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D-DAY FOR GIDEON MHLONGO

Page 2

TUESDAY JULY 31, 2018

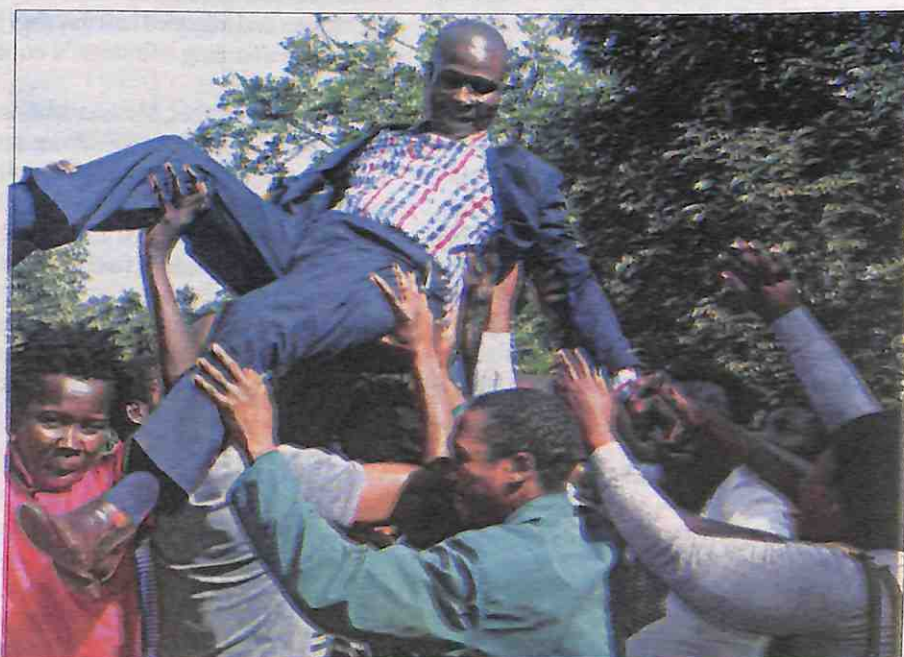
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EBC WARNS ABOUT HOISTING OF CANDIDATES...



ON AIR: Gundwane Gamedze lifted by his followers after being nominated as MP during the nominations at Madlenya Chiefdom in Siphofaneni on Sunday. (Pic: Lucky Simelane) **STORY ON PAGE 3**



TABOO: Sandziso Mamba being lifted by his followers after he was nominated for the Indvuna YeNkhundla positions on Sunday at Nkilongo Inkhundla under Gamula Umphakatsi. (Pic: Samukelisiwe Khoza)

KULICHILO!

...EBC CHAIRMAN CHIEF GIJA DLAMINI
SAYS IT IS TABOO IN SISWATI

NUMBER OF WOMEN NOMINEES **IS LOW**

Story
on
Page 4

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2 NATIONAL NEWS

D-DAY FOR GIDEON MHLONGO

By Sisho Magagula
Mbabane

TODAY is D-day for embattled Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Mbabane Municipal Council Gideon Mhlongo as his contract of employment expires at the close of business today.

This is the same contract that council has consistently refused to renew following an instruction from Minister of Housing and Urban Development Phiywayinkhosi Mabuza.

Mhlongo's contractual issue has been the subject of intense debate in recent months. In a meeting held on May 25, councillors took a resolution not to renew the contract.

The minister retorted and wrote a memorandum dated June 15, in which he said council should embark on a contractual negotiation renewal process with the outgoing CEO.

He further ordered that council should submit the contract for ministerial consideration by close

...Mhlongo's contractual issue has been the subject of intense debate in recent months. In a meeting held on May 25, 2018, councillors took a resolution not to renew the contract

of business on Friday July 21. Minister Mabuza warned that failure to submit the contract would result in Mhlongo's current contract extension for another five years, effective August 1, 2018. Council defied this instruction. They wrote to the minister and informed him that they had difficulty in extending Mhlongo's contract of employment.

According to sources, Minister Mabuza, upon receipt of council's correspondence last week Thursday, again wrote to council where he expressly stated his final decision on the matter. It could not, however, be immediately ascertained what the minister's final decision was on the matter.

Interviewed yesterday, Minister Mabuza confirmed that he had made his pronouncement on the matter and had duly communicated it to

council.

"I wrote to council last Friday on the matter you are talking about. I don't know if they have received my correspondence as yet, especially because I am told the mayor has been away for a few days. I think it is best that you contact them," he said.

The minister was asked to disclose what his final decision was on the matter and he declined to do so.

"Ngabe ngiyaganga nangingenta njalo," he said. Mayor Zephaniah Nkambule said he had not yet seen the minister's correspondence. "I am on my way to the office right now and maybe I will come across the letter you are referring to," he said.

He asked to be contacted later in the day. However, when he was called afterwards, his



D-DAY: Embattled Mbabane Municipal Council CEO Gideon Mhlongo.

mobile phone rang unanswered.

Lucky Tsabedze, the municipality's public information officer, declined to comment and referred questions to the mayor.

Meanwhile, independent investigations conducted later yesterday uncovered that there would be a special council meeting slated for today at 5pm. The minister's letter is expected to form part of the agenda during today's meeting.

Phakama's children detained, charged with theft

Stories by Sisho Magagula
Malkerns

IT'S far from over! This best describes the estate battle between the surviving children of late business tycoon Richard 'Phakama' Dlamini as four of his children were detained for three hours by the police last Friday afternoon.

Thulile Dlamini, Ntombi Dlamini, Sanele Dlamini and Andile Dlamini were arrested and detained by police officers from the Malkerns Police Station after they had forcefully grabbed cash from Phakama buses in Manzini.

The last Friday incident comes shortly after one of Phakama's daughters, Andile, was reported to the police after forcefully grabbing a money bag from a bus conductor at Malkerns last Wednesday. According to information gathered, on Friday, the four siblings arrived at the Manzini bus rank at around 10am and started looking for the Phakama buses. When they saw some of the buses, they boarded them and demanded money from the bus conductors.

The bus conductors are said to have



IT'S TRUE: Deputy Police Information Communications Officer Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

had a torrid time trying to explain to the siblings that they were not authorised to give them money. But the siblings are said to have had none of it and insisted that they should be given the money since it belonged to their late father. "Batsi kulabholeli ababanike lemali yababe wabo," disclosed a source who was present at the bus rank when the incident happened.

Later on, the siblings are said to have boarded another Phakama bus that services the Manzini-Gebeni route.

Inside the bus, they took charge and collected money from the passengers

while the bus conductor watched helplessly. The driver of the bus is said to have then called the manager, identified as Mongi Shabangu, who in turn called the police.

Interviewed yesterday, one of the implicated siblings, Andile Dlamini confirmed the incident. She said just when the bus reached Khalantombi bus station, two police vans, one from the Manzini Police Station and another from Malkerns, came and blocked the bus.

"The police officers, who were armed, stopped the bus and ordered us out. They bundled all of us into a police van and took us to the Malkerns Police Station, where we were detained for about three hours. They recorded statements and said they were charging us with theft," she said. She said after their statements were taken, they were released and told they would be informed of their court appearance in due course.

Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident.

She said the four had been charged with theft and would appear in court soon.

FAR FROM OVER: The late businessman Phakama Dlamini's home in Malkerns. Four of his children were detained for three hours by the police last Friday afternoon.



We are starving – siblings

SOME children of late bus owner Richard 'Phakama' Dlamini have explained why they keep grabbing money from the buses without authority.

The siblings claim to have been sidelined from benefitting from the estate of their late father hence the reason they have resorted to other means to get access to it. Phakama died on December 20, 2013, leaving over 20 buses and a

lucrative estate worth millions of Emalangeni. Soon after his death, his family, comprising three wives and over 20 children, started feuding over the estate. The matter even went to court.

Andile Dlamini, one of Phakama's daughters, said they were starving because they were being sidelined from the estate by their other siblings who allegedly have unlimited access to the estate.

"Siyalamba lana while others are

enriching themselves at the expense of my father's toil and sweat. The estate is not being distributed evenly, instead, kudla bantfu banye.

It is for this reason that we are doing what we are doing. We have tried very hard to be civil about this thing but we can't stand it anymore. Our late father worked hard for all of us to live well but we are now being made to suffer because he is no longer here," she said.

Swazi MTN registers over 400 000

By Sisho Magagula
Mbabane

OVER 400 000 Swazi MTN SIM-cards have been fully registered and verified as of last Friday under the National Subscriber Registration known as VELA.

VELA is a national subscriber SIM registration programme which has been initiated by the Government of Eswatini through Swaziland Communications Commission (SCCOM) that all SIM-cards should be registered for security reasons. Two years has been allocated for all network providers to have registered their SIM-cards by April next year. According to Swazi MTN's Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lumphondo, the company has fully committed itself to ensure that it complies with the government regulatory requirement to register all subscribers.

"A total number of 987 agents known as 'foot soldiers' have been engaged in all the regions of the country to make sure that all its customers are registered in spite of where they may be. As part of the company's culture to host roadshows almost every weekend, customers also have an opportunity to register their SIM-

cards. To be eligible for this process, subscribers only need to bring with them their national identity cards and prove of residence which may be in a form of a water or electricity bill," he said.

Lumphondo said for football lovers, subscribers may also have a chance to register during regional tournaments which have been sponsored by the company which started last week. He said some access points for subscribers to register their SIM-cards are Swazi MTN Service Centres and Connect Stores.

"The company has also prepared a toll free line 923 for customers to call in case they need assistance and any clarification on the SIM-card registration. All subscribers are encouraged to register their SIM-cards to remain active to the network as per the government requirement.

It is a quick and simple process that can be completed within less than five minutes. After registration, a subscriber is expected to receive a message confirming that the registration has been successful. If not, then that means information that has been entered was incorrect. Therefore, all subscribers are encouraged to make sure that information is correct for successful SIM registration," he said.

Swazi Mobile embarks on VELA exercise

By Observer Reporter
Mbabane

IN a quest to comply with regulations and laws imposed by regulatory authorities, Swazi Mobile will no longer sell unregistered SIM cards to prospective subscribers as part of the VELA exercise.

VELA is a SIM registration programme which was initiated by government through the Swaziland Communications Commission (SCCOM). The regulations imposed by the commission state that every SIM card should be registered for security purposes. According to Swazi Mobile Corporate Communications Manager Nosipho Shongwe, the company has a responsibility to comply with rules set by the regulatory authority. "This is a regulation as dictated

by the Swaziland Communications Commission (Subscriber Registration) Regulations of 2016 for all new SIM card connections in the Kingdom of Eswatini, therefore we must comply," she said. Shongwe said they have been given until next year by the regulator to have registered all their subscribers therefore as of August they would no longer be selling unregistered SIM cards.

"As of August 1, we will be selling registered SIM cards to our subscribers, so if people walk in to buy SIM cards they must bring with them the necessary documentations," she said.

Shongwe said their current subscribers would be registered using the database but if they can she advised that they visit their nearest experience centre to make sure that their SIM cards are registered.

EBC WARNS ABOUT HOISTING OF CANDIDATES

...EBC Chairman Chief Gija Dlamini says it taboo in Siswati culture (Kulichilo)

COVER STORY

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

THE Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) has frowned against the hoisting of candidates by their supporters.

EBC Chairman Chief Gija Dlamini has come out to speak against this stating that beyond that it endangers the candidates it is also taboo in Swazi culture.

Dlamini said in SiSwati only a coffin with a dead person was hoisted up. "Kulichilo loku ngeSiswati, ngelisiko leSiSwati ngumunfu losasishiyile kuphela lufwalwako (It's a taboo, in our culture only dead people are hoisted high)," he said.

The hoisting of candidates became a popular celebratory exercise the past weekend when the electorate took to their chiefdoms to nominate candidates for the upcoming elections. Supporters would hoist up their favourite candidates upon nomination as a sign of endorsing their nomination. Dlamini said this practice must come to an end as not only was it a taboo in the country's culture, but it also put the life of the candidates in danger.



STOP IT: EBC Chairman Chief Gija.

He added that such an act was also a form of disrespect to the spouses of the candidates.

"While the supporters will be doing it in good faith, the lives of the candidates will be endangered because amongst them there will be those that are not pleased about their nomination and no one knows what they can do. Also it is disrespectful to the spouses of the candidates, the past week we saw married women hoisted up by men and we also saw men hoisted up by women, that is just disrespect especially if the woman is in traditional attire," he said.

The EBC said this practice must not happen again moving forward. Amongst

the popular candidates who were hoisted up by their candidates are Timphisini candidate Jennifer du Pont, Ndzingeni candidate Lutfo Dlamini, Siphofaneni candidate Gundwane Gamedze amongst others. Another candidate who was lifted high by his supporters was the late Funekile Gule's brother, Mbongeni 'Stjifiri' Gule, who was nominated at Ndzingeni.

Now that the nominations phase has taken place the next phase will be the primary elections which will take place on August 25.

When called yesterday, one of the candidates, who was hoisted by his supporters but preferred anonymity, said he was surprised by Chief Gija's statement.

He said he found nothing wrong with being lifted up by his supporters as displayed a stamp of approval for their support.

"I think in terms of the law, there's nothing wrong the supporters are doing but merely expressing their excitement at their preferred candidate," he said.

He said given a chance he would be happy with being lifted again by the supporters even at the primary elections level.

"I think the EBC is being petty over nothing, we have broken no law here. It's not their problem if this thing is dangerous to us," he added.

Hundreds of nominees queue all day for tax clearances

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

HUNDREDS of nominees from Northern Hhohho who were queuing to receive their compulsory Tax Compliance Certificates (TCC) were locked out of the Eswatini Revenue Authority (ERA) office in Pigg's Peak yesterday.

The nominees wanted to get the tax clearance certificates that would allow them to be registered officially as election candidates.

Most of the nominees started queuing outside the ERA office as early 4am.

Due to the fact that the ERA Pigg's Peak office had only three staffers helping the nominees, only 50 nominees were allowed into the office at once.

After the first 50 nominees had entered the office, the door was locked behind them by a security guard, leaving the other nominees still queuing outside for hours. Most of the election nominees who had arrived at 5am were still in the queue and unattended by lunch time.

Speaking to this publication, some of the agitated nominees said they feared that they would be disqualified from the national elections if they did not bring the Tax Compliance Certificates (TCC) as warned by the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC).

"We have been told by some officers at the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) that we will not be allowed to stand as candidates in the upcoming national elections if we owe any tax to the ERA.

This doesn't make sense to us because our private financial affairs should not



STAND-OFF: A section of the many Northern Hhohho national election nominees waiting to be aided outside the Eswatini Revenue Authority offices in Pigg's Peak on Monday. (Pic: Sizwe Dlamini)

limit or hinder our involvement in the national elections. As you can see there is a long queue and all these people are confused as to why they are here in the first place," one candidate said.

When asked for comment, Returning Officer at the EBC Naniki Mnisi said the candidates needed a simple clarification on the matter.

"We did not say people will not be allowed to participate in the upcoming elections if they owe the ERA any money, this is not true. What we said is that nominees or candidates in the upcoming national elections should possess a Tax Clearance Certificate from the ERA.

This certificate will then be brought to the EBC so that the individual can stand in the elections, if anybody owes the ERA in the form of taxes then that

person will receive a separate letter from the ERA detailing on how that person will pay those taxes.

The second letter is private business and has nothing to do with the elections; all we want is people to possess the tax compliance certificates and then come to the Pigg's Peak Inkhundla, where we will then take a picture of the candidate who will then be added to the nomination roll," she said.

When asked for a comment, ERA Communications Director Vusi Dlamini said since the story was about the election nominees the EBC would be better placed to answer any questions.

By the time of compiling the story only a few of the nominees had been aided by the ERA but a majority of them were still queuing for assistance.

EBC extends deadline for tax clearance

By Observer Reporter
Mbabane

ELECTIONS nominees have until tomorrow to submit their tax clearance documents with the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC).

EBC Chairman Chief Gija yesterday informed all nominees under the categories (bucophu, Member of Parliament and indvuna yenkhundla) of the extension to submit proof of payment on tax, or arrangement thereof to Wednesday (August 1).

He said this has been necessitated by the high volume of nominees who required the tax clearance.

The chairman said this stance has been considered by the EBC and the Eswatini Revenue Authority

(ERA).

"The tax clearance is a requirement for all nominees whether you have been nominated for bucophu, Member of Parliament, and indvuna yenkhundla.

Commissioner General of ERA Dumisani Masilela has ensured that the staff has been complimented to expedite the process," he said.

He listed ERA service centres as follows:

- Manzini
 - Matsapha Tax Office
 - Mbabane Service Centre
 - Nhlangano Tax Office
 - Piggs Peak Service Centre
 - Siteki Service Centre
 - Lavumisa Customs Border Post
- (It must be noted that Lavumisa has been included for this exercise only)

120 Cabinet support staff to lose jobs

By Sisho Magagula
Mbabane

ABOUT 120 cabinet support staff members stand to lose their jobs when the current cabinet team's term of office comes to an end.

Even though parliament was dissolved by His Majesty King Mswati III last month, the cabinet ministers were retained and allowed to continue serving pending a further directive from the head of state.

The past weekend was the nomination stage in all the four corners of the country and it was expected that the King would dissolve cabinet before the primary elections.

There are 20 ministers in the Kingdom of Eswatini, including Prime Minister Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini and his deputy Paul Dlamini, and they are all entitled to certain benefits in terms of their conditions of service as provided for by Circular No. 2 of 2013.

Each individual is entitled to employ six people, namely, Personal Assistant, chauffeur, gardener, house keeper, assistant house keeper and house helper. This means there are 120 cabinet support staff members.

All these cabinet support staff members are personally appointed by the ministers when they assume office and are placed on the government payroll. When cabinet is dissolved anytime from now, they shall all lose their jobs together with their bosses.

Yesterday, Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane confirmed that the cabinet support staff would also be going home together with their bosses when cabinet is dissolved.

"They are not considered as pensionable civil servants. They will therefore get their benefits and leave with their bosses," he said briefly.

In October last year, the cabinet staff received good news when government approved the adjustment of their pay scales. This was done through the strength of Finance Circular No. 2 of 2017, which specified the new conditions of service



IT'S TRUE: Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane.

for the support staff.

Personal assistants who are attached to the premier were pegged on a fixed term contract on Grade F1.

Similarly, personal assistant to the deputy prime minister, ministers, attorney general and presiding officers were moved to a remuneration scale of Grade D3.

According to the Circular, PAs are now entitled to commuted travelling allowances as regulated by the governmental general orders. They are also entitled to housing allowance as regulated by the government general orders, which was not included in the previous circular.

It is stated in the circular that the PAs for DPM, cabinet ministers, attorney general and the presiding officers will be entitled to a subsistence allowance, if the officer they are attached to wishes to travel with them outside the country on government business, with the PMs approval.

They shall also be covered for workmen's compensation and shall be members of the Swaziland National Provident Fund.

Furthermore, it is stated that PAs' appointment will be for the duration of the term of office of the relevant officer, unless terminated by resignation of the PS or terminated by the principal.

"All PAs will receive a gratuity payment of 25 per cent of the total salary earned over the period of employment," read parts of the circular.

CANGO CONGRATULATES EBC ON TRANSPARENT NOMINATIONS

By Samkelisiwe Khoza
Mbabane

THE Eswatini Elections Support Network under the Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO) congratulates the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) on successful and transparent 2018 nominations.

The networks' Head of Observer Mission, Tjengsile Shabangu made these remarks during the organisation's press briefing on their Electoral Observer Mission yesterday at CANGO offices.

"The Eswatini Elections Support Network hereby observes that the nomination process was transparent, peaceful, free and fair in all the nomination centres.

The Elections Support network would like to congratulate His Majesty's Government and the Elections & Boundaries Commission on a successful nomination process," she said.

Shabangu explained that they had deployed 110 observers in 87 nomination centres in 37 Tinkhundla constituencies across all Eswatini regions.

She also commended the EBC for the use of Twitter and Facebook pages which provided key updates for the nominations.

Shabangu added that in most nomination centres, there were usually around 300 eligible voters that effectively participated in the nomination process selecting their own choices to represent them in the next parliament and local administration.

She explained that the highest turnout



TRANSPARENT: EBC Chairman Chief Gija.

was seen at KaMkhweli in Siphofaneni, where over 1 500 eligible voters participated.

"This shows that the nomination centres were announced well in advance allowing the community to effectively participate in the process.

Announcements

During the nomination days, radio announcements in Siswati continued to be aired during the day and this is greatly encouraged," she added.

Furthermore, the head of observer mission highlighted that the EBC went to great lengths to ensure that signage was placed in most nomination centres and public transport was made available to all eligible voters allow-

ing communities to participate in the process.

"In all areas covered, most presiding officers were knowledgeable on the nomination process to be undertaken as provided in the electoral laws of Eswatini," she said.

She said most nomination centres were set up and ready to start working by eight in the morning and by nine most had commenced the nomination process.

Shabangu added that most nomination centres finished the process around five pm and took an average of 8 hours to finish the nomination process.

"Timely and adequate provision of voter materials to undertake nomina-



FULL HOUSE: Emaswati came in numbers during the national elections at Madlenya Chieftdom in Siphofaneni on Sunday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

tion exercise could ensure that unnecessary delays are avoided," she said.

"Accessibility covers people living with physical disabilities and their movement inside a nomination centre, blind people and hindrances for them moving around a nomination centre and assistance that was provided by the commission ensuring that they enjoy their full rights," she added.

However, Shabangu also touched on some of negatives facts that the team noted during the nomination process, saying wherein the nomination process was well organised, some nomination centres were changed at the last minute like Emhlane, Old Nkhamba Inkhundla which caused con-

fusion to the residents.

"Some presiding officers lacked patience in managing the process as observed in KaLanga. Such misunderstanding could easily have been managed by explaining the process to the communities and what was expected from eligible voters," Shabangu said.

She further added that logistic delays were common in most nomination centres due to lack of extension cables to charge laptops. She said in some nomination centres, lack of tables and chairs for election officials including shelters were also common delaying the commencement of the nomination process. "Some centres had PA systems and some had mega phones. Some of the nomination centres finished as late as 8:00pm like Nkanini Umphakatsi in Lobamba," added Shabangu. She went on and shared that even though most polling stations were accessible to people living with disabilities which she said is commendable as it allows for the inclusion of the rights of people with disabilities but there were those few who made it impossible for some people living with disabilities especially those on wheelchairs as some polling stations such as schools lacked wheelchair ramps.



Percentage of women nominated remains low

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

DESPITE the extensive 'Vote for Women' campaign the number of women nominated for the 2018 elections remains relatively low.

The total number of nominated candidates per gender even this year showed that the number of women who got nominated in all the categories remained low.

According to statistics released for the 2013 elections, women had the lowest percentage of nominees in all categories when compared to their male counterparts.

In 2013, according to the National Elections report, the overall number of nominated women was 24 per cent. The report stated that this showed a decrease of 2 per cent when compared to the 2008 elections. It is said the most affected category was that of the Member of Parliament which dropped by seven per cent in 2013.

When called to find out how the figures stood for this year's nominations yesterday, Elections and Boundaries



STILL COUNTING: EBC Communications Officer Mbonisi Bhembe.

Commission Chief Executive Officer Richard Phungwayo stated that even though the figures were still being compiled the number of women nominees was relatively low when compared to their counterparts.

At Logoba on Sunday, women who were nominated for positions simply declined and as a result there were no women who ended up taking the nominations for the different positions. EBC

Communications Officer Mbonisi Bhembe when called to get the statistics said by yesterday afternoon the results were still being submitted coming from the different nomination centres.

He said even though he was not at the nomination centres he understands that the youth, women, men and other disadvantaged groups were nominated.

'Vote for Women' campaign discriminatory – Aspiring MPs

A number of aspiring male parliamentarians have expressed and slammed the 'Vote for Women' campaign which has been on-going since the beginning of the year as discriminatory.

Over the weekend a number of women in almost all nomination centres were nominated for *Bucopho*, *IndvunaYeNkhundla* and Member of Parliament position except for Logoba and a few other places. However, some aspiring male Members of Parliament have not taken kindly to the 'Vote for Women' campaign as they felt that it was biased.

One aspiring MP under the Manzini region, who preferred anonymity in fear of being viewed as de-campaigning his opponents who happen to be mostly females, said such a campaign should not be at the expense of male candidates.

Another who shared the same sentiments as former Senator Prince

Fipha said it was great that government was pushing the 'vote for women' election campaign however he was concerned that government was taking things too far and the whole thing had since turned into a discriminatory process.

He said he felt that other minority groups were being left out.

The aspiring MP said government was not making the playground level. He said there were a lot of people who needed government's support like the youth.

He said another issue which is worth considering is that of reporting, he said the local media seems to be biased when reporting about nominees as it reports and flaunts images of well-known former parliamentarians.

"What about the underdogs," the aspiring Member of Parliament he stated. He added that every time when one opens the radio all that he hears is 'Vote for Women' campaign.

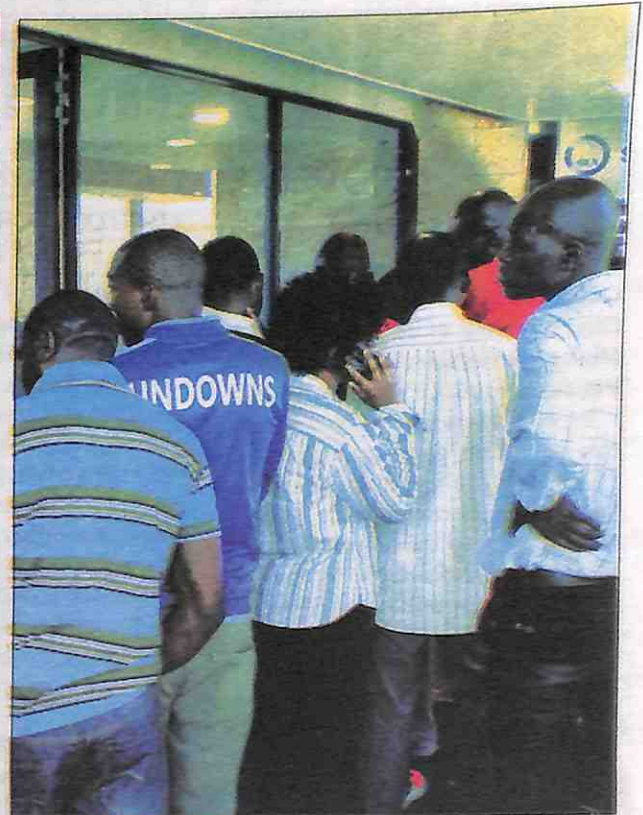
NOMINEES QUEUEING TO GET TAX CLEARANCES



TAX CLEARANCE: Some of the people who were nominated for the forth-coming elections waiting to pay tax and get their tax clearance certificates at the SRA offices in Mbabane yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



LONG QUEUE: Part of the nominees queueing at the SRA offices yesterday.



OUTSIDE: The nominees came in their numbers.

ELDERLY GRANTS NIGHTMARE



SENIOR CITIZENS: Elders from Mbabane East and West waiting for their grants before they were turned back at SPTC yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



THE LONG WAIT: Some of the elders waiting for their grants.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Kingdom of Eswatini through the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) has announced a VAT adjustment from **14% to 15%**.

This is effective from **1 August, 2018**. In compliance with this development, the pricing of Swazi MTN products and services will also be adjusted accordingly, with effect from 1 August 2018.

Thank you.

Corporate Communications

TELEPHONE: 031-2222222

mtn.co.sz



VAT

EFFECTIVE 1st AUGUST, 2018

IMPORTANT: FOR VAT REGISTERED BUSINESSES

- Configure your systems to charge 15% from 1st August, 2018.

NOTE: All other VAT principles remain the same.

- All transactions that will be effective from 1st August, 2018 going forward, **MUST** be declared on the new VAT Refund Form.

For more information please visit the SRA website: www.sra.org.sz (to get a guide on how to complete and submit your VAT return). You can also call our Contact Centre on **2406 4050** or email info@sra.org.sz

15%

6 NATIONAL NEWS

PENSIONERS RUN TO COURT

Stories by Bahle Gama and
Sandile Nkambule
Mbabane

GOVERNMENT pensioners have filed a notice of application at the High Court against the Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF).

This follows a meeting they recently had over their grievances against the PSPF, where they took a decision to take legal action against the fund.

According to the notice of application, the pensioners are seeking an order in terms of the following, reviewing and setting aside the Public Enterprise Control and Monitoring Amendment of Schedule Notice No 150 of 2014.

They are also seeking a declaratory order that the conversions of the PSPF from Category B Public Enterprise to Category A, is irregular and unconstitutional.

They said it was an infringement of their rights to protected and guaranteed in Section 33 of the Constitution of Eswatini on account of not affording them the right to be heard before the conversions were made.

Further they are also seeking a declaratory order that all decisions taken by the PSPF pursuant to and on the strength

...for order reviewing, setting aside public enterprise control, monitoring amendment schedule

of Legal Notice No 150 of 2014, are null and void, of no force and effect and cost of the application with a further or alternative relief.

The applicants in their order in the matter are former Swaziland Civil Servants Association President Elliot Mkhathjwa who is the first, Osvart Sukati (second) and former Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) President Sibongile Sukati.

Meanwhile, the respondents in the matter are the PSPF as the first, government of Eswatini (second) and the Attorney General as the third respondent.

According to Mkhathjwa in his founding affidavit, in terms of Section 3(4) of the Public Service Pension Order of 1993, assets of the fund shall consist of contributions by members of the fund, contributions by government, the yield from the investment of the fund, lump sum payments by government, the assets of the Commercial Union Pension Scheme for Teachers (CUSADA) and receipts from any other source.

Mkhathjwa submitted that under Part I of the PSPF regulations of 1993, contributions with respect to a member

means the sum of contributions made in accordance with regulation three together with such interest on such contributions.

"By extension, the applicants have an interest in the assets of the fund and to the contributions made in terms of regulation three, further the applicant's interests in the fund is guaranteed and protected in Section 19 of the Constitution of Eswatini," Mkhathjwa submitted.

The applicants stated further that a member of the fund as per the regulation, is someone who meets the requirements outlined in the regulations, who is contributing to the fund in accordance with regulation three affirming that all the applicants are such members of the fund.

Mkhathjwa submitted that the applicants acquired compulsory retirement upon reaching the age of 60 and are paid their retirement benefits in accordance with regulation eight of the fund. Also that the operations of the fund are regulated by the Public Enterprise Control and Monitoring Act (PECMA) of 1989 which contains a schedule which categorises the fund under Category A Public Enterprise.

'Parliament select committee decried E600m loan to SNHB'

MKHATHJWA submitted in his affidavit that on June, 2015 Parliament appointed a select committee to investigate the conversion of the fund and any irregularity that may have arose from a privately-owned entity under category B to a category A enterprise.

The committee according to Mkhathjwa decried and wondered how E600million was given to the Swaziland National Housing Board (SNHB) without a full constitutional board of the fund to process and approve it.

Mkhathjwa said the Fund's Chief Executive Officer Cleopas Dlamini further confirmed that the E600 million made to SNHB was made without the board's approval.

He submitted that it is appar-

ent from the report of the select committee that it disapproved the conversion but it was ignored by government, especially the then finance minister.

He submitted that it is apparent from the report of the select committee that it disapproved the conversion but it was ignored by government, especially the then finance minister.

The former unionist further stated that on or about the year 2000, in response to the chairman's request to reverse the recategorisation, and reclassify the fund as a Category B Public Enterprise, the fund was operated as a Category B Public Enterprise until the year 2014 when government issued legal Notice No 150 of 2014.

The present application according to Mkhathjwa is an application seeking the review of government's decision to categorise and recategorise the first respondent to a category A enterprise and a declaration that the purported conversion is unlawful, irregular and unconstitutional.

Relevant stakeholders not consulted before reclassification of fund from category B to category A

PENSIONER Eliot Mkhathjwa says the applicants and other relevant stakeholders were not consulted prior to the issuance of Legal no 150 of 2014.

He submitted that government acted unilaterally through Cabinet to reclassify the fund to a category A public enterprise.

He added that government's conduct failed to appreciate that it could not own the fund 100 per cent because it is not a public entity per se under the control of government, but a product of negotiations between government and Public Sector Unions.

The unions themselves according to Mkhathjwa were not consulted prior to the issuance of Circular No 150 of 2014 and furthermore the Pensioners' Association was not consulted.

"I state that even the line ministry being ministry of public service as confirmed by then minister, was not consulted and never made an input towards the release of the Legal Notice No 150 of 2014, alleging that instead, Cabinet acted uni-

laterally using its cabinet paper."

He mentioned that the lack of consultation was even noted by the Parliament Select Committee and this fact was similarly noted by the principal human resources officer in the ministry of public service when he made his submissions.

