early hours of the morning in a bid to avoid drunken driving arrests or, in order to get home safely at dawn.

The civil servant, who was in the company of several friends who had been drinking for several hours, is said to have been involved in a war of words with the prosecutor who was also in a questionable state of sobriety.

This was after the prosecutor took on a rape-accused suspect who is out on bail.

The rape victim is said to be his relative.

CASUAL CASUALTY Stan Diamini's family members

The prosecutor is alleged to have confronted the suspect, as he had on a previous occasion, promising him that he would get a maximum sentence and should count his days of freedom as his last.

Walked

The suspect is said to have walked away with annoyance whereas those nearby took exception to what the prosecutor was saying as they accused him of false accusations which resulted in the court case that is on-going.

outside the casualty ward.

... rape-accused socialite linked to altercation leading to the murder

"It was then that a fight ensued with those who were nearby hitting at Dlamini who fought fiercely.' The witnesses said they first saw Dlamini take of his jacket and charge at the group of men with fists extend-

The group is said to have advanced to the turn off to Gobholo where the civil servant allegedly, in a fit of rage, with the prosecutor floored on the concrete road, took a brick and bashed it twice on his head, breaking it into pieces.

"After the second hammering Dlamini rolled a few times and land. ed near the butchery entrance. It was then that the severity of the blow was noted," said a witness.

When the police arrived, they are said to have questioned the rape accused, among others, who were found seated with his friends near the Solanis entrance and after his response that, 'they were fighting my battles' to the police, was enough to have him hauled before the cops.

This gave birth to rumours that he had a hand in the fight and had been arrested.

However, by noon, the rape accused was out of the police station as he was called and he only confirmed that he was a free man and did not want to be drawn to give his side of

When called at 5pm, he again reiterated that he did not want to say anything.

Stan was about to complete his MBA

an Dlamini was said to have been preparing his thesis after having completed his course work for his MBA. "All I know is that he was looking for-

ward to completing his studies as he had aspirations within the judiciary," said a distressed colleague.

He revealed that their training plan called for them to take part in courses that would enable upward mobility.

"He was part of the those who aspired for greatness as he took course which will better align him with promotions in the event they emerged instead," said the colleague even though he was not aware of the topic Dlamini decided to pursue from the list he had at his disposal.



Mbabane Desk Officer Solo Mavuso on arrival at the Mbabane Government Casualty Ward.

he murdered prosecutor was

said to be preparing to move

out of a burnt house on Friday.

This is according to his friends

who said they last saw Stan Dlamini

as he prepared to go back home

from work and load his belongings

into a truck as he had recently been

allocated a new house after the fire

which started in one of the bed-

The government-issued house at

Checkers is said to have been par-

tially burnt a few months ago and

his young son was badly burnt neces-

sitating a transfer to a South African

hospital due to the severity of the

It could not be ascertained how

One of his Checkers neighbours,

who was asked or directions yes

on tensional tension and extra

rooms.

wounds.

the fire was started.



The area around Solanis was a hive of activity as police returned several times to gather evidence.

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

HOW TO FIND US

Swaziobserver

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

PIGG'S PEAK

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

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

MARKETING MANAGER the Mkhonta 7605 2296 7946 0308 2404 8671 / 2404 8699 smm@observer.org.sz

CIRCULATION OFFICE Bongani Simelane: 7605 3707 /7946 0338 circulation@observer org sz

MOVED OUT OF BURNT HOUSE ON

...was once stabbed in bar brawl



terday afternoon, expressed shock as she said she was present at the hospital when the police brought

his body but was oblivious of the identity of the murdered man.

The woman, who nearly collapsed

in shock, said she was very disturbed by the calamities befalling the family as his son was in South Africa and then the death.

"I am deeply touched becausewe have been nursing his child who burnt and was transferred to South Africa. Is the son back?" she asked.

On the other hand, friends to the prosecutor said they had hopedhe would stop frequenting bars as he was recently admitted to hospital after he was stabbed severely.

His mother, who was found seated outside the casualty ward revealed that he had not slept in his new flat after moving in.

His mother was with his wife and siblings who stood at the entrance to the casualty ward and were joined by officials from the ministry of justice and the police.

MINISTER NOT AWARE OF GIDEON'S SUSPENSION

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The news of Mbabane Chief Executive Officer Gideon Mhlongo's suspension was only relayed to the minister of housing and urban development via the media.

This was revealed by Minister Phiwayinkhosi Mabuza who, when asked about the validity, commencement and duration of the suspension, said he was in the dark.

"I only learnt about this matter in the paper (Observer on Saturday), so I am not privy to anything more than what was reported," Mabuza said, adding that he would only be in a position once appraised of the suspension and its reasoning.

Mhlongo was reportedly suspended by councillors led by Mayor

Sikhatsi Dlamini on Friday.

When called yesterday, Dlamini could not respond to questions from this publication's reporters as he said he was in Manzini.

Councillors were also not willing to respond to questions as they asked that protocol be adhered to and their leader be called.

Of note, the councillors voted for Mhlongo's suspension which they

said commenced on Friday.

Mhlongo, when asked whether he would adhere to the suspension, did not respond despite requesting to be contacted via short message sending (SMS).

Mhlongo was reportedly suspended while trying to allegedly invoke Section 27 of the Urban Government Act and suspend councillors.



Minister of Housing and Urban Development Phiwayinkhosi Mabuza.

Akhumzi Jezile.

Akhumzi among five killed in car accident

APE TOWN – According to several sources including Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa and entertainment writer Phil Mphela, former YoTV presenter Akhumzi Jezile, actor Thobani Mseleni, and former Joyous Celebration singer Siyasanga Kobese were among five who died in car accident.

Online reports indicate that the accident was a head-on collision involving two vehicles near Queenstown yesterday.

The names of the other victims of the crash and more details surrounding the incident is still to be confirmed. *Channel24*

INMATES EAGERLY AWAIT S'DIKADIKA

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

hile inmates eagerly waits for their freedom through Sidikadika His Majesty Correctional Services have come out to say they are currently unaware of the list of the inmates to be released on royal pardon.

Responding to this publication, HMCS's Public Relations Officer Senior Superintendent Gugulethu Dlamini said they have not yet received the list and calibre of the inmates who will be eligible for the royal pardon this year.

"Pertaining the royal pardon question, it is difficult to comment on it, we would be misleading you since this is done by a certain committee and at His Majesty's discretion.

It is upon the Ingwenyama to decide what to do in that particular year and it is not an obligation," she said.

Dlamini said the minister of Justice

...Correctional Services not aware of inmates to be released on royal pardon yet

and constitutional affairs was going to inform them once everything had been finalised, attempts to get comments from the minister proved futile as his phone rang unanswered when called.

Recent

Whenever the country has national celebrations such as the recent double celebrations of 50 years since the country gained independence and His Majesty King Mswati III 50TH Birthday, convicts also look forward to gaining their freedom through the royal pardon however, not all are eligible as a fraction may be released.

His Majesty has over the years labelled convicts his guests while affectionately calling them boMalume.

Those who could be released are usually those who are deemed well behaved and those who were about

to complete their sentences.

According to Article 78 of the Constitution the King may grant a pardon, commutation, respite, or remittal.

The Constitution provides that the King "shall act on the advice of a Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy...," a body which includes two members of the King's Advisory Council, the Attorney-General, the minister of justice, and a health expert.

This extends to those who were facing capital punishment as the law also provides that they may also be granted a pardon.

After a capital conviction in a civilian court, the committee must obtain a report from the trial court (or judiciary) and may consider other information in determining whether to advise the King to exercise his prerogative.

The Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act also states that the King may commute or remit any sentence or grant a pardon.

Locally, convicted persons may appeal to the Prerogative of Mercy Committee for the pardon or commutation of their sentence.

The Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act (CPEA) regulates the grant of pardons and commutation of sentences in the country.

It reportedly preserves the power of the King at any time to commute or remit any sentence of any court of criminal jurisdiction established in Swaziland, or to grant a pardon either free or subject to lawful conditions of any offender convicted by any such court.

Exercise

Thus the King may, in the exercise of the prerogative of mercy, commute any sentence, effect a free pardon or release on probation, any convicted prisoner.

Of note, a royal command was sounded prior to the celebrations calling for all widows to remove mourning gowns.

Shiselweni patients abandoned on weekends as OPDs close

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

Sick patients at the Hlatikulu Government Hospital and Nhlangano Health Centre are left unattended as the Out Patient Departments (OPDs)are closed on weekends.

An OPD is the section of the hospital where patients are provided medical consultations and other allied services

This include consultation chambers where patients are provided medical, surgical or allied (physiotherapy, dietetics) consultation and expert opinion. OPD services are one of the important aspects of hospital administration.

The publication visited the medical centres on Wednesday, random interviews conducted to staff and the general public confirmed reports that the OPDs do not operate on weekends.

Happening

This is contrary to what is happening at the Mbabane Government Hospital as its OPD operates even on weekends. Information gathered is that there is a doctor who is on call every weekend. This means patients who need treatment on weekends are unattended to while some are not well attended. Unconfirmed reports sug-

gested that the health workers decided to stay away from work on weekends due to the non-payment of overtime by government.

It could not be ascertained whether the stay away from work on weekends was motivated by the Circularwhich aimed at slashing medical allowances by over 30 per cent.

The circular reportedly came into effect on February 1.

The Circular, which revokes Establishment Circular No.7 of 1993, was reportedly approved during a cabinet meeting.

Significance

The significance of the Circular was reportedly to reduce the on-call allowances burden on the ministry of health's budget seeing as about E100million a year was used, outside of salaries. An estimated E50million per annum could be saved with the new circular.

In Hlatikulu when this publication's reporters posed as general public who wanted to bring in a relative to the hospital this weekend, they were advised by nurses against the action as they would be no –one on duty.

This was also confirmed by some staff members who were found in one of the retailers in town.

In Nhlangano, a group of orderlies also informed this publication's reporters



that the OPD does not operate on weekends.

A member of the public who went to Nhlangano Health Centre to drop her grandmother for check-ups was turned back as they were told that on weekends only critically ill patients were attended to.

Suffering

The old woman was suffering from hypertension and was forced to ask one of his age mates to share their tablets with her (the grandmother).

The president of the Swaziland

Democratic Nurses Union (SDNU) Bheki Mamba said the absence of health workers in OPDs may be caused by shortage of staff. He said normally, the public is supposed to be attended to even on weekends but the main challenge was that fewer workers are deployed on weekends.

"The assumption is that few people would need medical attention on weekends," Bheki said.

He emphasised that because of the shortage of staff, hospital administrations scheduled that more staff

should only be on duty on weekdays than weekends. He clarified that the absence of staff has nothing to do with the Circular which slashed medical staff allowances.

Meanwhile, Director of Health Dr. Vusi Magagula requested to ascertain reasons behind the abnormality before discussing the matter. He said he should be called after an hour but when it elapsed he had not contacted the relevant stakeholders and asked to be contacted again after another hour.

Did nurses' association regional executive threaten PM's life?

...Sicishe yini logesi lelCU - SNA regional organising sec asks

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI AND NOKWANDA **SIBANDZE**

here was heavy security at the Mbabane Government Hospital while Prime Minister (PM) Sibusiso Dlamini was admitted, with police officers keeping members of the public out while allowing only selected medical staff and close family members to see

Althouth the security ensured that obvious threats were kept at bay, an influential leader within the Swaziland Nurses Association (SNA) posed a question which could have had lifethreatening implications had it been carried out.

A WhatsApp status by an SNA regional branch executive set tongues wagging as it asked if they (nurses) should cut power supplying electricity to the ICU while the PM was admitted at the Mbabane Government Hospital.

The status was posted at 9:39am on Thursday after the PM had been at the Mbabane Government Intensive Care Unit for over 24

eMbabane? Mama please give us a signal," read the status which was, however, removed a few hours later, nevertheless, it had been saved and circulated by then.

Cisha logesi was a statement made famous by former Acting Ludzidzini Governor Timothy Velabo Mtsetfwa during

the 2016 Sibaya-People's Parliament as he called for people to get off the microphone as their time had run out. In the event they carried on talking, he rould call for technicians to cut electricity supply to the microphone rendering their submissions inaudible.

The question could be interpreted as questioning whether they should pull the plug on machinery within the intensive care unit.

News of the PM's admission into the hospital spread far and wide, with people concerned about his health.

The status' implication is shock-

ing when taking into account that nurses take a pledge (Nightingale Pledge) during their first year of study and their most important guiding principle is nonmaleficence which calls for them to protect patients under their care.

The nurse, when asked about the status, laughed it off saying it was intended as a joke; "This is the reason I then removed it yesterday (Thursday) afternoon."

When asked why the status was removed, the nurse said it was on hindsight and the realisation that the PM has relatives in her list of friends.

"The realisation that the PM could have relatives on my contacts made me appreciate that despite any disgruntlement one might have with him, it could affect them, hence I then removed it," the nurse said adding that the removal was not necessarily as a result of being warned of it being wrong.

Elaborating on the disgruntlement, the nurse said the general feeling was that as civil servants; the PM does not seem to have their welfare at heart as he does not care about them.

This was in reference to the current impasse concerning the "Sicishe logesi yin le ICU cost of living adjustments where-

Sicishe logesi

yin lelCU

eMbabane?

Mama please

give us a signal

in government has remained rooted in a stance of not increasing their salaries for the last two financial years.

T h e Ministry of Health's Principal Secretary Simon Zwane said

he could not comment on the status as he was not aware of its authenticity and the real identity of the nurse.

"If it is a nurse, I don't expect that from that particular individual. Whether it is the PM involved or any other individual because they have a pledge which they take concerning how they should treat people.

If it is a nurse, then that person got into the profession by mistake," he said, however emphasising on the disclaimer that he was not certain of whether the status was really from a nurse. He said it was incumbent on SNA to caution against such behaviour.

HOW PM 'FELL SICK'

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

ontrary to the panic that gripped the country, the Prime Minister's ailment which necessitated admission to the Mbabane Government Hospital was minor as he could have gone home the same day had his medical doctors allowed it.

This is according to well-placed sources who revealed their shock at the way his visit to the hospital was blown out of proportion to the extent that he was first declared, by rumour mongers, to be in a coma, then dead.

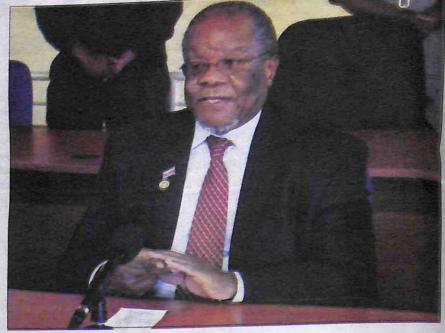
Several people who saw Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini as he lay on his hospital bed said he told them that he had umkhuhlane.

Umkhuhlane can denote minor illnesses which include flu. It can also be said by someone who is assuring that they are not that sick or trying to allay fears of the severity of an ailment.

However, the admission of the PM into the hospital is said to have been caused by a fall which was suspected to have been bad.

"Uwe ehla embhedzeni washayisa kabi," said the source on Thursday morning while dispelling that the PM was in bad shape.

Efforts to reach the PM yesterday proved futile as his cellular phone was not responded to. Close family members have, since Thursday, been unwilling to state reasons



Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso Diamini.

behind the PM being rushed to the hos-

Those contacted said they were unwilling to talk to the media with one referring questions to the Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini who said he couldn't speak about the PM's personal matters. **Shocked**

A visit to the hospital revealed nursing staff who were equally shocked about the hullabaloo around the PM's ailment.

"It was more a routine check-up than him being seriously ill," a specialist nurse said, adding that there was no panic within their ranks when they got to know of his reasons for being in the hospital; "Just be assured he stayed at the doctor's insistence, not because he was that ill."

The PM's health scare comes at a time when he has travelled to Taiwan for medical procedures and attention with the last trip being a month ago.

He was in the Asian country for over 30 days last year while he had surgical procedure for a condition which has been, to date, subject to speculation.

VIL SERVANTS PRAY FOR PM

¬he hope of civil servant getting a cost of living adjustment seems to lie on the Prime Minister. Following reports that he was admit-

ted to hospital, several groups of civil servants used their lunch hour to pray

"We did not just pray for the leader,

but that he fully recovers so that he can intervene in cost of living adjustment before his term comes to an end," a Mbabane public health employee said adding that they expect him to intervene as parting shot in order for him to have a lasting legacy. "We want him up and about because without him, we

will not get the cost of living adjustment we so seek," he said. A civil servant who took part in the prayer on Friday at Somhlolo Park in Manzini said they also prayed for the PM and his family, him being sick does not serve any purpose, so they have to intercede on his behalf earnestly.



Mbabane Government Hospital where the Prime Minister was admitted in one of the ICU wards.

The universal Nightingale Pledge taken by nurses worldwide:

efore God and those assembled here, I solemnly pledge;

To adhere to the code of ethics of the nursing profession:

To co-operate faithfully with the other members of the nursing team and to carryout [sic] faithfully and to the best

of my ability the instructions of the physician or the nurse who may be assigned to supervise my work;

Malpractice

I will not do anything evil or malicious and I will not knowingly give any harmful drug or assist in malpractice.

I will not reveal any confidential infor-

mation that may come to my knowledge in the course of my work.

And I pledge myself to do all in my power to raise the standards and prestige of the practical nursing;

May my life be devoted to service and to the high ideals of the nursing pro-

SNA national executive says statement irresponsible, careless

he national executive of the Swaziland Nurses Association (SNA) has disassociated itself from the statement made by a regional branch executive member.

"It is not the position of the organisation," said the President of the organisation Bheki Mamba adding that he felt the member, who doubles as a nurse, was taken by the #Malema Challenge which went viral after Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's funeral several weeks ago.

'Mama please give us a signal' which was said several times by EFF's leader Julius Malema as he spoke about the people who had done the ANC stalwart wrong during her time, asking her how they were supposed to be treated after her death during her widely televised funeral ser-

When asked whether the statement could not have possibly incited others to act despite it being possibly meant as a joke, Mamba reiterated their position stating that they felt the statement was careless and unwarranted.

"For such a statement to have been said by someone in leadership, it was very uncalled for and we will have to talk to the nurse."

Mamba called for the organisation's leadership to respect their position and their profession; "Even if this is how you feel as an individual, but you must respect that this is the prime minister of the country whether you have issues with him."

Of note, SNA Secretary General Sibusiso Lushaba took to Facebook upon hearing that the PM was admitted at the hospital and not only wished him well but stated that the stance of having him use the public facility validated their services as medical personnel.



SNA Secretary General Sibusiso

Our first principle is to do no harm - nurses

utside of the comments sought from the Swaziland Nurses' Association, nurses were called to ascertain their feelings on the attitude d isplayed by one of their

A politically astute nurse who once was leader in a student organisation said he was shocked by the statement as it brought their profession to disrepute.

Havest

He said they have ethics which guide them and such a threat, even said in jest, was shocking to come from a nurse.

"We take the oath during our second semester in first year and this is to ensure understanding of what is expected of us," the young man said.

Other nurses expressed shock on this and said even when said as a joke, it should never come from a nurse's mouth. "Joking about such shows you think about it. Such thoughts should never come into our minds because it shows digression from the principle which we abide by of doing no harm," this was the response from nurses from the Lubombo region.

BLOW FOR LAW SOCIETY AS CROWN COUNSEL DIES

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

the country has suffered a blow as Crown Counsel Mzila Nxumalo succumbed to death. This was said by the several speakers who had attended his memorial ceremony at Lobamba yesterday.

Speaker after speaker pointed out that his demise has left a gap in the law fraternity, the church his family royalty and the country at large.

Speaking on behalf of the law society Zweli Shabangu said in the legal profession Nxumalo was an epitome of nobility. Though recently admitted to the bar in the year 2013, he started his career in a high gear, ensuring strict adherence to legal ethics and other dictates of the legal Practitioners Act of 1964 at all times.

"He was a true custodian of the law who not only practiced it but lived by example and had not been caught on the wrong side of the law. To that extent the Law Society of Swaziland has: no record of any pending disciplinary issues, no record of any complaint lodged against him either by a colleague in the profession or by any other third party," Shabangu said. On the contrary, he described him

as one of the few attorneys practising in the country who was ahead



Members of the law society also came in their num-

with subscriptions to the law society. He said during his lifetime Nxumalo had made a stop order arrangement with his bank to deduct monthly instalments towards the payment of his subscription and at the time of his demise he was ahead with a credit balance of E500 which is due to

"Attorneys referred to him as a learned friend and educated one as well. Over and above being holder of an LLB degree he also held an LLM in Environmental Law. He was openminded and generous too," he said.

Representing Nxumalo's colleagues was Kim Dlamini-Magagula who spoke at length trying to convey the

unique sense of being that Nxumalo possessed during his lifetime. She said he was a voice to those who would not be heard and a champion to those who had none.

"He was the friend and colleague who was always the first to say" what can I do to help?" or "How are you holding up?" He was given the gift of time and he used that gift to touch as many lives and right as many wrongs as the years would allow," she said.

His elder brother Themba Nxumalo said Mzila was one of the strongest character in the family and they were deeply sad to have lost him. He said he was not afraid to reprimand them when they were wrong.

Wife's message

pecial good bye to my late husband Mzila ZwelibusaNxumalo

N x u m a l o . Ndwandwe. Wenawegudu. Wenawegudunkomo. Sothabakazi. Zwidekayanga. ConcobesakaziNxumayo!!!

Mnguni wami ngiyambonga Simakadze kutsi wangiletsela wena. You were the head of the family and we looked up to you for guidance, love and support. You were a great father to your children and you always encouraged them to learn and to give off their best. I trust that the Lord our God will give me the strength to continue to instill this in them.

I will always remember the love and care you gave to me. You always said, I quote, "We serve a neat God" and I shall live by these words. Though you are not with us I will forever treasure every moment we spent together and you will always be in our hearts. I will Love you always. Your wife Baby.

Orbituary as presented by his brother Advocate Mlamuli Nxumalo

- Mzila Zwelibusa Nxumalo, 41, left us on the April 17, with his family by his side at Medi Clinic
- Mzila was born Ebulandzeni on July 15, 1976, to Chief Madzanga and Make LaSifundza.
- Mzila attended Nkambeni Central Primary and Sikhunyana High School. He was academically astute and earned himself a Diploma in Law from the University of Swaziland, A bachelor of laws and a Masters in Environmental law from the University of Kwazulu Natal and yet another Masters in intellectual Property from Africa University in Zimbabwe.
- Mzila was a lawyer by profession and started out as a legal Assistant in the Attonery-General' Chambers, rising through the ranks as Pupil Crown Counsel, Crown Counsel and eventually Parliamentary Counsel, Crown Counsel and eventually completed a training Course On Legal Frameworks For The ICTs in Malta, as he could never sit idle.
- If you knew Mzila you would know that he loved choral music. He was a member of the Melodious Choristers and in 2001 he saw and instantly fell in love with a lady who was recruited by the choir he was in. She did not know him but Mzila told his friends that she would be his wife. The young goddess held his heart captive for a full year before she allowed herself to be intro-
- She was later unveiled as Miss Tsidi Nzuza and once Tsidi met with him, falling for his charm was invertible, and after nine years of courtship, Mzila finally wed his sweetheart. Ndwandwe's altruist character saw him involved in a tutorial project at the SOS Village in Pietermaritzburg; amongst other ventures. Emajaha (Inyatsi ya Mswati III) will also attest to his philanthropy. Mzila is survived by his mother, his loving wife, three sons, one daughter and eighteen siblings. Mzila will forever be remembered for his straight talk, integrity, honesty and generosity.



Public Service Pensions Fund

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND P.O. BOX 4469, MBABANE Tel: 2411 9000 / Fax: 2404 2712 TOLL FREE: 800 2401 www.pspf.co.sz email: info@pspf.co.sz

/PSPFSwaziland @PSPF_Swaziland

APARTMENTS EARTHWORKS TENDER NO. 1. EARTHWORKS RA01/03/2018

1. Invitation

The Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) hereby invites suitably qualified civils engineering contractors registered with the Construction Industry Council (CIC) under Categories C1, C2,C3 and C4 to submittenders for the earthworks phase of the residential

Conditions and Scope

The scope of works entails the removal of landfill waste on Plot 947 of Farm No.2 in the Mbabane central business district and disposal at an approved location. Full tender specification documents may be obtained on payment of a non-refundable deposit of E500.00 (cash payment only) from the following offices:

Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) Ground Floor, Ingcamu Build Mhlambanyatsi Road MBABANE

There shall be a compulsory Site Inspection to be held on 7th May 2018 at 14h00 at the project site.

Tenders must be accompanied by the following documents:

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), Letter of Intent for surety, Names and contact details of at least three (3) recent reference customers on a project of similar magnitude, Original receipt confirming payment for the tender documents, Valid Tax Clearance, Valid Trading License 2018, Valid CIC Certificate, Forms Jand C, Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years.

Tenders are to be returned NOT LATER than Thursday, 25th May 2018 @ 2:00 pm and deposited in the tender box at the physical address mentioned above. Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope, dated and marked "PSPF-APARTMENTS EARTHWORKS. No late submission will be accepted.

For enquiries, please contact the Fund through the following email address: tenders@pspf.co.sz

EX-MINERS' UNCLAIMED BILLIONS A SYNDICATE

BY FORTUNE NDLANGA-MANDLA

waziland Migrant Mineworkers Association (SWAMMIWA) Executive Secretary (ES)Vama Jele has come out to label the on-going call for ex-miners' to claim their billions in South Africa as a syndicate meant to rob the beneficiaries.

This is contrary to what SWAMMIWA's co-founder Cain Sihlongonyane told a gathering at Nhlambeni Primary School where he was addressing the community and ex-miners at a meeting convened to discuss the issue of unclaimed moneys which he said was in billions.

According to Jele SWAMMIWA was not part of the on-going exercise. Jele said he had gathered that the exminers were told to have E2 000 to get their monies. He said the syndicate started in Hlathikulu where E1 200 is said to be used to open a file in a certain South African law firm which is tasked to get the monies on behalf of the ex-miners. A total of E500 of the amount is used to pay transport to and from South Africa while the remaining E300 is for a form that is given to the ex- miners to fill so that the individuals are be able to claim their owed monies.

However, Jele noted that only a few that contributed in Alexander Forbes in 1970 to 1989 could get their monies adding only special occupations like senior clerks and senior assistants who contributed a small portion of money towards the fund could claim. "The Provident Fund and Entry Fund was something that started quite recently and they were few people who can make claims," Jele said.

The executive secretary went on to

Ownership of SWAMMIWA under dispute

here is non-ending dispute over the ownership of the Migrant Swaziland Mineworkers Association (SWAMMI-WA) as Executive Secretary (ES) Vama Jele and Co-founder Cain Sihlongonyane are on loggerheads.

This comes at a time when the two men operating under the same name which is SWAMMIWA have given contradicting statements over exminers unclaimed monies in South Africa which is estimated to be in billions.

This publication has undertaken an investigation to ascertain the authentic person in the organisation to give out information concerning ex-miners and miners in general. This follows that Jele has been an active member of the union with Sihlongonyane claiming that Jele was illegally using SWAMMIWA's name as he claimed to be the founder of the organisation.

"I think Sihlongonyane is not up to date on the matter. A finalised court order explained to him necessary processes for one to be part of a union. What Sihlongonyane was doing was illegal because members of every union have to subscribe for membership card," Jele elaborated. The court order that gave Jele power over SWAMMIWA was reportedly granted in 2015.

add that the people who mobilise people in the country to go claim their monies in South Africa were part of the syndicate. He said these mobilisers were given certain percentages in



Swaziland Migrant Mineworkers Association Executive Secretary (ES) Vama Jele.

However, Sihlongonyane on the other hand produced a 2014 court order where the court declared that the registration and incorporation of SWAMMIWA by the registrar of companies under Jele was unlawful.

The court order further instruct-

ed the registrar of companies to deregister the registration and incorporation of SWAMMIWA from his register, which brought this publication to a conclusion that perhaps the courts should be consulted to pronounce on the matter.

the money taken from the miners. "It is sort of a syndicate kind of operation," Jele mentioned.

The miners are transferred to Soweto where their documents are taken for

a scan to see if the miner is not owed any moneys. Jele said in most instances the miners are told that they have lot of unclaimed monies in their names.

"We believe that there is no social

security fund that can work with agencies like law firms on behalf of clients. We maintain that the fund should have a relationship with their clients within the administration of financial services centre," Jele explained.

He said if the on-going claiming session was legit; the ministry of labour and social security or the miners' associations should have been involved in the whole thing. He stated that normally, miners' would get their monies through the ministry of labour and social security. He said in a normal situation the miners are not supposed to fork out any cent for such activities. The executive secretary went on to state that miners would only pay for things like printing and photocopying documents.

He added that together with the government of Eswatini they had in the past warned miners against partaking in such exercises. He said the last time such a syndicate targeted TB-Infected Mine Workers. Jele made an example of a case that happened in Big Bend where a certain ex-miner was nearly defrauded about E30 000 of the amount he had claimed in South Africa wherein police came to the rescue of the exminer, adding that there were many cases similar to this one.

"I can tell you that last week alone about E54 000 was paid to a Soweto law firm based in South Africa. I'll be happy if someone can warn Emaswati on this matter," Jele said.

He went on to swear that there was no money that Emaswati would get from the on-going claiming of monies. He said some women in Hlatikulu were already victims of the scam following that in December they embarked on a similar exercise after being promised to get their monies within three months, something that never happened. He foresees that it would not be long before police close up the operational workplace for the syndicate.

"The forms given to the ex-miners are not in accordance to the funds they were putting in their monies," Jele

SACU member states submit proposals for the Revenue Sharing Formula

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

he Southern African Customs Union (SACU) member states have submitted proposals for the Revenue Sharing Formula in line with their first two priorities of the work programme, the ministry of finance has confirmed.

The member states are in a process of reviewing the formula hence each had been mandated to submit a proposal. These proposals are expected to be analysed to ascertain where they converge.

The review of the current formula is expected to strengthen the relationship between members as it comes after South Africa started complaining that it does not get the revenue it deserves from the SACU common revenue pool despite being the largest contributor.

According to the SACU website the following set of principles was set as a guide in the process of reviewing the revenue sharing arrangement:

No member state should be made worse off than what obtains under the current revenue sharing arrangement; revenue shares should be equitable taking into account political and socioeconomic considerations amongst member states

Furthermore, the revenue shares allocations should be developmental and not redistributive. The revenue sharing arrangement should promote economic convergence; minimise volatility and the pro-cyclical allocation of member states' revenue shares; and should be aligned to the SACU vision and mission.

The SACU Revenue Sharing Formula was implemented for the first time in December 2004 to calculate 2005/2006 revenue shares for member states. In practice, member states' annual revenue shares are determined and approved by council in December for distribution during the subsequent year.

The current Revenue Sharing Formula has three components; namely the customs component, excise component and the development component.