The Public Enterprise Unit (PEU) Director according to Mkhathjwa in his submissions, also noted that no consultations with relevant stakeholders were made by government before the issuance of the legal notice.

The regulator, the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) was also not consulted by government prior to the issuance of legal notice.

Mkhathjwa submitted that the applicants were not treated justly and fairly by government and in accordance with the requirements imposed by law including the requirements of fundamental justice and fairness.

He stressed that the applicants were aggrieved about government's decision to effect changes without any consultations with them and all relevant stakeholders.

SISTERLY LOVE



OOPS: An older sister helping her younger brother get up after he fell to the ground while walking towards Ngwane Park complex over the weekend. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Senior Magistrate dismisses exaggerated terrorism charge

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

SENIOR Magistrate Donald Mavuso had to dismiss a case of terrorism after noting that the arresting officers had exaggerated the charge by submitting that it looked more serious than what it was.

This was during a case of Themba Vilane (41) who was charged with contravening Section 41(1) as read with (2) of the Money Laundering

and Financing of Terrorism Act of 2011.

The accused person was said to have wrongfully and unlawfully failed to declare to the customs office that he had money in his possession amounting to an excess of E15 000. He was arrested at Mhlumeni Border Gate while heading to Mozambique.

The court was informed that the accused person had a sum of E15 990 and M150 (Mozambican currency) in his possession.

The charge sheet which was brought before court indicated that a further application of forfeiture of the money would be filed by the Crown if the accused person is found guilty of the charge. When the charge sheet was read before the court, the presiding officer noted an anomaly in the charge. Mavuso noted that the accused person had approximately E1 000 as an excess amount in his possession. Mavuso further pointed out that the charge seemed to have been exaggerated as it carried a much heavier

sentence than what the accused person had actually done.

The magistrate went on and stated that even if the court was to proceed with the matter, the application of forfeiture was irrelevant. Mavuso highlighted that the law allowed people to carry around money to a maximum of E15 000. He said this meant that the accused person had to be tried for possessing an excess of E1 000. Moreover, the Crown failed to give proof that the accused person had intentions of financing terrorism. Mavuso

said the arresting officers failed to exercise their discretion and caution the accused person instead of exaggerating a charge against him.

Meanwhile, the accused person disclosed that he normally carried such amounts as he is a hawker and gets his stock from neighbouring Mozambique. He said at the time of his arrest, some of the money which he was carrying belonged to other vendors who had asked him to bring some stock from that country. The matter was eventually dismissed from the court.



FOCUS ON ZIMBABWE ELECTIONS 2018



MUGABE VOTES IN FIRST ZIM ELECTION SINCE HIS FALL

HARARE - Former Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe yesterday cast his ballot in the country's first election since he was ousted by the military in November after ruling for 37 years.

Mugabe, 94, made no comment as he walked unaided into the polling station at a primary school in the Highfield district of Harare, accompanied by his wife Grace.

Mugabe was forced to resign when ruling ZANU-PF lawmaker threatened to impeach him after military generals launched a brief takeover to install their favoured candidate, Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Mugabe, who had not been seen in public since his ousting, made a surprise intervention on the eve of the election, calling for voters to throw the ruling ZANU-PF out of office. During a two-hour press conference at his sprawling mansion in Harare, Mugabe said that he hoped the election would "thrust away the military form of government" and said he might vote for the opposition MDC.

President Mnangagwa, Mugabe's former ally in the ZANU-PF party, faces opposition leader Nelson



BIG BOSS: Former Zimbabwe president Mugabe with his wife Grace voting in first Zimbabwe election since his fall.

Chamisa of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in the landmark vote for the southern African nation. The MDC has alleged the election result could be fixed. Voting was peaceful on Monday with long lines outside polling stations in the capital Harare. *AFP*

Nelson Chamisa became Mugabe's cat's paw, says Zimbabwe media

HARARE - Zimbabwe's state-run Herald newspaper has harshly criticised main opposition leader Nelson Chamisa on election day, calling him a proxy for former leader Robert Mugabe and rejecting his claims to represent change.

The front-page commentary follows Sunday's remarks by the 94-year-old Mugabe that he would not vote for his former deputy President Emmerson Mnangagwa and that Chamisa is the only viable

candidate.

"Now this is the man who tries a comeback by proxy," The Herald said. Addressing the 40-year-old Chamisa, it continues: "You willingly become his cat's paw while masquerading as an independent man representing a new generation." Chamisa has said he'll accept the vote of Mugabe or any other Zimbabwean, saying it's not his role to discriminate. *Associated Press*

Stung by criticism, Mnangagwa hits back at Mugabe

HARARE - Mnangagwa allegedly withdrew all state security personnel from the deposed president's mansion.

Zanu-PF presidential candidate Emmerson Mnangagwa late on Sunday hit back at his predecessor, Robert Mugabe, for openly showing support for opposition MDC Alliance leader Nelson Chamisa. Earlier, Mugabe told a press briefing he would not vote for his tormentors and described Mnangagwa as "a hard worker" but one who was "not always honest" and given to believe in spirit mediums. Stung by the criticism, Mnangagwa responded via social media.

In a video clip, the incumbent who ascended to power after intervention by the military declared: "Now that it's clear to all, that Chamisa has forged a deal with Mugabe, we can no longer believe

that his intentions are to transform Zimbabwe and rebuild our nation".

Vote

Mnangagwa added: "The choice is clear, you either vote for Mugabe under the guise of Chamisa, or you vote for a new Zimbabwe under my leadership and Zanu-PF. Real change is coming. We should all be part of it."

Mugabe has also been linked to the new National Patriotic Front (NPF), which is led by brigadier general Ambrose Mutinhiri - a Zanu-PF defector.

NPF spokesperson, Jealousy Mawarire, claimed on social media that soon after Mugabe said Chamisa was the better candidate, Mnangagwa withdrew all state security personnel from the deposed president's 'blue roof' mansion.

Citizen

FACTBOX: Zimbabwe's voting system

HARARE - Zimbabwe held presidential and parliamentary elections yesterday in which the top two contenders, President Emmerson Mnangagwa and main opposition leader Nelson Chamisa, promised to revive an economy ruined under Robert Mugabe's 37-year rule.

Below are five facts about the voting:

● Zimbabwe has 5.7 million registered voters who were expected to cast their ballots at 10 985 polling stations dotted around the southern African nation.

● Voters directly elect a president, 210 members of parliament and more than 9 000 councillors. Sixty women will be appointed through proportional representation to the House of Assembly while 60 people will be appointed in the upper Senate

chamber via the same system.

● Voting started at 7am and ends at 7pm. Vote tallying and counting started immediately after the close of polls and results for council, parliament and president are posted outside each polling station.

● The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) will announce winners for parliament in their constituencies, while results for president will be announced at the commission's headquarters in Harare within five days of voting.

● A presidential candidate requires 50 per cent plus one vote for an outright win. If no candidate gets that, a runoff will be held on 8 September between the top two contestants.

Reuters

PROFILE:

Chamisa, the young rival seeking poll upset

HARARE - Nelson Chamisa, who turned 40 in February, is old enough by only a few months to be president of Zimbabwe under the constitutional minimum age limit.

But he hopes that his youth will be the force that propels him to election victory against all the odds.

Chamisa joined the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) as a student when it was founded in 1999.

He took over as party leader this year after a messy succession battle following the death of hardened veteran Morgan Tsvangirai.

Upbeat and energetic, Chamisa faces the task of unseating a ruling party that has held an iron grip on government since Zimbabwe became independent in 1980.

But Chamisa believes that the shock ousting of longtime ruler Robert Mugabe last November has reshaped national politics, giving him the chance of victory through the ballot box.

The lightly-built Chamisa, a lawyer and church pastor, experienced at first hand the dangers of opposing Mugabe and has been arrested several times for his political activities.

In 2007, he was severely beaten with truncheons and an iron bar and left for dead.

He spent five days in hospital after the attack, which was widely blamed on ruling ZANU-PF party thugs. In a strange twist, Mugabe hinted Sunday he might vote for the MDC candidate as he rejected his former party.

"I can't vote for ZANU-PF... what is left? I think it is just Chamisa," said the 94-year-old ex-president.

- Fast-track rise -

Despite the risks, Chamisa has continued to challenge the regime and now faces Mugabe's successor President Emmerson Mnangagwa, 75,



TASK: MDC Nelson Chamisa.

in a presidential race that has a total of 23 candidates.

Born in Masvingo, south of the capital Harare, Chamisa studied law and political science at the University of Zimbabwe and holds a degree in theology.

He credits his career to his parents' insistence that he value education and excel in school.

As head of the Zimbabwe National Students Union in the late 1990s, Chamisa was among organisers of demonstrations against Mugabe's government that resulted in colleges and universities being shut down.

He rose through the MDC party ranks, holding posts including leader of the youth wing and party spokesman.

Over the years, he has earned a reputation for delivering passionate speeches spiced with humour - a sharp contrast to the sombre Mnangagwa.

In the troubled power-sharing government after the 2008 election, he was the youngest member of cabinet, serving as information and communication technology minister. *AFP*

SNAT National Burial Scheme



SNAT MEDICAL AID ANNOUNCEMENT

All teachers who are SNAT MEMBERS are hereby notified that SNAT MEDICAL AID has made a temporal change on the waiting period for people who will join before 30 November 2018. Instead of the 6 months waiting period, members will only wait for 3 months before they benefit.

Teachers who are interested in joining the SANT MEDICAL AID are encouraged to use this opportunity while it lasts.

For more information you may contact the office at 25056391/76906809

By: SNAT BURIAL SCHEME SECRETARY

BONGINKOSI DLAMINI



ELECTION NOMINATIONS 2018



MADLENYA NOMINATIONS



FULL HOUSE: Emaswati came in numbers for the nominations of the on-going on national elections at Madlenya Chieftdom in Siphofaneni Sunday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



SESIKHONA: Madlenya residents arrive for nominations.



ON AIR: Gundwane Gamedze lifted by his followers after being nominated for MP position.



I AGREE: Theo Badenhorst also nominated as MP of Siphofaneni. (R)- **FIRST IN:** Mlondi Mamba was the first to be nominated at Madlenya.



COME: Moshoeshoe Nkambule being helped to the election officials after being nominated as MP in Siphofaneni.



ME FIRST: Thabsile Gamedze was first to be nominated in the Indvuna Yenkhundla category.

JOY: Youth of Madlenya singing and dancing after the former MP of Siphofaneni Gundwane Gamedze was nominated again.



SISEKELO HIGH SCHOOL

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INSPIRING FUTURE LEADERS

HOMESTEAD TORCHED, ELDERLY COUPLE ASSAULTED IN REVENGE FOR MURDERED MAN

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

ABOUT four people have been arrested for allegedly torching a homestead and further assaulting its owners who happened to be an elderly couple in what is believed to be a revenge attack.

The incident happened at Maliyaduma. Information gathered is that the mob of over 20 people, attacked the homestead in the late hours of Sunday just when everyone was concentrating on the nominations that took place over the weekend.

The violence was thought to have been sparked by the death of Nicholas Simelane, an elderly man who was murdered in a brutal manner after being burnt to death.

The deceased's body was found burnt beyond recognition next to a stream.

It is alleged that the attack was orchestrated by the relatives of

Simelane.

It is said the deceased was burnt to death using a car tyre.

Following the death of Simelane, it is alleged that his relatives vowed that they would not rest until those who were responsible for his death paid dearly.

Even though police have made arrests in relation to the death of Simelane, it is said on Sunday, a mob went to the home of one of the suspects where they sought audience with an elderly couple who live there.

It is said the mob which was carrying all sorts of weapons stormed the homestead, and started assaulting the elderly couple.

The elderly couple was attacked by the mob which later set their home on fire. The suspects later fled the scene, however because they are well known in the area, police did not have challenges in locating the culprits.

By yesterday, police had already

rounded up four of those who were involved in the mob attack.

Assistant Police Information and Communications Officer Phindile Vilakati confirmed the matter. She said a case of arson which happened at Maliyaduma was reported with the police. Vilakati said the four suspects were in police custody for their involvement in the attack and that police are still searching for others who were involved in the attack.

She said the suspects would be facing charges of assault and that of arson among others.

The suspects are expected to appear before court once police are done with their investigations. This is not the first time a homestead has been burnt in Maliyaduma by a mob. Earlier this year, residents of Salukazi area had to seek shelter in the mountains after a mob attacked homesteads in retaliation after their dagga was stolen from a farm belonging to Tom Kirk. During that skirmish two homesteads were set ablaze.

Long wait for elderly grants yesterday

By Nozipho Sibiyi
Mbabane

ELDERLY citizens under the Hhohho region had to wait for six hours in the scorching sun to collect their monthly E400 grants, only to be paid in the afternoon yesterday.

The elderly people arrived at the designated areas to receive their monies as early as 0800 hours.

Eswatini Post Telecommunications Cooperation (EPTC) started processing the elderly grants for the Hhohho region by 1600 hours yesterday.

Payments of elderly people who receive their money through the post and manual pay were delayed due to unforeseen technical problems at the Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS).

According to an elderly who received her money through the post, they had to wait for hours in the scorching sun before they received their monies.

A visit by this newspaper to the post office's premises, unveiled elderly people in different groups sharing their disbelief that there was no money.

A majority of the elderly people said they were unaware of the sudden changes and had they known they would not have bothered themselves coming to town.

Meanwhile, at a place called Meleti in Maguga area, the elderly people waited for almost eight hours before receiving their cash.

"The cars that ferry the money

came at around 1600 hours," said the elderly person.

"A former *bucophu* told me to fetch my grant here at Meleti and upon arrival we were told that the car had been delayed. We were told to be patient as the cars were on their way," said one elderly person.

Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation Corporate Communications Manager Nqobile Magagula said unforeseen circumstances on their side caused glitches in the payment of grants yesterday. Magagula apologised for the delay.

"We were not aware that they will be unforeseen circumstances on our part today (yesterday)," she said.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini said he was not aware that some elderly people had not been paid yesterday. "I have not yet received any communication from our counterpart EPTC so I thought it is all systems go," he said. The current payments, which are carried by Swazi Post, apply to the elderly people who have not been paid yet. The elderly grants were reviewed from 2017/18 financial year, thus the beneficiaries are expected to get E400 per month during this quarter. The mode of disbursement of the grants is in two forms.

One is done manually, through payment points at constituency level and electronically, through various banks. Manual payments are done quarterly, while electronic ones are done monthly.

Court dismisses Pakistani national's application to be released to custody of surety

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

THE High Court has dismissed an application by the Pakistani national who is refusing to go back home, following a deportation order but wanting to be released from His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) to a surety.

Judge Nkosi dismissed the application and ordered that the Pakistani national who was convicted for contravening the Immigration laws of the Kingdom, be kept at HMCS facility pending his deportation.

New developments in the case of the Pakistani national arose a week ago when Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Labour Thulani Mkhalihi withdrew as surety.

The home affairs (immigration department) then indicated before High Court Judge Nkosi that it was ready to deport Naeem Mohamed and his family back to his native country.

Mohamed's Lawyer Geina Mhlanga, who was visibly disappointed that the consent order to the effect that his client would be released to a surety was no longer valid, told the court that a new surety had availed himself to stand in as Mkhalihi had withdrawn.

Mhlanga introduced Sicelo Mkhabela as the new surety, however, Justice Nkosi advised



him that the issue of a surety could no longer be dealt with as the matter was now going for arguments due to the fact that the immigration department was ready to deport Mohamed to his native country.

After having heard arguments by both counsel from the Attorney General's Office and Mhlanga, Judge Nkosi dismissed the application.

Immigrant

The ministry of home affairs provided a letter declaring Mohamed a prohibited immigrant as he is in the country illegally.

The new developments also revealed that investigations conducted by the ministry also unearthed that Mohamed had no businesses in the Kingdom of Eswatini as earlier claimed.

Despite a deportation order that he be flown back home, Mohamed refused as he maintained that he is in the country

legally.

The court had been informed that Mkhalihi is a business associate to the Pakistani national who runs a business in Matsapha.

This comes after Naeem was convicted and sentenced to five months in prison with a fine option of E500 for being in the Kingdom of Eswatini illegally, whereby a deportation order was also issued by the Manzini Magistrate's Court.

According to the charge sheet, Naeem was charged with contravening the Immigration Act in that he has been in the country without the relevant permit.

However, Naeem, who is currently under the custody of HMCS, has filed an application at the High Court as he screams diplomatic inequality.

He is against being detained by the HMCS and claims he is being treated unfairly due to his religion whilst denying that he is a prohibited immigrant.



Incorporated in the Kingdom of Swaziland Reg no. 421/1998
ISIN Code: SSE 000331015 Share Code: SEL
Listed on the Swaziland Stock Exchange

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

Swazi Empowerment Limited (SEL) wishes to invite audit firms with the requisite skills and experience to submit written proposals for external audit services for 2018/19 financial year. The firms should be registered with the Swaziland Institute of Accountants and be of good standing.

Brief Background:

SEL is a listed company in the Kingdom of Eswatini which was established in 1998 primarily as an investment holding company.

SEL's financial year end is 31 March and seeks to appoint auditors for a period of three years subject to annual reviews.

A detailed information pack together with a copy of the latest available published audited financial statements is available for collection from: The Reception, PSPF Head Office, Ingcamu Building, Mbabane, or contact Ms Philile Dlamini on Tel: 2411-9000.

The written proposals must be delivered in the Tender Box at PSPF Head Office and addressed as follows:

**The SEL Tender Committee
c/o PSPF, Head Office
Ingcamu Building
Mhlambanyatsi Road
Mbabane.**

Closing date for submissions: 16:00hours, 14 August 2018.



ELECTION NOMINATIONS 2018



TRUSTY GINA, TIMOTHY'S BROTHER BOOED BY CROWD

Stories by Samkelisiwe Khoza
Nkilongo

FORMER Nkilongo Member of Parliament, Trusty Gina and Vusi Cleopas Myeni, older brother to Gospel Star, Timothy Myeni were booed by some residents when their names were called out for the MP position.

This drama unfolded yesterday at Nkilongo Inkhundla in one of the six polling stations under the constituency. Whilst Gina was the first to be nominated for the MP position; her followers seemed to care less about the few who showed negativity against the former MP as they hugged and shook hands with her which ended in her losing an earring. Gina registered and left the podium, leaving behind the uncertified audience who kept mumbling that it was not over yet as their rightful MP is yet to be nominated. After Trustee's



BOOED: Cleopas Vusi Myeni, who is also aiming for the MP position and Trusty Gina.

followers were done with the registration, Timothy Myeni's older brother was next on the nomination board as he also received quite a number of thumps up and some booing from the residents. Those mixed emotions from the residents seemed to dent



NOMINATED: Businessman Mcebo 'Shebeleza' Dlamini.

Businessman nominated at Mkhuzweni

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

IT took police officers almost 30 minutes to try and calm exuberant electorates after the nomination of 32-year-old Businessman Mcebo Shebeleza Dlamini.

Dlamini was the first candidate to be nominated on Saturday at the Mkhuzweni chiefdom.

Immediately after his nomination, electorates screamed in jubilation while in the process lifting him and pulling him in all directions.

It took a contingent of seven police officers to try and save Dlamini from the happy electorate.

What also appeared to be a threat was that most voters left the venue immediately after celebrating Dlamini's nomination. Those who left shouted that they were done as they had nominated the candidate they want in parliament.

Evidently, Dlamini was the favourite candidate of the day as his supporters sang and uttered slogans. The nomination was attended by over 600 people and 80 per cent seemed to be in support of Dlamini. It took the intervention of EBC officials to explain to the exuberant electorates that more candidates should be nominated.

Dlamini, who is widely known as 'Shebeleza', has earned himself respect for his generous heart towards charity work under the Mayiwane constituency. Born and raised in Mayiwane, Shebeleza is respected for sponsoring 29 churches around his constituency. He is said to have bought each church a luggage of yards to make uniforms. In addition, Shebeleza is said to be paying school fees for at least 40 orphanage pupils.

He did the funding through his company known as Shebeleza Nonhla Investment. Dlamini who owns a fleet of trucks is also the official sponsor of the Ntampinezipisi Shebe regional league to the tune of E20 000. Currently, Dlamini has pledged E50 000 to be played for next season.

Interviewed on Saturday, Shebeleza said the nomination came as a surprise but he is ready to battle in the race to parliament.

Vuvuzelas blown at Gamula, Timothy Myeni nominated

VUVUZELAS were blown to the maximum and all kinds of dancing characterised the mood when Former Lubulini MP, Muzi Sheppard Gwebu and first timer Sandziso Mamba were nominated.

Gwebu was nominated for the MP position whilst Mamba was nominated for the *indvuna yenkundla* at Gamula chiefdom under Nkilongo constituency.

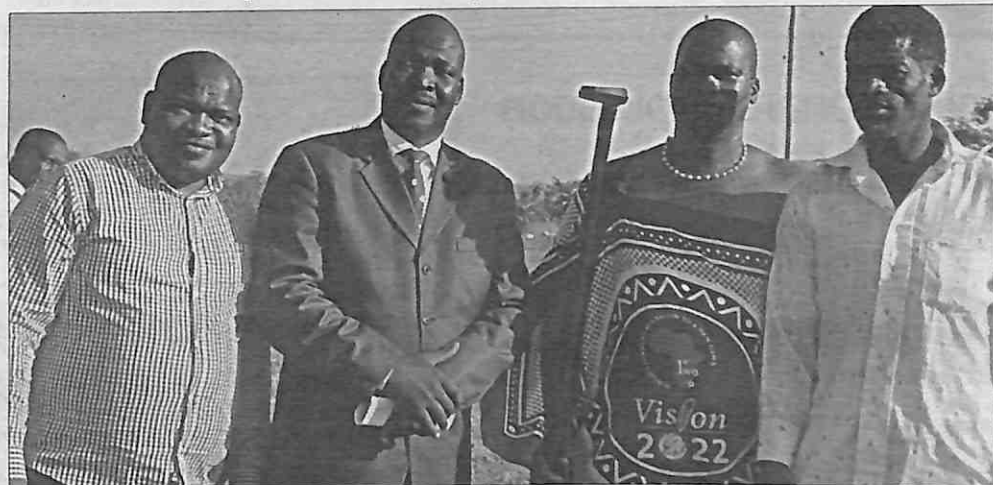
Gwebu was hastily grabbed to all directions whilst his followers fought over who gets to pick him up first. *Vuvuzela*'s were blown and hand written placards were being flashed all over as Gwebu's followers were celebrating.

The former MP had to forcefully find a way away from the jovial crowd who showed no signs of willing to let him go. The celebration intensified as Gwebu was done with registration. He had to run to his car for safety as he was again lifted and grabbed by his excited followers. Gwebu's crowd kept on shouting "*sesicedzile sesingahambanyalo*."

Gwebu is said to have relocated from Lubulini and constructed his home under Gamula *umphakatsi* earlier this year.

The same pattern was performed for first timer, Sandziso Mamba when his name was raised for the *indvuna yenkundla* position. Mamba was also grabbed clothes first and lifted up by his enthusiastic uncontrollable followers who also refused to let go of him. The businessman had to beg the crowd to give him a chance to go register first and ear piercing whistle were blown accompanied by *vuvuzelas* after he was done with the registration.

Officials from the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) had to plead with the crowd to calm down so they could continue with the day's



NOMINEES: Muziwakhe Myeni who was nominated for the Indvuna YeNkhundla position with the three MP positions nominees, Timothy Myeni, Bheki Malima and Nicolas Ngcamphalala.

business.

The jovial crowd decided to snatch their nominee and took the celebration a distance away from the crowd. After the two were nominated, the residents made it clear that they were done with the nominations, some started to disperse shouting "*sesicedzile*".

On another polling station, Nkanini residents could not control themselves when former Lubulini MP, Timothy Myeni's name was nominated for the MP position. Myeni's followers jumped in celebration and offered their congratulatory handshakes and hugs as he was clearly who they wanted to represent them.

NKILONGO NOMINEES		
Member of Parliament	IndvunaYenkundla	Bucopho
Muzi Sheppard Gwebu	Sandziso Mamba	Mduduzi Mhahali
Timothy Myeni	Nkosinathi Mamba	Donald Simelane
Cleopas Myeni	Welcome Mamba	Mthobisi Dlamini
Trustee Gina	Muziwakhe Myeni	Sabelo Ndlovu
Carol Sibande	Sabelo Dube	Jabulani Mhahali
Hlobile Simelane	Simanga Mohale	Nelsiwe Maziya
Bheki Malima	Sazi Gama	Mndeni Phakathi
Nicholas Ngcamphalala	Wandile Gumbi	Sizwe Fakudze

Meanwhile, Myeni's younger brother, Muziwakhe Myeni proved to also have quite a number of followers as he was nominated for the *indvuna yenkundla* position.

Ex-MP Njabulo battles with three candidates

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

FORMER Khubuta MP Njabulo Mabuza will contest for the position of MP against three other candidates.

This happened over the past weekend in the chiefdom of Nhlalabantfu, which is under Khubuta constituency.

Mabuza was nominated together with Paul Nkhabindze, Mathokoza Mdllovu, and Mbongeni Nkhabindze.

For *indvuna yenkundla*, the chiefdom opted for three candidates and they are Sibusiso Lukhele, Themba Simelane, and Elizabeth Nkhabindze. Seven candidates were nominated for the position of *bucopho* in the chiefdom.

Mabuza will have a date with the three other MP hopefuls next month on the 25th. On this date, the country is expected to hold primary elections, which will be held in all the more than 350 chiefdoms around the country.

That is when the Nhlalabantfu com-

munity will be able to produce one MP, *Indvuna* and *Bucopho*.

If Mabuza wins the primary elections, he will be expected to sweat it out with the likes of another former Khubuta MP Charles Myeza. Myeza was over the weekend nominated to stand for the same position at KaPhunga, his chiefdom.

Myeza represented Khubuta *Inkhundla* during the ninth parliament, which was between 2008 and 2013. He had unseated Mabuza in this position. Mabuza

had represented the very same *Inkhundla* in the previous eighth parliament, which ran from 2003 to 2008, where he was appointed as a minister of health in 2006. His appointment back then was met with disgruntlement from members of the public. Mabuza had replaced former Mtfongwaneni MP Mfomfo Nkambule, who was sacked from the same position. However, Mabuza was able to topple Myeza in 2013 to represent Khubuta as their MP in the recently dissolved tenth parliament, which ran from 2013 to 2018.

BATTLES: Former Khubuta MP Njabulo Mabuza.





ELECTION NOMINATIONS 2018



NATIONAL DUTIES: A section of the Gundwini residents during the nominations held at the Emtfongwaneni Inkhundla over the weekend. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

VOTERS ORDERED TO SIT ON THE GROUND

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

...“We are getting sick and tired of these laws that are enforced without having been enacted in Parliament”

VOTERS at Mtfongwaneni were shocked when they were ordered to sit on the ground on the day of nominations.

This happened over the weekend at the Mtfongwaneni Inkhundla centre. The order to sit down was issued by Gundwini Indvuna Jan Mngometulu, who told the voters that they had no right to sit on chairs, except for those that were sick or were living with disabilities.

Worth noting is that the residents from Gundwini were supposed to do their nomination exercise at Gundwini Umphakatsi.

However, they were moved to Mtfongwaneni constituency centre to conduct the nomination exercise.

Before the event started, Mngometulu told the residents that they had no right to sit on chairs, if they did not have health reasons.

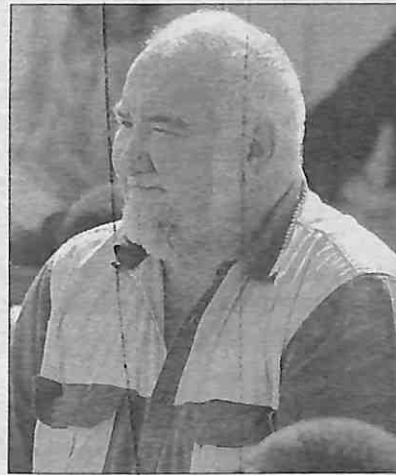
“The only person who has a right to sit on a chair is a chief of a community. If you know that you are healthy, it is advisable that you sit on the ground to show that you do not exalt yourselves,” Mngometulu said.

The Indvuna was quick to state that he was not forcing the residents to sit on the ground, but was compelled by a certain law to ensure that happens.

“I am not the one who said this must happen. I am compelled by the law to communicate this message to you. You



IN PARLY RACE: Former MP Mjuluko Dlamini arrives. (R) One of the candidates former minister Roy Fanourakis following the proceedings.



can continue sitting on your chairs if you want. But imagine what this will do to your image if you aspire to be nominated. How much are you going to exalt if you are nominated sitting on that chair?” he enquired.

After these remarks, residents who were seated on chairs took them back in to one of the buildings situated at the Inkhundla centre. They were disgruntled at what the Indvuna made them as one of the residents was heard complaining.

He decried that unknown laws were cited to make them do something they did not like.

“We are getting sick and tired of these

laws that are enforced without having been enacted in Parliament so that we know them,” one resident was heard saying.

Another resident stated that one of the reasons why they moved from umphakatsi was that they did not want to be intimidated in this manner.

They felt that they would be free at the Inkhundla centre than they would feel at the Umphakatsi. Little did they know that they would be faced with the same problem.

Interestingly, some people in other nomination centres were allowed to sit on chairs. These centres included Siphofaneni and Ngwane Park in Manzini.



RESERVED: These are some of the elders who were allowed to sit on chairs during the nominations.

Vote for someone who will deliver - Chief

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlanguano

CHIEF Mbiko of Engwenyameni has appealed to his subjects to vote for someone who will deliver.

He said it was evident that the people have not been making the right choices when considering that there had been no development by those elected in the past elections.

The chief made the remarks when he introduced EBC officials who would conduct the nominations at Engwenyameni on Saturday.

The chief said it was also important that when the electorate participates in elections, they should be focused and not think that by taking part in the process they are somehow doing someone a favour.

He said it was also important to make sure that those that will be elected are well versed with issues affecting the people and will avail themselves when the people need advice.

“Know very well that this is an exercise that should be taken seriously, it is endorsed by the country’s authorities and therefore it should be respected.

“Let us all play our part as its

success and failure, is on each and every one of us. The people we elect, should not think we are giving them a chance to enrich themselves or to make them popular.

The people we need are those people that will work for this community and the country. Don’t elect someone to be our representative (in Parliament) just because he or she gave you something.

“Elect someone you deem as having all the qualities and a hard worker,” said Mbiko.

Mbiko said it was the people who would decide with their vote as regard to what they want to achieve in the next five years.

“We have elected them (MPs) in the past and I don’t think there is anything anyone of you can point out as an achievement. They come and go leaving us as a community still with no tangible fruits. This is the reason I emphasise on the importance of making the right choice as in all the years we have been disappointed,” said Mbiko.

The chief is under Zombodze Emuva and its former MP was Titus Thwala.

Even this time around, Thwala has been nominated at Mampondweni.

‘Vote for someone who will serve your interests’

By Starsky Mkhonta
Ezikhatheni

CHIEF Zwide Nxumalo of Ezikhatheni has advised his subjects to make the right choice when electing a Member of Parliament (MP).

He said failure to do so could lead to the populace being stuck with the wrong person for five years without him or her having done anything to benefit the community.

Ezikhatheni is one of the chiefdoms falling under Shiselweni I Inkhundla.

The chief was addressing a gathering during a crime prevention campaign at the royal kraal. He stated that it was important to look for someone with all the qualities as well as someone who will be answerable to the people.

He said the people should consider voting for a man or woman who will serve the interests of the people, someone who is honest and respectful. He said the individual should be the people’s servant.

“The person you should elect should put our interests first, and

be mindful that that person will be in office for five years and you can’t recall him or her back even if you are not satisfied with his or her performance.

“You will be stuck with that person until the next elections. So, it’s important that you consider some of these things when endorsing someone who will be your representative in Parliament,” said Zwide.

About ritual killings, the chief said it was sad that such was normally associated with elections and he condemned such a barbaric act mentioning that all the evil doers believing in killing people just because they want to succeed should not be given a place in any society.

“I don’t know why some people believe in such things. No blood or flesh of a human being can bring you luck, one doing such things or believing in them is inviting a curse on himself. I hope such cruelty and brutality will not occur in this community.

“Now, that we also have community police who have been trained, this is also going to assist in addressing all other problems that have to do with crime in this community,” said Chief Zwide.

FUNEKILE'S BROTHER IN RACE FOR PARLY SEAT

By Observer Reporter
Ndzingeni

SOUNDS of excitement, accompanied by ululations, echoed the Ndzingeni umphakatsi after the nomination of Mbongeni 'Stjifiri' Gule, brother to late Funekile.