The customs share is allocated on the basis of each country's share of intra-SACU imports. The excise component is allocated on the basis of each



SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION

component, which is fixed at 15 percent of total excise revenue, and is distributed according to the inverse of each country's GDP per capita.

The structure of the Revenue Sharing Formula is such that Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (LNS) member states member states.

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No member state should be made worse off than what

obtains under the current revenue sharing arrangement; revenue shares should be equitable taking into account political and socioeconomic considerations amongst member states.

country's share of Gross Domestic get a significant share of their revenue Product (GDP). The development from the customs component whilst

South Africa gets more than 90 per cent of it's share from the excise component. The develop-

ment component, whilst meant to compensate the least developed economies, is distributed more or less in equal shares among all the

The implementation of the current Revenue Sharing Formula has a number of challenges, associated with the data that informs the variables in the formula. Furthermore, the recent global financial crisis has exposed some weaknesses in the structure of the Revenue Sharing Arrangement.

The process of the review of the Revenue Sharing Arrangement has followed a three stage approach which entailed firstly, identification of areas requiring further study in the current revenue sharing arrangement; secondly, an independent examination of the identified areas; and thirdly, a process of negotiation to reach consensus on a new revenue sharing arrangement. The aim of the regional industrialisation programme is to contribute to the promotion of economic growth and development.

As part of the programme, member states have agreed to develop a regional industrial development policy. In addition, member states have identified a number of key priority sectors that will form the basis for cross-border collaboration, among them agroprocessing sector.

NQABA'S GIRLFRIEND FINALLY MOVES OUT

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

he late Nqaba Dlamini's girlfriend Nondumiso Magongo has finally moved out of the house she had been occupying which is owned by a trust controlled by the deceased during his lifetime.

This has been confirmed by the trustee's lawyer who said they had received keys to the bouse.

Magongo has heeded to the order made by Justice Titus Mlangeni on March 29 which had allowed the trustees to evict her from the house despite the pending supreme appeal she had made.

This follows the fact that Magongo's universal partnership claim was thrown out by the High Court in August last year which she appealed.

The trustees in the trust initially sought the ejectment of Magongo from the Fairview house alleging that she had no right to occupy the house.

The trustees also claimed rentals for the period of beginning March 2017



Justice Titus Mlangeni.

to date of ejectment.

The trustees had obtained an eviction order against Magongo since she

had no lease agreement and was not paying the rent. This was because she claimed to have a right of occupation arising from the love relationship she had with the founder of the trust who had since died.

Magongo filed a notice appeal of within an hour after the eviction order was granted.

Reasonable

In the notice, she had raised some grounds that the court found to have had nothing to do with the judgement that she had appealed.

The court held that the appeal had no reasonable prospects of success and further arrived at the conclusion that the trustees had succeeded in establishing irreplaceable harm to the property thereby allowed them to evict Magongo within 21 days which had been successfully executed.

Her evacuation from the house comes after her attempts to convince the court to allow her to remain in the house after the trustees had obtained the ejection order.

After the trustees had obtained the eviction order in February this year,

Magongo responded by instituting a separate universal partnership claim alleging that she was entitled to maintenance from the deceased estate and that her ejectment from the house was premature whilst her universal partnership claim was pending in court.

In her claim the businesswoman had approached the court seeking an order declaring that she entered in a universal agreement with Dlamini and to have been a common law spouse to the latter's lifetime.

For this reason, she wanted to continue staying in a house she claimed to have procured with Dlamini.

She was further seeking an order declaring that she was entitled to a reasonable provision out of the estate of the late Ngaba.

Magongo had alleged that she met Dlamini in 2011 and in 2012 he asked for her hand in marriage to which she had agreed.

She said Dlamini had promised to marry her according to the Swazi lav and custom since he was already married to his wife the same way.

For this reason she wanted to remain in the house which she has since been evicted from.

When called this week Magongo said she had nothing to say as she was not happy with the matter being further discussed in the media.

SIM-card registration: Would it reduce crime?

STORIES BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

Association, to date there is no evidence that mandatory registration of Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards leads to crime reduction.

Yet still the police have praised the move by Swaziland Communications Commission's (SCCOM) saying the SIM-card registration would be of great assistance in fighting crime. Chief Police and Information Communications Officer (CPICO) Superintendent Khulani Mamba in an interview with this publication said the SIM-Card Registration would make it easy to catch offenders who commit or plan crimes using cell phones communications.

Insults

The police spokesperson added that the police force was fully supporting the move by government. Mamba said this would also help curb the habit of anonymous callers who insult others and throw away the SIM-cards after their act. Mamba said, currently, it was difficult to trace callers' identities. He then encouraged all Swazis to register their SIM-cards.

Of note, the recent crime activity where the usage of SIM-cards played a huge role in planning a crime and later played a massive role in police investigations in the case of assassinated business magnate and footballer administrator Victor Gamedze. Gamedze was gunned down at Ezulwini Galp Filling Station and later inside a Toyota Yaris that was dumped towards Lundzi Border Post, which was suspected to have been used as the getaway car by the murders

- a Swazi MTN SIM card was found. On April 3, the Swaziland Communications Commission's (SCCOM) through Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini launched a national subscriber styled, 'Vela Subscriber (SIM-Card) Registration. Swazi MTN has already trained frontline staff to support the registration process. One of the benefits

of SIM Registration includes that Swazi MTN and Swazi Mobile would have Of note, the recent a better under- crime activity where the standing of who usage of SIM-cards their customers are. played a huge role in The two companies would be able planning a crime and to meet the needs later played a massive of their customers role in police investigaby developing tar- tions in the case of assasoffers. sinated business mag-Moreover, law nate and footballer Enforcement Agencies would be administrator Victor able to identify SIM Gamedze

card owners easi-

During registration, clients mustbring proof of residence, proof of permanent address, proof of current address, National ID (NID) for locals, passport for foreigners, registration form (KYC), photograph of subscriber and Signature or Thumb print on the registration form using an electronic device.

However, GSMA, through the Mandatory Registration of Prepaid SIM Card Users A White Paper which was made public in November 2013 and was updated April 8, 2016 through a study has noted that no evidence that mandatory registration of SIM-Cards leads to crime reduction

GSMA represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide,

uniting nearly 800 operators with more than 300 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem.

The GSMA also produces industry-leading events such as Mobile World Congress, Mobile World Congress Shanghai, Mobile World Congress Americas and the Mobile 360 Series conferences.

"A number of other governments,

including those of the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Romania and New Zealand, have considered mandating prepaid SIM registration but concluded against it," read the study.

GSMA discovered that in Mexico, mandatory SIM registration was introduced in 2009 and

repealed three years later after a policy assessment showed that it had not helped with the prevention, investigation and/or prosecution of associated crimes.

An analysis of case studies and media reports in countries where mandatory registration of prepaid SIM users has been introduced shows that such a policy may also lead to unintended negative consequences including loss of access to communication services when mobile users' SIM cards are deactivated (sometimes without warning) due to failure to register by a required deadline.

Such failure may be caused by factors beyond users' control, for example the fact that they live far from a registration centre, lack any formal identity documents, or were not made aware of the need to register and the relevant deadline.

"Restriction of consumers' accessibility to mobile communications by limiting the locations where new prepaid SIM cards can be purchased," read the study.

Concerns

Emergence of black markets for fraudulently-registered or stolen SIM cards and also increase in mobile users' concerns over their privacy and freedom of speech, particularly in the absence of any national laws on data protection and freedom of expression.

The process of registration also disproportionate cost burdens on mobile operators, which could impact their ability to invest in new innovative services and in network infrastructure, particularly in remote and rural areas.

A number of governments, including Canada, the Czech Republic, New Zealand, Romania and the United Kingdom have considered the merits of mandating prepaid SIM registration but subsequently concluded against introducing it.

In the European Union, some member states have adopted measures requiring SIM card registration, and the European Commission (EC) invited all member states in 2012 to provide evidence of the actual or potential benefit of such measures.

Following examination of the responses, Cecilia Malmstrom, European Commissioner for Home affairs noted that: "At present there is no evidence, in terms of benefits for criminal investigation or the smooth functioning of the internal market, of any need for a common EU approach in this area."

SIM card registrations turn-up impresses Swazi MTN, Swazi Mobile

he country's mobile companies which are Swazi MTN and Swazi Mobile are both pleased with the interest shown by the public on SIM-card registration.

On April 3, the Swaziland Communications Commission's (SCCOM) through Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini launched a national subscriber styled, 'Vela Subscriber (SIM-Card) Registration.

Even though, both companies did not give out figures of subscribers who had registered or those who had shown interest in registering their SIM-cards but the companies' spokespersons shared same sentiments on the positive manner in which the initiative was received by the general public. In a separate interview, Swazi MTN Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Luphondvo said he can have the exact figures of those that have registered sometime this week.

Luphondvo said the general public was interested in the initiative, he said this was seen during the training of the company's frontline staff who will support the registration process as the public has been asking them on where they can register.

"The interest is huge because some people are trying to register in time and we are trying to make sure that the registrations are done in as many places as possible," Luphondvo said.

Outgoing Swazi Mobile Corporate Communications Manager Macford Sibandze during an interview last Saturday said the interest shown by the general public was very high. He said this was because subscribers were inquiring about when they could start registering their SIM-cards.

"What is even better to us is that we just have to strengthen our filing because we already have Know Your Client (KYC) documents for 15 000 subscribers through the Swazi Mobile shares programme," Sibandze said. He said the company was putting logistics together and would alert the public on when the record-keeping would start.

The vintage car drivers also made time to play at the racing track.



PS Betram Sterwart trying his hands on the vintage motorbike which was on display at Riders Ranch.



The vintage Alfa Romeo could not miss out on the track.



Former Pigg's Peak General Manager Zacharia Diamini who played a huge role in bringing the rally to Swaziland in a conversation with Prince Bandzile and 'Minister David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala.

MOTORSPORT IS THE

BY SIMON SHABANGU

rince Bandzile has said Motorsport can contribute immensely to tourism in the country if well promoted and supported.

He says many developed countries thrive on tourism which generates revenue and boosts economies as well as job creation. He said countries like Dubai rely heavily on tourism which is an important driver of their economies. He said if the country can put more effort in promoting events like the Galp Classic Cars Rally, the tourism industry can improve immensely.

He was speaking during an interview at Rider's Ranch in Sidvokodvo where he was a guest at the rally that classic cars were on display and also raced. The Prince said he was personally a big fan of motor-sport stating that he has visited such events before in the country and abroad and he realised that the sport has a potential of attracting tourists.

"I am happy to notice that such an important sport is also happening in the country. I am here to support this sport because I want to see it grown and be at level where it is one of the key events which become a huge tourist attraction. I am happy that companies like Galp are already supporting this sport and I urge other companies to follow suit and support this event so that I can grow. I also urge locals to also come and be part of this event because it has a huge potential of attracting tourists,"

Minister of Sports Culture and Youth

... "I am happy to notice that such an important sport is also happening in the country. I am here to support this sport because I want to see it grown and be a level where it is one of the key events which becomes a huge tourist attraction"



STA Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini extending a warm welcome to Prince Bandzile while Galp Swaziland MD Francisco Ferreira and Rider's Ranch Owner Carlos Paiva look on.

Affairs David Ngcamphalala also thanked the organisers of the event for considering bringing it to the Kingdom of Eswatini. He said the country needs such events in order to boost tourism. He said ministry supports this initiative and wish that it grows bigger stating that this event alone has already had a positive impact in the tourism.

He urged locals to take advantage of such event stating that as a landlocked country we must look at such events as tours attractions like those with the sea

"I urge locals to support such an event so that it can grow. We also encouraged the sponsors to continue supporting this initiative," he added.

Vintage car owners urged to be part of the rally

aydi Janse van Rensburg who is one of the organisers of the Glap Classic Car Rally has urged anyone who owns a car which is made before 1989 to join their club stating that such a car qualifies to be a classic car.

She said they are open to new members noting that they will be happy if they can receive more members from Swaziland.

She was speaking during an interview at Rider's Ranch during the second day of the Kingdom of Eswatini leg of the rally which runs across three countries.

She said they are open to new members noting that their intention is to grow the membership and have even a bigger and better rally next year. She said it would be good to have more local especially when they come back next year.

"Anyone who has a classic car then qualifies to be part of this special event. They can contact us for more details and they can join and become fully registered members of our club," she said. She added that they had a great time

in Swaziland noting the good hospitality they received from Swaziland Tourism Authority Marketing Manager and his

He said they are happy with warm reception they received and will be coming back even next year and anticipate a bigger participation from locals.

"Swaziland is a lovely country with great scenery spiced up by the warmth of the people of the Kingdom.

"We invite more locals, they can register and follow us on social media and leave their details with us so that we can take them through the process of reg-



The vintage car owners watching the race.



One of the car owners who took to the racing track on the day.

istration for next year," she said.

Meanwhile STA-Marketing Manager



Prince Bandzile came through to support the Galp Classic Cars Rally at Riders Ranch in Sidvokodvo. He is posing with former Pigg's Peak Hotel General Manager Zacharia Dlamini, Minsiter of Sports David Ngcamphalala, Galp Swaziland MD Francisco Ferreira, Rider's Ranch Owner Carlos Paiva and STA Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



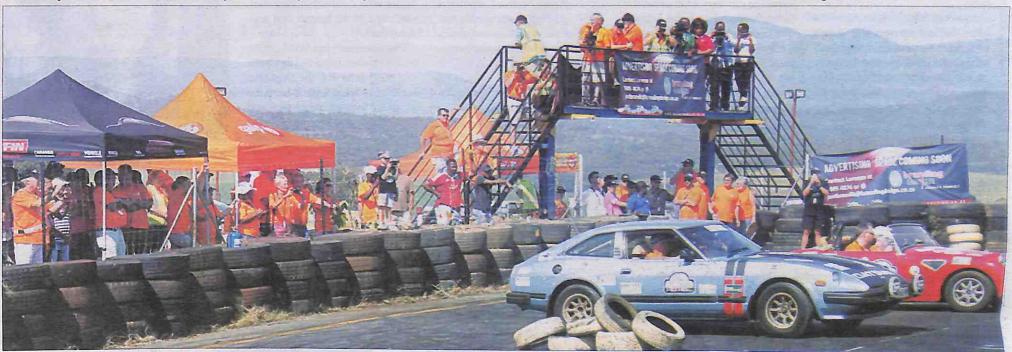
The host Antonio Barbosa directing proceedings of the event.



The many classic cars which were part of this year's Rally.



This classic car owner could not be left out from the racing session.



The classic car drivers ready to try one another on the racing track.

Bongani Dlamini has encouraged locals to reconsider taking their old cars to the scrap yard saying that old cars can be turned to gold.

He said those who have old cars lying idles in their yards must know that they are sitting on cash, stating that the cars can either be sold to vintage car collectors or even renewed and taken back onto the road so that they can also qualify to be members of the classic car owners.

"There are lots of these vintage cars which are unfortunately rotting or used as chicken sheds. We also want to have locals who are part of this classic car owners because this is a great event to be part of as there are many networking opportunities. We encourage our people to dust those cars and make good use of it," he said.

Dlamini added that the event was a huge success especially because the group which was bigger this year spent more time in Swaziland as they slept for two nights spending a lot of money and boosting the different facilities they used on the few days they spent around.

Growing

The event is growing by the years because last year they were 36 but this year the number almost doubled which gives hope that as time goes on the event will be bigger and better.

We are also grateful to Prince Bandzile, The deputy prime minister and the minister of sports culture and youth affairs for joining them as this is a huge motivation to them and the organisers of the event that there is support at the high political levels.

Appreciate

We appreciate their coming knowing that event organisers will feel special to have been supported by such important royal and political figures.

This is the second year of this event since the re-launch in June 2017. The first day, 27th April the cars did (400km),

as they started off in Witbank driving through Amsterdam getting into the country through Mahamba Border Gate.

They drove through the cities to the Northern part of the country where they made a sleep-over at Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino.

They had their rally at Riders Ranch and left later in the day for Simunye Country Club where they spent a night after dinner. Yesterday they left for Mozambique via Lomahasha Border Gate

EIGHT CHILDREN LEFT HOMELESS AS HOME IS SOLD

ZWELETHU DLAMINI

ight children have been left → homeless after their home-out their knowledge, despite that their parents died and left them with a beautiful homestead with five big houses.

Their parents were some of the families that were relocated from Nokwane to make way for the Echibini Royal Residence and were built five houses at Bethany.

Three of the houses are said to be two-bedroom houses with a bathroom, a kitchen and a sitting room while the other two are three bedrooms with similar features and a dining room.

Four of these houses belonged to the deceased parents while one was their grandmother's house.

The Hlatjwako siblings, since 2012 have been living in different homesteads while their home is rented out by a business woman who is wanted out by the chiefdom and the children.

For the past six years, the children have been engaging the chiefdom seeking its intervention to kick out the woman who purchased their home but the matter has been dragging till this far.

Two years ago, the inner council through the intervention of the social welfare department is reported to have taken the decision to summon the woman and inform her that she should vacate the home-

However, since the decision was taken she had not been able to meet with the inner council as it is reported that she tried meeting the council, but it had not assembled on the day and whenever the council is meeting she claimed to have been committed somewhere else.

Narrating the ordeal to this publication was one of the children who now lives in another homestead near his sold parents' home.

He revealed that his aunt Thembi Hlatjwako took them to live with her in South Africa when their parHome built by king fraudulently sold



The Hlatshwako homestead that was sold.

ents passed on in 2009.

He said they did not stay long in South Africa before the rumours that their homestead had been sold surfaced.

He said in 2012 their aunt attempted to bring them back home, telling them they had to evict the person who had purchased their homestead, but did not tell them she had sold it to her.

"When we came back, the woman told us we were not allowed to set foot on the premises as they were

We were shocked to learn that our home had been sold, and we had nowhere to go, so we sought the intervention of the chiefdom but to date, we are still homeless. What remains a mystery is how someone can buy a homestead in Swazi Nation Land and without our knowledge," he said.

Hlatjwako said their aunt then took them back to South Africa where they stayed for two years before being deported to the country by the South African police in 2014 following a raid, as they were in that country without the necessary documents.

"Again, we tried to return to our home but the woman reiterated her words that it was now her prop-

We failed even after negotiating

that she allows us to stay in one of the houses and as such we found ourselves homeless and then our aunt took some of us while others stayed at our uncle's place from that day," he said.

The child who is a pupil in one of the schools around Lobamba said from time to time they would engage the inner council requesting it to come to their rescue but the matter has dragged on.

He said from one of the meetings with the current owner, they learned that their homestead was fraudulently sold behind the back of some of the authorities from the chiefdom and there was a letter stamped by one late secretary.

"We gather that the letter was used to seek a loan from the Swaziland Development Finance Corporation (FINCORP) that was used to purchase our home. What is not clear is what the elders when the woman was introduced to them, and we wonder if a homestead under the Swazi nation land can be sold, and whether they thought of us" he wondered.

Hlatjwayo said the intervention of the deputy prime minister's office seemed to bring a solution.

He said such was evident as one officer from the social welfare department called Mahlalela has taken up the matter, there seems to be

He said the previous officer tried to get both sides of the story; that of the present owner and theirs.

Hlatjwako said the former seemed to be puzzled when the woman said she invested her money and would not move until she received it but the latter had set aside the issue of monies but said the children should be at their home.

He said they had no money to refund the woman and they were minors when the alleged fraudulent transaction between her aunt and the present owner took place.

"The officer said there should be no talks of money but the chiefdom should take a stand and see to it that we are back home. Last year the woman was advised to leave, unfortunately since then; the inner council had not been able to meet with her though they summoned her," explained Hlatjwako.

His version of their plight was recited by a close relative who also takes care of other children and is also representing the children in the discussions in the chiefdom. The relative said it was their view that the children be allowed to their home with a view that they may use some of the houses and rent the others.

The overseer/ landlord of the property when called said they were surprised as to why the chiefdom suddenly wanted them to leave the property they had purchased and had proof and wondered who would refund her boss if they left.

He said they had decided to let go of the matter and let it be a wait and see situation.

He said he would tell his boss to call this reporter as he was not able to share her contact details.

Sewusehlulekisile -Umphakatsi

The area's headman and some members of the inner council admitted that the matter was troubling then and that they had failed to resolve it over the years.

However, they have not given up as they have once again summoned the business

They said the homestead in question was built by the King.

The headman said the council had been informing the said buyer to vacate the premises since she arrived as she was unknown to them.

The headman said there was conspired between the present owner and the aunt who allegedly sold the homestead.

He said they suspected that the duo had privately met with the late secretary of the council and asked him to stamp a letter of proof of residence and the unsuspecting elder appended it.

They said the letter was then used to source a loan from FINCORP. He said the chief would not have approved the sale of the homestead rather would have advised the lady to discuss her stay in the area with the council which she never consulted.

"We warned her against developing the Hlatswayo homestead and told her to vacate and allow the children to their home but instead she resisted and pursued fencing and installing an electric gate.

We would have long evicted her but we are still consulting to find out if we have that power or we may need to go to court," said the member.



Aunt-Thembile Hlatjwako who say she intended selling the homestead but now wants present owner to leave promising to refund her.

AUNT DENIES SELLING HOMESTEAD, SAYS LADY SHOULD BE EVICTED

he children's aunt has refuted claims that she sold the homestead to the present owner. She said the present occupant should

be evicted as she failed to pay her the agreed amount she had intended selling the homestead at.

she had received E200 000 from the woman who occupies the homestead is part of payment for the home which the was going to sell her at E350 000 n July, 2011.

She said she took the deposit and built houses for the children in South Africa while also spending it on the maintenance of the orphaned children while in her custody.

She said unfortunately her in-laws were jealous when they saw her build

a home for the children and when she took care of them as they were not aware that she was using their money but believed it was that of her late husband.

She said when her husband died, they laid charges against her and burnt Hlatjwako however, admitted that down the houses she had built for the

> Hlatjwako said she was then arrested for about a year and seven months in connection with the death of her husband and is currently out on bail.

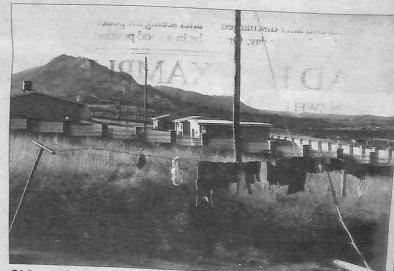
> "That lady should be evicted, my lawyer was about to get an eviction order in 2013 before I was arrested.

We tried to tell her to leave the property for the children are now stranded. She failed to pay me the E150 000 balance saying she won't pay until I go to register her with the chiefdom.*and I won't because I told the chief that she was there to guard the home since I was taking the children with me because they were young and could not stay by themselves not selling her the home," she said.

Hlatjwako said she would have sold the home and introduced her to the chief had she paid the outstanding balance which she failed after several attempts to make her finish the payment.

"I want to come there to sort this matter, but since I'm out on bail I can't cross the border unless I get permission from the authorities.

I can refund her money but she will have to deduct the money she had been taking for rent," she said.



Side view of the homestead that was sold leaving the children homeless.

SNTC CEO WANTS STAFF CVs FROM HR

STORIES BY FORTUNE **NDLANGAMANDLA**

s means of fighting allegations of nepotism practices at the Swaziland National Trust Commission (SNTC), the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Cliff Dlamini has ordered the Human Resources Officer and all Heads of Department through various Heads of Sections to furnish his office with Curriculum Vitae of all workers.

A fortnight ago, this publication exposed alleged unfair labour practices at the entity which included alleged nepotism, unpaid overtime and inconsistent salaries among employees that do the same job. This newspaper also revealed that that Sibahle Ngemasiko Cultural Group was verbally fired by SNTC management, after seven years.

SNTC has hired employees in most places of attraction in Swaziland including Magadzavane Lodge, Malolotja Nature Reserve, Mlawula Nature Reserve and Mantenga Cultural Village.

According to a memo issued by the CEO on April 16, 2018; the human resources was ordered to submit all curriculum vitae of staff by tomorrow.

In the two-page document that this publication is in possession of, Dr. Dlamini said on several occasions allegations of nepotism in the recruitment of staff at SNTC popped

up.
"This has spilt over to the public



The front view of the damaged SNTC car.

domain and it has seriously blemished SNTC and the reputation of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the organisation," reads the

Dr. Dlamini said as a result he had decided to take the matter very seriously. It was for that reason that he was urgently requiring the aforementioned stakeholders with some documents for all current SNTC staff (permanent and contract) without fail.

All staff who have sub-ordinate relatives were informed that they should declare in writing. He said the required documents would give a clear indication of all staff that were employed legitimately and those employed through outright nepotism or otherwise.

"I will then compile a report for presentation to the executive management, the workers union executive, the staff association and ultimately the SNTC Board of Commissioners and the ministry of tourism and environmental affairs to make a final decision whether or not a Commission of Enquiry is carried out on this matter," Dr. Dlamini elaborated.

However, this move by the CEO has been viewed by some aggrieved workers as damage control that would yield no results.

List of documents required

- 1. Adverts or requests for all positions in their departments.
- 2. Dated and signed application
- 3. Reports with long lists of applicants and their qualifica-
- 4. Reports with the short-lists of applicants and their qualifications.
- Interviews reports with date, venue, names and positions of panel members.
- 6. Reports on final recruitment clearly stating the various steps in the recruitment process and
- 7. Signed official offer of employment.
- 8. Certified certificates of qualifications or letters of recommendations from referees.
- 9. All staff that has sub-ordinate relatives must declare in writing. 10. Cumulative performance appraisals if available.

They say the move has been made to give them (workers) false hope that their management was working on the issue.

They believe that an independent company should have been contracted to investigate the allegations. SNTC CEO Cliff Dlamini confirmed writing the memo, however he expressed his disappointments on staff members who leaked the internal documents to the media.

Swaziland National Trust Commission

Workers' salaries, contracts drastically slashed

on-ending reports of unfair labour practices at the Swaziland National Trust Commission (SNTC) suggest that there is something wrong with the governing of the parastatal.

Workers have claimed that their contracts and salaries have been slashed will-nilly by their management. The contracts were slashed from two years to five months for

This has left employees despondent as they sense that that their jobs are no longer

The reduction of the contracts also saw their wages being drastically slashed in March and this month, despite that they still do the same job and working the same long

"My salary was reduced from E2 500 to E1 600 monthly," an employee said.

Another worker further claimed that the salaries were reduced during a recent salary review exercise. The affected workers comprised of long-serving staff which have been with the company for over four years. The workers claimed that there were no reasons given by the management for the reduction of their salaries.

The new sibhaca dancers who are allegedly related to one of the top officers are reportedly living at Mantenga Cultural Village and are apparently freely utilising the parastatal's resources. These resources include sleeping in one of the houses in the village and also feasting on free meals provided by the entity, which was not the case with the dismissed

SNTC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Cliff Dlamini said all affected workers should go to the HR office to list their griev-

He added that if they would be not pleased with the HR's response they should ask the HR to accompany them to his office where their grievances would be attended to.

'Drunken supervisor related to top officer crashed company car'

he workers at the Swaziland National Trust Commission (SNTC) are leaving no stone unturned as they tried to substantiate their claims of nepotism at the government parastatal.

Some of the workers have said one of the supervisors in Mantenga, who is reportedly related to a powerful official, crashed a company car last

The workers alleged that the supervisor was under the influence of alcohol and in the company of two workers when the accident occurred near Mantenga Cultural Village. The two are said to have been treated for minor injuries and later discharged from hospital on the same day. One of the vocal workers said the double cab was clandestinely taken to a mechanic to be fixed.

The vehicle was badly damaged on the front mud flaps. What upset the workers was that one ordinary employee who was also involved in an accident was told to pay E1 200 to fix the car. SNTCChief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Cliff Dlamini confirmed that there was a car that was involved in an accident.

He said the matter was reported to the police and he was awaiting a police report which will indicate whether the supervisor was under influence of alcohol or not. He said after seeing the police report he will be in a good position to comment



The backside of the car which was allegedly crashed by the drunk supervisor.

on how the matter will be addressed. Dr. Dlamini said the supervisor will not be let off the hook should he be found guilty of negligence.

He assured concerned workers that he would deal with the matter accordingly without any favouritism.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE IN COST-CUTTING

ood Shepherd Hospital employees want their management to lead in cost- cutting and to recognise National Union of Public Service and Allied Workers (NAP-SAWU) as their union as they feel deprived of their right of association.

The workers said there were several issues that they would like their administration to address concerning their welfare and working conditions.

One of these issues that the staff complained about was the cost-cutting exer-

STORIES ZWELETHU DLAMINI cise that is underway as they say it seems side. to affect the employees only and excludes the administration.

The employees said this in a meeting held earlier this month where they were informed that support staff was no longer going to get allowances for working on holidays or overtime.

The workers then resolved that the workers' committee should inform the management that they would like to see the cost-cutting exercise being implemented across the board uniformly and begin on the management

"Firstly, most of the matrons reside

in flats rented by the hospital in town, we are not aware whether they rent E3 000 or E4 000 each house, the workers are saying that should be done away with.

Secondly, the workers question the reason management is transported by hospital vehicles yet they have their own vehicles, they want such to come to an end." said one of the employees.

NAPSAWU to take legal route to force recognition agreement

APSAWU President Aubrey Sibiya said they were now considering taking the legal route as the management seems to be reluctant in signing the agreements.

"It has come to a point where we are now going to take the legal route. The law says if they don't want to recognise us yet we meet the requirements, we have to take them to CMAC.

It is the right of the workers to

join the union and the employer is depriving them this right,"

Sibiya said they cannot do nothing when workers are being exploit-

Sibiya said the management's failure to sign the recognition agreement indicates that they want to continue depriving the workers their rights and mistreat

FANS SHOCKED AS SANDS STRUCK OFF SAMA NOMINEE LIST

taken by the com-

mittee as they knew

that Sands was from

Eswatini when they

Fans did not react kind-

ly as they felt that Sands

was being cheated and

some even went on to

share that they had

already voted for

Speaking to the

publication

SWAMA pres-

ident Melusi

'Zox'

Dlamini said they

deeply

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den decision

taken by the

'We are beyond

the song.

nominated him.

STORIES BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

wazi musician Sands' nomination for the top South African Music Award has been struck off, much to the dismay of his fans right across the region.

Sands had been nominated for the Record of the Year award for his hit song 'Tigi.' However, the Recording Industry of South Africa (RiSA) and the SAMA office yesterday announced that it was striked off the nomination, on the flimsy reason that they had since discovered Sandziso Matsebula is a Swazi musician.

In an official statement they highlighted that Sands is a citizen of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) and as such he is excluded from being considered for a SAMA in the Record of the Year category.

South Africans have been mesmerised by si", which has been making waves on radio stations around the country and South Africa since 2017. The song is one of his biggest songs on his eponymous album 'Sands of Time' which went gold after just eight months.

Lindsey Arends, Sands' manager at Kingdom Tales said RISA sent them an apology and explained that the category is specifically for artist of South African origin clarifying that confusion was caused by the radio monitor which sent them the list of most played songs in 2017.

"Because Tigi came out as the most played song, Sands was then included in it but oversight, RiSA not knowing that Sands is Liswati and not South African. Because of those reasons he was then disqualified from the category," he said.

Arends said they are disappointed but do not have any hard feelings because it was an oversight and there is nothing they can do about it.

For the first time in Sands' music journey, he had made an entry in the best soul category alongside South African heavy weights and Idol

Karabo, Amanda Black and many song and that has been confirmed by the reception and other awards that Sands has won, this came as a disappointment to us and I am sure the country, as we were very proud of the achievement," said Melusi.

determined by public vote.

The announcement on social media stunned many of the musician's fans; with many saying that they did not understand the decision

Also removed from the nominees list is a song by Mobi Dixon of South Africa titled Lake by the Ocean, which is said to be a remix of an international song and that is in contravention of the SAMA rules.

In the official statement, it was

In the official statement, it was also explained that "Tigi' by Sands has been replaced with Love Me In The Dark by Sketchy Bongo featuring Kaien Cruz.

"RiSA and SAMA are currently doing investigations into how these breaches were not picked up during the vetting process. After the investigation is completed, appropriate remedial action will be taken," reads the announcement.

SOUTH AFRICAN MUSIC AWARDS

Swazi musician Sandziso Matsebula.

'But Ncandweni won two SAMA awards in 2009'

ontrary to the removal of Tigi from the nomination list, looking back, in 2009 Ncandweni Christ Ambassadors, won a South African Music Award (SAMA) for the 'Best Selling Album' and 'DVD of The Year.

This is the exact fact that caused people to question the decision taken by RISA and SAMA. Memes were flying all over social media, people commenting and asking for clarification from the nomination committee. People started to doubt the whole nomination process. Some just wanted to know what was going to happen to the votes that have already been casted for the acts.

The 24th Annual South African Music Awards general rules of 2017 state that except for the Best African artist category, the entrant should be a South African citizen or have been a permanent resident in South Africa, for a minimum of six (6) months on the date of entry and provided that the entrant is a South African entity and owns at least 50% (fifty percent) of the master recording contained in the entry in question where any other part of the master is owned by a non-South African entity.

Timothy Myeni who is the leader and founder of Ncandweni Christ Ambassadors said he is very sad to hear the news because he knows Sands is a good musician and he deserved the award. He further explained that when the group won the award back in 2009, they were investigated and checked by auditors of the committee and found that their offices were in South Africa. "I do not know about where Sands' record label is based but as Ncandweni we were also checked and cleared that we operate in South Africa, either than that we urge that South Africa should recognise our music especially because most of our artists record their music in South Africa." Said Timothy. He also said that as a fellow musician he is very proud of the level of music that Sands has produced and that he should not be discouraged by this downfall and that he should continue to produce good music and work hard.

Home Affairs to regulate religion

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

overnment is making inroads towards regulating religion in the country entirely.

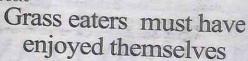
This is according to Ministry of Home Affairs Principal Secretary Anthony Musilela who said it would, however, be a long time before they reach a state where they would have codes of conduct or any type of regulations for leadership and their institutions as they were first going to get to know about the different religious groupings locally. "We are still in preliminary talks with the different religions after government mandated us to regulate," he said.

Due to such a mandate, Masilela said their first port of call was to get to know the different religions mission before regulation; "We are currently at that stage." With religion encompassing various affiliations, he said it was imperative for them to first familiarise themselves with each one of them before coming up with definite paper work. "We need to know the characteristics that define them as religious groups and know how they differ or whether they

are similar to each other to make an informed regulation because they have to be regulated on what they say they are," he said. Masilela was sought after reports that Rwandan President Paul Kagame allegedly closed 6000 churches in that country recently. In March, Kagame was reported to have been shocked by the number of churches within the city as he is alleged to have said it was a mess as the 700 churches within the city were more than bore-

holes or factories. According to news24 Kagame said Rwanda doesn't need so many houses of worship, claiming that such a high number is only fit for bigger, more developed economies that have the means to sustain them.

Explaining the scenario locally, Masilela said they were not intending to target any affiliation despite the country leaning towards Christianity as they wanted to make informed guidelines.



Reports that the country was once inundate by reports of a pastor who made his congregants eat grass still dumbfounds Ministry of Home Affairs Principal Secretary Anthony Masilela.

The PS, when questioned whether regulating religions was not purposed to control such occurrences, said he believes the issue of the grass pastor was adequately dealt with by the different councils of Christian organisations. He said they were to-date, relying on the organisations to play oversight over their members, something he relented difficult in the event that pastors chose not to align themselves with any organised structure.

He laughed with disbelief and questioned where the grass-pastor got his doctrine as he could have adopted it from a place where grazing featured as teachings. Jokingly, he said the grazing congregants could only have done that as enjoyment.



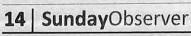
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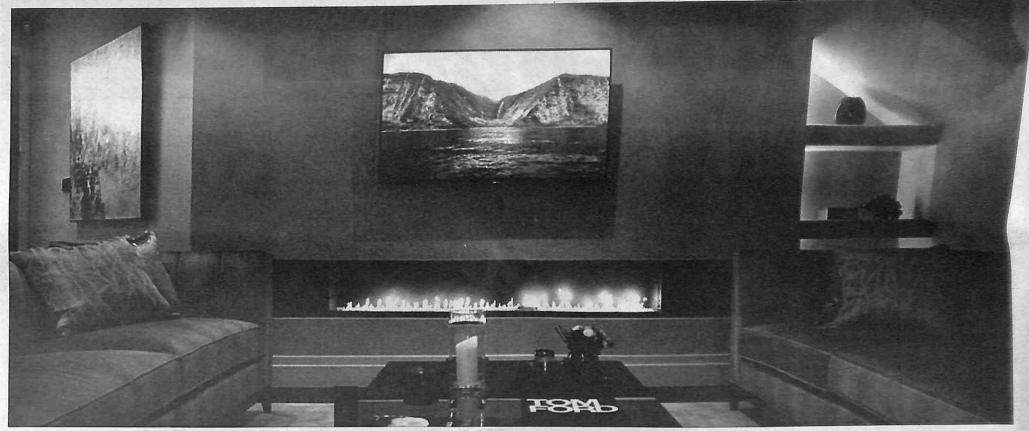
INFORMED . INNOVATIVE . INSPIRED



PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WINTER







The price of keeping warm can be excessive, as electricity use increases when we switch to electric blankets and keep heaters running for hours on end.

Thether you own your home or are renting from someone else, the onset of winter is sure to put a large dent in your household budget.

The price of keeping warm can be excessive, as electricity use increases when we switch to electric blankets and keep heaters running for hours on end.

However, there are a few ways you can offset these hikes in electricity usage by preparing your house for winter to maximize the natural warmth we get from the sun, and increasing insulation to keep it locked inside.

WEATHER STRIPPING

Check your home's exterior doors for cold air leaks. Do this from inside the house by moving a lit candle around the door frame; the flame will blow toward you when there is a draft. Seal your drafty door by installing foam or felt weather stripping inside the door frame. You can get this at any hardware store, but make sure to ask for the correct products and installation instruc-

You can also use a door sweep to stop drafts from entering your home under an exterior abor. A sweep is a flexible piece of rubber or plastic that's held to the door's lower edge by a strip of aluminium.

INSULATE THE GEYSER

Many modern houses and flats have the geyser outside the building on the roof or along a wall, which exposes it to cold air and wind. These cool your hot water down, causing you to use

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WINTER



Save on your electricity costs by wrapping the geyser in a blanket of insulation, an easy DIY project that even a beginner can do.

more electricity to keep reheating it. Save on your electricity costs by wrapping the geyser in a blanket of insulation, an easy DIY project that even a beginner can do. You can buy a ready-made insulator or make

one yourself.

Make sure to check with your landlord first if you're a renter, and do not insulate your geyser if there is a warning against insulating with the care instruc-

INSPECT ROOF AND **GUTTERS**

It's important that your eaves are free of any debris such as leaves, dirt and sticks. Clogged gutters prevent the draining of rain which could result in house-

hold leaks. Also, make sure your downspouts extend away from your house by at least a metre and a half to ensure that water runs away from your house and not towards it.

While cleaning your eaves, inspect your roof for any missing, loose or damaged shingles and

A leaky roof is bad enough during summer, but can be devastating in the winter, letting in cold air and rain. If your roof needs attention call a roofer to help you with the repairs or main-

Also ask them to look at the caulking around the chimney and air vents to make sure that no cold air can get into your home that way.

FAN YOURSELF

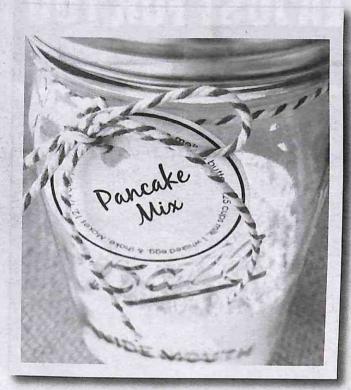
Did you know that most ceiling fans come with a switch to change the direction in which they rotate?

Generally your fan will be set to run counterclockwise, bringing the warm air up to cool you off in the summer. However, switching the fan blade direction to clockwise in winter will push the warm air down and help you save on heating costs. Make sure to run the fan on the lowest setting. Some fans have a remote control or remote switch, otherwise, use a ladder and manually adjust the small toggle switch on the fan body.

While some of these winter saving tips will cost money in the beginning, you'll feel the return on your investment when you see how much money you save throughout the frigid







Pancake and waffle mix

fyou want perfect pancakes and waffles every single time without the admin, this recipe will give you just that.

Healthier than a store bought mix because it has no added chemicals to extend its shelf life, this mix will last up to three months in an airtight con-

tainer in your pantry.
And while we're on the subject of pancakes, did you know that you can freeze your leftover pancake batter? Just pour it into a plastic bag and freeze for up to three months. To use, simply defrost in some warm water or

in the fridge overnight. Then

you can snip a corner of the bag and pour the batter straight into your hot pan to cook.

Pancake and waffle dry mix | Makes 8½ cups

Ingredients:

- ●8 cups all purpose flour
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 2 tbs baking powder
 - 2 tbs baking soda 1 ½ tsp salt

Tools:

- Mixing bowl
- Whisk
- Airtight container

Directions:

Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl and whisk them together to combine. Transfer the mix to your airtight container and store in a cool place

FLUFFY BUTTERMILK PANCAKES

dare you not to fall in love with these pancakes.

For me, the perfect pancake is crispy on the edges and soft and fluffy inside. These fit the bill entirely, and I'm convinced that it's the use of buttermilk instead of normal milk that makes the difference. I've never seen buttermilk on the shelves locally so I make my own, it's very simple: add one teaspoon of lemon juice to one cup of milk and let sit for ten minutes. Your buttermilk is ready to use! Combining the egg with the sugar before mixing the batter also helps to create the fluffy, melt-in-your-mouth texture that awesome pancakes are known for. Resting the batter for a few minutes gives the baking powder time to get to work, giving your pancakes rise and creating air pockets that will make your taste buds jump for joy.

Buttermilk pancakes | Makes 8 Prep time: 15 mins Cook time: 10

Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 4-8 tbs vegetable oil or ghee
- Pinch of salt

Tools:

- Frying panMixing bowl
- Small bowl
- 1/4 cup measuring spoon
- Wooden spoon/whisk

Directions: Step 1

Combine flour, salt and baking powder in a mixing bowl. In another bowl, mix together the egg and sugar.

Step 2

Add half a cup of buttermilk to the sugar and combine, then add that mixture to the flour and whisk together. If the batter is too thick, add a little bit more milk. Set the batter aside to rest for five mimutes.

Step 3

Heat up your frying pan on medium high heat, and add a little ghee or oil to the hot pan before pouring in 1/4 cup of your pancake batter into the pan. Cook until you see air bubbles forming, about two to three minutes, then flip and cook for another minute. Repeat the process with the rest of the batter, adding oil to the pan as needed. Serve warm with butter and maple syrup.

Variations

If you're feeling fancy, add chocolate chips or blueberries to the batter once you've poured it into the pan. Top with 1/8 of a cup more batter before you flip to seal the chocolate chips or blueberries inside the pancakes.

out of direct sunlight. For 12 pancakes:

Step 1

Separate two eggs and set aside, then whisk together the yolks, 1½ cups buttermilk, ½ cup milk, 6 tbs melted

butter and 1 tsp vanilla.

Step 2

Measure two cups mix into a large bowl. Pour the egg yolk mixture into the pancake mix and stir to combine, then add the egg whites and combine. Let the batter sit for five minutes or up to two hours. Heat your pan, coat with a little ghee or oil and cook ¼ cup of batter at a time.

For waffles:

Prepare the batter the same as you would for pancakes, and cook according to your waffle iron instructions.

FROZEN NUTELLA DISCS

es, these taste as good as the name suggests.

Add them to your pancake batter and they will ooze chocolatey goodness as soon as you cut them open. To make Nutella stuffed pancakes, just ladle ¼ cup pancake batter into your hot pan, then place one disc in the centre.

Ladle 1/8 of a cup more batter on top, and flip after two to three minutes. Cook for one more minute on the other side and you're good to go. Your kids will be begging for these every weekend!

Nutella discs | Make as many as you need

Prep time: 5 mins Freeze time: Min two hours, max three months

Ingredients:

- 1 jar of Nutella
 Tools:
- Baking sheetBaking paper
- Tablespoon

Directions:

Step 1

Line your baking tray with baking quickly.

paper

Step 2

Dollop 1½ to 2 tablespoons of Nutella onto the paper and spread into a disc half a hand span in diameter. Repeat with as much Nutella as you need and freeze for at least two hours or overnight.

Step 3

Once frozen, store the discs in an airtight container. To use, remove the discs from the freezer and defrost on some baking paper a few minutes before using. They will thaw very quickly.



UPCYCLE OLD BICYCLE GEARS INTO CANDLE HOLDERS



great way to recycle old bicycle parts which would otherwise just be thrown away, you can make these in one afternoon to immediately transform your living space.

The gears will be layered with a pyramid effect from the largest to the smallest, and this will give your candleholder a balanced, stacked look that is totally unique.

You'll need:

● 4 bicycle gears ranging from 6cm to 15cm in diameter per candle holder

- Votive candles
- Super glue

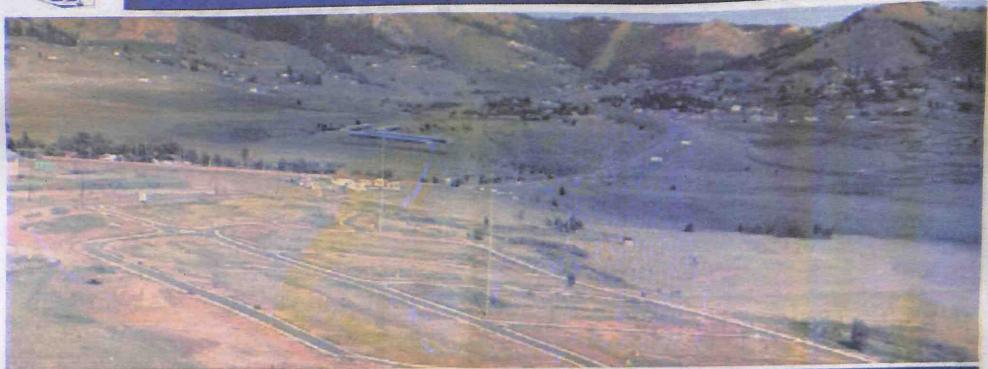
Before assembling the gears, wipe excess oil

and residue with a damp cloth. For tougher oil stains or rust, rinse your gears and then dust with baking soda and leave for an hour. Scour with some steel wool, then rinse and wipe dry. Apply glue to the largest gear and stick on the next-largest, continuing in that fashion until you've got a pyramid. Leave the glue to dry for an hour, then stick your candle in the hole of the top gear.



SERENE RESIDENTIAL AREA JUST FOR YOU

The township has created a new nest for Swazi citizens looking to build their homes in an urban area but away from the congestion of the city.



abuya Township is a township developed by the Swaziland National Housing Board which offers a refreshing twist to the meaning of urban living.

The township holds 98 residential plots and is located in the Ngwenya Town, adjacent to the Swaziland Meat Wholesalers and is only 3 kilometres from the Ngwenya Border Post.

With 49 plots already sold and registered to Swazi citizens, the township has created a new nest for those looking to build their homes in an urban area but away from the congestion of the city.

Plot sizes at Mabuya Township range from 429 square meters to 961 square meters. To ensure a secure and private neighbourhood, SNHB has finalized preparations for the construction of a perimeter wall around the township in the new year.

Using the best sustainable construction designs and techniques, SNHB offers different house types consisting of 1, 2 and 3 hedrooms, duplexes, single and double storey houses that customers can choose from. SNHB also offers the option to customise the house plans to suite specific individual preferences.

Addressing the basic need for home ownership in Swaziland is the core of the existence of SNHB. This township is the SNHB's humble effort to meet the demand for home ownership.

Mabuya Township offers the ideal place to call home and the perfect investment opportunity for those looking to grow their wealth through property.

Mabuya Township Summary

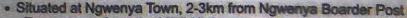






WhatsApp: 7802

A SERENE RESIDENTIAL AREA JUST FOR YOU!



- · Easy access from the MR3 Highway
- · Has 98 residential plots
- · One public open space
 - Fully serviced infrastructure
 - Gently sloping terrain
 - . Plot sizes ranging from 449m2 to 963m2



LEGEND

Reserved

Sold

Available

avallable from:



















WRITER'S NOTE...

reetings dear readers and it is a pleasure and honour to welcome you once again to your favourite youth section that aims to INSPIRE young people to be the best version of whatever they ASPIRE to be.

Most young people in the country always complain about lack of opportunity and platform to showcase their arts.

Now, I'm sure you'll be excited to learn that there's been an innovative idea that will put to an end this – Next Generation.

I met up with two hosts – Thuthu Mbingo and Feefee Mabuza to talk about the concept.

Now, with me knowing how bubbly and smart these two are, I knew before-hand that they must probably be working on greatness, only for the thought to be confirmed during the interview. Read about Next Generation and what it stands for on page 20.

A couple of months ago, a colleague referred me to a book titled 'Bare Blesser' by Jackie Phamotse and seeing what it was about (Blessers and blesees), I simply laughed the offer off and went in search of a more 'relevant book'.

It is now history that weeks later, I started reading the same book for three consecutive nights until I eventually finished.

The book opens ones ears to the painful situations that blessers use to break these young girls and make them their blesees. In the same vein, it also exposes the quest of the Instagram lifestyle that young girls are now in and how disastrous it can tend to be.

Now, it brings me excitement to know that Women in Action will be bringing the author, a very beautiful lady who is also part of the Mofaya brand. More on ASPIRE's involvement on this event on next week's issue.

On the next page, we introduce you to a new column which will be titled 'Hearts Intentions' which will be brought to you by Mukelo Tembe. This fierce but caring soul will discuss with you issues close to the heart. Enjoy.

On the very page, we have a piece in synonyms of abstract, a new house movement by young people passionate about house music in the country.

On the third page, we continue with our discussion on dating in the 21st century. Young people continue to give their views on this rather sensitive subject. On the very page, we round off things with the Tanzanian Association's donation to Ekwetsembeni school.

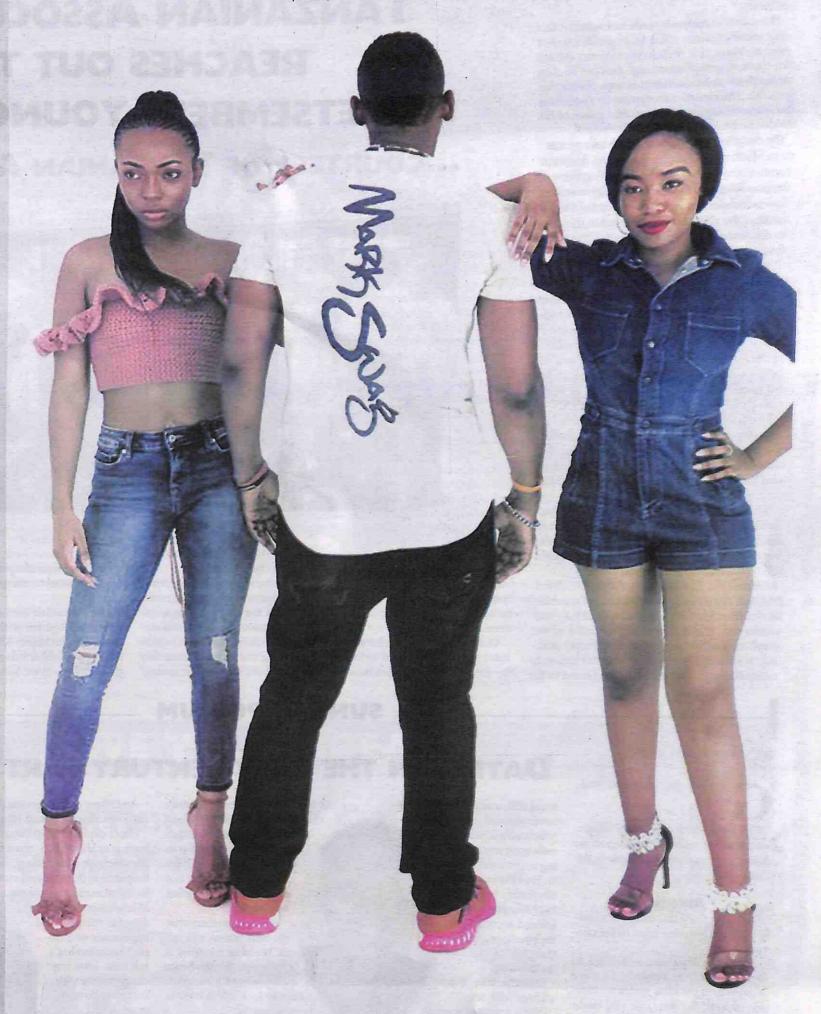
Visiting this school and seeing smiles on pupil faces also touched me indeed and I asked myself the question - what do I do to help other people?

Are you even grateful of the things that you have that others aren't even blessed with? These are all questions that we must ask ourselves in a daily as we work towards the attainment of our dreams. For comments and feedback, let's converse at sbusisodlaminitheg@gmail.com.

Till next week

Have a good read and a blessed week Sibusiso Dlamini





NEXT GENERATION TAKE-OVER

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

t is unfortunate and wrong that most young people with disabilities are often made to believe that they are not as important or rather cannot achieve what they ASPIRE to achieve.

Now, this situation is made worse by the fact that some of them come from disadvantaged homes. Now, this then tends to make it hard for them to grasp knowledge they get in class or for them to be confident beings. Seeing this gap, the Tanzanian Association in Swaziland has donated clothes, blankets and a sum of E3 000 to the Ekwetsembeni Special School.

The donation took place at the school's premises in Mbabane. Speaking during the donation Kantwarero Bashasha who is the Secretary of the association said they had chosen Ekwetsembeni Special School because they had noted the difficulties the children encountered in their day to day living, as well as the ones that the teachers face at the school on a daily.

"We noted that most of the children in the school come from destitute families and lack basic needs. We have worked with them before as we've donated proceeds from our golf tournament. Special and inclusive education is very costly, so we are happy to lend a helping hand in the form of clothes, blankets and shoes. We have also donated a sum of E3 000 for the administration to also boost in equipment or wherever they will find it fit," he said.

The association is made up of different scholars who originate from Tanzania that work in the country and according to Bashasha, they acknowledge the fact that they live in Swaziland and therefore also find themselves responsible for the eradication of social ills.

"The Tanzanian association is made up of different professionals from different sectors in the country. We live in Swaziland and serve the Swazi people, so it is only right to also play a role in the development of the country."

Meanwhile, Ekwetsembeni Special School Principal Thembi Khoza thanked the Tanzanian association for their big gesture, adding that winter was the worst period for most of the pupils as most of them do not have proper clothing. Khoza further pleaded with the nation to come through and lend a helping hand to the

TANZANIAN ASSOCIATION REACHES OUT TO EKWETSEMBENI YOUNG PEOPLE

... COURTESY OF TANZANIAN ASSOCIATION



school wherever they can.

"We would like to thank the association for the donation. They have been very kind to us and this will go a long way in helping the children.

Most of these children here don't have clothes, you would be fooled by the uniform, but then most of

them really do come from families that don't have much.

Also educating and imparting knowledge to these children is very expensive. For example, each autistic child has to use their own stationery or class equipment. I mean everything, and it's not because they demand, but it's just in their nature,"

he said

The Tanzanians also passed their congratulatory messages to His Majesty.

"The Tanzanian community in Swaziland together with its consulate wishes his Majesty King Mswati III a happy 50th birthday and congratulates the entire Swazi Nation on its 50th independence anniversary.

Through the country's peace, stability and unity, the Tanzanian community is able to provide several services in the Kingdom including doctors in health sectors, lecturers as well as professors in the education sector."

SUNDAY PODIUM

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

ood day once again dear readers.

This week on the Sunday Podium, we continue with our discussion on dating amongst young people in the 21st century.

ANONYMOUS

Dating in the 21st century has really been the headline topic of the century.

For some it has been a dilemma, to some it is seen as a tragedy. To some a gateway to paradise. To some a training ground for marriage, you name it. In this day and age dating is seen as a process all young people have to encounter in order to grow emotionally but the question is, do we know what dating is in the twenty first cen-

Generally looking and viewing the world in a youth's perspective dating has helped a lot of people discover who they are, what they like, dislike. In a man's perspective dating is seen as a confidence booster for the guy and in a woman's perspective it is a chance to feel loved and be able to express yourself to the opposite sex. This activity also increases people's

DATING IN THE 21ST CENTURY PART 2

social skills and allows you to discover yourself even more. If practiced properly it is a really good way of spreading love to one another. However it is actually funny how dating has taken a short left and according to the previous generation, dating has lost its meaning.

Dating has been aligned with sex.

Dating is not dating when there is an absence of sexual activity. Again in a male's perspective dating is seen as a game of bragging rights.

The more girls you get the Higher the prestige. It is not about love anymore but about how many women you land into bed. In a female's perspective it may be seen as a source of quick money.

It's not about love but about the weave, Gucci handbag and bragging rights too. It is so sad that dating has become like ratios in Maths.

Nowadays one man is for at least three women vice versa.

All in all dating indeed has really changed for the youth. It has its advantages and disadvantages

hence it is a risk which is to be taken but as young males and females we must not depend on dating to define who we are.

We are more than what the next person will tell us. We must not allow it to take over our lives hence have self-love for ourselves in order to be able to love the next person.

SEHLI MABUZA

Nowadays dating seems to be more about just holding hands, and spending time with each other. It's more than just texting each other the whole night and calling each other in the early mornings.

In a lot of families, dating is not allowed. Not because parents don't want to see you happy and in love, but because of the baggage that comes along when you date someone.

It's like a must that when you date, you have to make sexual contact with you uriner sooner or later.

And 90 per cent of the time, the sexual contact leads to sexual intercourse.

That's explains why Swaziland is leading in HIV/AIDS, cause eventually when you start kissing, you'll get turned on to do more and more stuff. So my encouragement to you all is: when you date, don't date for the physical appearance or a trophy because that's

not love. Love is a decision to be with someone through good or bad.
When you get in a relationship, don't expect sex or other sexual activities. Date

for the matters of the heart, and his/her personality and character.

Date the person for who they are as a person and don't demand anything that's not being

JESSICA DLAMINI

Well for me dating is a way to get better understanding of the opposite sex. I've dated a lot and from my experience its fun exciting and scary cause some people tend to hide it from their parents and I did that also not because they don't want me to date but cause the fear is exciting in a way it tells a story of some sort.

I'm not sure yet if I dated cause of love or other reasons but I have had fun even though it can be heart

breaking but then again you learn from that experience and it makes you more careful and stronger as a person.

ANONYMOUS

Dating nowadays has
become very materialistic. People date
debecause of one's posmoney, car, etc. They
money, car, etc. They
date because of status and
fame, mostly want to get
free goods; lunch from fancy
restaurants, clothes, drink in posh
s. All in all dating has become
thing we do for people to see us
we are associating with. It's real-

places. All in all dating has become something we do for people to see us who we are associating with. It's really rare to find real love as young people. As we speak am concerned about getting ideal wife material cause I can't marry a "Slay Queen.



HEART INTENTIONS With Mukelo Tembe

rell to introduce myself, I'm going to make a very simple example, say for instance you bring someone into your home, a friend because they are in need or whatever the case may be.

As a friend you're being a good friend by doing a good deed, isn't it? Okay! Let's be frank, I don't know what your definition of a home is but to me it is two lives that have come together as one to give birth to one or more lives and

live under one roof as A WHOLE, to spend most of their times together, to grow emotionally and physically together, to share memories and meals together, I don't need to go on, you must know. Even if you've never lived with both your parents, you have an idea, or somewhere down the line the parents may separate but that is what a family is. It is simply made from a mother and

today's matter. So what do you do when you go out into the world, I mean that's what happens after-all, we meet new people and e decide to become friends and normally these are the first people we introduce to our parents before the partners. Now we all know how black parents are - they keep it real when it comes to us (their kids) meeting new people, and it's understandable as they simply don't want bad influence.

father with their children, so on and

so forth until we have sisters, cousins,

brothers, the list is endless, especial-

ly in African society, but let, me not

digress further, and continue with

They tell us, but we don't listen or

understand until much, much later in life, when the damage is already done and all we have left is regret, sorrow and anger.

The worst part is it's only normal and it doesn't make it okay. Family is all that we have, the people we were born from and into matter the most especially when they play their roles in our lives very well.

The people in-between that come and go are a test from the universe.

Just to see if you really

know what you want and where you're going, I've come to realise that the purpose of a parent is to hold our hand and guide us until we are half-way in our lives, the rest is for us to figure out, to stand on our own two feet, to trust us to make better choices without their help, to see if we can depend on ourselves and not them, for everything.

They can only do and say so much. Always have it in mind that what will ruin you as a person and your family is when you allow a person to come in and vandalise your being and your

When you're young and naive you feel like the more the merrier or the better, (oh but my friends understand me better than my mom) and maybe it's true in some aspects and at that point in time of puberty, but that's where it starts and ends. As you grow up you realise that less is more. Bringing friend/friends into your space could sometimes be the end of your friendship or the beginning of problems with your own family. You know how they say the people you hang out with say a lot of about you (yes, this can make life very complicated) you can be misunderstood, you can be your-



self and let these people be or fall under the pressure of being them when you have a weak backbone, you can always stick to who you are but just like being with them) nonetheless, don't make the mistake of letting someone come to your home and disrespect any of your family members in the slightest way possible especially your elders, that person can't be seen as someone who will stay in your life a second

If you decide to give them chances you have the right to request them to pack their bags and leave. Living arrangements with 'friends' will show you whether your friends are worth keeping or not, the relationship between your elders and your friends will determine if it's worth keeping or not.