It was so predictable that Ndzingeni folks would give Gule a chance in the race to Parliament as he appeared, from the onset, that he was a favourite amongst the residents.

His charity work around the constituency has clearly won the hearts of many and by the look of things,

voters will have a hard time choosing between him and Lutfo Dlamini come primary elections.

Gule was nominated together with four other aspiring MPs on Saturday at the Ndzingeni chiefdom.

As soon as Gule's name was nominated, excited electorates grabbed and danced with Gule while lifting him in the air.

Excitement was also written in Gule's face as he would frequently shake hands with the residents celebrating his nomination.

The nomination of Gule has come at a time when he has been engaged

in a charity programme from which he installed four boreholes under the Ndzingeni constituency through the help of donor friends.

Again, the God-fearing Gule has been donating shoes to needy pupils in schools around his constituency and dedicating his charity work to his late sister Funekile.

Interviewed after the nomination, Gule said he was very excited that the residents want him to represent them in the August House. He said the nomination was an indication that people do notice good work.

"It is still a long way to Parlia-

ment but I am excited and I am ready.

With God nothing is impossible. All I know is that I am ready to share everything I have with the people in my constituency which is the reason I have been initially doing so," Gule said.

Gule was nominated alongside Joseph Nkambule, Anderson Mkhonta, Lucky Methula and Alex Mashaba.

These candidates will battle it out to face former minister of Labour and social security Lutfo Dlamini who was nominated yesterday at Nkamazi chiefdom.



I'VE GOT YOUR BACK: An old woman embracing Mbongeni 'Stjifiri' Gule.



YOUR ID SIR: Mbongeni 'Stjifiri' Gule submitting his registration documents before the start of the nominations.



CHEERS: Mbongeni 'Stjifiri' Gule being lifted up by Ndzingeni residents after being nominated.



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LEAVE ME ALONE!!



NOT IN THE MOOD: A man forces a lady to come with him after getting off from the van at his destined place at Makholweni over the weekend.
(Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



Phonjwane umphakatsi rejects dead resident

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

A family from Phonjwane umphakatsi got the shock of their lives after the area's authorities advised them that they cannot bury their loved one in the area.

The Ngcamphalala family had to take the corpse and bury it somewhere else.

There was drama when the body of the deceased had to

be taken from Dups to Phonjwane area where the burial was expected to take place.

According to Phonjwane former Bucopho Norah Vilakati, the reason given by the umphakatsi for not allowing the deceased to be buried in the area was because his personal ID was reflecting that he was from a different chiefdom, hence he couldnot be buried there.

It is said the deceased had built a homestead at Phonjwane.

The family of the deceased had to go to Lavumisa where they requested to bury him.

When probed whether it was normal to refuse burial rights for people who do not belong to the chiefdom Vilakati said she was not aware of such a law.

She said since the deceased had children, she was now worried that they might be chucked out of their home because of these circumstances.

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SITHOBELWENI ROAD A NIGHTMARE TO MOTORISTS

TAKING a drive from Siphofaneni to poverty stricken Sithobelweni in the far south of the Lubombo region feels worse than going through a war-torn village.

The approximately 30 kilometre long gravel road is characterised by huge stones and trenches which are a result of different weather conditions over the past many years.

Residents of the constituency have decried the state of the road, alleging that it was last upgraded about 15 years ago.

The same complaint was voiced out by teachers during an event which was held at Maloyi High School recently.

Principal of Maloyi Primary Bernard Mamba described the road as a nightmare to teachers who use their cars to travel to and from school on a daily basis.

Mamba highlighted that the two schools has been facing a challenge of insufficient housing for teachers, compelling most of them to commute on a daily basis.

He disclosed that some teachers at times fail to come to work after their vehicles develop mechanical faults due to the nature of the road. Public transport vehicles also face the same challenge.

Mamba, who is also a resident of the area, said the road has been in this con-



OUT OF THE ROAD: Businessman Walter Bennett's vehicle pictured after it had a puncture along the Sithobelweni-Siphofaneni gravel road.

dition for the past many years.

He vented his frustration about the state of the road, saying they now believe that government intentionally neglects the area. "We have been complaining about this road for many years now, but there is no sign that it will be upgraded anytime soon," he said.

Meanwhile, businessman Walter Bennett who was a guest at the school also decried the nature of the road. It is said Bennett's Land Rover also experienced a puncture the very same day.

Bennett however blamed the people of the area for failing to elect a competent Member of Parliament who would ensure that the road is repaired.

The outspoken businessman said it was time that traditional leaders in the communities make a follow up on individuals who have been elected to political positions.

Bennett said *umphakatsi* must ensure that the MP, *indvuna yenkhundla* and *bucophu* make a period report on their service delivery.

Football sponsor disappears without giving prize money

SOCCKER teams who participated in a knockout tournament in Siteki have been left stranded after the sponsor of the tournament disappeared.

It has been gathered that at least four social teams participated in the tournament which was hosted in Siteki about four months ago.

The teams included those from Mpaka, Siteki, Sitsatsaweni and Matsesa.

A member of the organising committee who only identified himself as Maziya said they have

been waiting for the prize money for the past four months but in vain.

Apparently, Maziya said the sponsor promised to buy soccer kits for the winning team and the runners-up immediately after the tournament had been completed.

A team from Mpaka won the tournament, while the Siteki one came second.

Maziya said each time they

made attempts to reach the sponsor, he would claim that he is facing some challenges.

"We have now come to an understanding that the sponsor manipulated us as he got what he wanted from us and went away," said the committee member.

A member of the organising committee who only identified himself as Maziya said they have been waiting for the prize money for the past four months but in vain

The teams allege that the said sponsor used the tournament platform to lobby for support in the national elections.

In the meantime, it was gathered that a number of other areas have been

hosting similar tournaments sponsored by individuals who are hopeful of winning the race to Parliament.

Most teams are said to have opted for knockout tournaments so that the sponsors pay up the prize money within a month.

The teams stand opposed to league games as they take too long to be completed.

Maphungwane wants next MP to prioritise road upgrading

THE next MP for Matsanjeni North Constituency has an assignment and that is upgrading the road urgently.

This was disclosed by Maphungwane residents who were gathered at the *umphakatsi* on Saturday to partake in the nomination process. About 3 000 excited residents took part in the national exercise. Speaking during a random interview at the *umphakatsi*, the residents highlighted a number of issues which they expect to be addressed by the next MP, *indvuna yenkhundla* and *bucophu*.

Thantazile Maziya said the issue of the road should be treated as a priority amongst the numerous challenges which are faced by the constituency.

The road is said to be a headache for motorists, especially public transport owners. The approximately 35 kilometre long road is characterised by huge stones protruding in the middle of the road and some developing trenches. Maziya said this has seen the con-



stituency having a challenge in the means of transport.

"A brand new kombi hardly lasts for a year on this road, and this discourages public transport operators from bringing their vehicles here," she said.

Meanwhile, Bheki Matsenjwa said there was need for the estab-

lishment of a new school in the area because the population of the area is growing fast, with the youth ranging up to over 5 000. Currently, the community which is arguably the largest chiefdom in the region has only one high school, Mphundle High.

Matsenjwa said parents have been

compelled to send their children to schools in Siteki where they have to commute on a daily basis. "We need at least one more high school in the area to accommodate the fast growing number of children who have benefited from the free primary education programme," he said.

ELECTED:
Nominees for the position of indvuna yenkhundla under Matsanjeni North;
Juliana Ndlovu,
Thuli Maziya,
Bhekithemba Matsenjwa,
Mbongeni Matse,
Thandiwe Ndzimandze and
Boy Matsenjwa.

Late 'Mchura's wife nominated for Indvuna yenkhundla

WIDOW of the late business mogul Charles 'Mchura' Ndzimandze was on Saturday nominated for the position of indvuna yenkhundla under Matsanjeni North Constituency.

"Mchura", as he was affectionately known owned a number of businesses across the country which included Interfreight PTY (LTD). His wife, Thandiwe received a standing ovation when she was nominated by residents of Maphungwane for the said position. The chiefdom seemed determined to empower women as they nominated more women than men in the position of *indvuna yenkhundla* and *bucophu*. Speaking briefly after her nomination, Ndzimandze said she was surprised by the confidence shown by the electorate towards her. She was nominated alongside other 'powerful' women of the area; namely Thuli Maziya, Happiness Shongwe, Juliana Ndlovu and Khumbuzile Ndzimandze. Other nominees for the same position included Bhekithemba Matsenjwa, Thula Maziya, Phambanisa Maziya and Boy Matsenjwa.

SWADNU SG NO LONGER REPRESENTING UNION ON COLA NEGOTIATIONS

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

SWAZILAND Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) Secretary General Sibusiso Lushaba will no longer represent the union in salary negotiations.

Lushaba said following a dead-lock that was reached by government and public sector unions on COLA for 2016/27, CMAC was approached with a view of conciliating the dispute.

However, the parties did not agree and a certificate of unresolved dispute was issued.

This then meant that now the affected parties were at liberty to go on strike in particular those who are not designated as essential services in the Industrial Relations Act.

As usual they met as public sector unions to map a way forward, he said they agreed on two points.

He said they agreed that unions that are not categorised as essential would call for a strike action; he said SWADNU will approach CMAC for arbitration.

He said they fulfilled their part by approaching CMAC and consequently government refused to go for arbitration. Lushaba said they approached the Industrial Court whereby government was forced to go to CMAC for arbitration.

He said a pre arbitration hearing was scheduled for the July 20, however government appealed the ruling.



OUT: Secretary General Sibusiso Lushaba addressing union members in one of their past meetings.

ing.

Lushaba said their legal team was working on it.

He said on the obligation which was placed on their sister unions they learnt with dismay later that after their careful consideration of the material conditions on the ground they decided against the strike action.

Appreciate

"We appreciate independence and autonomy of unions, however, it would be better to at least discuss such a move so that we can appreciate each other's point.

We had raised this point with our sister unions," Lushaba said in a statement.

He said following the ruling of the Industrial Court on the issue

of him representing nurses at the Joint Negotiation Forum, he would not be participating further on JNF in compliance with the ruling pending the outcome of Appeal which the organisation has launched with the assistance of TUCOSWA and its legal team.

"We are appealing this decision not because the GS is irreplaceable, but because of the harmful effects of the judgement to SWADNU and the trade union movement," he said.

He said membership is also alert-

ed to the fact that government has postponed negotiations indefinitely. He said this they view as vindication to the notion that has been created by government and its friends that SWADNU has been delaying negotiations.

Lushaba said theirs has been a principled position that government would not dictate to them as SWADNU on who should represent them and they still stand by that principle.

He said violation of this principle has dire consequences for the working class in the country and beyond.



E1.5 million worth of goods stolen as truck from Eswatini hijacked in SA

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

THREE suspects have been arrested after hijacking a truck which was en-route from Eswatini to deliver goods in Hammersdale, South Africa last Friday.

The stolen property from the hijacked truck is said to be valued at E1.5 million.

According to information released by the South African Police Service (SAPS) Colonel Thembeke Mbelethe Rapid Rail Police Unit from Reunion near Umlazi were conducting crime prevention duties when they received intelligence with regards to a hijacked truck in the Clairwood area.

Police working together with a tracking company managed to trace the hijacked vehicle to Clairwood with three suspects. All three suspects were arrested for possession of property suspected to be stolen. It is said the truck was on route from Swaziland to Hammersdale to deliver goods. The driver gave two hitch-hikers a lift whilst travelling on the N2 freeway near Swaziland. At 2300

hours whilst they were near Salt Rock on the N2, it is



alleged that one of the hitch-hikers requested to

jump off causing the driver to stop the truck.

Three unknown suspects then approached them and pointed the driver with a firearm. The driver fled and the suspects drove away with the truck.

The driver reported the matter to the Umhlali Police Station. When they were finally arrested the suspects were in the process of transferring the trailer with contents to another truck.

The container was still sealed and contained goods worth more than R1.5 million. The suspects aged

between 30 and 39 will be charged for being in possession of stolen property and will appear in court soon. They will be facing hijacking charges at a later stage.

SUCCESS:
Eswatini
Tourism
Authority
(STA)
Marketing
Manager
Bongani
Dlamini.

STA lauds 1st Pigg's Peak 400 biking race organisers

By Observer Reporter
Mbabane

THE success of the inaugural Pigg's Peak 400, a biking event that was organised by the Swaziland of Road Extreme (SORE) club and held last week in northern Hhohho, has been hailed as another potential drawcard for sporting tourists in the country.

This was said by the Eswatini Tourism Authority (STA) Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini, who congratulated the organisers for attracting tens of South African bikers to the event.

"We are told that the majority of participants at the debut Pigg's Peak 400 were from South Africa, and most of them came with their partners, families, and friends.

We are glad that they got to discover Eswatini's unparalleled biking terrain, which is ideal for extreme sports, adventure, as well as casual biking," said Dlamini.

About 55 South Africans participated at the event, as well as seven locals.

The bikers fully booked out Pigg's Peak Hotel & Casino, with others staying over at Maguga Lodge and Hawane Resort.

The race had four laps, each measuring about 80 kilometres.

Each lap started at the Pigg's Peak Hotel to Bulembu Village and back to the starting point.

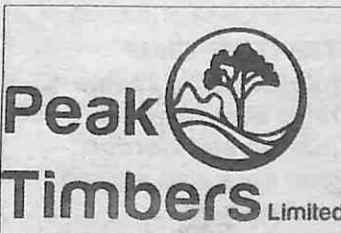
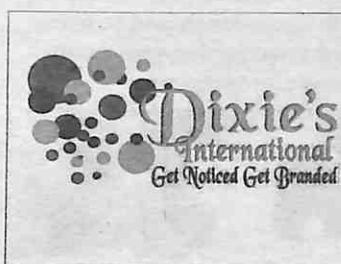
SORE Committee Member Mike Craigie, revealed that it was a first for a Swazi club to organise such an event from grassroots.

Craigie said his club was indebted to the anchor sponsor Mbilibhi Group for their sponsorship, which he said enabled the event to become the resounding success it was.

Craigie said SORE Swaziland was set up as a non-profit making NGO, and aims at giving back to the communities that the race passes through. Craigie said the club plans to make Pigg's Peak 400 an annual event, and urged bikers who wish to join the club to email him on mcraigie@mbamotors.co.sz.

Several medals and awards were given out to outstanding bikers, as well as to sponsors.

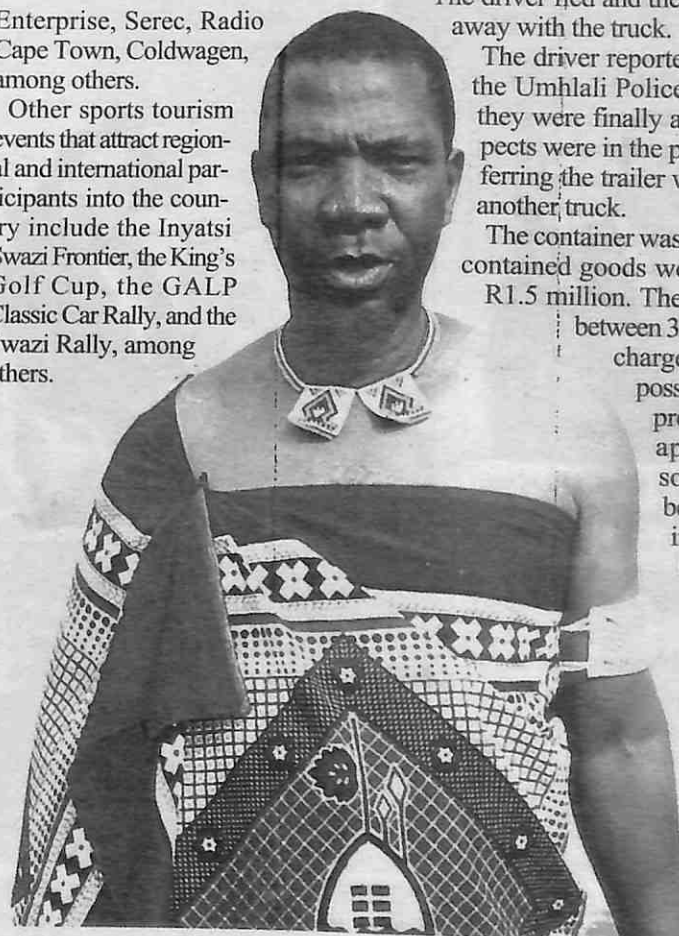
Some of the sponsors for this year's



debut event included Peak Timbers, Swazi Roof Masters, Swazi Treated Timbers, Thurinic Group, Mbabane Motors, Dixies International, Logico, Total, Daleca, ExodusMX, Augusta

Enterprise, Serec, Radio Cape Town, Coldwagen, among others.

Other sports tourism events that attract regional and international participants into the country include the Inyatsi Swazi Frontier, the King's Golf Cup, the GALP Classic Car Rally, and the Swazi Rally, among others.



ESWATINI WILL HAVE GOOD ELECTIONS - KING

Stories by Simon Shabangu
Lozitha Royal Palace

HIS Majesty King Mswati III says he is confident that the nation will elect people who are dedicated to developing the country as nominations took place over the weekend.

The country took to the polls to elect new legislators who will lead the nation to vision 2022. His Majesty made these remarks when addressing the Segal President Macky Sall who was in the Kingdom on an official one day visit.

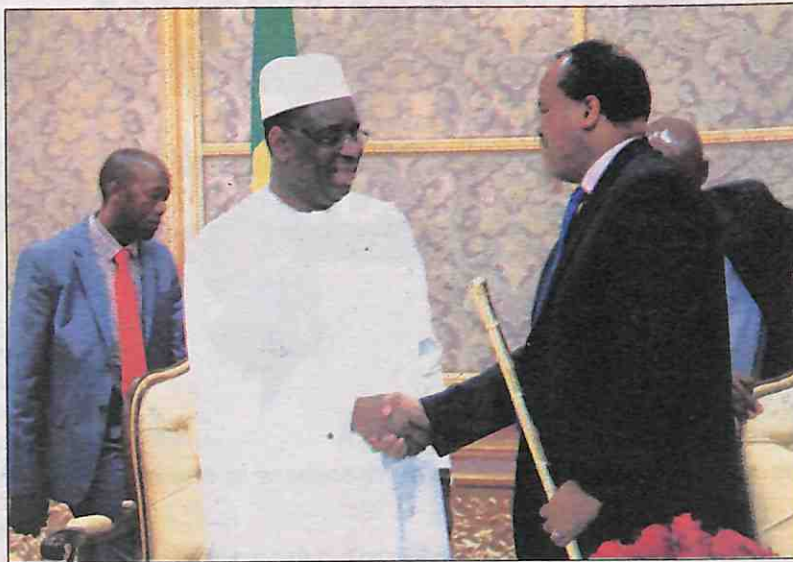
The president met with the King at Mandvulo Grand Hall on Saturday evening.

His Majesty briefed the visiting president about the nomination activities in the country which coincided with his visit.

The King told the president that the nation is heading to the polls, stating that he was confident that the election process would produce a good calibre of leaders who would take the country to greater heights. He said he was impressed with the positive turnout in the registration period which saw more than half of the population registering for the election.

"I am confident that even the outcome of election will produce a strong government that will focus on developing the country, creating jobs, focus on poverty reduction and also ensure that the welfare of the people is improved for the better and also lead the country into the desired first world status. As a developing country we have a lot of challenges hence it is important that the people who will be elected to parliament understand the situation and also work towards solving the existing challenges faced by the Kingdom," His Majesty said.

His Majesty continued to say that he



ROYAL HANDSHAKE: His Majesty King Mswati III extending a warm welcome to the President of the Republic of Senegal Macky Sall at Mandvulo Grand in Lozitha Royal Palace on Saturday evening. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

was still confident that the national vision set would be achieved especially with the right calibre of lawmakers elected into parliament to form a new government. He noted that he was cognisant of the fact that there are a lot of sacrifices that need to be made if the desired goal is to be achieved.

Introduce

"For the country to attain a first world status it will require us to work extra hard and also change the way we do things. We also need to introduce new ways of doing things.

As we work towards that goal we need support from friends like Senegal, so we are hoping the international community will assist us in all ways possible to ensure that we reach the first world status.

But for us to reach our goal we will need all the support we can get from friends like Senegal and other countries.

No country has developed in isolation hence we invite you to partner with us so that we identify areas of cooperation which will help us to develop," he said.

His Majesty said it is upon the current generation to make the country a better place for the future generations, just like our forefathers did, despite the many challenges they were faced with. He also thanked the president for visiting the country, stating that he was hoping this would not be the last visit by the president as there are still many issues to be discussed.

He said he would also make plans to take a state visit to Senegal so that there can be more deliberations on how best the two countries can cooperate. He told the president that the visit must not end at a heads of state level but extend to a government and business level so that tourism between the two countries is also improved.



ATTENTIVE: Chief Protocol Henry Zeeman, Prince Mfanyana, AG Sifiso Khumalo and Gordon Mbuli were also among those present.



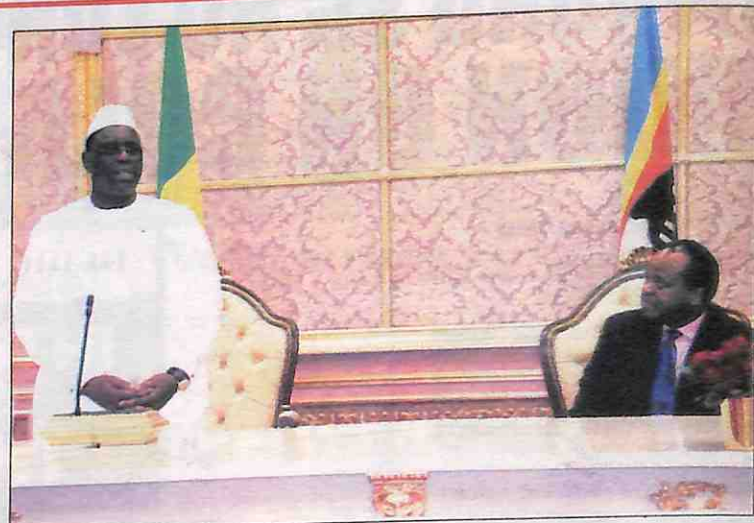
REMARKS: His Majesty King Mswati III making his address.



FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS: Princess Lindiwe was also in attendance.



PRESENT: Liqoqo member Prince Mabandla, Ambassador Promise Msibi and former speaker Themba Msibi were also at the meeting.



PRAISES: President Macky Sall addressing His Majesty King Mswati III and the gathering.



SMILES: His Majesty King Mswati III sharing a light moment with the president's delegation.

Senegal president congratulates King for Eswatini name change

SENEGAL President Macky Sall has praised His Majesty King Mswati III for the country's name change, stating that such a move was a sign that the nation was going back to its roots.

"I would like to congratulate you for the name change which means that you are deeply involved in your being and your culture as a country.

Your Majesty, we are proud to have a leader of your standing in the continent and regard you as a leader of the continent," he said.

The president said despite that the two countries are millions of miles apart; they still belong to the same continent. He said both countries are members of the African Union and share the same vision of development.

He said the King has inspired him and the African continent at large with his visionary leadership and desire to develop his country, the SADC region and entire continent.

He also praised His Majesty and the country for the good role they have played in the fight of many diseases especially Malaria, which the country has successfully fought.

He said the King has played an important role in advocating for the eradication of Malaria in the African continent during his tenure as chairman of The African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA).

The president also invited the King to visit Senegal so that he can see the beauty of the country and further take time to identify areas of mutual interest in which the two countries can cooperate. He said exchange visits between the two countries must continue so that the countries strengthen ties. Present in the president's delegation were four of his ministers and an ambassador while the King was joined by the *Emakhosikati*, *Emazinyane*, members of the royal family, diplomats, DPM Paul Dlamini, Minister of Foreign Affairs Chief Mgwagwa, Minister of Economic Planning and Development Prince Hlangusempi, Finance Minister Martin Dlamini and Chief Officer Dr. Vincent Mhlanga.

Lubombo RA Sylvia Mthethwa, former Speaker Themba Msibi and Attorney General Sifiso Khumalo also formed part of the King's entourage. The talks were followed by a dinner hosted by the King for the president and his delegation. President Sall left the country yesterday.

The Republic of Senegal led by President Macky Sall is a country on Africa's west coast with a rich French colonial heritage and many natural attractions. Dakar, the capital, features the ancient Médina district and esteemed Musée Théodore Monod, displaying African art. Dakar is also known for its nightlife, centred on native mbalax music.



FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

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THE HARSH SIDE OF LEADERSHIP

Leadership



TIVE
LEADERSHIP
CENTER

... With

Kholwaphi
Mdziniso

Guest Writer

BEING in leadership is a privilege that many people desire to have, yet the leading privilege comes with a lot of responsibilities.

Leadership has both good and the not so good (negative) side. The positive side of leadership is the position of influence and the financial gain that comes with the position - leadership can be rewarding. Yet reality is that there are a lot of challenges that leaders have to deal with on daily basis. Beneath are some of the untold sides of leadership, issues that many leaders face on daily basis:

ISOLATION

Being a leader can be really lonely. You need to be the boss and sometimes you cannot really talk through issues you are having with your team/employees or management team.

For instance, if you have a team member or employee that reacts in a very emotional way every time you give them feedback, the question is who do you talk to about this? The truth is you cannot talk to other employees about an employee you have a problem with integrity.

You do not necessarily want to expose the behaviour to senior management and tarnish the perception of this employee.

You do not want to take it home. It is sensitive and you want to respect the privacy of the employee, honour their trust, and help them overcome their challenges.

As to how, that is the question for another day? This isolation can lead to loneliness, conflict avoidance or problems like the example, and it can also lead to a lot of second guessing resulting in delayed decision making

and wishy-washy back and forth directives.

LACK OF SINCERE FEEDBACK

It is not that people are dishonest but often people are not asked to provide feedback, though at times they hold back when they decide to.

Sincere feedback is what many leaders fail to get because often team members/ employees tend to hold back and be less willing to give frank feedback. The lack of accurate feedback make leaders unsure of how to improve, where and how - yet still they are expected to lead meaningfully and effectively.

LACK OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Emotional intelligence is an important aspect of leadership. To have emotional intelligence is to be self-aware, be able to self-regulate, to have social awareness and social regulation.

It is all about knowing your strengths

and challenges and how you contribute to the outcomes of different situations.

You may be seeing a connection among all of these challenges: if you are isolated, it is hard to get honest feedback. If you cannot get honest feedback, it is difficult to obtain emotional intelligence.

LACKING THE ABILITY TO LEAD FROM A PLACE OF INFLUENCE

The other challenge facing a leader would be lacking the skills to lead from a place of influence rather than authority.

When you only use your authority which is your position as boss, or director, those around you will often only do what they are required to do, they are compliant; managers often end up micro-managing task lists with employees making sure the minimum gets done, not an efficient use of time.

However, when you lead from a position of influence, using your relationships and knowledge, people will

do their tasks to the best of their ability and that enable the organisation to take strides in succeeding in all areas of its mandate.

LEADING AND MANAGING CHANGE EFFECTIVELY

This is a fairly global challenge - up to 70 per cent of all change efforts fail - But it does not have to be this way. Particularly mid-level managers can have a big influence on whether change is implemented effectively.

This is why developing leadership skills and confidence within the mid-level management at organisations is so critical.

Leaders may at times be unsure who needs what and when and often they have to rely on the very team members to say who needs to be developed and how.

COMMUNICATING AND OPERATING ACROSS TEAMS AND ACROSS THE ORGANISATION

The leader often communicates with

the immediate team members which are the management team.

The expectation is that the next line will communicate with other team members and the process cascades down through the organisation but does not happen but instead managers then starts to operate in silos - manager and their team members, and working across the organisation. Breaking silos down in order to work as a larger team and network to really utilise the resources of the organisation tend to be a huge task that leaders have to work on.

THINKING OF THE BIG PICTURE AND SYSTEMATICALLY

Along with working in silos - it is difficult for many leaders to pull themselves out of the day to day and see the big picture.

But it is critical for decision making and for breaking down those silos and starting to work across the organisation to harness the power contained in the resources of the entire organisation.

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ON THIS DAY

...JULY 31

1498 - Christopher Columbus, on his third voyage to the Western Hemisphere, arrived at the island of Trinidad.

1790 - The first US patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins for his process for making potash and pearl ashes. The substance was used in fertilizer.

1792 - The cornerstone of the S Mint in Philadelphia, PA, was laid. It was the first building to be used only as a U.S. government building.

1919 - Germany's Weimar Constitution was adopted.

1928 - MGM's Leo the lion roared for the first time. He introduced MGM's first talking picture, "White Shadows on the South Seas."

1932 - Enzo Ferrari retired from racing. In 1950 he launched a series of cars under his name.

1945 - Pierre Laval of France surrendered to Americans in Austria.

1948 - US President Truman helped dedicate New York International Airport (later John F. Kennedy International Airport) at Idlewild Field.

1955 - Marilyn Bell of Toronto, Canada, at age 17, became the youngest person to swim the English Channel.

1959 - The Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA) was founded. The group is known for being an armed Basque nationalist and separatist organization.

1961 - The first tie in All-Star Game major league baseball history was recorded when it was stopped in the 9th inning due to rain at Boston's Fenway Park.

1964 - The American space probe Ranger 7 transmitted pictures of the moon's surface.

1971 - Men rode in a vehicle on the moon for the first time in a lunar rover vehicle (LRV).

1980 - China's population reached 1 billion.

1981 - The seven-week baseball players' strike came to an end when the players and owners agreed on the issue of free agent compensation.

1982 - Yugoslavia imposed a six-month freeze on prices.

1989 - A pro-Iranian group in Lebanon released a videotape reportedly showing the hanged body of American hostage William R. Higgins.

1989 - The Game Boy handheld video game device was released in the U.S.

1991 - US President George H.W. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

1995 - The Walt Disney Company agreed to acquire Capital Cities/ABC in a \$19 billion deal. Disney movies, music and books

1999 - The spacecraft Lunar Prospector crashed into the moon. It was a mission to detect frozen water on the moon's surface. The craft had been launched on January 6, 1998.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Alexis Knapp
(Movie Actress) -
July 31, 1989 (29
years old)



Wesley Snipes -
(TV Actor) - July 31,
1962 (55 years old)

TRIBUTE: Bongani Mayosi 'ran a good race, fought a good fight'

JOHANNESBURG - Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) Minister Dr. Zweli Mkhize has issued an emotional tribute to the late University of Cape Town Professor Bongani Mayosi.

Mayosi was a highly revered chief specialist, a brilliant academic, and researcher as well as a world renowned cardiologist according to Mkhize.

"He could have been recruited to a lucrative job, as a full-time top specialist earning millions of Rands in private health care institutions in this country," Mkhize said in a statement.

"Any international institution of his specialty would have been honoured had Prof Mayosi applied to be part of their specialist staff establishment... however [he] elected to serve the poor and ordinary underprivileged citizens who depend on the public health care service for their needs. He knew our people invested in all the knowledge he possessed and also deserved the best."

Mkhize's statement went on to try to comfort the Mayosi family.

"May it comfort the beloved family to know

FILE: Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) Minister Dr. Zweli Mkhize has issued an emotional tribute to the late University of Cape Town Professor Bongani Mayosi.
Photo: ANA



that we share in their grief. No words can heal a grieving heart of a wife and soul mate left abruptly or comfort children and relatives who have lost a father, brother, an uncle or role model. We nevertheless wish the family to know that our thoughts

and prayers are with them at this difficult time." Mkhize concluded by saying: Farewell friend and colleague! Your achievements were a source of pride and inspiration to us all. You ran a good race and you fought a good fight." *eNCA*

WE CAN DO MORE AS AFRICANS

AT the centenary celebrations of the birth of former president Nelson Mandela at the Walter Sisulu University last week, one of Africa's foremost intellectuals and orators, Professor Patrick Lumumba, delivered what I believe was one of the finest lectures on our late icon.

Lumumba reminded us of the racism and oppression of the apartheid state. Were it not for their efforts, Africans would have not been liberated from colonialism and near-slavery. South Africa, he said, has an unmatched record in producing leaders of the calibre of Mandela, Albertina Sisulu, Pixleyka Seme, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Robert Sobukwe, enabling the country to liberate itself.

Economic emancipation, argued Lumumba, remains important. Africa's success depends on visionary leadership, which should be given, for example, by the African Union.

There can be no peace in Africa, he asserted, unless the land question is resolved. He urged Africans to unite against a range of social ills, such as corruption, poverty, disease, ethnic cleansing and the slave trade that is raising its ugly head in Libya. Failure to unite, he warned, would result in the recolonisation of the African continent.

Reflecting on this, I asked myself what the meaning of this watershed lecture meant for our country and our beloved continent. Most importantly, what needs to be done to uphold the legacy of Mandela?