How your friends make you feel about yourself should say a lot to you.

Now, how do you know if your friends won't ruin your relationship with your parents or with your partner and children, what if you just want to do it because it's the right thing, or because that's how you were brought up or because God says help others, or because you not trying to look bad, or you don't want to one day find yourself in a similar situation.

The answer to all these questions is, well...you'll never know until you try.

Other than the fact that as we grow up priorities change, that means sleepovers come to an end, and you start building a strong relationship or bond with our parents as they are getting old, they won't always be around, we need them to conquer adulthood, start spending more time with your partner who you plan a future with. We aren't getting any younger so selfish decisions need to be made at the end of the day as when days are dark your so called friends are few.

Trim the circle and be unapologetic about it, so you don't have to deal with these situations.

You'll have yourself to blame. I'm not saying leave someone out to die in the cold but if a person has all their five senses working they can make a plan, I should know, I have worked to meet my needs. Woken up every day to drop CV everywhere at some point. God helps those who help themselves.

People take advantage of people's kindness and that is where things get messed up. Let us learn to take control of our own lives, learn to say no this is not what I want for myself, my family, my children, or husband or wife.

The little things can cause the most unfortunate situations we know but we choose to give a benefit of a doubt even when it's not necessary.

Bottom line is any form of friendship or relationship that you build, after reading this article, please make sure that it should be built from honesty. That should be the base, so that there are not expectations or misunderstandings. Before you start with the question 'what do you like' let's change it to 'what don't you like' let's talk about the don'ts first so you start off on a healthy respectful friendship. We are not children anymore, there should be more focus to become a better person for you and your family and less crowds. At the end of the day, who do you go home to? Your fam-

When you're older who do you come home to again it's family! For those who can relate - peace and stability comes from focusing on your family, your chosen family, and the very few close people you trust and your job.

Part ways with of toxic friendships and unnecessary crowds.

Grow up! Stand up! You are not a child anymore. Evaluate. See beyond face value. Respect yourself enough to not put yourself through unnecessary drama and stress, when all you can do to avoid it is to say one word, 'NO'!You can give your comments or get in touch with Mukelo at tembemukelo@gmail.com.

LIVE YOUR DREAM

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

oday in our Live Your Dream column, we discuss an act many label as one of the 'most immoral' ever. One of our dreamers has a say on the issue.

I will soon be sharing my views on one of the upcoming Sunday Podium columns.

How many ideas or dreams have we killed so far?

Why do we go on killing our God given ideas, dreams and talents?

Rich or poor, as long as we have a dream, we can turn things around. It doesn't matter whether we are educated or not, whether we are married or not, whether we are blind or not. whether we stay in the village or town. It doesn't matter whether we are black or white, Asian or indigenous. It doesn't matter whether we are tall or short, as long as we have a dream we can realise a shift in our lives.

Someone can ask why talk about all of this? That is a good question. What lessons can we learn from our dreams as people? All human beings have dreams. We can all realise our dreams. The question is, dreams about what? I am talking about the development of great ideas, great dreams, great projects, you name it. I think you all agree with me that in every seed, there is a plant or tree and in every tree there is

The simplest secret in life if you want the seed. Your dream is your seed. You

ABORTION IS THE CAUSE OF POVERTY & UNEMPLOYMENT



to have a tree in your yard, just plant

are a seed, plant yourself.

Many of us have brutally murdered or aborted great dreams, ideas, or talents before realising their massive potential for reaching innocent souls and leaving lasting legacies for our

Why do we abort, or kill our dreams

before they are born? Why do we not enjoy planting seeds of our favourite

Rich or poor, short or tall, educated or not educated dark or light in complexion, we can all live our dreams. We can grow and develop them.

Let's learn from all those who would-

n't or couldn't commit to their ideas, visions, dreams and talents.

We are creative and can give birth to our best ideas, visions and dreams.

SECRET OF GETTING THINGS DONE: DECIDE & DO

LYD Africa Consortium: Is a group of passionate and dedicated people willing to work and collaborate together for the purposes of their Ideas, Visions, Dream(s) and Talents.

Your Dream is Unity of Self. Who is the best partner?

"The best partner for you is not some big powerful politician, or someone with a lot of money, or some big international company.

The best partner for you is someone just like you, who has the passion for entrepreneurship that you have. Who has the skills to compliment, what you do best, and is willing to work hard, very hard, alongside you. It might be a man, or a woman; black or white ... even from a different, tribe or nationality from you.

What is key is to align your values, and respect each other's space. Never mind the money, the power and the influence... It's not a factor."



NEXT GENERATION TAKE-OVER!

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

re you young, talented and passionate about your craft? Well, this is your time to shine as the perfect platform has been availed to you with the 'Next Generation' initiative. The initiative will be hosted by two vibrant young people, Feefee Mabuza and Thuthu Mbingo. ASPIRE met up with them this past week to get a clear perspective on the idea.

"Next Generation is a platform for young people to showcase all their talents and burning passions. We are availing an opportunity for the youth to shine and deservedly take-over the arts industry." says Feefee.

"We know how talented young people are in the Kingdom of Eswatini, so this is the perfect opportunity for them to showcase their talents to the World." explains Thuthu.

The girls are quick to point out that there is a wide range that young people can choose from, and state that everyone is welcome to join.

"Young people in this country are more like diamond that hasn't been discovered. This is where they'll be able to showcase what they can do, and this is also where they'll be spotted and discovered as the next 'Sands', the next 'Shadow', or even the next 'Koko Shabangu," says Feefee.

Thuthu states that she believes that at a time when unemployment and poverty is high, young people should seize the moment and create employment for themselves.

"We must not just sit and expect that things will change. Unemployment and poverty amongst the youth in our country and the continent as a whole is appalling. It is high time we take action."

For example, myself, Feefee and a couple of friends will be working on something we love – make-up. In the not so distant future, we will have a day where we make-up people and then share the proceeds equally.

That's something we can even continue doing and make money for ourselves. My point is that through this project our vision is to preach a gospel

"Next Generation is a platform for young people to showcase all their talents and burning passions. We are availing an opportunity for the youth to shine and deservedly takeover the arts industry."

of entrepreneurship. No one will create opportunities for you, it is upon you to open your own doors and shine."

Families

Feefee adds that the lack of financial prudence and economic conversations in most Swati families also plays a role.

"It is unfortunate that many parents don't have talks with their children regarding finances and how to build wealth.

Most just tend to tell their children to go to school and then look for a job when the sad reality is that there aren't enough jobs out there for all of us – regardless of whether you're a degree holder on not. That's also the kind of thinking that kills us. Yes, education is important, very important, but then a degree isn't going to guarantee success."

Response

When I quizzed the two ladies about the response on the program so far, they beamed.

"People are excited and that's what's so encouraging. All we want to see are young people doing what they love and showcasing how well they can do it to the world.

No offence to the current crop of entertainers, but most of them are now

tried and tested which holds back our industry from being vibrant and innovative.

"Your KrTC's, Mozaik's, and Shadow's just to name but a few have all been around for the past decade.

Better

Does that mean there's none of the current 90's crop in the country that can do what they do or even bigger and better? Or is it because they just aren't getting the platform?

Well, we believe on the latter, and it is for that reason that we have "Next Generation," says Thuthu.

The first show will be held this coming Saturday at the Theatre Club and then the next shows will be held every last Saturday of the month.

Thuthu points out that the shows will be running from 12 till 5 and

that alcohol will not be allowed.

"Please, no alcohol will be allowed. The message is that young people are showcasing their talents without being under the influence of any form of substance/drugs. We discourage the use of drugs and that's why we are having the event during the day – so parents can feel free to let their children attend, knowing very well that the environment won't be a toxic one."

"In conclusion, our word of advice to the youth, do not be afraid to do what you love and to take risks. We hope to see you soon."

HOW TO JOIN

Follow the nex generation and DM on Instagram or simply follow missthuthu or feefeetheunicom for more details.

For those without Instagram, email thenexgen@gmail.com



SundayObserver Cene

BEAUTY QUEENS ISSUE

BEAUTY VS

SLAY

QUEENS

WRITER'S NOTE:

ou know them perhaps you're even one of them, those girls that turn every head when walking down the street.

They're the girls you'd probably sell your left kidney to look like. But what if we told you that being beautiful is totally overrated?

At the very core the one thing we all want is to be happy, and being beautiful appears to play a critical role in doing just that. After all, pretty people always look perfectly happy in the media. The trend of facial surgeries and glowing skin has seamlessly disseminated from television and fashion industry to the common world.

If its love and admiration you're after, beauty seems like a golden ticket. Unfortunately, the attention one gets from being beautiful isn't all it's cracked up to be. Some women hate the way they are labelled just because of the way they dress or even look. The world of fashion and cosmetics isn't the same anymore. I could be black today and light tomorrow.

Have people have lost the true meaning of beauty. On this week's issue we look at beauty queens. We look at how their lives change after being crowned. We look at how people perceive them as they are always in the public eye.

First we look at the world of beauty queens. We discuss how pageants affect people and what they are really about. SCENE also looks at the issue around the fact that society puts so much pressure on people to look certain way in order to be considered beautiful or attractive. These pressures come from celebrities and people we look up to.

SCENE also looks at how these pressures also affect males even though it does seem as if.

With the era of beautiful ladies flashing their lives on social media, also known as slay queens. Everyone knows what a slay queen is and probably knows one. They seem to be taking over the world of social media. We look at the difference between slay queens and beauty queens. We also speak to Lihle Dlamini who clarifies what a sly queen is as different people have different explanations for them.

She also talks about the misconceptions surrounding slay queens, she says people should understand that most slay queens are actually educated. This gave a different side to what I exposed to and I hope it also helps you understand the type of slay queens that are out there.

We talk to some of the beauty queens that we have in the country. First we speak to the country's beauty queen Miss Swaziland Linda Hutchinson; she believes that beauty goes beyond just looks. We speak to her about the pressures of having to look pretty all the time.

Next we speak to Miss UNISWA, Siphosethu Malinga who says being the queen of the university is a lot of work than she thought it would be. After that we talk to Kwaluseni's reigning queen Bongiwe Vilakati, who says being a slay queen is similar to being a beauty queen. I would like to thank Sifiso Zwide of

Ekhaya Kusekhaya for the amazing cover. All in all I hope you read and understand why women feel so much pressure to look beautiful all the time and most importantly I hope we change our perspective on what constituted beauty. I hope this issue will open eyes to the idea that beauty can come from within and also that everyone is beautiful in their own special

way and that is enough.
Until next week
Enjoy
And stay beautiful
By Nokwanda Sibandze



BEAUTY PEGEANT Woman of substance has to possess everything in place in the most impeccable way

eing a beauty queen is not easy, it might look it but it definitely far from being

Nowadays, being a beauty queen is different. I mean with social media nothing can be easy for anyone in the limelight. Each young lady that enters the opposition has one objective as a top priority, winning. Regardless of how delightful or gifted every competitor is, there will dependably be one victor. They say beauty lies in the hands of the beholder, yet for this situation it is somewhat unique. In excellence exhibitions, many ladies are judged by their physical, enthusiastic, mental, social and systematic abilities. For someone to be crowned a beauty queen, she has to be intelligent and beautiful while the other factors change from time to time, a woman of substance has to possess everything in place in the most impeccable way; her title has to speak for its self, because people expect to see a sparkle in the person they say is the 'beauty queen.' Criticism of beauty queens has been fairly consistent as feminists have argued that pageants reify patriarchal idealizations and unattainable female beauty standards, which are judged mostly in heterosexist terms through a masculine lens that objectifies women as symbols and not thinking, feeling human beings.

All those factors are a bit intimidating for most people but in the world of beauty queens it is just a norm. Some beauty queens are even used to the pressures that come with being a beauty queen. While some others feel that the pressure is unnecessary, some say the pressures are what is expected and everyone who pursues the career should know that it comes with its own detriments.

Beauty queens themselves undergo an often gruelling, and at times, unappreciated role when they make visitations to the public, and sometimes are expected to be perfect and act like royalty. We've heard many stories where people complain about behaviours of be uty queens.



■ For someone to be crowned a beauty queen, she has to be intelligent and beautiful while the other factors change from time to time, a woman of substance has to possess everything in place in the most impeccable way

Maybe it is fair I mean looking at the fact that when chosen as an ambassador one needs to behave a certain way in order to uphold an acceptable image of that particular brand.

For the most part, for beauty pageants who are mature enough it can be a great learning opportunity and self-evaluation, with direct and objective feedback and results. Granted there is the major factor of how you look, but face it, this is the world we live in. What stands out is how you speak and present yourself.

Most beauty queens have valued the experience, and that has helped them build self-esteem, helped them in public speaking and made them more aware of who they are, what they really think, what works for them, stylistically, cosmetically, in their future planning.

Another advantage for beauty pageants is that, contestants are encouraged to do volunteer work and raise funds. They are also exposed to different communities, some of which are hit by calamities or economically chal-

lenged. With these, they become ambassadors of goodwill and are given the chance not only to help but also inspire other people.

While beauty pageants consist of several good elements, it is hard to deny that at their heart, these contests are about beauty. The emphasis placed on looking good and materialistic concerns, especially at a young age, is a cause for worry, since it may lead to people especially young people believing that these attributes are all that matters as they grow up, some pageant entrants are taught sexualized behaviour before they become adults, fuelling fears that these kids grow up too early.

For young ladies, being acknowledged and appealing is imperative to them. No young lady wants to parade herself before a group of individuals and judges, just to be informed that she isn't the prettiest, or the second, or third, or so on. This can profoundly twist the mental self-image that these young ladies and ladies have for as long as they can remember.

The toll that entering beauty pageants can take on your finances and health can be quite taxing. It is not cheap and the clothing alone can be quite expensive. Training hard to get your body where you want it can be tough too and eating disorder can occur when you take it too far.

You have to find the balance between being focused on your goal and care of yourself at the same time. It you can avoid the pressure getting to you, you can enjoy what you are doing without it being extra stransful

without it being extra stressful.

There is no perfect way to be a beauty queen. Getting the most out of being in pageants and using the positive factors to improve yourself as a person, is the best result you can ask for. Winning is a bonus that should not shape a person and losing should not either. Everyone can get something good out of being involved and find a happy ending. Beauty is a nice quality to have but there are more important qualities to be had and pageants are forums that can help you increase these more honourable characteristics.

By Nokwanda Sibandze

LINDA'S LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

ur very own Miss Swaziland Linda Hutchinson, our beauty queen with brains.

She says after being crowned many aspects of her life stayed the same. She only had a busier schedule and a larger network.

After being crowned Linda says people understood her title to imply a certain status and they did to a certain extent approach her cautiously after the win, especially those close to her." They felt like they needed to address me differently but within months, we all adjusted to the new normal."

Being a beauty queen, you are always under public scrutiny and for Linda it gets intimidating at times especially when people just stare and she isn't sure what is going through their minds. But she says other than that it is quite alright.

Lind says being in the public eye all the time she prefers it better when someone approachce her to greet and converse or take a picture."

behaves she is always watched on how she behaves she says it is difficult for her to have a bad day to an extent where she can refuse to take a picture because that would linger in the other party's mind longer than her bad day would last.

It has been almost 2 years now so she has warmed up to the idea of being herself and not trying to seem perfect in terms of always look-

criving to pick up a take away then going right back to studying, I do not waste my time getting dolled up. It has been a process to accept that people will judge and criticise but as long as I am pleased with how I am see-

with how I am seeing my journey through, I can rest easy."

Even with all the public scrutiny and pressures that come with the title Linda says she wouldn't change it for anything. She says mostly because of the memories, the lessons, friends and mentors she has gained. For

has gained. For as truly been the journey of a lifetime.

But it is not all glitz and glamour as people assume "It comes with responsibilities that transcend the title, but not as far as I thought. Yes I always have my sash and crown but I was afraid I would never have time for myself and my interests. In as much as the title precedes Linga the regular girl to the public, it does not take away from my personal identity. I love that because it helps me stay grounded and deal with obstacles as they come."

ueen erfect essons onfidence truggles Miss Swaziland Linda Hutchinson.

Linda says a lot of people believe she is shy when in actual fact she prefers to reserve her words.

"I have also been told by some people that I am spoiled. I really am not. Some days I have to pull "lastborn" tricks on my dad just to get money. But I think that is quite normal."

Everyone has things they like about the public of the property of the public stays and the public stays are some as the public stays are so

themselves but when people in the public eye say what they like about themselves tney are seen as naving pride. Linda says she is proud of what she likes about herself because that is what keeps her calm and gives her confidence "I like how I deal with pressure. My mind has some sort of super power that allows

me to zero in on what I need to do in order to get things done as efficiently as possible. I also like my ability to choose my words carefully, giving careful thought to every angle."

As being Miss Swaziland comes with a lot of responsibilities, Linda sometimes has to ditch school for engagements. She says she struggles with the idea that she always has to be available, for everything. Finding a balance between her studies and the title has been the most challenging thing for her but thus far she has done well.

The 22 year old says other than when I am physically sick, she laughs all day. I laugh with myself and at myself. I am deliberate- and very persistent but others call me stubborn. I am affectionate, warm, humble and emotionally intelligent."



white !

Being a beauty queen, you are always under public scrutiny and for Linda it gets intimidating at times especially when people just stare and she isn't sure what is going through their minds. But she says other than that it is quite alright.

She is also intelligent as she is doing her final year towards Bcom Accounting and Finance degree. She is definitely a role model to young people which is what pageants are about.

At times we miss the true meaning of beauty, for this queen, true beauty is the confidence that one has in themselves that allows them to carry themselves with utmost grace. "It is the beauty from inside that shines through in your actions and your words kindness"

We all look up to someone and Linda says she wouldn't pin point one person, she would probably pick her entire family, including her late mother and grandmother because she had already spent so many treasured years with them. Her father, sister, brothers and aunt all influence her life through their words and sees elements of them and she would love to possess.

By Nokwanda Sibandze.



ongiwe Vilakati the current Kwaluseni Miss Fresher's says after winning the title things changed for the better.

She says she earned respect from many individuals and she got recognition from many people which she says boosted her confidence.

This God fearing beauty queen says one of her dreams is to become a motivational speaker and holding this title has helped her kickstart this long life dream of hers. As they say it is not all glits and glamour, Bongiwe says holding the title

has it's negative effects as she realised that some girls see her as threat more than a motivation which she feels is unnecessary because she believes in that God has a plan for

"People will always have their own perceptions about you but what matters most is self-perception. Well I wouldn't really know how people perceive me as yet but what I know is once you are exposed to the spotlight it is not everyone who will be happy for you which is why you have to stay on top of your game at all times."

BEAUTY QUEEN AND BOSS LADY

Miss Fresher's Kwaluseni; Bongiwe Vilakati

As beauty queens are always exposed to the spotlight, Bongiwe says being under public scrutiny all the time isn't easy. She says people expect her to have no mistakes, "they expect perfection, they tend to forget that we are all human and this is real life so mistakes are bound to happen. Yes I am Miss Fresher's but I have a normal life outside of that and I bet everyone knows life isn't easy."

Most people assume that beauty queens would not want to be beauty queens if given a second chance. When asked if she would do it again, she did not hesitate to say she would definitely do it again "Considering the fact that it was my first time and I was a bit scared I go back to that stage with my confidence on a 100 and ngibakhombe what am made of." laughs

With the new breed of women in town commonly known as slay queens, people say there is a huge difference between beauty queens and slay queens but Bongiwe says there isn't much difference even though beauty Queens used to rule the magazines back in the day and now we have slay queens that are all over the social media platforms so it not much of a term difference but an era difference.

Outside beauty and personality, beau-

ty pageants are about helping the needy, encouraging and motivating young people, and

Bongiwe is
doing just
that, "I plan on
starting a campaign
that would educate our

young girls on choices, it will mostly dwell on the issue of being an Instagram queen or being a CEO queen which basically means Instagram Queen vs Boss lady."

It is clear that Bongiwe has a good heart even though she says people think that she is mean and unapproachable, she says it hurts her because she is the total opposite but she cannot change how people view her especially ones that do not even try to find out what type of a person is she.

Bongiwe says it is important to focus on yourself and what you like about yourself, in that way what people think of you will not worry you as much. "Well the whole is likeable, I mean whats there not to like, hehe, but what I really ¹ke about myself is that
I don't force vibes if we get
along it is okay and if we do
not it is also okay. I usually say "angeke bantfu
bakuthandze bonkhe,
awusiyo imali"."

This is just one of the pressures that she faces as Miss Kwaluseni "I get to face a lot of challenges like when I walk into a place and I see people starting to point at me with their heads trying to show their friends who just walked in, that really gets to me because am not a difficult and very

there is no need for people to be treating me as a bigger person I mean we are all from the Kingdom of Eswatini."

outspoken person so I think

For this 19 year old, true beauty means kindness, humanity and respect. She says most of all it means one does not have to unscrew someone else's light bulb so that they can shine.

Her biggest support system happens to be her role model as well is her mother.

"Mom, mom and mom. The woman who brought me to this world has been the greatest inspiration to me and my life.

I have never seen a strong and powerful woman. She gives me joy and all the strength that I need to conquer this world."

By Nokwanda Sibandze

TWO TITLES, ONE QUEEN



Siphosethu Malinga.

ne would assume after being titled a queen of an entire university one would act differently but Siphosethu says after being crowned Miss Fresher's Luyengo and later Miss UNISWA she did not change. Her life stayed the same for the most part

She says she only noticed that people did not see her as a normal student anymore, she says she it is like they see a queen.

"Well, that is not bad but that makes feel uncomfortable because if someone sees a queen, they expect you to behave

like a queen. Sometimes I may not be able to meet those standards and the may end up being judged."

She says she no longer has privacy. Every move she makes, people are watching, every step she takes, they always have a comment both positive and negative.

As she is expected to uphold certain standards as the ambassador of the University, Sethu says she is a child of God from the Anglican family, so it easy to act the right way. "My family taught me how to be an obedient child, how to carry myself around people and how to treat people and thanks to my mother who raised me with love and taught me respect; I don't have to pretend like I am a perfect person but I am proud of who I am."

Aspiring to be like her mother Siphosethu says she admires how her mother takes care of her children by herself.

She says even though her mother does not see her life as a success but she would love to possess some of the attributes that her mother possess.

It is true that even beauty pageant contestants have a different idea of the industry before the actually enter the world of pageants, Sethu says she thought it would be just a smooth reign like being Miss Fresher's but with this one the university appreciates her and support her. She says she gets invited to events and gets a chance to participate as Miss UNISWA not that they don't with the other titles but being Miss UNISWA is a big deat and she did not anticipate

In the essence of beauty pageants Sethu

"People always think I have changed because I have a title "Miss UNISWA". From the moment I was crowned some were afraid to talk to me thinking I am no longer approachable. This is one of the misconceptions that do not sit well with me because I am still the same person."



has been kind enough to assist and motivate students who are interested in venturing into the modelling world and be master of ceremonies when asked.

"People always think I have changed because I have a title "Miss UNISWA". From the moment I was crowned some were afraid to talk to me thinking I was no longer approachable. This is one of the misconceptions that do not sit well with me because I am still the same person."

Sethu says she is a happy person. In every situation no matter how bad it is she always finds something good in it and keeps her smile.

By Nokwanda Sibandze



1

BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA

DEEPSTITCHED RECORDS

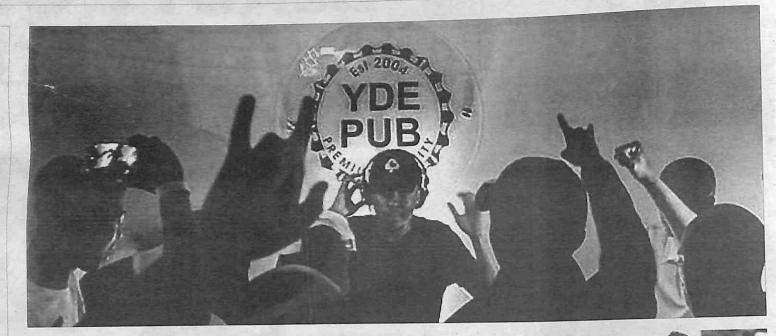
eepStitched is a sub-label of Do It Now Pecordings.

The new sub-label fi ses on deep horse and tech-house and ar as to provide a resh spin or the ever popmar genres. DeepStitched aims to set a new benchmark for the local and international house music market and it is well positioned to do so with expert guidance from an established label head and the invaluable experience acquired by its parent label. Do It Now Recordings was created to showcase a specific type of talent. In keeping with that promise Do It Now brings you DeepStitched, a label tailored to specific sounds. DeepStitched offers you deep house and tech-house like no other.









ESWATINI'S CHOSEN ONE, !SOOKS

2018 seems to have kicked off on the right note for Eswatini's electronic music scene, especially deep house

Last week, what started as a normal Sunday afternoon would prove to be another landmark achievement for deep house music in the

kingdom of Eswatini.
!Sooks once again
showed his 'chosen
one' tendencies when
Kid Fonque opened
up his Selective Styles
mix on 5FM with
!Sooks' latest single
titled 1962. Selective
Styles is a two hour show
hosted by Kid Fonque every
Sunday between 5pm and 7pm
on 5FM - one of South Africa's wellrenowned radio stations with a listener-

ship that averages 850 000.

As per usual, the show was one of the trending topics on Twitter and the response to the young Swazi marvel's single was phenomenal.

1962 is one of two singles by !Sooks that have been featured on Get Stitched Vol. 2 compilation released by South African record label DeepStitched. Get Stitched Vol. 2 is compiled by Sam Haskins and

also features Hattisn, another super track by !Sooks.

The compilation features some of South Africa's emerging producers and electronic music artists such as Sand Isle, Avi Subban and Keegs Bantom.

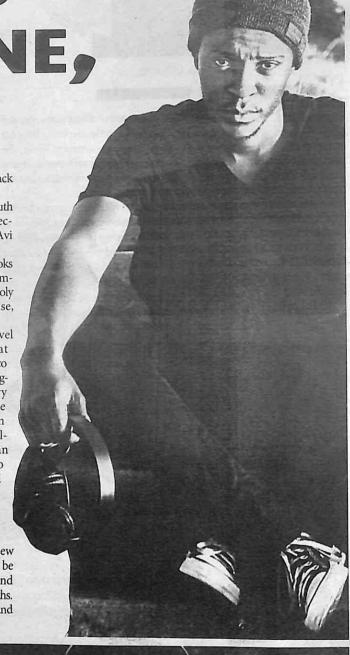
On another glorious note, !Sooks will once again be performing at Braamfontein's 'Holy Mecca' of deep house, Kitchener's.

The young marvel will perform at Jazzuelle's Dark Disco event on May 4 alongside the legendary Problem Child, Cape Town's latest sensation Pierre Johnson and trailblazing electronic musician

Jazzuelle himself. !Sooks is known to dazzle music patrons with his dub-filled deep house sets and there is much anticipation and excitement about his sophomore performance at Kitchener's Carvery

!Sooks will also be launching his new merchandise on the night which will be on sale and will soon be launched and retailed in eSwatini, in the coming months.

Follow!Sooks on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to stay updated.





CALLING ALL
ASPIRING HOUSE MUSIC PRODUCERS AND ARTISTS



ARE YOU SWAZILAND'S NEXT HOUSE MUSIC SENSATION?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF SWAZILAND'S BIGGEST HOUSE MUSIC PROJECT?

Please show interest by contacting

with your full name, stage name, location, contact details and demo.

DON'T HAVE A DEMO YET? No worries. Just show interest.



BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA



NARNO THE BEAUTIFUL DREAMER

arno Tarné is a soul music vocalist hailing from the majestic Kingdom of Eswatini

Born Thandiwe Naomi Mashwama, Narno started singing at a tender age after she joined the youth choir at her father's church.

Born into a music loving family, she was at an early age encouraged to participate in the and choir and even take up musical instrument lessons. Narno can play the piano, recorder, flute and acoustic guitar.

Narno Tarné draws her inspiration from soul, lounge, jazz, classical, hip hop and funk music, which she delightfully fuses with her life experiences and passion for social issues

to offer her brand of soul music.

In her musical presentations Narno views genres only as a means of classifying music, thus her performances are as diverse as her taste in music, maintaining her soul element as a common denominator.

Narno recently completed her studies at the Nazarene University in Manzini.

RELEASES

In 2017 Narno released her first single Clouded Minds via Swazi digital music label +268 Recordings. Clouded Minds received wonderful reviews and peaked at number 3 on SBIS 2 Top 20.

Narno's second appearance was on M s e t o's 2017 deep house EP Life Meds, where the two collaborated on

production.

Nanro has also worked with label mates Neww Black on their first EP titled Neww Black where she rendered vocals on 'The Streets', which she admits is quite different from what she's used to working with but was grateful for the challenge.

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER

Nanro Tarné recently collaborated with South African DJ/Producer

DJ Bullet to give us Beautiful Dreamer via 0152 Records (South Africa).

Beautiful Dreamer serves as a remarkable example of the fusion of Swazi & South African music.

Produced by DJ Bullet & Divine Brothers, the flavourful beat has heavy afro elements and live guitars which fuse well with Narno's sweet vocals.

Despite it's upswing feel and dance floor readiness, Beautiful Dreamer contains a powerful underlying message.

Release is available exclusively on Traxsource.

DJ Bullet

Pretoria based South African DJ/producer who is a label director for 0152 Records.

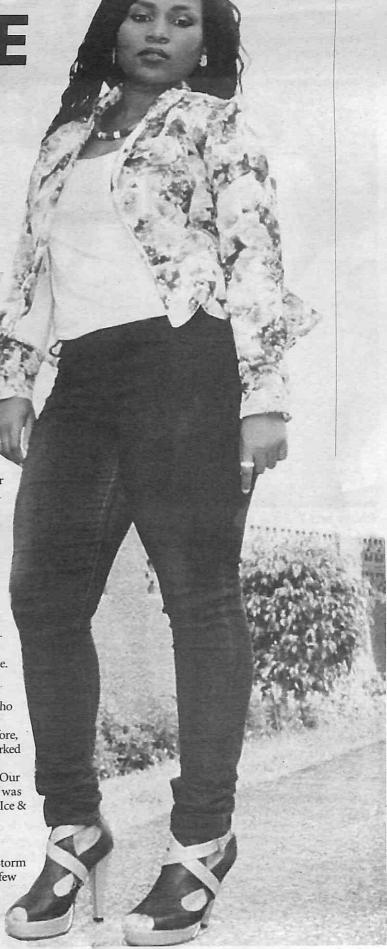
Bullet has worked with +268 Recordings before, on their 2009 classic Happiness, of which he worked on one of the remixes.

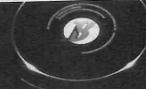
Bullet is also known for other works such as Our Love (feat. Zothea), I'm not a DJ (which was remixed by Invaders of Africa, Da Capo, Ta-Ice & Gemini Boys).