Many issues come to mind. They are my own views and should not be seen as the 10 Commandments.

We need to emphasise the teaching of history. The history of our heroes and heroines, such as Mandela, KaSeme and Charlotte Maxeke, was not taught under apartheid. Subjective historians producing subjective history played to the apartheid gallery. That history will now be compulsory for Grade 10 to 12 pupils affords South Africa an opportunity to bring objectivity to the discipline. After all, decolonisation, as the illustrious Kenyan writer Ngugiwa Thiong'o pointed out, begins with the decolonisation of the mind.

This brings us to the role of African intellectuals. They should focus on the transformation of our society, bedevilled with many social ills, rather than being caught up in theoretical point-scoring. Among other aspects, the country's policymaking and job creation strategies require their input.

However, some countries are known for sidelining or even persecuting intellectuals, enabling corrupt leaders, as Lumumba puts it, to be dealers instead of leaders, helping themselves to public

resources. A case in point is that of Ken Saro-Wiwa, an arch critic of the Nigerian dictator, executed in 1995 by the regime of General Sani Abacha.

Considering the bouts of racism engulfing our country even today, long after apartheid has been defeated, the national question remains crucial. Debates on race and class are still relevant and heated in South Africa. We need to rise above racism, xenophobia and tribalism, striving for a nonracial country as espoused by Mandela. We need to remember that Africa was once a borderless continent, subsequently partitioned by European governments for exploitation in the Berlin conference of 1884. Thus social cohesion characterised by, for example, sports, national events and other forms of meaningful interaction are necessary ingredients for a nation once divided along racial lines.

As a country we should strive against the scourge of what amounts to neo-Nazism in all its forms. The recent display of the old apartheid state flag in public, a symbol of oppression and racism by the verkramppte, during a march organised by AfriForum, is an insult to the democratic dispensation, notwithstanding Mandela's ideals of a rainbow nation geared towards reconciliation, nation-building and healing. In fact, South Africans should rally around national symbols such as our coat of arms, national anthem, the national flag and our acclaimed Constitution and national holidays, in line with Mandela's dreams.

Not only should citizens rally around national symbols but they should also interact with heritage sites, such as the Robben Island, Hector Pieterse and District Six museums, enabling them to see for themselves the damaging effect of apartheid. A great deal of brainwashing and indoctrination has damaged the psyche of apartheid beneficiaries to the extent that many cannot fathom the deadly effects of apartheid. Indeed, there should be a real effort to encourage and urge all our citizens to become aware of it and if possible visit institutions where the full history of our country is evident. The Liberation Archives at Fort Hare is a good example.

Poverty and accompanying problems such as disease should be fought with the utmost determination. The proposed National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme should be a well-oiled machine, enabling the poor and the less fortunate to have access to high-standard treatment. No longer should we witness undignified and traumatising deaths merely because our people do not have access to state-of-the-art health services. It is from the

lives that future leaders of Mandela's calibre can emerge.

The country's resources - mines, farms and various industries - should benefit us all. Our citizens should be properly skilled, saved from the morass of Bantu education, enabling them to access economic opportunities. This brings us particularly to the thorny issue of land redistribution, arguably the bedrock of radical economic transformation.

The question of land distribution cannot be avoided any further. Fair and equitable distribution of this natural resource is necessary. Not only will our people reap the benefits associated with liberated South Africa once the land is returned, but also their dignity, taken away by colonial and subsequently apartheid masters, will be restored. For some communities, getting their land back will enable them to visit the burial grounds of their ancestors, a right denied them because of land dispossession.

We call upon our government, working with concerned stakeholders such as unions and civil society, to act decisively on modern day slavery and child labour on farms and at other work places. Similarly, human trafficking, child and women abuse has no place in African society.

Government's efforts to encourage entrepreneurship, the creation of black industrialists and the revival of the township economy should be applauded and encouraged, especially considering the unemployment rate of 26.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2018. This will enable our citizens, particularly the youth, to be self-sufficient and productive, and we would no longer have to ask Lumumba's question about "why Africa produces what it does not consume and consumes what it does not produce".

Our justice system, flowing from our world-acclaimed Constitution, should be fostered and supported. As a new democracy, we do not want a mediocre and a selective justice system. Neither do we wish for vigilante groups and kangaroo courts, masquerading as street justice. All those involved in criminality should be brought to book, irrespective of social standing.

As South Africa and the continent we should, in the spirit of Mandela, strive to achieve and live by ideals of this nature. We will fail, to paraphrase Lumumba, only if we indeed consider ourselves and allow ourselves to be considered children of a lesser god.

Mancotywa is the CEO of the National Heritage Council

NO TURNING BACK FOR ZIMBABWE, BUT IS IT THE START OF REAL CHANGE?

JOHN SIKO

AT long last, the big day has finally arrived.

Since Zimbabwe's November 2017 political transition, the entire country has been preparing for elections – which are being held today – that will mark a clean break from the past.

For two decades, Zimbabweans have suffered from disastrous economic policy-making and bouts of political repression that have impoverished the nation, forced millions into economic exile, and brought on targeted Western sanctions that have deprived the country of external investment. Whoever wins power today (or possibly in a September run-off) – Zanu-PF incumbent Emmerson Mnangagwa or MDC Alliance candidate Nelson Chamisa – will inherit billions of dollars of debt, critical shortages of foreign exchange, rickety infrastructure, and the need to make politically painful cuts to a bloated civil service and state-owned enterprises.

This might sound like a poisoned chalice for the victor. Indeed, this situation will require skilled leadership and difficult choices to right the listing economy.

However, even taking into account these difficulties, Zimbabwe is on the cusp of a bright future.

The trick will be creating a policy environment that can take advantage of the country's bountiful natural and human resources.

If the new government can do so, Zimbabwe should emerge as the continent's most exciting investment destination for the next decade or more.

DRASTIC SHIFT IN ECONOMIC POLICY

Encouragingly, both the MDC and Zanu-PF are running on broadly pro-market platforms that emphasise the need to draw in outside investment to grow the economy.

In fact, there are relatively few substantive differences between the two, with the MDC's call to join the Rand Zone the only notable point of departure between them.

For the MDC, this is no surprise; the party has taken pro-market positions since its inception in 1999, opposing government policies around land expropriation and indigenisation that have contributed to the economy's ruin.

For Zanu-PF, however, this represents a far more drastic shift. Under Robert Mugabe's leadership from independence in 1980 until last November, the Zanu-PF government was characterised by broadly socialist policies, ostensibly introduced to improve the lives of Zimbabweans but often implemented to reward cronies and punish enemies.

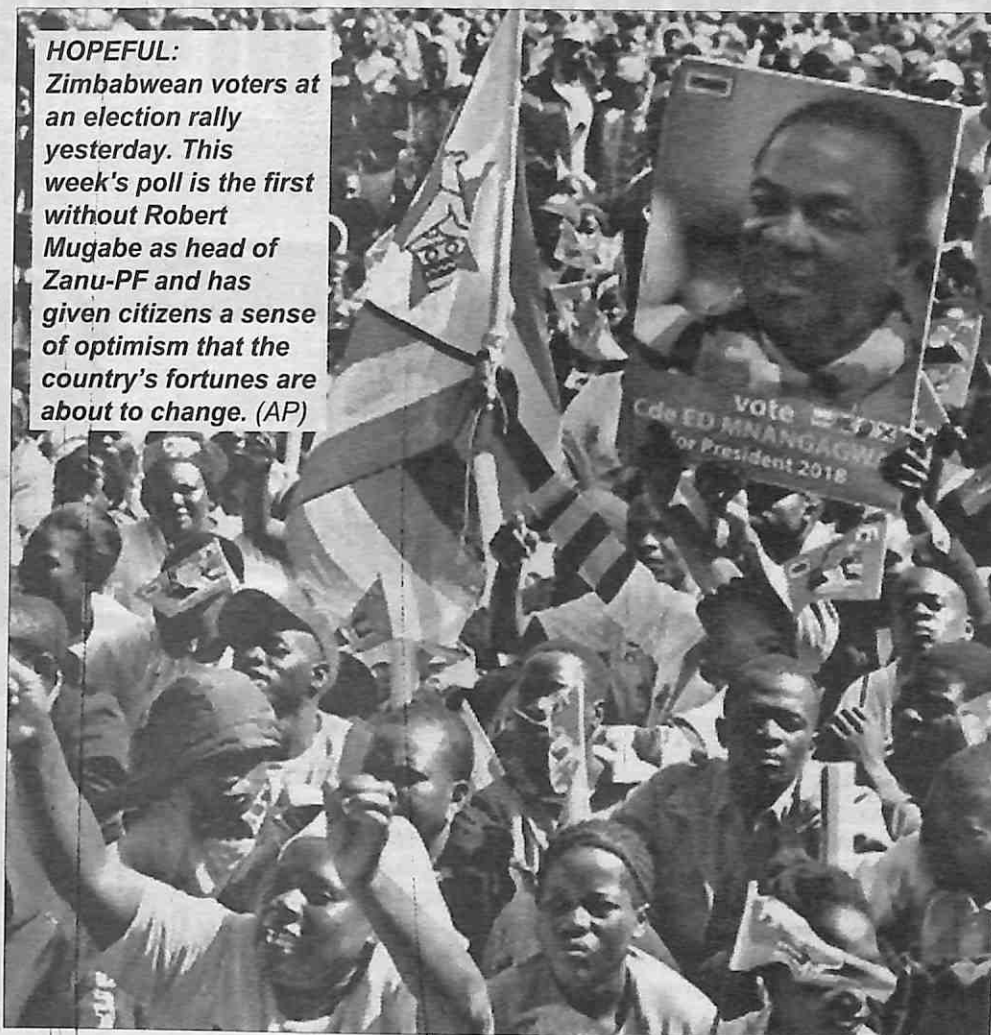
The past decade was marked by high degrees of inconsistency, opacity, and uncertainty around policy formulation – spooking what few investors remained – as well as mounting corruption.

The November transition, however, brought a drastic shift. Almost overnight, once die-hard Marxist-Leninists changed their tunes, echoing President Mnangagwa's rhetoric around the need to draw in outside investment and create a business-friendly environment that could transform Zimbabwe into the "Singapore of Africa". More tellingly, words have been matched by deeds.

The past eight months have brought some

HOPEFUL:

Zimbabwean voters at an election rally yesterday. This week's poll is the first without Robert Mugabe as head of Zanu-PF and has given citizens a sense of optimism that the country's fortunes are about to change. (AP)



sweeping changes: the scrapping of 51 percent local ownership in all but a handful of sectors; the introduction of bankable 99-year leases to reinvigorate the agricultural sector; the announcement of plans to privatise parastatals; and even cuts to the civil service.

Several businesspeople, Zimbabwean and expatriate, have told me in recent months how open and responsive senior government officials have been in discussions, a distinct shift in how the ruling party operated in the past.

Again, the structural headwinds left over from decades of misgovernance by the Mugabe regime are enormous, with the country depleted of foreign exchange, strapped with a massive debt burden, and served by crumbling infrastructure. No matter who wins the election, necessity will force them to fully embrace sweeping economic reforms.

CAN ZANU-PF BE TRUSTED?

Of course, the real question with Zanu-PF is a simple one: Can it be trusted to continue these efforts if Mnangagwa wins the election and the party a majority of seats in Parliament?

There are several reasons that I believe it can. First, my conversations with senior party members suggest to me that they genuinely do understand the need to put in place sensible policies, both for the country broadly and (in many cases) for their own business interests.

Secondly, they seem to truly understand that while Zanu-PF may win a narrow victory this time, continued economic stagnation will doom the party to obsolescence the next time around.

And lastly, I am aware of additional reforms

that a Zanu-PF government is likely to roll out immediately after the election, notably around privatisation and streamlining government economic decision-making. Ultimately, the ruling party has painted itself into a corner, and its leaders realise that only drastic action will allow it to escape.

Still, all of these positive actions and rhetoric are moot without a clean election that is acceptable to international donors and investors.

So far, with the exception of some questions around the voter roll and the grenade attack on the Mnangagwa rally last month, the election process has gone smoothly.

The violence and intimidation of past polls is gone. The government must now ensure that vote counting is done in an open and transparent manner, and that the military accepts the election results no matter what they may be.

This is absolutely necessary for Western governments to endorse the result and, ultimately, lift targeted sanctions and allow Zimbabwe to fully rejoin the international community. Without this, Western businesses will remain hesitant to invest.

It comes down to today. The door is open for Zimbabwe to properly rejoin the international community and see its economy take off, no matter who wins power. The government must now ensure that in the coming days, it takes all the right steps.

— Dr John Siko is an associate director with the Risk Advisory Group in London. He previously spent 15 years in the US Government, mostly focused on southern African political affairs.

News24

Wit and Wisdom

"I came from a real tough neighborhood. Once a guy pulled a knife on me. I knew he wasn't a professional, the knife had butter on it."

— Rodney Dangerfield

"That's why they call it the American Dream, because you have to be asleep to believe it."

— George Carlin

"Don't be so humble - you are not that great."

— Golda Meir

"I thought I'd lie on the floor and writhe in pain for a while," he grunted. "It relaxes me."

"It does? Oh - you're being sarcastic. That's a good sign probably."

— Cassandra Clare, *City of Ashes*

"I'm going to wake Peeta," I say.

"No, wait," says Finnick. "Let's do it together. Put our faces right in front of his."

Well, there's so little opportunity for fun left in my life, I agree. We position ourselves on either side of Peeta, lean over until our faces are inches from his nose, and give him a shake. "Peeta. Peeta, wake up," I say in a soft, singsong voice. His eyelids flutter open and then he jumps like we've stabbed him. "Aa!"

Finnick and I fall back in the sand, laughing our heads off. Every time we try to stop, we look at Peeta's attempt to maintain a disdainful expression and it sets us off again."

— Suzanne Collins, *Catching Fire*

"A word to the wise ain't necessary, it's the stupid ones who need advice."

— Bill Cosby

"Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't come to yours."

— Yogi Berra, *When You Come to a Fork in the Road, Take It!: Inspiration and Wisdom from One of Baseball's Greatest Heroes*

G'bye, I'm going out to play!"

— Shel Silverstein

"Did you see that dress?" "I saw the dress." "Did you like it?" He didn't answer. I took that as a yes. "Am I going to endanger my reputation if I wear it to the dance?" When he spoke, I could barely hear him. "You'll endanger the school." I smiled and fell asleep."

— Richelle Mead, *Vampire Academy*

"Headline?" he asked.

"Swing Set Needs Home," I said.

"Desperately Lonely Swing Set Needs Loving Home," he said.

"Lonely, Vaguely Pedophilic Swing Set Seeks the Butts of Children," I said."

— John Green, *The Fault in Our Stars*

"If you're too open-minded; your brains will fall out."

— Lawrence Ferlinghetti

"Can you surf really well, then?"

I looked at Grover, who was trying hard not to laugh.

"Jeez, Nico," I said. "I've never really tried."

He went on asking questions. Did I fight a lot with Thalia, since she was a daughter of Zeus? (I didn't answer that one.) If Annabeth's mother was Athena, the goddess of wisdom, then why didn't Annabeth know better than to fall off a cliff? (I tried not to strangle Nico for asking that one.) Was Annabeth my girlfriend? (At this point, I was ready to stick the kid in a meat-flavored sack and throw him to the wolves.)

— Rick Riordan

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	4.9%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	10.25%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.0%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E13.30 per litre
Replacement	E13.35 per litre
Diesel	E13.30 per litre
Paraffin	E 9.65 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 30 JULY 2018

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	13.1797	13.2297
British Pound/SZL	17.2739	17.3394
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.3955	8.4266
Swiss France/SZL	13.2445	13.2908
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2718	1.2806
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.7411	9.7807
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.0870	10.1221
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	15.3622	15.4205
Gold	1,219.5100	
Oil	75.4800	

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Standard Bank

Kia's free fuel offer on SwaziBank prepaid card

By Mhlengi Magongo

KIA Motors Eswatini is offering free monthly fuel to customers who will purchase their new Sportage during the promotional period of July and August.

The company has partnered with SwaziBank to manage their free, one year, fuel offer through the bank's innovative prepaid card system. When a client purchases the new Kia Sportage, a SwaziBank prepaid debit card will be availed free of charge for use when filling up the fuel.

Kia Motors Principal Dealer Ebrahim Baker said the free fuel will be available for one year with a monthly limit of E1 000 per month, per vehicle.

"This will come as good news if you are in the market of a new car considering the ever escalating price of fuel. Recently, there has been a report that there is another looming increase and very little saving should be met with great approval of the buyer" said Barker.

Barker expressed that there was too much bogus marketing at the moment which was why as a company they felt the need to put extra weight behind their current offer to make it more credible.



JOINING HANDS: Business Banking Officer Vusikhaya Dlamini with Special Project Sales-person Tricia Sharple, sales Supervisor at Swazi Bank Sikhumbuzo Dlamini and Muzi Dlamini.

SwaziBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele said motorists can use the card to pay for their fuel as opposed to carrying cash. He also indicated that the card can be co-branded with the user depending on numbers.

Card

"The Swazibank prepaid card can be used anywhere in the world to withdraw cash from ATMs of Point of Sale (POS) where there is a MasterCard, Maestro or Cirrus Logo," he said.

Lukhele mentioned that even non-



UP FOR GRABS: Muzi Dlamini next to some of the prizes to be won. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

customers of the bank now have access to the prepaid cards.

The managing director said even

after the Kia Sportage promotion, the prepaid card can be used for other purposes.

SIBEBE RESORT READY FOR SIBEBE SURVIVOR

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE annual Sibebe survivor that will once again be held this coming Saturday, will have an interesting twist as Sibebe Resort is working ahead of time to have climbers fully served with all sorts of refreshments.

The Sibebe Survivor challenge, will for the first time, have a refreshment area at Sibebe Resort where climbers will have a chance to refresh and catch their breath whilst being served with dietary requests and needs.

The newly established resort, which is still under construction, already has a fully functional restaurant which serves both beverages and food. The restaurant and bar is at the moment the busiest part of the business that receives local and foreign tourists.

Marketing Manager Larry Mhlanga described the resort as being ideal for climbers, tourists and campers as it offers full hospitality services.



CHILL SPOT: Sibebe resort is now open and will be serving climbers and tourists.

The business for now is only operating the restaurant and bar which has been well received by customers.

Mhlanga assured that they were working around the clock to have everything ready for the walk.

They are, however, a little behind

schedule when it comes to accommodation as the rooms are not all complete.

Mhlanga invited their clients to enjoy the conference facility which is up and ready to host different types of meetings.

In addition, Mhlanga said they have big plans to boost tourism in the country as the resort will not only serve attendees of the Sibebe Survivor but plans to attract tourists from neighbouring countries and internationally.

SwaziBank promoting cashless transactions

By Majaha Nkonyane

IN taking strides towards a first world status, SwaziBank is promoting cashless transactions through the use of their debit card which can be used anywhere in the world.

The SwaziBank debit card can be used by both the bank's customers and those who are not.

The bank is promoting the use of electronic transactions through their debit

card which can be used anywhere in the world.

Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele said the card can be used as a substitute to cash which is dangerous and exposes people to being mugged.

"The card can be purchased at any SwaziBank branch for E50 per card for SwaziBank customers and E100 per card for non-SwaziBank customers," he said in an interview. The card, according to Lukhele, can be used anywhere in the world where there is a MasterCard,



Maestro or Cirrus logo.

The new, innovative card can also be used for other purposes such as man-

aging funds and shopping online. The card, according to Lukhele is the safest way of carrying cash and more cost effective as it has no monthly maintenance fees.

According to Lukhele the card can be loaded at any Swazi Bank branch, via Nomakuphi mobile application or Swazi Bank internet banking. Users can also be able to check statements and transactions online.

In addition, Lukhele said the bank

has also now facilitated that even non-customers of the bank can download the Nomakuphi banking app and access their statements. The card limit for prepaid card is E5 000.

Furthermore, customers who have a debit card enjoy the benefits of not having to worry about paying a credit card bill or going into debt. The card allows for anyone over the age of 18 to apply and be accepted without regard to credit quality and the ability to reload with any amount of money online, over the phone or at any ATM worldwide.

SIPA AWARDS SECURITY TENDER TO STARLET

By Hlengiwe Ndlovu

FOR E38 550 every month, Starlet will provide security services to the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA), following an intention to award contract published in the Swaziland Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (SPPRA) website.

Starlet attained a total evaluation score of 78 per cent for this tender after beating four other security companies which had entered the bidding race. South

DETAILS OF OTHER RESPONSIVE TENDERERS

Name	Nationality	Bid Price As Read Out	Evaluated Price	Total Score
1.VIP Protection	Swati	E47 652	E47652	74 per cent
2. Unbeatable Security	South African	E35 586.76	E35 586.75	52 per cent
3.Reaction Force Security	Swati	E42 636	E42 636	72 per cent
4. Top Two Security	Swati	E31 350	E31 350	74 per cent

African company, Unbeatable Security was one of the evaluated responsive tenderers which did not win SIPA's hearts to this tender with a total score of 52 per cent. VIP Protection Services was one of the fierce contenders to this tender with a bid price as read out of

E47 652.

VIP Protection Services got the second highest total evaluation score at 74 per cent alongside Top Two Security. Other companies which had registered an interest to this tender were Reaction Force Security and Top Two Security.



SEC to strengthen south-eastern network performance

By Mhlengi Magongo

THE Swaziland Electricity Company will soon be strengthening projects in the south eastern region of the country in order to improve network performance.

The network strengthening projects include construction of two substations and a switch yard. These will be constructed at Ncandweni, Ndzevane and Sinceni. These initiatives are intended to meet the growing demand for electrical energy as a result of farming activity in these areas. This is contained in the SEC tender documents published in the Swaziland Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (SPPRA) website where the company seeks service providers to implement the network strengthening projects.

With regard to the tender documents, SEC's intention is to procure a team of civil engineering professionals and a civil construc-

tion contractor of category B2 or C2 to overlook these projects.

A design engineer is also listed among the team of experts expected to be part of the service providers. The design engineer is expected to produce cut and fill platform design drawings for Ncandweni substation, Ndzevane substation and Sinceni switchyard.

"Each substation platform shall be of suitable size to accommodate all the equipment to be installed and the control/switchgear building is to be constructed" SEC states.

SEC also decided that the contractions of the substation platform shall be provided with adequate storm water drainage to ensure that water does not accumulate or remain standing on any part of the platform. Cable trenches may be used as drainage canals, provided that the trenches are drained to the outside of the yard. Water must not remain in the cable trenches for any length of time.

SEPARC calls for establishment of science and technology ministry

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC) has suggested, through a research paper 'the state of the national system of innovation in Swaziland' that government establishes a ministry of science, technology, and innovation (STI).

The study was conducted by Research Economist Mangaliso Mohammed. He suggests in this study that the establishment of a new ministry would enhance the coordination of STI activities and manage the funding and implementation policies.

He also suggests that for STI to be

properly used as a vehicle for development, the national development strategy must be embedded in national policies specific to this sector. He noted that science, technology and innovation cuts across all sectors of the economy.

Mohammed also noted that the lack of innovation had reduced Eswatini to being a consumption-based economy, with high imports and low exports.

"The implication is that as economies grow and become more competitive, the country will continue to remain behind," he said, emphasising on the importance of developing a national STI strategy.

In addition, Mohammed observed that the low investments in innovation, research and development (R and D),

the lack of funding sources, absence of a national science, technology, and innovation (STI) strategy as well as an R and D agenda, low collaboration between institutions had resulted in the country struggling to propel an STI driven development.

According to Mohammed, as the country aspires to be among developed countries by 2022, this calls for the economy to be knowledge-based and powered by an innovative industrial growth. "However, the country's social and economic development has remained very low. To move from this present state of development to an innovation driven or knowledge based economy requires an understanding of the country's innovation system," he said.

KIA'S SPORTAGE FUEL DEAL



FILL UP: Tricia Sharpley, who is a special projects salesperson with Kia team leader Muzi Dlamini at Kia Motors. The new Sportage will come with a SwaziBank prepaid card for free fuel for a year. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



BASIC INVESTMENT TERMS

THIS week we introduce you to common investment terms that you may come across when you invest your money.

Following below are some of the terms that you may encounter.

Investment Return- money can be invested through different investing mechanisms such as unit trusts, property, endowment policies and more. No matter where you choose to invest your money, the main aim is for your money to grow. The word 'investment return' refers to how much your money has grown or reduced, and this affects the overall value of your investment over time. For example; when you invest E100 (your capital amount), and after a year that money has grown to E110. Therefore, your investment return is E10 or 10 per cent.

Inflation- inflation is what makes your money worth less overtime. The buying power of your money decreases compared to a year ago. If you want to make your money grow, the investment return has to be higher than the rate of inflation. For example; for 10 years, you save E 1 000 a month in a unit trust with an average investment return of 10 per cent. But, the average inflation rate during this period was 12 per cent. Your money would have therefore lost value at a rate of 2 per cent per year.

Volatility/ Fluctuations in the market- Volatility refers to the daily fluctuation in the value of an investment,

different investments have different levels of volatility. For example, a fixed deposit account is least volatile because you know exactly how much you have deposited, how much interest you will earn and how much money you will receive at the end of the fixed period. In contrast, shares are extremely volatile because share prices can rise and fall dramatically in one day.

This is because investment are exposed to market risk and their value tends to fluctuate, depending on certain economic and market conditions. An investment associated with a high level of market risk is regarded as less secure and more volatile, while an

investment with a low level of market risk is considered to be more secure and less volatile.

RISK VERSUS REWARD

When you invest your money, you expose it to some level of risk which refers to the possibility of a poor return. Risk is something that can be taken into account in investment planning. Although it cannot be removed completely, the amount of risk an investor is prepared to be exposed to can be decided upon.

Risks that may be faced through investments;

- Volatility of investment

- Erosive effects of inflation in the long term
- Exchange rate fluctuations
- Changing economic fundamentals

THE INVESTMENT HORIZON

The decision to invest any type of saving will depend on how soon the money will be required. This is known as the investment horizon.

- Short investment horizon; the shorter the investment horizon, the more secure or conservative the approach.
- Long investment horizon; the more

the riskier the approach.

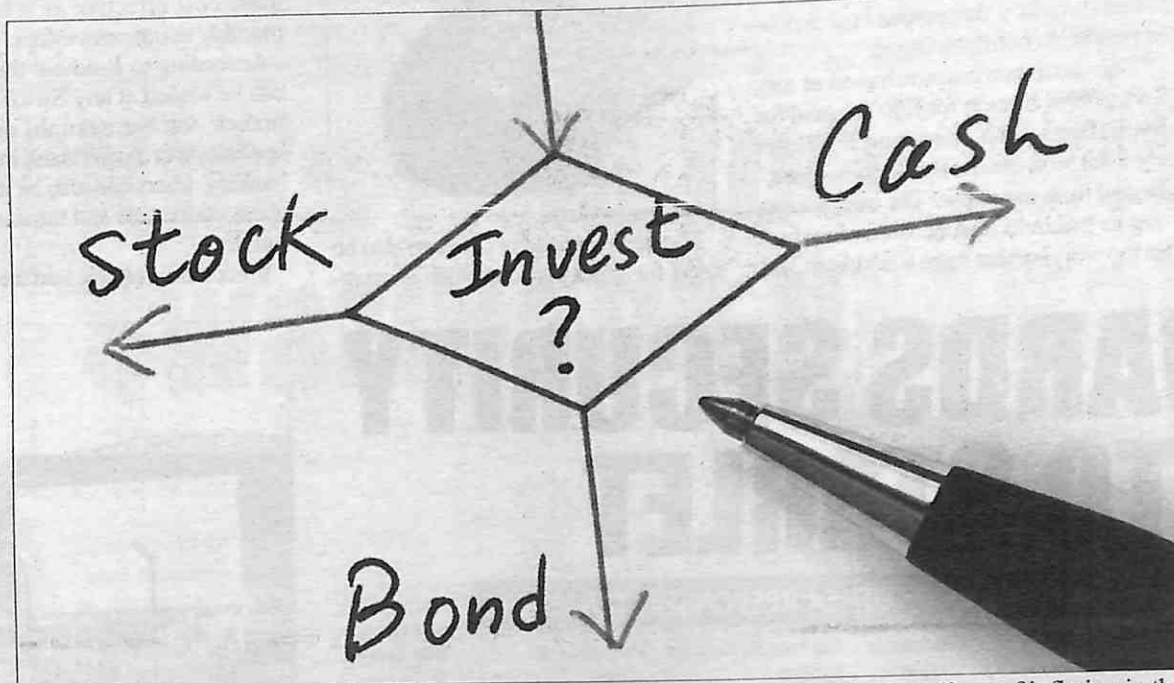
Risk Profile - A risk profile is an evaluation of an individual or organisation's willingness to take risks, as well as the threats to which an organisation is exposed. A risk profile is important for determining a proper investment asset allocation for a portfolio.

Asset class - An asset class is a category of financial assets that share certain characteristics, and are tradable. Traditionally, the main asset classes are equities (shares), bonds, cash (money market) and property. Asset classes are often split into local, international or offshore. A combination of asset classes make up an investment portfolio, each with its own level of risk.

Diversification- investment should be spread between high-risk, medium-risk and low risk investment vehicles so you can reduce the overall risk of your portfolio.

This is known as diversification (i.e not putting all your eggs in one basket). Therefore, if one portfolio performs badly, it will affect only a small portion of your total portfolio and will not make such a big impact on your total assets. Information provided in this article is meant for financial literacy purposes only and should not be construed as financial advice. For comments or enquiries please contact us on 2 406 8000.

Alternatively, you can email us at stakeholder@fsra.co.sz



SARS to revive Large Business Centre, revamp e-filing

JOHANNESBURG -The South African Revenue Service (SARS) is planning a number of large-scale changes to improve its tax collection figures and ensure compliance, including bringing back the Large Business Centre (LBC) and a revamp of the e-filing platform.

These changes follow the revenue agency missing National Treasury's revised target for 2017/2018 by R700m, while collecting R1.216trn in taxes.

"From the service and compliance [side], we acknowledge losing billions in revenue from the LB (large business) environment. We needed to re-look and reformat it," Narcizio Makwakwa, acting group executive for relationship management at SARS, told Fin24 by phone.

The 2018/2019 tax season is currently underway. Makwakwa (not to be confused with former SARS executive Jonas Makwakwa, who resigned from SARS in March 2014) said SARS

had not yet decided when the changes would be introduced, and that the LBC might not be in the same format it had been previously.

The decision to do away with the LBC took place while suspended SARS commissioner Tom Moyane was at the helm and faced much criticism from tax professionals. The revenue agency denied disbanding the LBC in 2016, insisting that it had evolved.

SARS CHUCKS FAXES

SARS will also revamp its e-filing platform, following the lead of some banks, to encourage customers away from coming into physical branches.

"Registration on e-filing has been one of the most complicated things," Makwakwa admitted, adding that businesses who register on the platform are still asked to fax documents to the revenue agency.

Another project on the cards to improve tax collection involves track-

ing goods moving across borders, from beginning to end, to make it easier for compliant users to clear customs. Makwakwa delivered his presentation about the changes to the revenue agency at a tax conference, hosted by Deloitte Africa in Sandton, last week. Delia Ndlovu, Managing Director: Africa Tax & Legal at Deloitte, told Fin24: "It looks like they want to bring back the whole focus on taxpayers and treating taxpayers well, which I thought was a good thing."

After years of negative headlines, and complaints about late refunds, SARS acting commissioner Mark Kingon released a Service Charter on July 2, at the start of the 2018/2019 tax season, outlining taxpayers' rights and responsibilities as well as service standards they should expect from the agency.

Kingon's position as acting commissioner looks set to continue, with suspended head Tom Moyane arguing it is unfair that his disciplinary inquiry and the broader inquiry into the tax agency proceed at the same time. Chairperson of the disciplinary inquiry, Advocate Azhar Bahm, is likely to rule within the new few weeks about the complaint.

The Nugent Commission of Inquiry, which was appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa earlier in the year to probe governance at SARS, started its work on June 26, and public hearings will resume in August.

Fin24

Decision to decommission coal plants is economic -Radebe

JOHANNESBURG - The global energy landscape is changing rapidly towards the use of environmentally sustainable and affordable energy technologies.

South Africa must adapt to this new 21st century environment, acknowledging the need to include a carefully planned transition to smooth the impact, however also ensuring the survival of the planet for generations to come. In 2010, when South Africa was experiencing severe electricity shortages, the government decided to pursue alternative power generation options while Eskom was focused on completing the Medupi and Kusile coal-fired plants.

Renewable energy and private sector involvement in generation is an ANC policy.

This policy was adopted by the 52nd ANC National Conference at Polokwane in December 2007, and reaffirmed by the 53rd ANC National Conference at Mangaung in December 2012. During the 17th Conference of the Parties, or COP17, in Durban in 2011, the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer (Reipp) programme was introduced to implement the objectives of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP 2010-2030).

Furthermore, it is supported by labour, business and civil society by

signing the Green Economy Accord in November 2011, which highlighted the need to stimulate the green economy for a sustainable future with the intention of creating at least 300 000 green jobs by 2020.

Despite recent reports, and as confirmed by Eskom chairman Jabu Mabuza, Eskom incurs no cost which cannot be recovered through the cost recovery mechanism. The independent power producers (IPPs) fund their own projects and bear all risks, including the loss of revenue should their plants be delayed or not perform as expected. Eskom does not pay the IPPs until they deliver electricity to the grid. This is different from the traditional Eskom model in which the consumer pays prior to the "first spade hitting the ground".

Furthermore, IPPs do not reflect as contingent liability on Eskom's balance sheet and therefore have no negative impact on Eskom.

In fact, it gives Eskom certainty regarding an escalation per annum and cost recovery. As at March this year, 62 projects with a combined capacity of 3 776 megawatts connected to the grid, contributing to the balancing of the system and saving the country from load-shedding during a shortage in coal supply.

Fin24





World News

TRUMP AGAIN THREATENS GOVT 'SHUTDOWN' OVER BORDER WALL FUNDS

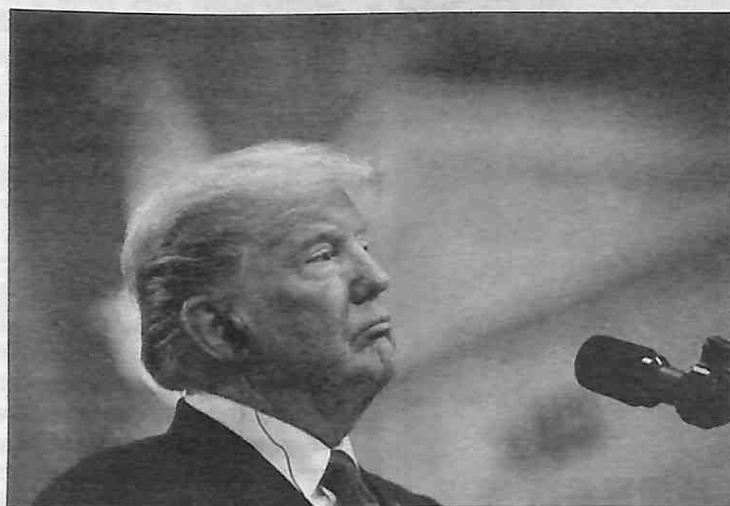
WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he was prepared to "shut down" the government if Democrats fail to support his demand for more spending on border security, including a wall on the Mexican border.

"I would be willing to 'shut down' government if the Democrats do not give us the votes for Border Security, which includes the Wall!" he tweeted.

He called for an end to the visa lottery system, which provides visas for 50 000 immigrants a year but which Trump maintains is "riddled with abuse."

He also urged an end to what he calls the "Catch and Release" approach of letting undocumented arrivals remain in the US while their applications are being processed.

Calling for a purely merit-based



WARNING: US President Donald Trump.

immigration system, Trump added, "We need great people coming into our country!"

The president had threatened in March to veto a \$1.3 trillion spend-

ing bill because it lacked funding for heightened security, including the \$25-billion "trust fund" he wanted for a border wall.

He eventually signed the bill, avert-

ing a shutdown crisis, though the bill provided only \$1.6-billion for a small stretch of border fencing and will keep the government open only until 30 September, the end of the current fiscal year.

Securing Democrats' support, moreover, is not likely to be easy, particularly amid widespread anger over a Trump immigration policy that for a time was separating parents from their children -- including infants -- at the border.

The administration was forced to backpedal and, under federal court order, has been scrambling to reunite those separated.

But, doubling down, Trump tweeted Sunday that "there are consequences when people cross our Border illegally," and that many people "are just using children for their own sinister purposes."

AFP

NY Times publisher tells Trump anti-press attacks 'dangerous and harmful'

WASHINGTON - The publisher of the New York Times has warned Donald Trump in a White House meeting that the president's escalating attacks on the news media are "inflammatory" and "dangerous and harmful to our country."

Trump's meeting with AG Sulzberger, who took the reins of the prestigious newspaper on January 1, took place on July 20 following a request from the White House for what appeared to be a routine get-to-know-you session.

The session, which also included Times editorial page editor James Bennet, had remained secret under mutual agreement until Trump tweeted about it early Sunday.

"Had a very good and interesting meeting at the White House with AG Sulzberger, Publisher of the New York Times," Trump said on Twitter.

"Spent much time talking about the vast amounts of Fake News being put out by the media and how that Fake News has morphed into phrase, 'Enemy of the People.' Sad!"

Sulzberger, in a statement released by the Times, said the president's tweet effectively "put the meeting on the record," and he described what appeared to be an unusually tough and blunt session with the president.

AFP

MH370 families hope for answers from official report

PUTRAJAYA - Relatives of people aboard Flight MH370 said yesterday they hoped a long-awaited report into the plane's disappearance might give them answers about one of the world's most enduring aviation mysteries.

The family members were being given the official investigation team's report in the morning at the Malaysian transport ministry and were set to be briefed by officials, and it was due to be released publicly in the afternoon. The Malaysia Airlines jet vanished in March 2014 with 239 people -- mostly from China -- on board, en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

No sign of it was found in a 120

000-square kilometre Indian Ocean search zone and the Australian-led hunt, the largest in aviation history, was suspended in January last year.

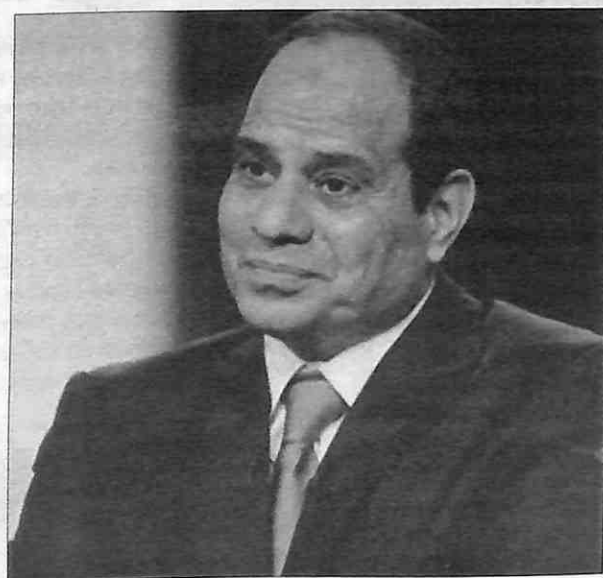
US exploration firm Ocean Infinity resumed the hunt at the start of this year on a "no find, no fee" basis, using high-tech drones to scour the seabed. But that search was called off after failing to find anything. Malaysia's new government, which took power in May, has pledged total transparency and says the final report by the official safety investigation team -- a 19-member body which includes international investigators -- will be released unedited. Arriving at the transport min-

istry to receive the report, Nurlaila Ngah, whose husband Wan Swaid Wan Ismail was an MH370 crew member, said she was hoping for a "solid answer" about what happened that could give relatives some closure. "In the airline industry, tragedies happen but there are clues as to what could have happened," she told AFP. "It makes no sense if they (the investigators) say there are no hints as to what could have happened."

But Calvin Shim, whose wife was a stewardess on the flight, was sceptical the report would tell families anything new after more than four years of fruitless searching.

AFP

Egyptian president 'upset' over online calls for resignation



UPSET: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

CAIRO - Egypt's president says he is "upset" over recent online postings calling on him to step down over the country's troubled economy.

An angry Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi said in televised remarks aired on Saturday that the postings are inappropriate since he has been working hard to pluck Egypt out of its economic crisis. The #Sisi_leave hashtag followed steep price hikes for fuel, drinking water and electricity as part of austerity measures designed to overhaul the economy, still recovering from years of turmoil following the 2011 popular uprising against longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak.

Al-Sisi was first elected in 2014, after the military's ouster of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi. The general-turned-president has since launched multi billion infrastructure, development and housing projects. He won a second term in March, following a harsh crackdown on dissent. AP

BRIEFS

Leftovers are food for thought, not waste

VATICAN CITY - Pope Francis says leftover grub should serve as food for thought instead of getting thrown out.

Francis told the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square on Sunday that people should "examine their conscience" about what to do with leftovers. He suggested using them for another meal or donating them. Francis said: "I'm thinking of people who are hungry and how many leftovers we throw away." The 81-year-old pope recommended asking grandparents for recipes that use leftovers. He often praises the elderly for their wisdom.

AP

Israel navy intercepts activist boat

JERUSALEM - Israel's navy on Sunday intercepted a Norwegian-flagged activist boat trying to break its more than decade-long blockade of the Gaza Strip, the military and activists said. "The activity ended without exceptional events," a military statement said. "At this time the ship is being transferred to the port of Ashdod" along the coast of central Israel. An activist group affiliated with the boat, the Al-Awda (The Return), said 22 people and a cargo of medical supplies were onboard.

AFP

Over 500 hikers stranded

LOMBOK - More than 500 hikers and their guides remain stranded by landslides on an active volcano on Lombok, a day after a powerful earthquake struck the Indonesian holiday island, a national



park official said yesterday. Helicopters and rescue teams on foot have been deployed to scour the slopes of Mount Rinjani, which is crisscrossed with hiking routes popular

with tourists.

"There are still 560 people trapped. Five hundred are in Segara Anakan area, and 60 are in Batu Ceper," said the head of Rinjani national park Sudiyo.

AFP

Egypt bishop found dead in monastery

CAIRO - Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church says a bishop has been found dead inside a monastery in the desert northwest of Cairo. Bishop Epiphanius is head of Anba Makar Monastery near Wadi el-Natroun in coastal Beheira province. The church did not elaborate on the circumstances surrounding his death on Sunday. Security officials say Bishop Epiphanius' head was smashed and there were injuries to his back.

AP

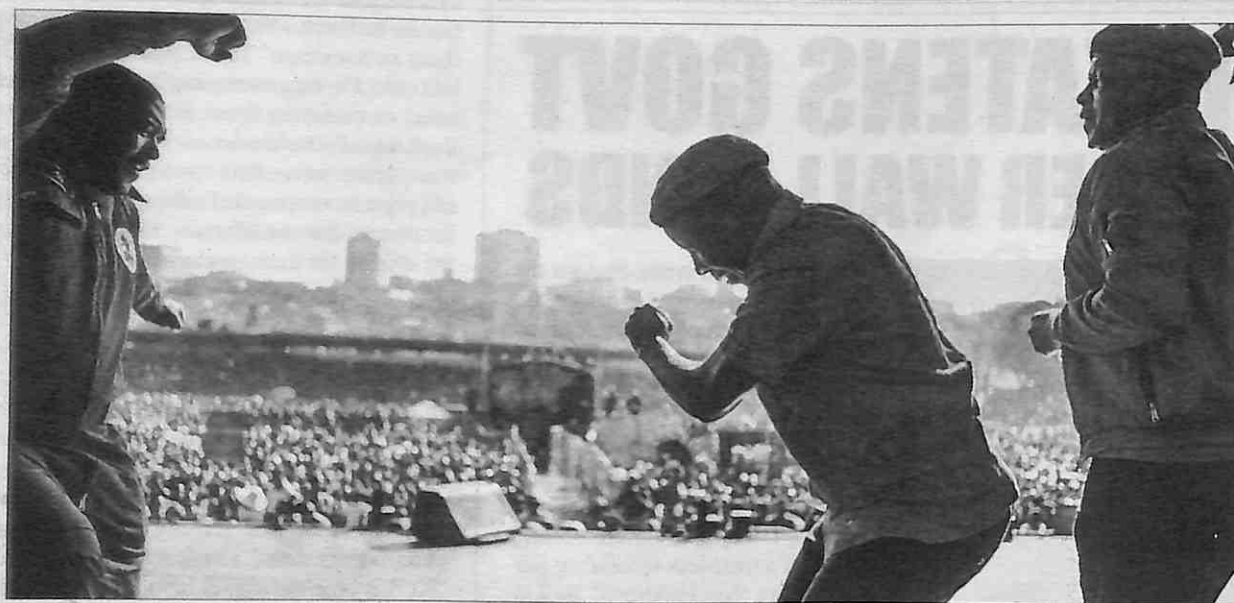
160 inmates freed in Cameroon jail

YAOUNDE - At least 160 inmates fled a prison in Cameroon's troubled anglophone North-West region during a dramatic overnight jailbreak, officials said Sunday. Around 50 armed men who were "shooting from everywhere... broke down the prison doors," local official William Benoit Emvoutu Mbita told state radio CRTV.

They then used fuel to "set fire to all the buildings" of the prison in Ndop, added Mbita, the local administrator. Inmates who return "voluntarily" will be transferred to a prison in Bamenda, the capital of North-West region, Mbita said, adding that a manhunt was on for the escapees.

AFP

Focus on SA scene



2019 WE ARE COMING: Economic Freedom Fighters leaders dancing during one of their celebrations.

SOUTH AFRICANS WILL NOT BE DECEIVED BY EFF 'DEMAGOGUES' - SANCO

JOHANNESBURG - South Africans will not be deceived by demagogues, and Economic Freedom Fighters leader Julius Malema's theatrics and baseless accusations of new state capture confirm the extent to which he is prepared to "stoop low and allow lunacy to define the political discourse in the run-up to the 2019 elections", the South African National Civic Organisation said.

South Africans would not be deceived by demagogues that sought to undermine the strides that President Cyril Ramaphosa was making towards the country's economic recovery, SANCO national spokesman Jabu Mahlangu said on Sunday.

"EFF leader Julius Malema's theatrics and baseless accusations of 'new

state capture' levelled at mining billionaire Patrice Motsepe, members of his family, Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan, and former finance minister Trevor Manuel confirm the extent to which he is prepared to stoop low and allow lunacy to define the political discourse in the run-up to the 2019 elections," Mahlangu said.

SANCO said those publicly attacked by Malema during the EFF's fifth birthday celebrations in East London on Saturday had impeccable track records of patriotism, and unlike Malema himself, they had not been fingered in allegations of corruption or embroiled in tender irregularities. The organisation said Malema's frustration with the positive direction towards which Ramaphosa was steering the country was begin-

ning to emerge.

"He opts for vulgarity and tun-trumps spiced up with empty rhetoric in typical right-wing public oratory style that is appealing to emotions instead of logic when the stakes are too high," Mahlangu said. While this may increase the size of his audience at rallies in the short-term, they would not necessarily translate into votes.

"He is currently competing with comedians in the popularity stakes and is not necessarily one whom the majority can entrust with governance. He is very much like [US President] Donald Trump, who in our case will completely destroy our rebounding economy with anarchy, populist, as well as unsustainable policies," Mahlangu said.

African News Agency

Malema offers to help PR woman who lost defamation case to Sisulu

JOHANNESBURG - The leader of the red berets has responded to news that the grandson of Walter Sisulu successfully sued a PR businesswoman for R3m.

EFF leader Julius Malema has reached out to a woman who lost a defamation case with costs to Shaka Sisulu, grandson of late ANC struggle hero Walter Sisulu, in the South Gauteng High Court last week. Sisulu won a defamation case against PR businesswoman Sihle Bolani after allegations came out that the media entrepreneur and political activist had been paid millions to lead an ANC 'war room' operation.

Her attempt to sue the ANC for money allegedly owed to her by the party after she did work for the unit was unsuc-

cessful. Malema on Twitter responded to The Citizen's report on Bolani losing the trial and extended a helping hand. It is not yet clear what the help would entail or whether Bolani will take him up on the offer. The 'war room', which some reports estimate to have cost about R50 million, was supposedly set up to discredit the ANC's opposition in the 2016 local government elections using a disinformation campaign. The EFF commander-in-chief was alleged to have been one of the targets of the 'war-room', reportedly set up to "disempower DA and EFF campaigns". The operation reportedly made a series of fake posters, including one of Malema holding a rifle. *Citizen*



TO HELP: EFF leader Julius Malema.

Support for Jacob Zuma at his trial begins to dwindle

DURBAN - Support for former president Jacob Zuma by senior leaders of the ANC during his court appearances has dwindled.

On Friday, Zuma appeared in the Pietermaritzburg High Court in a matter related to French arms manufacturer Thales over a contract worth R30-billion, where he faces 16 charges of fraud, money laundering and racketeering.

On Friday, Zuma enjoyed support from KwaZulu-Natal ANC leaders - newly re-elected Chairman Sihle Zikalala, his deputy Mike Mabuyakhulu, Provincial Treasurer Nomusa Dube-Ncube, provincial executive committee member Super Zuma, eThekweni Region Chair-

man and Mayor Zandile Gumede and ANC Youth League provincial Secretary Thanduxolo Sabela.

None of them was wearing a party regalia after the ANC national executive committee decided that party members who support Zuma at his court appearances should do so in their personal capacities.

In his past two court appearances, Zuma had been supported by former North West premier and ANC chairman Supra Mahumapelo, Nelson Mandela Bay councillor Andile Lungisa, who was recently convicted of assault, and disgraced former SABC boss Hlaudi Motsoeneng.

Sowetan Live

Gautrain stations shut down, buses blocked as workers down tools

JOHANNESBURG - Workers affiliated with transport union Untu embarked on a 'no work, no pay' strike yesterday.

Commuters using the Gautrain were left stranded yesterday as a wage strike by the company's workers forced it to scale down its train services while buses were blocked from leaving depots.

"Striking workers have been preventing buses from exiting the depot, and as such, buses scheduled to service the airport service as well as Centurion, Sandton and Park stations have been delayed," Gautrain said in a notice to commuters. Gautrain said at the weekend wage negotiations between its operator Bombela Operating Company and

the United National Transport Union (UNTU) had deadlocked and as such workers affiliated with the union would embark on a 'no work, no pay' strike from yesterday.



Untu has rejected Bombela's offer of an 8.5 per cent increase in salaries and all benefits and to raise the minimum wage for operational staff R8 500 a month.

The union is demanding a 10 per cent increase on the basic salary plus R1 600 for a housing allowance, an increase from R31.84 to R64 a shift on night work, a transport subsidy, a 55/45 per cent medical aid contribution split between employer and workers and a R20 000 incentive bonus per employee each year.

Citizen

Mpumalanga taxi boss shot dead

MPUMALANGA - A manhunt is underway for the killers of an Mpumalanga taxi boss who was shot dead in his private vehicle, police said on Sunday.

Isaac Sello Letsoalo, 38, was found by police officers who were patrolling a road at Pankop on Saturday night, said Brigadier Leonard Hlathi.

"It was during the search process that they found a man on a sitting position next to the open driver's door outside the vehicle, profusely bleeding from the face," he said.

Letsoalo had been shot multiple times in the upper body and was still breathing.

He was certified dead after paramedics arrived at the scene.

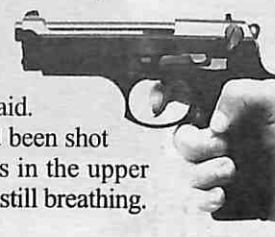
Hlathi said a white sedan had apparently stopped next to Letsoalo's vehicle and opened fire before making a U-turn and fleeing.

"The motive for the murder is currently unknown but police are not ruling out the possibility of it being related to an ongoing taxi feud in the area."

No arrests have yet been made.

Anyone with information that could assist the investigation can contact Captain Jan Phofele at 079 499 5244 or the SAPS' Crime Stop number, 08600 10111.

News24





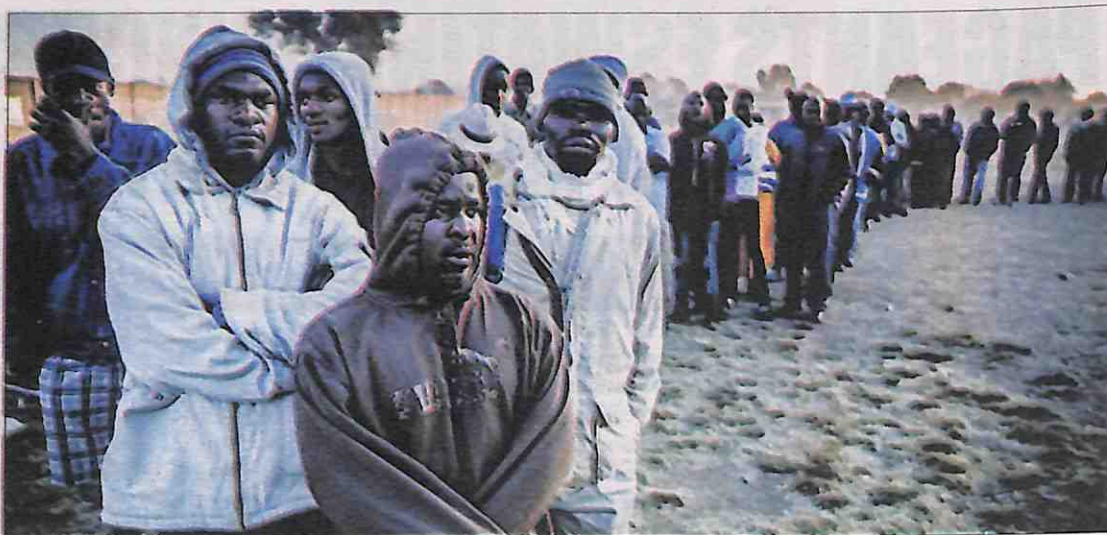
FOCUS ON ZIMBABWE ELECTIONS 2018



ZIM BEGIN **VOTING** IN HISTORIC FIRST ELECTION WITHOUT MUGABE



Contender: Zimbabwe's main opposition leader Nelson Chamisa casts his vote at a polling station in Harare, Zimbabwe, yesterday. (Pics, Daily Mail)



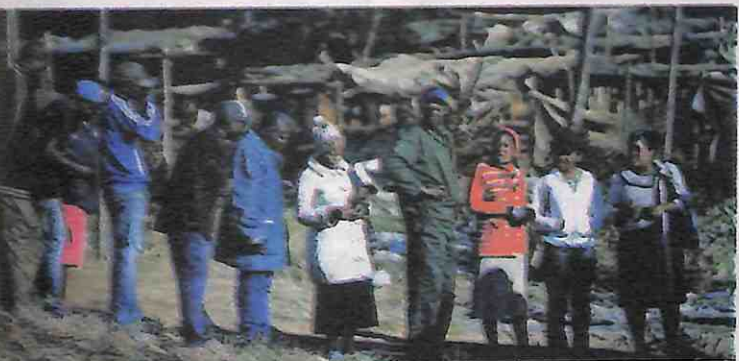
EARLY BIRD: Voters yawn and wear hoodies and jackets against the morning cold as the sun rises above a polling station located in the suburb of Mbare in Zimbabwe's capital Harare.



READY TO GO: Voters await the opening of a polling station during early morning voting in Kwekwe.



IN NUMBERS: Zimbabwe votes in an election that could, if deemed credible, tilt the country toward recovery after years of economic collapse and repression under former leader Mugabe.



CHANGE: Zimbabwean voters queue to cast their ballots in the country's general elections in Harare.



LINE UP: Zimbabweans line up to vote at Fitchela Primary School in Kwekwe.



MESSAGE: Mugabe, 94, said he would not support Zanu-PF.



ONE MAN ONE VOTE: A man casts his ballot in a polling station located in the suburb of Mbare in Zimbabwe's capital.

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PAGEANTS ESWATINI LAUNCHES INAUGURAL MRS ESWATINI

Stories by Ayanda Dlamini

PAGEANTS Eswatini has aligned with other developed countries in the beauty pageant sector as they have introduced a beauty pageant for the matured mass; Mrs Eswatini.

This pageant was launched last Friday at the Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture offices, Manzini.

According to Pageants Eswatini President Catherine

...for married women

Potgieter, this beauty contest would bring married women together and would annually select a woman to be a beauty ambassador, empower other women and aspiring ladies to marriage, motivate and encourage them to maintain their beauty in marriage while keeping their values as married individuals.

"This prestigious contest sees a married woman standing out, amongst many, to be a public figure, role model and beauty ambassador at her range while inspiring other women out there, that even after marriage and being a parent, one can still be a beauty ambassador, a mother to the whole nation and be influential in society while carrying her role as a wife to somebody. Regional women will compete country wide, for this title, where they will be empowered and encouraged in their new tittles through beauty, wellness and impact to society," Potgieter said. "Pageants Eswatini is happy to expand the beauty pageants in the kingdom of Eswatini.

This year will see the very first Mrs Eswatini.

We want to align with other countries in the beauty pageant sector come 2022. We wish the

Mrs Eswatini organising team all the best," she added.

Speaking to the Pageants Coordinator Mncedisi Hussein who has been appointed by Pageant Eswatini to run this parade revealed that at this stage they are in the process reveal that of finding sponsorships from corporates to run this parade smoothly with no glitches.

"After accomplishing this goal we will head for a launch which ought to be held soon as we reach our sponsorship target. It is around this time that the public will be furnished with information of this event through various media sectors.

"Details of the event will be brought to audience, sponsors will be unveiled and ACASWA will officially bless and declare Mrs Eswatini as an annual event," he said. Married women have found themselves isolated in beauty contests and being influential public figures. This pageant is a platform to empower women. Mncedisi Hussein sees the nation benefiting from this parade.

"The nation will benefit a lot from these beauty pageant as it would aim to reduce the rate of marriage break ups, rate of pre-marital sexual intercourse, reduced prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in the country and women will get to come together and share their challenges," Hussein said.



NOMINATED: ACASWA President Mzwakhe Myeni and Vice President (VP) Frans Dlamini.

ACASWA executive nominated for national elections

By Nomfundo Sifundza

THINGS may get busier by the day for the current ACASWA Executive members.

The association's President Mzwakhe Myeni, Vice President (VP) Frans Dlamini and Public Relations Officer (PRO) Ronnie Dlamini have been nominated in the national elections.

Mzwakhe Myeni is nominated for Indvuna yeNkhundla under Nkilonko whilst his VP is nominated for the MP post under Mpolonjeni and the PRO Ronnie Dlamini is nominated for indvuna yeNkhundla under Gege. The association's General Secretary Apostle Vusumuzi Maculuve issued a congratulatory statement to the respective members.

"ACASWA wishes to extend a congratulatory to all nominated for different categories. We would love to notify the nation that as an association we also have confidence in them," read the statement. The PRO stated that the association's executive encouraged artists to take part in the national elections



ALSO IN: Public Relations Officer (PRO) Ronnie Dlamini.

when the year began. However, when questioned on how the ACASWA office would function after most executive members would be expected to take full charge of the constituency roles Dlamini said they would cross the bridge when they got there and after the whole nomination and elections process ends.

BELOW IS THE FULL LIST OF ACASWA NOMINATED MEMBERS

● MP RACE

Name
Timothy Myeni
Frans T Dlamini
Vusumuzi Shiba
Zakhele Ginindza
Galuja Dlamini
Jenevane Tshabalala
Mduduzi Simelane
Gcina Masuku

Inkhundla
Nkilonko
Mpolonjeni
Mbabane East
Kwaluseni
Ngwempisi
Lamgabhi
Siphofaneni
Ntandozi

● INDVUNA YENKLHUNDLA RACE

Mzwakhe Myeni
Ronnie Dlamini
Zaga Dlamini

Nkilonko
Gege
Dvokodweni

...Scouting and application opening soon

SCOUTING and application of this parade will be open to the nation soon as the first crowning will be held early next year.

"Analysis will be carried out so we remain with a minimum number of finalists not more than 12 in which we will have three contestants from each administrative regions in the country.

The main focus will be on the 12 contestants who will participate in a boot camp where they will be taught about the contest and the title and what it needs them to do.

Grading will start here based on behaviour and boot camp facilitator's observation. This will lead to at least half the number of women finalist being

eliminated," said Mrs Eswatini Coordinator Mncedisi Hussein.

"While this event is currently running, a slogan or theme contest will be presented to the public where anyone is eligible to think of a theme that the queen should focused on during her reign. The winner will be given a prize as an incentive," he added.

Andile Yenana quartet warm up the jazz gallery

By Nokwanda Sibandze

THE Andile Yenana Quartet soulfully warmed up the jazz gallery last Friday evening.

The show took place at the Swaziland Theatre Club, Jazz Gallery courtesy of AfroMusic Society. The band features Andile Yenana on piano, Siya Makuzeni on trumpet, Ariel Zamonsky on contra-bass and Tumi Mogorosi on drums. The band got onto the stage at exactly 7pm and took the audience down

memory lane when they performed songs from back in the day, such as 'Dreamwalker', 'We Pray' and 'The Finale' to mention a few. Yenana and the band wowed the crowd with their instrument playing skills. The crowd was in admiration as Siya Makuzeni played the trumpet. The sound from the drums, piano and the contra-bass played by the international acclaimed Ariel Zamonsky was appreciated by the crowd as they screamed and clapped hands as they played. Andile Yenana has produced and worked with many South Africans as well as international artists.

He has also worked as a session musician, producer, arranger and pianist.

After the show he thanked the audience as he said they were amazing. "Thank you very much for coming through, it means a lot to me to see people who still appreciate what I do even after so long," he said.



ALL SMILES: Andile Yenana smiling at the drummer as they were in sync during their performance at the Swaziland Theatre Club in Mbabane on Friday evening. (Pic: Nokwanda Sibandze)



SUPPORT: Khulile 'Apostle Khuls' Mtsetfwa (third from right) posing with family and friends who came to support her and hear the whole story at Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon. (Pics: Nokwanda Sibandze)

LOVE IN ABUNDANCE AT KHULS BOOK LAUNCH

...The book titled 'From Wheelchair to High Heels' is a narration of an accident Apostle Khulile Mtsetfwa was involved in a few years back and how she managed to recover

By Nokwanda Sibandze

UNCONDITIONAL love was in abundance at Apostle Khuls's book launch on Saturday afternoon at the Happy Valley Hotel.

The book titled 'From Wheelchair to High Heels' is a narration of an accident Apostle Khulile Mtsetfwa was involved in a few years back and how she managed to recover.

Apostle Khuls as she is affectionately known reckoned she only alive because of God's unconditional love. Present at the launch were members of the public, Women Working Together founders and the Mtsetfwa family.

Her husband Sibusiso Mtsetfwa was also part of the people that shared how the experience changed them. He said the one thing that the challenge taught him was how to appreciate love.

"At the end of the day when my wife was in hospital, I also realised just how much my family loves me, and then I got to understand the power of love and family," he said. He also took a moment to thank them for the support they showed him and his wife while they were facing what they said was probably the biggest challenge of their lives.

He also thanked the nurse who was on duty the night his wife was brought unto the hospital Mercy



I MADE IT: Khulile sharing her story with the audience.

Changela.

The nurse took care of Khuls the entire time she was in hospital especially when she was in the ICU.

Mercy was also there to say a few words; she said she was drawn to the apostle the minute she arrived in hospital.

"She became my baby when I took care of her and from that day we have formed a relationship and I am glad to be a part of her life. The love that she and her husband share is inspiring and it made me love them even more," said Changela.

Khulile's mother Hilda Mashaba said she would forever be grateful to God for saving her daughter and she also mentioned how Khuls has become a testimony for their entire family.



MY GIRL: Khulile Mtsetfwa with her mother Hilda Mashaba share a light moment.

SWAMA patron urges corporates to emulate FNB gesture

By Nomfundo Sifundza

PATRON of the Swaziland Arts and Music Association (SWAMA) Princess Sakhizwe has urged other corporates' to emulate the kind gesture forwarded to them by FNB.

FNB sent the patron and her association members to a great start of the week-end after the bank sponsored a total sum of E60 000 towards the upcoming MTN SWAMA Awards last Friday.

As our sister publication the Sunday Observer disclosed; the bank sponsored this amount in total trust and as its contribution to the awards and the entire arts industry.

Princess Sakhizwe said "may I let it be known that FNB has thus far proved to be pioneers of the arts sector in the country. We have seen you carry out spectacular editions of the FNB SmoothFest."

She also noted with sincerity that more



GUEST: SWAMA Patron Princess Sakhizwe making her remarks at the sponsorship presentation on Friday at Corporate Place Rooftop, Mbabane. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)

corporates' investing in the arts sector would go a long way as the sector has potential to contribute meaningfully to the country's economy.

The princess's words were preceded by Swazi MTN's brand and sponsorship manager Meshack Maseko who also urged fellow corporate to sponsor initiatives of this nature.

Maseko noted that Swazi MTN thus

far sponsors at least more than three art sectors; these include the awards, the MTN Rhymes and Laughter concept and the internationally acclaimed Bushfire Festival, to mention just a few.

Worth noting is that the awards are now functioning under the total monetary sponsorship of a whopping E760 000.