FUTURE

"Next month I'll be releasing my first EP, 'Storm in My Heart' which has been remixed by a few local and South African producers."

The soulful singer is also looking forward to diversifying her sound and exploring other genre's beyond house music.





CALLING ALL

USIC PRODUCERS AND ARTISTS

ARE YOU SWAZILAND'S NEXT HOUSE MUSIC SENSATION?

SANAS SAN CONTRACTOR SAN CONTRACTOR SAN CONTRACTOR CONT

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF SWAZILAND'S BIGGEST HOUSE MUSIC PROJECT?

Please show interest by contacting beatonbeats@gmail.com with your full name, stage name, location, contact details and demo.

DON'T HAVE A DEMO YET?
No worries. Just show interest.

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

t was a tutu and denim affair at Baby Dlamini's party which was held at Silverstone Lodge April 20.

The birthday girl celebrated her day surrounded by family, friends and colleagues. The intimate gathering was filled with affection and joy as the birthday girl was showered with smiles and gifts by her loved ones.

The birthday girl was glowing in her white dress and blue stilettos to compliment the denim that the guests wore.

Here are some pictures from the party

OH BABY, HOW YOU'VE GROWN!



Philile and Thabile with the birthday







Baby's friend of 30 years Fiona with Nothando.



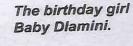
Sinikiwe making remarks during the party.



Birthday girl with her friends and family.



The cake on display.





SUNDAY COMMENT

Confusion over Eswatini shameful

t is now quite clear to everyone why the Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini had to enforce the law that Siswati should be mandatory to every pupil in this Nation – because no one seems to know the language anymore.

This has been proven by the ongoing debate as to whether we are now the people of eSwatini, Eswatini, Swati's or even Swatians as some have perceived!

Not only is it wrong that a country like ours which prides itself with its unique culture and traditions is absolutely clueless as to what they are called, but is it is downright disgraceful. Embarrassing!

Following His Majesty's pronouncement of the country as the Kingdom of Eswatini, there was confusion over what proper name of the country ought to be, or what the people of this country should now be referred to as. We think it should be Emaswati from now on, and that our nationality is Liswati. But, who are we?

The bigger scandal is how no one seems to know, or that a whole week's confusion has been allowed to carry on. In the process, everyone in this country currently isn't sure what they are supposed to be called and government seems to care less, if they even care at all. Shocking!

Our country isn't the first to change names, but it is clear we are the first to be so confused; Ethiopians changed theirs from Abyssinia; Malawians from Nyasaland; Rhodesia to Zimbabwe. NO!

This is because other countries have order and prompt leadership, something we are certainly missing in this Nation of ours.

When one reads the beautiful history of this country, it is well documented that even before we were named as Swaziland, we were Swazis, the people of KaNgwane.

This brings us back to the debate on the grammar and so forth. The Siswati Language Board can't come to our rescue and the conclusion drawn is that they are also as clueless.

This whole confusion is now swaying the people from acknowledging and appreciating this name change and what it means to us as a people.

At the core of this confusion is the serious indictment that we are losing touch with our language, while we have been chasing the perfection of foreign languages.

Sadly, the current generation has on its fingertips the understanding of another language—social media, which if we are not careful, will be responsible for further fragmentation of the language.

Based on this, we expect that government should act promptly to clear the confusion; and that is a matter of must.

This important move in the history of our country must not be undermined, but supported by every Swazi for it is the identity we are carrying into the first world.

Analysis & opinion

PLAYING INTO FAKE NEWS



BY MBONGENI MBINGO

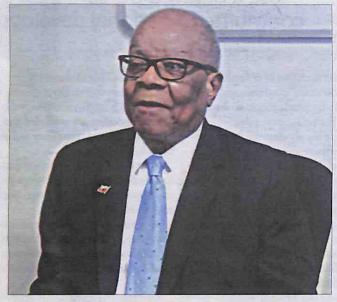
here is something wrong with us if we are going to sit back and accept the way the news of the Prime Minister being admitted into the ICU was treated by government, let alone Cabinet—if not the spokesperson.

There is also something fundamentally wrong if we are going to be happy with the spokesperson Percy Simelane being dismissive of his responsibility to inform the Nation of the status of the Head of Government when it is apparent that the public must be informed. Asked to comment on the news that the PM had been admitted, Simelane was quoted by our sister paper to have stated that matters related to the health of the prime minister could not be discussed by those who work with the PM; "only close relatives can discuss that matter".

I was stunned by this response, and honestly, thought it was a Percy Simelane typical response. Reading that statement, you would be forgiven for thinking that Simelane had been asked to disclose the HIV status of the PM or something. Yet, on that night of panic and pandemonium, he was being asked to reassure the Nation of the PM's status—especially, if he was in the intensive care unit of a hospital. That, is a matter of national security, not one of cold and flu!

In this day and age, you want to believe that we would be better equipped to deal with such unfortunate situations, not least because we are in an information age and also because we have ambition to become a first world country. It is therefore disappointing, if not downright scandalous how the incident this past week was treated, especially because it then played into the hands of those who propagate fake news, and the rumour that the PM was dead.

As a consequence, the spread of the fake death of the prime minister was not only harmful but insensitive, and so unnecessary. It could have been prevented by those entrusted with the responsibility to communicate, to inform the public, taking this role seriously. I must admit that I was appalled when I read the response the government spokesperson Percy Simelane gave when asked by this newspaper. Not only did he shirk on this responsibility to inform the public of a major incident that concerned the wellbeing of the head of government, he literally treated



There is a fundamental lesson to be learned of this episode; it is no longer the preserve of those within the upper echelons of power to know the goings on in public office, and certainly, we must respect the right to inform more than we need to protect our own jurisdiction

the public with scorn.

By downplaying the news that the prime minister had been admitted to the ICU, Simelane inadvertently gave the responsibility to those who sit behind social media platforms to spread the fake news. At that point, the Nation was at the mercy of those people, and it was inevitable that the news of his death spread soon thereafter.

Power

There is a fundamental lesson to be learned of this episode; it is no longer the preserve of those within the upper echelons of power to know the goings on in public office, and certainly, we must respect the right to inform more than we need to protect our own jurisdiction. Communication gurus will tell you that you must be ahead of the information, and not find yourself having to manage what has got out. Typically, and in a first world country, when the PM was admitted, the public would have been informed straight away. It would have taken away the sting from the shock and excitement and the temptation to speculate on the news of the PM's

Percy Simelane's disposition therefore, that he is not responsible for the health of the prime minister, or was it health status, should be treated with the same contempt he was giving the public for refusing to give an update on the situation. It is ironic, however, that the following day, when fake news had taken over, it was the same person who was now giving a statement of assurance that the prime minister had been discharged and therefore had recovered. How convenient!

This to me exposed just how Simelane's flippant responses to the issues he is asked to comment on are no longer funny or indeed, useful. The seriousness of his failure to give an update on the health of the prime minister, must therefore be viewed in the way that it led to rumour that the prime minister was dead—something that could have been prevented were the public kept abreast of what it was exactly that had happened.

Public

To refuse to inform the public about this situation, on the basis that it is not the responsibility of the press secretary is not only assuming that it was unimportant that the PM was in ICU, and was careless and ignorant of the dangers of failing to keep the public informed of issues of concern.

It also assumes that the public must only know what concerns it, and not what is important to know. It also assumes that we still live in the dark ages where communication was only the exclusive preserve of those in the know, so that we were kept uninformed until it had been determined the time was right to inform us. However, more importantly, it exposes how government treats the very idea of keeping the public informedthe difficulty to get something out in the public domain, even if it is in the public domain. This is so backward. The times have changed.

I cannot believe that in the advent

of social media, people still think they can keep the lid on something as big as the PM being as sick as needing to be in ICU—and when we have fake news spreading so fast?

Consequently, this shows how much the government, if not Cabinet, needs a paradigm shift in the manner it communicates to the public, and treats the public with regard to keeping it informed. This is the reason why there is so much misinformation out there; this is why the people are angry, for they do not know why certain things and decisions are being taken; this is the reason why corruption is thriving, because we still allow for people to misuse their positions.

When the rumour that the PM was dead started spreading, like wild fire, it was the responsibility of Cabinet. It was evidence that they had got it wrong. Yet, there is radio and television, and online platforms available to the government at its disposal.

The other week Swazi TV was broadcasting the whole day the double celebrations; surely, it could have found this important as to run a bulletin assuring the nation the head of government was in good health and had been discharged?

So too, the radio. Or, did it not matter? Is it okay, that the public is kept in the dark and held at ransom by the creative minds of social media users? Or is it fine to disregard the pain and heartache the families have to endure because of the insensitive messages that were created as a result of this information gap? Or are we just that unbothered with it all that it makes no sense to realise how our inaction leads to the spread of malicious rumour?

When the Prime Minister falls sick, the public must know. The public must be informed, and it should not be like we are being done a favour. It is a priority to inform us, to communicate succinctly, so that the people are able to make informed decisions, and probably even be protected from the people who take advantage of the misinformation or lack of information.

We should be treated better than this by government, because it is government's duty to protect those members of society who are exposed and made vulnerable by the advent of fake news because they have nowhere else to go to verify the news for themselves.

On the other hand, the malicious rumour of the PM's death, and many others shared so many times in social media, should at least be used to underscore the need for instant communication, if not the importance of the role of the mainstream media. Perhaps, this more than anything, is worth pointing out.



By Comfort Mabuza

uman Rights are such that anything that is s en as oppressive and e aving needs to be revisited an : eval-

This is so true with the Kuzilanourning rite which is part of the Swazi law and custom we observe with such devotion.

Well, let me begin by saying death is not easy, and any excess baggage tends to add more weight to grieving relatives. Let me state right from the onset that, no one finds any joy in losing a beloved one as it comes with traumatic experience in our

I have since lost both my parents, and every time I visit home, I keep missing them even more. One can imagine being subjected to wear some form of mourning attire as a form of declaring publicly that one is actually mourning.

The mourning itself varies for men and women, the things one cannot do and places to visit renders your life grounded if not complicated. Well, it's a pity that women seem to be the ones having to carry the heavy load of mourning-rite, hence our greatest concern that this remains a great burden.

Mourning period for men is shortened and are not subjected to so many limitations. Why should different rules apply to them you won-

DEATH IS NOT EASY

No one can ever stand up and say they are skilled enough to handle family loss through death. It does not matter if one is old enough or has been sick for a long time, we still are hurt deeply when they pass on. Going through the mourning period is such a drain, with daunting tasks of preparations for final burial, surely such a painful period can be devastating. I have witnessed

KUZILA - MOURNING **CUSTOMARY RITE NEEDS REVISITATION**

If Eswatini is to compete in the global economy and become productive, then we must address any perceived limitation that hinders us to rise to our potential. People must not feel that once they lose a beloved person, then they cannot contribute to national development agenda.

ugly family fights over families and their deceased loved ones and wondered why people should go through such hurting experiences.

These family disputes if not handled with respect, mourners of the period they need to grieve. It certainly remains a mammoth task to drum some sense to showing dignity and respect for the departed soul, while people settle personal

When such things are carelessly handled with unpalatable words said during such times, families are stressed out beyond words.

If we could all be sane and realise that the dead person deserves more respect and dignity.

Let alone close family members who still must deal with the loss. Death certainly remains such a traumatic experience that sometimes people behave strangely during such times, and leaves us more wound-

MEMORY TO THE LATE

Swazi families have their own rituals attached to mourning itself and no form of uniformity can be concluded. Chief amongst such rituals is the period of wearing inzilo (mourn-

A wife that has lost a husband for an example, is expected to stay indoors for one month and not with restrictions on places to go.

This is followed by two years of mourning period for their departed husbands. One in mourning cannot pay visit to Royalty unfortunately, which then means those who hold public office are grounded and forced to dare not come close to the royal households.

What is disturbing though, is that men unfortunately are only expected to mourn for a short time, one month to be precise.

Women remain quarantined like they are contaminated with some virus of some sort. Why allow such double standards really baffles one's

We certainly must desist applying different rules for both sexes honestly, this is so unfair. Of course the excuse has always been men must be freed to go to war and defend the country, well certainly we're not fighting any wars now, and why should women continue carrying the burden while men are immediately set free after just one month of mourning. Such double standards are not good as the best interests of all concerned are not considered.

OPPRESSIVE CULTURAL RITES

The Kingdom's constitution is very much clear that no one should be forced to observe a cultural rite against their own convictions.

This is so true with kuzila-customary rite, and we must honour and respect those who so choose not to observe it due to personal reasons thereof.

One such conviction is a religious conviction, when one feels their own beliefs is not in support of such

Also, some women were deserted by their beloved ones, and it certainly does not add up to then subject the remaining spouses to observe kuzila even if they were not separated or divorced legally.

It certainly does not add up to be subjected to mourning when you long separated from your partner. It is certainly a violation to expect one to go through this ritual when we know for a fact that they were separated.

It worries a big deal why go to lengths to ensure that people are forced to observe this rite even when they halready have reasons for not doing it.

We must respect people and realize that they have fundamental rights to observe any cultural rite. Stop this continued oppressive tenden-

It is perhaps time we respect people's feeling about the whole cultural rite. In this time and age, there is absolutely no wisdom subjecting our women to two years mourn-

Somebody please stop this continued abuse and violation of people's rights. It is very disturbing to hear people becoming experts on this while they themselves are not even women to carry the heavy bur-

den of mourning.

LIFE GOES ON

While we have no issues with those who would feel otherwise in observing this customary rite, it certainly must dawn that life still must go on.

Those who have since departed are freed from the scars of this life, and therefore if they could wake up, I doubt if they would like to subject their beloved ones to such heavy loads and burdens. Reality of this matter is that people have a life to live and pursue their own goals.

While there is every reason to mourn our departed relatives, let us not subject those who remain to unreasonable demands of observing this rite, its unfair. They still must wake up and live and try to pick themselves up. Imagine if one is a bread winner, only to then be limited somehow by observing this rite.

There is so much that needs to be done and life does not stop just because one is in mourn-

You still have to rise up early to go to work in order to put bread on the table.

Let alone those responsibilities that need you in person. Those who remain behind must be supported and encouraged to move on with life. Furthermore, some have children to look after and provide for, so subjecting them to such demanding customary rites, is just unfair. Life is a precious gift and no one should subject other people to anything that renders them more stressful instead of empowering them.

TRANSFORMATION

If Eswatini is to compete in the global economy and become productive, then we must address any perceived limitation that hinders us to rise to our potential. People must not feel that once they lose a beloved person, then they cannot contribute to national development agenda.

It certainly is limiting that some of our people are forced to leave their positions and responsibilities just because they are declared in mourn-

Well it is perhaps high time that the custodians of Swazi law and custom consider the unfair disadvantages to the women in mourning, because men unfortunately tend to always have their time shortened or do not even mourn

I stand to be corrected, are we not discriminating against women somehow when it comes to observing against Kuzila rite? Women must feel empowered and protected still as we stand at the threshold of the 21st Century.

We cannot afford to be living as if such things have not outlived their usefulness. Our culture and customs must be transformed, especially those seen as oppressive enough and limiting women potential.

As we move towards national Vision 2022, let us invoke progress.

VOICE OF BUSINESS



The Federation of Swartland Employers & Chamber of Commerce his is a year of jubilee! We have accu-

mulated 50 post-independence years as a nation. It is a remarkable period where we can sit

back and reflect on the events and trends in our economic horizon. We are not at our best as an economy, and alarmingly, we are regressing. This week, we feature an analysis of the Swaziland Economic Outlook by African Development Bank Group and later restate our position and highlight some of the causes of the failure of our economy.

Economic performance and outlook Real GDP growth declined to an estimat-

THE SOURCES OF BUSINESS FAILURE IN THE ECONOMY OF ESWATINI

ed 1% in 2017, down from 1.3% in 2016. Sluggish growth was observed mainly in wholesale and retail trade, as well as financial services, where output was hindered by reduced government spending due to ongoing fiscal challenges.

Although agricultural output buoyed by good weather conditions following the El Niño-induced drought of 2015, as was agro-processing, the sector contracted, dragged down by livestock production, which suffered heavy stock depletion following the drought.

Manufacturing bounced back in 2017, driven mainly by investment in textiles. Construction activity contracted due to limited fiscal space, which hindered implementation of public projects in Macroeconomic evolution

Inflation was estimated at 7% in 2017 after peaking at 8% in 2016, largely reflecting the decline in food prices following adequate precip-

To protect the currency the South African rand, the Central Bank raised the discount rate by 25 basis points to 7.25% in January 2017. While the monetary stance has tightened, fiscal policy remains expansionary to boost economic activity. The budget balance swung into a deficit in 2014-15, which widened sharply to double digits in 2016 following a sharp decline in Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenues and an upward adjustment of public-sector wages. The 2017 budget showed a slightly lower fiscal deficit, due mainly to a surge in SACU revenues. The

deficit is financed through domestic borrowing, including Central Bank financing, and accumulation of domestic arrears, which threatens banking sector stability and potentially crowds out the private

Public debt, which rose rapidly in recent years to 19.3% of GDP in 2016, remains sustainable. Impacted by the prolonged expansionary fiscal stance, the current account deteriorated and international reserve coverage declined to 3.4 months of imports at the end of 2016.

Tailwinds

Medium-term growth is projected to improve to about 2.5% in 2018. The recovery depends on a continued rebound in agricultural output and higher construc-

tion activity. Agricultural activity will be facilitated by completion of the Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project and by an uptick in livestock production as farmers restock. The outlook for mining is positive, due to the rebound in international commodity prices and increased coal production following the renewal of a mining license.

Manufacturing growth is expected to be boosted by increased food processing, reflecting higher sugar cane production and sustained expansion of the textile industry, which has successfully diversified to new markets, particularly South Africa. Domestic growth is also likely to be driven by the sustained expansion of construction activity associated with the planned construction of infrastructure projects.



JOY NDWANDWE'S LEADERSHIP

irstly, I thank His Majesty King Mswati III for renaming Kingdom of Swaziland, ESwatini, signifying second level indi-

This created intriguing social discourse, with little significance as this renaming was long overdue, my personal preference is Kingdom of Swatini. As an indigenous knowledge expert have been awaiting this revolution, and Your Majesty, Queen Sheba's Breast should be the next. In a country with outstanding legacies of queens, in a country where breasts are cultural icons, change is eminent. Sheba's breast have no relevance no significance in the history, language and cultural life of EmaSwati aseSwatini.

World Book and Copyright Day theme is Celebrating Essay, Celebrating History; let us celebrate 'tsi'. In my research on African Mythology, Parrinder (1967) on Swazi (Swati) Kings: 'The Swazi (ti) people live in the northeastern of South Africa.

Name of their rulers go back thirty generations, though only the last eight can be clearly dated. There are many stories of early kings. One had two sons, Madlisa and Madlebe, the latter was son of a junior queen and was an unusual child; he was said to have been born wearing a magical bracelet, and, when he wept, tears of blood came and the bracelet cried in sympathy, Tsi, tsi!' This mythology is critical when contextualizing Swatini versus Swaziland, as this language came from a magical place, symbolised in the legend as bracelet, lijiva leBukhosi.

CELEBRATING ESSAYS

In celebrating World Book and Copyright day, we celebrate essayists who are increasing knowledge; they are incredibly courageous members of society. Essayists that contest dominate indoctrinations; this requires guts and courage, when the indoctrinated dig their heels into the ground.

Essayist require profound and powerful souls to liberate indoctrinated, particularly when dealing with colonisation, which has successfully indoctrinated many colonised minds. Such that essays contrary to their indoctrination are, frowned on and negated, as the colonised mind is the most dangerous mind in Africa.

3

This mind has knowledge; this knowledge perceived as the only truth, thus, closing up all avenues of contextualising indigenous knowledges, in particular.

This indoctrinated and captured mind, applies

WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT **DAY 2018**

In celebrating World Book and Copyright day, we celebrate essayists who are increasing knowledge; they are incredibly courageous members of society. Essayists that contest dominate indoctrinations; this requires guts and courage, when the indoctrinated dig their heels into the ground.

levels of effort negating indigenous knowledges and belief systems. Whilst affirming knowledges of their colonial masters, affirming other people's cultural values, to redress this indoctrination requires increasing essays on indigenous knowledge. Hence, we celebrate indigenous knowledge essayist, they have withstood rigorous tests of knowledge contestation, thus, contributing positively by increasing knowledge. Critical contestations as dominate paradigms engage in vulgarizing indigenous knowledge, in numerous sectors of lives, particularly indoctrinated religious groups who profess they are cleansed by Jesus's blood. We celebrate essayist, who transcend beyond myopic contestations, indicative of profound and powerful soulfulness, foreseeing colonized minds. Moreover, narcissism within religion evidently embedded within fear and control over others, whilst actively negating indigenous beliefs, living double standards consulting traditional healers at night.

Hence, we celebrate those essays increasing indigenous knowledge towards inclusive knowledge paradigms, thus, interrogating western knowledges and beliefs systems that came through oceans from overseas. These essayists are increasing inclusive knowledge by ensuring those colonised minds have access to indigenous knowledge.

Thus liberating those living in fear and control, through having access to indigenous knowledges, liberating their captured and colonized minds.

These essayists are liberators in this second level indigenization, requiring the integration of knowledges of global north (modernity) and south (indigenous knowledge). Ngavukwa ngumoya, this is knowledge politics required in ensuring inclusive knowledge paradigms, to liberate future generation towards creativity and innovation rooted within indigenous knowledge.

CELEBRATING POSITIVE NARRATIVES

Celebrating essays with positive narratives develops a better nation and this is a critical role for essayists. Colonisation and coloniality through religion and western education created numerous negative narratives on indigenous knowledge. Therefore, we celebrate those essayists that have stood firmly against this colonial and coloniality, preserved in books and other documentation. Some essayists have applied their critical minds; interrogating negative narratives believed as gospel truth by puppets in pulpits mimicking their colonial masters. In addition, essayists feel the pain on how these puppets captured by the negative narratives, are manifesting self-hatred. As no one with ontological balance would insult his or her traditions, culture and customs without critical thinking, indicative of an emotive state evoked by lack of self-esteem. In essence, pulpit emotions indicate how colonialization and coloniality rules through the children whose ancestors they colonized and enslaved.

Positive narratives on indigenous knowledge require ontological balance by inspiring confidence, dignity and contentment towards peace. Confidence on how God, Supreme Being was in ontological balance when creating Africans, with their traditions, culture and customs. I remember the late Bishop Zwane, a proponent of integrating culture and religions within Catholics, this visionary leader must have seen through the low self-esteem. As assimilated Africans have no confidence, lack dignity and contentment, therefore, how can they have peace or agents of peace? Self-denialism strips off confidence resulting in parroting and mimicking the mind-sets of colonial masters, while insulting your own

How can we develop a better nation from a state of bondage, instead of creating positive narratives, every time we profess cleansing by the blood of Jesus? We lie about others claiming without proof they are cleansing with blood of animals, passing judgements without critical think-

Negative narratives are ruling this country, those of us who are critically thinking colonialization and coloniality labelled demonic, evil and satanic. When we are building the nation on positive narratives, such as His Majesty King Mswati III stated during Easter services, liberating

those who use traditional medicines. The negative narratives surfaced from the colonized and captured mind, particularly those who believe insulting the king is democracy. They are using the ego, which is worse than traditional medicine, as it spreads negative narratives; breeding insecurity, self-hatred and low self-esteem. Now who needs witchcraft, when the pulpit is eroding confidence, dignity and contentment in the name of Jesus Christ? Moreover, this witchcraft is expensive, you cannot leave the Church without parting with money; these prophets of doom demand this money using scripture. They exert fear and control over people, from a position of power such that people's identities are trashed, fragmented and negated. Let us celebrate those distinguished essayists that are sticking their necks, like myself, personally I do not fear rejection from those engrossed in low self-esteem, insecure and self-hatred. God endowed me with confidence, dignity and contentment such that my positive narratives will development better nations, when read by future generations. The Anglican Church can excommunicate me, but I will wear my golden crown upon demise with grace and dignity, for enriching souls through essays on indigenous knowledge.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, celebrating essays and positive narratives finds me having lost my nephew Mzila Nxumalo a legal mind specialized in traditional knowledge and intellectual property. My wishes and dreams of having this Bulandzeni gem as part of the Board of the upcoming academy shuttered upon his demise. He was committed and passionate about traditional knowledge, such that one of his dreams was liberating traditional healers, vehemently opposed to reference 'Witchcraft' Act preferred Traditional Healing.

My condolences to Chief Ndlaluhlaza and all his brothers and sisters for this loss, and my heartfelt condolences for the Ndwandwe family of Bulandzeni/Nkambeni. My profound condolences to his wife and children, as we will never know what this loss means to them, as a young family they have lost a young leader with so much potential. God knows our days boNdwandwe, may Mzila's soul rest in peace, Nkonyane yeNkosi.

Headwinds

Downside risks to the medium-term outlook remain elevated. The main risk stems from further tightening of budget financing due to the accumulation of domestic arrears, which could delay project implementation. Arrears could also lead to additional risks emanating from deteriorating banks' asset quality. Lower export earnings on account of subdued demand for mineral exports, adverse weather conditions, and lower SACU revenues are other risks that need careful monitoring.

These risks underline the importance of accelerating growth-enhancing reforms to boost private investment and put the country on a sustained growth path.

The deteriorating fiscal position threatens macroeconomic and financial stability; the government needs to undertake durable fiscal adjustment efforts focusing on containing

the public wage bill, prioritising capital outlays, and boosting tax rev-

Source:https://www.afdb.org/en/coun tries/southern-africa/swaziland/swaziland-economic-outlook/

The Causes of Economic Failure 1. Slow economic growth, high Levels

of unemployment and fiscal chal-

GDP growth rate of less than 3 percent per annum over the last five years is evidence enough that the economy of the country requires improved ideas to increase economic productivity and output, resulting in positive trade, reduced budget deficit, trade deficit and unemployment rate. The government still struggles to pay private sector companies in time, causing some of them to incur serious finance costs and risk of shutting

2. Skills/Policy Misalignment

The continuing lack of correlation between the skills that industry requires and the skills available and produced by the country, especially for multinational companies establishing business in Swaziland is another concern. The recent de-monopolisation of insurance in the country has taken the tertiary institutions by surprise as there is demand for these skills in the job market whilst supply is limited. This causes the country to import such skills and, in the end, defeat the job creation objective in the drive to liberate industry.

3. Increasing Levels of Corruption

Various reports have indicated that the country loses millions of Emalangeni per month through corruption and such corruption is observed mostly on the procurement front. The Central Bank Governor Majozi Sithole during the country's first Economic Conference also highlighted that corruption has become so rampant and embedded in Swaziland that it has now become the scourge of our economic development. He said corruption in the Kingdom was at an unacceptable level and contributed about 10 percent to the cost of doing

4. Slow Legislation and Policy Reforms

Whereas government's policy and legislative review process, by design, requires the inclusion of all stakeholders and individuals, the processes often lack transparency and often leave out crucial contributions by the private sector. Sometimes, such processes are seen to be used as formality as opposed to genuine engagement for inclusivity.

As a result, business has indicated concerns with various pieces of legislation, some of which were validated, presumably with the private sector in attendance.

The executive government and Parliamentary processes in drafting and amending legislation are slow and lengthy, stalling many business processes and economic development at the end of the day.

Numerous bills and regulations for Acts of Parliament await finalisation, a number of which affect the private

There is an urgent need to facilitate private sector input on bills going through the enactment process such as the Pharmacy Bill, Employment Bill, Public Health Bill, Insurance Brokerage Bill, Sectional Title Bill, SPPRA regulations, and others, as well as facilitating a review of the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA)

The Voice of Business finds it vital to address these challenges in pursuit of the goal of improving the business environment in Swaziland for economic growth driven by business success, it a received thought to the



NOKUKHANYA **GAMEDZE**

JA BOARD CHAIR

A Swaziland recently launched the inschool cooperatives programme which has had tremendous success in just two months of implementation.

The in-school cooperatives have saved over E17 000 in just two months of exis-

This amount has been a collective effort of only 13 schools out of the 40 schools that are expected to fully implement the programme. This overwhelming receipt of the programme has borne testament that this is a long overdue programme that has been required in our country. Our young people have been lacking on early exposure to the concept of saving and this opportunity has been well utilised by the learners. This week, I took some time to visit some of the teachers that are handson in the implementation of this programme to get their views on how much the programme has impacted the lives of young people.

EUGENE JOHNSON, ST JOHN BOSCO HIGH SCHOOL

"It has been a real honor to be involved in the establishment of such a transformative programme that has brought about positive change in the lives of young people. In my school, the young people have excitedly received the cooperatives programme to the extent that we currently have 55 members registered in the cooperative. The young people have admitted to the fact that before introduction of this program, they consumed every income that they received at home in the form of

EVALUATING THE JA SWAZILAND IN-SCHOOL COOPERATIVES PROGRAM FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE TEACHERS

pocket money.

It has therefore transformed their thinking to have a saving structure set up. As someone who was never exposed to such an initiative, I am very excited about the future prospects of these young people as they are well on their way to building their own financial independence. The support from parents has been really overwhelming as well. Having been exposed to this programme has really impacted in my life as an educator myself. I am now a member of Lubane savings cooperatives as I have identified the need to consider sav-

ing in my own life. It has also transformed my financial literacy as well, providing me with enough information to know my money and how it can work for me."

DELISA NKAMBULE, MHLUME HIGH SCHOOL

"Introducing the cooperatives program to the young people was the easy part for me, however getting them to warm up to the idea was quite the struggle. The pupils were not quite convinced that they wanted to be a part of this. We managed to how-

ever, have 55 young people pilot the cooperative in school. As these young people got excited about saving, the enthusiasm automatically spread to the rest of the students and the cooperative saw an increase in membership. Currently, there are 102 members in the cooperative which is almost double the number of students who pioneered the cooperative. This has been great progress with students gradually identifying that this programme is meant to create wealth for themselves in the long run. The fact that their savings are generating interest with Lubane became a very exciting thought for the kids. Initially, parents had their reservations when they learnt about this programme.

I therefore decided to make a follow up through writing letters that gave more details about the program to ensure that I lobbed for their buy in. after that, I received a lot of calls from parents who were genuinely excited about this program and the value that their children stand to gain through

this program. The program has

not only positively impacted in the

lives of the young people but it has transformed my life as well. As much as I am an adult, I was not well informed about cooperatives before I had to work with the learners on establishing one. It assisted my view on saving in a different light and of course it has made me practice what I preach as well. As we learn more about prioritising with the kids and allocating

money for saving in their pocket money, I have also identified areas in my own life where I needed to make a change."