Currently the MTN SWAMA Awards is at voting stage; meaning the public votes for the respective nominees until the day of the awards which is December 1.



CLASSY AFFAIR: Mdura on MC duties as he was the programme director of the night.



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU: FNB Head of Marketing Zethu Dlamini speaking on behalf of the bank. (C) **THE MIGHTY ONE:** SWAZI MTN Brand and Sponsorship Manager Meshack Maseko making his remarks as the title sponsor of the awards. (R) **ALSO THERE:** FNB's Gugu Dladla-Dlamini was also at the affair representing the bank.



ALSO THERE: Symphony with her Manager Buyie Cele and brother Mduduzi could not miss the event. (R) **LAUGHTER:** Guests having a light moment at the affair.



SWAMA President congratulates nominated members

ON another note, the president of the Swaziland Arts and Music Association (SWAMA) Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini congratulated members of the association that had been nominated for the national elections.

"We congratulate the nominated mem-

bers and assure them our full support. We wish them all the best in their respective journeys," he said.

Hope

Dlamini also voiced his hope for the arts to be fully represented in the forthcoming parliament.

Below are some of the nominated members

Banele Fash Sithole Siphofaneni Indvuna YeNkhundla
Siphelelo Zolani Dladla Manzini North Indvuna yeNkhundla
Sicelo Chuidy Zwane Mbabane MP

"By the grace of God the arts will be fully represented in the next parliament."

MNANDZI FOOD FEST GAINING POPULARITY

By Ayanda Dlamini

THE Mnandzi Food Fest has not only gained popularity but serves its purpose of satisfying food lovers.

Hosted at Swazi-Lizkhar Sport Horses last Saturday, the festival saw a number of food lovers attending in style to enjoy the food that was served and the chilled music by the spinners of the day.

This time around the food fest was graced by Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula, SPTC Corporate Communications Manager Nqobile Magagula, SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini to mention just a few.

Fresh and salivating food from braai meat, kebabs, traditional food, bakery and cocktails were the order of the day.



BEAUTY: Mnandzi Food Fest was graced by Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula, and her daughter SPTC Corporate Communications Manager Nqobile Magagula on Saturday at Swazi-Lizkhar Sport Horses, Ezulwini. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



MEATY: Fresh ribs from flames ready to be served.



STYLE: Nobuhle Nkambule swagged up for the food fest.



BURGERS: Burgers from Food Hut were also sold.



PACKED: Attendees enjoying themselves.



RELAXING: Food lovers chilling and enjoying their drinks at the food fest.

SA's 2lani The Warrior for DJ Crooks' Birthday celebration

By Ayanda Dlamini

SOUTH African Deep House Spinner 2lani The Warrior has been roped in for DJ Crooks' birthday slated for Friday at Yoruba Lounge; the home of deep house sessions.

As the country's very own deep house legend, DJ Crooks will be celebrating his birthday on Friday, deep house fanatics will have a chance to jam with SA deep house legend 2lani The Warrior as he will be the act of the night.

This was revealed by SwaziBoy Entertainment Ambassador Ur Gal Zee yesterday.

According to the stable's ambassador, the reason they chose Yoruba Lounge this year was because the place has been the home of deep house and fit to celebrate

● DJ Crooks is one of Swaziboy Entertainment spinners and he has been with stable since its birth a decade ago

the nation's very own Deep house master DJ Crooks. 2lani The Warrior will be sharing the turn tables with Crooks himself, DJ wicked, Mistosoul, Katz, Msakrie and Jazzin Soul.

"E60 before 11pm gets you in, E80 after 11 pm and VIP will cost E150 at Yoruba Lounge, Manzini," briefly said the stable's ambassador.

DJ Crooks is one of Swaziboy Entertainment spinners and he has been with the stable since its birth a decade ago. He happens to be a brother to the stable's director Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane.

2Lani The Warrior has been breaking

down dance floors all over the South African club scene since 1997. 2Lani is famed for his trademark 'sweet' house sound and a flawless technical mixing style - cultivated by experience, direct contact with patrons on his dance floors and feedback gained from an ever increasing and faithful following. His standing within the music industry has seen him featured alongside international house DJ legends.

His playing style, following and popularity has also resulted in the release of his CD compilations, First Class House Volume 1, Volume 2 and Devine House

Of 2lani. The First Class compilations have become known for their deep uplifting grooves



FOR HOUSE HEADS: 2lani The Warrior.

MORE FROM SISUSA'S WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IMBIZO



THANK YOU: Semusa Network Founder Princess Sisusa making her remarks during the third edition of the Women Empowerment Imbizo which was held at Mavuzo Trade and Exhibition Centre on Saturday.
(Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



ALSO THERE: Vuyisile Dlamini and Old Mutual's Nozipho Phakathi also attended the Women's Imbizo.



BUSINESS: Bhekiwe Zwane interacting with her fashion accessory business clients.



HAIR GALORE: Central Bank Communications and International Relations Officer Lindokuhle Sithole interacting with other women supporting her hair business.



FULL HOUSE: Women came in their numbers for the Imbizo.



SPEAKER: Wife to Bishop Nash Shongwe Zanele advising women to start their own businesses.



STYLE ICON: Thabile Maripe looked stunning at the event.



SELFIE MOMENT: Sands having a moment with his fan after his performance.



PAYING ATTENTION: Balindile Dlamini listening to speakers of the day.

International
Celebrity News

Heidi Klum looking hot at 45

PORTO CERVO - She's been a star of the runway for decades, showing off haute couture in some of the world's most glamorous destinations.

Heidi Klum took some time out of her hectic schedule to enjoy a beach day with her family in Porto Cervo, Sardinia, on Saturday.

The supermodel, 45, was joined by her four children who she shares with her musician ex-husband Seal - Helene, 14, Henry, 12, Johan 11, and Lou, eight, as well as her own mother, Erna.

Heidi played the doting mum as



HOT: Heidi Klum.

she joined her kids for several fun excursions such as a wild banana boat trip and being towed on a raft. **MTO**

Nikki Bella has a moment of truth on Total Bellas

LOS ANGELES -

After one of the most eventful seasons yet, Nikki Bella and John Cena's love story is officially over. "John and I might be calling off the wedding again," she told her twin over the phone. While the first breakup may have come as a shock, Brie's twin-tuition saw this coming.

"I was extremely upset the first time. It was like I couldn't stop crying. But this time I feel they're in two different parts of their lives," Brie shared. "As for Nikki, she can't deny that she's been feeling this way for longer than she's ready to admit." "There is something



TWINS: Nikki and Brie Bella.

that is making me feel like I cannot walk down that aisle right now," Nikki told her mom and sister. "That doesn't mean ever with him, I just can't do it right now." **Eonline**

Kylie Jenner and Travis Scott broke up

LOS ANGELES - Kylie Jenner and Travis Scott have reportedly broken up, according to the folks at Star Magazine. The reporters at the mag have been running multiple stories in recent weeks, suggesting that the two were on the verge of breaking up. The trouble began on July 18, when Star's spies caught the reality star and her rapper man having an intense discussion in their chauffeured car outside NYC restaurant Carbone at 9 p.m. After stalking into the eatery separately, the pair struggled to keep



IT'S OVER: Kylie Jenner and Travis Scott

things civil before suddenly leaving just 45 minutes later. An hour later at their hotel, our onlooker caught Travis storming out with a backpack - and all of his clothes! **MTO**

WWE's grandmaster sexaybrian christopher hangs himself

LOS ANGELES -

Former WWE champ Brian Christopher Lawler - aka Grandmaster Sexay - has died after hanging himself in jail this weekend.

Lawler's mother, Kay, tells TMZ Sports Brian passed away Sunday surrounded by family and friends after being placed on life support Saturday night following a suicide attempt in jail. He was surrounded by his father, Jerry Lawler, his brother, Kevin, and other family.

As we reported prison guards found Lawler had tried hanging himself in his jail cell outside Memphis. He was taken to a hospital where he remained in critical condition until



DEAD: Brian Christopher Lawler.

late Sunday morning. Lawler was arrested earlier this month for DUI after leading cops on a chase. As we first told you ... cops say he reeked of booze and had an open 12 ounce can in his center console, and they arrested him on the spot. **Eonline**

SA Celebrity News

Robert Marawa on marriage: It would be a huge step

JOHANNESBURG -

As Robert Marawa prepares to make his return to the SABC on Wednesday, he spoke to the Sunday Times about radio, love and being a 'simple farm boy.'

Robert, who left the broadcaster last year after a very public split, told the paper that he was looking forward to the return and those people who plotted to get rid of him are no longer employed by the broadcaster. After confirming last year that he and actress Pearl Thusi were no longer an item, his legions of fans have been wondering if anyone has managed



OPENS UP: Robert Marawa.

to capture his heart.

He told the paper that he was in a relationship - with his mom and his sisters. **TimesLive**

Sbahlé wanted Khune to beg

JOHANNESBURG -

Sbahlé Mpisane has given her fans some inside info into what was going on in her mind after her public split with Itumeleng Khune, revealing that she always knew they would end up together again - but all he had to do was beg!

Speaking to Drum the fitness trainer explained that she and Itumeleng remained friends after their break up and she always knew she loved the Kaizer Chiefs keeper and he was her heart's keeper.

"We remained friends after the break up and would still have lunch some-



LOVE BIRDS: Itumeleng Khune and Sbahlé Mpisane.

times. I always knew that I was going to go back to him. I love him - I was just waiting for him to beg me!"

Drum

Zahara gets stabbed while lending a helping hand

JOHANNESBURG -

Just days after actress Enhle Mbali found herself in hospital after being attacked by hijackers, singer Zahara has also sustained a minor injury after being stabbed on the arm by people who she said appeared to be job-seekers.

Taking to Instagram to share her ordeal, Zahara explained how she could not attend the Mandela concert in the UK after being attacked while trying to give the 'job seekers' some spare change.

"I always believe that when you have a loaf of bread, one should always be able to share just a little with some-



STABBED: Zahara.

one else. If you have 1000 surely even a R5 would be worth something to someone.

Drum

Loyiso Gola on Netflix special

NEW YORK - Loyiso

Gola may be used to making crowds laugh with his gags but after he finished filming his 30-minute special for Netflix, the funnyman was filled with emotions.

"I'm proud of myself and my career/life decisions. They seem obscure from far, but those who know know," he said on Twitter.

Netflix brought together 47 comedians from 13 regions to take part in stand-up comedy event that will air in 2019.

Loyiso Gola, Riaad Moosa, Loyiso Madinga and Tumi Morake were selected to represent Africa.



MAKING WAVES: Loyiso Gola.

Each comedian got the chance to perform a 30-minute set.

Loyiso Gola, who often gets heat on social media for his jokes, said he was filled with emotions. Cause first Netflix, then the world. And in Loy's case, more of the world.

TshisaLive

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY



UNDERFIRE: Ngwebedla.

Ngwebedla finds himself facing the terrifying fury of S'bu and Thandeka. Bhukumuzi comes to Mpiyakhe Zungu's rescue in an unexpected way.

ISIDINGO

TODAY



ELATED: Lincoln.

Ntando and Ben are at loggerheads about the jobs of the miners. Lincoln is elated about the outcome of his case. Seline continues to flirt with Zandre.

Muvhango

TODAY

Vho-Makhadzi hides the truth about Azwindini's suicide. Will Thobile survive Rendani's wrath? Vho-Mukondeleli dupes Vhangani into helping her.



RHYTHM CITY

TODAY



WANTED DEAD: Lerato

David gets a mysterious business associate. Nomalanga and Zolani plot to get rid of Lerato. Lerato learns about Bongi and Lungile's relationship.

PICTURE OF THE DAY

ME: Gogo this is my buddy

Gogo: Sawubona Mabhadi

Gogo: Sawubona Mabhadi

Gogo: Sawubona Mabhadi

Gogo: Sawubona Mabhadi

Gogo: Sawubona Mabhadi

Gogo: Sawubona Mabhadi

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TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 14

Remember that one wrong move today could cause you to have a headache for a good long while, Capricorn. Don't take uncalculated risks. There's dynamism and confidence in the air, and even though you may be tempted to step off the ledge, think twice about doing so.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

It's a long road to becoming exactly the person you want to be, Aquarius. You can't change who you are. Input from every person you know and lessons from every bump in the road contribute to who you are as a person. Be proud of yourself, but also realise that there's a great deal more internal development that needs to be done.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

You should always leave a loved one with loving words, Pisces. Each time you exit a room, consider that you're never going to enter that room again. Perhaps you'll never see those people again. Make sure you take care of the people you like. People might need extra attention today to feel appreciated and important to you.



Aries March 21 – April 19

Just when you think you have absolutely no energy left, you're able to kick into a higher gear. Push beyond your limits today, Aries. You'll find that you can achieve a great deal more than you thought. All you need to do is have confidence in yourself and try. You have a lot of dynamic power on your side. You will find that your strength is greater than ever.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

Regardless of how you feel today, Taurus, it's important to own up to your mistakes. Keep in mind that you're responsible for your actions. No matter how much you might want to shrink away, it's important to stand up and admit your weaknesses. Take bold action today in which you command control of the situation and hold yourself responsible for the consequences.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

There's an important lesson to learn today, Gemini, so don't shy away from the classroom. It's important to control your attitude now or it's likely to control you. It could be that your ego is a bit too inflated. You may end up turning people away if you aren't aware of how your actions affect them. Or it could be that you need to change your approach.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

Consider the romantic relationships in your life right now, Cancer. It's important to remember that regardless of how hot and steamy a partnership is at first, it's vitally important that there be something to replace that attraction once the initial romance wears off. Build your relationships from the ground up. Make sure that your romantic partner is also one of your very best friends.



Leo July 23 – August 22

Today is your day to become a hero, Leo. You don't have to be dressed in fancy tights and a cape to make an important difference in someone's life. Step up to the plate even if it isn't your turn at bat. True heroes are the ones who are able to do what needs to be done when necessary, regardless of the circumstances.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

There's a great deal of fun to be had today, Virgo. Money isn't always necessary to make this happen, however. In fact, money isn't a great way to keep score. Consider the sacrifices you make each time you strive to earn more cash. There's a dynamic feeling in the air today that's asking you to expand your mind in order to consider other ways to have fun.



Libra September 23 – October 23

Remember that the important thing isn't necessarily what you're doing but the people you're with, Libra. There's a great deal of passion in the air today that you can latch onto and put to good use. Have fun and remember to smile. You can make a great deal of progress toward your goals as long as you stay motivated. Connect with others and feel the strength of shared resources.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

You could learn a tough lesson today, Scorpio. More than likely, the harder the message hits you, the more important it was for you to hear. It's important that you accept failure gracefully. It could be that the one who kicks you when you're down will also be the one who helps you get up. There are strange twists to this day that you may not expect. Take things in stride.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

There's a great deal of fuel to keep your fire raging today, Sagittarius. Powerful situations are apt to come your way in which you're asked to take decisive action. Don't shy away from added responsibility. Your ego is very strong, which helps you take charge of any situation. Just make sure that you don't step on anyone's toes in the process.



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Can you find the hidden names? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

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M E S M T R O O P O S P A M I A U M U
R G L S B O E O O U O R V G E D D U F
M I T I F I P D O B L N H M R L D D R
A P R Y X E S M F I Y T S U V E L H E
G Y W O Y T Y C E L Y T H Z R I A V M
O K I E A E H B O M I T T R V F N J L
O R N N K D R E O O R N E E P R O J E
X O N C H O R U C A B T T L B A D Y R
Y P I A W D S U V A S Y G S N G V J M
N M E N H E A N N E T P D N T G V V L
N Z T E U X B F V N L D R O E O D J Y
U R H G H A B L F V E U V M T O V N O T
B C E D C W Y P T Y P R V V D B T E E
S L P J J S V O C R D E E Y O R E W E
G P O R T I G G E R B U W X O O A E W
U T O M A N D J E R R Y C T O P C A T
B T H E S I M P S O N S B K Z P I A R

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BAMBI,
BARNEY RUBBLE,
BETTY BOOP,
BUGS BUNNY,
CHARLIE BROWN,
DAFFY DUCK,
DONALD DUCK,
DUMBO,
EEYORE,
ELMER FUDD,
FELIX THE CAT,
FRED FLINTSTONE,
GARFIELD,
GOOFY,
MICKEY MOUSE,

MIGHTY MOUSE,
MR MAGOO,
PLUTO,
POPEYE,
PORKY PIG,
ROAD RUNNER,
SCOOBY-DOO,
SNOOPY,
SYLVESTER,
THE SIMPSONS,
TIGGER,
TOM AND JERRY,
TOP CAT,
TWEETY,
WINNIE THE POOH.

LOL
Laughing out Loud

NO THANKS

Guy: Can I buy you a drink?

Girl: Sorry, but alcohol is

bad for my legs.

Guy: Do they swell?

Girl: No. They spread.

USELESS FACTS

• Elephant trunks hold up to one and a half gallons of liquid.

• Tarantula spiders can live for over two years without eating.

• A gorilla will stick its tongue out when angry.

• The elephant is the only animal that has four knees.

• The black bulldog ant of Australia can kill a person.

BRAINTEASERS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's brainteasers

1. What kind of room has no windows or doors?

Answer: A mushroom

2. I have holes on the top and bottom. I have holes on my left and on my right. And I have holes in the middle, yet I still hold water. What am I?

Answer: A sponge

Today's brainteasers

1. I look at you, you look at me, I raise my right, you raise your left. What is this object?

2. Light as a feather, there is nothing in it; the strongest man can't hold it for much more than a minute.



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NEWS



MASSIVE MUSIC: TOP 5 SONGS OF THE MONTH

AKA's 'Fela in Versace' makes our top 5 song list, find out what else makes the list

Half way into 2018 and the South African music scene has never been so lit!

Massive music has had the pleasure of having some of your faves in studio this month, such as Zulu Mkhathini, Anatii, Nasty C and AKA. No surprises as June and July has seen the release of albums such as 'Strings and Bling',

'Touch my blood' and lots of top charting singles.

We rallied up our top 5 jams to look out for, and we're convinced the selection will result in some well-deserved accolades or blaze up the music charts.

AKA – FELA IN VERSACE FEAT KIDDOMINANT

The first live TV performance of #FelaInVersace trended as fans declared their approval throughout the Massive Music show. Taken from AKA's album 'Touch my blood', the afro pop beats, catchy phrases about drop top drives and big shots make it in an instant winner. We definitely can't wait to see the video, which is said to be dropping soon!



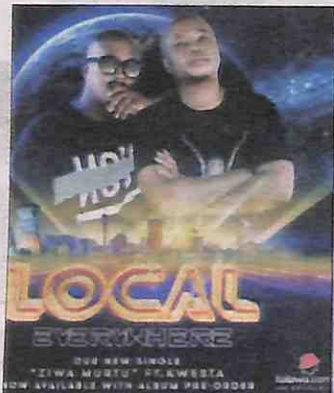
NASTY C & ASAP FERG – KING

Honestly, it was no surprise to find that the collaboration with ASAP Ferg would give us life. In this case, it was certainly better than the hype! The styles of both Nasty and ASAP shone through on the beats produced by South African producer Tweezy. The track takes a look at how a lot of 'young kings' are living fake lives.



VETKUK VS MAHOOTA FEATURING KWESTA – ZIWA MURTU

The duo have recently dropped 'Local Everywhere' album. Vetkuk and Mahoota could never disappoint with more than 15 years into the game. They chose the perfect counterpart, as Kwesta proves that everything he touches turns into a hit!



ANATII – THIXO ONOFETE

One can't help but respect the hitmaker and musician for the abstract direction he takes with his songs. Nobody can do original better than Anatii and an 'Thixo Onofete' is proof of that. The song talks about using God as a substitute for using muthi, the Electronic Bushman loves the power of prayer – in a none systematic approach. We stan!



CASPER AND KO – WAYA WAYA

This video alone gives us life, so be on the look-out for it if you haven't seen it. We are certain Casper gives us one of the best verses of his career, you can quote us on that! The musical chemistry between the two is easy to vibe & the kwaito elements are always a jump!



MA REEBS A THRILLER ON IDOLS

AS if she didn't already write herself into SA folklore with her hilarious comments and jovial personality, gospel singer Rebecca Malope had Idols SA viewers in stitches on Sunday night during her guest appearance.

Speaking to TshisaLIVE previously about her time on Idols, Rebecca said she wanted to be everyone's favourite auntie and judge.

"I know what it is like being on a talent search competition. You think that others are better than you and the judges are going to shout at you. You end up worrying so

much about everything that you don't sing properly. I want to be that kind judge that encourages people to be comfortable and be themselves.

When you are yourself, you show your real talent. That is why I want to make a difference."

Well, Ma Ribs was killing the game and soon had fans of the show rolling with laughter with her expressions. She even tried to convince Randall to give a contestant a yes vote, leading to calls for her to be named honorary leadership of Idols.

SERIE A BACK

MULTIChoice is the home of the world's top leagues in the 2018/19 football season, starting this August on DStv, with SuperSport.

MultiChoice is gearing up to deliver some of the most action-packed football from the best players in the world, when the new, and already momentous season, kicks off in just over a month.

Football fans will be able to follow Ronaldo and all 380 games of Serie A on DStv, with SuperSport. Available only on DStv, the SuperSport channels are the only place to watch comprehensive coverage of the most loved football leagues with hundreds of games from the Premier League, La Liga,

Serie A, UEFA Champions League and this seasons debut of the UEFA Nations League.

Brand De Villiers CEO, MultiChoice Africa said of the upcoming season: "Building on the euphoria of the World Cup, we are excited to deliver world-class football to fans wherever they watch, whether on television or on digital platforms. This season we are delivering even more value to our DStv customers. With Cristiano Ronaldo announcing his transfer to Juventus we are thrilled to be adding Serie A along with the new UEFA Nations League to our already comprehensive football coverage."

OPW: DOES AGE REALLY MATTER?



LOVE is blind, especially to age difference, but can someone please tell that to the Twitter streets, who were feeling all kinds of ways because of Madimetja and Joyleen's dream wedding.

The couple featured on this week's episode of Our Perfect Wedding and shared how they caught each other's attention at a friend's graduation. Joyleen said malume Madimetja took her breath away while she was getting

ready to give a speech and before the pair knew it they were going out and planning a fancy weekend away.

The road to their engagement, during the weekend away, was like a whirlwind. Cava:

Graduation

Next day: He shows up at her work.

Three days later: They go on a date and ring shopping.

Following week: They go on a weekend away and malume proposes.

And while fans of the show were amused by the quick proposal, some were a little more concerned with the age gap between the two.



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INDEX

- 1. NOTICES**
 - General Notices
 - Legal Notices
 - Church Notices
 - Announcements
 - Change of Surname
 - Sales & Foreclosure
 - General Items
 - Auctions
- 2. BUSINESS SERVICES**
 - Special Services
 - Business Opportunities
 - Restaurant, Catering & Office Equipment
 - Garage sale
 - Other Business Items
 - Maintenance & Construction
 - Motoring and Transport
- 3. JOBS & VACANCIES**
- 4. MISCELLANEOUS**
 - Medical & Natural Healing
 - Tuition & Courses
- 5. HEALTH & BEAUTY**
- 6. PETS & PET ACCESSORIES**
 - Pets & Adoptions
 - Cats & Kittens
 - Dogs & Puppies
 - Birds & Poultry
 - Fish & Aquarium
 - Other Pet & Accessories
- 7. ELECTRONICS**
 - TV's, DVD Players, Decoders & Satellites
 - Household Appliances
 - Music Equipment, Amplifiers, Equalizers & Speakers
 - Mobile Devices, Smart Phones & Tablets
 - Computers, Laptops, Cameras & Optics
 - Games, Gaming Consoles & Software
- 8. HOUSEHOLD**
 - Domestic Clothing
 - Baby and Kids
 - Furniture
 - Hobbies, Model Toys, Handcraft
 - Wanted
- 9. BUILDING, GARDENING & DIY**
 - Woodworking
 - Machinery & Tools
 - Plumbing & Electrical
 - Other Building & DIY
 - Plants, Trees & Flowers
 - Garden Furniture & Appliances
 - Other Gardening
- 10. TRAINING EQUIPMENT & SPARES**
 - Car Spares or Parts
 - Bike Spares
 - Truck, Bus and Trailer Spares
 - Stripping for Spares
 - Farming Equipment & Machinery
 - Livestock
 - Other Farming
- 11. LEISURE, SPORT & EVENTS**
 - Fitness
 - Tennis & squash
 - Watersport
 - Karate, Boxing & Judo
 - Angling & Cycling
 - Other Sport
 - Caravans, Campers and Trailers
 - Leisure, Community and Events
 - Music and Instruments
 - Camping and Outdoor
- 12. PROPERTY**
 - Residential
 - Commercial
 - Farms and Vacant Plots
 - Holiday & Accommodation
 - Apartments / Flats / Houses to Rent
- 13. VEHICLES**
 - Cars
 - Bikes
 - Classics and Custom Builds
 - Trucks
 - Buses Farming
 - Trailers
 - Aircraft
- 14. DEATH NOTICES**

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Any person objecting to the account may lodge his or her objection in writing with the executor and with the Master of the High Court at any time before expiry of the said period.

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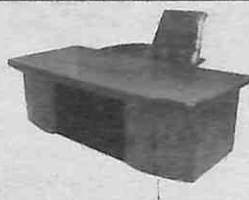
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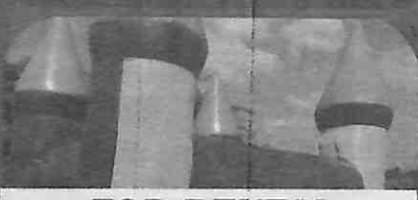
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Observer

NEYMAR BLAMES 'BRATTISH' BEHAVIOUR ON HIS INNER CHILD

RIO DE JANEIRO - Neymar has tackled critics who derided his play-acting at the World Cup, admitting he "overreacts" and blaming his "brat" like behaviour on his inner child.

The Brazilian superstar was widely lambasted in Russia for his theatrical reactions to challenges which often left the world's most expensive footballer wincing and rolling on the ground.

"Boot studs on the shins, kick in the spine, stomp on the foot, you may think I overreact, and sometimes I do, but for real? I suffer on the pitch, but you have no idea what I go through outside of it," he said in comments on a television commercial for a razor blade.

The Paris Saint-Germain forward, speaking in Portuguese with English subtitles, continued "You may all think I've fallen too much, but the reality is I did not fall, I crumbled."

"And that hurts more than anyone stepping on your post on ankle," he added, alluding to the surgery on the injury he suffered back in February.

"When I act like a brat, it isn't because I'm a spoiled child, but because I still haven't learned to deal with my frustrations."

"There's still a boy inside of me, sometimes it dazzles the world. Other times



CRITICISED: Brazil's Marcelo gestures over his injured teammate Neymar, who was fouled by Colombia's Camilo Zuniga (not pictured) during their 2014 World Cup quarter-finals.

it pisses everyone off.

"And my fight is to keep this boy alive, but inside of me, not inside the field."

He adds: "You can keep throwing rocks at me, or you can throw your rocks away and help me get up. Because when I do get up the whole of Brazil gets up with me."

This is not the first time Neymar has addressed his taxing World Cup.

On his return from Russia he took a tongue in cheek swipe at his detractors with an online video teaching children how to dive.

And last week, in an interview with AFP, Neymar disclosed he "didn't want to see a ball, or to see any more football played" after Brazil's premature exit.

AFP

LeBron claims it's a dream come true to join LA Lakers

LOS ANGELES - NBA superstar LeBron James says it is a 'dream come true' to have made the historic move to the Los Angeles Lakers.

The 33-year-old this summer left the Cleveland Cavaliers for the second time in his career, before moving to Hollywood on a four-year, \$154million (£117m) deal.

Now in a revealing short interview posted on Instagram, James has opened up on his money-spinning move — and what it will mean to pull on the famous gold jersey.

"Making the move to Los Angeles, this is kind of like a dream come true for me," he told *Interrupted*.

"Growing up, I was a (Dallas) Cowboys fan, I was a (Chicago) Bulls fan, I was a (New York) Yankees fan."

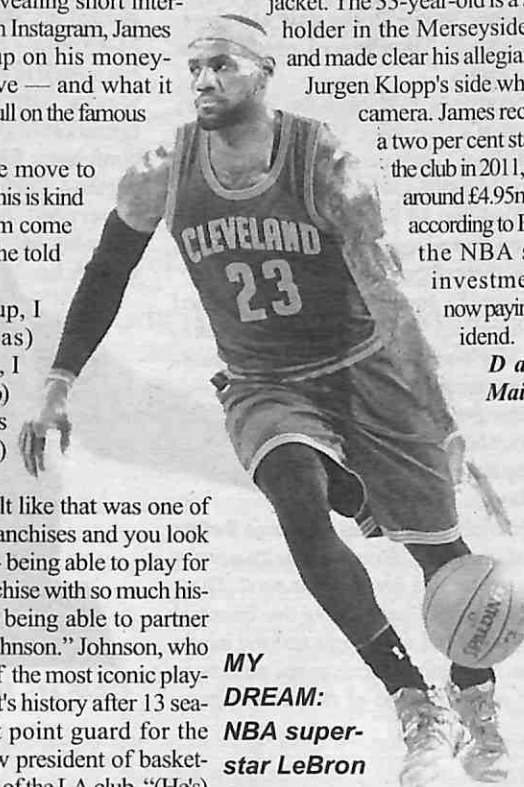
"I always felt like that was one of the historic franchises and you look at the Lakers — being able to play for a historic franchise with so much history and now being able to partner with Magic Johnson." Johnson, who became one of the most iconic players in the sport's history after 13 seasons spent at point guard for the Lakers, is now president of basketball operations of the LA club. "(He's)

someone I looked up to when I was younger — I wanted to make no-look passes like Magic, get on the break and be showtime like Magic. For it to all come to fruition at this point, I think timing is everything."

Jones, one of the highest-paid athletes in all of sport, made the comments while wearing a vintage Liverpool jacket. The 33-year-old is a stakeholder in the Merseyside club and made clear his allegiance to Jurgen Klopp's side while on camera. James received

a two per cent stake in the club in 2011, worth around £4.95m. But, according to ESPN, the NBA star's investment is now paying dividend.

Daily Mail



MY DREAM: NBA superstar LeBron James.

Deontay Wilder 'would love to fight Tyson Fury

LONDON - Deontay Wilder would 'love' to fight Tyson Fury and is ready to make a deal whenever the self-styled Gypsy King is ready, his trainer Jay Deas has claimed.

Fury returned from a two-a-half-year hiatus in June, when he beat Sefer Seferi on the first leg of his journey back to the top of the heavy-weight division.

The former unified world champion faces Francesco Pianeta in Belfast next month but his promoter Frank Warren claims they are already working on a deal for the 29-year-old to take on Wilder in 'November or December'.

Wilder, the unbeaten WBC champion, has been tipped to face compatriot Dominic Breazeale this autumn. But the Alabama banger's trainer said his charge would always welcome the chance to meet Fury.

"Fury is good for boxing and we would love to have that fight and I think it's a huge fight, he told Sportsmail last month.

"But it really depends on what Fury's plan is and when he thinks he's ready — we're always ready, Deontay is ready to fight anyone in the world."

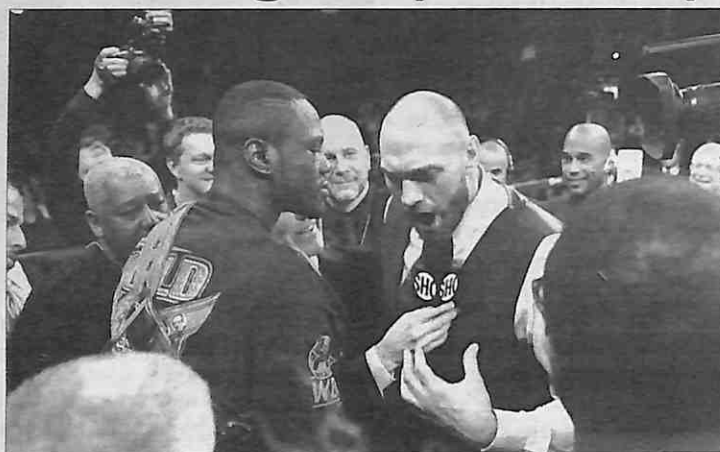
Wilder's team have been locked in talks with Anthony Joshua's representatives for several months over a proposed fight for the undisputed title.

But after the two camps failed to reach an agreement, Joshua signed to face WBA mandatory challenger Alexander Povetkin at Wembley in September.

A meeting between the two current champions remains a possibility for the new year and Wilder's coach would relish the chance to face either Joshua or Fury.

"I like both fights."