IVY MAGAGULA, MBEKELWENI HIGH SCHOOL

"The coopera-

tives program was positively received in my school with 102 members register under the Mbekelweni cooperative. The students set an objective for themselves that they want to save towards hosting a retreat around the country at the end of the year. I am hoping that it would change though because they could really

their future. The opportunity to work with these young people has made me join a cooperative as well. I am now a registered member under Lubane

make it an investment towards

cooperative. I have to say that ever since I have had an opportunity to be a part of a cooperative, I have also started sharing this information with some of my family members to join a cooperative themselves. What this programme is doing is that it is having a ripple effect. While it was introduced to learners, it is now being adopted by us as teachers and we are also

sharing the news with our families. Before we know it, the entire country would be viewing the concept of saving in a different light and that is the impact I can identify that this programme will have in the long run."

Conclusion

As evident by those testimonies, the in school cooperatives program has received overwhelming support in the schools in Swaziland.

This is the first step towards creating a financially stable Kingdom of Eswatini. As we develop this generation of saving individuals, this shall become a culture and in the long run, the evidence will be visible in the lives of our people as they enjoy financial stability. Rome was not built in a day, however each day, progress was made towards building Rome.



BY LISA MONGELLI

'm only human. How many have you said that to yourself?

How many times have I said that to myself? As human beings we continually vacillate between changing our minds and not knowing what we want. The fact that three quarters of humanity has no idea what they want, where they're going or how they're going to get there is actually frightening, it leaves our world in a terrible state of imbal-

ance. The idea that we are all responsible for ourselves, what we think, and what we do is often just too overwhelming a concept for the human psyche to absorb, as a result of this we falter and the idea that life is meant to be abundant becomes a mishmash of confusion, despair and

When the challenges of life become overpowering and too much is being thrown at you in one go, the that idea you can be, have and do anything you want just sounds like a lot of hooey. The law of attraction, vibrational pull and resonance is all very good when things are going right and definitely something to strive for, a higher ideal; but when you're low on resources and need to fix your car or your kid needs new shoes and your exhusband has stopped paying maintenance the application and practice of such a principle falls between the chairs. The line

I'M ONLY



of what was your reality and the new reality you are creating becomes blurred to the extreme. It ends up being something like what was, what is and who cares. The idea that life was meant to be abundant fades away into a black

hole and it becomes, "Well, other people can do it but obviously I can't."

The sincere truth is, picking yourself up off the ground, after life has just kicked your butt isn't easy. Then having to take responsibility for all that misfortune and trouble is enough to make anyone throw a tantrum. Then when on top of it all someone tells you all you need to do is vibrate differently the anger and frustration can kick in something fierce-why? Because, hon-





TOURISM & TRAVEL

BONGANI DLAMINI STA Marketing Manager Email: mm@tourismauthority.org.sz



e came across a blog post by one Erin from Texas, United States, who recently visited the Kingdom of Eswatini. Although Erin and her husband spent only one day in Eswatini (Swaziland), she wishes she spent more. There was so much to see and do. She writes:

"We passed through Swaziland on our epic road trip through South Africa. Unfortunately, we only had one day in Swaziland (well, technically one night). I wish we had had more time, but we were left with just one day in Swaziland. And here is what we did.

We were coming from Kruger so we started the day at 5 am driving through the park, squeezing in one last safari. Leaving Kruger and driving to the border was easy and the roads were great. I had one mild moment of panic when I realized I had forgotten to get the permission letter from Avis to take the car across the border, but no one cared or asked. However, it would have been awful to be denied entry for such a stupid mistake, so make sure you have that. Immigration was simple and quick. You pass through one building to get your exit stamp for South Africa. Then you pass through Swaziland immigration for your entry stamp in another building. There are public restrooms, just in case you've been cooped up in that car for just a bit too long.

Swaziland was incredibly green and beautiful, with lush forests and mountains. We stayed at the Mantenga Lodge in the Ezulwini Valley. It was an easy drive that took us just about 3-4 hours after exiting the southern Malalene Gate in Kruger.

The lodge was nice enough, the rooms were standard. The location, however, was stunning. And the food was incredible! We ate one of the best dinners of the entire trip there, so I would recommend staying there, especially for the food. The view from the restaurant was also hard to beat.

At first, I was unsure about visiting a cultural village. I was concerned it would feel forced, fake, or like a sort of "people safari." But after reading such great reviews about the Mantenga Cultural Village, I decided to go for it. I have no regrets, it was a great experience! The cultural village is located in a lush, green nature reserve. We got there at around one in the afternoon and had two hours to kill before the traditional dances at 3:30. We took the right turn at the cultural village and drove uphill to see the Mantenga Falls. The weather did not want to cooperate with us, so we waited out the rain in the car, eating a picnic lunch. When the

HOW WE SPENT ONE DAY IN SWAZILA



Swaziland was incredibly green and beautiful, with lush forests and mountains. We stayed at the Mantenga Lodge in the Ezulwini Valley. It was an easy drive that took us just about 3-4 hours after exiting the southern Malalene Gate in Kruger.

rain broke we did the short, easy hike to the falls. Those who withstand the rain are blessed with beautiful waterfalls all to themselves, tourist-free.

Then we toured the cultural village. I'm very glad we did this. It was great to learn about the traditions and culture of the Swazi people. Luckily, there weren't actors acting out daily life (which I think would have felt a bit uncomfortable). I'm not sure if that was the norm though. It was very interesting to learn about family dynamics and see how the homes were built.

I recommend arriving early to tour

the living village before the dance performance begins. We came down from the falls for the tour at around 2pm and were able to enjoy a private tour. The dance was very crowded and everyone toured the village together afterward. Go early and beat the crowd.

Impressive

There is a traditional dance performance at every day at 11:15 and 3:30. First, the women danced, performing dances women traditionally danced just amongst themselves. Then it was the men's turn, both dancing with powerful drums. After the dancing, the troupe sang gospel music and

offered their cd for sale to the guests. It was very impressive and everyone seemed to be passionate about what they were doing.

We spent the rest of the day after the cultural village relaxing at the hotel. The manager of our hotel could not stop talking about the Swazi can-

You must see the Swazi candles. You can't miss the Swazi candles, she insisted. Apparently, it's one of the most popular tourist attractions in Swaziland. We couldn't ignore such a strong recommendation so we made time for a visit in the morning as we were leaving. I enjoyed watching them

mold the rhinos and giraffes by hand. There are other shops and a cafe on the property as well.

We also visited Gone Rural at Malandela's, and that was the end of our day in Swaziland. It was a jampacked 24 hours. It's definitely not enough time, but I'm glad we were able to see as much as we did. There were a lot of options for more adventurous travelers, such as hiking and mountain biking. If you want to see wildlife there are options like national parks and safaris. Despite everything we had to miss out on, I'm happy with our day. We came, we saw, we loved it.

HUMAN....



estly it feels like the Universe is playing a cruel joke. The reality that you have created it all with thought and intention, and you can "uncreate it" with thought and intention is of very little compensation when life has you stewing in problems up to your eyeballs. This is where faith in the higher power is so important.

Many unfamiliar With the Law of Intention ask me, "What is this Vibrational Pull, Resonance, Thoughts, are Things stuff anyway? "I believe in God. Do you believe in God? who told you this anyway? Besides my wife doesn't believe in all this stuff and she won't let me do it". "I'm not so sure the universe and God is the same

Well just to set the record straight whether you call the great infinite power, God, the Universe, Creation or Source it is the same power, and we are all part of that Divine power. We are creating our reality every second with every breath of every single day no exception. Every thought we think is a creation and it has an intention behind it, and whether we like what we create or not we are responsible for that creation. That applies to every person every time whether we have created something we want or something we don't want.

Humans naturally and generally feel victimised if they have created difficult circumstances for themselves. We have a habitual and chronic way of looking outward to explain circumstances and events we have created ourselves. The idea that we have attracted the car accident or a cruel boss or created an illness just doesn't fly with us humans. Taking responsibility for the reality we have created does not come naturally for us. We project outward generally always looking for the culprit of our misfortune, we take on a victim status believing we are powerless, when actually all we need to do is look in the mirror to see the instigator

and orchestrator of our success or failure.

What is the old saying, "Life is Never Easy" and believe me I am the first to admit, at times it really is not easy. But by heaven it can be easier. Life is meant to be abundant not the difficult scenario we so often create for ourselves.

Let us once again refer to scripture. The 23rd Psalm tells us in beautiful poetic words of the intention of Creation to sustain protect and nurture us. The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want he maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my Soul....

Yet though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death I will fear no evil thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me for thy name sake. My cup runneth over.

Surely Goodness and Mercy shall follow me all the Days of my Life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

What the hebrew King David knew let us all embrace. Allow the benevolence of Creation to nurture, provide, sustain and bless you.

Keep a good thought accept the experience of Joy in your life and above all.....

Choose to be Happy



ur greatest gift came wrapped NOT in a fancy gift box adorned with roses; nor was it delivered by angels in the accompaniment of praise and worship.

Our greatest gift, Jesus Christ the Nazarene—was hung on a tree, with showers of blood for roses, it was delivered by Satan himself in the most heinous public execution in Calvary. Moments before Jesus, whome en God rejected as He bore every sin under besun, breathed his last breath, pleaded with For Father: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do (Luke 20:34). Jesus for oave. However, His forgiving had nothing to do with the activities of the day.

That was part of God's grand plan, a command that He had to obey. Jesus was speaking with reference to His death – that it was for the atonement or forgiveness of the sins of the people – so that, henceforth, everyone who confessed with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believed in their heart that God raised Him from the dead would be forgiven of their sins. That is why Jesus said, "Father, forgive them..." Not because they smote Him.

But Satan did not understand the full import of his own actions in orchestrating the murder of the Prince of Peace.

He did not realise that he had just played into God's hand to set the captives free. As Apostle Paul writes: Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and He bestowed gifts on men" (Psalm 68:18). Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had previously descended (from the heights of heaven) into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the very same as He who also has ascended high above all the heavens that He (His presence) might fill all things (that is the whole universe). And (His gifts to the church were varied and) He Himself appointed some as apostles (special messengers, representatives), some as prophets (who speak a new message from God to the people), some

HOW GOD USED SATAN TO DELIVER OUR GREATEST GIFT



as evangelists (who spread the good news of salvation), and some as pastors and teachers (to shepherd and guide and instruct), (And He did this) to fully equip and perfect the saints (God's people) for works of service to build up the body of Christ (the church); until we all reach oneness in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, (growing spiritually) to become a mature believer, reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ (manifesting His spiritual completeness and exercising our spiritual gifts in unity (Ephesians 4:8-13 AMP).

In this portion of his all-encompassing letter to the Ephesians, Apostle Paul quotes **Psalm 68:18** to picture the ascended Messiah triumphant over Satan and his hosts,

distributing spiritual gifts to His people (AMP commentary).

This was the moment Satan lost the ultimate battle; and the very moment Jesus began to build the people into 'the body of Christ', the church as we know it today. Indeed the devil had sinned from the beginning

'For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil "(1 John 3:8 (last part) NKJV)". Never before were the stakes so high, for both Jesus and Satan - and the fallen angel lost.

This was a rude awakening to the devil, who had been accustomed to appropriating God's victory as his own, where it had been the Father's will for Satan to prosper. Jesus

descended to the lower parts of the earth, where he made a public spectacle of Satan, setting the captives free as He raised the dead, as written in Matthew 27:50 -53, 'And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit (Luke 23:46; John 19:30). Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the Holy City and appeared to many.

It was finished. That battle commissioned by the Father in the beginning of time (Genesis 3:14-15) was finished.

The Lord God said to the serpent; Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field. On your belly you will go, and dust you will eat all the days of your life; and I will put enmity between you and the woman. And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel. The 'accuser of our brethren (Revelations 12:10, Zechariah 3:1); the murderer and father of lies (John 8:44), the prince of the world; the ruler of this world (John 12:31); the god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:3-4); the leader of the kingdom of evil (Ephesians 2:1-2); the angel of the abyss (Revelations and founder of David Goliath
Spiritual Solutions, a sanctuary
that provides spiritual solutions to practical
problems, counselling and life coaching,
cutting-edge Bible study and spiritual exercises through works of faith.

If you have been blessed by reading this article, or seek clarification on some of the issues raised here, contact Evang. Wilton Mamba on 7677 9312 or 7977 0952 or 2404 5284.

You can send an email to mambawilton.multimedia@gmail.com. Better still join our faith-building sessions every Wednesday from 5-6pm and Saturdays at 11am – 1pm at Multimedia, Corner Somhlolo Road and Mbhilibhi Street in Mbabane opposite ICAP.

9: 11) - had been slain. No longer would the fear of death paralyse believers. Jesus declared prophetically in John 10:1,8, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them."

The battle on the cross was a display of God's two hands of power: one that destroys, and another that gives life. One is the shepherd and the other a thief. Satan stole man's title deed to the earth, and went on to appropriate God's power as his own.

John 10:10, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

YOU ALSO NEED LEGAL REPRESENTATION



In last week's instalment we addressed the issue of pursuing a healthier lifestyle by taking up sport.

We shall be talking a lot more about the importance of physical activity as we drum up support for those that shall be taking part in the Dups-United Mafutseni Cycle Classic. We also hope more people will be motivated to participate in this big event. Working out is much easier with a little help from your friends to push you forward when you falter. This we discovered last week when we put our money where our mouth is when we encourage exercise. Our 47-member strong team from United Holdings took part in the Mahamba Gorge hiking challenge and came out tops as the best dressed team. They even got a trophy to go with the accolades. Well done team!

Today we shall be discussing the legal side of things. It is an area of life most people overlook until they have an emergency and no option but to approach expensive lawyers.



Don't be that person who always waits until it is too late. Previously there were not many options for the ordinary person on the street in terms of legal counsel and representation, but thanks to United Legal, everyone in Swaziland now has access to a lawyer. Most people are used to lawyers being these inaccessible people in dark expensive suits, there is the general belief that it's only the rich that should even think about consulting them. Another train of thought would be, "Why would I need a lawyer when I'm a law-abiding citizen?" Well, nothing could be further from the truth. Everyone above 18 years of age would do well to have a lawyer

by their side. Lawyers are not always there to defend offenders; they are also there to protect our rights against offenders or systems that might try to dupe us. And offending does not always make one a hard-core criminal. But without a lawyer, you might just end up looking like one! You might get involved in a minor road accident or get caught while driving under the influence.

Furthermore, someone might do something that infringes on your rights and if they are represented, you might end up just getting off with a slap on the wrist or walk scot-free because you know how to manoeuvre in the system. There is just some kind of respect that you earn when you tell people you have a lawyer. We get into many contracts with retail shops and other institutions, and sometimes people just short-change you because they can or because they have done it before, got away with it and even made profits from being dodgy with customers. Be that person that doesn't waste time arguing. All you need to say is, "You will be hearing from my lawyers," and see how people fly around to make things right.

UGI Legal provides cover for civil matters such as motor vehicle collisions, damage to your property by a third party, breach of contract and the purchase of defective goods. It also covers non-serious criminal matters and administrative matters such as drawing up a will, drafting a contract, or reading through one.

There are people who have lost property that is rightfully theirs all because they were not very sure of their rights and had no one to speak out for them. We have all heard of situations where orphans are left out in the cold after the passing of their parents or breadwinners. Sometimes unscrupulous relatives just pounce on what should be the children's inheritance. If you do not want such a situation for your children, now is the time to sign up for legal insurance with United Holdings. The different types of cover come at reasonable premi-

Please do give us a call on 2505 2028 to find out more about United Legal or Health insurance. You can also send queries to ugien-quiries@dupsgroup.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter @dupsinsurance or pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlangano, Mbabane, Piggs Peak and Siteki.

MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



Our review today is hinged on that question, "Why

To be sure, "it," in this context, refers to any element of grammar, which could be a single word, a group of words, a punctuation mark, or a set of punctuation marks. There are two main groups of words in grammar: phrase and clause. To make the question easier for you to answer, we shall capitalise the element that is wrong. This is to make you focus only on the "why" of the question.

PM SICK, ADMITTED TO ICU is the headline of the lead story in the Times of Swaziland, April 26, 2018. The first sentence of the third paragraph of the story reads, thus: "According to reliable sources, the prime minister arrived at the hospital yesterday AT AROUND 9am."

As you can see, the element that has been capitalised in that sentence is made up of two word, which makes it a phrase. So, why is it wrong? Cheesecake, the element is wrong because the two words are prepositions, and one of them is superfluous in the sentence: it is not necessary.

You see, the first preposition, "at," implies certainty or exactness. It is normally used when we are quite sure of the time. On the contrary, the second preposition, "around," implies uncertainty. It is normally used when we are not sure of the time. Therefore, to use the two seemingly opposite prepositions consecutively is wrong.

Initially, I had passed it as an error of redundancy. But after reflecting on it further, I designated it as an error of conflicted double preposition, for want of a better term.

Be that as it may, the sentence would be correct only if we split the phrase and use one of the prepositions. And I think the jury would give it to the preposition that has the ring of uncertainty around it: "According to reliable sources, the prime minister arrived at the hospital vesterday AROUND 9am." PRIME MINISTER NOT DEAD is the headline of the lead story of the Swazi Observer of April 27, 2018. It's first two paragraphs read: "Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini is alive."

"His condition is stable and BACK HOME."

Say what? I mean, can you see what is "back home"? What the sentence is telling us that "his condition" is back. But you and I know that nothing like that is possible. Instead, what is "back home" the Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini, or the appropriate pronoun, "he."

We need to point out that the element under our spotlight is actually the second independent clause of a compound sentence. But the clause has been shortchanged by omitting not only its subject, but

SAY, WHY IS IT WRONG?

also its verb, which are "he" and "is," respectively. The sentence may be revised, thus: "His condition is stable and HE IS back AT home." Alternatively, it may be revised, thus: "His condition is stable and HE HAS GONE back home."

Just a note: The original phrase, "back home," is informal English. It should be avoided as much as possible in formal writing. Formally, the phrase is, "back at home."

'Should we be worried?" was the title of the first editorial of the Times of Swaziland, April 26, 2918. The following is the second sentence of the first paragraph of the piece: "But as the news CONTINUE to circulate, our impression of human trafficking gets more and more distorted."

Say, what is wrong with it? I mean, what is wrong the word, "continue"? Well, look behind the word, and what do you see? It is "news," of course. Because it ends with the letter "s," "news" looks like a plural noun. But it is not. News is a singular noun, any day, any time! It must therefore take on a singular verb, not a plural verb, which "continue" is. And that is what is wrong it. The sentence should be revised to read: : "But as the news CONTINUES to circulate, our impression of human trafficking gets more and more distorted."

"It's Eswatini not eSwatini - Govt" is the headline of a short news story, that is, a side bar, in the Swazi Observer of April 24, 2018. The lead of the story reads: "If you were in doubt ON the correct way to write the new name of the country, relax.'

Allow me to parody that slang, what is wrong with the element in capital letters in that sentence is that it is not just ON! What we have here is a phrasal preposition which should read, "in doubt ABOUT," not "in doubt ON." This is an error of faulty preposition or faulty collocation.

'Commerce, Industry and Trade Minister Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza stated that WHILE it would have been pleasant to see companies follow the country's name change BUT they must not feel any pressure to do so.' This is the second paragraph of the top news story in the Swazi Observer of April 24, 2018 with the headline, ESWATINI CLARITY GIVEN.

The two elements that have been capitalised in that sentence are the words, "while" and "but." The former is a subordinating conjunction, and the latter is a coordinating conjunction. I am sure that you can tell what is wrong with these elements or, stated differently, what is wrong with the sentence because of these two elements. Well, what is wrong is obvious: the use of two conjunctions together. The error of double conjunction is quite easy to correct. Just remove one of them, thus: "Commerce, Industry and Trade Minister Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza stated that it would have been pleasant to see companies follow the country's name change, BUT they must not feel any pressure to do so."

The third paragraph of the same news story reads, thus: "He was reacting to members of the PUBLIC'S CONCERNS WHO wondered IF the name change meant companies would have to follow suit." The first error staring at us here, that is, the three words in capital letters, is that of misplaced modifier. The second error pertains to the conjunction, "if," but it is debatable as it raises an interesting question: "When do we use 'if' and when do we use 'whether'?" In this case, though, methinks the conjunction, "whether," has an edge. Accordingly, the sentence may be revised, thus: "He was reacting to the CONCERNS OF members of the PUBLIC who wondered WHETHER the name change meant THAT companies would have to follow suit OR

Talk about teeny weenie errors, read the headline; and read the opening sentence of the article; then tell me why the headline wrong. Both belong to an article in the Observer on Saturday, April 14, 2018. Headline: MORE ON OVACADOS. Opening sentence: "Avocados are delicious and nutritious fruits and are very beneficial for

The reason is very obvious: OVA-CADOS has been misspelled. As we can see from the opening sentence, the correct spelling is "avocados."

SOCIAL MEDIA: TO BAN OR NOT TO BAN is the title of an opinion piece in the Swazi Observer of February 18, 2018. Its fifth paragraph reads, thus: "Such has been the audience of social media that everybody suddenly fancies THEMSELVES AT BEING CRACK JOURNALISTS.

Straightaway, the set of words in capital letters is wrong because the pronoun, "themselves," is plural, whereas the indefinite pronoun, "everyone," to which it refers is singular. This is an error of pronoun-antecedent disagreement or faulty pronoun reference. The sentence may be revised in one of two ways. One way: "Such has been the audience of social media that everybody suddenly fancies himself as a crack journalist." Another way: "Such has been the audience of social media that THOSE WHO USE IT suddenly FANCY themselves as crack journalists." Which do you pre-

Yet another sentence from the same article: "However, things have since evolved as people now have power to disseminate information as EXPE-DIENTLY as possible." The word, "expediently," is wrong because it has been mistaken for the word, "expeditiously." This is an error of faulty diction, specifically, a pseudohomonym.

A DRIVE OF 50 YEARS WITH DR HUGH is the title of one of the articles in the Golden Jubilee supplement carried by the Swazi Observer of April 18, 2018. Its first sentence reads: "If you Google Dr. Hugh Magagula you are likely to see ADJECTIVES like pioneer, musician and educationist next to his name."

The word "adjectives" is wrong because "pioneer," "musician," and "educationist" do not belong to the part of speech known as adjective. They are nouns. The error is that of faulty diction. "When communication isn't clear" is the title of the first editorial in the Times of Swaziland, May 12, 2017. Its first sentence reads: "Communication is a TWO WAY street; it starts with one person having a thought THEY want to transfer to another person."

Say, why are the two elements that have been capitalised in that sentence wrong? Simple: The first element, "two way," lacks a hyphen; and the second element, "they," should be a singular pronoun, because its antecedent, which is "one person," is singular. The sentence may be revised, thus: "Communication is a TWO-WAY street; it starts with one person having a thought that HE WANTS to transfer to another person."

r Editor please allow me to air my concerns and dissat-Lisfaction as a teacher in this "Kingdom of Eswatini."

As the country was supposedly celebrating 50 years of independence and the King's 50th birthday, millions and millions if not billions of Emalangeni were splashed on this event yet as a country we live and work under terrible conditions.

We, as teachers had and have no independence to celebrate for we are still subjected to inhumane treatment by the government. Degreed Primary Teachers (the most victimised in our cruel and greedy government) are the ones who feel the pinch the most, for they are being deliberately underpaid, not entitled to allowances and hous-

Teachers are the ones who make society to be what it is, they are like builders and sculptures who mold and shape ignorant minds into incredible statesmen and leaders. What do these hardworking Swazi citizens get in return from the government? The answer is nothing if not peanuts for salaries.

Teachers have been reduced to low

SWAZI TEACHERS (TEATQ): VICTIMISED TO THE CORE of Eswatini has ratified many conven-

earning workers and even lower living standards. Gone are those days when teaching was considered as a noble profession in this "Kingdom of Eswatini" as it is still the case in other countries. One wonders why teachers are hated so much in this country, what sin have they committed to deserve such treatment? According to the UNESCO Handbook titled "TEACHER POLI-CY DEVELOPMENT GUIDE" 2015 Teacher salary is important in recruiting teachers and retaining them in the profession. It further states that within a labour market perspective education systems which pay attractive salaries relative to comparable professions will be more successful in attracting and retaining quality teachers. The Handbook adds that "in addition to basic salary which may include retirement pensions and social security reward packages include allowances for particular responsibilities and financial contributions towards further training". Sadly such does not happen in Swaziland or should I say in the Kingdom of Eswatini. As a country Swaziland or the Kingdom

tions that touch upon the issues of workers, mostly on their salaries, well-being and rights. It is a pity that the government of this kingdom deliberately ignores these conventions and breaks the law by not taking care of its workers mostly teachers, and giving them decent wages. Living wages refers to a fair and decent level of income as well as conditions of work and maximum hours of work that enable a respectable standard of living (Shelburne, 1999). Article 7 of the International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) states that remuneration has to be adequate to provide workers with a decent living for themselves and their families. This is contrary to the peanuts teachers are paid in the country mostly degreed primary teachers. Only a few individuals enjoy such benefits as workers. This article is linked to Article 112 of the same convention which provides for a right to adequate food, clothing and housing. Therefore a living wage should provide a nutritious diet, safe drinking water, suitable housing, energy, transportation, clothing, health care, child care education, savings for longterm purchases and emergencies, some discretionary income as well as conditions of work and maximum hours of work (Sherlburne, 1999). Teachers are not beneficiaries to most of these workers" benefits yet some government employees get them, take for instance members of Parliament. MPs are highly paid government employees and enjoy vast allowances, I'm told they even get allowances for going to work (sitting allowances), seriously speaking, why should they get allowances for going to work, isn't that what they are paid to do, to go to work? Teachers on the other hand are not given even the most basic allowances such housing, travelling and over time allowances, when some government employees even get entertainment allowances.

What is happening to us (Degreed Teachers in Primaries) is pathetic and a gross violation of our rights as workers and human beings. We are underpaid, deprived of allowances, not eligible for promotions, not NOTCHED

and the property of the state o

and worst of all made to work on contracts. I wonder why these teachers (professionals) are made to work on contracts when it is a known fact that theirs services are needed year after year. Not even maids and gardeners work on contracts, but teachers (educated personnel) are subjected to this inhumane and degrading practice by the government.

Is this exercise of not hiring these teachers permanently, not remunerating them accordingly and denying them promotions a means by the government to save money, or a complete disregard for quality education in the kingdom? If the former is the case, who then benefits from the saved money, when even the elderly are not paid enough and hospitals run out of drugs and commodities such as electricity are ridiculously hiked willy-nilly? If it is not about the money then it means education is not a priority in the country, yet we are striving for a first world status. Are we going to achieve the first world status with workers being underpaid and an uneducated citizenry?

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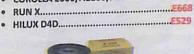
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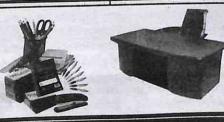
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SA undertakers

repatriate remains of hundreds of

Zimbabweans

every month

OHANNESBURG - A large number

of Zimbabweans living in SA who have

died from violence and disease are being

repatriated on a daily basis, undertakers revealed

"Right now as I was chatting on the phone,

it was someone [a Zimbabwean] calling us

from Cape Town seeking help. We go and

pick [up] bodies from as far as Cape Town.

Right now, we have three bodies which are

"Today I have had two vehicles [hearses]

going to Harare," Gerie Zulu from Kings and

Queens Real Funeral Services in Johannesburg

told African News Agency. "There's a lot a

death going around. As Kings and Queens we

meet from 20 to 30 people per week who have

problems of death [of a relative or friend], and

we help them. Most of them who have prob-

lems are those without funeral policies. Without

a funeral policy, money has to be found to

send a loved one home. Most Zimbabweans

want to be buried where they come from."

Zulu emphasised that the majority of

Zimbabweans who passed in South Africa

died of natural causes. African News Agency

supposed to be moved in Cape Town.

BRIEFS

Zimbabwe teachers to strike over pay as labour unrest spreads

HARARE - Zimbabwean teachers will go on strike to demand an increase in salaries and allowances when schools reopen in May for the new term, the biggest teachers' union said on Friday. This is as a result public sector labour unrest spreads to the education sector. Doctors and nurses have also staged strikes in the past month, increasing pressure on President Emmerson Mnangagwa ahead felections set for July, the first since 94-re ir-old Robert Mugabe was forced to res in a de facto army coup it i November. It an effort to keep a lid on la' our unrest, the government fired striking nurses after accusing them of a politically motivated move. Africar. News Agency

Suicide bomber kills four military officers in Somalia

BOSASO - A suicide bomber blew himself up in a military camp in the Somali town of Galkayo yesterday, killing four officers, officials said, an attack claimed by the al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab group. The dead included a military commander and two colonels, the town's mayor, Hirsi Yusuf Barre, told Reuters. The camp houses a force made up of soldiers from the country's semi-autonomous regions of Puntland and Galmudug who have been integrated into the federal army under efforts to unite the fractured country. "The death toll may rise," police officer Abdirahman Haji said. Al Shabaab's military operation spokesman, Abdiasis Abu Musab, said it killed five people in the attack. Reuters

UN adopts resolution urging solution for Western Sahara

EL-AAIUN - The UN Security Council has approved a resolution calling for "a realistic, practicable and enduring political solution" to the 42-year conflict over the Western Sahara between Morocco and the Polisario Front independence movement. The vote Friday on the US-drafted resolution was 12-0, with Russia, China and Ethiopia abstaining. The three countries complained that the resolution was unbalanced, and the US refused to accept suggested changes. The resolution backs efforts by former German President Horst Koehler, as the personal envoy of Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, to relaunch negotiations between the parties "with a new dynamic and a new spirit with the aim of reaching a mutually acceptable political solution." AFP

Botswana Army fighter jet crash kills one pilot

GABORONE -- An army pilot lost his life in a BF5 fighter aircraft crash which occurred on Friday in Gaborone, capital of Botswana, during the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) Day Celebration rehearsals, said a statement issued by Botswana Defence Force. The army spokesperson Major Fana Maswabi confirmed the incident but refused to release the names of the deceased until his next of kin have been informed. Reuters

Date set for Mali presidential elections

BAMAKO - Mali's government has confirmed a presidential election will be held on July 29, an official statement said on Friday, after local polls were again pushed back to the end of the year. Planned elections in the African country have been repeatedly postponed since 2013, in part due to security concerns over Islamist extremism. But President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga have promised for months that the presidential vote will take place this summer. Reuters

SUNDAYOBSERVER AFRIGA NEWS

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ZIMBABWEANS IN THE DIASPORA WILL VOTE, **BUT JUST NOT NOW'**

OHANNESBURG Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government is considering ways to enable millions of its citizens based in other countries to cast their votes, Consul General Batiraishe Henry Mukonoweshuro told a belated Zimbabwe 38th Independence Day commemoration in Johannesburg.

Mukonoweshuro, however, hastened to say the diaspora vote, which Zimbabweans living in other countries have been calling for, would not be logistically possible for the imminent presidential elections, expected in

"I know there is a lot of clamouring for the diaspora vote; it is a thing that the government is thinking about. I think there is going to be an alignment of the electoral laws and the Constitution, [but] in terms of logistics it just may not be possible this year," Mukonoweshuro told the gathering of diverse Zimbabweans



Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

on Friday.