They're totally different fighters. Joshua is probably the more technically correct, he is probably the bigger puncher. Fury is a bit of an X-Factor, mentally and physically," Deas claimed.



READY: Wilder (with a belt) vs Fury (on mic) is another fight boxing fans would love to see.

"He can go lefty, he can go righty, he can move, he can stalk, he has long arms, he's very, very tricky in there. So you're looking at apples and oranges, two very different styles so either way is fine with me."

Eddie Hearn, meanwhile, is hoping to lure Wilder into a fight with his heavyweight contender, Dillian

Whyte, after the Brixton brawler came through against Joseph Parker on Saturday night.

Hearn is willing to offer the American £6million to make the fight. But his rival Warren hopes to secure a lucrative showdown with Wilder for his own charge.

Daily Mail

McEvoy finally wins European Tour title

HAMBURG - English veteran Richard McEvoy held his nerve to birdie the last hole and win the European Open on Sunday, his first career triumph in his 285th tour event.

The 39-year-old finished on 11 under par for a one-shot victory over Sweden's Christofer Blomstrand, Renato Paratore of Italy, and German amateur Allen John.

John, who is profoundly deaf, carded a five under par final round of 67, the best of the day.

"It's incredible," McEvoy told european-tour.com of his long-awaited victory.

"I've waited a long time, 17 years as a pro on and off the Tour. I'm absolutely over the moon."

In a tense finish, Blomstrand and Paratore both birdied the last for rounds of 68 and 70 respectively to join John on 278 for the championship and when McEvoy bogeyed the 17th, there was a four-way tie for the lead.

But McEvoy held his nerve, sinking a tricky putt for victory. "I fought hard, I believed. I've tried to enjoy my golf as much as possible," he said. *AFP*

French SWC glory costs China firm \$9m

SHANGHAI - A Chinese kitchen appliance maker said yesterday it has so far made refunds worth \$9 million (R119 million), fulfilling a costly pledge to reimburse customers if France won the Soccer World Cup.

Vatti, one of the French team's sponsors, is coughing up after Didier Deschamps' side beat Croatia 4-2 in the final in Moscow a fortnight ago.

According to Vatti's latest figures, the Chinese firm has made refunds — either in cash or gift cards — of more than 62 million yuan. *AFP*

Thomas Lemar joins Atletico Madrid from Monaco

PARIS - French World Cup star Thomas Lemar has joined Atletico Madrid from French side Monaco on a five-year deal for a reported €70 million, the two clubs revealed.

The Spanish giants unveiled Lemar at the Wanda Metropolitano on Monday after the Frenchman arrived in Madrid on July 27 to complete medical tests before taking part in first-team training.

"I'm very happy to be in Madrid

and I want this [chapter] to start in the best possible manner. I can't wait to start," Lemar said. Antoine Griezmann and Lucas Hernandez' words helped him make his decision.

"Atleti have been interested in me for quite some time and after what Antoine and Lucas told me, I really wanted to come."

"I chose Atleti because I like the club and I've been following the team for a while," he continued. "Once the

opportunity arose, it didn't take long for me to make my decision"

The 22-year old shared his excitement at his official unveiling on joining the Spanish giants who will be aiming to make a title push in La Liga this season. "I'm very happy to be here. I really want to meet all my new team-mates and the fans at the Wanda," He said. "I'm going to give it my all for the team. I know what Atletico demands." The slightly built Lemar

looked set to join Arsenal a year ago but Monaco pulled out of the potential £92-million deal after selling a string of other stars. He joined Monaco from French top flight club Caen for €4 million in 2015. "In the last season, Lemar has continued to show his quality," Atletico said on their website. In fact he played 35 games for Monaco, showing his best form at the latter end of the season.

Sport24



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



MAN U'S TRANSFER INACTIVITY THE SOURCE OF MOURINHO'S MISERY

LONDON - Jose Mourinho's relationship with Ed Woodward is at an all-time low with the pair at loggerheads over Manchester United's transfer policy.

Sportsmail understands that Woodward, United's Executive Vice-Chairman, is reluctant to release more funds to manager Mourinho, who has spent more than £70million so far on Brazil midfielder Fred, Portuguese right back Diogo Dalot and reserve goalkeeper Lee Grant.

United's squad will be strengthened when Paul Pogba, Romelu Lukaku, Ashley Young and Jesse Lingard, among others, return from their post-World Cup holidays but

Mourinho is anxious to recruit further and presented Woodward with a list of five names "a few months ago". There is no doubt United have the financial power to bid for targets and the inertia that Mourinho perceives has nothing to do with any kind of cash-flow issues.

Woodward, though, has taken a stand not to release more money and that has started his Manager.

Mourinho's mood has soured in recent weeks and his remarkable press conference following the 4-1 defeat by Liverpool on Saturday, in which he

attacked anything and everything, shone a light on his feelings.

He used the platform as an opportunity to apply pressure to Woodward. Asked about some of the names with whom United have been linked - including Leicester's England star Harry Maguire and Barcelona defender Yerry Mina - Mourinho replied: "I would like to have two more players.

I think I am not going to get two. I think that it's possible I will have one. "And that one, I gave a list to my club of five names a few months ago. And I wait to see if it's possible to have one of these players. If it's possible, it's possible. If it's not,

it's not. If it's possible, it's good. If not then we keep fighting and working and believing in the players we have." *Daily Mail*

GIVE ME MORE: Jose Mourinho.



Mourinho wants World Cup players to consider curtailing holidays

LOS ANGELES - Manchester United's World Cup participants should consider cutting their holidays short to help the depleted team in the opening stages of the upcoming Premier League season, manager Jose Mourinho said.

Several players from United's first-choice starting line-up, including Paul Pogba, Romelu Lukaku and Jesse Lingard, are resting after the World Cup and could miss the opening league fixture against Leicester City in less than two weeks' time.

England defender Phil Jones and forward Marcus Rashford are expected to shorten their vacations to help a struggling United squad prepare for the start of the season. Mourinho has suggested that others should do the same.

"I hope that the boys on deserved holidays take care of themselves a bit and that somebody wants to do what Rashford and Phil Jones

decided to do, which is to be back a bit earlier to try to help the team because for the beginning of the season we are going to be in trouble," Mourinho told reporters on Sunday.

Injury

To add to United's woes, midfielder Nemanja Matic is the most recent to pick up an injury in pre-season. Chris Smalling, Marcos Rojo and Antonio Valencia are also sidelined.

United slumped to a 4-1 defeat by league rivals Liverpool in the pre-season International Champions Cup on Sunday and will be looking to avoid another dismal result when they take on Champions League holders Real Madrid tomorrow. The Old Trafford outfit play German champions Bayern Munich in their final pre-season friendly on August 5 before hosting Leicester in the opening league match on August 10. *AFP*

Good news for City as Mahrez given injury all-clear

LONDON - Manchester City's record signing Riyad Mahrez could play in Sunday's Community Shield against Chelsea after a scan showed he had suffered no significant damage to his left ankle in a friendly with Bayern Munich.

The 27-year-old Algerian international forward - for whom City paid Leicester £60 million earlier this month - had to leave the pitch in Miami on Saturday after being fouled by Bayern's Chris Richards.

However, City said in a statement yesterday that a scan had showed nothing alarming.

"Riyad Mahrez has been given the all-clear to return to training later this week after picking up an ankle knock," read the statement.

"City's new signing was withdrawn from the action after being fouled by Bayern Munich's Chris Richards during the first half of Saturday's 3-2 win over Bayern Munich.

"Subsequent pictures emerged showing Mahrez wearing a protective boot on his left foot upon his return to Manchester.

"However, a scan yesterday had revealed no significant damage, and he could be available for selection for this weekend's Community Shield against Chelsea."

Mahrez's replacement Bernardo Silva went on to score a double as City beat the German champions 3-2. *AFP*

David Luiz thriving under Sarri

LONDON - Chelsea defender David Luiz says he is relishing the chance to work under Manager Maurizio Sarri and is enjoying the Italian's football philosophy.

The Brazil international struggled to break into Antonio Conte's Chelsea team last season and made only 10 Premier League appearances, but he appears to be thriving under Sarri and is eager to get back into the swing of things.

The former Paris Saint-Germain player left the French club in August 2016 to return to Chelsea and won the league title with the Blues in his first season back at the club.

"I came back to Chelsea to stay here," David Luiz told the media.

"When I took my decision to come back here from Paris it was to win the Premier League and to do something again with Chelsea, so I am very happy here."

On Sarri, he added: "I love this philosophy. We play high, with a lot of possession of the ball, in a technical way.



THRIVING: Chelsea defender David Luiz.

He's trying to help us every single day to learn quickly his philosophy, to do our best for Chelsea.

"You guys know me - I like to be happy, to enjoy my life. We have the best job in the world. [Sarri] came with this idea as a human being, so I think if you're not happy to do your job it doesn't matter if you're a footballer or not. We have to be happy to do our best." *Sport24*

Sturridge doesn't regret West Brom spell

LONDON - Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge insists he gained valuable experience from his loan spell at West Brom despite their relegation from the Premier League.

The 28-year-old joined the Baggies on loan in January this year but only made six Premier League appearances and failed to find the back of the net in those games.

A hamstring injury was largely to blame for his shortage of minutes on the pitch, but Sturridge believes the time he spent at the Hawthorns helped him grow as a footballer and a person.

"It was good. I don't regret anything,"

Sturridge told reporters.

"The experience made me grow as a person. That is what it is all about - evolving as a man, evolving as a footballer.

Improve

"From the outside looking in, you can also improve. When you are on the inside looking out, you sometimes don't get to see what you have to do to get to the next level - how you need to change your game.

"When you are on the inside, you don't see it. When you are on the outside, you can assess things differently."

Sport24

Arsenal's French whizz compared to Vieira

LONDON - French whizz Matteo Guendouzi said he hopes he's embarking on a "big adventure" with Arsenal after a scintillating start which has drawn comparisons with the great Patrick Vieira.

The 19-year-old midfielder, instantly recognisable by his long hair, had fans salivating in friendlies against Atletico Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain in Singapore.

Guendouzi, a strong tackler with confident distribution, was a dynamo at the base of midfield, where against PSG he played alongside the similarly hirsute Mohamed Elneny.

Arsenal have long missed a midfielder of the stature of Vieira, a member of the "Invincibles" side, which went through the 2003/04 Premier League season unbeaten.

With only three appearances so far - also including this month's outing against Boreham Wood - it's early days for Guendouzi, an under-20 international signed from Lorient.

But he said there was a positive feeling at Arsenal as the London club opens a new era under Unai Emery, following Arsene Wenger's 22-year reign.

"I'm very happy about how the team

played," he told AFP, after Arsenal's 5-1 demolition of a youthful PSG side at the International Champions Cup in Singapore.

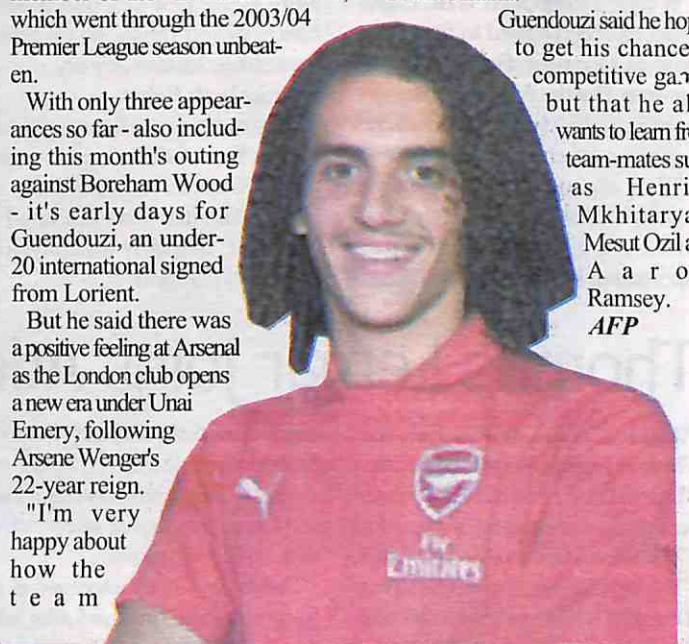
"It gives us confidence and it really made things easy for me. With such a good team and a good feeling around the team, I think we can really do some good things here."

Arsenal is traditionally one of England's biggest clubs but Guendouzi's arrival is well timed as Emery rebuilds a team which finished only sixth in the Premier League last season.

However, Emery has plenty of midfielders to choose from including Uruguay international Lucas Torreira, another new signing, and Switzerland's Granit Xhaka.

Guendouzi said he hopes to get his chance in competitive games

but that he also wants to learn from team-mates such as Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Mesut Ozil and Aaron Ramsey. *AFP*



COMPARED: French whizz Matteo Guendouzi.



Sundowns continue to chase signature of Mahlambi

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns are reportedly closer to landing the services of highly-rated Al Ahly striker Phakamani Mahlambi as they look to fill the void left by Percy Tau and Khama Billiat.

Mahlambi has struggled for playing time since moving to the Egyptian giants last year from Bidvest Wits, and now appears to be surplus to requirements in Cairo.

With Billiat having departed for fierce rivals Kaizer Chiefs and Tau making a switch to Brighton in the English Premier League, it seems the 20-year-old is the Brazilians primary target. According to reports in Egypt, the forward has not been registered for the 2018/19 campaign and the club of the Century already have their full quota of foreigners as well.

As such, the Bafana Bafana international appears set for a move to the Premiership champions with coach Pitso Mosimane making no secret of his desire to land the rising star. With that said, Al Ahly are said to want to loan the player whereas Downs are seeking a permanent transfer to Pretoria. *Sport24*

...Sundowns star on trial at top Swedish side Djurgardens

JOHANNESBURG - Mamelodi Sundowns striker Bonginkosi Ntuli is on trial at top Swedish side Djurgardens as he looks to seal a short-term loan move to Europe.

Ntuli has been deemed surplus to requirements by Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane and is hoping to secure a transfer away from the club in this window until the end of the Swedish season in November and, if all goes well, beyond that.

He has until the close of the Swedish transfer window on August 11 to win over Djurgardens coach Özcan Melkemichel as the club seeks to add to their forward stocks.

"We have a good relationship with Mamelodi Sundowns. 'Bongi' has properties that he can show almost immediately," Djurgardens Sporting Director Bosse Andersson told the club's website.

"Sundowns contacted me [about Ntuli] and we have had some success stories with them [South African players] before.

"There was interest from other clubs but I spoke with Pitso and the club management and we agreed that we would be able to borrow Bongi on favourable terms.

"He's fast, likes to be in the box and works hard to get better.

"It is clear that he sees this as a kick to have this opportunity and we have time left before the transfer window closes.

"We'll see if this might be an option for the short term in the fall, but there is an opportunity to discuss the future too."

Djurgardens are no strangers to South African talent having had the likes of Lance Davids, Mark and Mhlali Mayambela, and Siyabonga Nomvethe on their books previously.

Just this month the club sold Mhlali Mayambela to Portuguese league side Faranse. *Times Live*

PIRATES STRIKER SET FOR TRIAL WITH MONACO

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates striker Lyle Foster is set for a lengthy trial period with French Ligue 1 giants Monaco ahead of Les Monegasques' pre-season tour to China.

Foster reportedly jetted out of South Africa on Sunday evening to link up with the outfit for what will be a follow-up assessment.

The 17-year-old has already spent time with the team from the French Riviera after going on trial with their reserve side last November.

The player is said to have informed his Pirates team-mates of his move on Saturday which will involve a 10-week stay in the Principality.

FIFA regulations state that minors under the age of 18 are prohibited from being signed by professional clubs abroad, which means that the forward can only put pen to paper after September 3 when he turns that age.

As such, the Amajita starlet is expected to

return to SA to complete his matric exams in October, with a transfer set to go through in January on a permanent basis thereafter.

The Sea Robbers academy graduate managed one goal in nine league appearances in 2017/18.

In addition, Foster has been prolific for the U-20 national side where he hit four goals in five appearances during AFCON qualifying.

Sport24



ON TRIAL: Orlando Pirates striker Lyle Foster.

Chiefs unsure if Solinas will be on bench for Sundowns clash

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs remain unsure if they will have Italian coach Giovanni Solinas on the bench for Saturday's high-profile ABSA Premiership opener against Mamelodi Sundowns but maintain his absence from the dug-out has not been disruptive to their pre-season plans.

Solinas has yet to receive his permit that would allow him to officially start work as Chiefs coach, but the club are hopeful that he will get the required documentation by the weekend.

Outside of their Soweto Derby clashes with Orlando Pirates, the meeting against the defending league champions is the biggest of the season for Chiefs, but their inability to sew-up a new coach until weeks before the start of the new campaign has left them in an administrative pickle.

"It is not about being confident [of having Solinas on the bench], it is just a matter of allowing the process to take its course," a guarded Chiefs Corporate Communications Manager Vina Maphosa told TimesLIVE.

"We are optimistic of course, but we understand that we have to allow the process to unfold.

"That is all I can say."

Former coach Steve Komphela resigned in April, yet as Chiefs prepare for the start of the campaign, their long search for a new tactician means that three-and-a-half months later there is the potential they will not have their head coach on the bench for what is a crunch season opener that could set the tone for the campaign.

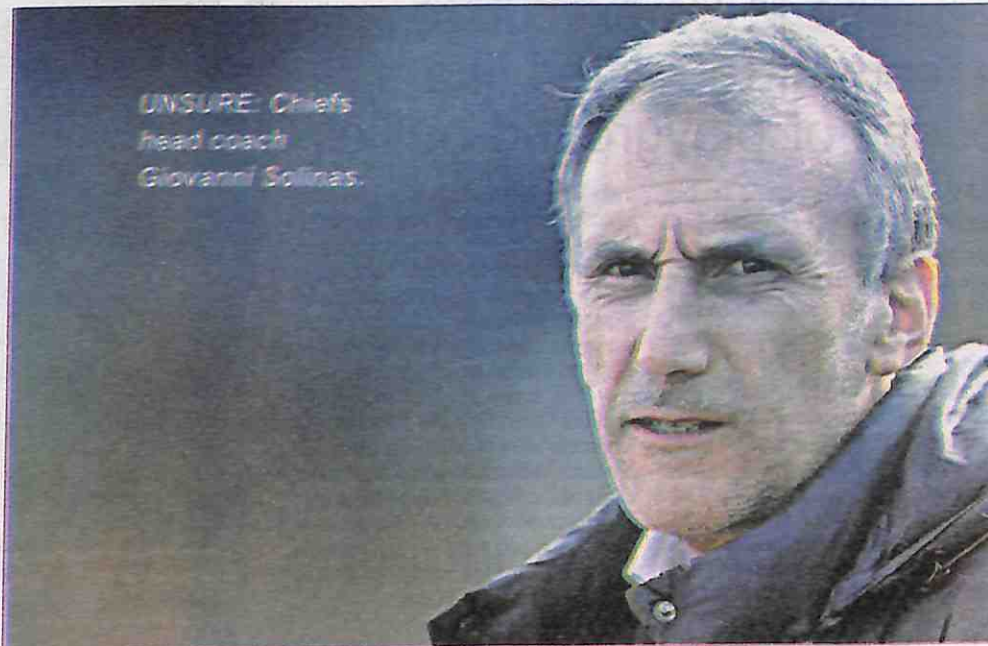
The club maintained they were seeking the right candidate, but were rebuffed a number of times before settling on former Free State Stars tactician Solinas.

Assistant coach Patrick Mabedi has been leading the team in pre-season with sideline input from Solinas in recent weeks.

But defeats to Sundowns and Cape Town City in the last week have left fans underwhelmed ahead of the new campaign.

Maphosa would not be drawn on whether this was a disruptive influence to their planning for the next campaign, except to say that they were satisfied with the work that had been put in.

"We don't reveal to the media how we prepare the team during the off-season, whether it was Mabedi or somebody else involved," Maphosa said. *Times Live*



UNSURE: Chiefs head coach Giovanni Solinas.

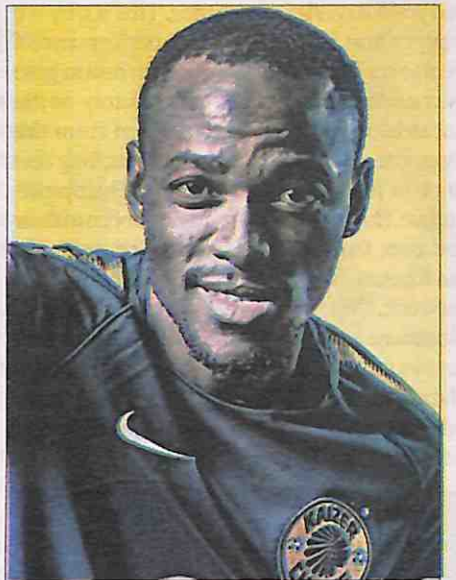
BRIEFS

Sundowns player arrested

PRETORIA - An unnamed Mamelodi Sundowns player was arrested on Sunday morning for driving well over the speed limit in Midrand, Gauteng. The 32-year-old was immediately taken into custody after being clocked doing 180km/h in a 120km/h zone, according to Gauteng's department of community safety spokesperson Ofentse Morwane. He has since been released on bail and is due to appear in the Midrand Magistrate Court on charges of reckless driving and exceeding the speed limit. "Among those arrested include a 32-year-old Mamelodi Sundowns soccer player on Sunday morning on the N1 in Midrand for travelling at an average speed of 180km/h in a 120km/h zone," Morwane was quoted as saying by TimesLive. *Sport24*

Chiefs haunted by their old failings

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs need to change their approach if they are to end their poor run which has lasted for three seasons, but judging by how their pre-season has gone, Amakhosi have plenty of work to do. Chiefs started their pre-season without a coach and lost their second match when they were beaten 1-0 by Cape Town City in the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience Cup at Mbombela Stadium on Saturday afternoon. City's winner was scored by Craig Martin in the 62nd minute. Chiefs were sluggish and defender Daniel Cardoso admitted they were too defensive which put them under pressure but he hopes new coach Giovanni Solinas will change their fortunes once he is allowed to take full charge of the dugout. Solinas again watched from the stands as he is still awaiting his work permit. *Citizen*



ABUSER: Chiefs Letlhogonolo Mirwa.

Defender accused of abusing girlfriend

JOHANNESBURG - The girlfriend of Letlhogonolo Mirwa has revealed that he was abused by the newly-signed Kaizer Chiefs defender. Mirwa's girlfriend, Tebogo Mokgodi exposed the abusive nature of the defender on social media. "I am tired now, I've got to speak out, Letlhogonolo Richard Mirwa is an abusive man, that man abused me and I'm not the only 1 (sic)," wrote Mokgodi on twitter. Mokgodi added that she lost a baby due to the abuse she endured at the hands of Mirwa. The 21-year-old says she has not opened a case because she fears for her life.

"He's threatened to kill me. I am not answering your calls anymore," Mokgodi told SundaySun. Letlhogonolo allegedly refused to comment, saying: "I don't want to talk about her or the allegations." *Citizen*

Free agent Manyama set to decide future

CAPE TOWN - Lebogang Manyama's agent has revealed that the Absa Premiership target is free to find a new club after receiving his clearance at Konyaspor earlier this week.

The 27-year-old midfielder earned a move to Turkey in 2017 on the back of an outstanding campaign with Cape Town City, which saw him scoop numerous accolades, including Absa Premiership Footballer of the Season.

However, Manyama failed to establish himself at the Konya Buyuksehir Stadium and was expected to leave the Turkish Super Lig outfit after making just 10 first-team appearances.

Maimane Phiri has now confirmed that his client was since released by the Anatolian Eagle, and a decision will soon be made regarding the Bafana Bafana international's next move. SuperSport United had already expressed an interest in Manyama, but the club's CEO, Stanley Matthews, conceded they cannot afford his wages. Mamelodi Sundowns have also been linked with his signature. **SPORT24**

Sirino must carry the team now - Pitso

JOHANNESBURG - Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane said striker Gaston Sirino stole the show as his team beat Togolose champions AS Togo-Port over the weekend to move closer to a quarterfinal spot in the Caf Champions League.

The Uruguayan had a hand in both goals, scoring the first and creating the second that was finished by Sibusiso Vilakazi.

"He must carry the team now," Mosimane said yesterday. "It's his chance. That's why we brought him here. This is the performance I went to see in Bolivia. It's good for him to give us confidence and hope." The victory at the Lucas Moripe Stadium took them from the basement of Group C and within touching distance of the quarterfinals of the Champions League. But the Brazilians haven't been at their best even though they beat the Togolese side and Kaizer Chiefs in the Shell Helix Ultra Cup last week. "We have the personnel to compete," Mosimane said. "We just have to fit in a few guys in the way we play. We have to fit in Ali Meza and Toni Silva. Lyle Lakay came and fitted in nicely."

African News Agency



GREAT: Mamelodi Sundowns striker Gaston Sirino.

ZLATAN SCORES FIRST MLS HAT-TRICK FOR LA GALAXY

LOS ANGELES - Zlatan Ibrahimovic struck his first Major League Soccer (MLS) hat-trick to lead the LA Galaxy to a thrilling 4-3 win over Orlando City on Sunday at the StubHub Centre.

Ibrahimovic scored all three of his goals after half-time as the Galaxy erased a 2-1 half-time deficit.

The former Manchester United forward levelled the scores at 2-2 three minutes into the second half rising up to meet a chipped cross by Giovanni dos Santos heading in his 13th goal of the season.

Dom Dwyer gave Orlando the lead once more seven minutes later with a headed goal of his own after an inch-perfect cross by Mohamed El-Munir.

Ibrahimovic scored his brace in the 67th minute with a diving header to level the match for the third time at 3-3 then scored a dramatic winner four minutes later before ripping off his jersey to celebrate his first MLS hat-trick.

The Swede who was named as



the Man of the Match has now scored 15 goals in 17 appearances.

After the final whistle Ibrahimovic announced he is set to miss the MLS All-Star game against Juventus to

rest as he had played three games in the space of nine days.

"I am disappointed to miss the 2018 All-Star game against Juventus, one of my former clubs," said



Ibrahimovic. "I want to thank the fans for voting me to the team. My main focus is to score goals and help the LA Galaxy into the play-offs", he added **AFP**

Ajax Amsterdam could cut ties with Ajax Cape Town after their relegation

CAPE TOWN - Ajax Cape Town Chief Executive Officer Ari Efstathiou admitted there was a possibility that Dutch club Ajax Amsterdam could pull out of the partnership.

Last week, after a protracted fight, involving arbitration hearings and numerous court cases, Ajax had no room left to manoeuvre and were forced to accept their fate and play football in the NFD. The Cape club were relegated after arbitrator William Mokhari docked points for fielding Zimbabwean striker Tendai Ndoro, who he deemed ineligible.

The bizarre nature of the case, though, is that, as it stands, according to the ruling of Judge Denise

Fischer, Ajax are still in 15th position on the PSL standings. What complicates the issue, and the reason for Ajax's NFD decision, is that Fischer last Thursday granted the PSL leave to appeal. The process will take time - and the new season kicks off this weekend. In the interim, what do Ajax do? As a football club, they can't be in limbo; they need to play. But where? As the 15th-placed team in the PSL, all they are entitled to is a spot in the playoffs - but that has already taken place (without them). So, in the words of Efstathiou, stymied by "time and legal procedure", Ajax had no choice but to accept their fate.

Cape Argus

The PSL's executive committee acted like a bunch of playground bullies

CAPE TOWN - Ajax Cape Town, hamstrung by time constraints and legal shenanigans, were forced to wave the white flag in their fight with the PSL with regards to the Tendai Ndoro eligibility controversy.

While the 2018-19 PSL season will kick off as scheduled this weekend, there is no doubt the image of football in South Africa has been severely harmed by the case. It's not so much who was right or who was wrong, or whether Ndoro was eligible or not, the main issue to take from what has transpired over the last six

months is that nobody was prepared to accept responsibility for the mess. And the PSL, the organisation that administers professional football in SA, was prepared to go to great lengths to protect its blatant conflict of interest in the case. For us, Joe Public, who just want to watch football, what are we to make of all of this? Let's unpack: the Dispute Resolution Chamber said Ndoro can play; the arbitrator William Mokhari said Ndoro can't play; and the High Court said Mokhari was wrong, he does not have jurisdiction over the case, and it should be heard by Fifa's Player Status Committee. *Cape Times*

He is clearly finding a way out

BARCELONA - Barcelona's Ousmane Dembele has fierce competition for his place in the starting XI following the arrival of Malcom from Bordeaux.

Dembele, who is the club's second all-time most expensive acquisition, is unhappy that his place is under threat, according to Sport.

The 21-year-old endured a very difficult first season with injury and a lack of form inhibiting his debut campaign. And now fans have noticed that he has been



UNHAPPY: Barcelona's Ousmane Dembele.

liking tweets which condemn him in some unusual social media activity.

He liked a tweet which called him a 'flop' while he also liked ones which told him to go back to training. Dembele has not returned to pre-season training as he is still on his break following France's World Cup victory on July 15. The Frenchman also liked a tweet which said he did not have a 'good attitude'. One Twitter user wrote: "Dembele, liking hatred tweets of barca fans against him... he is clearly finding a way out!"

Another said: "Ousmane

Dembele is liking tweets of people criticising his choice to take a vacation instead of going to the pre season.

There are also tweets comparing his attitude to Neymar and saying that Malcom will take his place."

Barcelona paid €70million for Dembele last summer in the first instalment of his potentially eye-watering €145m final fee. They then paid a further €35m at the start of July.

The remaining €40m is payable in instalments and according to the games the French winger plays. *Daily Mail*

JUVE WILLING TO SELL FOUR STARS TO FUND POGBA MOVE

TURIN - Italian giants Juventus are reportedly prepared to sell four first team stars to fund a move for Manchester United superstar Paul Pogba, whose relationship with Jose Mourinho remains uncertain.

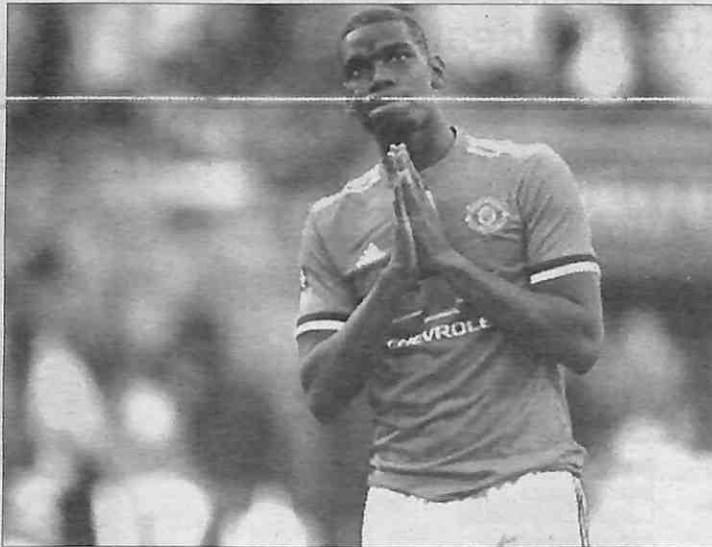
The Frenchman endured a difficult 2017/18 campaign under Manager Mourinho in England, and is believed to be open to a move away from the Red Devils in this transfer window.

Pogba enjoyed a terrific 2018 FIFA World Cup with France in Russia, where he played with great maturity alongside N'Golo Kante in midfield.

Since his performances on the world's biggest stage, the 25-year-

old has been linked with a return to Juventus, the club he played for between 2012 and 2016.

The Serie A champions have reportedly contacted his agent, Mino Raiola, ahead of the new campaign, and have informed the super-agent they are willing to go after the Frenchman again. According to the Daily Mirror, the Italian giants are prepared to cash in on Miralem Pjanic, Gonzalo Higuain, Daniele Rugani and Mattia Caldara in order to make funds available for their pursuit of Pogba. Bianconeri Manager Massimiliano Allegri recently had words of praise for the player following his displays for his country in Russia, adding fuel to the speculation. *Soccer Laduma*



WANTED: Manchester United superstar Paul Pogba.

Ronaldo, Messi preference statement clarified

MADRID - Atletico Madrid Manager Diego Simeone has clarified his statement claiming he'd choose Cristiano Ronaldo over compatriot Lionel Messi as the Portugal captain would be able to thrive in an average team.

During the 2018 FIFA World Cup after Argentina suffered an embarrassing 3-0 defeat to Croatia a voice-note went viral via social media platform WhatsApp, with Simeone making a rather remarkable statement.

"Messi is very good, but he's very good because he's accompanied by fantastic players [at Barça]," he told assistant coach German Burgos.

"If you had to choose between Messi and Ronaldo for an average team, who would you go for?"

However, speaking ahead of Atlético's ICC pre-season clash against Paris Saint-Germain yesterday, he sought to explain his remark.