'I think in the next five years, definitely. You will find that embassies and consulates, wherever we are domiciled, would be the areas where we will be able to vote as children of Zimbabwe. There are places where we don't have representation, we will have partnership with those governments to ensure that people in the diaspora will be able to vote."

Last month, the Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe reserved judgment in the diaspora-based Zimbabweans' bid to participate in the upcoming elections from their foreign bases across the world.

African News Agency

Malawi's ex-president Joyce Banda returns home after 4-year exile

lantyre -Malawi's former president, Joyce Banda, returned home yesterday after four years of self-imposed exile, despite facing the threat of arrest over corruption allegations, an AFP journalist witnessed.

Banda - only the second woman to lead a country in Africa - arrived at Blantyre's airport on a flight from Johannesburg around midday, where she was greeted by hundreds of supporters of her People's Party. AFP



Boko Haram insurgency threatens Nigerian president's re-election bid

BUJA - Buhari, 75, said earlier this month he intended to run for reelection next February.

The failure of one of Africa's biggest armies to crush an Islamic insurgency, insecurity in other parts of Nigeria and a stuttering economy could scuttle President Muhammadu Buhari's bid for a second term.

Buhari, 75 and beset by mysterious bouts of ill health that forced him to spend five months in London for treatment last year, said earlier this month he intended to run for re-election next February.

But his chances are likely to be impaired by the failure to fulfil many of the pledges that first won him the election in 2015.

Buhari's most glaring failure has been the continuing Boko



Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari.

Haram Islamist rebellion in northeast Nigeria, which has resulted in the deaths of more than 20 000 people since it began in 2009. Buhari's promise as a tough, aesthetic former military ruler to end the insurgency was key in his winning the 2015 election.

Nigeria is by some measures Africa's biggest economy and has by far the largest population.

Dos Santos to stand down as head of Angola ruling party

UANDA - Angola's former long-time president Jose Eduardo dos Santos is to stand down as head of the ruling MPLA party, officials said on Friday, underlining the country's historic transfer of power. Joao Lourenco, who succeeded dos Santos as president last year, will also replace him as party leader in September, the MPLA said in a statement. Dos Santos ruled Angola for 38 years before stepping aside in favour of Lourenco. But dos Santos - who has been dogged by reports of ill health - had remained as MPLA leader and was expected to retain significant influence over Lourenco's government. The party's

executive said in a statement that it "approved of the candidacy of comrade Joao Lourenco as president of the MPLA" and that it would hold a special congress in September. Lourenco, an MPLA veteran and previously a loyal minister under dos Santos, has surprised many observers by acting against state corruption and nepotism since taking over. Jose Filomeno dos Santos, the son of the former president, has been charged after allegedly syphoning off \$1.5bn when he ran the oil-rich country's sovereign wealth fund until he was sacked in January.

Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

BRIEFS

Trump says he has responsibility to resolve Korean conflict

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump is claiming credit for a historic inter-Korean sum-

mit. But now he faces a burden in helping turn the Korean leaders' bold but vague vision for peace into reality after more than six decades

of hostility. Trump must contend with two nagging suspicions: first about his own suitability to conduct that kind of war-and-peace negotiation and succeed where his predecessors

have failed; secondly, whether North Korean leader Kim Jong Un really is willing to give up the nuclear weapons his nation took decades

Bitcoin frenzy settles down as

big players muscle into market



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday



Defence Minister Marise Payne.

Australia to send military aircraft to monitor North Korean ships

YDNEY - Australia will send a military patrol aircraft to monitor North Korean vessels suspected of transferring prohibited goods in defiance of United Nations sanctions, Defence Minister Marise Payne said

The announcement came a day after the leaders of North and South Korea pledged at an historic summit to work for the complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

However, US President Donald Trump, who is also set to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said he would maintain pressure on Pyongyang through sanctions that were imposed in a bid to rein in the North's missile and nuclear programmes.

Australia, a staunch US ally, also promised to keep up economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea. "Australia is to send a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to Japan to contribute to the enforcement of United Nations Security Council resolutions in our region," Payne said in a media release.

"The deployment supports the international campaign to address North Korea's illicit trade and associated networks," she said.

Senior US officials said in February the Trump administration and key Asian allies were preparing to expand interceptions of ships suspected of violating the sanctions on North Korea. The strategy called for closer tracking of ships suspected of carrying banned weapons components and other prohibited cargo to and from North Korea. Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said pressure had to be kept on North Korea to ensure the Korean peninsula was denuclearised. Japanese media outlet NHK initially reported unidentified Japanese defence sources as saying Australia and Canada would send patrol aircraft, while Britain would also send a frigate to a US base in southern Japan to monitor North Korean vessels transferring

SOUTH KOREA PLOTS 'ROADMAP' FOR TRUMP'S MEETING WITH KIM

summit in more than a decade on Friday, the leaders of North and South Korea held hands, planted a tree, and signed a pledge to pursue peace on the peninsula

The heavy symbolism of the night was the culmination of more than three months of efforts by both Koreas to change the political tone after last year's missile tests and military threats.

What that change of tone means for the prospect of long-term peace on the peninsula is still an open question. Analysts say South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will have to nurture the reduced tensions into concrete

Sceptics view Kim's overtures as a duplicitous attempt to buy time, while others argue any real peace deal requires talking to the North Koreans.

Many of the thorniest issues, however, can't be solved by the

leaders to focus on inter-Korean relations while trying to set the stage for Kim's expected summit with US President Donald

This summit was just spadework, preparation for the North Korea-US summit to happen in the near future," said Kim Seunghwan, a Senior Associate at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. "That is the main game."

The coming weeks will be a busy time for South Korean offi-

Moon may meet with Trump before the US president's summit with Kim, and the South Korean president is also expected to meet with his Japanese and Chinese counterparts at a trilateral summit in early May.

South Korean officials will continue to closely coordinate with the Americans, and Moon will provide details of his meeting with Kim, said Moon Chungforeign affairs and national secu-

"Moon will be collecting information for Trump when he visits Washington in mid-May," he said. "Our government has come up with a comprehensive roadmap and we've been sharing that roadmap with the US."

While some observers criticised Friday's joint declaration for being light on specifics, others said outside countries like the United States and China needed to be involved in decisions on denuclearisation or a peace deal.

There were important optics and symbols that can be built upon and the two leaders did some necessary things," said Andray Abrahamian, a research fellow at Pacific Forum CSIS. "They left the nuclear issue vague, which was the right thing to do. Moon has teed it up; let's see if Trump can carry it across the

LONDON - After bouncing up, falling down and keeping investors on the edges of their

seats, bitcoin may be maturing into a period of relatively boring stability, experts say. A worldwide wave of regulation has led to a collapse in trading volumes. Cryptocurrency advertisements are disappearing from top internet pages, and bitcoin no longer dominates Google searches. As investors try to figure out what bitcoin wants to be when it grows up, the bestknown cryptocurrency is going through somewhat of an existential crisis. Bitcoin rallied 25 per cent in April after crashing 70 per cent from a high near \$20 000 late last year. Reuters

Judge puts Stormy Daniels' lawsuit against Trump lawyer on hold

UNITED KINGDOM - Adult-film star Stormy Daniels' lawsuit against US President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, will be paused for 90 days, the federal judge in the case ordered on Friday, saying that Cohen's constitutional rights could be endangered if the lawsuit proceeds while he is under criminal investigation. "The court finds that there is a large potential factual overlap between the civil and criminal proceedings that would heavily implicate Mr Cohen's Fifth Amendment rights," District Judge James Otero wrote in the order, referring to the Constitution's protection against self-incrimination. Reuters

China's Xi, India's Modi agree to reduce border tensions

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended informal meetings in China yesterday with a promise to reduce border tensions after a high-altitude standoff in the Himalayas last year. The leaders have spent two days in the central Chinese city of Wuhan for discussions on how to mend ties strained when troops from both sides came eyeball-to-eyeball in the disputed Doklam area. The leaders "underscored the importance of maintaining peace and tranquility in all areas of the India-China border region," Indian's foreign ministry said in a statement following the meeting. Reuters

Macron digital tax plan faces EU fight

SOFIA - French President Emmanuel Macron's ambitious plans for an EU digital tax targeting US tech giants faced strong headwinds yesterday from small member states eager to defend their strong ties with Silicon Valley. Finance ministers from the EU's 28 member states were to discuss a controversial proposal aimed at claiming a bigger share of billions of euros from mainly US multinationals that shift earnings around Europe so as to pay lower tax rates. "It must be discussed with the Americans, because if we do this all by ourselves as the EU, this digital tax will be very ineffective," said Luxembourg Finance Minister Pierre Gramegna as he arrived for talks in Sofia, Bulgaria. Luxembourg hosts the EU headquarters for Amazon and along with Facebook and Apple hub Ireland, is loathe to see US tech giants head for the exit.

Showing warmth, Merkel and Trump meet over Iran and trade

ASHINGTON -German Chancellor Angela Merkel and US President Donald Trump put on a display of warmth and friendship during a White House meeting on Friday despite differences over trade and Iran that have sparked tensions between the

After their last White House meeting drew attention when the two leaders did not shake hands in the Oval Office, Trump made a point of doing just that, twice, while congratulating the German chancellor on her election win.

"We have a really great relationship, and we actually have had a great relationship right from the beginning, but some people didn't understand that," Trump said, calling Merkel a



German Chancellor Angela Merkel speaks during a joint press conference with US President Donald Trump.

"very extraordinary woman." Merkel acknowledged that it

took a while to form a government after heavy election losses to the far-right, but she said it was important to her to make her first trip out of Europe since establishing her administration to Washington. The cautious

Merkel has not established a particularly strong personal rapport with the brash Trump, and the mood of her one-day working visit contrasted sharply with the tactile "bromance" between Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron.

EOUL - Usually when South Koreans see Kim Jong-Un's face plastered on news billboards it fills them with the dread a potentially devastating war.

But on Friday the unthinkable happened - the two Koreas pledged to end more than 60 years of hostility and de-nuclearise the peninsula.

Suddenly ordinary Koreans who grew up knowing nothing but tension from the north were cautiously optimistic about a peaceful future.

People crowded around TVs and rushed to grab newspapers to take in the extraordinary news that took the world by surprise. Others packed city squares and cheered as the agreement 1505

South Koreans cheer in city squares to celebrate historic peace agreement with Kim Jong-Un's regime

was announced.

'In theory, we have an armistice but the atmosphere... is actually quite frightening when there's nuclear tests and missile launches,' Jang Gyu-won, 23, told CNN. The deal also paved the way for families separated by the split up of Korea to be reunited, and for citizens to freely travel between the two countries. Lee Bong-joo, 52, said she was 'so happy such an occasion took place' as his late father was from North Korea and he may finally be able to visit. Dailymail



South Koreans cheer in city squares to celebrate the historic peace agreement with Kim Jong-Un's regime.

Focus on Sa scene

CYRIL'S MINIMUM WAGE CONCESSION STRENGTHENING IT'S OPPONENTS

OHANNESBURG - President Cyril Ramaphosa's concession that the proposed minimum wage of R20 an hour does not constitute a living wage has strengthened the resolve of those opposing it's implementation.

Ramaphosa, during his Freedom Day speech in Bloemfontein yesterday, addressed the discontent expressed by thousands of workers, who marched against the proposed national minimum wage (NMW) on Wednesday. The strike, led by the SA Federation of Trade Unions (SAFTU), was the result of an objection to the proposed national minimum wage, the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, which they say will curtail the rights of workers, including the right to strike.

SAFTU on Wednesday accused



SA President Cyril Ramaphosa.

government of "legalising poverty", by allowing the implementation of the NMW, as it falls far short of "a decent salary". Ramaphosa, however, believes the NMW is a victory for workers, despite it not truly constituting a living wage. "Some people have argued that the starting minimum wage of R20 an hour is not a living wage. They are correct. Some argue that the national minimum wage will not end income inequality. They too are correct," he said. "But what the

national minimum wage does provide is a firm and unassailable foundation ... from which to advance the struggle for a living wage." Ramaphosa argued that the introduction of the NMW would provide relief to more than 6.6 million South Africans who currently earn less than R20 per hour, and would immediately benefit from an increase in income. He believes it is something to be celebrated, saying "it will inspire others to go on with the struggle for a living wage". SAFTU spokesperson Patrick Craven, however, took a dim view of Ramaphosa's optimism. "It's bad enough that employers are not paying workers a living wage, but for government to pass a law legitimising it, when even the president himself admits it's not a living wage, is scandalous," he said.

CITIZEN

Ramaphosa reiterates calls for land to be returned to black South Africans

OHANNESBURG - President Cyril Ramaphosa reiterates that land that was taken away from black South Africans must be returned in order for freedom to be realised.

Speaking at the Freedom Day celebrations in the Free State yesterday, Ramaphosa said government is working hard to implement radical economic transformation, by empowering young South Africans, through free higher education.

"They want this important resource land to be shared as it is set out in the Freedom Charter... Land is energy, economic value and it's social power, it must be unlocked and be put to good use."

Ramaphosa also touched on the proposed minimum living wage and agrees that R20 an hour is not enough.

"The struggle for a living wage must be engaged, R20 an hour is not a living wage. We want our people to earn more money." NEWS24

Ramaphosa bestows national orders, dedicates awards to Madiba

dom opened windows of opportunity for many to chase their dreams, for many to excel, to succeed, and in so doing to inspire others.'

President Cyril Ramaphosa on yesterday bestowed the 2018 national orders on distinguished citizens and eminent foreign nationals.

"Friday, as South Africans we celebrated our freedom, a freedom that was attained through the work of many of the people who we are going to be honouring today," Ramaphosa said at the prestigious event at the Sefako Makgatho presidential guesthouse in Pretoria.

"These national orders are essen-

tially a recognition of the many outstanding individuals who defied great odds to make an immense contribution in various spheres of life.

"Our freedom opened windows of opportunity for many to chase their dreams, for many to excel, to succeed, and in so doing to inspire others to reach beyond what they imagined was possible themselves. We dedicate this year's ceremony to the memory of the father of our nation, former president Nelson Mandela, who more than any other embodied the spirit and the meaning of these national orders," he said.

The national orders are bestowed on distinguished South African citizens

and eminent foreign nationals who have played a momentous role towards building a free and peaceful democratic South Africa and improving the lives of humanity in various ways.yesterday, the presidency said Ramaphosa was bestowing the Order of Ikhamanga, the Order of the Baobab, the Order of Luthuli, and the Order of the Companions of OR Tambo to "deserving recipients". NEWS24

Property ownership can help unlock real freedom - Maimane

years ago 20 million South Africans voted freely, but they were not free yet, Democratic Alliance (DA) leader Mmusi Maimane said on Friday, Freedom Day.

Speaking in Soshanguve at the Thorntree housing development, he said that true freedom came with economic inclusion, and that included owning property with full title deeds.

"Property ownership is about much inore than simply having a roof over your head. It's about building an investment in your future ... it means that you can unlock capital to realise your dreams."

He said most young black South Africans had to start from scratch because they did not have the advantage that most white people have: an inheritance.

"If we want to break the cycle of poverty that still entraps so many black people in South Africa, then we have to start building the cycle of ownership," said Maimane. "That's real freedom."



DA leader Mmusi Maimane.

On the issue of land the DA leader said: "Expropriating land so that the state can own it and lease it out to the poor won't empower anyone. Living in your house or on your farm as a tenant of the state is just another way to keep people trapped in poverty."

The DA's ultimate goal is for South

Africans to own their houses or farm land as a step to "financial freedom and independence" and "to be able to pass it on to your children".

He said that in the fight for democracy and equality, leaders such as Nelson Mandela chose to build one South Africa for all.

But "ours is still a deeply unjust and unequal society.

And ours is still a society infected with racism and prejudice. It must be our focus to heal our country, both economically and socially."

He blamed the ANC's policies for economic exclusion.

"Black South Africans aren't poor because they are black. They are poor because they are still enslaved by a system that keeps them poor," Maimane said. "This system is no longer apartheid or colonialism.

This system is a set of policies, written and implemented by the ANC government that has failed our country in every possible way." *TIMESLIVE*



Fans launch drive to save De Lille from ousting

ape Town - Despite losing a motion of no confidence vote earlier this week, embattled Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille received the backing of loyal DA supporters on Friday.

Following the DA caucus vote, the mayor's supporters launched a new campaign to save her from being booted from her position.

The motion of no confidence was brought by Ward Councillor Angus McKenzie after the DA changed its constitution to expedite the recall

of its public representatives - popularly known as the "De Lille Clause".

Following the loss, De Lille, while donning a pair of boxing gloves in her office, was adamant that this was simply "Round 1" and that she would keep fighting for "fairness".

"The Stop The DA From Ousting Patricia de Lille As Mayor" campaign was started by Pastor Louis Michael Green of Kraaifontein, and the online petition has already garnered signatures from 1521 supporters, NEWS24



ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP





STOKE FRUSTRATE IN-FORM LIVERPOOL AT ANFIELD

ONDON - Liverpool were left frustrated after they were held to a 0-0 draw by Stoke City in a Premier League clash at Anfield.

Jurgen Klopp made a number of changes as Danny Ings, Ragnar Klavan, Joe Gomez and Alberto Moreno being handed starts. Mohamed Salah should have put the Reds ahead after just five minutes but the Egyptian failed to beat Jack Butland in a one-on-one situation.

Stoke had to wait until the 20th minute for their first chance, but Mame Biram

Diouf failed to direct his header on target at the far post.

The Reds dominated the first half, but they were often let down by their decision-making in the final third.

The hosts thought they had the opening goal just before the break, but Ings' powerful volley was ruled due to offside Jurgen Klopp's men dominated upon resumption in the second half, but they struggled to carve out any clearcut chances in the opening 15 minutes. Moreno went close to breaking the

deadlock for the Reds on 67 minutes, but his long range strike sailed inches wide of the upright.

The Reds upped the tempo heading into the final 15 minutes of the clash, while Stoke were happy to sit back and attack on the counter. Despite a late push from the home side, they failed

to break the deadlock and were forced to settle for a point on home soil.

Dail Mail

Standard Shartered

Mohammed

Salah.

Salah told he is not on same level as Messi, Ronaldo – yet

ONDON - Paul Lambert does not think Mohamed Salah is yet on a par with Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Stoke are the latest side in the Egyptian's sights as he looks to continue his record-breaking season. Salah netted his 42nd and 43rd goals of the campaign in the 5-2 Champions League victory against Roma on Tuesday and is the leading marksman in Europe. But Lambert believes the consistent excellence of Messi and Ronaldo puts them on another level. The Stoke boss said: "The season he's had has been phenomenal but I still think the best play-

ers on the planet are R o n a l d o a n d Messi. The reason I say that is because they have done it season after season. But I don't think any-

body could have predicted the season Salah has had."

Ta'k of Salah potentially becoming the first Premier League player in a decade to win the Ballon d'Or has been growing, with Ronaldo and Messi having won it five times each over the last 10 years.

"He must be in the running, but again, he's in an era with those two in front of him, so it's incredibly tough," said Lambert. It is safe to say, though, that the Potters manager would not be disappointed if Salah was rested with the second leg against Roma in mind, and Lambert gave a warning to opposite number Jurgen Klopp about the treatment his players can expect.

Stoke head to Anfield desperate for three points in their increasingly futile-looking fight against relegation. Lambert said: "Is 5-2 retrievable? Yes, it is, whereas 5-0 maybe not. So Jurgen might think it's a game they have to watch because we can't be shrinking violets.

We have to be ready

for it

and be

aggressive our-

selves so whether we see Salah or not I don't know."

AFP

Wenger set for Old Trafford farewell

ONDON - Arsene Wenger is unsure of the welcome he will receive on his final visit to Old Trafford as Arsenal boss today after many "great battles" against Manchester United during his two decades in charge.

The 68-year-old Frenchman, leaving the club at the end of the season, will bring a side that is a pale shadow of the team that challenged United's Premier League dominance during his first decade in charge. Wenger's clashes with former United boss Alex Ferguson are the stuff of legend and his relationship with current Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho has been laced with bitterness. But both men have reached out to him with warm words since he announced he was stepping down.

Mourinho said he regrets some of the "little negative episodes" between himself and Wenger over the years, calling on United fans to give him a fitting sendoff

When asked whether he could be friends with Mourinho, Wenger spoke instead of "respect" for the current United boss. Arsenal, in sixth spot in the league, look certain to miss out on the top four for the second year in a row.

But Wenger will still believe he can leave the club with a trophy and a Champions League spot despite conceding a late goal in a 1-1 home draw with Atletico Madrid in the Europa League on Thursday.

The Frenchman is unsure how he will be greeted at Old Trafford, where he is unlikely to play a first-choice side with the second leg of the Europa League tie looming next week.

"I don't know what reaction I will get but look we had some great battles in 22 years and for me what will be at stake is to recover from that result (against Atletico) and before we go to Atletico have a good game," Wenger said.

Sanchez Re-union

The Frenchman, who says he is not ready to retire from football, is likely to face a side including former Gunners star Alexis Sanchez, who left to join United in the January transfer window.

The Chilean's presence in the opposing team will be a painful reminder to Arsenal fans of Wenger's inability in recent years to convince many of his best players to buy into his project and stay.

Wenger said he was so committed to Arsenal that he even declined an approach by then United Chairman Martin Edwards when Ferguson was mulling retiring in 2001.

"Arsenal is the love of my life. I turned many, many, many clubs down to face the challenge when we built the stadium," said Wenger, referring to the Emirates. "I speak to everybody, yes I met Martin Edwards, many people came to see me but I was always loyal to this club." "When I look back now I realise what a great team they had," Wenger said of United. "(Ryan) Giggs, (Paul) Scholes, as young players they had

(Cristiano) Ronaldo and (Wayne) Rooney and you see what Ronaldo and Rooney went on to do in the rest of their career.

"(Ruud) van Nistelrooy, all these players together – it was an unbelievable team and I think I realise more with a bit of distance what a challenge it was."

United are

hoping to consolidate their hold on second place in the Premier League, which would mark a significant improvement over last year's sixth-placed finish for the club, who have also qualified for the FA Cup final, where they will face Chelsea. AFP

Arsene Wenger.

Pochettino warns mocking Harry Kane could dent World Cup hopes

ONDON - He singled out the tweet sent from an FA account following his side's FA Cup semi-final defeat by Manchester United that suggested that Kane had been in United defender Chris Smalling's pock-

Pochettino also highlighted mocking of Kane for claiming a goal at Stoke that looked to have been scored by Christian Eriksen.

That culminated in PFA Chairman Ben Purkiss being criticised for joking that the England striker was so good he could score without touching the ball.

"It is so difficult to understand this tweet from the FA after the game of course," Pochettino said.

"It was embarrassing, no? It was a shame, because the FA is English football and Harry Kane is a potential captain in the World Cup. "The situation disappointed me. The fact it happened, then they apologised after a few days. We need to protect our assets, our English players, our young players."

The Argentinian said that Kane had been very sad and that the club is helping him to move on. And he called for English fans and authorities to rally behind the country's top players, with Kane's

Spurs' team-nate Dele Alli regularly book at away grounds. "For me the nost important thing here in England is try to back English playes, English talent," Pochettino accled. "Because he [Kane] is going to compete in international genes or the World Cup or Eurosand everyone wants to support the estimate at the support the estimate of th

"And 'en . rry Kane scores 1 player not a he is ... n Tottenham 1 r or United or Chelsea. The 1 mportant thing is to back them. If course when you defend your team here, okay. But this type of situation, like the one that happened after the (United) game, doesn't help to create a good atmosphere. "I'm sure that Harry is not happy and no-one helped him to have an unbelievable World

As manager of Wembley's present tenants, he also hoped that the national stadium would keep its place as a major world football venue after any buyout by Fulham and Jacksonville owner Shahid Khan.

"Wembley means football," he said. "It is iconic for people who love football. "Every English player feels part of Wembley and people around the world the same." Daily Mail



Bucs settle for second place

APE TOWN - Or do Pirates will ha e to settle for s cond spot in the 1. sa Premiersh p this season after losing 1-0 to Cape Town City.

The Buccaneers headed into the clash knowing that the top-flight title was not in their hands, and they would need Mamelodi Sundowns to drop points against Ajax Cape

The Citizens took the game to Pirates in the opening stages as they looked to get the opening goal, but the Pirates defence stood firm. Masoud Juma went close to giving the hosts the lead after 15 minutes but fired over the crossbar from close range.

However, the home side were rewarded for their perseverance after they took the lead in the 35th minute thanks to a fine strike from Ayanda Patosi.

The Buccaneers, meanwhile, struggling to carve out any clear-cut chances in the remaining stages of the first half.

Bucs came out rejuvenated in the second half as they went in search of an equaliser, but it was City who had a chance to get another goal in the 57th minute but Ralani

chose the wrong option on the break and the chance went away.

Pirates opted for a change on the hour mark as Xola Mlambo made way for Mpho Makola as the visitors went in search of an equalis-

The woodwork then came to City's rescue in the 68th minute as Thabo Qalinge rattled the upright following a corner from Justin Shonga. In an attempt to maintain the lead, Benni McCarthy threw on defender Kwanda Mngonyama for Ralani with 15 minutes remaining in the half.

Soccer Laduma

DOWNS CROWNED EAGUE CHAMPS FOR

RETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns were crowned ABSA Premiership champions for the eighth time after defeating Ajx Cape Town 3-1 at the Lucas Moripe Stadium.

Sundowns headed into the encounter knowing that three points will secure the league title, regardless of Orlando Pirates' result against Cape Town City.

The Urban Warriors, meanwhile, were looking to get maximum points as they hope to move away from the relegation playoff spot.

It was the visitors who got off the perfect start as an unmarked Mosa Lebusa slotted home from close range after Sundowns failed to deal with a corner. Downs were level in the 12th minute, though, as Percy Tau raced to the byline before sending a cross to the far post, where Khama Billiat was on hand to turn home. In the 22nd minute, Ajax nearly restored their lead through



Yannick Zakri, who rattled the woodwork with a scorching effort from distance. Sundowns were then awarded a penalty after 26 minutes when Billiat was brought down by Jody February. Ricardo

Nascimento stepped up and converted the spot-kick to put his side in the lead, despite the keeper getting a glove to it. The Urban Warriors showed the desire to get back into the game, but they were let down

by their decision-making, and Sundowns against pounced as Sibusiso Vilakazi was played through before rounding his man and slotting into the back of the net.

Soccer Laduma

ARROWS BOOST

URBAN - Golden Arrows gave a major boost to their hopes of a top-eight finish in the ABSA Premiership with a 3-1 win over already-relegated Platinum Stars at Princess Magogo Stadium yesterday afternoon.

A brace from Knox Mutizwa was the driving force behind the victory for Abafana Bes'thende, who move into seventh place on the log and have mathematically guaranteed that they will not be drawn into the relegation playoffs.

Arrows made a bright start to the match, but it was Stars who nearly claimed an early goal, with Wangu Gome getting in

behind the hosts' defence in the ninth minute only to see his effort rebound off the upright.

The Durban side responded with a good chance of their own on the quarter hour mark, as Danny Venter teed up Knox Mutizwa, but he was denied by a fine save from Mbongeni Mzimela.

Attacker

Yet the Zimbabwean attacker would not be denied in the 18th minute, as he got on the end of a right-wing cross and headed the ball beyond the Stars goalkeeper to put Arrows 1-0

On the half-hour mark Abafana Bes'thende doubled their lead,

AST LONDON - Thabo

Rakhale's late strike earned

Chippa United a point as they

drew 1-1 with SuperSport United

Heading into the encounter,

SuperSport had their fate in their

However, Kaitano Tembo's men

had to make do without the ser-

vices of defender Richard Boateng,

who was sent off during the week.

The Chilli Boys, meanwhile, were

SuperSport got off the perfect start

when Thabo Mnyamane rifled the

ball past Daniel Akpeyi from a tight

looking to maintain their place in

own hands after following th

2 win over Free State Stars.

yesterday afternoon.

the top eight.

CHIPPA LATE EQUALISER

with Danny Venter finding himself in space and getting away a shot which had the beating of Mzimela - the second goal arrived after a prolonged spell of pressure.

A frantic end to the first half saw both teams strike the woodwork in quick succession, but Arrows deserved their two-goal lead at the interval.

Dikwena came out fighting in the second stanza, with the early introduction of Bongi Ntuli giving their attack a focal point and more impetus, and a couple of minutes before the hour mark they pulled a goal back through defender Enocent Mkhabela. Backpage TXT

Paez, Zuma lead Chiefs past Maritzburg

OHANNESBURG - Goals from Gustavo Paez and Dumisani Zuma handed Kaizer Chiefs a 2-0 win over Maritzurg United at the FNB Stadium.

Chiefs came into the game hoping to put a week of bad results behind them after they lost 3-1 to Golden Arrows during the week and Free State Stars at the weekend.

Gustavo Paez was given the nod in attack as Leonardo Castro missed out through suspension, while Sibsiso Khumalo was also given a rare start.

Both sides looked lively in the early stages of the encounter, while George Maluleka fired wide with an effort from distance after 13 minutes. Chiefs had the ball in the back of the net after 21 minutes, but the goal dis-

allowed due to an offside. The Soweto giants did take the lead nine minutes later, though, with Paez firing past Mpandle. Fadlu Davids' men did not sit

back and looked to get an equaliser but the Chiefs defence stood for the remainder of the half. The hosts continued to push for more goals in the second half, with Bernard Parker and Siphiwe Tshabalala going close in the opening 15 minutes.

Chiefs were rewarded for the dom-

inance

20 minutes remaining as Dumisani Zuma doubled the lead with a clinical finish over Mpandle.

Kickoff

Gustavo Paez.

Clever Boys snatch vital win over AmaZulu

OHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits came from behind to secure a 3-2 win over AmaZulu at the Bidvest Stadium last after-

The Clever Boys came into the lash on the back of a 4-0 thumping at the hands of Orlando Pirates.

Usuthu, meanwhile, knew a victory would consolidate their spot in the top eight with one round of matches to go.

The Clever Boys did a lot of the attacking in the early stages of the first half with Majoro squandering a couple chances inside the opening 15 minutes.

Usuthu then took the lead against the run of the play, with Michael Morton finding the back of the net with a half-volley.

Gavin Hunt's men did carve out a couple chances in the final 10



Eleazar Rodgers.

minutes of the half, but AmaZulu remained resolute to take a 1-0 lead into the break.

Wits were awarded a penalty in the 57th minute when Klate was brought down. Reeve Frosler stepped up but saw his spot-kick saved by Mbatha.

The Clever Boys did level matters on 63 minutes with Klate burrying a home header past Mbatha.

Soccer Laduma

It got better for Tembo's men after 33 minutes when they were awarded a penalty. However, Dean

DENIES SUPERSPORT VICTORY Furman failed to take advantage as he missed the target from 12-yards out. Chippa did go close to pulling level before the break but Ronwen Williams produced a fine save to keep the lead intact. The hosts carved a number of chances in the opening stages of the second half, but the failed to convert with Kingston

Nkhatha and Teboho Mokoena failing to take advantage. Kickoff



The loss to Levante followed last

weekend's 5-0 rout at the hands of

Barcelona in the Copa del Rey final. Montella, 43, replaced Argentine

coach Eduardo Berizzo at the end

of December, who was sacked just

a month after being diagnosed with

Montella led Sevilla to a memo-

rable Champions League last-16 win over Manchester United before

their run ended in the quarterfi-

nals at the hands of Bayern Munich.

In 28 matches, the Italian won

Caparros was in charge of Sevilla

from 2000-2005 and has four games

in which to secure a European

11 and lost 10 with seven draws.

prostate cancer.

Sevilla sack Montella

after four months

EVILLA - Sevilla sacked coach

four months in charge yes-

terday after a run of nine games

without a win, the Spanish La Liga

Former coach Joaquin Caparros,

62, and without a club since leav-

ing Qatar's Al Ahli in December,

was named as Montella's succes-

"The club took this decision due

to the poor results of the team who

haven't won since March 13," said

Friday's 2-1 defeat at lowly Levante

proved the final straw for a club

who are seventh in the table and

hanging on grimly for a place in

next season's Europa League.

Sevilla in a statement.

side announced.

Vincenzo Montella after just

ZAHA DAZZLES AS

ONDON - A Wilfried Zaha-inspired Crystal Palace all but confirmed Atheir Premier League survival with a comfortable 5-0 win over Leicester City at Selhurst Park.

The Ivory Coast international was once again in imperious form to move the Eagles six points above the relegation zone and within touching distance of safety.

The 25-year-old has endured a difficult week after being booked for diving during last weekend's 0-0 draw with Watford, but will make headlines now for the right reasons after a dazzling display.

In a first half that was played at breakneck speed, Zaha kept his cool to emphatically finish a flowing team move after 17

He was denied a second by Ben Hamer soon after, but turned provider for James McArthur in the 38th minute as Roy Hodgson's side scored the second their dominance deserved. Marc Albrighton took drastic action to prevent Zaha netting a third shortly after the restart, haul-



Crystal Palace star Wilfried Zaha celebrating his goal.

ing him down when clean through on goal, resulting in a red card on a miserable afternoon for Claude Puel's side. Leicester, who are without a win in four games, fell apart in the closing stages, allowing Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Patrick van Aanholt to add gloss to the scoreline, before a rare Christian Benteke goal completed the thrashing from the penalty spot.

The hosts started with a verve that was sorely missing from last weekend's tepid draw at Watford, with Andros Townsend testing Hamer and James Tomkins seeing an effort deflected wide inside the opening five minutes.

Two-goal Tadic sparks life into Saints' survival bid

place.

AFP

OUTHAMPTON - Dusan Tadic scored a potentially priceless brace as Southampton moved to within later yesterday.

one point of safety with a crucial 2-1 win over out-of-

form

Bournemouth at St Mary's on Saturday.

veho

The Serbia international made the visitors pay for a pair of defensive errors either side of halftime to snap an eightgame winless run in the Premier League, in the process securing a vital first home victory since November.

They are now within touching distance of 17th-

placed Swansea City, who face a difficult home clash with Chelsea - the team that knocked Saints out of the FA Cup semi-finals -

Southampton boss Mark Hughes had billed the visit of an out-ofsorts Bournemouth side as essential to making his side's remaining games "significant" and they can now look forward to the final three fixtures with some hope of escaping the bottom three.

Tadic made the key breakthrough by capping off a swift counter-attack in the 25th minute and, after Josh King punished some sloppy marking to restore parity on the stroke of half-time, the 29-year-old attacker popped up again to net the winner in the 54th minute.

The Cherries, now beaten in three straight matches, knocked on the door for a second equaliser in stoppage time but the impressive Alex McCarthy pulled off two crucial saves to ensure his side remain buoyant ahead of next weekend's match at Everton, which precedes a defining trip to Swansea.

Reuters

Southampton star Dusan Tadic.

Stalemate edges Seagulls towards survival

URNLEY - Brighton and Hove Albion took another step towards securing their place in the Premier League with a battling 0-0 draw at European hopefuls Burnley yester-

Chris Hughton's men are five points above the relegation zone with three games to play, although Southampton's defeat of Bournemouth means they cannot yet be sure of survival.

Chances were hard to find in a lowquality game at Turf Moor, with goalkeepers Mat Ryan and Nick Pope having little to do in a cagey clash.

Burnley had two penalty appeals for handball rejected in the first half, with Sean Dyche's men still yet to be awarded a spot-kick in the Premier League this season.

Chris Wood's injury blunted the Burnley attack after the break, while a Pascal Gross shot that Pope dealt with easily was the closest Brighton came to a winner.

The draw extends Burnley's wait for a win to three Premier League games, but they are almost certain to finish seventh in the table - qualifying for the Europa League - as they have a sixpoint lead from Everton and a far superior goal difference.

Burnley appealed for handball in the penalty area when Shane Duffy and Lewis Dunk combined to clear Kevin Long's effort after an almighty goalmouth scramble, Ashley Barnes missing the chance to force the ball home against his former side.

Beram Kayal dragged wide from inside the box after neat Brighton passing created an opportunity, then Barnes fired straight at Ryan from a rightwing Matt Lowton cross in the 37th minute. AFP

Tosun, Gueye down Terriers

UDDERSFIELD - Huddersfield Town were sucked right back into the Premier League relegation battle after they succumbed to a 2-0 defeat at home to Everton

Cenk Tosun's first-half goal put Everton on course for a second successive victory and Idrissa Gueye scored in the second half to wrap up a win that extends their unbeaten streak to four games.

Fortunately for Sam Allardyce's men, Huddersfield struggled to cope with the pressure of needing three points to all but secure their place in the division next season, defending nervously and failing to capitalise on the few clear-cut chances they created.

Tosun's goal arrived courtesy of an incisive run from the tireless Theo Walcott, but the Turkey forward still had plenty of work to do to score and his finish showed class under pressure, while Gueye had an easier task and scored with aplomb.

Town's last three games of the season will see them travel to Manchester City and Chelsea before finishing the campaign at home to Arsenal, and Wagner will be

furious that they squandered the opportunity to pick up points against an Everton side with far less to play for.

The defeat leaves Huddersfield just three points above the drop zone after Southampton's crucial win against Bournemouth.

It took until the 16th minute for either side to register a meaningful effort, Town striker Steve Mounie striking tamely at Jordan Pickford from just outside the area. Terence Kongolo blazed over the crossbar from the edge of the box from a corner shortly after, but the Terriers largely lacked urgency.

-EWCASTLE - West Brom kept their slim survival hopes alive as Matt Phillips scored only his second Premier League goal of the season to secure a 1-0 victory at Newcastle United.

The Baggies knew only three points yesterday would be enough to save them from their 10th relegation from the top-flight and caretaker boss Darren Moore got exactly what he wanted, keeping his unbeaten run in charge of the Baggies intact.

Jake Livermore combined superbly with Phillips for the game's only goal, the former floating a pass across the defence that allowed the Scotland international to smash a fine finish past on-loan home goalkeeper Martin Dubravka.

Newcastle had chances to equalise,

set arisma fill alliteration and



Kenedy hitting the post and Ben Foster's heroics preventing Dwight Gayle from heading home in the dying moments

Brom - who beat Manchester United and drew with Liverpool in their previous two games - five points adrift of the first half. The win leaves West of safety, with two matches still to play

ACCEPT STRUCT

against Tottenham and Crystal Palace, and relegation to the second tier still looks likely.

of protest as a first to

Goal



MTN Premier League 2017/18



Green Mamba playmaker Njabulo Tfwala fights for the ball with Sundowns left back Ndumiso Shongwe during their MTN Premier League match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Green Mamba won the

match 3-2. (Pics: Sibongiseni Zondi)



Sundowns' defender Ndumiso Shongwe under pressure from Mamba's Banele Mdluli.



Green Mamba striker Solomon Oladele points to his club's badge after scoring his second goal.



Mamba's Banele 'Barney' Mdluli fights for the ball with Sundonws' Ndumiso Shongwe.





Mamba's Mthunzi 'Xavi' Mkhontfo controls the ball while Sundowns' Melusi Mkhwanazi closes in.

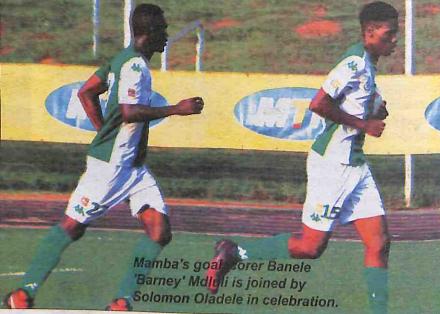


Sundowns' Linda Nkambule loops the ball over Green Mamba defender Sanele Khumalo.

The Green Mamba bench celebrating one of their goals.



Green Mamba coach Caleb Ngwenya passing instructions to his players.





MTN Premier League 2017/18

SWALLOWS AWAIT CORONATION

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

Vovovo vs Mbabane Swallows Somhlolo National Stadium, 3pm

OCCER - Mbabane Swallows have a simple task today; win and be crowned MTN Premier League champions for a second successive sea-

Their opponents are Vovovo, a side they beat 2-0 in the first round back

in October. Swallows remain unbeaten in the league this season and unbeaten in 46 league matches, a run stretching back to the end of the

2015/16 season. The 'Birds' are irrepressible and after their 4-1 demolition of Malanti Chiefs in midweek, they have all but confirmed yet another title. With the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup trophy already in the place as well as a place in the group stages of the CAF Champions League, the league title will cap off another brilliant season for Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati's charges. The pressure will be on today to wrap

up the title but with the form Felix Badenhorst on their side, Swallows believes they can brush aside Vovovo and claim the country's Holy Grail home. Vovovo have nothing much to play for except pride. They are safe from relegation but the maximum points they can collect in their final two games can take them up to tenth, if other results go their way.

Weslians out to secure fourth place

Midas City vs Manzini Wanderers Somhlolo National Stadium, 1pm

OCCER - Manzini Wanderers can go a long way to securing fourth place on the MTN Premier League standings if they beat relegated Midas City today.

Wanderers have their rivals Mbabane Highlanders breathing down their necks just behind them in fifth place.

With two points separating them, the 'Weslians' know they cannot let their guard down.

They will need to first win against City today, besides their 2-0 win in the first round.

Wanderers stuttered in their last league match at King Sobhuza Stadium last weekend, drawing 2-all with relegated Red Lions.

That allowed Highlanders to close the gap in the

race for top four and Wanderers know they can-not afford another slip up. This



Weslians coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe.

will also be their last match before the SwaziBank Cup final against Young Buffaloes next weekend and Weslians coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe will

hope that his players show that they are finetuned ahead of next Sunday's showdown.



Buffs face acid test against Bull

Vovovo coach Edwin Matsebula

Mbabane Highlanders vs Young Buffaloes

Mavuso Sports Centre, 3pm

OCCER - Young Buffaloes have keptalive their slim title chances into the penultimate weekend of MTN Premier League matches but could see the prize slip away today.

Buffaloes need to beat Mbabane Highlanders today and hope that Mbabane Swallows lose top Vovovo. The odds seem stacked against the army side but they are known

on is their match against Highlanders. Buffaloes were comfortable winners in the first round tie, thrashing Highlanders 4-0 in October

fighters. All Buffaloes need to focus



under new management in coach Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane and with January acquisitions Mthobisi Mngomezulu and Thabiso Mokenkoane, Highlanders are a different beats all together.

tions, with fourth place still in sight.

They are just two points behind Manzini Wanderers and need to win to keep the pressure of their rivals above them.

Leopard visit revived Lions

Red Lions vs Royal Leopard Mavuso Sports Centre, 1pm

OCCER - Royal Leopard can still finish in the top four but they will need to win their two remaining league games including today's tie against relegated Red Lions and hope that other results go their way.

Leopard finishing in the top four is a long shot considering that there are five points behind fourth placed Manzini Wanderers but miracles do happen in football.

Leopard's first task will be to beat a revived Red Lions today.

The two sides played to a goalless draw in the first round in November but Leopard have improved in the second round while Red Lions have suffered relegation.

The Manzini side did hold Wanderers to a surprising 2-all draw last weekend while Leopard played out the same results against Vovovo.

With the on form Bonginkosi 'Manyovu' Dlamini in his team, Leopard coach Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane will believe that his side can collect all three points

today.

Bonginkosi 'Manyovu' Dlamini

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Lesotho in

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Championshi-

ps held at the

Sports Centre

National

Mavuso

the

and Letsietsi

Letsietsi from

TAEKWANDO LOCALS A CUT ABOVE THE REST IN THE REGION

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

TaekwonDO -LOCAL taekwondo stars proved their dominance in the Southern African region with their exceptional performance yer erday.

This was during the first ation of the National Champia aships played at the Mavuso Spot Centre vesterday

By the time of compiling this report (yesterday 5pm), five locals had qualified for the quarter-finals of the tournament in to different categories.

Thandolwethu Ndzinisa had qualified for the -74kg category whilst the trio of Onkhe Khumalo, Lindelwa Mkhatjwa and Melusi



Lukhele had qualified in the -54kg

When interviewed newly appoint-

ed Swaziland Olympic and

yesterday.

Commonwealth Games Association (SOCGA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sydney Simelane who was also part of the dignitaries who graced the event applauded the Swaziland Taekwondo Association (STA) for hosting a successful international tournament. Simelane further lauded the balance of youngsters and females in the local team.

"Firstly, let me commend the STA for organising this tournament.

Everything is world class. Again, I would like to applaud their investment in the youngsters because it's paying off now. One can see from their performances that they have been properly trained and that they are also dedicated to the sport," he said.

.. No more complaints as STA introduces EPSS

AEKWODO - THE Swaziland Taekwondo Association (STA) has taken a leap towards attaining vision 2022 as they have introduced the Electronic Protector Scoring System (EPSS).

The system was used for the first time yesterday during the National Championships held at the Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday.

This is a world renowned pointscoring system which gives points to the athlete who will hit with the right impact and the right point.

Expressing his happiness at the use of this system, STA President Zakhele Dlamini said they were pleased as the system eliminated any form of complaints that may arise concerning points.

"We are very pleased to have finally caught up with the rest of

the world. We have had this system for a while, but we didn't have the right software, which delayed us for a couple of months.

Today, everything has been running smoothly, so we would like to thank our counterparts from the region for their support."

The teams that participated included Zimbabwe's Defence Force, University of Botswana, University of the Free State, Mozambique's Um Yang Won, and the Swaziland quartet of Umcozini, ST Michaels, UNISWA and USDF.

How the EPPS awards points

Punch	1point
Body-Kick	2 points
Head-Kick	3 points
Spinning kick to body	4 points
Spinning kick to head	5 points



SOGCA CEO Sydney Simelane and STA President Zakhele Diamini folowing proceedings.



Mid-week Reserve League action continues next week

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

OCCER - THE Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Reserve League games will continue next week.

According to the fixture released by the PLS Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati they will be played in different venues on Tuesday.

Moneni Pirates and Manzini Sundowns will headline the round when they meet in a minihub derby scheduled for the Somhlolo National Stadium.

Pirates will go into the match with high spirits following a 1-0 victory against defending champions Young Buffaloes. Kick-off time for the clash is 11am.

The match will be preceded by an encounter pitting Manzini Wanderers against Malanti Chiefs at 9am.

Wanderers are fresh from a 1-2 loss against Swallows while their opponents have since turned the league's whipping boys following a 1-7 massacre at the hands f Police side Royal Leopard.

The third match on the day will see glamour capital city side Mbabane Swallows taking on Lubombo based ensemble Tambuti in what will be a repeat of the SwaziBank cup semifinal clash played a fortnight ago where Swallows emerged victorious in penalties.

Army side Young Buffaloes will host Midas City in the last clash of the day at the country's mecca. At the Old Trade Fair Sports Ground, Red Lions, Green Mamba and Mbabane Highlanders will take on Matsapha United, Royal Leopard and Vovovo respectively. The first match kicks-off at 11am.

The full fixture Tuesday at the Somhlolo National Stadium Manzini Wanderers vs Malanti Chiefs Moneni Pirates vs Manzini Sundowns Mbabane Swallows Tambuti 1pm Young Buffaloes Midas City 3pm Tuesday at the Old Trade Fair Sports Ground Malanti Chefs 11am Red Lions Royal Leopard Green Mamba VS 1pm Mbabane Highlanders Vovovo

Deputy Prime Minister joins over 80 others in Zithande bootcamp

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

THLETICS – Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Paul Dlamini joined over 80 other participants during the Zithande Athletics Club bootcamp at St Mark's High School yesterday. The bootcamp began at 7 am and ended at around 10 am.

Interviewed after the session yesterday, Zithande Athletics Club Coach Nsizwa Thwala thanked the DPM and all the participants for attending.

"I think we did well considering the limited resources we have. I think the bootcamp is growing and soon it will become bigger than us. We will need people to support us. We are happy that today we even had the DPM with us. It shows that people are getting used to our kind of training," Thwala said.

Thwala then explained that the bootamp culture was a great way of saving wwer and promoting a healthy living.

We are promoting outdoor (training). Thelps us both health wise and ecomically. It saves electricity because we have trained today without using a treadmill for example. We saw boxers, sprinters, the general public and even children join us today. People of all walks are join-



Participants in the Zithande Athletics Club boot camp held at St Mark's High School yesterday. (Pics: Sibongiseni Zondi)

ing us," he said.

Explaining what a boot camp is, Thwala said it was still relatively new in Eswatini but noted that it was what they are all about.

"It's sort of military training. It includes every kind of exercise.

We don't focus on one thing but we mix it up. Fitness and exercise require that if you have done some running then do a few sit ups. That's what we do, we combine the exercises. We do a total body work out. We are trying to arrest the fat. So that is what a boot camp is all about," Thwala explained.

Interviewed after the event, some of the participants said they were happy to be part of the exercise.

"It was my first time attending a bootcamp and I really enjoyed myself. The exercises were interesting and the outdoor setup made it even more interesting. I do hope for more of such events in future," said one Zanele Dlamini.



Zithande Athletics Club Coach Nsizwa Thwala demonstrates an exercise to the participants.



The participants working on their upper body muscles.

GREEN MAMBA CEMENT THIRD POSITION IN LEAGUE

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

Green Mamba (1) 3 Sundowns (1) 2

OCCER - Green Mamba will finish as the third best side in the MTN Premier League this season after twice coming from behind to beat Manzini Sundowns at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The two sides came into the match with different ambitions, Green Mamba looking to secure third place on the standings while Sundowns were aiming at solidifying their position in the top eight. It was the 'Kappa Boys' who began well though, finding the opener in the 22nd minute through Linda Nkambule.

Nkambule headed in from a corner as

Sundowns drew first blood. That lead was short lived however as Mamba equalised through on form forward Solomon Oladele four minutes later. The Nigerian striker peeled through the centre of Sundowns' defence before slotting home past helpless 'Downs goalkeeper Lwethu Simelane.

Goals

There were fewer goalscoring opportunities from there on as the match went into the halftime break deadlocked at 1-all. Six minutes into the second stanza and Sundowns were ahead again, with Nkambule netting his second.

The midfielder found space in Mamba's box before firing a low shot which goal-keeper Siyabonga Simelane could only help into the net.

Mamba would not go down without a fight however and equalised again, this

time through forward Banele 'Barney' Dlamini who headed home NjabuloTfwala's corner kick. Two minutes later, Mamba took the lead for the first time in the match. Tfwala drove a lightningMamba counter attack before teeing up Oladele who coolly slotted past Simelane to put his side 3-2 up.

Despite Sundowns'best efforts to force an equaliser late on, Mamba held on to secure the victory and their third place on the log standings.

Teams:

Mamba: Simelane, Mngometulu (Xavi), Gumbi, Khumalo, B. Dlamini, Mxolisi, Khetho, Mamba, Mdluli (Mncina), Tfwala, Oladele

Sundowns: Lwethu, Shongwe, S. Dlamini, B. Dlamini, Pemba, Ejike (Mamba), Nkambule, Figuareido, Enzo (Charles), Zwane, Melusi

'Birds' to receive trophy today if...

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

OCCER - Mbabane Swallows will be given the MTN Premier League trophy today should they beat Vovovo in their penultimate League match of the season.

Swallows are on the brink of being crowned top flight champions for the second successive season today. The 'Birds,' four points clear off second placed Young Buffaloes who play Mbabane Highlanders at the same time, need to win to guarantee their coronation today.

But Swallows could also be crowned champions if both sides (Swallows and Buffaloes) draw or if they both lose their matches today. Premier

League of Swaziland

(PLS)

COO

Vilakati confirmed in an interview yesterday that Swallows would be handed the trophy if they secured the title

"Yes, they (Swallows) will receive the trophy if they win the League tomorrow (today)," Vilakati briefly

Also reached for comment, MTN Senior Manager Brand and Sponsorships Meshack Maseko said the League sponsors were ready to crown Swallows if they beat Vovovo today.

"These are big games for us. We will be at Somhlolo but we will be following proceedings at Mavuso as well because what will be happening there also adds to the excitement of the title race. We will be waiting and ready with the trophy and cheque to give it to Swallows if they secure it tomorrow (today)," he said. Maseko then invited football supporters to attend both double headers at Somhlolo and Mavuso,

adding that lots of prizes and giveaways would be available.

"There will be lots of entertainment. There will be goodies for the early birds as well as airtime giveaways. We will also be doing sim card registrations so supporters should bring their ID's and proof of residences. There will be prizes for best dressed fans and the hattrick incentive of E5 000 is still available for players so it will be entertainment right across," Maseko concluded.

Molopo steers Malanti to 10th league victory

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Malanti Chiefs (1)2 Matsapha United (0)1

OCCER – Malanti Chiefs golden boy Charles Molopo netted one of the quickest MTN Premier League goals to inspire the Pigg's Peak based side to their tenth win of the season.

The South African striker produced a beautiful header only 15 seconds into the game to hand struggling Matsapha United a 2-1 defeat at the Killarney Stadium yesterday. The Barberton born star did not only help side collect the maximum points but further surged closer to clinching the League's top goal scorer award with 15 goals in his account and one game to go before the curtain falls.

Molopo headed home a telling cross by fellow countrymen Sandile Mazibuko sparking celebrations from the over 200 home fans. It was not a lucky day for the not so convincing 'Deep Blue Ocean' who were let down by poor finishing on the



Malanti Chiefs golden boy Charles Molopo

day. The Matsapha based side tried to force their way into the match in the 16th minutes but versatile player Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze hit the upright after a well taken free kick.

Matsapha tried avoiding their second consecutive loss in the week as they leveled matters two minutes into the restart through marauding winger Siphamandla Dlamini. The former University of Pretoria created space much against the run of play before firing past the helpless Malanti keeper Mduduzi Shongwe, as the defence was

caught napping after a quick attacking move from the opposition.

The hosts did not despair and kept on pushing numbers and were rewarded two minutes after the hour mark through another South African import Potego Mokeona, who rattled the net with a powerful volley at the edge of the box pushing the Humphrey Mlwane led side into the top eight bracket.

Matsapha tried to come back after conceding the second but they were unlucky in the 82nd minute when defender Sifiso Maseko header hitting the cross bar.

The teams

Malanti Mduduzi, Siyabonga, Thembumenzi, Bhekisisa Sithembiso, Lindokuhle, Sandile (Colani), Senzo, Charles , Thokozani, Zweli

Matsapha Khanyakezwe, Sibonelo, Sabelo, Banele(Ayanda), Sifiso, Menzi, Kwenzokuhle(Wandile),Zungu, Sidumo, Nkosinamandla, Siphamandla.

NNAS elections postponed to May 20

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

ternity will have to wait another two weeks before having a new President following the postponement of the elections.

The National Netball Association

of Swaziland (NNAS)elections were meant to be conducted during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the OlmpAfrica Centrey esterday.

The elections of a new executive committee for the association were called off after it was discovered that there were irregularities in the nomination process.

The teams will now have to wait until May 20 to go to the polls. Nominated for the position of President are former president Noma



Dlamini and Catherine Potgieter. The elected official will replace outgoing president Mandisa Sigudla.

Worth noting is that this was not the only anomaly in the NNAS meeting as it was also delayed by over three hours after the teams failed to meet the quorum as per the constitutional requirements.

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

OCCER- Manzini sides Team of Choice and Liquor Magic became the last teams to qualify for the Castle Lager Africa 5's finals to be held at Matsapha Prison today.

Team of Choice became champions of the Manzini region in the last regional activation held at Kwamthunyelelwa bar in Manzini yesterday. They have qualified for the finals alongside runners up Liquor Magic. Team of Choice received a E500 cash prize for being champions. The two complete the eight team list comprising of two teams from each of the country's four regions that will fight it out today for a place in the continental finals in Zambia.

The winners today will get to compete with national champions from South Africa, Lesotho, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The winners of that continental showpiece will get to travel with African football legend Samuel Eto'o to the FIFA World Cup to be hosted in Russia from June to July later this

All set for Castle Lager Africa 5's finals today



Team of Choice posing with Castle Lager Africa ambassador Siza Dlamini and Swaziland Beverages Trade Marketing Country Manager Khetsiwe Dlamini after their victory yesterday. (Courtesy pic)

The finals will kickoff at 11 am. Qualified teams: Manzini: Team of Choice Liquor Magic Hhohho: Winning Team Jungle Boys Shiselweni: Sibuyeni All Stars Lubombo: Ngcayizivele Zesta

THE FULL NOMINEES

CatherinePotgieter.

President V President; Secretary General: Treasurer: Members: Noma Dlamini, Catherine Potgieter.
Nkabindze Shabalala, Themba Dlamini, Clifford Ngomane
Ntombi Masango, Bongiwe Gamedze, Fikile Nkambule.
Edgar Du Pont.
Gugulethu Dlamini,
Roaster Lukhele, Simangele Fakudze, Themba Dlamini.

RESULTS ABSA Premiership

ABSA Premiership Bidvest Wits AmaZulu FC Maritzburg United Kaizer Chiefs Golden Arrows Platinum Stars Cape Town City Orlando Pirates Baroka FC 2-2 Bloem Celtic Mamelodi Sundowns Polokwane Free State Stars SuperSport United Chippa United

Premier League Chelsea Swansea City Everton Huddersfield Town West Brom Newcastle United 5-0 Leicester Crystal Palace 0-0 Brighton Burnley Bournemouth Southampton Stoke City Liverpool

FIXTURES

TODAY

Premier League

15:15 West Ham United 17:30 Manchester United Manchester City Arsenal

1pm

3pm

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE

Today

Somhiolo National Stadium

Midas vs Manzini Wanderers Vovovo vs Mbabane Swallows

Mavuso Sports Centre Red Lions vs

Red Lions vs Royal Leopard
M Highlanders vs Young Buffaloes
MTN PREMIER LEAGUE

WIN PREMIER L

Madde

Malanti 2 Matsapha G. Mamba 3 Sundowns 2 Tambuti 1 M. Pirates

Team P W D L GF GA GD Pts Mbabane Swallows 24 16 8 0 41 14 27 56 Young Buffaloes 24 15 7 2 37 12 25 52 Green Mamba 25 14 5 6 43 23 20 47 Manzini Wanderers 24 11 6 7 29 27 2 39 Mbabane Highlanders 24 10 7 7 29 20 7 37 Malanti Chiefs 25 10 5 10 33 40 -7 35 Matsapha United 25 8 10 7 25 25 0 34 Manzini Sundowns 25 8 10 7 25 25 0 34 Moneni Pirates 25 6 11 8 24 30 -6 29 Tambuti 25 7 4 14 26 37 -11 25 Vovovo 24 7 4 13 22 35 -13 24 Red Lions 24 3 4 17 19 43 -24 13 Midas City 24 2 2 20 14 51 -37 8

MTN NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION

RESULTS
Citizens 1 Tinyosi

 Sea Birds
 2
 Hub Sundowns
 1

 Amalanda
 0
 Sikhalo Se Africa
 0

 T. Callies
 2
 Mahlalini
 1

 H. Tycoons
 2
 Bad Boys
 1

 Madlenya
 1
 Milling
 0

MTN NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION LOG

 Team
 P
 W
 D
 L
 GF GA GD Pts

 Citizens
 21
 14
 6
 1
 41
 19
 22
 46

 Sea Birds
 21
 13
 5
 3
 44
 21
 23
 44

 Madlenya
 21
 12
 2
 7
 38
 22
 16
 33

 Tiycoons
 21
 10
 1
 10
 32
 29
 3
 31

 Sikhalo
 21
 8
 6
 7
 22
 24
 -2
 30

 Callies
 21
 8
 5
 8
 21
 27
 6
 29
 3
 31

 Hub Sundowns
 21
 7
 7
 7
 7
 32
 22
 12
 28

 Hub Sundowns
 21
 7
 4
 10
 19
 22
 -3
 25

 Amalanda
 21
 6
 2
 13
 23
 35
 -11
 20

Tunday Observer PORTING

APRIL 29, 2018



Fabregas keeps Blues in hunt for UCL places

Shopes of a top-four finish alive and dented Swansea City's survival bid with a 1-0 win at the Liberty Stadium.

In a game of precious few chances, it was Cesc Fabregas' superb fourthminute strike that proved decisive – his 50th in the Premier League.

Andre Ayew curled wide for the hosts late on, but they rarely looked like finding a leveller against opponents who comfortably kept them at arm's length throughout.

The win lifts Antonio Conte's side just two points behind fourth-placed Tottenham, who face Watford at

Wembley tomorrow.

Swansea, meanwhile, are just one point ahead of 18th-placed Southampton following Mark Hughes' side's 2-1 win over Bournemouth earlier in the day.

Carlos Carvalhal's men now have three games to preserve their top-flight status, including home clashes with the Saints and Stoke City, in what promises to be a nail-biting climax to the season. Swansea barely had a chance to catch their breath by the time Chelsea had raced into an early lead.

Eden Hazard showed characteristically quick feet to find space on the edge of the penalty area before teeing up Fabregas, who whipped a first-time

effort with his left foot into Lukasz Fabianski's top corner.

Mike van der Hoorn got in the way of a goal-bound Victor Moses strike soon after, while Alfie Mawson clipped his own crossbar attempting to clear a loose ball as Chelsea dominated the opening period. The Swans started to grow into the game towards the end of the half, but were unable to penetrate the Chelsea backline and test Thibaut Courtois.

Swansea were successful in disrupting Chelsea's flow at the start of the second period but, much like in the first-half, they rarely looked like finding an equaliser.



Fabregas celebrates with Eden Hazard, who assisted the early goal, and former Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud.

Tiemoue Bakayoko dragged a shot wide from distance as Chelsea looked to double their advantage and put the game to bed, while Emerson Palmieri's

low drive was kept out by Fabianski after the Brazilian had produced a dazzling run from just inside the Swans' half. *Reuters*