"I'd always choose Messi [over Ronaldo], without a doubt," he said.

AFP

Rummenigge revives call for Bundesliga to scrap ownership rule

BERLIN - Bayern Munich Chief Executive, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, has reiterated his call for the Bundesliga to scrap the so-called 50 plus one rule which effectively bars big investors from taking over clubs.

The rule bars commercial investors from having more than a 49 per cent stake in a club, stopping them from taking over clubs and forcing changes against the wishes of supporters. Speaking at a news conference in Miami after the Bundesliga champions finished a pre-season tour, Rummenigge said that Germany was not a "desert island" and the rule was preventing Bundesliga clubs from competing in Europe.

"Our behaviour in this matter is the cause of condescending smiles here in the United States," he said. "Everyone is worried and fearful that we will lose competitiveness if we open up the market. The opposite is true, Germany would benefit from it. Either we go down this path as well or we will wind up paying a price for not doing so."

Rummenigge added: "We have to stop promoting populism in this republic, which we are pushing to an absurd level in almost all Bundesliga clubs but especially in associations. Germany is not a desert island."

The most recent attempt to overturn



NEW STRENGTH: Bayern Munich Chief Executive, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

the rule failed in March when a majority of the 36 first and second division clubs voted in favour of a motion from FC St Pauli to retain it. The rule is credited with keeping ticket prices down and stadiums full, giving Germany one of the healthiest fan cultures in European football.

Investors who have held an interest in a club for at least 20 years can, however, ask for an exemption as were granted in the cases of Bayer Leverkusen and VfL Wolfsburg. Another exception is Hoffenheim, where software billionaire Dietmar Hopp was allowed to

take majority control in 2014 after investing consistently over two decades.

However, German clubs have struggled in European competitions recently and no Bundesliga side has reached a European final since 2013. Germany's group stage exit at the World Cup in Russia has added to the sense that change may be needed.

Rummenigge said Bayern supported a suggestion from Eintracht Frankfurt that would allow each club to decide for itself whether it wants to continue to adhere to the rule.

Reuters

Mesut Ozil labelled a 'coward'

LONDON - Mesut Ozil has come under severe criticism once again for his retirement from Germany after the 2018 FIFA World Cup, in which he cited racism as the contributing factor.

Ozil received relentless backing around the football fraternity in what many claimed as a brave decision of retirement, after being questioned over his loyalty due to his Turkish heritage.

While the German FA [DFB] came out to admit to their errors of handling the criticism the 29-year-old received upon being pictured with the President of Turkey, Frankfurt Sporting Director Fredi Bobic has laid into the Gunners playmaker.

"I think that's a bit cowardly," Bobic told Bild am Sonntag. "Ozil's criticism of social media, especially in the direction of the German Football Association (DFB), is unbearable."

"This blanket charge of racism simply does not correspond to reality."

"He could have given an interview somewhere, live on TV. For us footballers, the rule is 'be a man and stand up.'"

"I would allow that to a player who is 18 or 19 years old, but a player who has been in the business for so long, 29 years old and world champion, needs to know what this looks like," Bobic added.

AFP



COWARD: Mesut Ozil.

Triesman calls on FIFA to reconsider England as 2022 World Cup hosts

LONDON - FIFA have been urged to reconsider England as potential 2022 World Cup hosts if Qatar are shown to have broken rules with a 'black-ops' campaign to sabotage their rivals.

Qatar's winning bid used former CIA agents and a PR agency to spread fake propaganda about their main rivals the US and Australia, according to documents leaked to The Sunday Times.

FIFA rules forbid bidding countries from 'making any statement' about the candidacy of other member associations.

But according to a whistleblower, Qatar was aware of a plot to



URGED: Former FA chief Lord Triesman.

spread 'poison' against its rivals and spent thousands trying to discredit their bids in their own countries ahead of FIFA's call to award them

the tournament in 2010.

Now Lord Triesman, former chairman of the Football Association, is calling on FIFA to step in.

"FIFA's obligation is to look at the evidence thoroughly and rapidly and have the courage to take what may be a difficult decision," said Triesman, who chaired England's original bid for the 2018 tournament.

"If Qatar is shown to have broken the FIFA rules, then they can't hold on to the World Cup."

"I think it would not be wrong for FIFA to reconsider England in those circumstances ... We have the capabilities."

Qatari football officials denied any wrongdoing on Sunday, stating that they had 'strictly adhered to all FIFA's rules and regulations'.

Last year, a FIFA report into allegations of corruption in the bidding process made no suggestion that Qatar should lose the right to stage the World Cup, despite detailing numerous attempts to influence voting officials.

MP Damian Collins, the chairman of Parliament's Digital, Culture, Media and Sport select committee, called for a new 'proper, independent investigation' into the latest allegations on Sunday. *Daily Mail*

Moya: Rafa's power can never be replicated

MADRID - Rafa Nadal's coach, Carlos Moya, believes the power and success of the 17-time Grand Slam winner can never be replicated but thinks Dominic Thiem is not too far off.

The 32-year-old Nadal competes harder than any other man on the ATP Tour thanks to his unique mental intensity and strength, which has seen him win a 79 career singles titles. Moya was full of praise for his charge, saying: the Spaniards playing style was 'unrepeatable' but thinks the 24-year-old Thiem of Austria is 'the best current crop' of player that has similar characteristics to Nadal, style and temperament wise. "I think he is unique," said Moya. "I didn't know players of the past and current generation who have his same characters. *Sport24*



TRANSFER ROUND UP

By Sibongiseni Zondi

...all the concluded transfer deals so far

SOCCER- Premier League clubs have been hard at work strengthening their squads ahead of the start of the 2018/19 season.

The transfer window opened on July 9 and will close on

September 21. Mbabane Swallows and rivals Mbabane Highlanders have led the way in bringing new players in but what have the other clubs done? For others, like Mbabane Citizens and Vovovo, almost

midway through the window, no deals have been concluded yet.

Below we bring you every concluded transfer in and out of each of the Premier League's 14 clubs.

Mbabane Swallows

In:
Siboniso Ndzabandzaba (Tambuti)
Sakhile Shongwe (Ubombo Flyers)
Amougou Jean Claude
Sallieu Tarawallie
Kola Aladeon

Out:
Felix Badenhorst (Mbombela United)
Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza (Mbombela United)
Siphamandla Mathenjwa
Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze (Polokwane City)

Young Buffaloes

No concluded deal yet

Green Mamba

In:
Sidumo Vilakati (Mbabane Highlanders)
Linda Nkambule (Manzini Sundowns)

Out:
Mcebo Mdluli
Mthobisi Mdluli
Shaka Nkwanyana
Thembinkosi
'Mbhedze' Dlamini
Phumlani Ngwenya
Xolani Mngometulu
Mpendulo Dlamini.

Matsapha United

Out:
Vusumuzi Zungu (Mbabane Highlanders)
Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze (Mbabane Highlanders)
Khanyakwezwe Shabalala (Mbabane Highlanders)
Jimoh Moses (Mbabane Highlanders)
Sibonelo Dlamini (Mbabane Highlanders)
Menzi Mamba (Mbabane Highlanders)
Mxolisi Dlamini (Mbabane Highlanders)

Manzini Wanderers

Out:
Isaac Mwanza
Lungelo Mngometulu
Ayanda Kunene

Mbabane Highlanders

In:
Vusumuzi Zungu (Matsapha United)
Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze (Matsapha United)
Khanyakwezwe Shabalala (Matsapha United)
Jimoh Moses (Matsapha United)
Sibonelo Dlamini (Matsapha United)
Menzi Mamba (Matsapha United)
Mxolisi Dlamini (Matsapha United)

Out:
Sidumo Vilakati (Green Mamba)
Thami Zulu
Sibusiso Mkhonta
Gabriel Goshen
Bhekinkhosi Mlota



Moneni Pirates

No concluded deal yet

Tambuti

Out:
Siboniso Ndzabandzaba (Mbabane Swallows)

Vovovo

No concluded deal yet

Manzini Sea Birds

No concluded deal yet

Mbabane Citizens

No concluded deal yet

Malanti Chiefs

Out:
Charles Molopo (Baroka FC)
Ntokozo Shabangu (Mbabane Swallows)

Royal Leopard

No concluded deal yet

Manzini Sundowns

Out:
Linda Nkambule (Green Mamba)



MANZINI REGIONAL BUILD-IT UNDER-13 TOURNAMENT



CHAMPIONS: Champions of the Manzini Regional Build-It Under-13 Tournament Amashibobo celebrate after being crowned. This was after the team Bad Boys 2 - 0 to claim the title during the tournament played on Saturday. (Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)



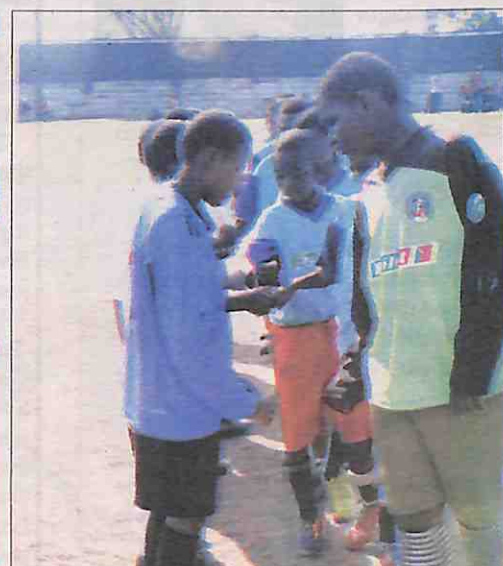
NEXT TIME: Runners-up of the tournament Bad Boys also got medals and trophies for their efforts.



CHAMP: Amashibobo academy captain receives their trophy.



THE YOUNG SHALL GROW: Bad Boys players receiving their gongs.



GOOD GAME: The players greeting each other before the match.



YOU ARE GOOD: Bad Boys coach leading his charges.



YES! One of the players celebrates after scoring a goal during the games.



CATCH: Moneni Pirates in action against Hot Beans.



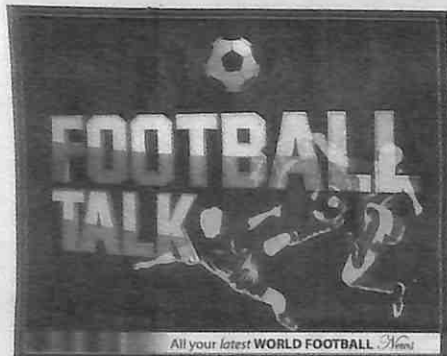
ALL YOURS: The title, trophies and medals on display during the games.



KAPPA: Manzini Sundowns Under-13 coach Zandile Bulunga issuing instructions to his charges. Bulunga's team was the only one that paraded a girl during the games.



FUTURE SITSEBE: Manzini Sundowns paraded a female player who was a marvel to watch on the day.



● England defender Harry Maguire, 25, is keen on a £65m move to Manchester United but will not force his departure and Leicester are reluctant to sell. (*Mirror*)

● Jordan Pickford is set to be offered a new contract at Everton as they look to secure the long-term future of the 24-year-old England goalkeeper, who has been linked with Chelsea. (*Times - subscription required*)

● Chelsea's Brazil defender David Luiz, 31, wants to stay at Stamford Bridge following the appointment of Maurizio Sarri as manager. (*Telegraph*)



● AC Milan are ready to offer former Chelsea boss Antonio Conte a £5.5m-a-year deal to take over from Gennaro Gattuso as manager. (*Express*)

● Bayern Munich boss Niko Kovac says 29-year-old Poland striker Robert Lewandowski, who has been linked with Manchester United and Real Madrid, is staying with the German club. (*Bild, via Express*)

● Napoli are interested in signing Manchester United's Italy defender Matteo Darmian, 28, on loan with the option to buy at the end of next season. (*Radio Kiss Kiss, via Manchester Evening News*)

● Real Madrid have made Chelsea an opening offer of £100m for Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, 26, and Brazil midfielder Willian, 29. (*Mail*)

● Chelsea could move for Juventus' Italian defender Mattia Caldara, 24, rather than their Argentina striker Gonzalo Higuain, 30, who has been linked with the Blues. (*Corriere della Sera - in Italian*)

● Chelsea are in talks with Borussia Dortmund over a possible move for 19-year-old America winger Christian Pulisic, who would be available for £65m. (*Mirror*)

● Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino has played down suggestions of Spurs re-signing Wales forward Gareth Bale, 29, from Real Madrid, but says he is aware of the importance of new arrivals. (*Sky Sports*)



● Chelsea's France striker Olivier Giroud, 30, plans to fight for his place at Stamford Bridge, despite holding talks with Marseille. (*Mail*)

● Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho wants players such as England forward Jesse Lingard, Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku and France midfielder Paul Pogba to cut short their holidays following the World Cup. (*Times - subscription required*)



THE SUCKER PUNCH ^{POW!}

...with Mphikeleli Msibi

[STRIKING, STRAIGHT AND STRENGTHENED]

CHARITY CUP D-DAY UPON US

FASTEN your seat belts, the Eswatini Telecom Charity Cup main day is just around the corner.

With the draw being conducted today, the stage is all but set for a tantalising tournament on Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Firstly, congratulations to Mbabane Swallows and Mbabane Highlanders juniors for reaching the final of the U-20 Charity Cup. The mini derby will be a fitting final for the U-20 Cup. For these young men, this is a golden chance to make history. Play well on Sunday and you might just get a contract with the senior side.

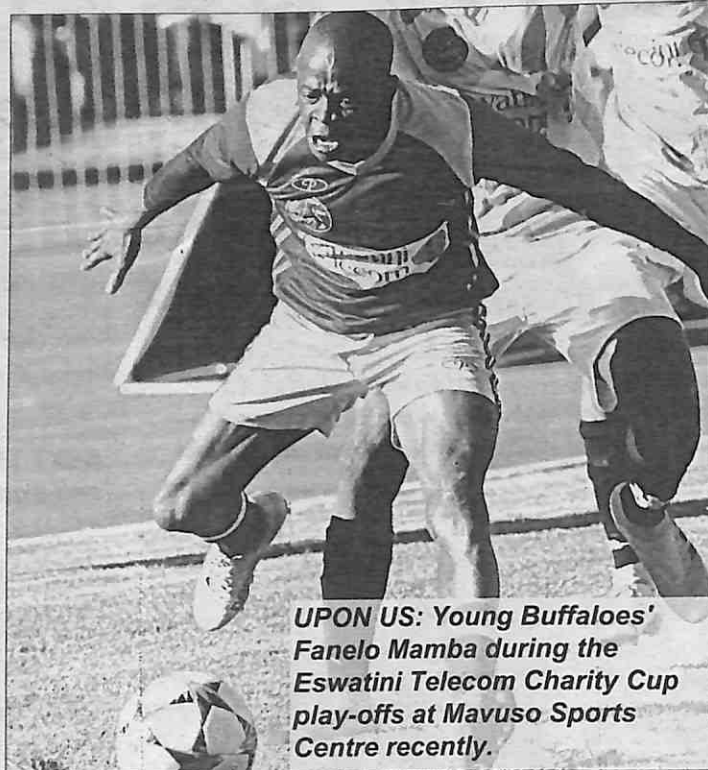
Favourites

Now moving on, whatever fixtures today's draw bring out, August 5 will be a day to remember.

This Charity Cup does feel like the most open one in recent history. Mbabane Swallows, the defending champions, looked odds on favourites to defend their crown just a few months ago.

But, after the departure of Benele 'Pupu' Sikhondze, Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza and Felix Badenhurst, Swallows are short of proper match winners. Moreover, two consecutive defeats to Tunisian giants Etoile Du Sahel in the CAF Champions League have ruffled the Birds' feathers.

That has opened the doors for



UPON US: Young Buffaloes' Fanelo Mamba during the Eswatini Telecom Charity Cup play-offs at Mavuso Sports Centre recently.

their rivals including Mbabane Highlanders to dare to dream.

Emerge

The 'Black Bull' have announced nine new signings from Matsapha United. Among them are marquee buys Vusumuzi Zungu, the mid-field powerhouse and Sihlangu goalkeeper Khanyakwezwe Shabalala. Highlanders will emerge as a new force on Sunday and based on their brilliant work in the trans-

fer window, they are strong favourites for the Charity Cup.

But, as often the case at Highlanders, behind the scenes issues are threatening to derail the team. It remains to be seen how the club's bosses resolve the 'cold war' between coach Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane and the club's Management Committee (MC) ahead of Sunday's Charity Cup. And then there is Young Buffaloes, Dominic Kunene's

almost unbeatable side. Buffaloes are as resilient as they can get.

They proved this in the Charity Cup playoffs when they didn't score a single goal in 180 minutes of regulation time but eventually emerged victorious. Whoever is drawn against Buffaloes in the first semifinal is sure to dread the encounter. Buffaloes ended last season well, with victory in the SwaziBank Cup. Don't bet against them winning the Charity Cup on Sunday.

Unstable

Completing the quartet is Manzini Wanderers. The Weslians, as it always seems, have had a very unstable off season characterised by management problems. They haven't announced a single signing yet but based on their performances last season, Wanderers cannot be counted out.

Under Nyangayezizwe 'Crooks' Hlophe, Wanderers can match any side. They did beat Highlanders in the SwaziBank Cup semis last season and convincingly too.

Who can bet against them doing the same against any of the three other sides on Sunday? Now we wait for the draw and after that we wait for Sunday, the big day. The Charity Cup can make or break a season and for these four, the hope will be to start on a good note. Only one will emerge as champions. Who will it be? Only time will tell.

It's all in Mbabane Swallows' hands

THEIR fate is in their hands, and right now Mbabane Swallows just need to focus on themselves and win the two remaining games.

With CAF Champions League group stage left with two games, the continent's most prestigious inter-club tournament is reaching its business end.

However, it's still all to play for in Group D, with Etoile Sahel, D'agosto, Mbabane Swallows and Zesco. Sahel are already through but the other three teams are all vying for a place in the knockout rounds. For Swallows in particular, the next game against Zesco is a lot more significant than they would have initially anticipated. After losing to Sahel last Friday, they now have to win the two remaining games against Zesco and the last against D'agosto. Swallows will hope to use their home advantage, knowing all too well that their hopes of progression is resting on a knife's edge.

Following one win, a draw and two defeats, Swallows' chances are beginning to dissipate. But I can tell you now that their hopes are not over just yet as their fate is in their hands. They just have to win the two games and they are through to the knockout stages.

Despite losing some of their star



players during the current transfer window, the 'Beautiful Birds' have been on a rebuilding process as they look to find a successor for Felix Badenhurst and Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze, who joined SA teams sides Mbombela United and Polokwane

City, respectively.

One change that could potentially be on the cards is the introduction of Kola Aladeon, who played his first game for Swallows against the Tunisian side last Friday.

The Nigerian player is yet to hit

the heights that he set for himself at Wanderers, but after breaking into the team last week, he will be confident.

While the clash is significant for Swallows, for Zesco, on the other hand, victory could put them in contention to advance to the next round, making it an intriguing affair.

Swallows have no other option but to win the remaining two games. As it is now, they are only at number three, having lost two games in a row against Sahel, who have already made it to the knockout stage. Any other result that is not a win won't do us any good for Swallows, hence they have to win the two games to progress to the knockout stages of the competition.

The boys must just work extra hard for the win in these games. I know they want it as much as the nation does. Here it's no longer about Swallows but the country's football. It is winning such games that put the country on the map.

I don't want to talk about the two recent matches where Swallows did not perform well. I hear they were better away in Tunisia but what we saw at Mavuso in the first game against Sahel was pathetic to say the least. Wishing the team goodluck will not help the situation, they just have to grind wins in the remaining games.

Their faith is in their hands.

EX-NEDBANK CUP STAR AT MALANTI CHIEFS

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – MALANTI Chiefs are working around the clock to secure the services of South African left back Kamogelo Mogotlane.

The 2017 Nedbank Cup Ke yona pick team captain and ex-Cape Town City development player is currently training with the Pigg's Peak based side.

Mogotlane is the second South Africa-born player to try his luck at the coach Manuel Moiane-led side after former Bidvest Wits player Asiove



Langwe, who is also training with the gold and black ensemble. The team's Public Relations Officer (PRO) Lungile Dube confirmed the player's presence in their camp when contacted yesterday.

"The player is currently training with the team. He arrived in the country last Thursday and joined the rest of the team in training. The technical bench is yet to make a decision over Mogotlane together with other new players in the team.

"We are working around the clock to assemble a strong and competitive side that will help the team compete effectively in all competitions this season," she said. Malanti Chiefs recently lost the services of their talisman and reigning MTN Premier League top goal scorer

LEFT BACK: South African Kamogelo Mogotlane.



Nedbank VB action resumes on Saturday

By Sibongiseni Zondi

VOLLEYBALL – THE Nedbank Volleyball League will resume this coming Saturday after breaking to give way to thenational nominations this past weekend.

The Swaziland National Volleyball Association (SNVA) called off all its scheduled games for the past weekend out of respect of the nominations which took place countrywide on Saturday and Sunday. The games will now resume on Saturday with Bob Ladies, the hosts, yet to confirm the venue.

In the men fixtures, leaders Correctional will face Customs in the last match while the first match will see the same Customs take on Mshinande. USDF will face RSP in an armed forces derby in the second match with Ludzeludze facing Mshinande in the third match.

There will be three fixtures in the women category. The hosts Bob Ladies will take on USDF in the opening match and also clash with Correctional in the closing encounter. The other match will feature Chilly Babes against USDF.

NEDBANK VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE FIXTURES

On Saturday (venue still to be confirmed)

Males:

Customs vs Mshinande 9.30am
USDF vs RSP 11.30am (postponed match)
Ludzeludze vs Mshinande 1.30 pm
Customs vs Correctional 3.30 pm

Ladies:

Bob ladies vs USDF 10am
Chilly Babes vs USDF 12 am
Correctional vs Bob Ladies 2pm

We want to revenge – Highlanders

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER – MBABANE Highlanders' Sekuphila 'Paito' Mavuso says his team will be all for revenge when they take on Mbabane Swallows in the Eswatini Telecom Charity Cup Under-20 final this weekend.

Highlanders lost 1 – 2 to Swallows in last year's edition. Mavuso was named Man of the Match after the team's win against Manzini Wanderers in the semi-finals. He received E700 for his achievement. Highlanders eventually won 5 – 4 on penalties after the match ended 1 – all in full time. Mavuso described the semi-final against Wanderers as 'tough' and thanked his teammates for their dedication in the match.

"To be honest, today's (Sunday) match was really tough. Wanderers came hard at us as they also wanted the match as much as we did.

I am happy with the character and team spirit we showed because it real-

ly takes a lot to achieve what we just did.

Now, we have to play against Swallows in the finals in what is a repetition of last year's finals, and all we want to do is avenge what they did to us last year. Bragging rights are also at stake in this match, so we must fight for the 'Landers' brand-name," he said.

Coming to his personal achievement, Mavuso said he was honoured to have been named as the best player, stating that his aspiration was to join the senior team.

"I was also pleased with my efforts today. I can still do better in the finals though. My ambition is to work hard enough and be noticed by the senior team," he said.

Meanwhile, in the first semi-final between Mbabane Swallows and Young Buffaloes, impressive Swallows goalkeeper Ciniso Nyawo was named Man of the Match, and the two now stand a chance of scooping the player of the tournament award worth E3 000.



REVENGE: Mbabane Highlanders and fans celebrating with penalty-shoot-out hero Mndeni Masuku. This was during their Eswatini Charity Telecom Cup semi-final encounter against Manzini Wanderers played at the Mhlambanyatsi Country Club on Sunday where the 'Black Bull' emerged victorious with a 5 – 4 victory in penalties after a 1 – all stalemate in full-time.

FIFA development officer in the country

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – THE Eswatini Football Association's efficiency and transparency will be put to the test this week following the arrival of the FIFA Development officer Goviden Thondoo on Sunday afternoon.

The Mauritius-born official is currently booked at one of the hotels in the country and is expected to conduct development initiatives in the country. Thondoo will also check on the country's development initiatives such as grassroots programmes and Women Football League progress. EFA Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe confirmed the inspector's arrival in the country when contacted yesterday afternoon.

"The inspector is currently in the country for a week to do some administrative duties with the association and I am not in a position to divulge the duties he will be conducting in the country since some of them are administrative," he said.

Thondoo's arrival came after the recent squabbles that rocked the Women Football Association where some of the teams are reportedly in arms with the (WFA) executive committee.

The ongoing division could lead in the country losing women football benefits from FIFA which include playing kits and soccer boots, usually handed to all the twelve teams at the beginning of the season.



HERE: FIFA Development officer Goviden Thondoo.

HRFA to have AGM next week

Stories by Jongile Xuba

SOCCER – THE Hhohho Regional Football Association (HRFA) will have its annual general meeting on August 12 at Mhlathane High.

This was revealed by the HRFA Secretary Nigel Shongwe.

The meeting will start at 10am. "We will have our AGM at

Mhlathane High on August 12. Part of the agenda of the meeting will be to give reports and updates on the various activities of the association."

The secretary also revealed that elections would be held during the meeting. "The HRFA will also be having its elections on the same day with a new executive to be put in place by the end of the day," said Shongwe.

... JUNIOR LEAGUES TO RESUME AFTER BREAK

SOCCER – JUNIOR teams playing in leagues under the HRFA will resume their games this weekend after their suspension.

This was revealed by HRFA Development Officer Sibonangaye Dlamini.

"The games were suspended due to the national elections and the fact that the pupils were busy with exams. Some of the teams have finished their games with their respective leagues with the rest expected to continue this Saturday," Dlamini also said the

leagues had been going well with no incidents of violence reported. "Teams are now playing second round fixtures and we haven't received any complaints so far, which is good news to the association."

Dlamini said they would release the fixtures for the upcoming games during the course of the week. Leagues under the HRFA include Milky -Max Lobamba and Mbabane Junior Leagues, Mandla Mahewu Mbabane Juniors and the Calakaliboli Sigangeni Junior league to mention a few.



I am ready for PSL — Figureido

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – MANZINI Sundowns star Justice Figureido says he is ready to play in the money spinning Premier Soccer League as he is on the verge of joining ABSA Premiership side Maritzburg United.

The former national Under-17 player says he is enjoying his stay at the Pietermaritzburg based side where he has been reportedly offered a five-year contract.

He said he has been treated well ever since he joined the side for a 10-day assessment.

"I am happy and honoured to be part of the Maritzburg United family. Since the first day of my assessment I have been guided and taken care of by the technical bench and rest of the players in the team. I am now looking forward to my first official match where I have to prove my worth in the league and further work with everyone in order to help the team achieve great things in all competitions," he said.

The Sundowns development product further thanked Sundowns Chairman Mark Carmichael for allowing him to try his luck at the Kwazulu Natal based side.

"I am very grateful and humbled by the support I have received from the chairman and the Sundowns family. They were always there for me during my stay with Sundowns. I am also willing to help national team Sihlangu Semnikati anytime the technical bench decides to consider me for national team duty," he further said.

Meanwhile, Sundowns Chairman Mark Carmichael said they were now at advanced stages of concluding the player's move to the South African side.

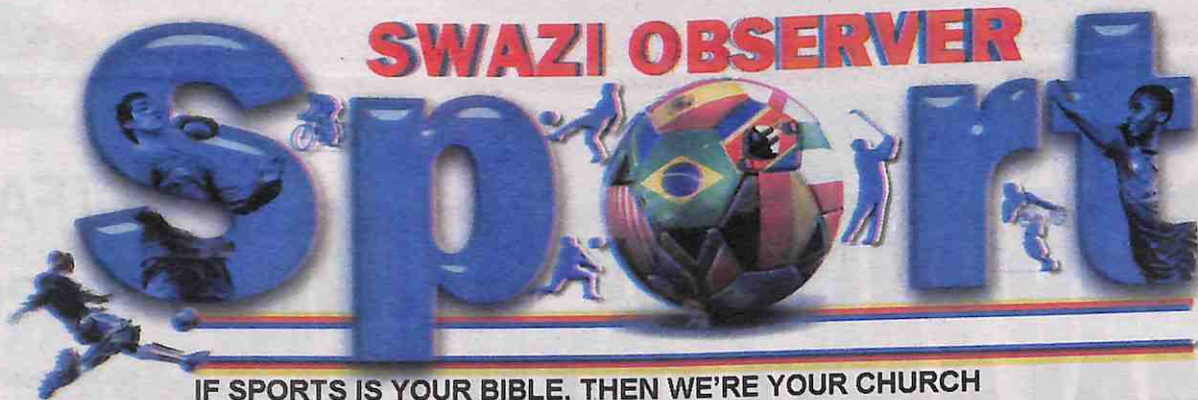
"The deal is now 99 per cent done and we hope to conclude everything before the end of the week," he said.

Figureido is likely to make his ABSA Premiership debut against

Maritzburg's provincial rivals Lamontville Golden Arrows at the Harry Gwala Stadium on Sunday afternoon. The 20-year-old player is set to be added in the list of new United's signings including the likes of Keagan Buchanan, Denwin Farmer and Nazzie Allie.

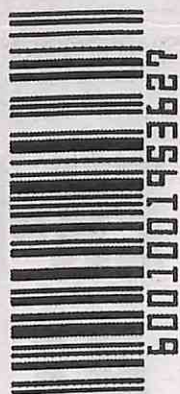
He will become the second Liswati to join the ABSA Premiership side this season after ex-Swallows playmaker Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze, who is now plying his trade at Polokwane City.

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT: ABSA Premiership bound Justice Figureido.



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

Tuesday July 31, 2018



TOP SWALLOWSW OFFICIALS RESIGN

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – TWO top Mbabane Swallows officials Lloyd 'Magic Feet' Maziya and Masotja Vilakati are both said to have resigned from the club's Management Committee.

The two held the positions of MC Chairman and treasurer at the capital city giants following the demise of the club's Chairman Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze in January.

A source close to the matter revealed that the two officials would relinquish their positions today (July 31) due to other commitments.

"The two officials have resigned from their positions due to other commitments and they will vacate office today. The team is already aware of the latest development. It's not like they are deserting the team but only giving others a chance since they are held up by other engagements," the source said.

The former midfielder Maziya is also the team's Head of Youth Development, a position which he has been holding over the past three seasons.

When sought for comment, the outgoing Treasurer Vilakati said



FLY OFF: Mbabane Swallows officials Lloyd 'Magic Feet' Maziya and Masotja Vilakati (right) who are believed to have resigned from the team with immediate effect.

he only asked to step aside from the position.

Resigned

"I have not resigned but I have asked to step aside. I had only agreed to serve until the 2017-18 season whilst the team stabilises its management structures. There are no issues. It is just that the assignment is time demanding. I will continue to serve the team as I did in the past but on adhoc basis. I will facilitate the handover in the month of

August," he said when responding to questions sent by this publication.

Efforts to get outgoing Chairman Maziya proved futile as his cell phone rang unanswered when tried several times yesterday.

Message

A text message was also sent but Maziya had not replied by the time of going for print.

The club's General Manager Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane

referred queries to the two officials when also reached.

"I cannot say anything on the matter you are talking about. I think it is only fair that you talk to the concerned parties," he said.

CAF

Swallows returned in the country on Monday night from Tunisia where they played against Etoile De Sahel in the on-going CAF Champions group stages last Friday.

No suspensions for Birds ahead of crunch Zesco tie

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER – MBABANE Swallows might have lost to Etoile Du Sahel in the CAF Champions League last Friday night but one positive was that they left Tunisia without any looming suspension.

Sahel beat Swallows 2-0 to condemn the Birds to a second consecutive group stage defeat, leaving the locals third in Group D with four points. Swallows now need to win their two remaining group stage matches, against Zesco United at home on August 18 and Primeiro de Agosto away on August 28, to qual-

ify for the quarterfinals.

The Birds' task has been boosted by the fact that none of their players picked up cautions which would have suspended them for that crunch tie against Zesco about three weeks from now. Instead, the only player to pick a yellow card last Friday night was defender Stanley Umukoro, who had no caution before in the Champions League.

Cards

Umukoro joins defender Mandla Palma, forward Sandile Hlatjwako and goalkeeper Sandanezwe Mathabela as the only Swallows players currently sitting on single yellow cards. Those four will have to be careful not to be booked against Zesco, something that would rule them out for the potential decider against Agosto at the end

of the moth.

For Hlatjwako though, a further caution will mean he will miss two matches instead of one because of he has already been cautioned twice before and suspended in this competition.

"If the same player accumulates, later on in the same competition, two more cautions in two different matches until the end of the group matches, then the second sanction will be double and the player will be suspended for two subsequent matches," part of the Champions League rules and regulations read.

If that were to happen against Zesco and Swallows went on to qualify for the last eight, it would mean they would have to do without Hlatjwako in the match against Agosto in the first leg of the quarterfinal.